

THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

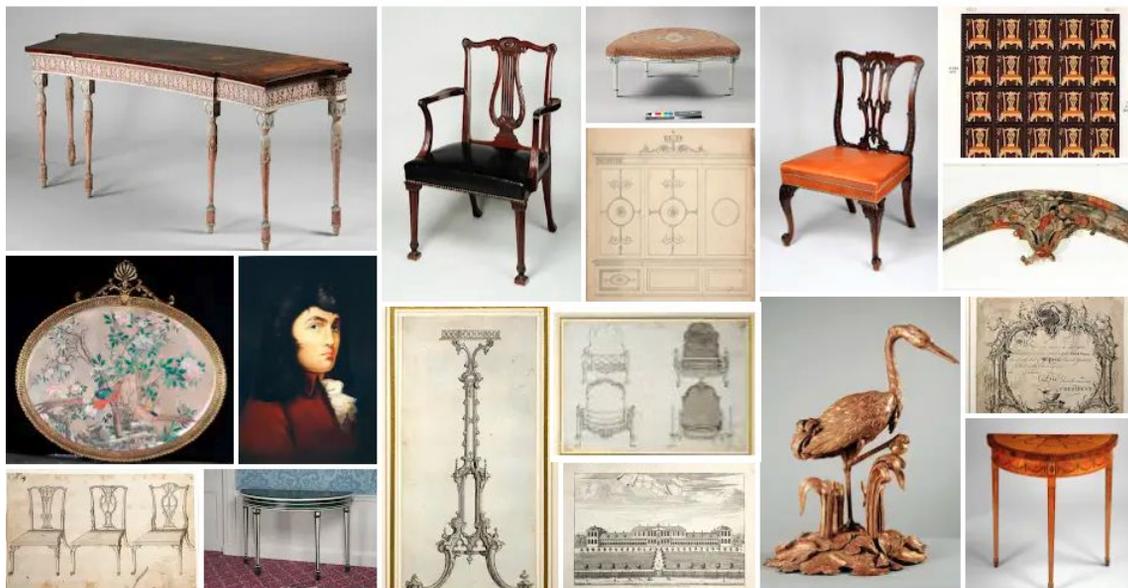


President: the Lord St Oswald

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www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk

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Screenshot from Google Arts and Culture

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chippendale Society Collection is now online on the Google Arts and Culture platform. You can access it in various ways, but the easiest is here:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/search?q=chippendale%20society>

Click on any image to see the full text and cataloguing information. Each entry also links back to the Chippendale Society website. The Collection can be viewed on the Society's website which in turn links back to the Google platform, but this is still at a development stage and will be improved. As well as the images online (one per item), the Society has several hundred more images which we will be making digitally accessible for use by researchers, writers and publishers. This is a major step forward for the Society and has been made possible by the hard work of Adam Toole, Curator, and Rebecca Burton, Website Editor.

The Chippendale Society Collection is positioned on Google Arts and Culture as part of the Leeds Museums & Galleries collection, and we are deeply grateful to LM&G for their support, and particularly to Thomas Bullen, Digital Solutions Officer, who guided us through the process of creating and formatting the entries.

Meanwhile, the day to day work of the Society goes on; our accounts are in good shape and a full programme of events is being run this year. This Newsletter continues to inform and, I hope, entertain. All this is thanks to your committee who continue to do sterling work on the Society's behalf.

This year's AGM will be held at Temple Newsam on 23 May. Further details are on page 5.

Adam Bowett

SUBSCRIPTIONS & EMAIL

Just a reminder to all our members that subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2022. The subscriptions remain the same at £14.00 per single member and £21.00 for a joint membership.

Payments may be made by Pay Pal via our website or cheques may be sent to me at The Croft, Breary Lane, Bramhope, Leeds LS16 9AE. Alternatively a payment may be made by bank transfer; Barclays Bank plc, Sort code 20-37-13, Account number 80260274, Account name - Chippendale Society Membership Account. Thank-you, Peggy Pullan, Membership Secretary, email; fh817@ncf.ca

REPORTS

Welsh Borders Study Tour

6th-9th July 2021

Nineteen members of the Society enjoyed this four-day study tour based at the Lion Quays Hotel near Oswestry. Its organization had been fraught with difficulty due to Covid restrictions, which saw the last minute withdrawal of some of the National Trust properties. Fortunately, the Historic Houses Association came to the rescue and we managed to secure some visits to private homes in replacement.

Our first stop was Combermere Abbey on the Cheshire/ Shropshire border. As the name suggests, this house had its origins in a medieval Abbey, dissolved by Henry VIII in 1536. It was subsequently given to one of Henry's favourite courtiers, Sir George Cotton, whose family lived at Combermere for around 360 years, eventually retaining only the Abbot's house and great hall of the original buildings. The house's current 'Strawberry Hill' Gothic exterior is the work of Stapleton Cotton, Viscount Combermere, between 1818 and 1820. In 1919 Combermere was sold to Sir Kenneth Crossley, chairman of Crossley Motors, whose great granddaughter was one of our guides. Our tour not only covered the historical parts of the Abbey but gave us an insight on the different ways an estate of this size can pay its way in modern times. A highlight of the tour was the Library where, above the later coved ceiling, we were able to see the huge oak timbers of the original hammer beam roof of the medieval great hall. Another was the rare and recently renovated circular Game Larder.

After lunch at Combermere we travelled a short distance into Wales to Plas Newydd near Llangollen, home of the 'The Ladies of Llangollen'. We commenced our tour with an enthusiastic talk by the curator. The two ladies, Sarah Ponsonby (1755 - 1831) and Eleanor Charlotte Butler (1739 - 1829), caused a sensation in the late eighteenth century when they left their families in Ireland to set up home together. They entertained extensively and were visited by many famous literary figures of the day. Their small cottage, extended and elaborately Gothicised with fragments of old panelling and carvings, is now partly a museum and partly decorated and furnished in the style of the ladies, with some of their original possessions. The result is a dark but cosy interior full of quirky charm.

On Wednesday morning we travelled a short distance to Brynkinalt, home of the Trevor family whose descendants can be traced back to the ancient kings of Wales. The house sits on a rise overlooking gardens and parkland which straddles the border of England and Wales. Our guide was Kate Hill-Trevor, who started her tour outside the E-shaped west front dating from around 1612, on to which Victorian wings and a conservatory were added by Charlotte, Viscountess Dungannon. To make the house more manageable the house was drastically reduced in the 1960s and 50 rooms demolished, including some of the Victorian extensions.

The interior reflected the exterior, combining smaller, wood-panelled Jacobean rooms with larger and lighter Georgian and Victorian rooms. We also were able to visit the modern kitchen and family rooms to remind us that this house is definitely a home. The highlights of furniture were two early eighteenth-century gilded tables with scarlet and gold *verre églomisé* tops.

There was a suite of seat furniture attributed to Wright and Elwick, a *boule* clock marked Thuret (a notable early eighteenth century French clockmaker) and another suite of seat furniture in the manner of George Jacob. Pictures included several by Philip Mercier (1689-1760) and Pompeo Batoni (1708-1787) and interesting *objets d'art* included a book of plans of the nineteenth-century extensions to the house and a mid-eighteenth century Chelsea porcelain dressing table box with clock, mirror and a red velvet-lined interior still with the original brushes, a gift from Queen Charlotte to one of the Trevor ancestors. As usual we were short of time but managed a brief look at the formal West Garden. In its heyday the house employed twenty-three gardeners and now there are only two, supported by volunteers.

From Brynkinalt we went to Chirk Castle for a guided tour of the State Rooms. Chirk stands high above the Ceiriog Valley, one of the Marcher fortresses built during Edward I's reign. This imposing castle wraps around an enclosed, protected courtyard. Owned by the Myddleton family for over 400 years, copper, coal and lead mines brought the family the riches to develop the castle into an elegant home. In the eighteenth century Richard Myddleton and his wife Elizabeth employed the architect Joseph Turner of Chester to remodel the State rooms in the fashionable Neoclassical style, while in the nineteenth century Colonel Robert Myddleton Biddulph commissioned A. W. N. Pugin to create a 'medieval' look. In the twentieth century the castle was let to Lord Howard de Walden who used it as a place to entertain, putting his own unique stamp on some of the interiors. In the late twentieth century the Castle was given to the National Trust.



Pitchford Treehouse

REPORTS - *cont.*

The interiors are a surprising and sometimes confusing mix of styles, from the original medieval to the Neoclassical and the neo-Gothic. Some of the Neoclassical interiors were renovated in the mid twentieth century. Furniture highlights included, in the Saloon, giltwood pier glasses and matching half-round marquetry tables by Ince and Mayhew (1782); a harpsichord by Burckhardt Shudi (1742); four Mortlake Tapestries, and an Axminster carpet designed by William Morris in 1879 for St James's Palace. In the Long Gallery there is an unusual Japanese shagreen chest (c.1600) and a wonderful Antwerp ebony cabinet inlaid with tortoiseshell and ivory, the interior painted in the studio of Frans Francken. This was a gift from King Charles II to Sir Thomas Myddleton in 1661. Pugin left his mark throughout on the grates, firebacks, fire-irons, light fittings, and door handles.

From Chirk we travelled north to Hartsheath near Mold, where we were the guests of Peter and Johanna Kaufmann. Lunch in the grand dining room was followed by a guided tour of the house and gardens. The house was originally designed in 1825 by Charles James Matthews, a pupil of A. C. Pugin (father of the better-known A. W. N. Pugin), for the director of the Welsh Iron and Coal Company. When the latter closed the house was sold to the Jones family, ancestors of Johanna. We saw a mix of private and state rooms all of which are very much lived in, and pictures included an excellent collection of watercolours by artists including J. M. W. Turner, David Cox, Thomas Girtin and Paul Sandby.

On our third day we travelled to Powis Castle, another Marcher castle just outside Welshpool. A castle has existed on the site from the twelfth century in a naturally defensive position on a ridge overlooking England to the south and east and protected by a deep ditch towards Wales in the north and west. It was Sir Edward Herbert, younger son of the Earl of Pembroke, who bought the castle in 1587 and who started the process of turning a fortress into an elegant home. A T-shaped Long Gallery and a succession of State Rooms were formed out of the difficult plan of the original castle. When the Clive family inherited the Castle in the nineteenth century they brought their fabulous collection of furniture and works of art.

Staff shortages meant we were unable to have a guided tour and some rooms were closed. We were, however, able to see most of Powis's significant treasures, including the lacquer commodes by Pierre Langlois in the Blue Drawing Room, the Brussels tapestries and giltwood seat furniture.

The State Bedroom was also open, with its richly upholstered crimson bed, silvered seat furniture and French marquetry crumode. The Oak Drawing Room was a total contrast, refurbished by George Bodley in 1902-4 in the medieval style with mullioned window and replica panelling. The Jacobean-style ceiling is a copy of one at Aston Hall, Birmingham. Some of us also managed to visit the now contentious Clive Museum in what was the original ballroom, built in the courtyard of the castle. It houses over 700 objects collected by Robert Clive, Lord Clive of Plassey, and his son Edward Clive, created Governor of Madras in 1798. The most famous of these is probably the tiger's head finial from Tipu Sultan's throne.

For many it is the steeply terraced garden at Powis that are the main attraction. This is said to be the finest example of a 17th century Italianate terraced garden in Britain. It combines terraces, statuary, yew hedges and floral borders with spectacular views across the Severn valley.

In the afternoon we travelled to Brithdir as guests of owner Jeremy Rye, who acted as our guide and host for the afternoon. This sixteenth and early seventeenth-century house is undergoing substantial renovations and might best be described as a work in progress. We had an entertaining tour looking at the many family relics and heirlooms that Jeremy has collected, and our afternoon ended convivially with tea and cake in the garden. It will be interesting to re-visit Brithdir when the renovations are completed.

On our final morning we visited Pitchford Hall, one of the most impressive timber-framed houses in England, as guests of owners Rowena and James Nason. Most of the present building was built about 1560 for Adam Ottley, a Shrewsbury wool merchant. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries it passed through several owners, the last being the Colthursts, who in 1992 sold both house and contents to pay off losses sustained in the Lloyds underwriting crash. In 2016 Rowena (née Colthurst) and James bought back the house and started a long process of renovation and reclamation.



Powis Castle

REPORTS - cont.

Members of the family acted as guides on our tour which included the remarkable pitch well, after which the house is named, and the famous tree house, though to be the oldest in England. The present structure, nestling in an ancient lime tree, was designed by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard and has a Georgian Gothic stucco interior. One of the most famous visitors to the tree house was Princess Victoria who stayed at Pitchford as a teenager. Our visit ended with tea and home-made cake in the recently renovated Orangery.

Our last visit was to Hatton Grange, where we were the guests of Christina and Rupert Kenyan-Slaney. After an excellent lunch in the cricket pavilion, we were split into two groups to be guided around the gardens by Mrs Slaney and the interiors by her husband. This elegant Georgian house was built in 1764 for Plowden Slaney by the Shrewsbury architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, and has remained in the same family since then.

However, its origins, as the name suggests, are earlier and the estate is built on Abbey lands. We commenced our tour in the entrance hall, now used as a small sitting room. Here was an interesting mix of Georgian and modern Linley furniture. The dining room is regarded as one Pritchard's finest, with delicate classical coving and an overmantel with garlands of fruits, flowers and musical instruments. Outside, the extensive rose borders were packed with hundreds of varieties from rose specialist David Austen. A quirky fibreglass temple acted as an eye catcher in the distance. This interesting and elegant home brought our July tour to an end.

Cathy Lambert



Detail of the marquetry tables by Ince and Mayhew at Chirk Castle

Christmas Lunch at Goldsborough Hall

1st December 2021

Despite the ongoing difficulties with Covid we were able to hold our annual Christmas lunch at Goldsborough Hall. Following a talk in the morning by Mark Oglesby on the history of the house, thirty-five members enjoyed an excellent three course meal in the Robert Adam designed dining room. Mark and Clare Oglesby purchased the Hall in 2005 and have been renovating the house and grounds as a country hotel and restaurant.

Substantial alterations were made in the eighteenth century by John Carr and Robert Adam for the Lascelles family, who used it as a home for their heirs and as a dowry house. Luckily for the Oglesbys, many original fixtures and fittings remain although the Chippendale furniture was removed to Harewood House. Goldsborough became better known as the home of Princess Mary, daughter of George V and Queen Mary, after her marriage to Viscount Lascelles in the 1920s.

Cathy Lambert



Goldsborough Hall

AGM

AGM, Lunch and Lecture Monday 23 May 2022

To be held at Temple Newsam House, Leeds

11.00	Doors Open
11.30	Annual General Meeting in the Picture Gallery (Members only)
12.30	Lunch (optional, £20.00)
2.00	Annual Lecture (non-members £10.00, tickets at the door)
3.00	Finish

The annual lecture this year is by Dr Kerry Bristol, Senior Lecturer at the University of Leeds and Chippendale Society committee member. The subject is 'Town versus Country. Rethinking Thomas Chippendale's Nostell Account'.

No booking required for the AGM (members only). Lunches must be booked by 30th April.

EVENTS

Study Day at Nostell Priory Tuesday 12 April 2022

We are delighted to offer this special study day at Nostell Priory, one of Thomas Chippendale's best-documented commissions. The house was begun in 1736 for Sir Rowland Winn, fourth baronet, but when his son inherited in 1765 many rooms were still unfinished. Sir Rowland Winn, fifth baronet, turned to Robert Adam to update the interiors and commissioned Chippendale to furnish them. Winn's sudden death in 1785 left Nostell incomplete until the early nineteenth century, when Charles Williamson Winn employed the fashionable London decorator Thomas Ward to finish a house that had been nearly a century in the making.

The house will be closed to the general public and opened exclusively for the Chippendale Society. The day will be led by Simon McCormack, Kerry Bristol and Adam Bowett.

It will include talks on Nostell's history, Chippendale's legacy and recent work by the National Trust to bring the Winns' story to life. These will be followed by an extensive tour and behind the scenes look at key pieces such as the extraordinary medal cabinet in the library, items in storage and work in progress on Lady Winn's Dressing Room.

The house is located on the A638 between Doncaster and Wakefield and is easily accessible by independent travel. The day begins with coffee on arrival at 10:00 followed by our first talk at 10.30. The maximum number of places for the day is 20. The cost of £39.50 includes admission, talks, tour and lunch. Applications by 1 April 2022.

Kiplin Hall and Langton Hall Thursday May 19 2022



Kiplin Hall

We are delighted to be able to visit these two North Yorkshire houses which are situated only 10 minutes from each other on the B6271, midway between Bedale and Northallerton. In the morning we visit Kiplin Hall, with morning tea/coffee before our guided tour. Kiplin was built between 1622 and 1625 by George Calvert, Secretary of State to James I, who later became the first Lord Baltimore and founder of the colony of Maryland in the USA.

Alterations were made in the early eighteenth century and again in the nineteenth century when the architect W. E. Nesfield built a Gothic-style drawing room and Jacobean-style library. In the Second World War the house was requisitioned by the Royal Air Force and suffered some neglect. In 1968 a Trust was formed to save the house and contents, and after much restoration the house is now open to the public.

In the afternoon we travel 10 minutes to Langton Hall (not generally open to the public). Before our guided tour we enjoy a two-course lunch.

The house was built in 1770 for Leonard Smelt, a successful military engineer who became a friend of George III and Queen Charlotte. Smelt spent little time at Langton, only retiring there after the death of his wife in 1792. In the 1860s the house became the home of Charles, Lord Teignmouth, whose father had been Governor General of Bengal. He altered and expanded the house in the Gothic Revival style. In 1891 the house was bought by the Fife family and in the 1960s the owner's father undertook extensive restorations, reducing the Victorian extensions and enhancing the original Georgian symmetry. The restoration continues and more recently the Historic Houses Association have helped in renewing the slate roof and lead flashing.

As the houses are only 40 minutes' drive from Wetherby there will be no coach and members should travel independently. The tour begins at 10.30am so please arrive by 10.15am.

The cost of this study day, including two private tours, admissions, morning tea/coffee and a two-course lunch is £55. Applications must be received by March 20th 2022.

EVENTS - *cont.*

Birdsall House and Aldby Park

Thursday 16 June 2022

We are delighted to be able to offer this interesting day at two very different privately owned houses situated 20 miles to the east of York. Our first visit is to Birdsall House near Malton, home of the Willoughby family. Originally a small Tudor house built around 1540 by the Sothebys, when the Willoughby family married into the Sotheby family in 1719 the house was given a Georgian Classical aggrandisement. Another remodelling and enlargement took place in 1873 under architect Anthony Salvin. After tea/coffee our guided tour will cover highlights of the picture collection, including works by Sir Joshua Reynolds and Pompeo Batoni, and furniture attributed to Thomas Chippendale.

From Birdsall we travel 20 minutes to Aldby Park, near Buttercrambe, a Georgian house built around 1726. Before our tour we will have a light lunch. This ancient site (once used as a castle for Edwin, King of Northumbria), has been in the Darley family since 1517.

The family are best known for the Darley Arabian, a thoroughbred stallion brought to England in 1703 and of which there is a life size painting in the house.

Four day study tour based at Rutland Water

Monday 4 to Thursday 7 July 2022

We are delighted to offer this four-day study tour based at the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel near Rutland Water. On our way to Barnsdale on Monday 4th July we stop for a guided tour of Doddington Hall near Lincoln. Built between 1593 and 1600 by Robert Smythson for Thomas Tailor in the Elizabethan style, its interiors were extensively remodelled in the 18th century. The Society's collection includes wallpaper from Doddington of a pattern also used by Chippendale. The Hall is still privately owned and we will see a fine collection of furniture, pictures, porcelain and textiles. In the afternoon we travel on to Belton House near Grantham, Lincolnshire, once ancestral home of the Brownlows and now a National Trust property. It is a Restoration house designed by William Winde, with late Georgian alterations by the Wyatts. Highlights include marquetry furniture, excellent lime-wood carving, hand-painted wallpaper and Mortlake Tapestries.

On Tuesday 5th July we go Boughton near Kettering. Boughton is the English home of the Duke of Buccleuch and here we have a tour which includes the State Apartments created for the visit of William III. Boughton is a hidden treasure, with an extraordinary collection of English and Continental furniture, Mortlake tapestries, Sèvres porcelain and important paintings by Van Dyck El Greco and many others. In the afternoon we travel to Elton Hall near Peterborough. The earliest part of the Hall is fifteenth century, to which successive generations of the Proby family have made alterations and additions, including the 'Octagon' room designed in 'Strawberry Hill' 'Gothick' style.

During our guided tour (which includes a special look at particular pieces of furniture with Lady Proby) we will see an outstanding collection which includes Louis XV cabinets, Sèvres porcelain, paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Turner, and in the library a prayer book signed by Henry VIII and two of his wives.

Requisitioned by the army in the Second World War, the estate suffered badly but has been renovated by Mark Winn, a descendant of the first Baron St. Oswald.

As both houses are only 50 minutes by car from Wetherby there will be no coach and members should travel independently. Birdsall is a few miles south of Malton and Aldby is south west of Birdsall, just off the A166 at Buttercrambe. More detailed directions will be sent to those attending. The tour starts at 10am at Birdsall so please arrive by 9.50am.

The cost for this Study Day is £59.50 to include two admissions, two guided tours, morning tea/coffee and a light two-course lunch. Applications by 30th March 2022.



Birdsall House

On Wednesday 6th July we travel to Burghley House, near Stamford, regarded by some as England's greatest Elizabethan house. It was built for William Cecil, Elizabeth I's Lord Treasurer and most trusted advisor, and descended to the Earls and Marquesses of Exeter, whose family still live in the house. The late 17th century State Apartments were painted by Antonio Verrio, and now contain collections of 17th and 18th century furniture, paintings and other works of art. There are carvings by Grinling Gibbons and furniture by Ince and Mayhew. The Estate is now run by the Burghley House Preservation Trust. In the afternoon we travel to Drayton House near Kettering, home of the Stopford-Sackville family, descendants of the Earls of Peterborough. This very private house has its origins in the thirteenth century but was substantially remodelled by William Talman, whose astonishing entrance front is concealed behind a battlemented screen. The house is not open to the general public and remains one of the least changed of England's noble houses.

On our last day, Thursday 7th July, we visit Grimsthorpe Castle near Bourne, Lincolnshire, where we will enjoy a guided tour. This house marries Tudor origins with a Vanbrugh façade and great hall, but with mainly Georgian Interiors. Run by a charitable trust, it is still home to the Willoughby de Eresby family. Highlights include the Chinese Drawing room and fine furniture and paintings throughout. In the afternoon we will be able to enjoy the gardens.

The cost is £600 per person sharing a twin/double room with an £85 supplement for a double room for single use. This includes all coach travel, entrance fees, tours, three lunches and three nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel on Rutland Water. Deposits of £150 per person should be sent with your application form by 11th March 2022 and the balance of £450 per person (£535 for a double room for single use) is due by 4th May 2022.