

Legs and Pegs

Ash and elm stools (Fig. 1) in the Great Hall of the Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick, built in 1450, display features which raise the familiar question as to whether the Windsor chair evolved from a stool design, and if so, from what type of stool and when? Note the use of pegging on the front edge of the three stools at Warwick, to strengthen the joints holding each stave leg in place, in a similar way to the front turned legs on the Windsor chairs in the Wormsley Library (Fig 2). I believe some of the stick back chairs in the National Museum of Wales at St Fagans are supported by three stave legs in a similar way to the Warwick stools, although their seat profiles are not very pronounced. Can any members comment on these points?

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Fig 1. A stool from the Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick, showing pegging to the leg joint.



Fig 2. A detail of one of the Wormsley library chairs, with a similar pegged leg joint.