

THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER NO. 24

OCTOBER 1978

*** SPECIAL EVENT

TOP TABLE TALK

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OTLEY CIVIC CENTRE: Wednesday 6th December 1978 at 7.30 pm.

The Society's first chance to view the newly restored marquetry table made by Thomas Chippendale for Harewood House in 1771 and bought by The Chippendale Society in 1976 for £8,800.

You are invited to a convivial informal evening of discussion and entertainments. The main feature will be the unveiling of this famous table on its return to Yorkshire; everyone will be able to examine it closely before three experts talk about its historical background and describe the astonishing programme of restoration.

On the lighter side members and their friends will be able to pass an enjoyable evening with - Tom-Bola - a Raffle - a White Elephant and Produce Stall - and there will be a Bar. (DO please bring friends).

The programme is as follows:

7.30 pm. The bar, stalls etc. open and the MARQUETRY TABLE will be on exhibition.

8.15 pm. TOP TABLE TALK

Introduction by CHRISTOPHER GILBERT, Principal Keeper of Temple Newsam House and author of the definitive 2 volume book on Thomas Chippendale.

SIMON REDBURN will talk briefly about the technical problems of restoring the richly carved and painted frame, now revealed in its true splendour.

DAVID HAWKINS, the main speaker, acclaimed as the most accomplished marquetry worker in England, will explain how he overcame the exceptional difficulties posed by finding the right timbers. He will outline the technical expertise required to restore the intricately inlaid top to its original state

9.00 pm. Bar and stalls re-open, meet the speakers, draw for raffle etc.

ADMISSION at the door £1.00. Pensioners, students, children half price.

Plans for the CHIPPENDALE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN 1979

Although the Society was disappointed in its application to the Post Office for a special commemorative stamp to mark the bicentenary of Chippendale's death in 1779, an ambitious programme of events is being planned. On Friday March 9th, Mary Mauchline will talk to the Society about the organisation of the great country houses in Chippendale's day and with particular reference to Harewood House. Miss Mauchline is a member of the Chippendale Society and, until recently, Head of the History Department at Ripon College of Education. Many members will have read her fascinating book Harewood House, published by David and Charles.

Further details about this Spring Lecture and the following events will be publicised in the next News Letter No. 25.

Saturday 26th May. Bring and Buy Stall, Butter Cross, Otley.

Friday June 8th. Annual Dinner.

Sunday June 10th. A Service in Otley Parish Church and unveiling of a memorial tablet.

9th - 16th June. Joint Exhibition with Otley Arts Club.

9th - 11th November. A week-end conference with visits, lectures and a reception.

Saturday 17th Nov. An Antiques Fair at Menston in aid of the Society's Purchase Fund.

In addition there will be exhibitions of Chippendale furniture at Temple Newsam House, Leeds and Bolling Hall, Bradford, and a variety of activities and celebrations by local groups and societies.

TWO EMINENT BOOKS

Two large, important and highly desirable books by Christopher Gilbert, Hon. Curator of the Chippendale Society, are being published this Autumn, both prepared over a period of ten years. The Life and Works of Thomas Chippendale, 2 vols., Studio Vista in association with Christies, price £49, appears on November 9th. Besides offering a carefully researched account of Chippendale's career and country house commissions, the work prints all Chippendale's recorded bills and letters and illustrates every fully accredited piece of furniture from his workshops. It sets a new standard of scholarship in furniture studies. In October, Mr Gilbert's long awaited 2 volume catalogue Furniture at Temple Newsam House and Lotherton Hall, sponsored jointly by the National Art-Collections Fund and Leeds Art Collections Fund (printed and distributed by Lund Humphries, Bradford, £48) will be published. It has already received glowing reviews.

CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY NEWS AND REPORTS

At the Annual General Meeting, held in Otley on 12th May 1978 the following

officers were elected:-

President: Lady Stoddart-Scott;
Chairman: Mr A Firth; Vice-Chairmen: Mr R E Rawling and Dr J R Nuttall;
Secretary: Mr J Rhodes; Treasurer: Mr J B Holdsworth;
Joint Membership Secretaries: Mrs J Nuttall and Mrs A Lumb;
Hon. Solicitor: Mr R Ingham; Hon. Auditors: Leslie Bray & Co.;
Hon. Curator: Mr C Gilbert; Hon. Librarian: Mrs C Gilbert;
Public Relations Consultant: Mr S H Chippindale;
Hon. News Letter Editor and Photographic Consultant: Mr C Hutchinson.

The 16th Annual Dinner of the Chippendale Society was held at Kirklands, Menston, on Friday 2nd June. A packed hall heard, with pleasure, Brigadier Kenneth Hargreaves, CBE, TD, LL D., speak amusingly about some of Chippendale's business activities and he provided members with entertaining recollections of Sir Malcolm Stoddart-Scott, our first President.

Mr Andrew Firth, our Chairman, reports on the exceedingly popular Annual Excursion on Saturday 5th August. "We were fortunate with the weather; what started as a steady drizzle just about managed to stop by the time we arrived at Sutton Park. Although the house has been owned by the Sheffield Family for only a short time, Mrs Sheffield has brought with her many lovely pieces of furniture from her former home in Lincolnshire. One of the main attractions was a picture of Buckingham House, built by one of the family ancestors and later to be known as Buckingham Palace when it was bought by the Royal Family.

It was a delight to be shown round Hovingham Hall by Sir Marcus and Lady Worsley. That, in itself, was enough to make the occasion unique, but, as Sir Marcus said, the house too is unique in that one enters it through the Riding School! Before we departed for tea in Helmsley, we were just in time to see a few overs of the local cricket match, played on the famous ground.

We are most grateful to Mrs Sheffield and Sir Marcus and Lady Worsley for allowing us to view their homes."

Members will be very sorry to learn that Dr and Mrs Nuttall will shortly be leaving the area. Lady Stoddart-Scott, our President, writes - "Before very long Northampton's gain will very definitely be Yorkshire's loss when John and Alice Nuttall, who from the Society's formation have been Vice-Chairman and Membership Secretary respectively, fulfil their decision to live nearer to their family. I feel sure that I speak for their countless friends when I say that, sadly, we shall miss them both very much indeed. But how fortunate we have been to have had the privilege of sharing their wisdom and affection and we owe them both our grateful and appreciative thanks for their invaluable work for the Society. We send our love and good wishes for their continued happiness in Northampton."