

THE FRIENDS OF CROOME



SPRING 2014 ISSUE 20

NEWSLETTER

Defford Airfield Heritage Group *by Bob Shaw*

Activities have been dominated in recent months by work on the planned RAF Defford Museum, in the restored Decontamination Annexe, with a direct connection to the RAF buildings already restored.

Building work started early this year under the direction of the National Trust's retained surveyor, Sarah Fowler, reporting to Shaun Wilkes (National Trust senior surveyor). The work is being progressed by a Project Board of Michael Smith; Dennis Williams (National Trust Museum Custodian and DAHG Curator) and Bob Shaw (Secretary, DAHG), joined by Tim Hickson and Janine Cobain (volunteers nominated by the National Trust). The work is being carried out by Croft Conservation.

Completion of building works is expected to be in May 2014. The greater part of the cost of restoring the building to house the museum came from Severn Waste Services, through the Landfill Community Fund scheme.



Artist's impression of the new RAF Defford Museum

An application has also been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to cover the cost of creating and installing the museum's interior displays and furnishing. If approved it could enable the Museum to open to visitors in September 2014.

Some time ago, we suggested the need for additional catering on the RAF site could be met in an appropriate way with a 'NAAFI van' or similar. Eventually, with the invaluable help of Ali Adkish of Avonside Motors in Evesham, a genuine fully-restored YMCA 'tea car' was located in Holland and purchased by the National Trust. 'Bertha' will serve drinks and refreshment to visitors at Croome while being a genuine museum exhibit in her own right!



Bob Shaw picture alongside 'Bertha', enjoying a 'cuppa' served by Helen

£2
where sold

www.friendsofcroomepark.org.uk

WELCOME

by Chris Wynne-Davies

Welcome to our latest newsletter, my first as editor. Thank you to Wendy for her superb work as the previous editor - she has certainly set a very high standard for me to attempt to follow!

With spring so spectacularly sprung this year, Croome, as you can imagine, is looking wonderful. It's apt then that we catch up with exciting new beginnings at Croome, but we also reflect on aspects of its rich history.

The recent Friends of Croome AGM set the seal on some big changes to the composition of your Committee. John Henderson guides us through the changes and reflects on his time as Chairman. I am sure we will all echo the words of Jill Tovey, who pays tribute to John and his outstanding contribution.

Your new Committee:

Chairman:	Tim Hickson
Vice-Chairman:	Chris Wynne-Davies
Treasurer:	Alan Lee
Secretary:	Tony Perfect
Membership:	Diana Skeys

Officers:

John Chugg	Graham Evans
John Henderson	Sue Lloyd
Geoff Sherwood	Paul Stanley
Jill Tovey	David Vernon

If you want to share a visit to Croome, drop a line to your Committee members, send in a photograph or feed back on an event you've attended, we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Please email croome-editor@hotmail.co.uk

Or write to:

The Friends of Croome Newsletter Editor
c/o National Trust, Builders' Yard,
High Green, Severn Stoke,
Worcestershire WR8 9JS

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is 1 September 2014

Chairman's Note

John Henderson pays tribute to members of the committee standing down this year.

Jill Tovey joined the Croome Estate Office in 1984 as a cartographer, but soon her talents as an archivist were noted. An incredible store of estate and family papers (correspondence, plans, invoices for timber, plants, building materials and furnishings, as well as rent rolls and estate business) required reading, collating and putting into accessible order.

Jill has been able to guide historical researchers writing articles and books, not least with Catherine Gordon's definitive work, 'The Coventrys of Croome'. Her own meticulous research has thrown light on how the house and landscape evolved and upon the people who influenced the story of Croome over the centuries, not least the Coventry family.



Jill Tovey flanked by Sir Roy Strong and George Coventry (13th Earl of Coventry)

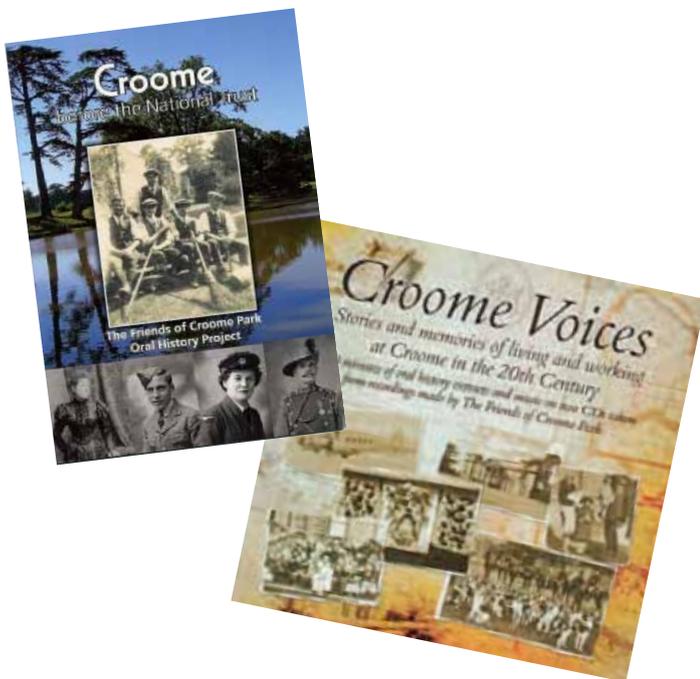
Since the involvement of the National Trust at Croome, Jill has been an invaluable source of information and evidence, and is still contributing her knowledge to inform the continuing restoration and development programme. We have been fortunate indeed to have her as a founder member of the Friends of Croome and as Vice-Chairman and look forward to her continuing involvement as a member of the committee.

Patron: George Coventry (13th Earl of Coventry)

President: Jeremy Musson

Eileen Clement is a founder member of the Friends of Croome and it was her inspiration, encouraged by the committee, to found the Oral History Project. She appreciated how essential it was to record the recollections of people involved at Croome in its life before the National Trust. In this work alone, she has assembled one hundred interviews and still there are more stories and insights to be recorded, before another generation is lost.

Eileen also agreed to seek Lottery funds to produce a booklet on Croome. It was so successful that a second one was produced. Not only that, she arranged for extracts from interviews to be compiled into two memorable CDs.



The exhibition area in the Basement at the Court was secured and with her helpers, Eileen made it come alive to put human faces to life round Croome in the twentieth-century. We are indebted to Eileen for the time, talent and energy she has given to this vital project. It is at present, perhaps the most important and certainly the timeliest achievement of the Friends in their service to Croome.

Wendy Carter joined the committee in 2009 to edit our newsletter, as successor to its founder, John Willis. The newsletter is a vital way of communicating with all our members, near and far. It has developed into a colourful

and informative record about Croome in its many different aspects and in the work of the Friends.



Lakeside Urn, Croome at sunrise, Wendy Carter (November 2005)

You may have noticed the occasional photograph of a Croome landscape or of a tiny beetle adorning the newsletter pages with a modest acknowledgement in the corner of 'Photo by Wendy Carter'. She is a talented photographer and naturalist. She also had the formidable capacity as Editor, of extracting articles from sometimes bashful contributors – as well as pressuring politely, copy from a tardy Chairman!

When she worked at Croome, Wendy was infectiously enthusiastic about the place and this came through to us at her recent talk to the Friends on her new work with the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. She has done the Friends proud as a committee member and as the second outstanding editor of our newsletter.

Christine Adams is also retiring from the committee but, happily, she will continue as chair of the events sub-committee. Sue Lloyd will take her place on the main committee.

Phil Douce is also standing down as a committee member. I am grateful for his enthusiastic contribution across a number of aspects of our work at Croome.

Friends of Croome EVENTS 2014

Thursday 22 May

Coach trip to Lacock Abbey and village, Wiltshire
depart 9.30 a.m. return 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday 18 June

Restoration Walk with Katherine Alker
start 6.00 p.m. return 8.00 p.m.

Monday 14 July

RAF Walk with Graham Evans 1.30 p.m.
(followed by cream teas in the Rotunda)

Thursday 24 July

Walk and talk on butterflies with David Vernon
11 a.m. (meet at Hillcourt Farm Reserve)

Saturday 9 August

Eye-catcher walk to Pirton Castle with
Michael Smith (includes picnic lunch)
start 10.30 a.m. return 3.30 p.m.

Thursday 11 September

Coach trip to Knightshayes Court, Tiverton, Devon
depart 9.00 a.m. return 3.30 p.m.

Saturday 20 September

Visit to the Walled Garden at Croome
10.30 a.m. (first-time visitors)

Sunday 21 September

Visit to the Walled Garden at Croome
10.30 a.m. (return visitors)

Thursday 9 October

Coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum
Alrewas, Staffordshire
depart 9.00 a.m. return 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday 19 November

General knowledge quiz with Paul Stanley
7.15 p.m. (includes Ploughman's Supper)

Tuesday 2 December

'Wartime Christmas at RAF Defford'
talk by Bob Shaw (includes lunch)
11.30 a.m.

email: croome-events@hotmail.co.uk
www.friendsofcroomepark.org.uk

Our retiring Chairman by Jill Tovey

John Henderson is a founder member of the Friends of Croome. Having been associated with the Croome Estate for forty years (thirty of those as Land Agent) it was natural that he should take part in our beginning in 2004. John knows Croome better than most; in 1996, he played a major role in the negotiations between the National Trust and Royal Sun Alliance over the purchase of Croome Park, as part of which the seller donated £300,000 towards the restoration.



The Grotto at Croome, prior to its restoration

Part of his responsibility was to manage the huge Croome archive and it was during this time that national experts in various fields gradually became aware of the importance of Croome in the story of the 18th century English Enlightenment. Among these was Dorothy Stroud who was given access to the archive by John whilst researching her book on 'Capability' Brown. This was a ground-breaking work and she was ever grateful to him for his co-operation – as many will know, she developed a close attachment to Croome and asked that her ashes be buried beside the lake.

In 2006 John became Vice-Chairman of the Friends, moving to Chairman in 2011 with the retirement of Eric Jones. During all this time Croome was expanding exponentially, particularly after the Court was acquired. Our membership grew accordingly and, through many interesting and enjoyable events, thousands of pounds were raised towards projects in both the park and the house.

Throughout his time as Chairman, John was always there as a quiet and reliable presence getting things done with a firm but almost imperceptible hand on the tiller. Above all though, he maintains a sense of humour and can always add a touch of light-heartedness when required – a very important part of keeping everyone relaxed and enjoying a group rightly called 'The Friends'.

Oral History

by Eileen Clement

After nine-and-a-half years working on this project, I am now winding down. I am sad there is no-one at this time to take over the reins, but I am delighted that Rachel Sharpe and Cate Statham, National Trust staff, are helping to share some of the stories we have collected over the years, either by enactments at Croome or sound clips at The Hive in Worcester. With the Red Wing now made weatherproof, I thought it appropriate to recall some memories as told by Graham Bill, who was a teacher at St Joseph's School from 1970 to 1973."

"The Red Wing was the home of the lay teachers' staff room where they had their morning breaks and lunches. They had special lunches on Feast Days and Sister John would arrive with a bottle of whisky and four glasses for Graham, Tony Sheridan, Pam Riley and Gabriel Nugent. They celebrated St Joseph's Day amongst others. Opposite the staff room, going back towards the main Court on the right was a room with a large television set and lots of easy chairs and a huge grand piano. The boys spent quite a lot of time in there. The piano was never played, but it was useful for the boys who played under it, making forts etc. Once a young lad, a very disturbed little boy, had one of his paddies and ran and hid under the piano. He stayed there, the staff doing half hour shifts beside him and he finally came out about four or five hours later when he was hungry."



The Billiard Room at Croome Court used as a school classroom, Leonard Edwards

"The corridor from the main Court to the Red Wing passed the Sisters' common room on the left-hand side and there were very high windows on the right-hand side with plants in them. There was then a left turn and then a right turn into the Red Wing. Sister Marie Therese's boot room was on the right-hand corner. Sister Marie Therese was tiny but fierce. The boys were terrified of her."

"Opposite the boot room there was a short corridor, on the right-hand side was the staff room and at the end of the corridor there was a large recreation room. There was a piano in it and the room was used for singing lessons. I preferred to use the singing programmes on the radio, but Sister Albert, the music teacher, always met them whether they were using the radio or not. Sister Albert was a French nun with a strong French accent and she hated England. She was very crippled and wore a built-up boot and walked quite slowly with a stick. If it was not the radio, she hit some notes on the piano and the boys tried to sing what she wanted them to. I stood by the piano and sometimes Sister Albert would hit me on the shins with her stick, saying I was not in tune, so singing lessons without the radio were a danger to me."

"The upstairs was the territory of the Sisters. There was a dormitory for the boys and the sanatorium was also there. This was run by a lovely gentle natured Irish nun, called Sister Raphael. She was always dressed in white from top to bottom. The boys loved her and she cared for them very well."

I would like to thank all the wonderful interviewees and contributors, who have made this project possible, and also all members of the Friends of Croome for their continued support.

It would be such a shame if all Eileen's hard work and dedication is not continued. There is still time for people to offer help, even if it is only to deal with new contacts.

Garden and Park

by Katherine Alker

The garden and park team have been working hard again this winter, often in pretty horrid weather conditions. Our biggest job has been to fell over 80 trees in the Home Shrubbery, chipping the brash and clearing the area in preparation for the restoration of the carriageway and the opening of this area to our visitors. This will create a full circular route from the Church, to the Rotunda and to the Court.

The Friends purchased a forwarding trailer about a year ago, and it has been extremely well used to get all of the wood out of the Home Shrubbery and into our storage area so it can be processed into firewood next year.



The forwarding trailer in use at the Home Shrubbery

We've also been busy carrying out pruning in the shrubberies and planting in the Wild Walk and Evergreen Shrubbery, as well as dealing with a number of storm damaged trees. The 'post basher', which the Friends bought for us several years ago, continues to be well used for jobs such as repairing fencing and replacing gate posts.

Looking forward to the new season, as well as our usual work keeping the garden and park looking as good as possible, we have some exciting projects coming up. One is further restoration of the ha-ha along the edge of the Home Shrubbery which will take place in the summer.

However the project which will have the biggest impact on the landscape is the rebuilding of the Chinese Bridge. The project, funded by the Monument 85 Fund, will see a newly-built wooden bridge installed across the river on the site of the original crossing. Plans for the bridge, using the drawing and description by William Halfpenny in 'Improvements in Architecture and Carpentry' published in 1754, have been drawn up. A bund will be built across the river so that the water can be pumped out to create a dry area so that the foundations can be constructed. The bridge will be built off-site and brought to Croome to install during the summer.

It was announced at the recent AGM, that the Friends are to make a donation of £7,050 to repair the memorial to the 6th Earl of Coventry in the Home Shrubbery.



The memorial to the 6th Earl of Coventry in the Home Shrubbery, currently unrestored

Croome Court - a saintly link by Ian Statham

There would appear to be little in common between Croome and the Great Western Railway (GWR), or indeed any railway. The nearest line to Croome is the Birmingham to Bristol Branch of the Midland Railway. But there is one very important link, in the form of a GWR 'Saint' class locomotive that was named 'Croome Court'.

Just after the railways were nationalised many of the 'Saint' class locomotives survived into the British Railways era. Not only that, Number 2939 'Croome Court' was still listed as being in existence in 1949.



'Croome Court' on siding at Swindon Works, pre-1936

The 'Saint' class was designed by G J Churchward, the chief engineer of the GWR from 1897 to 1922. Churchward was keen to standardise the design of the company's fast passenger locomotives as much as possible and in 1902-3, developed three prototype locomotives incorporating all the most recent innovations in steam engine technology from the USA and Europe, especially France. The result was the 'Saint' class, a collection of powerful 4-6-0 engines which became the blueprint for nearly all of the GWR's later mainline stock, right up to the end of steam in the 1960s. Many may remember the 'Halls', 'Manors' and 'Granges'; classes of locomotive that owed much to the design innovations developed in the 'Saints'.



'Croome Court' hauling an ordinary passenger service, post-1936

The 'Saints' came into service from 1906 onwards. The early examples were mostly named after saints, later examples though were named after stately homes, all of them 'Courts'. 'Croome Court' itself rolled out of Swindon Works in December 1911 and went into service on West Country passenger trains. It only survived for a short period in British Railways days, being withdrawn in December 1950 and transferred back to Swindon to be broken up.

Its fate was shared by all of the remaining examples of the class around that time and none survived into preservation. However, given the importance of the class, the Great Western Society is currently converting a 'Hall' class locomotive back into a 'Saint' at their headquarters in Didcot.



'Croome Court' rests alongside a 'Castle' class locomotive in Paddington Station after hauling an express service from Bristol (1920s)

Reflecting on the last three years

by John Henderson

We reach the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Croome this year. It flourishes because we are privileged to play a part in an exciting and ever unfolding story, set in a beautiful location. The characters we can engage with have lived through half a millennium, each with their allotted task, decided from birth or changed by circumstance. It is this inherited narrative, from which we learn, to be warned of errors, to empathise with the harshness of life and to marvel at the imagination, enterprise and skill of the people, who formed this extraordinary place.



The 'Black Bridge' by the Dry Arch, Wendy Carter (2005)

Through the enjoyment of visits and events, funds generated have contributed practical help to develop this story with garden planting, building repairs, restoration and equipment. These have been boosted by the remarkable success to the second-hand bookshop. We are indebted to all who provide the books and to the team who manage it so efficiently. It was decided early on to establish the Oral History Project and three years ago the exhibition was created in the Basement.

Musical events at Croome have been a delight and marking the 250th anniversary of dedication of the Church created great interest. Our history and nature walks and

talks bring new interest to our surroundings and we are so grateful to the Defford Airfield Heritage Group for their enthralling and uplifting series of lectures. Our events team always manages to make activities fun and this is in no small part due to those who provide the most delicious food. The annual quiz has become a feature and the photographic competition was an overwhelming success.

A particular thing I have learnt is that it is quite difficult trying to sell our calendars to visitors returning wet from a walk accompanied by wilting children. Another is that the new bridge by the Dry Arch is a handsome substitute!

My time as Chairman has reinforced my respect for my co-committee members' enthusiasm and commitment and I am very grateful for their wonderful sense of humour! I am delighted to pass the Chairman's baton to Tim Hickson, whom many of you will know as a regular volunteer at Croome, as well as making a vital contribution to various projects and to the Defford Airfield Heritage Group. As the former Second Master at King's School, Worcester, I know he will be able to bring the necessary discipline to committee meetings, which I never achieved!



The wooden bridge over Croome River, Philip Halling (2013)

Remarkable Memorials

by Geoff Sherwood

Two years ago, a party from Worcester Cathedral were visiting Croome Church. As they stopped in front of the four magnificent memorials, the leader of the group said: 'you know, we don't have anything better than these in the Cathedral,' and the others agreed. These memorials are remarkable, because of the superb workmanship and their sheer size. Visitors often comment on the scale and elegance of these masterpieces of the monument makers' art.

Dating from the early 17th-century, they stood originally in the earlier church of St James to the west of Croome Court. When the 6th Earl of Coventry received permission from the Bishop of Worcester to take down the old church and re-build on Church Hill, it was decided that the family memorials should be re-located in the new church. The mortal remains were to be re-interred in a vault constructed under the church. It is hard to picture such finely sculptured pieces being manhandled up the hill to the new church, but they were successfully moved with little damage.

The oldest is to the first Baron, one of Croome's most illustrious incumbents. When he died in 1640, his memorial was erected by his wife. Believed to be from the workshop of Nicholas Stone, it is carved in black and white Italian marble. It was brought up to the present church in 1760 and his body was re-interred in the vault below the chancel.



The Great Seal of England (King Charles I), on the monument to Thomas 1st Baron Coventry

Facing each other are Thomas, the 2nd Baron and his wife Mary. Their memorials are striking for their twisted black pillars, but

Mary's is especially moving. The couple's fifth child died at birth in 1634 and within hours Mary had died also. Thomas had this poignant memorial made for mother and child and, when he died, his sons had the almost identical memorial made for him.



Memorial to the 4th Baron

The memorial to the 4th Baron, John Coventry is in white marble and from the workshops of Grinlin Gibbons, and is unquestionably a masterpiece. The larger-than-life figure of the Baron is flanked by Hope and Faith – Hope has an anchor at her feet and Faith has a sword. Faith would have held a "starry crown" in her hand and the Baron, having relinquished his earthly coronet would be reaching out to take it. Sadly the crown was lost during the move to the new church.

The Baron's coronet has been secured on the plinth but would have been resting on the cushion. When visiting the church as a child I remember the coronet sitting at a rakish angle on the head of the 1st Baron! It has now been restored to its proper place!

This has been just a brief exploration of these remarkable monuments. If you're nearby, do come inside the church and appreciate them for yourself.

Capital Works at Croome Court

by Cate Statham

Beginning this spring, we will be embarking on an 18-month programme of re-servicing and repair works at Croome Court. This will involve urgent roof and drainage repairs, window repairs, a complete new heating and fire detection system, renewed electrical and security systems as well as essential structural repairs.

Conserving, repairing and updating buildings like Croome Court is no mean feat and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see it up close and to get involved. As well as different activities each month, we will be running special tours on the scaffold around the Court all the way to roof level and opening the *Sky Café* on the roof for visitors to enjoy spectacular views of the parkland.



Once complete these works will allow us to not only open all four floors to the public but also return the remaining collection of art, furniture and chattels to the Court for our visitors to experience. It will also create new dedicated activity spaces for our visitors and partners, as well as new uses for most of the rooms throughout the Court. We are truly aiming to have a country house fit for the 21st-century, whilst retaining the spirit of Croome and its unique past.



Soul to Sole

Time is fast approaching for our new 'Soul to Sole' installation to open to the public. New talent partners made up of students, artists and creative practitioners have been taking the stories of Croome and creating a custom-designed pair of shoes that tell these stories' to be installed in the shoe racks in the Basement. Each pair has been carefully researched and imaginatively visualised, and will be placed into the shoe racks ready for our visitors to experience.

We will also have a shoemaker working in the basement two days a fortnight for the next 6 months so come and say hello and find out more about this fascinating craft.

Visions of Croome

No.8 in Pershore was the venue for the opening night of an exhibition of artwork by our Creative Schools – Abbey Park Middle School, and Defford-cum-Besford, Eckington and Overbury CofE First Schools. Pupils from the schools had worked with volunteers, renowned local artist David Birtwhistle and facilitator Fran Prince to create their 'Visions of Croome' the best of which were chosen to be on public display in No. 8's gallery.

We look forward to more partnerships of this nature and to having the complete collection of the children's artworks on display at Croome Court in the autumn.



Croome Encounters

Although many National Trust properties have some kind of 'live interpretation' (actors in costume dramatising stories from the history of the place), nowhere does it quite like Croome! As part of our commitment to share Croome with visitors and the local community we have devised 'Croome Encounters', a series of dramas telling the story of Croome over the centuries.

Design and rehearsal for these dramas has been played out in front of our visitors. Working in this way we have been able to not only discuss the ideas with our visitors, but also ask them which pieces they felt were working best, and which characters they would like to discover more about. Croome Encounters will be available for everyone to chance upon each Sunday at the Court.



Robert Adam and Fort George

by Tim Hickson

How did Robert Adam afford to spend almost five years on a Grand Tour of Italy? Where did he learn to construct buildings? To answer these questions we need to look at one of Scotland's many turbulent periods of history.

When the Stuart King Charles I was deposed and executed in 1649, the Scots proclaimed their support for Charles II. Cromwell, having failed to persuade them otherwise, then invaded Scotland, resulting in his victory at the Battle of Dunbar. However, a year later, Charles came south with a fresh Scots Army. That adventure ended badly at the Battle of Worcester. This should have put an end to the trouble in Scotland but there remained serious unrest amongst the clans in the Highlands. As a result formidable, garrisoned citadels were built either end of the Great Glen, one at Inverness and the other at Inverlochy.

When, in 1660, Charles II was restored to the throne, he withdrew the garrisons and slighted the fortresses. When he died, his brother James II gained the throne. Popular in Scotland, as a Catholic, he became so unpopular in England that he was removed and the Protestant William and Mary replaced him – causing more disaffection amongst the largely Catholic and Episcopalian Highland clans. So, Inverlochy fortress had to be rebuilt (and named Fort William), Fort Augustus (at the western end of Loch Ness) was erected, and Inverness Castle was reinforced.

The Hanoverian George I was viewed even more dimly by the Highlanders who wanted the Stuarts returned to the throne. Risings began

in 1715 and, in spite of the new forts, infantry barracks and military roads that were built, they kept doing extensive – and expensive damage. The Jacobite rising led by Prince Charles Edward Stuart again set off south before turning back at Derby. His army then rampaged through the Highlands until, on 16 April 1746, the Battle of Culloden put an end to the rebellion.

King George II and his Government had had enough of these troubles and the huge financial waste they caused. To produce a lasting solution to the problem, money was spent lavishly. So the network of military roads begun in 1724 by Major-General George Wade was to be greatly extended, medieval castles across the Highlands and Islands were converted to barracks, and Fort Augustus was repaired. Fort George (the old Inverness Castle) presented more of a problem. Partly because of its position, it had fallen far too easily to siege; furthermore as its new garrison was projected to be 2,000 'wild and licentious' soldiers, the ladies of Inverness were having severe attacks of the vapours. So the new military engineer for Northern Britain, Major-General William Skinner, settled on a barren spit of land jutting into the Moray Firth, 11 miles east of Inverness, at Ardersier, for the second Fort George. His design was stunning and, when built, it became 'one of the outstanding artillery fortifications anywhere in Europe'.

The contract to build the enormous structure was won by Robert Adam's father, William. He was a famous architect who had carried out work at Edinburgh Castle and built many of Scotland's great houses. However, before Fort George could be started, William died and his eldest son, John, took over with 20-year-old Robert as his partner. For the next 20 years, Fort George dominated the family business.

Since Skinner was also charged with surveying and reporting on all the forts in Ireland, he spent only a few weeks each year at Ardersier. That meant that the Adam brothers were left responsible for all that went on at Fort George during the construction season from April to September. Within five years of their father's death it is reckoned that the brothers made £10,000 out of the contracts there (rough estimates suggest this would be worth several million pounds today).

