

THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 43

March 1985

ESSENTIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (fuller details below)

- 26 April A Chippendale evening at Temple Newsam House
- 13 May Annual General Meeting
- 7 June Annual Dinner - Otley Civic Centre

Friday 26 April, 7.30 pm CHIPPENDALE EVENING AT TEMPLE NEWSAM

As members will know, we deposit our items of Chippendalia at Temple Newsam House where the Society enjoys free insurance, a conservation service and the collection is displayed in an appropriate setting where it is seen by 50,000 visitors a year at no expense to ourselves. This soiree will give members a chance to tour the house and see the Society's furniture, original designs and other documentary items which will be the subject of a short talk by Christopher Gilbert, Director of Leeds Art Galleries and Hon. Curator of the Chippendale Society. Light refreshments will be served. Your committee felt that, in addition to giving members a pleasant evening, a vitally important aspect of the function should be to encourage non-members to come along to see what we have achieved, as an imaginative public-relations exercise. To this end a coach has been laid on, leaving Otley Post Office at 6.45, to enable anyone (members and non-members) to come at a nominal inclusive charge of only 50p for the entire evening. It will return to Otley about 10 pm.

This excursion will be advertized in the local press. Because places are limited early booking at Waye Travel, Otley, is recommended. Please encourage anyone whom you feel may be interested to book a seat for what promises to be a memorable evening. To ensure the success of this venture it would help if members who are able can travel by car (ample free parking) at Temple Newsam. Paid up members who attend will be asked on the night by the Treasurer to contribute £1 each to defray expenses. The success of the evening will largely depend on your attendance and the number of non-members who can be induced (through your efforts) to come.

Monday 13 May THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

7.30 Barclays Bank, Manor Square, Otley.

As last year the AGM will follow a meeting of the executive committee which will start at 7.30 pm. All members are most welcome to attend the committee meeting if they wish. The official AGM will commence about 8.15. Do please come along.

Friday 7 June THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

To be held at Otley Civic Centre, 7.30 for 8.00. Dress informal.
Full details to be announced in the next newsletter. Make a note of this major social event in your diary now.

REPORT ON THE CHIPPENDALE CRANE APPEAL

The Society has not appealed directly to members for financial support since 1976, but an appeals leaflet was distributed with the last newsletter seeking contributions towards purchasing a remarkable carved and gilt figure of a crane which originally adorned the dome canopy of a couch bed which Chippendale supplied to Harewood House in 1771. The target was £5,000. At the time of going to press the amount raised stands at just under £3,000, a major donation of £1,000 coming from the Sir George Martin Trust who have always been extremely generous in supporting our acquisitions policy. Sir George, in his lifetime, was always keenly interested in our activities and would surely have been most enthusiastic about the growth of the collections. His Trustees are amongst our most munificent benefactors and well-wishers. The cost of the crane is £4,000 and a further £1,000 is needed to remove the Victorian gilding. This remarkable carving came on the market last August and as an act of outstanding generosity was bought immediately by the

Sam Chippindale Foundation who are holding it for us until our appeal closes in April when we shall be applying to the Victoria and Albert Museum for a government grant. It is not too late to send a contribution to Sam Chippindale, Green Meadows, North Rigton, Leeds (cheques, please, to 'The Chippendale Society').

NOSTELL PRIORY

It is with sadness that we learned of the recent death of Lord St. Oswald and the ensuing threat to the integrity of the Chippendale collection at Nostell Priory. Our Hon. Curator had a letter drawing attention to the potential catastrophe published in the Times. At present the problem of keeping this remarkable ensemble intact is unresolved, but the possibility of dispersing any of the documented items from their original setting, let alone the major masterpieces such as the library furniture, the green and gold japanned bedroom suite and the unique barometer is unthinkable. Hopefully, in our bumbling British way the collection will somehow be preserved - the National Trust (who own the building and park) has vast experience in dealing with such crises.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW SECRETARY

At the last AGM Jack Rhodes, who has served the Society with distinction for fifteen years, resigned as Secretary, owing to ill health. We are profoundly grateful for his exertions and cheerful presence over such a long period. John Holdsworth took over the secretarial duties on a temporary basis, for which many thanks and in the Autumn we appointed Simon Stell to the vacant post. He is already known to many of us but those members who have not met him will wish to extend a warm welcome. The following autobiographical note serves as an introduction.

Simon Stell is 30 years old and lives in Rawdon. He qualified as a Solicitor in 1981 and became a Partner with Last Suddards in 1983. After working in the firm's Bradford office since leaving Law College, he moved to Otley to open a new branch office in November 1983. Simon is a local man having lived with his parents in Guiseley before moving to his present address. Simon's recreational activities include football and hockey. He is secretary of Ben Rhydding Sports Club, Treasurer of the Commercial Inn (Esholt) Football Club and also serves on the Committee of Bradford Grammar School Old Boys' Association.

STOP PRESS

Since the above report was written the government has announced a special grant of £25,000,000 to save not only the Chippendale furniture at Nostell Priory but also Kedleston Hall and Weston Park together with their contents. Let us hope that no unforeseen circumstances arise and the news really is as good as it sounds.