



Jonathan Arnold MBE (1933–2014)

Jonathan was the great-grandson of Frederick Parker who, in 1869, set up the business that was later to become Parker Knoll. He spent his whole life in the furniture industry, becoming the Contracts Sales Director of Parker Knoll and the longest-serving director on the main board of Cornwell Parker plc.

On his retirement Jonathan headed up the establishment of the Frederick Parker Foundation to save and care for the study collection of historic chairs, most of which his great-grandfather had bought in the early decades of the 20th century and which are now on show at London Metropolitan University. He was an exemplary Chairman of the Foundation from 1997 until 2012. In 2011 he was awarded an MBE for services to English Furniture Makers.

Jonathan never regarded himself as a furniture history expert, but he was a great enthusiast and supporter, especially of the RFS. He was wonderfully generous with his praise and making others feel good about themselves. He will be remembered as the archetypal gentleman, always optimistic, jovial and a party animal!

Christopher Claxton Stevens