

As I reported in the last Newsletter, the Cotton Collection of English vernacular chairs has been generously donated to the Geffrye Museum. Our task at the museum is to secure a building suitable for the collection and to provide facilities for study, research and education. We are making progress, but this is a major project and it requires patience and diplomacy as well as determination! Meanwhile the Regional Furniture Museum Trust, set up in 1994 to run the Study Centre at High Wycombe and establish a museum in or near High Wycombe, has now been dissolved. As agreed by all interested parties, the assets owned by the Trust, including the library and archive formerly owned by the RFS, have now been transferred to the Geffrye Museum. The furniture collection comprises the following pieces:

Windsor comb-back armchair by Thomas Truman,
fl.1740-60

Windsor armchair by Sewell, c1830-40

Windsor hoop-back side chair, painted, Yealmpton,
c1820

Ladder-back rush-seated side chair by Kerry,
Evesham, fl.1820-61

Ladder-back rush-seated side chair, Lincs/Leics, c1820

Set of 6 Windsor scroll-back side chairs by W
Puddifer, fl.1899-1930.

All of this will join the Cotton Collection in forming a national collection of vernacular furniture. None of it is very accessible at present, but the important point is that it is safe.

David Dewing