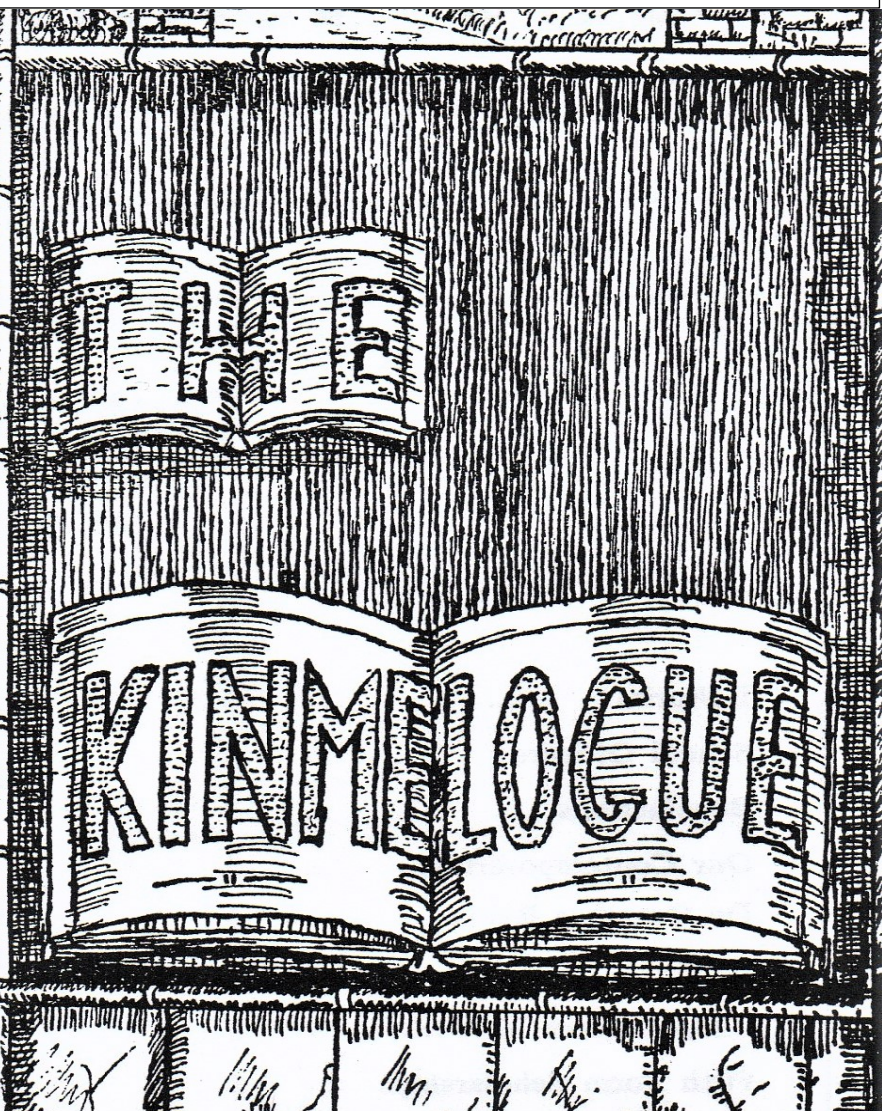


THIRD EDITION
FRIDAY 2ND APRIL 2021



The Kinnelogue

The Newsletter Of The Friends Of Kinnel Hall

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE FRONT PAGE?

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BREAKING NEWS



Built circa 1791 – Destroyed 1841

*Designed By Samuel Wyatt to replace
'Old Kinmael' by Reverend Hughes*

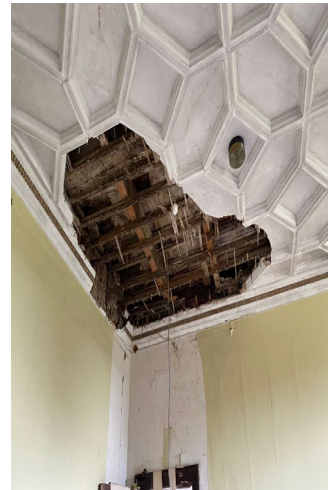
*We have just been informed that the
Plans, Accounts and Correspondence
relating to the First Kinnel Hall on
the current site are in Bangor
University Library!*



**FRIENDS OF KINMEL HALL
NEWSLETTER
3RD EDITION
2ND APRIL 2021**



**TRAGEDY
2011 + 2021
TRIUMPH**



Greetings To All
THE FRIENDS OF KINMEL HALL
To The Third Edition Of Your Newsletter
In This Of The Newsletter Alongside more of
The History of the hall
We have some News For You that we hope will be as surprising to
our readers as it was to us

Do You Have Any Questions About The Hall, Her History,
Her Owners?
Let Us Know By
[EMAIL](#)

The Friends of Kinmel Hall are
Proud to announce its latest members -
LORD MOSTYN, SIR SIMON JENKINS



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© Pte.CYRIL BLAKEMAN R.A.M.C. 1942

ROLL OF HONOUR

We Have some new names that have agreed to join us in our campaign to rescue. 'The Crown of Nesfield's Career

These include,

[Stephen Welch](#), [Andrew Heald](#), [Dr Amy Boyington](#)

and

[Dr Paul Belford](#)

UNEXPECTED EVENT

At the beginning of March, we received a piece of News that we were not expecting!

The Council were contacted by the current owners informing them they intended making the Hall waterproof and then they wished to
SELL HER

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DEVELOPMENTS

DATA PROTECTION
AND
GDPR REQUIREMENT

Dear Friends,

As with all organisations, The Friends of Kinmel Hall has to meet with certain legal requirements. In this case I am talking about the requirement to obtain your permission to keep your name and contact details on a secure database solely for the purposes of keeping you informed of developments relating to Kinmel Hall.

Included with this month's edition of 'The Kinmelogue' you should have received a document – 'Friends of Kinmel Hall Data Protection Agreement'.

I must ask you to complete the document and return it to me either by email if possible or by mail if not.

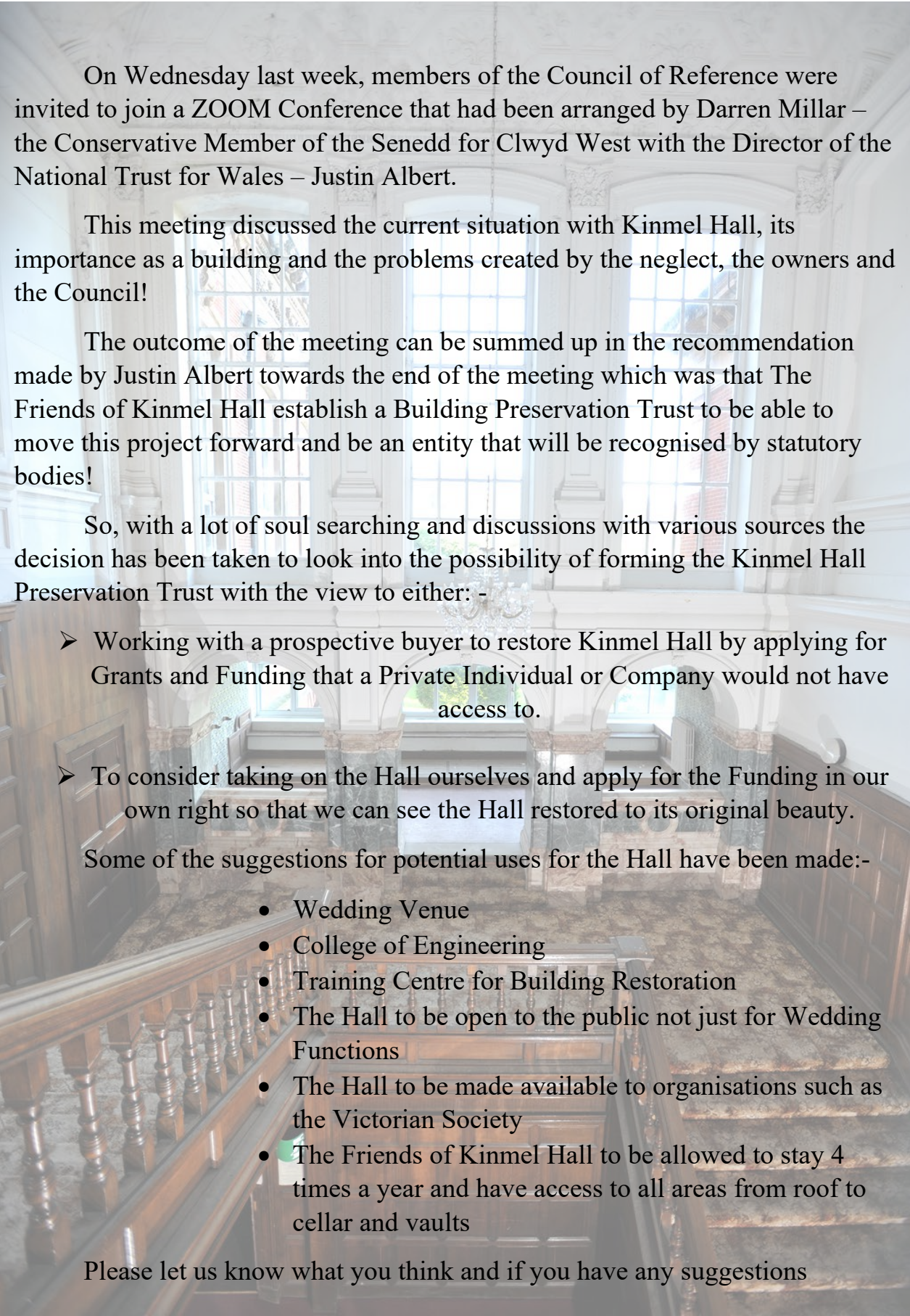
I am sorry to have to ask you to do this but it is a requirement we must meet by law to be able to send you information about that amazing building.

I look forward to receiving your completed agreements and keeping you up to date with events.

Chairman of The Friends of Kinmel Hall

01704873968

07899775784



On Wednesday last week, members of the Council of Reference were invited to join a ZOOM Conference that had been arranged by Darren Millar – the Conservative Member of the Senedd for Clwyd West with the Director of the National Trust for Wales – Justin Albert.

This meeting discussed the current situation with Kinnel Hall, its importance as a building and the problems created by the neglect, the owners and the Council!

The outcome of the meeting can be summed up in the recommendation made by Justin Albert towards the end of the meeting which was that The Friends of Kinnel Hall establish a Building Preservation Trust to be able to move this project forward and be an entity that will be recognised by statutory bodies!

So, with a lot of soul searching and discussions with various sources the decision has been taken to look into the possibility of forming the Kinnel Hall Preservation Trust with the view to either: -

- Working with a prospective buyer to restore Kinnel Hall by applying for Grants and Funding that a Private Individual or Company would not have access to.
- To consider taking on the Hall ourselves and apply for the Funding in our own right so that we can see the Hall restored to its original beauty.

Some of the suggestions for potential uses for the Hall have been made:-

- Wedding Venue
- College of Engineering
- Training Centre for Building Restoration
- The Hall to be open to the public not just for Wedding Functions
- The Hall to be made available to organisations such as the Victorian Society
- The Friends of Kinnel Hall to be allowed to stay 4 times a year and have access to all areas from roof to cellar and vaults

Please let us know what you think and if you have any suggestions

The Friends Of Kinnel Hall are pleased to report that the Media Campaign has been unprecedented success simply by the fact that the few articles we had scheduled exploded across all forms of Media as shown in last month's edition.

The latest article was co-written by Marcus Binney and John Goodall – Architectural Editor for Country Life Magazine

COUNTRY LIFE ARTICLE 17TH MARCH 2021

COURTESY OF COUNTRY LIFE



Athena

Cultural Crusader

The need to save a Victorian masterpiece

KINNEL HALL is one of Britain's great Victorian trophy houses, offering a taste of France in North Wales. Remodelled by W. E. Nesfield in the 1870s, it is faced in the same glowing red brick and creamy stone as Louis XIII's original hunting lodge at Versailles and the steep roofs and soaring chimneys create a festive silhouette as rich as any *châteaux* on the Loire. As such creations languished in critical fashion, it was reassessed in a powerful pair of articles by Mark Girouard (*COUNTRY LIFE*, September 4 and 11, 1969).

When those pieces were written, Kinnel was a thriving girls' school, the owning family having sold the house in 1934. Alas, following a fire in 1975, the school decided to move to Haynes Park, Bedfordshire,

illustrating a common problem: that school use may for a while save a great house, but either these institutions are successful and need to build over gardens or their fortunes and needs change, whereupon, suddenly, they are gone. The same applies to corporate headquarters.

‘Experience shows even the threat of serving an urgent works notice encourages owners to act’

Kinnel was next bought by an American evangelist, who ran the building as a conference centre and vacation school. Its stately rooms were transformed into dormitories, but the place was preserved and brought to life. When this venture closed, the house was purchased in 2012 by overseas investors, who saw an opportunity for a grand hotel. Funding has not been forthcoming, however, and the house is now being vandalised, holes are appearing in the roof and Kinnel Hall teeters on the brink of catastrophic decline.

Athena would urge the local authority, Conwy Council, to take determined action and serve an urgent works notice. This means using its powers of entry to inspect the house, draw up a schedule of repairs and send in workmen and to place the ensuing bills as a charge on the property. Experience shows even the threat of such action often encourages owners either to embark on repairs or put the property on the market. Crucially, the council neither needs, nor is obliged, to embark on compulsory purchase, with everything that entails.

At the same time, it is vital that the council draws up a tight planning brief that precludes planning permissions for new-build developments to finance the operation of repair and tempt developers with profits. Kinnel stands on only 18 acres of land, but it overlooks a landscape park owned and managed by the descendants of its builders. That connection, which makes the restoration worthwhile, needs to be preserved.

In this regard, it's important to point out that the recent sale of Troy House, Monmouthshire—at auction for £1.35 million after plans for enabling development had been refused—demonstrates that there are substantial buyers out there with the funds and imagination needed to return houses on this scale to glory.

In addition to which, Tuesday evening this week saw yet another piece on ITV WALES NEWS AT 6 about the situation at the Hall.

Featured in this clip are Tim Vince and Michael Fitt OBE.

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtwW65jbiLrcyRgDjNat3NbG8BNQ?e=6NwTkW>

From Last Month's Issue
'THE FRIENDS OF KINMEL HALL'
NEEDS TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP
TOWARDS BECOMING A
FORMAL STRUCTURE'
'Without order there is chaos,
without structure there is instability'

We explained last month that we are looking for some volunteers to take up posts within The Friends of Kinmel Hall Steering Committee.

Some more of the posts have been allocated.

President/Public Figure	To Be Appointed
Chairman	Paul Hughes
Treasurer	Christopher J Brook
Government Liaison	Cllr. P Heap - Williams
Press Officer	Rosie Burton – Chair I.H.C.B.
Minutes Secretary	To Be Appointed
Membership Secretary	To Be Appointed
Welsh Liaison Officer	Menna Thomas
Gardens/Landscape Liaison	Jonathan Fenton Vince
Preservation Trust Adviser	Timothy Vince
Building Restoration Adviser	Phil Vince

As things are moving quickly now we need to get these posts filled in time to identify and appoint volunteers to the vacant posts.

INTRODUCING
THE COUNCIL OF REFERENCE
MR CHRISTOPHER J BROOK

In His Own Words: -

Dear

Friends of Kinmel Hall

Thank you for your letter of 18th March offering me the position of Treasurer of the Friends of Kinmel Hall.

As mentioned during our telephone call I first became aware of Kinmel Hall as a twelve-year-old when I saw a photograph of it whilst looking through the SAVE Britain's Heritage 1978 publication Tomorrow's Ruins. I was already interested in architecture and the size and scale of the place combined with its dramatic burnt-out skyline made quite an impression on me. Much later, as a young adult, I found myself in attendance at several conferences at the re-roofed and restored Kinmel during the late 1980s and early 1990s. I shall provide you, by email, with some photographs I took of Kinmel during that time. It would be irresponsible, careless and tragic if Kinmel were to return to the desperate state I first saw in Tomorrow's Ruins. Even though I am an accountant by profession my interest in architecture has always remained with me. As well as various other heritage organisations, I am a member of the Victorian Society and have been a Friend and Saviour of SAVE Britain's Heritage for most of my adult life.

By way of further information about myself, what I can offer to the committee and introduction to my colleagues on the committee, I am a Mathematics graduate of the Victoria University of Manchester

and a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and also have the PRINCE2 Project Management qualification. A CRB check should confirm that I have no criminal record. My career as an accountant saw me spend a decade working as a Finance Manager in the complex and controversial Private Finance Initiative. Although the mention of this sometimes results in frowns of disapproval at some heritage events I note that one of the PFI contracts I worked on resulted in the restoration and re-use of Little Woodhouse Hall in Leeds with its remarkable Georgian plasterwork and staircase hall.

I am in full time employment, having spent the last six years working for CPL Industries, Europe's leading manufacturer of smokeless solid fuels, managing the finances of their French subsidiary. Perhaps of more relevance to the Friends of Kinmel Hall, I have spent most of my career in the commercial sector and so am fully aware of the principles of basic book -keeping and would propose to keep the financial records of the Friends of Kinmel Hall in an Excel file that I can easily create on my own laptop.





Peter Hare – Independent Consultants (PHICs)

Incorporating Peter Hare – Private Clients

Providing a unique and flexible service for private clients, professional organisations and specialist craft teams.

31st March 2021

The Chairman
For the Friends of Kinnel Hall

Dear Paul,

The Council of Reference Acting for The Friends of Kinnel Hall

I am delighted to accept your kind invitation to become a member of the council.

Having provided my initial report in 2014, sadly as we all know, the neglect of the property has continued.

Owners of historic buildings must always understand that they are in reality custodians of a property with both architectural and civic responsibilities. Kinnel Hall has a rich and colourful history and has been admired by so many. Together we can ensure that her future is equally bright and that future generations can enjoy this beautiful building and her grounds.

In your request you also asked that I provide a brief introduction of myself to the committee and wider friends.

Having co-formed the London based decoration, arts and conservation company Hare & Humphreys Ltd, I took the role as MD in 1986. Our watershed project was Spencer House in St James. It was the ancestral home of Diana; Princess of Wales and she took a keen interest visiting frequently over the 2-year project. Spencer House was acclaimed as one of the finest post war restorations by architectural critics and my company quickly became recognised for our precision and integrity within this specialist sector. Our clients included the V&A, the Royal Opera House, National Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts and Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

We completed 4 state rooms during Windsor Castle fire restoration project and were awarded the royal warrant to HM the Queen. Our trusted relationship with the senior members of the royal family grew and has always brought particular pride. As a project director I have been closely involved with works at Clarence House, Buckingham Palace, St James's and Kensington Palace as well as the Royal Lodge in Windsor.

Projects of major significance also include the British Museums Great Court project with Lord Foster, the 4-year restoration of the interior of St Pauls Cathedral and much works at the country house of Chatsworth and Burghley

With regards to charitable works, I led the arts and gilding team finishing the royal row barge Gloriana, a legacy to HM the Queen to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee. I was also closely involved with the bicentenary commemorations for the Battle of Waterloo in 2015, creating 100 exacting replica gilded Napoleonic imperial Eagles for the charities.

In 2017 I stepped away from Hare & Humphreys to take up my current role as an independent consultant. Now based in Worcestershire I have a more flexible approach assisting private and professional clients and projects for good causes.

I hope I can add value to the committee and will do so with passion wherever possible.

Yours sincerely



Peter Hare

Creating, transforming and conserving beautiful buildings is at the heart our philosophy

www.peterhare.com

1. ADAM HITCHINGS	2. JO BENNETT
3. ALISON RICHARDS	4. JOHN GOODALL
5. AMANDA VENABLES	6. JOHN LAWSON-REAY
7. ANDREW BENNETT	8. JONATHAN FENTON-VINCE
9. ANDREW DAVIDSON	10. JOSHUA VINCE
11. ANDY MCKINNEY	12. JOY CRANSTON
13. ANNE SMITH	14. JOY SCOTT
15. BARBARA WHITBY	16. JUDITH ALFREY
17. BEN OAKLEY	18. JUSTIN ALBERT
19. BETTY WATTS	20. KATE REES
21. BIRGITTA WILSON	22. KEN AND LIZ WARD
23. BRUCE BICKERTON	24. KEN MOORE
25. CARL YAPP	26. LISA FIDDES
27. CATH STEWARD	28. LISA TASTEVIN
29. CHARLIE CULVERWELL	30. LORD FELLOWES
31. CHRISTINE J ORME	32. LORD LANGFORD
33. CHRISTOPHER BROOK	34. LORD LIEUTENANT OF CLWYD
35. PAULINE HEAP-WILLIAMS	36. LORD MOSTYN,
37. CURTIS SHEA	38. LUCIE CARAYON
39. DARREN MILLAR	40. LUCY E WILLIAMS
41. DAVID CHATTERLEY	42. LUISA PETERLONGO
43. DAVID GALLACHER	44. MARCUS BINNEY,
45. DAVID HALL	46. MARGARET DUNN
47. DAVID VINCE	48. MARGARET RUTH ALFORD
49. DEBBIE AND KEN DAVIES	50. MARIAN MARTIN
51. DEBBIE VINCE	52. MARK GIROUARD,
53. DELYTH MCRAE	54. MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
55. DESIREE PENNINGTON	56. MARTIN JONES
57. DIANA MALSHER	58. MARY SOLDAN
59. DICKON FETHERSTONHAUGH	60. MATT OSMONT
61. DOROTHY AGNEW	62. MATTHEW BECKETT,
63. DR AMY BOYINGTON	64. MICHELE TURNER
65. DR H W FLEMING	66. MICHELLE
67. DR JOHN E DAVIES	68. NICHOLAS KINGSLEY
69. DR JONATHAN BERRY	70. PAMELA TOWILL
71. DR KATHRYN ROBERTS	72. PETER HARE
73. DR R PAUL EVANS	74. PETER HOWELL

75. DR SHAUN EVANS	76. PHIL VINCE,
77. DREAM HERITAGE	78. RHODA MCGOWAN BONEY
79. DWYNWEN	80. RICHARD BARLEY
81. EDWARD BLAKEMAN	82. ROSIE BURTON
83. ELAINE BOXHALL	84. SARAH CASRSON FITZWATER .
85. FRANCIS DOWNER	86. SIMON BAYNES MP
87. GARETH LLOYD-DAVIES	88. STELLA MEW,
89. GILL SMITH BOYES	90. STEPHEN WEEKS
91. GWEN STAVELEY	92. SUE HILLIER-SMITH
93. HEATHER JONES	94. TIM & SIMONE VINCE
95. JACOB VINCE	96. TIMOTHY COOKE
97. JAMES DREW	98. TOM LLOYD
99. JEREMY MUSSON,	

‘That a building of this importance should be left in such an endangered state is a blot on the nation’s conscience. Action must be taken to ensure proper repairs and a plan for its future use, and as things stand it would seem that state intervention is the only course.’

Jeremy Musson