

Behind Closed Doors

Photographs by the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society

Graphics by Hugo Patton

The wonderful array of doorways on display offer a tantalising glimpse of just some of the buildings featured on the online Built Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland Register – www.ni-environment.gov.uk and www.uahs.org.uk – compiled by the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The Built Heritage at Risk project was first established in 1993 in order to identify historically important buildings and sites which appear to be threatened. The primary aims of the project are to highlight the vulnerability of our built heritage and to act as a catalyst for conservation and re-use. These are achieved through heightening public awareness, providing help and advice for existing owners who may wish to undertake a scheme of repair, and assisting potential restoring purchasers who are looking for suitable properties.

All of the buildings identified, ranging from humble thatched cottages which enrich the rural landscape to ecclesiastical landmarks punctuating the street scene, are selected because of their historic or architectural value. They are 'at risk' for a variety of reasons but a majority due to disuse or disrepair. In a number of cases the present owners are intending to carry out much needed conservation work, while others face a less positive future.

The yearly celebration of our architectural heritage that is the European Heritage Open Days (Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September) once again offers the public a chance to see inside many historic buildings that are not normally open. Until their eventual restoration the inner world of those that are 'at risk' can only be left to the imagination.

For further information contact:

Andrew McClelland, Heritage Projects Officer

E: andrew@uahs.org.uk; T: 028 9055 0213