



NEWSLETTER EXTRA

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Programme Details

November. AGM followed by a presentation by Dennis Keeling, Woodturner's Gallery and competition as usual during the evening.

December . Christmas Party. Get together. Food, including Mince Pies. Also Bring and Buy, Wood Sale, and best of all, final entries for the Woodturner of the Year Competition, to be followed by the adding up of final scores, and the Awardin of the Trophy to the overall winner. Don't miss it!

The Woodturner of the Year Competition

The competition was introduced in this year and has proved to be very popular. Plenty of interesting entries have been displayed at each meeting. The judges have had a difficult time, as the entries have been of a high standard, with often only shades of difference between some of them. However, objective assessments have been made, and the accumulated scores displayed on the Notice Board for all to see.

The competition has provided a focal point for each meeting, and has done much to encourage the development of the Club and also the aspirations of the members. There is much inspiration to be gained from inspecting the exhibits, and less experienced members will find ideas and techniques well displayed, so feel free to discuss the entries with other members.

Next year, some changes will be made to the way in which the competition is handled. These will make it more easy for the judges to deal with the finer shades of difference between the entries, and hopefully introduce a wider spread into the scores.

Also during next year, space will be found in the Newsletter to offer comment and advice about preparing exhibits for presentation. There is already advice on design available in the Association's Book of Hints & Tips, and additional articles are being planned. It is hoped that these will encourage members to have a go, and will raise the already high standards of the work on display.

Just a thought!

The effective running of the Association is the result of much discussion and effort on the part of your officers and committee. We hope that we have got things right, but we rely on feedback from members to tell us if we have. Your comments, especially if critical, will be welcomed and listened to. Rather than just bald statements, we would like them to be accompanied by your reasons for your comments, and your suggestions for improvement. That way, you will be making a positive contribution to the running of our Association.

The Cow Byre Exhibition

We were unable to mount an exhibition in the Cow Byre in 2007 as the site was being renovated, so we were very pleased to be able to do so in October this year. The sub committee led by Ralph Pooley assembled on Sunday 26th October to set out the room, and 16 members brought in their stuff later. The final display was a real eye opener. There were almost 1000 items available for display, (think of 100 times the usual display on a Club night), though because of limitations on space, a proportion was held in reserve to top up the displays as items were sold. There was everything from humble light pulls and other "craft fair" stuff to expensive "gallery" quality items. A small team maintained a rota of stewards during the following week, and a few stalwarts kept up almost continuous demonstrations of turning on each day.

Full use of the limited opportunities for publicity was made, but we were somewhat disappointed by the relatively low numbers of the public who attended on each day. Total for the week was just 526 visitors. We were much more more

disappointed that apart from those who were organising or exhibiting, hardly any members of MWA bothered to turn up, not even those who lived locally. One who did turn up was astounded by the sheer quantity and quality of the work on display. We find it very disappointing that out of a club with 109 members, interest was so low. Where is your Club Spirit? Our active members surely deserve your visible support.

In the final analysis, almost all of the exhibitors made some sales. £2489 was taken, of which members received £1941.50, Shooting Star Charity received £160.43, £322.23 was paid to London Borough of Hillingdon in charges on sales, Rent and VAT, leaving a small profit for MWA almost all of which will go towards the costs of advertising the show. In fact, we just about stayed solvent overall.

Congratulations are due to the small team who made it all happen, to the demonstrators, and to the exhibitors, who showed just how high the standards of MWA have become.

MINI-GALLERY **PICTURES FROM THE COW BYRE SHOW**



