



NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS MEETING



A picture of festive cheer

We had one of our best-attended gatherings for a long time in December when approaching thirty people turned up for our festive last meeting of the year. After Roger's introduction the floor was handed over to Allan Mechen for him to compere a game of Animal, Vegetable, Mineral which was hilarious, if a bit chaotic with much booing and cheering used to clear up any disagreements. The idea was to have several games with a different letter each time but such were the disputes and arguments that we only got through one game and that went over time – all good fun and well done to the winner Dave Nessling and many thanks to Allan for what must have been an exhausting effort.

Of course being Christmas it was time to show our entries in the woodblock competition to be judged not only by carvers but everyone present in the hall. You will remember that we had had since May to come up with "Something I found on the beach" which you'd think would give plenty of scope and that sure turned out to be the case with a wide variety of ideas showing just what an imaginative lot we are. Now I know it's an old cliché to say how difficult it was to choose a winner but this time it was proved to be so because we had a tie for first place between Dorothy Lockyer and Di Smith who will each hold the Fountain Cup for six months – well done to both of them and to all the other excellent entries.



Di Smith



Dorothy Lockyer

A.G.M.

It was a typically cold but dry January day when we held our 2017 A.G.M. and it was nice to see a reasonable turnout of people for the annual state of the nation address as it were. The formal business began with the previous year's minutes followed by a report from Roger as chairman and he also performed the secretary's function as Joyce was unable to be present through illness. Kathy gave us the finances which were very healthy and at the conclusion of all that the meeting was handed over to Paul Humphriss who did his little bit of thanking all concerned before announcing the names put forward for the new committee. There were seven individuals and since that is within the required number and there were no more volunteers, he suggested that the new committee could be elected en bloc without the need for a vote. This was duly proposed and seconded and so your committee for 2017 looks like this:-

Joyce Andrew	Don Andrew	Kathy Hammond	Trish Sayers
Roger Elliott	Pippa Smith	Di Smith	

Thanks go to Pete Osborne who is standing down temporarily and particular thanks to Joyce Andrew who, while still on the committee, is standing down as Secretary after many years of sterling service in that role – well done Joyce.

Once all that was over we relaxed with a few games of playing-card bingo at 10p a go – still not sure about gambling in the church hall!!

The committee had provided a light buffet for us to enjoy which we certainly did and after the raffle we brought the meeting to an end and went home looking forward to another twelve months of whittling on the Waterside.

HYTHE LIBRARY

Did our usual thing in the library this Jan/Feb including a special feature on “Footwear”. I think it looked fantastic and a great advertisement for what we are capable of.



FEBRUARY MEETING

After a bitingly cold spell in February, it cheered up on the Saturday of our meeting with mild temperatures and even some sunshine. So maybe that's why we only had a dozen people in the room for our meeting – they were all out catching up on the gardening.

This was a shame since the show put on by John Combes was well worth seeing. John had been to us before in November 2014 with the first part of his presentation, "Nature's Magic Moments" and now he was back with part two which consisted mainly of photography but also short video clips and occasionally accompanied by music which was played and recorded by John himself.

We were treated to a series of short segments on subjects as varied as Blashford Lakes near Ringwood, Dartmoor, John's own garden, Starling murmurations and even a captive dolphin display from the Canary Islands, all in crystal-clear photographs.

What was also impressive was the way the presentation was done which was all digital and computerised and operated easily from a lap top. Sometimes I do miss those upside down slides that we always used to get!

SOME CARVED FACES



WOOD CONFUSION - Rosewood? , Satinwood? , Tulipwood?

Teak, rosewood and satinwood are some of the most misused terms in the wood industry. Rosewoods belong to the genus *Dalbergia*, a fairly innocuous-looking genus of trees that conceal decorative and often fragrant wood, rich in aromatic oils.

Only a select few species yield rosewood, named for its rose-like smell which can persist for years. Most rosewoods are a rich brown with a dark, straight grain.

The pre-eminent rosewood is Brazilian (*Dalbergia nigra*), much prized for furniture and for acoustic guitars, not just for its colour but for the glorious tone it produces. The huge demand for this wood has led to a drastic decline.

Since 1992 it has been on appendix 1 of the Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species, the most restrictive category, under whose conditions even finished products may not cross borders.

Because of these protective measures, several substitutes have been used, primarily East Indian rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Amazon rosewood (*Dalbergia spruceana*) and Madagascar rosewood (*Dalbergia madagascariensis*).

Many woods are sold as rosewood due to outward similarity, but they do not have the same quality of colour, density, workability and finish. These include Bolivian rosewood, New Guinea rosewood and North Indian rosewood.

A similar situation exists with satinwoods, named for their smooth, glossy texture, characterised by a golden lustre and glossy finish. Their veneers are highly prized in the furniture industry. Genuine satinwoods are West Indian or Jamaican satinwood, and East Indian satinwood, both of the citrus family, *Rutaceae*.

As with rosewood there are several imposters, the chief of which is pyinmar or Asian satinwood, which is significantly lighter than genuine satinwood and has a much coarser, uneven texture, being a semi-ring-porous wood. Pyinmar veneer also darkens with age.

Others include movingui, known as Nigerian satinwood, and yellowheart, also called Brazilian satinwood.

Genuine tulipwood is a distinctive pinkish-yellowish wood yielded from *Dalbergia decipularis*. It is found only in a narrow geographical area in Brazil and is so named for its colour. It is prized by woodturners.

To add confusion there is a tulip tree, a North American native named for its tulip-like flower. The timber is fairly soft and light with an unremarkable grain.