

Please provide details of the project and how the project will benefit the people of Lowestoft

Norfolk and Suffolk Woodcarvers was initially set up by Lowestoft based Harold Bailey and Alan Oxley in the mid 1990's to help keep this ancient craft alive. Harold was instrumental in the club's success and he remained an active member until his death in 2015. For 25 years Norfolk and Suffolk Woodcarvers was based at East Point Academy in Lowestoft, but during the pandemic we lost this facility. The club has always operated from Lowestoft with the exception of our restart after the Covid lockdowns when we used Mutford Village Hall for a short time. This took its toll on our membership because of the lack of woodworking facilities. We then found a new home at the award winning International Boatbuilding Training College in Oulton Broad. We are financially independent of the IBTC and feel privileged to use their generous facilities one Sunday a month.

Our umbrella organisation, the British Woodcarvers Association, folded during the pandemic which added to our difficulties. However we used the "free time" of the lockdowns to write a new constitution, policies and secure insurance so we are up and running again as an independent club. We are now in the throes of trying to rekindle and expand our membership and make the club viable again, striving to protect and preserve a friendly club that has functioned from a Lowestoft base for many years providing an environment for a relaxing and therapeutic hobby of great mental value and satisfaction.