

THE HARBOUR W.I.

President Jacquie Frost welcomed 59 members and one visitor to the March meeting of the Harbour WI.

Jacquie then introduced the speaker, Pete Allen, who told members about '*The Tingling Tales of Theatre Ghosts*'.

In 1986 Pete worked backstage at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane as a flyman – someone who supervises the movements of the scenery. He showed pictures of himself with several well known celebrities including Catherine Zeta-Jones! The Theatre Royal Drury Lane is said to be the most haunted in the world with over 2,000 accounts of ghost's appearances. There have been many reported sightings of Dan Leno (pictured) doing his clog dance. Peter Sellers says he saw him! People have also heard the grand piano lid slamming, statues have disappeared, and there has been a smell of lavender. Pete had himself experienced sounds, smells and things [or ghosts?] brushing past him! - but explained that it is very dark when the lights go out, in fact pitch black, so very easy to trip or bump in to something and let your imagination take over!



Actors are a very superstitious lot and are notorious for their traditions i.e. 'Break a Leg'; 'The Scottish Play'; and 'No Whistling Backstage' etc. etc. Pete explained that most of these can be reasonably explained. Not all!? Some ghosts haunt many theatres. They tend to be recently deceased characters from the era. Pete suggested that maybe tomorrow's ghosts could be those of Bruce Forsyth or Cilla Black? Interesting?

Diana Groot Copp thanked Pete for his very entertaining talk.

During tea Jackie Stevens went round raffling an Easter Bunny with an egg and raised over £50 for charity. It was won by Anne Kiernan.

In a change of policy members with birthdays before the next meeting were given cards by Jacquie Frost, to save on postage costs.

After tea Secretary Bev Roberts read out the correspondence; the Crafty Ladies are at Sandie Goman's house on the 18th March; the Lunch Club is going to The Royal Oak and Castle in Pevensey the next day, the 19th March and the Fourth Tuesday Club will meet on 26th March from 10.30-12.00 at Seasons.

The next meeting is on Monday 8th April at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. The speaker will be Oliver Sterno talking about 'Plastic Free Eastbourne'.

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

www.shra.co.uk/wi