



The Frederick Parker Collection
part of The Furniture Makers' Company

Frederick Parker 2018 guest speakers



Andrew Cox-Whittaker – Wright & Elwick and the Wakefield Cabinet Trade

Richard Wright and Edward Elwick established themselves as cabinet makers and upholsterers in Wakefield in 1747. In various partnerships over more than 50 years they supplied many of the grandest houses in the north of England. They have been called Yorkshire's answer to Gillows of Lancaster, but in spite of making some very distinctive furniture, few people have heard of them. What do we really know about them and how did such a provincial firm find itself catering for the needs of so many important and wealthy clients? Andrew Cox-Whittaker is a second generation antiques dealer. He has worked with Wilkinson's auctioneers for nearly twenty years and with T L Phelps Fine Furniture Restoration for the last thirteen. He is on the executive committee of the Chippendale Society and has a keen interest in regional furniture studies. His research into Wakefield furniture has been supported with a Regional Furniture Society bursary



Richard Williams – The furniture-making dream and my three decades of reality

Richard will talk about his experiences of being lulled by the romantic ideals of fine craftsmanship, and how he then faced the challenges of achieving commercial success. Richard opened his workshop in 1990 and it has grown steadily since into one of the great success stories of British bespoke furniture making. In 2010 his team moved into a beautiful barn conversion at Beaconsfield and currently numbers eleven, including four craftsmen, two trainees and an apprentice. Richard still handles all aspects of creative design himself. He is a liveryman of the Furniture Makers' Company and chairs the Bespoke Guild Mark Committee. He has lectured in many colleges around the UK and in the US.