

THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

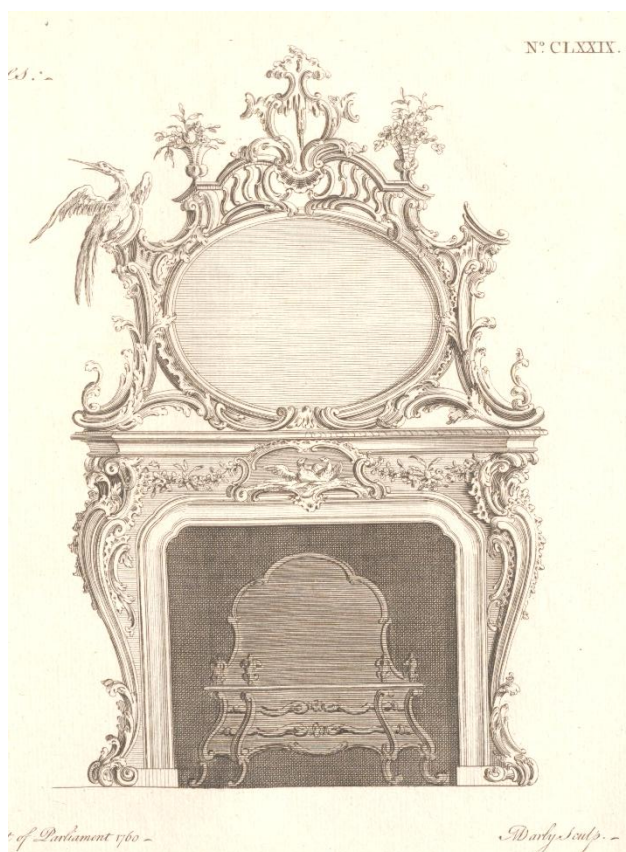


President: Lord Ronaldshay

NEWSLETTER No. 163

www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk

April 2025



CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

This overmantel mirror (above left) was sold last November at Tennant's Fine Art sale (16 November 2024, lot 780). It was catalogued as 19th century Irish and estimated at £400-£600. The design is adapted from plate CLXXIX of the 3rd edition of Chippendale's *Director* (1762) and the design itself is dated 1760. Apart from the squirrels sitting demurely to either side, which were certainly later additions, the mirror appeared to be 18th century and more or less original. It is a good example of how Chippendale's designs were employed in the 18th century by furniture makers the length and breadth of Britain to produce furniture of fashionable taste without prohibitive cost, at the same time modifying them to suit the client's preferences. Its small size, just 104 cm wide, added to its commercial appeal and it fetched a hammer price of £3200. After some judicious restoration it will probably be retailed at rather more.

Adam Bowett

PROPOSAL FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

It is fifteen years since the Chippendale Society last raised its subscription rates. Since that time inflation has caused retail prices to rise by almost 64% but the Society nevertheless still manages to live within its means, with subscription income covering our everyday running costs. We are able to do this because of the generosity of our benefactors and supporters. For instance, through the generosity of LCF Law in Leeds our postage, committee costs and AV support are met free of charge. Our IT support for the website is provided by Michael Harvey at a rate well below the commercial norm. All committee members give their time and expertise free of charge and we rarely incur costs for their travel to meetings. The auditing of our accounts is done annually by Lawrence Bentley of BFE Accountants in Otley, also free of charge. Our collections are housed and insured by Leeds Museums and Galleries at no cost to us. This comfortable state of affairs is unlikely to continue, however, because we cannot not rely indefinitely on members and colleagues whose work currently comes to us *gratis* or nearly so. While there is no immediate threat to the Society's finances the Committee believes it is best to act now to secure financial stability for the future.

An additional concern is our ability to buy items for our collection and to initiate and support new projects. Inevitably, the more we do the more costs we incur, but to do nothing is not an option which the Committee can recommend. The Society's core objective, stated at its foundation in 1965 and restated in 2019, is 'To advance public education and to promote the appreciation and study of the work of Thomas Chippendale Senior and Junior'. It cannot do this by doing nothing, and indeed failure to improve and innovate will lead not just to stasis but to decline. The Committee believes that in addition to our regular programme of visits the key to maintaining and extending the Society's work lies in greater use of online resources. For instance, this year we plan to place all of our scanned *Director* images online, as described in Newsletter 162. Another proposed Society initiative is to create a database for all known Chippendale commissions and furniture, to record and document sales and track Chippendale objects in collections around the world. These activities will inevitably require increased web capacity and IT support, which in turn will impose additional costs. In view of these concerns the Committee asks you, our members, to support a modest rise in subscription rates. The proposed rises are as follows:

	Existing	Proposed from 19 May 2025
Individual membership	£14	£20
Joint membership	£21	£30
Corporate membership	£50	no change

Note that these rises are actually below the true inflation-adjusted figures which would be £22.94 for individuals and £34.41 for joint memberships. A motion to adopt the new subscription rates will be included in the Agenda for the Society's 2025 AGM on 19 May. If you wish to have your say please come along to the meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 MAY 2025

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held as usual in the Picture Gallery at Temple Newsam.

10.30 am	Doors open, tea and coffee in the Great Hall
11.00-12.00	AGM in the Picture Gallery
12.30-2.00pm	Buffet lunch
2.00 pm	Annual Lecture: Adam Toole: 'New Acquisitions and New Discoveries at Temple Newsam House'
3.00 pm	Close

Our speaker Adam Toole is Curator at Temple Newsam House and Curator of the Chippendale Society. His lecture will discuss the most significant recent additions to the Temple Newsam collection and also describe newly completed work on the restored Butler's Pantry. The meeting is open to members only but the lecture is open to all. Admission to both is free. The cost of the buffet lunch is £18.00, including tea and coffee. **Please make your application for the lunch, with payment, by 3rd May. Application forms can be found at the end of this newsletter**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Study Tour in Devon, 22-25 September 2025

This year's autumn study tour will be based at the Ilslington Country House Hotel in Devon. It is a four-star family run hotel set in glorious countryside on the edge of Dartmoor. Our visits will include Berkeley Castle, Saltram House, Buckland Abbey, Ugbrooke, Great Fulford, Powderham Castle and Tyntesfield. Coach travel from Ilkley, Otley, Leeds and Cheltenham is provided; alternatively, members can self-drive and meet us *en route* at the locations suggested.

On Monday 22nd we travel by coach from Yorkshire to our rail pick-up point at Cheltenham rail station before driving on to Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. *Members joining us by car are advised to meet us here.* Here we will enjoy a guided tour of Berkeley Castle, the ancestral seat of the Berkeley family since the 12th century. The castle remains an impressive medieval fortress but it is also a family home replete with fine furniture and paintings, family heirlooms and historic relics. Splendid terraces and walks surround the castle, some of which were laid out by Gertrude Jekyll. From Berkeley we will travel on to our Devon hotel, arriving in time to settle in before dinner.



Berkeley Castle
Photo: Berkeley Castle

Tuesday 23 September begins with a guided tour of Saltram House near Plymouth, called by Pevsner 'the most impressive country house in Devon'. The original Tudor house was twice remodelled and expanded by Robert Adam in the 18th century and the Saloon is considered one of his finest surviving interiors. It includes a large suite of saloon seat furniture supplied by Thomas Chippendale in the early 1770s. Our guided tour will be led by the curator, Zoe Shearman.



Saltram House, the Saloon
Photo: The National Trust

From Saltram we drive to Buckland Abbey for a light lunch followed by a tour. Buckland was originally a Cistercian Abbey, founded in 1278. After the Dissolution it became a private house, with the former church being reused as domestic accommodation. In 1581 it was acquired by Sir Francis Drake, among others, and it remained in the possession of his descendants until presented to the National Trust in 1947. As well as its own collections the Abbey houses paintings from Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery.



Buckland Abbey
Photo: CODART

On Wednesday 24 September we visit two private houses, Ugbrooke and Great Fulford. There has been a house at Ugbrooke since at least 1086 and it became the home of the Clifford family in 1604. In the 18th century the medieval house was remodelled in a crenelated neo-Gothic style by Robert Adam and the park was landscaped by Capability Brown. The house contains Adam plaster and woodwork, fine

FORTHCOMING EVENTS cont.

paintings, furniture and ceramics. The adjacent St Cyprian's Chapel was, unusually, rededicated in the Catholic faith in 1673 and is now a parish church for the region's Roman Catholics.



Ugbrooke, the Dining Room

After lunch at Ugbrooke we move on for an afternoon tour of Great Fulford, the home of the Fulford family for the past 800 years. It has witnessed many vicissitudes of English history, most notably during the Civil War, when the west country was predominantly Royalist territory. The house was stormed by Parliament's forces in 1642, retaken by the Royalists in 1643 and taken again by Parliament in 1646. Much of the present house dates from the 18th and early 19th centuries; the latter phase of building was led by the architect James Wyatt and the house as it appears today is largely his work. Chippendale Society members may recall the 2004 Channel 4 TV series *The F***ing Fulfords*, featuring the present owner, Francis Fulford, and his family. <https://youtu.be/DP-8Oy5Mb6Y>



Great Fulford

Our tour of Great Fulford will be led by Francis Fulford himself, so it promises to be an entertaining visit. A Devon Cream tea will conclude the tour.

Our final day is Thursday 25 September, when we head for Powderham Castle near Exeter. Powderham is a fortified manor house built about 1391 for Sir Philip Courtney, whose ancestors have lived there ever since. It is a palimpsest of medieval, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian phases. There are some fine 18th century interiors with plasterwork, paintings and furniture, including the famous Powderham Bookcases, made in 1740 by the cabinet maker John Channon, who became one of Chippendale's neighbours in St Martin's Lane.



Bookcase, one of a pair made for Powderham Castle by John Channon in 1740
Photo: V&A

From Powderham we begin our journey home, stopping *en route* for a visit to Tyntesfield, a Gothic revival house built for William Gibbs, a wealthy Victorian guano merchant. The house's interiors were decorated

FORTHCOMING EVENTS cont.

and furnished by the famous London firm of Crace, with additional furnishings by Collier and Plunkett of Warwick, among others. Almost all its original contents remained when the National Trust bought the house in 2002, and visitors can now enjoy the house returned to its high Victorian splendour. As Mark Girouard memorably remarked, 'There is no other Victorian country house which so richly represents its age as Tyntesfield'. After Tyntesfield we continue homewards, stopping *en route* at Cheltenham rail station if anyone wishes to take the train from there.



Tyntesfield
Photo: The National Trust

Study Trip to the Lady Lever Art Gallery and Sudley House, 23 July 2025

This study trip focusses on the outstanding collection of furniture amassed by William Hesketh Lever, 1st Viscount Leverhulme, and installed in his purpose-built museum at Port Sunlight, in 1922. As well as furniture by Chippendale, Mayhew and Ince and many others, the Lady Lever Gallery houses an internationally important collection of Victorian paintings, including early and late Pre-Raphaelite works together with masterpieces by Frederick, Lord Leighton and Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema. Our tour will be led by the Liverpool Museums' Decorative Arts Curator Nicola Scott.

From Port Sunlight we will travel across the Mersey to Sudley House, the 19th century home of the Liverpool merchant George Holt and his family.

Originally built and furnished entirely by prominent Liverpool firms, and with a large number of its original furnishings and paintings remaining, it also houses a collection of 19th century furniture and paintings belonging to Liverpool Museums and Galleries. Our curator-led tour will last about an hour.

The cost of this day is £60. This includes coach travel, entry and tours of both venues, but not lunch, which will be taken at the Lady Lever Art Gallery Café. Alternatively, members may use their own cars, in which case the cost is £50. An application form can be found at the end of this Newsletter.



Left: The Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight.
Below: The Drawing Room, Sudley House.



APPLICATION FORMS

AGM Buffet Lunch, Monday 19 May 2025, 12.30 pm

The cost is £18.00 including tea and coffee on arrival. Lunch will be served in the Dining Room at Temple Newsam immediately after the AGM and before the annual lecture which begins at 2.00 pm. **Applications and payment to be received by 9 May.** Please fill in the application form below, or you can apply online [here](#).

Methods of payment

By post Cheques payable to 'The Chippendale Society' should be sent with your application form to Caroline Jacques, 22 Westfield Avenue, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7NG

Online BACS payments should be made to The Chippendale Society. Sort Code 20-37-13, Account No. 03389952. Please name your payment 'AGM'.

Please reserve me.....places for the AGM buffet lunch.

I enclose a cheque for £..... made out to 'The Chippendale Society' **or** I have made a BACS transfer for £.....

Dietary requirements.....

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Study trip to Lady Lever Art Gallery and Sudley House, 23 July 2025

The cost is £60.00, which includes coach travel and all entrance fees but not lunch. **Applications and payment to be received by 31 May.** Please fill in the application form below, or you can apply online [here](#).

Methods of payment

By post Cheques payable to 'The Chippendale Society' should be sent with your application form to Caroline Jacques, 22 Westfield Avenue, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7NG

Online BACS payments should be made to The Chippendale Society. Sort Code 20-37-13, Account No. 03389952. Please name your payment 'AGM'.

Please reserve me.....places for the Lady Lever study trip.

I enclose a cheque for £..... made out to 'The Chippendale Society' **or** I have made a BACS transfer for £.....

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Tel.....

Email.....

NB: members will be advised of coach pick-up times and locations in and around Leeds once all applications have been received.

APPLICATION FORMS cont.

Study tour to Devon, 22-25 September 2025

The cost of this tour is £695 per person sharing a double room or £795 for a single occupancy. This includes all coach travel, dinner, bed and breakfast at Ilsington Country House Hotel, all admission fees and guided tours, three lunches and a cream tea. A deposit of £100 is required by **31 May 2025** and the balance of £595 for a person sharing a double/twin room and £695 for a single occupancy will be payable by **1st July 2025**. An application form can be found below, or you can apply online [here](#).

Methods of payment

By post Cheques payable to 'The Chippendale Society' should be sent with your application form to Caroline Jacques, 22 Westfield Avenue, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7NG

Online BACS payments should be made to The Chippendale Society. Sort Code 20-37-13, Account No. 03389952. Please name your payment 'Devon Tour'.

For enquires contact Caroline Jacques at carolinejanejacques@gmail.com Phone no 07854 846771

Please note that the itinerary may be subject to minor changes and that although we endeavour to re-imburse members if unable to attend, it is important that you are adequately insured.

Please reserve me places for the Devon study tour

I enclose a cheque for £..... made out to 'The Chippendale Society'

I have made BACS transfer to The Chippendale Society for £.....

Names(s).....

Address.....

Tel..... email.....

Dietary Requirements.....

Coach pick-up times, please state your preference

6.45 am Addingham, The Fleece Pub.....

6.55 am Ilkley Grove Rd, The Lutyens.....

7.00 am Ilkley coach stand, Station Rd.....

7.30am Yorkshire Garden Centre, Otley.....

7.50am Bramhope, 1st bus stop after the Britannia Hotel.....

8.10am Weetwood roundabout, Otley Rd, Leeds side at the bus stop in front of the parade of shops.....

8.20am Leeds Ring Rd, 1st bus shelter after Weetwood roundabout.....

8.30am Park and Ride, King Lane, Leeds, LS17 7AG.....

1.00 pm Cheltenham Spa rail station.....

1.30 pm Berkeley Castle, Gloucs.....