

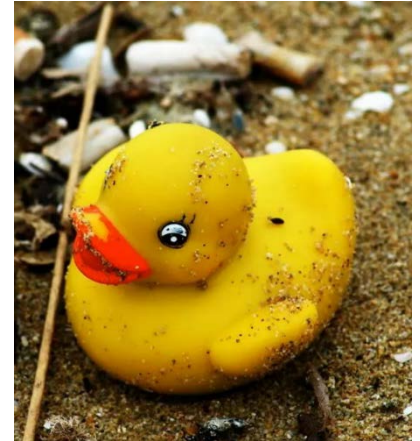
THE HARBOUR W.I.

62 members and one visitor were welcomed to the Harbour WI's January Meeting.

Diana Groot Copp introduced Andy Dinsdale to give an illustrated talk about Beachcombing and Messages in Bottles. Andy has lived on the coast for about 20 years and since 2005 has been involved with a company called 'Strandliners'. They do surveys and record their finds for scientific and forensic research. This can help with pollution, conservation and wildlife.

A 'strandline' is the line of debris and vegetation left on beaches with the rise and fall of the tide. Beachcombers pick through these lines to discover all sorts of interesting items and then research where they may have come from and how they got there!

Andy's passion is to find a Sea Bean. These have been known to float for up to 30 years before being washed up on British beaches. Christopher Columbus found one on his Voyage of Discovery 300 years ago! Most finds are from containers that have been washed overboard - including 62,000 Nike trainers and 28,800 yellow plastic ducks!!



The destinations of all these objects have helped produce predictive software to establish where and when things will wash up. Norsemen were casting Drift Casks overboard in the 10th Century to see where to settle. Guinness used this for marketing by throwing 50,000 sealed bottles into the sea and offering prizes to finders. Andy had a table displaying many unusual items he had found over the years - including a Sea Bean!

After tea members voted on the resolution put forward by the National Federation. Four committee members outlined the suggestions. It was unanimously voted to 'Say NO to Gambling Advertising'; Jackie Stevens then asked members to sign up for an outing to Amberly living museum in June and Bev Roberts asked members to put their names down for 6 bursaries on offer!

Committee member Nicky Clifford who took over running the monthly Lunch Club organised a very successful lunch at the Beachy Head Hotel on 17th January.

The Crafty Ladies are at Sandie Goman's house on the 22nd January and the Fourth Tuesday Club will meet on 23rd January.

The pantomime Beauty and the Beast at the Devonshire Park Theatre on January 10th was much enjoyed by about 20 members.

The next meeting is on Monday February 12th at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. The speaker will be Jackie Marsh-Hobbs sharing her Passion for Piers.

Information on the Harbour WI can be found on the S.H.R.A. website.

www.shra.co.uk/wi/