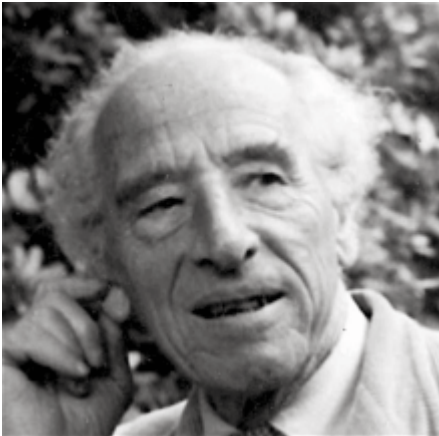


## Williams-Ellis, Clough 1883 - 1978



Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis [commonly known as Clough Williams-Ellis; and as Sir Clough Williams-Ellis] was born in Gayton, Northamptonshire, England on 28 May 1883 and moved to North Wales with his family when he was four years old. He studied natural sciences at Trinity, College, Cambridge and then studied for a few months at the Architectural Association School in London in 1903-04. He was also briefly articled to a Sussex builder before setting up his own independent architectural practice in London in 1905. In c.1908 he formed a partnership with [James Buyers Scott](#) (1882-1956) as [Williams-Ellis & Scott](#). The association was short-lived and the partnership was dissolved in 1911.

Following World War One, in which he served with distinction, Williams-Ellis increasingly began to focus his attention on conservation and environmental issues, campaigning for more effective town and country planning. He outlined his views in a series of articles, his books, *England and the Octopus* (1928) and *Britain and the Beast* (1937), and two influential pamphlets, *Cautionary Guide to Oxford* (1930), *Cautionary Guide to St Albans* (1930), both published by the Design and Industries Association of which he was President. He was also an active supporter of the National Trust, and the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

In 1925 he began work on the design and construction of the village of Portmeirion in Merioneth, Wales, an Italianate holiday complex that was to absorb his attention for the next fifty years, and was to become the project for which he is best known.

After World War Two he was appointed Chairman of Stevenage New Town Development Corporation but soon grew tired of the bureaucracy involved and

resigned.

Williams-Ellis was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1929 and in 1972 he was knighted. He died at his home, Plas Brondanw, Llanfrothen, Wales on 8 April 1978.

Worked in

UK

Works

Reconstructions and restorations: Bolesworth Castle, Llangoed Castle, Wolvcrton Court, Burton Court, Coed Coch, Oare House, and Stowe House. Bishop's Stortford College Chapel; First Church of Christ. Scientist, Belfast; Princess Christian Colony, Kent; Memorial Hospital, Blaneau Festiniog; Lord Macnaghten Memorial Hall and Schools, Co. Antrim; Central Schools, Bushmills. New houses; Bidgeland's, Berks; Cold Blow, Wilts; Cumnor House, Oxon; Pentrefelin, N. Wales; Caversham Place, Berks; and various London works, mostly private residences. [Source: Who's Who in Architecture 1926]

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See also

[Wikipedia. List of works by Clough Williams-Ellis](#)

[Historic England](#)

[British Listed Buildings](#)

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Links

- Historic England - details of over 70 architectural works by Clough Williams-Ellis  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch?searchType=site&search=clough%20williams-ellis&searchResultsPerPage=100>
- Wikipedia. List of works by Clough Williams-Ellis  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_works\\_by\\_Clough\\_Williams-Ellis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_works_by_Clough_Williams-Ellis)
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clough\\_Williams-Ellis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clough_Williams-Ellis)
- Lionel Esher, 'Ellis, Sir (Bertram) Clough Williams- (1883–1978)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2011 [Subscription service] <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/31839>
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<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp05916/sir-bertram-clough-williams-ellis>
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<https://www.plasbrondanw.com/>
- The National Library of Wales - Sir Clough Williams-Ellis Papers  
<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/sir-clough-williams-ellis-papers>
- YouTube. Clough Williams-Ellis  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7R5avzML8ek>
- YouTube. Clough Williams-Ellis, Portmeirion  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8GSf-wa04>
- YouTube. The Unusual Italian Village In Wales  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Em32gV0RFq0>
- YouTube. Jools goes to Portmeirion, Wales.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAtuRenrOBY>
- British Listed Buildings - 213 entries on Clough Williams-Ellis  
<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=Williams-Ellis%22>