

Obituary

Robert (Bob) Parrott 1945–2022

Bob served as an RFS council member for many years and his interest and research into the original purpose of early Windsor chairs, sometimes described as ‘Windsor Garden Chairs’ in the 1730s and ‘Forrest chairs’ for outdoor use in gardens, hunting grounds and associated lodges, was intriguing. Inventories such as that relating to the garden accessories from Chevening Hall, Kent in March 1723, which refers to 60 Windsor chairs painted green, and an invoice relating to the supply of ‘Windsor Garden Chairs’ from John Brown’s workshop in St Paul’s Churchyard in 1730, trace the evolution of Windsor chairs.

His Journal articles focussed on the continuity in the manufacture of eighteenth-century Windsor chairmakers in the Thames Valley region, leading up to the five generations of the Lovegrove family manufacturing Windsor and garden chairs in the Upton-cum-Chalvey part of the Slough area during most of the nineteenth century. A Windsor chair exhibition followed in 2012, arranged by Michael Harding-Hill with Sir Edward Dashwood, at West Wycombe Park, involving a team comprising Bob and others. Bob prepared the thirty-eight page illustrated catalogue.

Much of his research and discoveries made a very good source of conversation which will be missed. Our condolences go to his wife Gill and their two daughters.

John Boram



Part of the team that prepared the Windsor chair exhibition at West Wycombe Park in 2012. L to r: Michael Harding-Hill, John Boram and Bob Parrott. *Photographer unknown*



Bob Parrott at the Geffrye Museum in 2015 with Diana Halliwell and Elly Macbeath. *Photo Jeremy Bate*