

A Child's Barber's Chair

Last year a curious lot turned up at auction in Herefordshire, a child's barber's chair in beech and ash, with features akin to an office or smoker's bow chair. On collection, I was told it had been cleared from a barber's shop in Hereford. There are still clumps of hair stuck between the seat and cover. The sawn and shaped arms have been made in two parts, surmounted by a curved back support, with two chamfered underarm supports sitting either side of a central pierced reverse-heart splat. A perforated seat cover has been added on top of the previously caned seat, that increases and decreases in height on a thread from a cast-iron support. This four-way support connects the seat to four shaped legs, united by turned cross stretchers with central connecting block.

As to its origin, I'm unsure. Is there a whiff of the Thames Valley & Chilterns regional style? Could the four-way cross stretcher be a clue? Either way, having not come across anything similar on my travels, I'd be keen to know other RFS members' thoughts.

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above right A child's barber's chair from Hereford. Photo Oli Barling

above left Detail showing the perforated seat cover and the reversed-heart splat. Photo Oli Barling

far left Side view showing the cast-iron screw mechanism. Photo Oli Barling

left The cross stretchers. Photo Oli Barling