

THE HARBOUR W.I.

The January meeting was surprisingly busy with eight guests, who were mostly potential new members, attending. It was the Resolutions meeting, when a vote is taken to decide which resolution should go forward to the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of WIs. It was unanimously voted to promote the increase of Stem Cell donor registration.

The afternoon continued on a lighter note with a Musical Quiz arranged by Irene Scoble who couldn't be there due to ill health. Very sadly Irene passed away later that week.

At the next meeting in February, President Sandie Goman spoke with great fondness about Irene and her substantial contribution to the Harbour WI. She had become Secretary very quickly after joining and had served for three years before becoming Programme Secretary in recent years. Former President Hiliary Hooper also said a few words about Irene. She called her 'My Rock' and praised her for all her help and support during her time as President. The members then had a minute's silence to remember Irene.

After secretary Daphne Chamberlain had read out the correspondence, Jackie Stevens introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Paul Green – and his dog Charlie! Paul introduced himself as a Dog Handler and Trainer. He has been doing the job for 12 years. He explained that Charlie was a Lowland Search Dog specialising in explosives detection. Whereas a human nose has 3 million sensors, a dog's nose has 100 million! – and they can detect smells as they breath out as well as in!! He has different dogs for different purposes. Dogs for detecting decomposing human remains, dogs for detecting bed bugs in hotels, guard dogs, drug detection and search and rescue dogs. He is training a dog at the moment for the illegal pet trade. [to sniff out rare species at Heathrow Airport.] Dogs are also being used for early detection of medical conditions such as cancer. They take about a year to eighteen months to train with tennis balls, never food, and are best started from the age of 12 months. Paul then fetched his drug detection dog, Wallace and sent him to find a package he had hidden in a handbag earlier. He soon found it!

The Lunch Club are going to the Ocean View in Pevensey on the 26th February. The Craft Club are meeting at St.Barnabas Church Hall on the 24th February at 2pm to do some needle felting and the 4th Monday Club meets in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat.

The Harbour WI meets every 2nd Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. The Speaker at the March meeting is Peter Griffiths giving a talk about Champagne! The membership at the Harbour has reached a maximum for where it is held but visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Further information is available on the S.H.R.A. website. www.shra.co.uk/wi