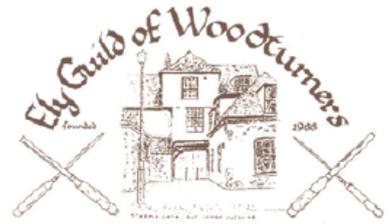


Woodpecker



The newsletter of the Ely Guild of Woodturners



March 2017.

The December meeting.

A pleasant evening, even though attendance seemed a little low compared to previous years.

Chairman Stephen Franklin started the proceedings with a few formal announcements, one of which was that former Chairman John Last had been admitted to hospital after suffering a heart attack. I'm sure all Guild members will join with me in wishing John a speedy recovery.

The evening proceeded much as before, with a good selection of food, both savoury and sweet, and even after everyone had eaten their fill, there was still some left for those who had remembered to bring 'doggy bags'. Also available was tea and coffee on a D.I.Y. Basis. It was soon discovered, however, that there was no milk, so Gerry Lawrence kindly dashed off to get some.. And of course the bar was open.

I had set up a wood identification competition, with nineteen different timbers. There should have been twenty, but number four went astray, later to be found on the floor of my workshop. Nobody got all correct, maybe because some of them were not timbers commonly used for turning. I'll have to make it easier if there is a next time. Dick Brown was the winner, claiming the prize of a magnificent blank of grotty old mahogany I didn't want. Well, I don't give away good stuff! Also on that table were a couple of puzzles made by me, and a couple more from Ralph Carpenter.

The raffle included some very worthwhile prizes, and there was a small display of ladies crafts. Stephen, our famous 'clip-board king', who is now also notorious for his rather difficult puzzles set around the room, had this year produced a topical edition, which I believe several people managed to solve. From time to time, he also came up with several poems or readings, all of them funny. One concerned the various ages of animals and man, another was about Noah's conversation with God, about building the Arc, and the problems he had with planning permission etc., and one about a man who had been ordered by his wife to pour all his stash of whisky down the sink. As you can imagine, it didn't all go down the drain.

There was a somewhat belated presentation of a new members welcome pack to Andrew McCran. Then it was on to the trophies, with Guild President Dick Brown officiating. The recipient of the Brian Wallace Award, Frank Harnwell, was unfortunately not present. Neither were Chris Edwards and Roger Haverson, joint winners of the Medlock Trophy. Gerry Lawrence, however, was there, to receive the President's Cup, which he had won by a considerable margin.



Gerry Lawrence receives the coveted cup.



Raffle prizes and trophies.

The A.G.M., February 1st. 2017.

AS expected, Stephen Franklin continues into his second year as Chairman, with Clive Baker as Vice Chair.. Clive is also competition organiser. Peter Symonds and Malcolm Arter also continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Other committee members are Mick Saul, assistant treasurer, Alan Haine, programme secretary, Terry Lincoln, webmaster, Christine Robinson, Mike Marsters, Gerry Lawrence, Michael Cozens.

Working groups are Gerry Lawrence – turning equipment, the raffle is conducted by John Palmer, assisted by Gil Marchant, audio/visual set-up and operating, Chris Collins (when he is available). Anyone else who knows a bit about this sort of thing would be very welcome. Indeed, there are a few members who do lend a hand when necessary, and we are very grateful for that.

Training. This year is arranged, but volunteers are always welcome. We do have two or three members who have not done it before this year, so don't be shy, it's not such an ordeal and remember, the people you are teaching are a small group of novices, not a hall full of experts. My own approach is that I show how I do things, which may not always be technically correct. I am not an expert, so am not really qualified to teach. All I aim to do is give beginners a bit of a start.

Been waffling on a bit there, sorry about that.

All that remains to be said is that Dick Brown remains our President

This edition is a little short on content, partly due to the fact that activity is a little restricted within the Guild during the winter months, so if anyone has any ideas for articles, tips, requests, photos, even complaints (although we don't want too many of those) jot them down and let the editorial team (that is me) have them, and they (I) will consider them for publication. The team (I) reserve the right to edit any submissions as thought necessary. We (I) await results with eager, even excited, anticipation!!



Some of the happy throng.



AS we all know, there is no meeting in January. There used to be, but sometimes it fell on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, and some of the older members will remember one year when only sixteen people turned up, so it was abandoned.

However, here's a little something you may find interesting. As woodturners, we spend our time making circular objects but, as is often the case, nature got there first. Here's a photo of a small branch on a cotinus bush in my garden which shows a near perfect circle, formed absolutely naturally. The bush has since been drastically reduced in size, so the circle is no longer there.



