

Polstead WI - April 2009 Meeting Report

Our President, Chris Cuthbert, welcomed members and reminded us of the very busy schedule for the next few months, including the 90th Anniversary of Polstead WI to be held on June 9th 2009 which will be shared with members from other local WI's and many friends.

She welcomed our speaker, Ted Bennett, a talented and recently retired professional wood carver. In his professional life he has completed restoration work on Louis XIV furniture following the fire at Windsor Castle, and on the Mayor of London's bed. He has created carvings in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and the House of Lords, and has made rocking horses which sold in Harrods for £2,000.

He is passionate about the art of wood carving and talked enthusiastically about his craft as we were able to handle examples of different types of his own carving work such as fruits, vases, flowers, dishes, shells, leaves and swags.

His varied and interesting talk took us from Maori wood carvings in New Zealand to native North American Indian Totem Poles and the work of Grinling Gibbons whose best known works are the choir stalls and organ screen in St Paul's Cathedral and decorative carvings in Windsor Castle, Kensington Palace and Blenheim Palace.

Finally, he judged the competition for an unusual wooden object, which was won by Inge Hall who brought a magnificent piece of natural wood from Germany.

M. A. Walker

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 12th May at 7.30pm in Polstead Village Hall. Friends and visitors are made very welcome by our President Chris Cuthbert). We will be discussing the Resolution for the WI Annual General Meeting :

'SOS for Honey Bees' – the fact that they play a vital role in the pollination of food crops and in our environment.