

THE HARBOUR W.I.

Vice President Jackie Stevens chaired the **April Meeting** due to the President, Sandie Goman having a prior engagement. She presented their most senior member Rosalind Bainbridge with a very pretty bouquet to celebrate her 96th Birthday.

Daphne Chamberlain announced the correspondence and various workshops to be held by the ESFWI. She also told the members that the Resolution going forward to the National meeting is 'Mental Health Matters' and is to be voted on at the next meeting.

Jackie Marsh-Hobbs was the very interesting and enthusiastic speaker for the afternoon. She was born in Brighton and has worked as a freelance guide in and around The Royal Pavilion since 2000. Her talk was entitled 'Secrets of the Brighton Royal Pavilion' and she gave a fascinating insight into the history of this very unusual building.

It started as a small house rented by King George IV when he was Prince of Wales. He then bought the tiny '2 up- 2 down' house and had it extended to entertain his mistress Mrs Fitzherbert, who was 6 years his senior. They were secretly married in 1785 and the house was extended several times by many famous architects including John Nash. It was finished in 1823 when George was King. The decorations were lavish and costly, mimicking Indian architecture and Chinese interiors even though George himself had never travelled further than Belgium and Germany! His secret marriage was never recognised so he continued keeping Mrs Fitzherbert in Brighton during his 10 year reign and childless marriage. His successors, William IV and Queen Victoria continued using The Royal Pavilion until 1846 – Victoria's last visit. The council then bought it and it has been used as a hospital, a convalescence home for British soldiers who lost limbs and was opened to the public after the first World War at sixpence a head! It has since been totally refurbished to a very high standard and is a tourist delight! The gardens are used all year round. They are always beautiful, even though there is only one gardener and the rest is done by volunteers!

After tea and cakes Irene Scoble gave her delegate's report on the Federation meeting in Hastings.

On April 4th the Lunch Club ate Italian food at Pomodoros before 25 of them enjoyed a matinee performance of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' at the Devonshire Park Theatre.

The Craft Club met in St Barnabus Church hall, Langney at 2pm on the 16th April to continue with their greetings cards. The 4th Monday Club was held on the following Monday in Simply Italian at 2pm for a cup of coffee and a chat.

The Spring Marshdown Meeting is being held on the 3rd May, in the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club, hosted by the Harbour WI; and Christmas Lunch has been booked for the 12th December in the Horizon Suite of the View Hotel.

A talk and afternoon tea has been arranged at Lime Cross Nursery on May 23rd and the Lunch Club will meet at King's Restaurant, Sussex Downs College on 6th June.

The May Meeting will be held in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club on the 14th May at 2pm. Liz Tretheway is going to talk about Demelza – the Children's Hospice and it is also the Resolution meeting. This will be followed by a quiz!

The Harbour WI membership has reached a maximum for the premises where it is held but visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on the website: www.shra.co.uk/wi