

## NEWS FROM THE BRITISH REGIONAL FURNITURE STUDY CENTRE

Staffing at the Centre has been further strengthened by the appointment of Clare Conybeare MA FMA as the Centre's Researcher/Archivist. Clare will work under the direction of Dr B Cotton and her post is funded by grants to the Centre from the **J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust** and the **Pilgrim Trust**.

Clare's prime task is to establish a digital archive related to vernacular furniture and her arrival at the Centre coincided with a generous gift from **Ivan Sparkes** of over seven hundred articles and pamphlets which he has gathered together over the years, while compiling the bibliographies which are published from time to time in *Regional Furniture*. Clare is presently developing a database founded on the Sparkes Archive, a database of the Cotton Collection of regional chairs and a vocabulary of terms used in the description of regional chairs and furniture.

The Centre's archive has also been enhanced by a further gift of books and catalogues from **Ivan Sparkes**, by a set of catalogues of the firm of Josiah Parkes & Sons, donated by the **Lock Museum** and by a gift from **David Sayer** of a booklet about the Gane family of furniture makers.

The Centre's collection of regional furniture has been further increased by a the generous gift from **Gill Meddings** and **Keith Pinn** of a pine and birch Scottish Cradle, grained to simulate oak and dating to about 1870 and of a mid 19th Century rush-seated spindle back chair from Lincolnshire.

The Centre is actively seeking to recruit more volunteers to help with its work. If any member is able to offer a minimum of a half a day per week to assist in the Centre, for example in the development of the databases, in meeting and helping visitors or with any of the other tasks that need doing, then please contact the Administrator, Peter Collins (telephone 01494 421899)

*Peter Collins*