

# THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY



President: the Lord St Oswald

**NEWSLETTER No. 147**  
**January 2020**

[www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk](http://www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk)



Attributed to  
Thomas Chippendale jnr,  
*Design for a pedestal and  
lantern for Harewood  
House, 1774.*

## NEW ACQUISITION

We are delighted to announce that the Society has just acquired six previously unknown furniture drawings, two attributed to Thomas Chippendale snr and four to Thomas Chippendale jnr

(one shown above). A full report will be published in the next newsletter and in the meantime the drawings will be cleaned and conserved for display at Temple Newsam.

## EVENTS FOR 2020

### Tatton Park and Tabley House, Cheshire Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020



We are delighted to be able to offer a study day to both these important Cheshire houses with private tours. In the morning we have a private guided tour of Tatton Park, ancestral home of the Egerton family and given intact with contents to the National Trust in 1958. Redesigned in the late eighteenth century by Samuel Wyatt this grand Palladian villa is home to a fine art collection and furniture by Gillows. There will be time after the tour to visit the gardens at our leisure.

We then travel a short distance to Tabley House where we will have a light lunch followed by an afternoon tour. Tabley is the ancestral home of the Leicester family and was designed by Carr of York. Tabley is also renowned for the picture collection and furniture by Gillows.

The cost for this Study Day is £69.50 to include all admissions, two guided tours, a light lunch, and coach travel. Applications, with a cheque made payable to the 'Chippendale Society' must be received by the 15th March 2020. Please assume you have a place unless you hear to the contrary.

**NB there is an application form.**

### Study Day to Everingham Park, Yorkshire Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

We are delighted to offer a study day at Everingham Hall, a privately owned mansion near Market Weighton. Built originally by John Carr of York in around 1760 the house was restored in 1962 for the Duke of Norfolk. The two hour tour will include the ground floor reception rooms and the adjacent Church of Saints Mary and Everilda. This is an extraordinarily rich Italian neo-Classical basilica completed in 1836 by the architect Agostino Giorgioli. The interior has white and gold coffered vaulting, rich scagliola columns and niches with life-size statues of the Apostles and Holy Family by Luigi Bozzoni. The tour will be followed by a two course lunch including a glass of wine. After lunch we can stroll the gardens at leisure.

The cost for this rare insight into a private home is £69.50 to include coach travel, admission and two hour tour and two course lunch with a glass of wine. Applications, with a cheque made payable to the 'Chippendale Society' must be made by the 15th March 2020 and sent to Cathy Lambert, Hon Events Secretary, Nesfield Hall, Nesfield, Ilkley, LS29 0BN. Please assume you have a place unless you hear to the contrary.

**NB there is an application form.**



### Three night, four day study tour to the Welsh Borders based in Oswestry Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020



We are delighted to offer this three night, four day study tour based at the four star Lion Quays hotel in Weston Rhyn, Oswestry.

The study tour begins on Tuesday 7th July with a tour of Combermere Abbey, originally a Cistercian house but given to one of Henry VIII's courtiers, Sir George Cotton at the Dissolution. Gothicised in 1814-21 by Stapleton Cotton, Viscount Combermere, this privately owned house has a fairy tale exterior built over a Tudor interior. In the afternoon we travel to Plas Newydd, Llangollen. Here, before our free flow tour of the house, we have a lecture about the house which was home to two Irish ladies, Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby (The Ladies of Llangollen) who set up home here in the eighteenth century causing a great scandal. Originally a five roomed cottage, the house has been Gothicised and became a magnet for such famous figures such as William Wordsworth, Caroline Lamb, Sir Walter Scott and Josiah Wedgwood.

On the morning of Wednesday, the 8th July we enjoy a tour of Chirk Castle. Originally built as part of a chain of fortresses across North Wales in 1295 by Roger Mortimer de Chirk. It was bought by the Myddleton family in 1593 to whom it belonged until handed over to the National Trust in 2004. Here we will enjoy the magnificent state rooms and the 1920s glamour when tenanted by the de Walden family. From Chirk we travel a short distance to Erddig the home of the Yorke family for over 200 years. Saved by the National Trust from deterioration, we will see rooms as they developed over three centuries, a wonderful Tapestry Room, a recently renovated State bed covered in Chinese silk and extensive servants quarters. (cont. next page).

## EVENTS FOR 2020 (cont.)

### Three night, four day study tour to the Welsh Borders based in Oswestry (cont.)

Powis Castle near Welshpool is our destination on our third morning of Thursday the 9th July. Powis is the ancestral home of the Herbert/Clive family. Our private tour will illustrate how a fourteenth century castle became an elegant home. Highlights include the State Bedroom, Long Gallery and wonderful terraced gardens. In the afternoon we travel a short distance out of Welshpool to the privately owned Brithdir Hall. This sixteenth century house was remodelled in the Regency style in around 1815 and the tour includes a Gothic 'ferme ornée'.

On our fourth day, Friday, we have tours of two privately owned houses. The first, near Shrewsbury, is Pitchford Hall, described as Britain's finest half-timbered house. Owned by the Colthurst family for more than 500 years it was then sold in 1992. Placed on the 'at risk' register the house has been bought back by Rowena Colthurst and is currently under ongoing restoration. In the afternoon we travel towards Telford to Hatton Grange which was built

in 1764 for Plowden Slaney by Shrewsbury architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard. Still privately owned by the Slaney family it is regarded as one of Thomas Farnolls Pritchard's most complete existing works and a good example of an elegant Georgian country home set in beautiful gardens.

The cost for this interesting study tour is £560 per person sharing a double/twin room with an £80 supplement for a double room for single use. This is to include all coach travel, all entrances, tours and lectures as described, three nights bed, breakfast and dinner at the four star Lion Quays Hotel near Oswestry, two lunches and two coffee/teas and cake. A deposit of £100 per person must be sent with your application form by 15th March 2020 and the balance of £460 per person (£540 per person for a double room for single use) is due by the 8th May 2020. Please assume you have a place unless you hear to the contrary.

**NB There is an application form.**

## REPORTS

### York Furniture Discovery Day Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019



Twenty members of the Society gathered in York for a study of the furniture collections of two very different houses. We were guided by our Chairman, Adam Bowett, who suggested that as we toured the houses we should consider why the collectors - Frank Green (1861-1954) at Treasurer's House, and Noel Terry (1889-1980) at Fairfax House - chose the pieces they did.

Although the Treasurer's House has ecclesiastical origins, what we see today is the largely the creation of Frank Green and his architect, Temple Moore. Indeed, the first room we entered was the Great Hall which Frank Green 'recreated' against all evidence to the contrary. Walls were removed, the ceiling raised, mullions replaced sash windows and a minstrels' gallery was installed. Here there was an exceptional oak table dated 1686 with the carved initials of William Cass, of Peep o' Day farm, Easingwold. It had its original benches which fitted snugly beneath the table when not in use.

Green's eclectic taste was found in every room, beginning in the West Sitting Room with carved ebony furniture from Dutch colonial Sri Lanka, c.1680-1720, and a pair of Anglo-Indian ivory chairs and table from Murshidabad, c.1800. The Blue Drawing Room contained much good furniture including a suite of Directoire-style giltwood sofas and chairs, English c.1790, and pair of gilt wood torchères, c.1715, with the monogram of John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, attributed to James Moore. Three mid-eighteenth-century carved giltwood console tables had an excellent provenance from Mexborough House, London, unlike a pair of Chippendale-style girandoles which were undoubtedly nineteenth-century copies. In the staircase hall a large 'Kentian' eagle table was thought highly suspect, as was the mirror above it in the style of Francis and John Booker of Dublin. The smaller upstairs rooms continued the eclectic theme, combining pieces with good provenance, such as the two eighteenth-century beds from Houghton Hall (much altered by Frank Green) and a carved giltwood table, c.1720, made for the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Chandos, with other pieces of less certain origin.

After lunch we met at Fairfax House, a fine townhouse built in the 1760s by John Carr for Charles, 9<sup>th</sup> Viscount Fairfax, and restored in the 1980s by York Civic Trust. It contains the Noel Terry collection of English furniture which at one time was regarded as one of the finest in private hands. As with the Frank Green's collection, it contained a mixture of the very good, the not so good and the frankly unmentionable. Among the highlights were: a celebrated floral marquetry cabinet, purportedly c.1690 but in fact an early twentieth-century pastiche; an exceptional walnut bureau bookcase, c.1725, with a stunning interior; and a mahogany dressing commode of about 1760 resembling a design in the 1762 edition of the *Director*. Most intriguing of all was a pair of high mahogany tables or stands with six-lobed tops whose purpose has mystified all visitors, including the Chippendale Society. Although in the style of c.1755 they are certainly no earlier than c.1840. Perhaps globe stands?

Lack of space prevents us from describing the many outstanding and genuine pieces in Noel Terry's collection, but we concluded our visit with a detailed look at one of his less happy purchases. This was a tripod table with a galleried hexagonal top and elaborately scrolled and carved base. It was exactly the sort of high-style 'Chippendale' furniture which mid-twentieth century collectors prized so highly, but it was a deliberate fake. The clumsy fretwork cut from solid wood (it should be laminated), the poor quality mahogany with an odd, greyish-brown colour, the polished underside of the top and the frankly poor quality of the carving all indicated a piece made specifically to catch the eye of a rich collector. Modern fakers have got a good deal better since this one was made.

Our thanks go to the staff of the Treasurer's House and Fairfax House for allowing us such untrammelled access to their collections.

## REPORTS

### Norton Conyers and Goldsborough Hall 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020



32 members enjoyed this Christmas Study Day and Lunch. In the morning we travelled to Norton Conyers, near Ripon where Sir James and Lady Graham had specially opened their home for us. They entertained us with the history of the family in front of a roaring fire in the Great Hall. The house has Anglo-Saxon origins and through history has been visited by Charles I, James II and Queen Mary. Surviving the Civil War by originally supporting the Crown and then prevaricating the family held on to its lands with a fine. A recent discovery of an infestation of Death Watch Beetle resulted in a major repair and restoration campaign.

We were able to visit the attics which are reputedly the background to the story of the 'Mad Woman' in the attic in Charlotte Bronte's 'Jane Eyre'. Those that braved the narrow steps were rewarded with the atmospheric small cold room, originally windowless, under the eaves and later saw the concealed door on the landing.

The conservator Tim Phelps who has examined many pieces in the house greatly enhanced our visit with an in-depth discussion of the exceptional oyster veneered cabinet in the Drawing Room, with Adam Bowett revealing the hidden drawers. An over-elaborate but thinly carved armchair (perhaps once a reclining chair) was shown to have ash seat rails perhaps indicative of a

regional manufacture, maybe Wright and Elwick. Likewise an altered armchair with distinctive blank fretwork may have been part of a much larger suite for which a pair of stools have appeared on the market recently. A most unusual marquetry secretaire in the Best Bedroom caused some discussion and was probably made by one of the small group of Swedish cabinet makers and marqueteurs in London in the early 1770s.

Three highly significant pieces in the Great Hall caused the greatest interest. The centre table, inlaid with emblematic flora and fauna, masks and other emblems, was probably made for a Banqueting House c1570 by South German craftsmen, possibly by immigrants in London. The centre has a figured marble slab and the borders inscribed with tests from the Catholic Vulgate. Its presence at Norton Conyers is still unexplained. Next to it the magisterial oak armchair with a double arcaded back, dated 1603, and a later cresting with a baron's coronet. It is one of four such pieces all associated with the Conyers family. Next to the chimney was a very fine leather-clad chest, c1700, reminiscent of Chancellor's chests but with drawers below and studded with brass nail-heads, including the heraldic device of the Graham family.

At Goldsborough Hall, formerly in the ownership of the Lascelles family and recorded as being furnished by Chippendale we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the Drawing Room in front of a roaring fire in the Adam fireplace.



## OBITUARY

### Anne Ambler

Ann Ambler was a long-term committee member of the society and latterly the all-important link with Otley where she had lived for many years. Recently

she had been responsible for organising the annual dinner, always a convivial and enjoyable event. She will be greatly missed for the enthusiasm and special insights which she brought to our meetings.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS & EMAIL

In spite of several reminders, some subscriptions for this year remain unpaid. If you have not already paid, please do so now. Please help us keep costs to a minimum by requesting that the Newsletter be sent to you by email in future if you do not already receive it by this method.

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