

THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.38

APRIL 1983

ESSENTIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (fuller details below)

- 16 May The AGM at Barclays Bank, Manor Square, Otley, 7.30 pm
- 21 May PARTY AT CRESKELD HALL for members and friends, 6-9 pm
- 17 June ANNUAL CHIPPENDALE DINNER at Kirklands, Menston, 7.30 pm
- 23 July SUMMER OUTING TO CASTLE HOWARD, coach leaves 10.30 am

Monday 16th May 1983

The Annual General Meeting of the Chippendale Society

7.30 pm Barclays Bank, Manor Square, Otley

As last year the AGM will follow a meeting of the Executive Committee which will start at 7.30. All members are welcome to attend this committee meeting if they wish. The official AGM will not commence before 8.15. Do please come along.

Saturday 21st May 1983

Party at Creskeld Hall 6 pm to 9 pm

Our President, Lady Stoddart-Scott, has very kindly agreed to host a Wine and Cheese Party at Creskeld Hall, Arthington when the rhododendrons, azaleas and other spring flowers are expected to be at their best. Admission £2 at the door includes the first glass of wine and food. There will also be a Bring & Buy/Produce stall, Tom-Bola and White Elephant/Book stall. We hope that members will make a special effort to come and bring along as many friends as possible to what is certain to be a highly enjoyable and memorable event. You can HELP by donating produce, gifts and prizes for the stalls - these can either be brought on the evening or left beforehand with Mr. Peter Hillas, Bradford & Bingley Building Society, 15-17, Kirkgate, Otley.

Friday 17th June 1983

The Twenty-First Annual Dinner of the Chippendale Society

As previously announced this event will take place at Kirklands, Main Street, Menston, 7.30 for 8 pm, when the principal guest speaker will be Colonel Rupert Alec Smith, Lord Lieutenant of Humberside and President of the Georgian Society of East Yorkshire. It is again hoped that this major social event in the Society's calendar will be well supported by members and their friends who will have a chance to see the recently acquired Chippendale letter and newly restored pole fire screen. An excellent meal will be served, bar facilities and a selection of table wines will, as usual, be available for purchase prior to dinner. The cost is £7.75 per head and it would be appreciated if early bookings could please be made to the Treasurer using the enclosed form. Once again tickets will not be issued for this occasion, but there will be a seating plan.

Saturday 23rd July 1983

Summer Outing to Castle Howard 10.30 am to 5.15 pm

We have booked a 52 seater coach and arranged a special price reduction for members and their friends to visit this magnificent 18th century palace, the first major work of Sir John Vanbrugh, which contains a famous art collection. Castle Howard was the principal location for the T.V. series "Brideshead Revisited". Now visit it yourself and see the sweeping landscape, the splendid architecture, rooms filled with generations of family treasures and beautiful flower gardens with glittering fountains, gleaming lakes and strutting peacocks which will be at their July best. The Costume Galleries in the stable court contain the largest private collection in Britain of 18th-20th century dress displayed in period settings. For the first time since its restoration the Garden Hall with the Felix Kelly murals will be open this year. There is a self-service cafeteria for lunch and tea for those who do not wish to bring a picnic. We have kept the cost of coach travel and admission to all attractions at Castle Howard to £5 a head. Numbers will be restricted to 52. Please fill in and return the enclosed application form promptly, we must have final numbers by the end of June or risk cancellation charges.

Note The coach will leave Otley Post Office at 10.30 am on Saturday July 23rd and return about 5.15 pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

On 28 March Sotheby's auctioned an autographed letter from Thomas Chippendale to Sir Rowland Winn of Nostell Priory. This rare document was purchased for the Society by our member Simon Redburn for £981 (including the buyer's premium and VAT). The acquisition was funded by a 50% government grant and a magnificent contribution of £245 from Raymond Burton, while the Sir George Martin Trust have generously promised to make up the shortfall of £245 after their next meeting. We are profoundly grateful to these benefactors for enabling us to secure this important letter which otherwise might well have disappeared from view after the sale. The text is as follows :

London Sept 27th 1769

Sir Rowland,

I hope that you will be so good as to excuse the liberty I have taken in writing to you, but it is to inform you that the note which you was so kind as to give me has been due five or six days and it has been presented for payment several times it lay at Sir George Colebrooks. Sir George was so kind as to give me cash for it and he has sent to me to insist on the payment which is absolutely out of my power at present to do. If you can by any means send ye money to town it will save my Credit other wise I shall be ruined. Your things are all finished and they will be sent away by ye very first waggon.

I am your very hum'le Ser't.

Thos. Chippendale.

The restoration of the white and gilt block-base pole fire screen acquired in 1980 is now complete and this supremely elegant neo-classical object, originally made by Thomas Chippendale for Harewood House, is now displayed at Temple Newsam in the same room as our marquetry side table and mahogany lyre-back armchair. The Society is deeply indebted to the Pilgrim Trust, the Sir George Martin Trust and the Museum & Art Gallery Service for Yorkshire and Humberside for helping to pay for the restoration which was carried out by Peter and Ann Mactaggart, Dick Reid and Frances Eyre. The screen and the letter will be on show at the Annual Dinner on June 17th.

Some 60 members and guests enjoyed a most interesting and instructive Spring lecture given by Mr. J.E. Evans on the subject of Rockingham porcelain. The speaker outlined the history of this famous factory and illustrated its wares by slides and an extensive anthology of examples drawn from his own collection.