

THE HARBOUR WI

It was the Annual Meeting of the Harbour WI and President Diane Beere welcomed 58 members and 3 visitors.

The Speaker was Alan Wenham who gave an illustrated talk about the History of the Crumbles. The name came from when it was a wild, desolate, empty stretch of land consisting of loose, coarse shingle and small irregular ponds known as Crumble Ponds. The area stretched from Queens Hotel to what has become Sovereign Harbour in the east. Alan showed maps of how the sea levels had changed over the years – from right back when the UK was joined to Europe to when the Martello Towers were built during the Napoleonic wars.

Over the years the land has been defended from the Saxons, the French [several times] and the Germans. The land also has a history of; smuggling, a few murders! and the shingle was used for railway lines all over the country. It was even the site of an Aircraft Factory building seaplanes in 1911 and an Isolation Hospital for smallpox sufferers in 1940.

The development of the Crumbles was talked about as far back as 1887; but it wasn't until 1967 that there was a plan for a Harbour Village and then 1990 before it was agreed that Tarmac could dig out a harbour and build 3,000 homes. It was eventually officially opened in 1993. It is now the largest Marina in Northern Europe.

Unfortunately, Alan's talk was interrupted by a member's medical emergency and an ambulance being called.

After tea, it was time for the Annual Meeting. The Financial Report, Committee Annual Report and the President's Report were all read out, voted on and unanimously agreed before Jacquie Frost presided over voting for the new committee. Four retiring committee members were thanked for their services and three members willing to stand for committee, together with the existing members, were voted in en bloc. Voting for a President was overseen by Jacquie and Diane Beere was duly re-elected as President for 2026/2027.

Jacquie Frost launched a new Theatre Group with suggestions for the coming months of Mama Mia, High Society, A Picture of Dorian Grey and possibly the Pantomime.

The following dates were noted:

Craft Club	Monday 15 th June at Sandie's house
Lunch Club	Tuesday 16 th June at the Hydro Hotel
Family History Club	Monday 22 nd June at Sue's house
Coffee Morning	Tuesday 23 rd June in Seasons
Knit and Natter	Wednesday 24 th June at the Maris View Care Home
Book Club	4 th July at the Maris View Care Home

The President distributed birthday cards and thanked the tea ladies and raffle organisers; and the raffle was drawn.

The next meeting is on the 13th July at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. The theme for the afternoon will be 'A Strawberry Celebration' and members are being asked to wear something red! Information on the Harbour WI can be found on our webpages on the SHRA website: www.shra.co.uk/wi

