

## **Report of December Meeting**

At this month's meeting, we were joined by Rebecca Newman, a bookbinder from Stockland. Rebecca brought samples of the materials she uses in her craft to show us – boards, papers and a wide variety of leathers, including calf, goat and pigskin, and to our surprise, even ostrichskin! She told us that once she had used possumskin in a special commission, brought back by her client from New Zealand. Rebecca brought with her some objects reminiscent of the torturer's rack, which in her demonstration she revealed to be large clamps, used when stitching the sections, and cutting the sheets to size and shape. Following her demonstration, she showed us some beautiful samples of her work, and showed how she had worked the leather into raised patterns, and decorated them with intricate gilded lettering and tooling. The possibly dry and dusty subject of bookbinding turned out to be a fascinating one, and members were reluctant to let Rebecca go, having many questions to ask after her demonstration.

We celebrated the last meeting before Christmas with sherry and mincepies, and finalized arrangements for the Carol Service on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Exeter Cathedral, and our Christmas Dinner on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Mary thanked members for their regular attendance at meetings in 2008. We looked forward to 2009 with the promise of many interesting activities, starting with a 'Garden Bingo' in Stockland on 13<sup>th</sup> January, which nine of our members hope to attend. A promise of spring was provided by Julie Jobson, with her winning Winter Jasmine in the Flower of the Month competition, and Joan Cudmore won this month's competition for a bookmark.

**Next month's meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall, when Ron and Jackie Brown will speak to us about the Weycroft Centre. Visitors are always welcome.**

Joan Cudmore / Mary Nowell