

Carving out landmark views for all to enjoy

by Catherine Burt
The News

A WOODCARVING depicting views from around Havant is soon to take pride of place at the council offices.

Havant Borough Council's civic centre offices are already decorated with artwork produced by local sixth-form students.

The walls of the upper floors of the building, in Civic Centre Road, Havant, are covered in brightly-coloured paintings.

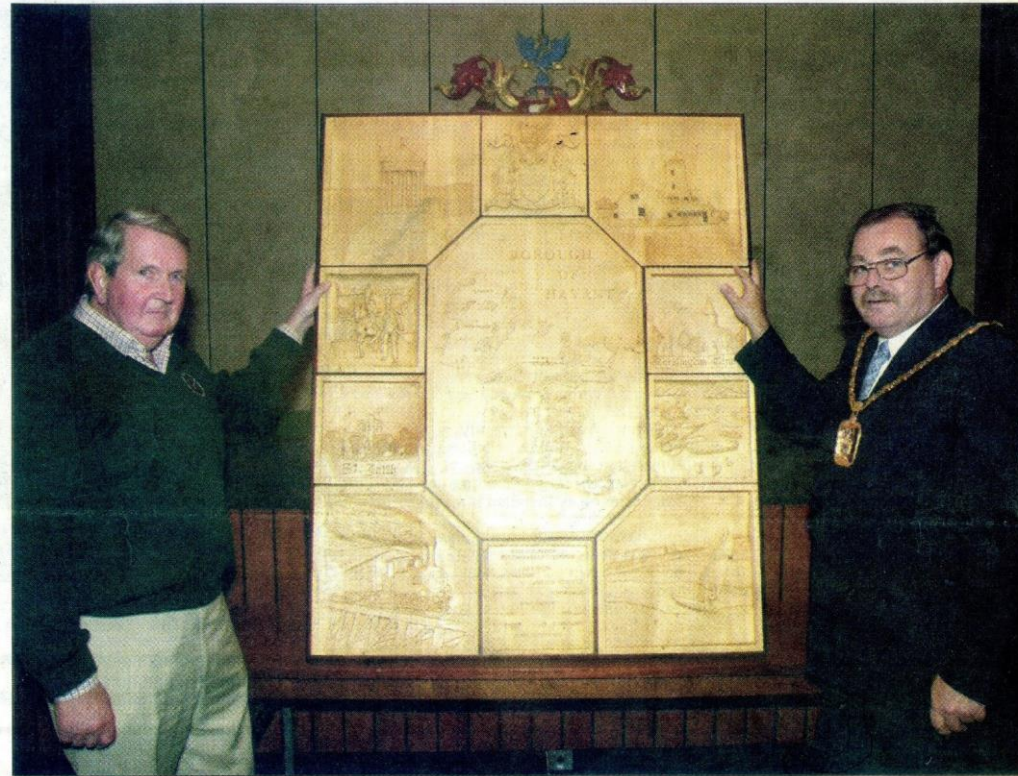
But now the sparse surroundings of the offices' reception have been given a makeover with the introduction of the decorative woodcarving.

A team of sculptors and woodcarvers spent more than 3,000 hours producing the artwork - the equivalent of more than 125 days solid work - after the group had first spent time designing the piece especially for the council.

An official presentation evening was held at the civic offices to welcome the woodcarving into the building and unveil it to the public on October 17.

The work of the 11 members of the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors will then be on display in the main reception of the council offices so that anyone who visits the building can enjoy it.

A council spokeswoman said: 'The carving depicts var-



Pax Benger, left, hands over the woodcarving to Havant Mayor Gordon Erlebach

PICTURE: STEVE REID (025217-79)

ious landmark views from across the borough, including Warblington Church and Langstone Mill.

'These are placed around a

larger central carving of an outline map of the borough.'

Anyone who took part in the Havant Arts Festival, held at different sites across

the borough back in May, could have caught a glimpse of the artwork in the early stages of its development.

Guests invited to the offi-

cial presentation heard a short talk about the carving and how it was made by members of the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors.