

THE HARBOUR W.I.

Little did the members know that the March meeting of the Harbour WI would be their last for a very long time! There was a good turn out for a very busy meeting.

Committee member Jane Bradley told the members about proposed outings to Herstmonceux Castle, Amberley Museum and a possible back stage tour of the Royal Hippodrome Theatre; all to compliment future talks.

An Easter Egg and Teddy were raffled to raise funds for the RNLI in the name of Programme Secretary Irene Scoble who sadly died in February. Cards made by Irene and President Sandie Goman were also sold with proceeds going to the same charity. Letters were read out from The Beachy Head Chaplaincy and St Wilfred's Hospice thanking members for donations following the Carol Service and bags of toiletries continue to be made for the Eastbourne Women's Refuge.

Jackie Stevens then introduced the speaker Peter Griffiths who gave an illustrated talk on 'The History of Champagne' Peter had talked to the members before about his life as a commercial airline pilot. This time he revealed to them his passion for fine wines – especially Champagne! He showed slides of a fossil of a grape 66 million years old, and the oldest bottle of wine; thought to date from 325-350AD! Champagne started being made and drunk much later. It was possibly started by accident when wine was left to ferment too long and began a second fermentation which formed bubbles. The English liked the bubbles so monks started putting sugar in to form bubbles. This was 100 years before Dom Perignon who was supposed to have invented Champagne! Dom Perignon was a Cellar Master for the house of Moet et Chandon in 1668 and he was a wine blender who tried to stop the bubbles forming. Nearly a century after his death Moet started making Champagne. Various French wine houses started making it as well and the government protected it by passing laws that only allowed certain areas to call it Champagne. This increased the popularity – and the price! According to Peter the bubbles aid absorption and make it a drink that can be drunk at any time! Cheers!



The Lunch Club were going to The Pilot in Meads and the Craft Club intended making cards using Iris Folding; both had to be cancelled.

The Harbour WI normally meets every 2nd Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. At the moment everything is on hold until further notice. The membership at the Harbour has reached a maximum for where it is held but visitors are welcome when they start meeting again, 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