

Oak armchair, St Peter's and Our Lady of Pity, Glenthams

In a county with hardly any provenanced Stuart oak furniture, the presence of even a single example is of interest. With its top back rail morticed into the back posts, its turned column legs and arm supports, back posts carved with guilloche-like motifs and the back panel with a symmetrical spray of leaves or feathers, it displays strong regional characteristics. Its raw surfaces, unashamedly new seat, and stretchers morticed into the columns to replace those of the missing lower few inches, all suggest a long and active life in this church, rather than a later-acquired gift from elsewhere. It will be interesting to see if its features can be found on other pieces either in collections or circulating in the antiques trade.

Peter Brears



Oak armchair, mid-seventeenth-century, St Peter's and Our Lady of Pity, Glenham. *Photo Jeremy Bate.*