

Report of November Meeting

We were very happy to welcome our Area Adviser, Anne Bowden, to join our November meeting and AGM. We particularly appreciated her making time to visit us as she is still getting over having her home flooded by the recent freak storm at Ottery St Mary – many good wishes for the future, Anne. Our visiting speaker was both entertaining and inspiring. Sarah Cloud, from Cloud Nine Florists in Axminster, shared with us the secrets of making a holly wreath and sprays for the front door, which don't fall apart as soon as one's back is turned! She also created a beautiful Christmas arrangement using carnations, proteas and blue spruce, and a striking handtied bouquet in white and green, featuring some magnificent stems of amaryllis. Two lucky members went home with a draw prize to treasure. The Christmas smells of spruce and cinnamon pervaded the hall as we learnt how to tie easy bows with wire-edged ribbon, how to keep our arrangements in perfect proportion (1.5 x the height of the container), and that Oasis should always be kept soaked if needed for a second arrangement. Next year our committee will remain largely unchanged, though Margaret Andrews takes over as Secretary, and Karen Wilmott will be joining us. Many thanks to Christine East and Bobby Crockford for all their hard work on the committee in the past. Mary Seward paid tribute to all of those members who have given their support during 2008, and Heather Cromey-Hawke in turn added her thanks to Mary and the committee.

Please note that next month's meeting will be on December 4th, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, when our speaker, Rebecca Newman, will be talking to us about Bookbinding.