

THE HARBOUR W.I.

President Sandie Goman welcomed three visitors to the Harbour WI July meeting. Sandie congratulated member Julie Stone for having two of her photos used in next year's WI Calendar - November and December!

Secretary Daphne Chamberlain then read out various correspondences from the East Sussex Federation and gave details of next years Federation trip to Denman College.

The afternoon's speaker was introduced by Irene Scoble. There was a change of programme; from 'A History of Shopping' to 'A Lifetime in Aviation'. Unfortunately the booked speaker had to cancel and recommended Peter Griffiths to take her place. He spoke about his 45 years of flying, having started by applying at the age of 16 to train as a pilot with BEA or BOAC. He was not accepted – there were 110,000 applicants! – so he tried the RAF and was offered a scholarship. Having finished the course he reapplied to BOAC, [who by then had merged with BEA], as he preferred the aircraft they were using. He was accepted and flew Boeing 707-436s ... the first aircraft to be fitted with Rolls Royce engines. They did not however have GPS and had a periscopic sextant through the roof which had to be checked every 20 minutes! He continued his career working for Cathay Pacific and gained his command in under 5 years. The average time with BOAC was 19-20 years. He at first flew Lockheed 1011 Tristars and then Boeing 747s [Jumbo Jets] to Hong Kong until his retirement. Peter's 'Lifetime in Aviation' was achieved in spite of his fear of heights!

Beryl Foster from Sovereign WI was the link delegate for the National WI Conference in Cardiff and gave the members her detailed and amusing report on the meeting which she attended with Jill Overton.

The Craft Club met at St Barnabus Church on the 16th July to continue with their appliqué. There will no Craft Club next month.

The Lunch Club went to The Smugglers in Pevensey on the 25th July and the 4th Monday Club met at Simply Italian for coffee and a chat. Christmas Lunch has been booked for the 12th December in the Horizon Suite of the View Hotel. Arrangements are also being made for a trip and tour of Brighton Pavilion.

There is no August meeting and the September meeting will be held in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club on the 10th September at 2pm, when Kevin Gordon will be talking about 'Sussex Graves and Gravestones'! There will also be an Autumn sales table.

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 S.H.R.A. website.

www.shra.co.uk/wi