

THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

NEWS-LETTER NO. 19

FEBRUARY 1977

THOMAS PICKLES, 1890-1976 .

Thomas Pickles, senior Vice-president of the Chippendale Society and author of The Life and Times of Thomas Chippendale , died in Otley on 29 December 1976, aged 86 years.

During his long life, although his work had taken him to many parts of the world, his abiding interest was in the history of his native Otley and particularly of its connections with the eighteenth century cabinet-maker Thomas Chippendale. To this interest, to his imagination and inspiration, the Chippendale Society owes its being. In 1962 he was responsible for organising the first Annual Dinner to commemorate the Christening of Thomas Chippendale in Otley Parish Church in 1718. Subsequently many years of what he described as "laborious searching and study" provided the material for his Life of Chippendale, published in 1971, a copy of which was accepted by Her Majesty the Queen last year.

In the preface to his book, Thomas Pickles says that when he started to write, it seemed "only right" to him that he should begin at Otley's ancient Parish Church where Chippendale was baptised and from whose records much of his early information had been gleaned. It seems fitting to us that his funeral service on 5 January should have taken him to that same ancient place.

—

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

A FESTIVE EVENING. Friday 11 March 1977, ABBEY HOUSE MUSEUM, Kirkstall, Leeds. 7.30. An entertainment of music and poetry by the poets Anna Adams and Cal Clothier, with the Churwell School Recorder Quartet directed by Carol Riley. (The poets have published work in most leading magazines and the Quartet has won trophies and honours at numerous music festivals). The programme will feature music from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries, the poets' own work and famous poems in celebration of Spring, the brightest season of the year.

This event has been modelled on the extremely successful Chippendale Evening held at the Abbey House Museum in 1973. There will be an imaginatively arranged buffet supper (chairs and tables provided), a bar and carefully selected wines will be available.

The number of tickets is limited to 100. Please make certain of YOURS by promptly

completing the APPLICATION FORM at the end of this news-letter.

TICKETS : £5. 50 each, (including a glass of sherry on arrival but excluding wine).

DRESS : Dinner-jackets.

SPRING LECTURE. Friday 1 April 1977. Lecture Hall, Methodist Church,
Boroughgate, Otley. 8.00pm.

SPEAKER : FRANCIS BAMFORD

SUBJECT : 'CHIPPENDALE'S DISCIPLES IN SCOTLAND' .

Francis Bamford was by chance privileged to live with two of the greatest men of taste of the last generation, Sir George Sitwell, Bart., and Gerald, 7th Duke of Wellington, K.G.. Francis Bamford is a well known lecturer and in recent years has pioneered work on Scottish furniture, 1680-1840, making startling discoveries in some of Chippendale's houses in Scotland.

PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT OCCASION.

Admission at the door : 50p (including tea and biscuits)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Friday 6 May 1977. Lecture Hall, Methodist Church,
Boroughgate, Otley. 7.30pm.

The election of Officers and the Executive Committee will be followed by an "informal evening" .

BRING-AND-BUY. Saturday 28 May 1977. Buttercross, Otley. From 9.00 am.

Please save your unwanted books, clothes and bric-a-brac etc. for this occasion; more details will be publicised in the next news-letter.

RESIDENTIAL CHIPPENDALE WEEK-END at GRANTLEY HALL, RIPON , 8 - 10 July 1977.

The Society has arranged a special week-end at this elegant Yorkshire country house, devoted to Thomas Chippendale and his contemporaries. The programme will include illustrated talks on Thomas Chippendale, Yorkshire Furniture, Great Country House Interiors and Historic Gardens, given by our members Tony Harrison, Christopher Gilbert and Christopher Hutchinson. A guided visit to Harewood House and an Antiques Forum are planned for Saturday afternoon and evening.

The course is open to non-members and friends, although it is hoped that this venture will be supported by as many Chippendale Society members as possible. COME AND ENJOY AN INFORMAL CULTURAL WEEK-END IN DELIGHTFUL SURROUNDINGS.

The course fee includes accommodation and all meals from dinner on Friday to tea time on Sunday (including transport to Harewood House) ; there is a bar in the evenings. The cost for those living in North Yorkshire and other local government authorities who give financial support to the Grantley Hall college, will be in the region of £8 each, but for others the fee is about double. Please ensure a place on what is certain to be a very popular week-end, by writing to The Warden, Grantley Hall, Ripon, (Tel. SAWLEY 259) for further details and application forms.

OTHER CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY EVENTS in 1977

The 15th. ANNUAL DINNER - June

SUMMER EXCURSION, 23 July. Shugborough, Staffordshire. Eighteenth century house in picturesque grounds.

AN EVENING OF ANTIQUES and ENTERTAINMENTS - October / November , including a Bring-and-Buy Stall, Tom-Bola etc.

WINE and CHEESE EVENING - Autumn '77.

Details of all these events will be included in the next news-letter.

REPORT ON AUTUMN LECTURE 1976. Tony Harrison spoke on 'Worcester, Caughley and Liverpool Porcelain' to a packed lecture hall in Otley on 16 November. His humorous and eloquent talk was illustrated with slides and members were able to handle examples of porcelain that Tony brought along for this occasion.