

THE HARBOUR W.I.

‘The Last Voyage of the Queen Mary’ was the title for David Clark’s talk to the Ladies for their January meeting. David had been one of 8 Radio Officers on board for this memorable trip in 1967. He gave a fascinating talk about the history of the beautiful liner – from the ordering by Cunard Steam Ship Co. in 1926; the building by John Brown’s Ship Builders; the launching and naming by Queen Mary in 1934; to the last voyage on 31st October 1967. She had been a sophisticated ship for her era. The ‘posh’ cabins had telephones! Cunard had run out of money during the building, so our government had stepped in with 4 million pounds of public money and Cunard joined forces with White Star Shipping to become the ‘Cunard White Star Line’. She was used as a Troop Carrier in the 2nd World War – to bring the G.I.s over – and then to take them back in 1947. She won the ‘Blue Ribbon’ for the fastest time across the Atlantic and was used regularly by many famous people including King Edward VIII. She was eventually sold to Long Beach in Southern California for £1,250,000. The ticket sales alone for the last voyage made more than that! Also being transported on board, on deck, were 2 London Red Buses and the passengers were fighting for a seat on one of them as the ship rounded Cape Horn – just so they could say they had gone round Cape Horn on a bus!

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. On the 10th February, the speaker, Derrick Hughes, is going to tell the Ladies about his 17 years as a Headmaster. In keeping with the theme, the competition for the month is to finish a limerick which starts “There was a school teacher from”!! This month’s competition was to see how many items would fit into a matchbox and was won by Carole Kilby with 127 items!?!

The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. The meeting on the 17th February is to make sugar roses with Heather Hyrapiet – always very popular. January’s Lunch Club is going to The Moorings on the 30th January and the 4th Monday Club met in Simply Italian on 27th January to discuss future activities. The new Social Secretary, Margaret Stanbridge, told the Ladies that she has a Coffee Morning planned for the Grand Hotel in March and a ‘Bring and Buy’ at the Langham Hotel for April as well as many Federation outings.

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February's competition for the Harbour W.I. was to write a limerick starting with – "There was a head teacher from Rye".... – this was because their speaker for the month was Derrick Hughes who spoke about 17 years as a Head Master. He was very amused by the winning verse; written by Frances Harrap :-

“ There was a head teacher from Rye
Who gave talks to the W.I.
The Ladies were enthralled
By the tales he recalled
And were sad when he waved them bye bye”

-which summed up his speech!

Member Hiliary Hooper then gave the Ladies a quick talk on the work of ACWW - which stands for The Associated Country Women of the World – and is the charity that any proceeds from the competitions go to.

Another Member, Hilary Lewis, spoke to the members about a patchwork quilt the Harbour W.I. hope to make to raise funds for a local charity, the JPK Project. Members were asked if they agreed to supporting this charity and also if they had any materials to donate to start the project.

Social Secretary, Margaret Stanbridge, told the Ladies that she has a Coffee Morning planned for the Grand Hotel on March 18th and a 'Bring and Buy' at the Langham Hotel on May 22nd, as well as many Federation outings. The 4th Monday Club met at Simply Italian on the 24th February for a game of "Who Am I?".

The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month and the meeting on the 17th February was to make sugar cake decorations with Heather Hyrapiet – always very popular. Each very proud Lady went home with beautiful floral decorations!

February's Lunch Club was in Simply Italian on Valentine's Day. The food was lovely and the occasion was made extra special with music from a brilliant young Italian pianist and singer called Salvatore De Concilis.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. The speaker at the March meeting will be Irene Eltringham-Wilson talking about 'Sussex Gardens 2014' and the Ladies are going to dress in floral clothes and bring a floral arrangement in a mug for their monthly competition.

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Information is also available on the S.H.R.A. website.

www.shra.co.uk/wi

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Sussex National Garden Scheme is run entirely by volunteers and since it's foundation has raised thousands of pounds for charity. Private gardens are opened to the public for a small fee which usually includes a delicious tea!

The County Organiser for East and Mid Sussex, Irene Eltringham-Willson, was the guest speaker for the March meeting of the Harbour W.I. Her own garden is near Herstmonceux and as well as opening her garden several times a year for the Scheme, Irene has 'Bed and Breakfast' and also live jazz [supplied by her musician husband] during the month of August!

She showed photos of her beautiful grounds at different times of the year with several very unusual features – such as a 'Poison Garden' and a secret 'Jungle Garden'. She explained that the gardens ranged from very small to very large and more were being added every year. The Ladies were left feeling that a visit to any one of the 129 gardens in the area would be lovely! The competition for the month was a flower arrangement in a mug and was won by Marion Charlton.

The Lunch Club had a change and went to a Coffee Morning at the Grand Hotel on the 18th March, with a few of the Ladies going on to lunch at the Harvester. And the 4th Monday Club met in Simply Italian for a Quiz afternoon.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. Next month, on the 14th April, speaker Jackie Marsh-Hobbs is giving a talk about the 'The Heyday of Hastings Pier' – a look back at its life. The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. The April meeting will continue with last month's 'Blackwork' and will be on the 28th April because of Easter. The Lunch Club are going to The Royal Oak in Pevensey on the 29th April. There will be more information about the 4th Monday Club at the next meeting and a 'Bring and Buy' tea is planned for the 22nd May at the Langham Hotel.

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“The Heyday of Hastings Pier” was the speaker’s subject for the Ladies of the Harbour W.I. at their April meeting. Jackie Marsh-Hobbs gave a very interesting talk as she looked back at the pier’s life since it was built in 1872. It was built by the great Victorian engineer Eugenius Birch with all the cast iron being made in Glasgow. He was a pioneer in building piers made of iron, his first being Margate Pier in 1855. Hastings Pier was 910 feet long with seats all the way round, a Pavilion at the end, a Bandstand – with its own band - and landing stages for steam boats. There was a Theatre and entertainment along the whole length. ‘Bicycle Divers’ was a very popular and regular event! A fire destroyed the pier in 1915 and it was rebuilt in time for a ‘Troops Concert’ for returning troops in 1916. Unfortunately it was set on fire again by children in 2010 and is yet to be rebuilt. A trust has been set up to raise funds to restore it to its former glory.

The afternoon continued with Christine Bateman giving the Ladies a précis of the East Sussex Federation’s ACM held at the Winter Gardens on the 24th March. Programme secretary, Jacquie Frost, then told them about her trip to Denman College in January. Jacquie won the bursary draw for £300 and decided on a cookery course at Denman which she thoroughly enjoyed and would definitely recommend!

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. Next month is the Resolution Meeting on the 12th May, followed by ‘Speed Chatting’ – getting to know fellow members. The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. At the May meeting they made beaded cards. The Lunch Club are going to The Royal Oak and Castle in Pevensey on the 29th April and the Two Trees at Little Common on the 16th May. There will be more information about the 4th Monday Club at the next meeting and a ‘Bring and Buy’ tea is planned for the 22nd May at the Langham Hotel. Other future plans include Jan’s Garden Party on the 22nd July in aid of the local charity ‘The JPK Project’ and a trip to Chichester to the theatre to see ‘Guys and Dolls’ on the 27th August.

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The May meeting was held a week later than usual, on the 19th May, due to unforeseen circumstances. This led to the Craft Club being cancelled and, as it's a bank holiday, the 4th Monday Club was also cancelled! This was made up for by the Lunch Club having two outings – lunch at the Two Trees at Little Common on the 16th May and a 'Bring and Buy' plus Afternoon Tea on the 22nd May at the Langham Hotel with proceeds going to the Harbour W.I.'s chosen charity. Both were very much enjoyed by all who attended.

The meeting on the 19th May was the 'Resolution Meeting', where members voted on the chosen resolution – 'To Support Organ Donation' - after a discussion and a short talk by Julie Stone concerning her personal experience of organ donation.

This was followed by a bit of fun! – 'Speed Chatting'! With a glass of wine and some nibbles, members were encouraged to change tables and chat to other people, so that they could get to know more members. With 110 members, it can be difficult to chat to everyone! There was a lot of laughter and 'chatting'!! – No-one wanted to go home.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. Next month the speaker will be Gary Enstone on the 'Life and Times of Rudyard Kipling'.

The Craft Club meets in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. At the June meeting they will be continuing with their cards and perfumed cushions.

The Lunch Club are going to The Heron in Westham on the 30th June. There will be more information about the 4th Monday Club at the next meeting.

Other future plans include Jan's Garden Party on the 22nd July in aid of the local charity 'The JPK Project' and a trip to Chichester to the theatre to see 'Guys and Dolls' on the 27th August. The 'Quilt Project' is making progress under the guidance of Hilary Lewis, who gave out patchwork kits. The next patchwork evening will be on the 27th May.

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“The Life and Times of Rudyard Kipling” was the subject for speaker, Gary Enstone, at the meeting of the Harbour W.I. on Monday June 8th.

He kept the Ladies very well entertained with his stories about one of the most popular writers in England, in both prose and verse, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Everyone was familiar with his most popular books and poems, such as ‘The Jungle Book’ - also ‘Mandalay’ and ‘Gunga Din’, but very few knew about his commission to write propaganda for the government during World War One.

The meeting continued with a short talk about how the Resolution went at Leeds by Margaret Viser.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. On the 14th July the speaker will be John Davey talking about ‘English – As She is Spoke’!

The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. At the July meeting they will be continuing with their cards, patchwork, embroidery and perfumed cushions. The ‘Quilt Project’ is making progress under the guidance of Hilary Lewis, who gave out patchwork kits. The next patchwork evening will be on the 25th June.

The Lunch Club are going to The Heron in Westham on the 30th June. There will be more information about the 4th Monday Club at the next meeting.

Other future plans include Jan’s Garden Party and Cream Tea on the 22nd July in aid of the local charity ‘The JPK Project’ and a trip to Chichester to the theatre to see ‘Guys and Dolls’ on the 27th August. Margaret Stanbridge is making enquiries about the menus for Christmas Lunch at the Grand Hotel, which needs to be finalised soon! It has been provisionally booked for 16th December.

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The July meeting started on a sad note when a minutes silence was held in memory of Marilyn Phillips who sadly passed away on the 27th June.

The meeting continued with the President welcoming the guests, including Federation Chairman Kathryn Hutson, and asking the Ladies to agree to a bursary draw for up to £400 to be used for a course at Denman College, a local college course or 'Gilt on the Gingerbread'. This was approved and will be drawn at the Birthday Meeting. Gill Nokes, president of the Harbour W.I., is training to be a W.I. Adviser and went on to give a talk to the Ladies about the various WIST [W.I. Support Team] meetings she has attended. After telling the Ladies how she came to join the Harbour W.I., Gill promoted Denman College as one of her modules. She has several more courses to attend. What a lot of work! – And it's all voluntary!!

After the tea break the speaker John Davey gave a talk entitled 'English as She is Spoke'. John had started his career as a teacher of chemistry at Roedean. He then became headmaster at a school in the West Country before deciding on a total change of career. He majored in English and took a job as administrator in a music school before realising that one of the country's most important exports was English. He travelled round the world promoting the English language and English language schools. He amused the Ladies with his statistics on why the world wants to speak English.

Jan Field's Garden Party and Cream Tea on the 22nd July in aid of the local charity 'The JPK Project' was a great success. The weather for the afternoon was hot and sunny, the garden was beautiful and the scones and cakes were to their usual excellent standard! With a raffle for a very pretty cake made by Rita Nunn and a raffle made up of donations [mostly bottles!] the afternoon raised £284 for the charity.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. Next month's talk will be about 'Sussex Inn Signs' – with speaker Dr. Jane Pennington. The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. There is no meeting in August. The 4th Monday Club are having a Bingo session to be held at Simply Italian and the 'Quilt Project' is continuing to make progress under the guidance of Hilary Lewis. The next patchwork evening will be on the 31st July. There is a trip to Chichester to the theatre to see 'Guys and Dolls' on the 27th August and Christmas Lunch has been provisionally booked for 16th December at the Grand Hotel!

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President, Gill Nokes, welcomed several guests to the August meeting of the Harbour W.I. on August 8th. She presented flowers to Jan Field and thanked her for hosting a Garden Party in her beautiful garden in July.

After the Correspondence and Financial reports, Hilary Lewis went on to tell the Ladies all about the South of England Show at Ardingly. She listed all the different categories and hoped that there would be some entries.

Dr. Jane Pennington, the speaker, then amused the Ladies by telling them that her PhD was in 'Sussex Pubs'! She explained that she had actually gained a degree in architecture, but had enjoyed the research - which involved visiting lots of Sussex Inns and Pubs! She has written several books on the subject of Inn signs, her earliest find being one from 1330. The early 'Ale Houses' were for the lower classes and the signs only went up when the ale had been brewed as it had a short 'sell-by date'. Inns then became available for travellers – with longer-lasting brewed ale - and the signs used were usually coats of arms of the local aristocracy, signs reflecting loyalty to the throne or, later, the local brewery. She stressed how important it was for us to keep using the pubs – or lose them!

Dr. Pennington was followed by member, Hiliary Hooper telling the Ladies about her visit to the "Inspiring Women Conference" held in April. The conference was part funded by refunded VAT and was held in the Hospitality Suite at Ascot Racecourse – A 'fantastic, perfect venue' according to Hiliary! With 23,000 new members each year, the W.I. must move with the times and the conference discussed everything from roller skating to geology. There were speakers on craft, public relations, campaigning and, of course, cookery. A very instructive, informative day, with great food! – said Hiliary.

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The Harbour W.I. held a Birthday Tea on the 13th October. They were celebrating their seventh year. President, Gill Nokes, showed them all a card signed by the original 13 members – there are now over 100! The Tea, supplied by Pat Pearce and her Catering Committee, was absolutely delicious with really ‘yummy’ cakes and a welcoming glass of wine and ‘nibbles’ to help with the party atmosphere!

Guest Speaker, Eliza McClelland, kept the fun going with her poetry, jokes and anecdotes. She hardly stopped for breath – all under the title “A Woman for All Seasons” – she was amazing!

The Lunch Club have had a busy couple of months with visits to Lottbridge Drove Golf Club and Shanfold Farm. They are lunching at Sussex Downs College on the 12th November, where the students do all the cooking and the waiting on table – supervised!

There were also visits to Chichester Theatre on the 27th August to see “Guys and Dolls” and an evening visit to the Eastbourne Bandstand on the 17th September for a very stirring “1812 Concert” with Fireworks!

The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. The meeting on the 15th September was the very popular sugar craft with Heather Hyrapiet and the October 20th meeting had the Ladies finishing off different projects for their upcoming fund-raising sale. In November Hilary Lewis is coming to show them how to make Christmas decorations using Japanese Quilting!

The 4th Monday Club met in Simply Italian on the 22nd September for a Quiz and is going to have a Scrabble afternoon on the 27th October.

And the ‘Quilt Project’ is ‘progressing nicely’. They are now starting the assembling.

The Christmas Carol Service is being held on the 5th December at St.Mary’s Church, Westham and Christmas Lunch has been booked for 16th December at the Grand Hotel!

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. Next month is the AGM followed by a light-hearted Quiz.

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The AGM on 10th November saw the resignation of President Gill Nokes. Gill thanked everyone who had assisted her in her years as President. She then gave gifts to other resigning committee members and also to members who had helped her – [and their spouses - for setting out tables etc.]

After the voting, her place was taken by Hiliary Hooper and Gill presented her with the President's Silver Brooch for her term of office. Gill, in her turn, was presented with a bouquet from all the members as a thank you and was wished good luck in her new role as a W.I. Adviser.

The afternoon continued with a light-hearted Quiz devised by Carole Kilby. As usual there was lots of laughter and the winning team of 8 went home with a bottle of wine each!

Sussex Downs College was the venue for the Lunch Club on the 12th November, with the Ladies being looked after by the young catering students. They waited on table and cooked the food – and very good it was too! The Lunch Club next meets after the Carole Service in Westham at 'Simply Seafood'.

The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. At the meeting on the 17th November, Hilary Lewis showed them how to make Christmas decorations using Japanese Quilting. There is no meeting in December.

The 4th Monday Club met in Simply Italian on the 24th November for a 'Who am I?' afternoon of fun. Again, there is no meeting in December.

And the 'Quilt Project' is 'progressing nicely'. They are meeting in the New Year to continue with the assembling.

The Christmas Carol Service is being held on the 5th December at St.Mary's Church, Westham and Christmas Lunch has been booked for 16th December at the Grand Hotel. There are plans for a shopping trip in February and also a tour of St.Wilfreds Hospice followed by tea.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. Next month at the December meeting, members are encouraged to wear something 'Christmassy' and there will be a small prize for the best outfit. Also, W.I. member Pam Fuller is going to show the Ladies how to make their own Christmas Wreaths and Decorations.

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December started on a very festive note for the members of the Harbour W.I. with a carol service in the beautiful St. Mary's Church in Pevensey. Over 150 Ladies from six local W.I.s (known as the Marshdown Group) sang carols, gave readings, read poems and gave solo singing performances on the 5th December in the lovely old Norman church. Afterwards, 19 Members of the Lunch Club walked down to the 'Simply Seafood Restaurant' for a delicious lunch in delightful surroundings with chandeliers and log fires. The Lunch Club next meet in January for a tour of St. Wilfred's Hospice followed by a Cream Tea and in February they are going to Calenders in Hailsham.

The 8th December meeting was the Christmas Party. Members had been encouraged to dress 'Christmassy' and most did! There was a competition for the best outfit which was won by 'Mother Christmas' – Treasurer Chris Bateman. Rita Nunn again baked, decorated and donated a very pretty cake for the 'Guess the Weight' of the cake competition. And the Catering Committee produced a marvellous tea for nearly 90 Ladies! All this was followed by a demonstration of how to make Christmas floral arrangements by Pam Fuller which she donated to a bumper raffle.

December finished on a high note on the 16th of the month with a Festive Lunch at The Grand Hotel for over 60 of the Members. Good food and very good company!

The Craft Club meet in the Baptist Church at Pevensey Bay on the 3rd Monday of every month. There was no meeting in December but the meeting on the 19th January is being devoted to assembling and laying out the 'Quilt', which is to be raffled or auctioned. This is a project to raise money for the Harbour's adopted charity, which this year is ACWW – Associated Country Women of the World.

The Harbour W.I. meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Yacht Club at 2pm. Next month at the January meeting, Sally Baldwin is giving a talk on 'Nowzad Dogs'!?! The competition is – Your Four Legged Friend and the Sales Table is – Unwanted Christmas Gifts!

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