

# THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY



President: Lord Ronaldshay

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

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Lord St Oswald and Dr Adam Bowett at this year's AGM, holding the President's retirement gifts from the Society, a charger by Katherine Winfrey and a facsimile engraving of Chippendale's earliest known design.

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

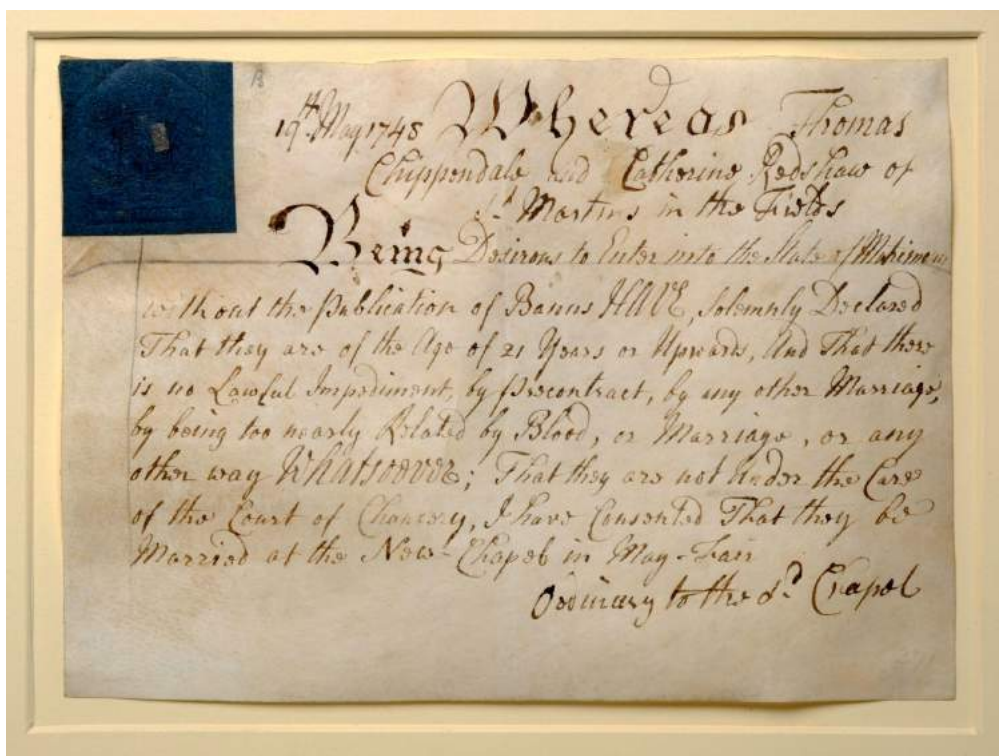
This year's AGM saw the retirement of our President, Charles, The Lord St Oswald, after twenty-one years in post. He has seen the Society undergo many changes, particularly in the last decade during which the membership of the Society has greatly altered and digitisation of almost all the Society's events, membership and governance has taken place. In the middle of the decade we celebrated the 2018 Chippendale Tercentenary, marked by a momentous exhibition at Leeds City Museum, the most ambitious (and the most expensive) event the Society has ever undertaken. That was shortly followed by the Covid 19 pandemic, a lost year during which we became even more dependent on digital platforms to continue our work, but through it all we have enjoyed Charles's unwavering support and steadying influence. It is therefore with real regret that we bid him goodbye and wish him and his family all the best for the future. We will not lose touch entirely, for Charles will be able to keep up with all the latest Society events through this Newsletter, and he will be welcome at any Society occasion should he wish to attend.

In recognition of his long tenure the Society presented Lord St Oswald with two gifts. One was an inscribed charger by Katherine Winfrey depicting the figure of a crane, a reference both to the President's watchful service on our behalf and to the carved and gilded crane from the Couch Room at Harewood which is in the Society's collection (LEEAG.CHIPSOC.1985.2). The other was a facsimile of Chippendale's first known design, an invitation to a convivial evening at Caesar Crouch's house in St Paul's Churchyard. It was probably drawn in 1753 and engraved by Matthew Darly (LEEAG.CHIPSOC.1975.1). The wording was altered to express the Committee's thanks on the Society's behalf.

We have been very fortunate in persuading Robin Dundas, Earl of Ronaldshay, to assume the role of President in Lord St Oswald's place. Lord Ronaldshay lives at Aske, near Richmond, and, like Lord St Oswald, is both a Yorkshireman and a direct descendant of one of Chippendale's major patrons. The Society looks forward to a long and productive future under his tenure. A report of this summer's visit to Aske is printed in this Newsletter.

Adam Bowett

## THOMAS CHIPPENDALE'S CLANDESTINE FIRST MARRIAGE



Chippendale's first marriage license, 19 May 1748 (LEEAG.CHIPSOC.1980.2)

At the Chippendale Society Collection study day in August 2022 there was some discussion about the irregular character of Thomas Chippendale's marriage license, which the Society owns<sup>1</sup>. One of our members, Peter White, subsequently got in touch:

'Following on from the brief discussion about Thomas Snr's marriage license, I did a bit of research, as the handwritten license did not look like the normal pre-printed ones in use at the time. It turns out Thomas's marriage was a clandestine marriage... Such clandestine marriages could be done without an official licence or reading of banns. They were frowned upon and made illegal in 1754 by the Hardwicke marriage act.'

Clandestine marriages were performed by a Church of England parson but without banns or official license from the parish. They were held at several 'lawless' churches in London, of which the New Chapel where Chippendale was married was one. The Chapel had been established in May 1744; previously, clandestine marriages had been performed at St George's Chapel, Mayfair, but the excommunication and imprisonment of the Reverend Alexander Keith in April 1743 for officiating at clandestine marriages caused its closure. Keith was by all accounts a colourful character.<sup>2</sup>

The New Chapel was opened in a private house near Hyde Park Corner and marriages were conducted there by Keith's supporters from May 1744 onwards. The chapel was usually referred to as the 'New Chapel' or 'Mr Keith's Little Chapel', and it conducted marriages for a fee of one guinea. In 1753 clandestine marriages were outlawed by Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act (26 Geo. II c.33), which enacted that marriages performed without banns or licence were void.

One of the most common reasons for a clandestine marriage was when one or both partners were under 21 years of age, although the handwritten license invariably included a declaration that both parties were over 21. In Chippendale's case it is likely that his bride, Catherine Redshaw, was underage; Thomas himself was almost 30. But why the rush? The usual reason, pre-marital pregnancy, did not apply because the couple's first child, Thomas junior, was born a respectable eleven months later. Perhaps Catherine's parents refused consent to the marriage?

Chippendale's second marriage to Elizabeth Davis took place on 17th July 1777, and on that occasion due process was followed. Both the marriage bond (for £200) and the marriage allegation survive in London Metropolitan Archives.<sup>3</sup>

Adam Bowett, with many thanks to Peter White.

<sup>1</sup> [https://search.lma.gov.uk/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/LMA\\_OPAC/WEB\\_DETAIL/REFD%20%22ACC~2F1080%22?SESSIONSEARCH&URLMARKER=STARTREQUEST](https://search.lma.gov.uk/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/LMA_OPAC/WEB_DETAIL/REFD%20%22ACC~2F1080%22?SESSIONSEARCH&URLMARKER=STARTREQUEST)

<sup>2</sup> Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900/Keith, Alexander (d.1758) - Wikisource, the free online library

<sup>3</sup> London Metropolitan Archives, MSS 10091E/90 & 10091/137

## REPORTS

### Aske Hall and Constable Burton 14th June 2023



Lord Ronaldshay, our new President, in relaxed mode with Chairman Dr Adam Bowett

Christopher Gilbert called the Chippendale furniture at Aske Hall one of the six 'pre-eminent collections'. Aske was one of three large English houses acquired by Sir Lawrence Dundas in the 1760s; the other two were Moore Park, Hertfordshire and 19 Arlington Street, London. The latter two were sold long ago, but Aske remains the home of Sir Lawrence's direct descendant (and our new President), Robin, Earl of Ronaldshay, who was our host for the tour. The earliest part of Aske is a medieval peel tower, which was extended and remodelled over the centuries until, in the early 1960s, Lord Ronaldshay's grandparents drastically reduced its size to ensure its survival as a family house. The symmetry of the entrance front is therefore somewhat deceptive, with a modern centre flanked by two wings of different dates but all now more or less harmonized in a plain Georgian style.

Our morning tour took us through the principal ground floor rooms, filled with an astonishing collection of rich furniture and pictures, most dating from the 1760s onwards. Because he had to furnish several big houses in a hurry, Sir Lawrence employed at least seven top London furniture makers simultaneously, so it is difficult to attribute much of the furniture accurately. Chippendale's contribution amounted to at least £1300 in value, and of this about £850 has been identified thanks to the itemised bills which survive in the North Yorkshire Record Office.

Much was dispersed when the London house was sold in 1934, and there have been several sales since, but we were nevertheless able to see a pair of giltwood neo-Classical mirrors (c. 1770), a documented pair of mahogany terms for lamps (1763), and a highly significant transitional commode of about 1768-70, part of a large group which includes a documented example of 1770 at Nostell Priory. Furniture by other makers included a pair of Louis XV style commodes with ivory inlaid tops attributed to Pierre Langlois and a mahogany commode of peerless design and quality, probably by John Cobb. As well as family portraits of various dates from the 1760s onwards there were several royal portraits suggestive of Sir Lawrence's ties to the monarchs whose governments he served.

The highlight of our tour was a smallish family sitting room, its walls painted a deep blue to set off the gilt-framed pictures and the rococo pier glass between the windows. Over the mantelpiece was Zoffany's famous painting of Sir Lawrence and grandson in the parlour of the Arlington Street house. Lord Ronaldshay explained that the chair in which Sir Lawrence sat was the same as that now under the window to our left and his desk stood beneath the pier glass beside it. On the sideboard on the opposite wall were the half dozen small classical bronzes which Zoffany had depicted on Sir Lawrence's mantelpiece. Past and present, in that room and at that instant, momentarily vanished.

We reconvened after lunch at Constable Burton Hall near Leyburn. This house was built in 1768 by John Carr for Sir Marmaduke Wyvill (1740-74) and is still the Wyvill's family home. The current owner is Charles Wyvill, but we our tour was led in friendly and engaging style by his father, Marmaduke Darcy Wyvill.



Aske, entrance front

## REPORTS

### Aske Hall and Constable Burton (*cont.*)

14th June 2023

Externally and internally the house is virtually as Carr left it, and it must rank as one of England's best small, four-square late Palladian houses. The front door under the imposing tetrastyle portico is reached by a double flight of steps and the principal rooms have marble chimneypieces and finely carved doorcases. In recent years the Morning, Drawing and Dining Rooms have been repainted according to Carr's original colour schemes, identified after painstaking work by Nigel Leaney. In the Dining Room no fewer than fourteen colours were used from floor to ceiling, with subtle changes in tone to enhance dado and cornice mouldings. The Morning Room walls were rose-coloured and the Drawing Room walls were a vivid, stippled blue.

The house was originally furnished by Gillows of Lancaster, and some of that furniture survives. There is a good set of shield-back dining chairs of c.1780 together with a sideboard and cutlery urns, the latter supplied in 1787. The dining table, also by Gillows, is later, about 1800. Above the sideboard was a fine bird painting by Melchior Hondecouter. A pair of late rococo giltwood pier glasses in the Drawing Room were of unknown authorship but one suspects that two Regency brass and rosewood inlaid bookcases, currently attributed to Louis Le Gaigneur, might also be by Gillows.

The library was lined with fitted mahogany bookcases whose unusual design and configuration suggested they might well be original fittings of the 1770s, but unfortunately no documentation survives.

The house has a Chippendale connection through the Ibbetson family of Denton Hall, which Chippendale helped to furnish in the 1770s. In 1845 Laura Ibbetson married Marmaduke Wyvill and when Denton was let in 1902 most of the best furniture was moved to Constable Burton. However, none of this survives at Constable Burton today. A large mahogany Library Table, made for Denton by Gillows in 1778 to a 1754 Director design, was sold at Sotheby's in 1992 and is now in the Judges Lodgings Museum, Lancaster. Other pieces were sold in an earlier sale of 1932.

Our tour of the house was followed by a garden tour. The gardens here have little of the formality of most country house gardens, and although there were tidily arranged beds and lawns on the east side of the house, to the south and north was shady, semi-woodland which combined native hardwoods with recently introduced specimens from North America and Asia. Among them were also stately yews, oaks and cedars, remnants of earlier planting schemes from the 19th and perhaps 18th centuries.



Constable Burton, entrance front

## REPORTS

### Weston Hall and Farnley Hall 10th August 2023



Weston Hall, the garden front, with the 15th century North Tower at the far end.

Weston Hall is tucked away down a quiet lane across the river Wharfe from Burley-in-Wharfedale. It has never been sold since being acquired by Sir Robert de Stopham in the 13th century. From the Stophams it passed by marriage to the Vavasours of Denton until in 1834 was inherited by two daughters, one of whom married Christopher Holdsworth Dawson. The present owner is Christopher Dawson, 32nd squire of Weston.

We were hosted by Christopher and his wife Mary, and we began our tour in the adjacent All Saints' church. It is a modest building with pre-Norman origins, altered and extended at various dates but retaining a wonderful air of quiet permanence. The family's presence is powerfully felt, with memorials to the Dawsons, Vavasours, and Stophams extending all the way back to the stone tomb of Sir William Stopham who died in 1317. The church still has its 18th century box pews which surround a 17th century three-decker pulpit and sounding board, apparently in its original configuration. Given Weston's proximity to Otley, it is conceivable that these were installed by Thomas Chippendale's forbears.

Like the church, the house is a heterogenous mixture of periods and styles. The west-facing entrance facade is late Georgian but conceals an earlier building behind. On the east side is the earliest surviving part of the house, the late 15th century North Tower, inside which is a panelled room with plaster ceiling displaying the dragon badge of Henry VII and the white greyhound of his queen, Elizabeth of York.

The rest of the house was substantially rebuilt in the 16th and 17th centuries, resulting in a strongly asymmetric appearance matched by the irregular room plan inside. The early furnishings of the hall have vanished entirely, although some family portraits survive. At some point in the 19th century an attempt must have been made to refurnish with an antiquarian character, witnessed by a selection of heavily carved oak chairs, cupboards and other furniture combining fragments of various dates. One of these was a tester bed, reputedly the one slept in by General Fairfax on the eve of the battle of Marston Moor in July 1644. He must have had a restless night because the same claim is made for beds in several other Yorkshire houses.

Across the lawn outside is the remarkable detached Banqueting Hall of about 1600, of three storeys facing south across the Wharfe valley. A square glazed belvedere tops the roof, and the interior walls were plastered and painted with marbled ashlar. Tucked away at the top of the garden was a deep Ice House, constructed in 1832 to contain ice imported all the way from North America.

We picnicked in the grounds of Weston before driving on to Farnley Hall, situated on rising ground a few miles outside Otley, and facing south across Wharfedale. Parts of the original 17th-century house built for the Fawkes family survive on the east and north sides, with 19th century additions, but it was the south facing neo-classical house built in the late 1780s by John Carr which we had come to see. It was made for Walter Hawkesworth, who took the surname Fawkes when he inherited in 1786, and must rate as one of Carr's most elegant small houses, restrained in elevation and plan but beautifully refined in its detail. The house was carefully restored at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries by Nicholas Fawkes and is now occupied by his son Guy.



Weston Hall, the Banqueting House.

## REPORTS

### Weston Hall and Farnely Hall (cont.)

We were greeted by Guy Fawkes himself and given a brief account of the house, after which we went round the principal ground floor rooms in two parties led by able guides. Little remains of the hall's original Georgian furnishings, their place being taken by a variety of carefully chosen period furniture, and our attention focused mainly, therefore, on the finely carved doorcases and fireplaces, together with the delicate plasterwork in friezes and ceilings. These were a testament both to the original Georgian joiners, carvers and plasterers, and to the more recent craftsmen who restored the old work so well.

In 1796 the artists Thomas Girtin and J. M. W. Turner visited Farnley and the latter became a close friend of Walter Fawkes. Between 1808 and 1824 Turner spent his summers here and in that time gave the family over two hundred pictures, including six large oil paintings. About 30 Turners remain in the house today, hung in the Dining Room where we were given ample time to admire this unique and valuable collection.

Farnley also houses an important collection of Civil War relics, including Oliver Cromwell's sword and hat and Lord Fairfax's sword. These were displayed in a glass case in the staircase hall, where there was also a side cabinet by Gillows, probably original to the house.

Our visit concluded with a very welcome cup of tea and a slice of cake, rounding off a most enjoyable day in sunny Wharfedale.

Adam Bowett



Farnley Hall, the south front

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

Twenty-five members took part in this very interesting study day. Our tour of Boynton Hall was conducted by owner, Sally Marriott, and commenced in the main Hall with an overview of the Strickland family and history of the house. Boynton has been the ancestral home of the Strickland family from 1549, with the exception of the years 1950 to 1981. Sadly the House and contents including furniture by Chippendale and Vile and Cobb and pictures by Stubbs were sold in 1950 by the Reverend James Edward Marriott Strickland. In 1981 Richard Marriott (1930-1921) and his wife Sally bought back the house. They have since tried to locate and purchase old family pieces lost in the sale.

The Stricklands were an influential Yorkshire family owning 16,000 acres by the end of the 19th century. In the late 16th century the original house was extended, adding east and west wings and further substantial alterations were made in the early 18th century by Sir William Strickland, 4th Baronet (c.1686-1735), who was prominent in government, taking office as a Lord of the Treasury and Secretary of State for War. He sought the advice of his neighbour, Lord Burlington, who provided designs for substantial Palladian alterations which were incorrectly executed by a local builder. Further enlargements in the 1760s and 1770s have been attributed to John Carr. The unusual use of stone in the building, in an area where many houses of this size would have been brick, is due to the Stricklands ownership of a quarry near Malton. However, there is still some eye-catching 17th century brickwork with dark diapering and stone quoins on the south elevation.

Our tour continued to the south front into a large stone flagged Hall essentially designed as a setting for the statuary collected by Sir George Strickland on a visit to Rome in 1779, now largely empty. This Hall is roughly the same dimensions as the original mid-16th century stone hall it replaced and in the north-west corner is a beautiful exposed Tudor archway. We ascended a splendid staircase with twisted balusters and moulded handrail dated around 1700 and attributed to William Thornton of York. The staircase leads into a large Saloon/Great Dining Room with 1680s panelling, a chimney piece attributed to William Kent and the ceiling to John Carr. There are two alcoves with windows overlooking the garden, for more intimate dining. Sally Marriott explained that it is thought that as there is no Long Gallery this unusual room would be used for entertaining and recreation.



Boynton Hall, entrance.

## EVENTS

### Boynton Hall and Scawby Hall (cont.) 5th July 2023



Boynton Hall, the Banqueting House

Our tour continued outside to various interesting buildings including a rare 16th-century Banqueting Tower Gothicised by John Carr in the 18th century. Interestingly, there is still some 16th-century graffiti on the outside wall. The dovecote and dairy were similarly Gothicised and the stables more recently converted to an indoor swimming pool.

Our tour ended in the beautiful walled garden with the remains of the extensive formerly heated hot houses. A big thank you to Sally Marriott for such an interesting tour which lasted over two hours.

In the afternoon we made our way south of the Humber to Jacobean Scawby Hall situated near Scunthorpe. Scawby has been in the Nelthorpe family from the 16th century, becoming their principal residence in 1792. As with many houses of some age there have been major alterations over the years.

Fortunately, plans of 1861 by architects E.F. Law and Sons to transform the house into something like St. Pancras railway station in London were not executed. The tall 17th-century diamond-plan chimney stacks remain a dominant feature of the exterior of the house and the unusual family crest of a fist holding a dagger is to be seen on the rainwater heads and elsewhere in the interiors.

We had an excellent private tour of the house led by our very knowledgeable guide, Trevor. The house is largely famous for its collection of paintings by George Stubbs (1724-1806), known for his studies of animals, particularly horses. But in the Drawing Room at Scawby is the first known commissioned Stubbs portrait, of Sir Henry Nelthorpe (1697-1746), 5th baronet, and Elizabeth Branston his second wife, painted around 1745. Stubbs spent a considerable amount of time at Scawby, receiving many commissions from the Nelthorpe family. A major highlight of our tour was to view the book of drawings by Stubbs, *'Aspects of a Horse'* (1766), illustrating the complete anatomy of a horse.

Furniture highlights included a 16th-century oak and marquetry Truhe (chest) from Southern Germany decorated with the tree of life and an excellent 18th-century walnut bureau which was opened so we could enjoy the unspoilt interior. The Library was dominated by a large mahogany library table by Thomas Pilton of Piccadilly for which there is an invoice of 5 guineas, dated June 1793.

Our tour concluded in the dining room with excellent home-made tea and cake where we were delighted to meet the current owners Thomas and Kristin Nelthorpe.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

### Goldsborough Hall 13th December 2023

We are pleased to announce that our Christmas lunch will again be held at Goldsborough Hall near Knaresborough. Beautifully restored by current owners Mr and Mrs Oglesby, the Hall was bought by Daniel Lascelles, the brother of Edwin Lascelles of Harewood, who was a major patron of Thomas Chippendale. Goldsborough became the home of the Princess Royal in the 1920s on her marriage to Henry Lascelles, who became 6th Earl of Harewood in 1922. It contains many excellent features from the Jacobean period and from improvements made by Robert Adam in the 18th century. It is in the Michelin guide of recommended restaurants and has a 3 AA rosettes for dining.

Our day will commence with tea/coffee at 11.00am followed by a short talk by Dr Adam Bowett, Chippendale Society Chairman, on 'New Chippendale Discoveries'. At 12.30pm we will be served our three-course lunch followed by tea/coffee and chocolates. The cost per person, to include tea/coffee on arrival, lecture and three course lunch followed by tea /coffee and chocolates is £62, gratuities included. Drinks can be ordered from the bar at your discretion.

Please fill in the separate application form and lunch menu included with this Newsletter.