

# THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY



President: the Lord St Oswald

NEWSLETTER No. 157

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

February 2023



Cabinet, c.1775, supplied by Mayhew and Ince for the Duchess of Manchester. Satinwood and marquetry, mounted with Florentine pietre dure panels. Victoria and Albert Museum W43:1to2-1949

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Our cover image is the famous Kimbolton Cabinet created by Chippendale's great rivals John Mayhew and William Ince. It is one of the many superb pieces of furniture illustrated and discussed in the long awaited monograph on Mayhew and Ince published late last year, which will give Chippendale enthusiasts much food for thought. The book is reviewed overleaf.

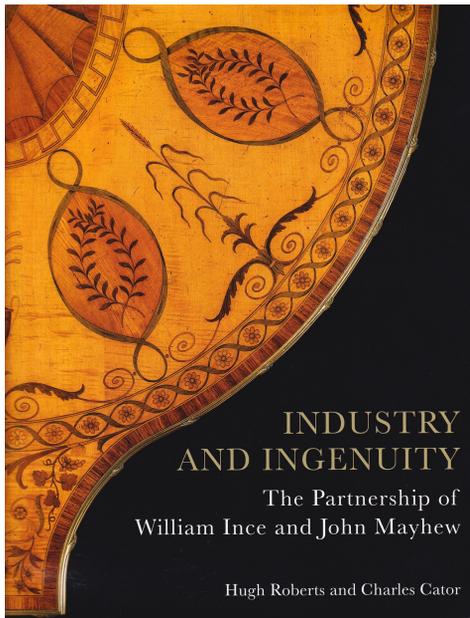
This year we will hold a full programme of events and details of them can be found in the following pages. Our events organiser Cathy Lambert has made every effort to keep down costs, despite steep rises in the cost of coach travel in particular, and I hope you will give these events your full support.

Most of you currently pay for events by cheque or bank transfer. This spring we are working on upgrades to our website so that events may be booked and paid for online. We hope this will make booking easier for everybody and especially for Cathy and our Treasurer, David Allott. The rest of the Committee continue to work diligently on your behalf and I urge anyone who thinks they have a contribution to make to put themselves forward to serve on the Committee, either at our AGM in May or by contacting me directly at any time. The AGM will be held at Temple Newsam House on 22 May.

Adam Bowett

## BOOK REVIEW

*Ingenuity and Industry. The Partnership of William Ince and John Mayhew*, Hugh Roberts and Charles Cator  
Philip Wilson Publishers 2022, 448 pp., 500+ illustrations, £67.50



It is appropriate that this book about one of the greatest furniture-making partnerships of the eighteenth century should be written by a partnership of two of our most distinguished furniture historians. Sir Hugh Roberts, Surveyor Emeritus of the Queen's Works of Art, was Director of the Royal Collection 1996-2010, and Charles Cator is Deputy Chairman of Christie's International. The book has been a long time coming; it is 36 years since the authors jointly wrote the entry for Mayhew and Ince in the 1986 *Dictionary of English Furniture Makers*, but given the magnitude of the task and the extent of their other professional commitments, this is scarcely surprising.

Another reason this book has been so long in the making is that there are no Mayhew and Ince equivalents to richly documented Chippendale commissions such as Nostell Priory and Harewood House. Chippendale scholars have been fortunate in having a rich trove of archival material to work with, and the Mayhew and Ince record is much more fragmentary. The authors have done a fine job in bringing disparate sources to light, and in tracking down hundreds of documented or attributed pieces of furniture. The photographs are magnificent, almost all in full colour and high definition, and consequently we can make direct comparisons between Mayhew and Ince's furniture and that of the Chippendale workshop.

John Mayhew and William Ince were both younger than Chippendale by twenty years, but after joining in partnership in 1758 they almost immediately established themselves as his direct competitors with the launch of their design book, *The Universal System of Household Furniture*, available in 40 weekly instalments from 1759 onwards.

Chippendale's immediate response was his third, enlarged *Director* edition of 1762. Modern critics consider the *Universal System* derivative, lacking the *Director's* originality and flair, but if Chippendale was the superior draughtsman, was he also the superior furniture maker?

Although both firms' reputations endured chiefly because of their design books, Mayhew and Ince's business was markedly different to Chippendale's in one important respect. Chippendale was chronically undercapitalised and lurched from one financial crisis to another throughout his career. The business was initially stable, underpinned by James Rannie's money, but after Rannie's death in 1766 four years of turmoil ensued, only ending when Thomas Haig became a partner and provided some financial ballast. As a consequence of these insecure foundations Chippendale's output was often variable in quality. Although he rarely mis-stepped as a designer, the quality of construction and finish of the furniture was erratic, varying from superlative to mediocre even within a single commission. And if the firm ever made any money, little of it ended up in Chippendale's hands. When he died in 1779 his personal chattels were valued at just £28 2s 9d.

Mayhew and Ince, on the other hand, formed a partnership which endured for forty years. When it was dissolved by mutual agreement in 1799, both partners were comfortably off, with extensive property in central London and country villas for their retirement. The solidity of their financial foundation is apparent in the technical quality of their furniture, which was rarely less than good and frequently outstanding. In cabinet work, marquetry (of which they were early exponents) and metalware, Mayhew and Ince furniture embodies the best London workmanship, and their furniture is often distinguished by advanced techniques and imaginative use of veneers; they were one of the few top London workshops to make extensive use of yew wood, for instance. However, the design side of the business, which was chiefly under Ince's direction, was not so sure-footed. The Derby commode, made to Robert Adam's designs in 1775, is arguably England's pre-eminent piece of neo-classical furniture, and palpably superior in technical terms to Chippendale's Harewood House writing table, for instance. But left to their own devices Mayhew and Ince frequently went astray, producing technically flawless but awkward-looking masterpieces such as the Manchester cabinet (see front cover image) and the Kerry sideboard tables. While their output was less stylistically consistent it was also more inventive, perhaps because, unlike Chippendale, they were not forced by lack of cash to restrict the range of designs on offer.

This book will join Gilbert's *Chippendale* and a very few others as a furniture history monograph of the first rank; it will be an indispensable point of reference for current furniture historians and a sure foundation for future ones. The only disappointment is the absence of transcribed bills, omitted for reasons of space. This is perhaps less important than it once was now that archives are increasingly available online but, if only for the sake of completeness, it would have been nice to have them.

Adam Bowett

## REPORTS

### Christmas Lunch, Goldsborough Hall 14th December 2022



James Lomax in expansive mood before the Society's Christmas lunch, with a fine display of Georgian silver on screen. *Sue Bourne*

Our Christmas lunch was attended by 39 members and guests at Goldsborough Hall near Knaresborough. Before lunch we gathered in the Conservatory for a lecture by James Lomax on 'Table Silver in the Age of Chippendale.' James, a former Chippendale Society curator and former curator at Temple Newsam, is a leading expert on Georgian silver. James's engaging and informal talk told us of lighting, tableware and centrepieces and was illustrated with spectacular examples from the Temple Newsam collection and others. After the lecture we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch from a chef who hopes to attain a Michelin star.

Many thanks should go to James Lomax and the staff at Goldsborough who made our lunch so special.

Cathy Lambert

### Study Afternoon at Clifton Castle 31st August 2022



Clifton Castle from the southeast. *Sue Bourne*

Twenty-five members gathered outside Clifton Castle near Masham, the home of the 9th Marquess of Downshire. Our tour was led by the Marquess himself, whose family bought the Clifton estate in the mid-twentieth century. Their former home of Hillsborough in Belfast is now used as the official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Lord Downshire explained that a pele tower had first been built on the site, atop a steep cliff above a bend in the river Ure, by Geoffrey de Scrope about 1317. Subsequently the castle fell into ruin with only part of the old building used as a dwelling.

The present neoclassical house was built by Timothy Hutton about 1802, and John Foss was the architect. Four grand Ionic columns guard the entrance and the two-story house with service wing behind boasts large Georgian windows flooding the interior with an unusual amount of light

Our tour of the house commenced in the Grand Hall where we admired the impressive cantilevered 'Imperial' stone staircase - one flight branching into two - testimony to John Foss's talent as an architect. Lord Downshire explained that when the family left Hillsborough they took mostly portable items, particularly family pictures and objets d'art, leaving much furniture behind. Consequently, the furniture at Clifton has mostly been purchased since the 1960s.

This included the stunning Chippendale pier table originally made for the Yellow Drawing Room at Harewood House, its exquisite marquetry top inlaid with medallions representing poetry, music and dance. It is regarded by many as Thomas Chippendale's finest work. When the table returns to Harewood every third year it is replaced by a modern marquetry table made by Sam Anderson, with inlay representing the Hill family.



Chippendale Society members photographing the 'Emblematic Heads' table at Clifton, supplied by Thomas Chippendale to Harewood House in 1775. *Sue Bourne*

In the Library is a museum collection of artefacts documenting much of the history of the Hill family, and here we were entertained with interesting and unusual stories from the family's past. The tour continued through the elegant Dining Room to the Ballroom (now Sitting Room), and then to the Small Sitting Room where there was an unusual mix of antique and modern furniture, the latter again designed and made by Sam Anderson. Our visit ended back in the Hall with refreshments, allowing us the opportunity to further study the rooms at our leisure. Thank you to Lord Downshire for his excellent tour.

Cathy Lambert

## REPORTS

### Study Day of the Chippendale Collection, Temple Newsam House 15th August 2022

The Society was delighted to be able to host this first study day of its own collection, which is held at Temple Newsam House near Leeds. The house was closed to the public, which allowed us to have an unimpeded tour. Twenty-eight members attended, and thanks must go to Adam Bowett (Chippendale Society Chairman), James Lomax (former Curator at Temple Newsam) and Adam Toole, current Curator of Temple Newsam, who were our experts and guides. The day was split into two, with the morning session studying the Chippendale furniture collection on display and the afternoon session being a rare opportunity to view the Society's works on paper, smaller items and ephemera, which were laid out in the Picture Gallery.

The tour of the furniture collection allowed us to examine closely aspects of construction, materials and original colour, and to consider questions of attribution. The fact that a chair, for instance, was based on a design published in the *Director* did not mean that that it merited a Chippendale attribution: several were examined and discussed with this in mind. Other furniture in the collection is well documented,

however, and includes pieces from Harewood House, Garrick's villa, Nostell Priory and Denton Hall. The variation in quality was remarked upon. The small pier tables from Denton Hall are merely 'good drawing room furniture' whereas the Harewood Library and Circular Dressing tables are in the 'grand luxe' mode. Attitudes to restoration, replacement of missing parts and other ethical issues were also raised.

The afternoon session enabled us to view closely our smaller items and works on paper, including all four editions of the *Director* (1754, 1755, 1762 and 1762 French edition) and the recently purchased drawings by Thomas Chippendale junior. The latter provide good evidence that Chippendale junior could have been the primary designer of the firm's neo-classical masterpieces of the 1770s. A discussion developed over Thomas Chippendale's 1748 marriage license, which is of an irregular form. Since the study day one member who attended has told us that such licenses, which were outlawed in 1754, often indicated that one or more parties to the marriage was under the age of 21. Since Chippendale was 30 at the time, it must have been his bride, Catherine Redshaw, who was under age.

It was altogether an excellent day, and the Society thanks to the staff at Temple Newsam who made it possible.

Cathy Lambert

## EVENTS

### Study Day to Bolsover Castle and Welbeck Abbey 11th May 2023

We start our day at Bolsover Castle with tea/coffee and biscuits followed by a guided tour of the unique Little Castle, designed in the early sixteenth century by John Smythson for Sir Charles Cavendish (d.1617). It was completed by Charles's son William, 1st Duke of Newcastle. It was built on the footprint of the old Norman keep and contains a unique sequence of rooms with some remarkable painted interiors. The later seventeenth-century Hall and Terrace Range are now derelict, but the 1630 Riding House built by William to indulge his passion for training and riding horses survives.

In the afternoon we visit Welbeck Abbey, only 20 minutes away. Welbeck Abbey was founded in 1140 by the Premonstratensian religious order and after the Dissolution it became the country residence of the Dukes of Portland.

Our curatorial tour takes in the 6 State Rooms which contain a number of pieces of fine eighteenth-century furniture. We will be also able to visit the Harley Gallery where much of the art collection of the Dukes of Portland and their families is displayed.

The cost for this interesting day, including coach travel, all admission fees, two guided tours and tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival at Bolsover Castle will be £80. For those who do not wish to use the coach the cost will be £65. For members of English Heritage there is a £12 reduction. The closing date for applications is 30th March 2023. Please complete the separate application form and send with your payment to Cathy Lambert, Hon Events Secretary, cheques to be made payable to 'The Chippendale Society'. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available from 10am at Bolsover Castle.

## EVENTS

### Study Day to Boynton Hall and Scawby Hall 5th July 2023



Boynton Hall

We travel by coach to our first destination, Boynton Hall near Bridlington. Originally constructed in the late sixteenth century, successive generations of the Strickland family remodelled it under the guidance of Lord Burlington, William Kent and John Carr of York. The original line of the Strickland family failed in 1938 on the death of the 9th Baronet, Sir Walter Strickland, and his heirs sold the house in the 1950s. In the 1980s it was bought back and renovated by a member of the family, Richard Marriott, who still lives there. The grounds include a folly - The Carnaby Temple - a Pigeon House and a Dairy. The house is privately owned and we are privileged to enjoy a private tour with tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival.

It is a 45 minute journey from Boynton to Scawby Hall which is situated over the Humber Bridge near Scunthorpe. Another privately owned house, it has been the home of the Nelthorpe family since it was built about 1605. On our private tour we will enjoy family portraits by Stubbs, Georgian and Regency furniture, and English and Oriental porcelain. The pretty gardens include a three acre walled kitchen garden.

Our tour includes both state rooms and some private rooms not normally open to the public and concludes with tea/coffee and cake.

The cost of this study day, which includes all coach travel, admissions, two private tours, tea and coffee and biscuits in the morning and tea/coffee and cake in the afternoon is £82. For those not wishing to use the coach the cost is £65. Application forms and payment must be received by 30th March 2023: please send to Cathy Lambert, Hon Events Secretary. Cheques to be made payable to 'The Chippendale Society'.

If travelling independently, please arrive at Boynton Hall at 10.15am for a 10.30am tour. Boynton Hall, Bridlington, YO16 4 XG. Scawby Hall is around 45 minutes from Boynton Hall, over the Humber Bridge near Scunthorpe. Scawby Hall, DN20 9LX.

### Study Day to Aske Hall and Constable Burton Hall 14th June 2023

Our day commences with a guided tour of Aske Hall, seat of the Marquesses of Zetland, led by the current resident, the Earl of Ronaldshay. This ancient house was remodelled in the 1760s by John Carr for Sir Lawrence Dundas, who was one of Thomas Chippendale's most important clients. In addition to the Chippendale furniture there is fine 18th century furniture by other London firms together with important paintings and rare porcelain. The landscaped park is reputed to be the work of Capability Brown.

In the afternoon we travel a short distance south for our tour of Constable Burton in Wensleydale. This Palladian mansion was designed in the 1760s by John Carr of York for Sir Marmaduke Wyvill and is still owned by the Wyvill family. Although not a big house it is regarded as one of the most unspoilt Palladian houses, situated in a fine setting with views across to the lake.

The Wyvills inherited furniture from Denton Hall, near Ilkley, and were also clients of Gillows of Lancaster. After our tour of the house we will enjoy an experts tour of the gardens followed by a cream tea in the Dining Room.

There is no coach provided for this visit. The cost which includes all admissions, two private tours and a cream tea at Constable Burton Hall is £50. Application forms with payment must be received by 30th March 2023 and sent to Cathy Lambert, Hon. Events Secretary. Cheques made payable to 'The Chippendale Society'.

Arrive at Aske Hall at 10.15am for a 10.00am guided tour. Aske Hall, Aske Richmond, N. Yorkshire, DL10 5HJ. Arrive at Constable Burton at 1.30pm. Constable Burton Hall, Leyburn, N. Yorkshire DL8 5LJ. Lunch is not included but Aske is a short distance from Richmond and Constable Burton is not far from Tennants Auctioneers who have a cafe.



Aske Hall

## EVENTS

### Study Day to Weston Hall and Farnley Hall 10th August 2023

Our study tour starts with a visit to the privately owned Weston Hall, which is located to the west of Otley in the village of Weston. This house has been in the Dawson family for many hundreds of years and is rarely open to the public. The Dawsons are descendants of the Vavasour family, one of the premier landowning families in the Wharfe valley who came over with the William the Conqueror. On our tour we will visit the older sixteenth-century rooms as well as the nineteenth-century extension which contains fine furniture by Marsh, Jones and Cribb. In the grounds there is one of the few remaining sixteenth-century Banqueting Towers, a very early heated swimming pool and All Saints church with early origins.

In the afternoon we travel to Farnley Hall in the village of Farnley, home of the Fawkes family. This privately owned house is split distinctly in two with the north wing largely sixteenth and seventeenth-century in design - and called Old Farnley Hall. At the southern end is a four-square block built by John Carr of York in the late eighteenth century and where we will have our private tour.

The house is chiefly famous for its connection with the artist J. M. W. Turner, who visited over a period of twenty-five years whilst painting in the Yorkshire Dales. At one time the family owned 250 watercolours and six large oils by the artist. Our private tour will conclude with tea/coffee and biscuits.

The cost of this study day including admissions, two guided tours and tea/coffee and biscuits at Farnley Hall is £30. Application forms with payment to be received by 30th April 2023 and sent to Cathy Lambert, Hon. Events Secretary. Cheques to be made payable to 'The Chippendale Society'.

Please note that there is no coach transport for this Study Day. Arrive at Weston Hall 10.15am for a 10.30am tour. Weston Hall, Church Lane, Weston, LS21 2HP. Arrive at Farnley Hall 1.45pm for a 2pm tour. Farnley Hall, Farnley, Otley, LS21 2QF. Lunch is not included but Weston Hall will allow us to eat our own packed lunch in the grounds. The town of Otley, birthplace of Thomas Chippendale, is a few minutes away with plenty of pubs and cafes.

### Study Tour to Kent 17th to 20th September 2023

We are delighted to offer this study tour to Kent for three nights and four days based at the four-star Spa Hotel in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

En route to Kent on Sunday 17th September, we will visit Wrest Park, former home of the de Grey family and now run by English Heritage. Thomas, 2nd Earl de Grey (1781- 1859) designed the current house in the 1830s, set in outstanding seventeenth century-style gardens. The house is a near unique example of a nineteenth-century English house following the style of a French eighteenth-century chateau and is furnished in eighteenth-century French style. Part of our visit includes a guided tour of the special wallpaper collection.

On Monday 18th September we begin with a private tour of the picturesque Ightham Mote. This medieval house was saved from ruin in the 1950s by the American Charles Robinson and left to the National Trust in the 1980s. Highlights include the Great Hall, Chapel and Drawing Room with beautifully restored eighteenth-century Chinese wallpaper. Charles Robinson restored the Library in a comfortable American way and it is kept in this way in memory of his occupancy.

After lunch we visit the privately-owned Bourne Park near Canterbury, home to Dr Christopher and Lady Juliet Tadgell. Lady Juliet is the only child of Peter, 8th Earl Fitzwilliam of Wentworth Woodhouse (d.1948). After the death of the 10th and last Earl Fitzwilliam in 1979, Lady Juliet inherited the Fitzwilliam collection which includes paintings by Van Dyck, Mytens, Stubbs and De Lazlo amongst others.

There is furniture by Wright and Elwick and Gillows, and a bible and prayer book given by King Charles to Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Stafford (executed 1641). This is a treasure house not normally open to the public and we are privileged to have this private tour.

On Tuesday 19th September we first visit Knole, regarded as one of the half-dozen greatest houses in the UK, with (reputedly) an astonishing 365 rooms. Here we will have a highlights tour. The present house dates from 1456, was briefly owned by Henry VIII and then given to the Sackvilles (later Earls and Dukes of Dorset) by Elizabeth I. The house has remained in the family ever since and is now run by the National Trust. In the afternoon, we visit Chartwell, purchased in 1922 by Winston Churchill as a retreat from London. Churchill collaborated with Philip Tilden to make this a cosy home and it is decorated with Churchill's paintings and memorabilia. It is now owned by the National Trust.

On Wednesday 20th September we visit Penshurst, the ancestral home of the Sydney family, Earls of Leicester and by descent to the Viscount De L'Isle. The house is a marriage of different styles over the centuries but the highlights here are the fourteenth-century Great Hall, one of the finest to survive, and a series of State Rooms sumptuously furnished and decorated. The gardens have been restored to their Elizabethan splendour. Here we are having a special Collections Tour with the emphasis on furniture. A light lunch is included.

In the afternoon we travel to Chiddingstone Castle, the former home of art dealer and collector, Denys Eyre Bower.

## EVENTS

### Study Tour to Kent (cont.) 17th to 20th September 2023

The original house, rebuilt in the seventeenth century, was remodelled in the nineteenth century by the Streatfeild family to resemble a medieval castle. Bower bought the house in 1977 to display his art collections - Japanese, Stuart and Jacobite, Buddhist and Ancient Egyptian. A total contrast to our other houses during this study tour, the house is thus a combination of museum and stately home.

The cost of this tour includes coach travel, three nights' accommodation at the Spa Hotel in Royal Tunbridge Wells on a bed, breakfast and evening meal basis, all admissions and guided tours and one lunch. The price is £595 per person sharing a double or twin room, with a supplement of £90 per person for a single room. Application forms with a deposit of £150 must be received by the 30th April 2023 and sent to Cathy Lambert, Hon. Events Secretary. Cheques to be made payable to 'The Chippendale Society'. The balance to be paid by the 12th June 2023.

Please note that a coach pick-up from Flitwick Railway Station, which is on the Thames Link, can be made between 10.30 and 10.45am.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

May I remind those members who have not yet paid, membership subscriptions were due on 1st January 2023. The subscriptions remain the same at £14.00 per single member, £21.00 for a joint subscription, and £50.00 for corporate membership.

Payments may be made by PayPal via our website, or cheques made payable to 'The Chippendale Society' 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.

If you have any queries or wish to arrange a Banker's Order payment, please contact me at [membership@thechippendalesociety.co.uk](mailto:membership@thechippendalesociety.co.uk)

Thank you, Peggy Pullan, Hon. Membership Secretary.