

THE HARBOUR W.I.

Snow prevented the Members of the Harbour W.I. from meeting in January, so the February Meeting on the 8th was a very busy one.

65 Members and one visitor listened to a fascinating talk by Victoria Joyce about the 'Frost Fairs of London Bridge' on the River Thames during the 17-19th century. The first of these Ice Fairs was held in 1683 and went on for two months! The River Thames was frozen over for all that time!

Victoria had stepped in at short notice due to illness to give this very topical talk and will be next month's speaker again with a talk on 'There's a Story in Everyone – You can Write It'.

The Meeting continued with the Ladies voting for a late Resolution and also for Trustees for the East Sussex Federation.

Gill Nokes, the Social Secretary, told the Members about future events with a lunch and cookery demonstration at the Langham Hotel on the 25th February, an 'Open Day' at Debenhams with a fashion show on the 5th March and a planned trip to Battle and Batemans - home of Rudyard Kipling - on the 22nd March.

The coach trip to Westfield Shopping Centre and other London venues on the 19th of January had been a great success.

The Craft Club meets on the 15th February at Pevensey Bay Baptist Church Hall when they plan to start knitting scarves, mittens and bobble hats for the 'Mustard Seed' charity. The charity sends shoe boxes covered in Christmas paper and filled with 'goodies' to under-privileged children in the Ukraine, Romania and Moldova.

The Ten Pin Bowling team will meet at the end of the month at Lloyd Lanes in Eastbourne.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. Next month's meeting will be on the 8th March with Victoria Joyce encouraging us all to write a book!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

For further information please contact Freda Stalker on 471798

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“The Other Side of the W.I.” is a book of short stories written and published by ladies of the Waldren W.I. Two of these ladies, Victoria Joyce and Beth Simons addressed the monthly meeting of the Harbour W.I. on Monday.8th March.

After explaining how the book was started and eventually published they read out passages from the book to show how different all the stories are. 63 members and 5 guests were encouraged to form a ‘Writing Group’ and to maybe write their own stories.

Then groups of ladies were given key words and told to come up with the skeleton of a short story. The results were amazing! There really is ‘A Story In Everyone’, which was the theme for the afternoon.

The Meeting continued with the President, Freda Stalker, presenting cards to members with Birthdays in the coming month and thanking Margaret Williams for organizing another very successful and enjoyable Lunch and Cookery Demonstration at the Langham Hotel on the 25th February.

Gill Nokes, the Social Secretary, reminded the members about the ‘Open Day’ at Debenhams on the 22nd April with a fashion show and asked if any more ladies would like to be included in the forthcoming trip to Battle and Batemans on the 22nd March.

The Craft Club meets on the 16th March at Pevensey Bay Baptist Church Hall where they are continuing to knit scarves, mittens and bobble hats for the ‘Mustard Seed’ charity. The charity sends shoe boxes covered in Christmas paper and filled with ‘goodies’ to under-privileged children in the Ukraine, Romania and Moldova.

The Ten Pin Bowling team will meet at the beginning of next month at Lloyd Lanes in Eastbourne.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. Next month’s Meeting will be on the 12th April with Simon Hurt giving a talk on “Container Gardening – Creating Colour and Style” – just in time for Spring! We hope!

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A trip to Battle and Batemans on the 22nd March gave the ladies of the Harbour W.I. a taste of Spring. Battle is a very pretty little town filled with flowers and at Rudyard Kipling's home, Batemans, the crocuses and daffodils were all in bud, as were the magnificent magnolias.

The April Meeting on the 11th April carried on with the promise of Spring as the speaker was Simon Hurt who has been looking after Eastbourne Parks and Gardens since 1998. He talked about the advantages of 'Container Gardening' in our modern small gardens and how to make them colourful and varied. He showed slides of some of the beautiful hanging baskets and pots of flowers in and around Eastbourne. He then answered the many questions the ladies had about planting, feeding etc!

The Membership Secretary, Frances Harrap stood in for President Freda Stalker who is away. She introduced Heather Hyrapiet to give an account of the Annual East Sussex Federation Council Meeting which was held at the Congress on the 24th March. Heather gave all the Ladies who didn't attend a feeling that they had definitely missed out. She ended up by saying that it was "The Best Meeting Ever"!

Social secretary Gill Nokes again reminded the 53 members and 1 guest present at the meeting about the 'Open Day' at Debenhams on the 22nd April with a fashion show, complimentary refreshments and raffle. She reminded them too about next month's outing to Leonardslee on 20th May. It may be the last chance to visit these lovely gardens before they are taken over by their new owners. Gill also gave the Ladies a taste of things to come with lunch at the Wheatsheaf in Little Common, a theatre trip to see 'Calendar Girls' and cream tea on The Bluebell Railway – a busy Summer!

The Craft Club meets on the 18th April at Pevensey Bay Baptist Church Hall where they are going to be shown how to make very attractive fabric brooches as well as continuing to knit scarves, mittens and bobble hats for the 'Mustard Seed' charity. Lisa Smart, Director of Mustard Seed, was at the meeting to thank the Ladies for their continuing help and told them about the happy smiles of the children they take the 'Love in a Box' gifts to at Christmas.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. Next month's Meeting will be on the 10th May and is the annual Resolution Meeting followed by a 'Quirky Quiz'!

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After welcoming 7 visitors and 57 members to the May meeting of the Harbour W.I., the President, Freda Stalker asked which of the many proposed resolutions the Ladies would like to see taken to the National Federation of Women's Institute's AGM in Cardiff.

They voted unanimously for two very similar proposals. One to call on Her Majesty's Government to limit imports of foreign foods and promote local produce; and the other asking for clearer labelling of food to give the country of origin and not just the last country to process the food.

With the serious business of voting over, Freda went on to tell the Ladies the good news that a Bursary for £300 had been won in a raffle at a meeting with Westham W. I. and that a winning name was to be picked out of a hat in the next couple of months.

Gill Nokes, the Social Secretary, reminded the Ladies about the trip to Leonardslee on the 20th May and the Wheatsheaf Lunch on the 17th June. The theatre trip to see "Calendar Girls" is a sell-out, as is the Coffee Morning at the Grand, and that's not until October! She also plans an outing to the Brick Lane Music Hall in November – so lots to look forward to!

Gill's sister, Carol Kirby, devised a 'Quirky Quiz' to entertain the Ladies after tea. Teams of six had to answer 50 very diverse questions. The winning team each received a bottle of wine. They obviously knew what a baby spider was called and how to spell 'fuchsia'!!

The Craft Club met on the 17th May at Pevensey Bay Baptist Church Hall and founding President, Heather Hyrapiet, gave a workshop on 'Sugarcraft'. Those who took part all went home with a delightful 'Rose Posy'. All their own work! Very satisfying!

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Harbour Yacht Club. Next month's Meeting will be on the 14th June and is a talk by Dr. Sheila Innes about her life in the BBC entitled "Are You Sitting Comfortably?"

The Membership for The Harbour W.I. has reached a maximum for the premises where it is held, but there is a waiting list for anybody who wishes to join in the future.

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The June meeting of the Harbour W.I. began on a very sad note when a minutes silence was held in remembrance of Joyce Kruger, a founder member, who died the previous week.

The President, Freda Stalker, reminded the 58 Members and 4 visitors about the £300 bursary which was won at the meeting with Westham W.I. in April. This is going in to a draw after the next meeting, so it was the last but one chance to put their names in the hat.

Speaker, Dr. Sheila Innes, then held all the Ladies enthralled when she told them about her days working behind the scenes at the BBC. She entitled her talk 'Are You Sitting Comfortably' referring to the afternoon radio program 'Listen With Mother' which always included a short story. This began with the storyteller saying – 'Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.' Most of the Ladies remembered it well!

Social Secretary, Gill Nokes, told everyone about events coming up including a sell-out trip to the theatre on July 15th to see 'Calendar Girls' and on the 16th August, a Summer Outing to Sheffield Park Gardens followed by a Cream Tea on the Bluebell Railway, also a sell-out. Gill managed to get more places for the Coffee Morning at the Grand in October and says that the Brick Lane Music Hall in November is attracting a lot of interest. Busy times ahead! A very enjoyable lunch was enjoyed by 22 members at the Wheatsheaf in Little Common on the 17th June.

The Craft Club met on the 21st June to make bookmarks and glasses cases, with a lot of help from Correspondence Secretary, Christine French! They meet every 3rd Monday in the month at the Pevensey Bay Baptist Church Hall. And the Bowling Club met at Lloyds Lanes on the 28th June. It was the hottest day of the year so far – thank goodness for air-conditioning!

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. Next month's Meeting will be on the 12th July when the speaker will be "The Pampered Chef", Anna Young. Sounds intriguing!

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'The Pampered Chef', Anna Young gave a demonstration of her kitchen and baking gadgets to 66 members and 10 guests at the Harbour W.I. on Monday, 12th July. Two volunteers helped her to create some delicious looking gateaux which were then eaten during the coffee break.

With no August meeting arranged, the Ladies decided to have an outing instead to Sheffield Park Gardens on Monday, the 16th August. They visited the Gardens in the morning and went on to The Bluebell Railway in the afternoon for a cream tea. The weather looked very ominous as they left Sovereign Harbour by coach, but turned out to be a beautiful day with the only complaint being that they had to carry their coats around all day!

September started in style with a three-course lunch on the 6th September at the Langham Hotel and a Mannequin Show given by 'La Boutique' and 'The Very Nice Handbag Company'. Thirty Ladies from The Harbour W.I. together with fifty Ladies from the Ladies Lunch Club raised £120.00 for the charity for Eastbourne General District Hospital.

September's Meeting on the 13th September saw the return of a popular speaker for the 59 members and 5 guests. Michael Wynn-Jones astounded the Ladies with the accuracy of 'Numerology'. She de-coded their birth dates to reveal insights into their life styles, talents, relationships etc. Those who ended up being a number 9 turned out to have 'Been Round the Block' a few times!

The Bowling Club met at Lloyd Lanes on Monday, the 20th September in the morning and in the afternoon the Craft Club met to be shown how to make beaded bracelets by one of their members, Pat Chatterton. With a lot of help and encouragement from Pat, the Ladies were all very pleased with the results. Everyone went home with a pretty home-made bracelet, much to their own [and Pat's!] surprise. They didn't know they were so talented!

Busy times ahead

- a Coffee Morning at the Grand Hotel on the 20th October
- Christmas at Bricklane Music Hall on the 18th November
- Christmas Lunch at Cooden Beach Hotel on the 3rd December
- and that's just 2010!!

Next month's meeting on the 11th October will be the 3rd Birthday of the Harbour W.I. and will be a Cheese and Wine Tasting by Cooden Wine Cellars.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club.

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The Third Birthday of the Harbour W.I. was well celebrated with a 'Cheese and Wine' party enjoyed by 60 members and 10 visitors on Monday 11th October. Ian Jarman and associate, Richard from Cooden Cellars Independent Wine Merchants of Eastbourne gave the Ladies a very entertaining and informative wine tasting of 8 wines from all over the world. They certainly knew their subject and the Ladies each went home knowing a little more about how to choose the right wine.

Gill Noakes, Social Secretary, reminded the Ladies about the Coffee Morning at the Grand Hotel on the 25th October and Christmas at Bricklane Music Hall on the 18th November, which are both fully subscribed. She has been able to increase the numbers for the Christmas Lunch at the Cooden Beach Hotel on the 3rd December and informed the Ladies about future events – a trip to Bluewater for shopping in January (for the Sales?!) and a performance of Hairspray at the Congress in February. Lots to look forward to!

Member Pat Chatterton continued showing the Ladies of the Craft Club how to make beaded bracelets on Monday the 18th October. Word had got round and Pat had 15 very enthusiastic novices to steer in the right direction. She must have gone home exhausted! They all went home with very pretty homemade bracelets! The Craft Club meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at Pevensy Bay Baptist Church Hall at 2pm. Next month, on the 15th November, President Freda Stalker is going to show the Ladies how to make quilted coasters and serviette rings.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Harbour Yacht Club. Next month's Meeting will be on the 9th November and is the Annual Meeting followed by a talk by Kathy Fordham entitled 'A Boiler Suit and a White Coat' – all about her unusual farm life.

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The AGM of the Harbour W.I. was held on Monday the 9th November in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club.

Despite the torrential rain, 66 Members and 7 Visitors turned out to see the existing committee re-elected for another year. President, Freda Stalker, agreed to do a third year in spite of maybe moving to another town in the very near future! The Annual Report was read by Minutes Secretary, Wendy Roberts who gave a glowing report of a very successful year. Treasurer, Jill Hughes reported a good year, with the accounts breaking even, even though there have been plenty of treats for the Members!

In her President's Report, Freda Stalker also said how successful the year had been with an average of 61 Members attending each Meeting. She went on to thank the Committee Members individually and then the Ladies who volunteer each month to do the teas, the raffle and the competition, not forgetting the ones who help to 'Meet and Greet' visitors every month. Without all the volunteers the Committee's job would become a bit of a chore!

Gill Nokes reported a very enjoyable Coffee Morning at the Grand Hotel and reminded Ladies to pick up their tickets for Brick Lane Music Hall on the 17th November - the coach leaves at 8am!! - also the menus for the Christmas Lunch at Cooden Beach Hotel on Friday, the 3rd December. She is still taking bookings for the Bluewater shopping trip on the 13th January and the theatre trip to see Hairspray on February 17th. That's the beginning of another busy year coming up - 2011!!

The speaker for the afternoon was Kathy Fordham, a tenant farmer from Bradford Farm at Little Horstead near Uckfield. She regaled the Ladies with some hilarious tales of life on the farm, changing clothes occasionally to demonstrate her many different roles. Various tools and other bits and pieces were passed around the hall as well, including 'elastrators' used to castrate bull calves!

Harbour Craft Club met at Pevensey Bay Baptist Church Hall on Monday, 15th November to make quilted Christmas coasters with a lot of guidance from Freda Stalker, the President.

Next month's Meeting is the Christmas one on the 13th December. There is going to be musical entertainment from Joy Lewis and Derrick Hughes.

The Bowling Club is meeting at Lloyds Lanes on Monday, 29th November.

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For further information please contact Frances Harrap on 01323 472649

THE HARBOUR W.I.

A record number of Ladies turned up for the Christmas Meeting of The Harbour W.I. on Monday 13th December. Sixty seven Members, one new Member and three Guests enjoyed a very busy afternoon.

President Freda Stalker informed the Ladies of her move to Heathfield on the 17th December – brave Lady! – and her hope for good weather on the day [no snow!!].

Treasurer, Jill Hughes reported a healthy financial state for the end of the year and Social Secretary, Gill Nokes expressed regret for having to cancel the Christmas Lunch at Cooden Beach Hotel on the 3rd December because of the weather. This is now re-scheduled for 21st January 2011. Also in January is a shopping trip to Bluewater for the sales! February has a theatre outing to see ‘Hairspray’ at the Congress Theatre and a Coffee Morning at the Grand Hotel and there are already plans in the pipeline for March and even June!

Several Ladies brought mince pies, sausage rolls and shortbread which they all donated to make the afternoon more festive while they were entertained to a ‘Musical Journey’ through the British Isles given by Joy Lewis and Derrick Hughes.

The couple brought a large selection of very unusual instruments dating from the 15th century. They ranged from stringed instruments to wind instruments and even included a Celtic Harp which was beautifully played by Joy. They kept everyone highly entertained with their musical abilities and very amusing narrative. Their humour and enthusiasm put all the Ladies in the mood for the Christmas Carol ‘Sing-a-long’ accompanied by bagpipes!!

The afternoon finished with the raffle and a ‘guess the name’ of the Teddy, who turned out to be a seasonal ‘Nicholas’, which nobody got right!

A Carol Concert was held on Wednesday 15th December at Christ the King Church for the Marshdown Group which is a combination of local W.I.s

There was no December meeting of the Craft Club but they will be meeting again on January 17th to make Lavender Bags. They meet every 3rd Monday in the month at Pevensey Baptist Church Hall at 2pm.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm. The next Meeting will be on the 10th January and will be a talk on ‘Quilting’.

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