

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

The first meeting of 2019 saw 7 new members join the Harbour WI and President Sandie Goman also welcomed 3 visitors. After the Birthdays and Correspondence had been read out, Sandie presented flowers to former Committee Member Jan Weeks and welcomed her back after her illness.

Irene Scoble then introduced Mr. Neil Kirby, the speaker for the afternoon. Neil is already well known by a number of the Members as he is the owner of the Langham Hotel in Eastbourne. He gave a very amusing and interesting talk about his life and how he got into the hospitality business. At one time he had high hopes of playing football for Crystal Palace. Aged 14 he was in their youth team but got no further.

His Father was a laundry manager and had a tip off that a job was going in the Grovener House Hotel and for Neil to get down there quick. With thoughts of glamour and glitz Neil applied and got the job ... as a washer up! He made up his mind from that day that he would end up as General Manager. And he did! First though he was a laundry boy, a page boy [he had the uniform, put it on and it still fitted!] and a valet. Wages were low and more money was made in tips at that time. He told how they strengthened their pockets to take the tips! The Concierge got the most tips.

Once he moved into management positions there were no more tips. He progressed from Back of House Manager, Projects Manager, and Deputy General Manager to finally becoming General Manager of the apartments. He told lots of tales of meeting famous people, of murders, of suicides, of fires and floods, and also about the day he retrieved a Salmon en Croute from the bin for Prince Philip! After 28 years of working for other people he and his wife Wendy decided to buy the Langham Hotel 13 years ago. And so the story continues!! Neil was thanked for his fascinating talk by Committee Member Liz Newman.

After tea the Resolutions to go forward to the National Federation were discussed and voted on by the Members. There was also a discussion on entries for the South of England Show in June.

Tickets have been reserved for the West End production of Calendar Girls at the Congress Theatre on August 7th.

The Craft Club met at St Barnabus Church on the 21<sup>st</sup> January to make gift boxes and the Lunch Club had a coffee morning at the Lansdowne Hotel on the 28<sup>th</sup> January so there was no 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club meeting in the afternoon.

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. February's speaker is Russell Hackett talking about 'Confessions of a CQC Inspector'. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on our web page on the SHRA website. [www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

President Sandie Goman welcomed 3 visitors to the February meeting of the Harbour WI. The Correspondence from the ESFWI was read out and included information about the South of England Show and the Craft Day at Crowborough on the 6<sup>th</sup> April

Vice President Jackie Stevens then introduced the afternoon's speaker Russell Hackett who talked about his career as a CQC inspector. Many thought he was from the police but he explained that CQC stood for 'Care Quality Commission' which is the board who inspect small private hospitals, encouraging services to improve. The hospitals are rated 'Good, Adequate or Inadequate and can be closed down immediately if they fall into the bottom 3%! Russell had followed his father into a career in health care. He worked as a housekeeper in a hospital from leaving school at 16, going on to receive mental health care training and working for the NHS for 39 years. He retired at the age of 55 but after 2 years of, as he put it, doing the 'Man Shed', playing golf and generally getting under his wife's feet he successfully applied to join the CQC. Russell was thanked for his very interesting talk and he asked for his fee to be paid to The Beachy Head Chaplaincy which is one of the Harbour's 2 chosen charities for 2019.

Sandie Goman told the members that last years 2 chosen charities – Raise me up and Children With Cancer – had each received £320 from the members and suggested that the charities for 2019 would be The Beachy Head Chaplaincy and Eastbourne's Women's Refuge. Jackie Stevens gave a presentation about the refuge and the members agreed to support in any way they could and that maybe the Craft Club could make up packs of essentials in pretty bags, as these women sometimes arrive with just the clothes that they stand up in.

The Craft Club met at St Barnabus Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> February to make gift cards using the 'Teabag Folding' method and the Lunch Club met at Pablos on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. They are going to Priory Court in Pevensey in March. There is also an outing to Michelham Priory on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April and tickets have been reserved for the West End production of Calendar Girls at the Congress Theatre on August 7th.

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. March's speaker is Helen Stockton talking about 'Rolo – The Border Terrier – A Literary Dog'

Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on the S.H.R.A. website. [www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

Three new members were welcomed to the March meeting of the Harbour WI, together with three visitors. The correspondence was read out, including a reply to a letter to the Duchess of Sussex inviting her to become an honorary member of the Harbour WI. The Duchess [through her secretary] said she would keep it in mind for the future. She didn't say no!

Jackie Frost told members that she is giving a Coffee Morning at her home on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May to raise money for the Harbour's chosen Charities for the year and an Easter Egg was raffled, also for the Charities.

Pam Wood reminded members about planned outings for April; one to Pashley Manor for the Tulip Festival and another to Michelham Priory for Afternoon Tea. Also a reminder about the Theatre Outing in August to see 'Calendar Girls – The Musical' at the newly refurbished Congress Theatre.

Jackie Stevens then introduced the afternoon's speaker Helen Stockton - a well-known local author who gave a talk titled 'Rolo – The Border Terrier – A Literary Dog.' Rolo came in to her life after a lot of nagging by the children and a business plan to decide on the advantages and disadvantages of owning a dog. The advantages won when she was weakened by a bout of 'Flu! He was the last one of a litter – hence the name Rolo. Rolo's journey in to print started with a series of articles called Confessions of a Border Terrier, for a magazine. He began to find his own voice and started a web log or Blog, then a Twitter Account, with 2,000 followers and finally his own Facebook page. The magazine Magnet – Sussex Living signed him up for a column, followed by a full page and Helen read out his March entry. Helen has since written two books about him and he has very amusing views on most subjects – from romance to death, food to religion and gardening to grass snakes. He took on an apprentice Teddy, another Border terrier who has now taken over, as Rolo sadly passed away in February at the great age of 16years and 3months. Teddy's first task was to hold a 'Day of Disobedience' in honour of Rolo. He already has 800 followers!

The Craft Club met on the 18<sup>th</sup> March to make items for Easter to sell for their Charities and also to start making bags for toiletries for the Women's Refuge. The Lunch Club are going to Priory Court in Pevensey on the 27<sup>th</sup> March and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club meet in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. On the 8<sup>th</sup> April the speaker will be Paul Green talking about 'Murders and Misdemeanours'.

Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on the S.H.R.A. website. [www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

23 Members of the Harbour WI met on a sunny [but chilly!] afternoon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April for a guided tour of the Michelham Priory near Hailsham. After teaching them how to pronounce 'Michelham' a very pleasant gentleman took the ladies around the grounds and through the building, explaining how various owners had made alterations over the years from its original construction 800 years ago. The hour-long tour was followed by a delicious cream tea in the Priory Tea Rooms.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April a group of 8 Members enjoyed a visit to Pashley Manor near Wadhurst for the 'Tulip Festival' - showing over 35,000 tulips and 108 varieties in the beautiful gardens.

The April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was a busy one. There was an Easter Egg raffle as well as the usual one; a sales table - including goods made by the Craft Club - and the Book Table. Jacquie Frost is giving a Coffee Morning at her home on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and all the funds from this and the Easter sales and raffle are going to the Harbour WI's two chosen charities for the year. The speaker for the afternoon was Paul Green who gave a talk titled 'Murders and Misdemeanours'. Paul is a retired building society manager who then worked part-time for the Argos newspaper. He became their resident historian and was fascinated by the 'dark side' of the history of Sussex, which was known as the Murder Capital of the country! He told some entertaining and also quite gruesome stories about crime and punishment from 100 years ago.

The Craft Club met on the 15<sup>th</sup> April with Irene Scoble showing them how to make cards using a method called 'tea-bag folding' Next month Hilary Lewis is giving them a lesson in watercolour painting. They meet every third Monday afternoon at St Barnabus Church hall in Langney. The Lunch Club went to Priory Court in Pevensey on the 27<sup>th</sup> March and are going to Mr Hau's Orient Express on the 24<sup>th</sup> April; and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club are meeting for coffee and a chat in Simply Italian on the 29<sup>th</sup> April [the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday because of the Easter Bank Holiday].

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. On the 13<sup>th</sup> May the members will be discussing and voting on the Resolutions to go forward to the National Federation AGM. This will be followed by a Quiz. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on the SHRA website.

[www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

A lady called Liz from Hastings Women's Refuge was at the May meeting of the Harbour WI to talk about how the refuges work. How all 147 places are always full and how the ages vary from 15 to 86 year old girls and women from all backgrounds. The Eastbourne Women's Refuge is one of the charities being supported by the Harbour WI this year and 8 hand-made bags of toiletries were handed over to Liz to take back with her. They will continue to make and fill the bags all year. Liz said that the bags were very important to the ladies as it showed them that someone cared. She finished with a poem from a 'survivor', showing how much the refuge had helped her.

The two Resolutions discussed at the May meeting were both voted for by the members and Sandie Goman, as delegate, will take their vote to the AGM in Bournemouth next month. The discussion and vote were followed by a cream tea supplied by the catering committee and a 'Nautical Themed' quiz set by Irene Scoble. The quiz went to a tie-break! ... the eventual winners each taking home a box of chocolates.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May over 50 members enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning drinking coffee and eating home-made cakes in member Jacquie Frost's lovely garden looking over the farm fields of Wartling. The morning was held to raise funds for the two charities the Harbour WI is supporting this year. There were several stalls – Bric-a-Brac, Jewellery, Scarves and a Cake Sale as well as a Raffle and an impromptu auction for a life-size stuffed chimpanzee!!

The Craft Club met on the 20th March when Craft Tutor Hilary Lewis taught them how to do a watercolour painting of a boat. They meet every third Monday afternoon at St Barnabus Church hall in Langney.

The Lunch Club didn't meet in May but are going to 4 Seasons Restaurant in the harbour on the 28<sup>th</sup> June; and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club met in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday because of the Bank Holiday. Back to normal next month!

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite.

The next meeting is on the 10<sup>th</sup> June and Ros Black will be talking about 'Grace Kimmins and her Chailey Heritage'. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on the S.H.R.A. website.

[www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

In spite of the terrible weather there was a good turn out for the June meeting of the Harbour WI – including one new member and one visitor.

President Sandie Goman told the members that £360 had been raised at Jacquie Frost's Coffee Morning which will be split between the two charities the Harbour is supporting this year. More bags of toiletries have also been made up by Sandie and Jackie Stevens for one of the charities.

The correspondence from the Federation was read out by Liz Newman as secretary Daphne Chamberlain was away. Liz also gave the members an update on the Christmas Lunch which is being held at the Hydro Hotel on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The speaker Roz Black was introduced by Irene Scoble and gave a talk to the members about Grace Kimmins and her 'Chailey Heritage'. Grace became involved when she heard about the choir for 'Brave Poor Things' set up by Lady Henry Somerset in 1870. Lady Somerset put out an advert for educated women to set up missions and Grace encouraged her husband Charles Kimmins to start Chailey in 1903. They took over a derelict former workhouse near Hailsham and brought 7 disabled children from London to be cared for and educated in what turned out to be the first purpose-built school for disabled children in this country. She secured many famous people's patronage including Lady Denman from the WI. Roz herself has raised over £4,500 for the Heritage with her talks and book sales. She was thanked for her talk by Jacquie Frost.

The Craft Club met on the 17<sup>th</sup> June to start making Christmas cards to sell for their charities. They meet every third Monday afternoon at St Barnabus Church hall in Langney.

The Lunch Club went to 4 Seasons Restaurant in the harbour on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, and go to the Langham Hotel on the 17<sup>th</sup> July; and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club met in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

There is a Theatre trip to the Congress on the 7<sup>th</sup> August to see 'Calendar Girls' with lunch at the Buccaneer beforehand.

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. The next meeting is on the 8<sup>th</sup> July when R. Paynton is giving a talk on 'Getting Older, Growing Bolder'. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on the S.H.R.A. website.

[www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)



## THE HARBOUR W.I.

The July meeting of the Harbour WI was opened by Vice President Jackie Stevens as President Sandie Goman was on a cruise! Secretary Daphne Chamberlain read out the correspondence from the ESFWI including reminders that the Annual Meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Congress Theatre.

Former President Hiliary Hooper then reported on the ESFWI Centenary Garden Party at Fairlight Hall near Hastings. She said the gardens were breathtaking; there was music everywhere; lovely tea and cakes for 400 people and lots of stalls. She also enjoyed an escorted tour of the house. There was a competition for the 'Best Apple Pie' which the Harbour's Sue Burgess entered and took second place.

The speaker 'Roller' Roy Payton was presented by Irene Scoble. He introduced himself as "the oldest roller skating ukulele player in the world"! He'd always wanted to be a redcoat with Butlins but after working in insurance for many years he spent the last 10 years before retirement working in Waitrose. It wasn't until he was 74 that he decided to take up roller skating. It took 3 weeks before he could stand up and since then he has raised funds for Cancer Research by doing 'Skaterthons'! along Eastbourne seafront with a parrot on his shoulder. He concluded with a song on his ukulele and his advice to everyone to have 'Enthusiasm'.

The Craft Club met on the 15<sup>th</sup> July to make Christmas cards to sell for their charities. They meet every third Monday afternoon at St Barnabus Church hall in Langney. There will not be a meeting in August.

The Lunch Club went to the Langham Hotel on the 17<sup>th</sup> July; and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club met in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July

There is a Theatre trip to the Congress on the 7<sup>th</sup> August to see 'Calendar Girls' with lunch at the Stage Door beforehand; and the Christmas Lunch is being held at the Hydro on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. The next meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> September with a Tribute to Stanley Holloway from Ken Pollock. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649. Information is also available on the S.H.R.A. website.

[www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

It was a good turn out for the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Harbour WI. President Sandie Goman welcomed 74 members and 2 guests. Secretary Daphne Chamberlain read out the correspondence from the ESFWI with a reminder that the Annual Meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Congress Theatre. There was also a request from the Matron of MacDonal Ward at the Conquest Hospital for 'Bed Scarves' or runners to be knitted or crocheted by the members

There was no meeting in August but over 20 members enjoyed a matinee performance of 'Calendar Girls – the Musical' at the Congress Theatre after having lunch at the Stage Door.

This month the Lunch Club are having a Cream Tea at Castle Cottage Tea Rooms in Pevensey on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. Christmas Lunch at the Hydro is being arranged by Liz Newman for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December and Pat Cuttell is investigating a trip to Herstmonceux Castle and grounds in October/November.

The speaker for the afternoon was Ken Pollock with a look back at the life of Stanley Holloway. Stanley had been an acclaimed choir boy until the age of 14 when his voice broke. He left school and became a clerk in a Boot factory and then in Billingsgate Market. As his voice improved he began to sing and perform recitals in Music Hall Theatre. He sang many famous, well-known songs that Ken had the members singing along to. He enlisted the help of members Hiliary Hooper and Jacquie Frost to recite a monologue - 'The Battle of Hastings' – with helmets that wouldn't stay on straight they played the parts of Duke William and King Harold and had the members in fits of laughter.

The Craft Club met on the 16<sup>th</sup> September to make more Christmas cards to sell on the Sales Table for the Harbour WI charities. They are also making poppies to sell and now the Bed Scarves' for the hospital! They meet every third Monday afternoon at St Barnabus Church hall in Langney. The 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club met in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. The next meeting is on the 14<sup>th</sup> October for their 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Meeting with invited guests and speaker Richard Griffin telling the members about 'My Life as a Personal Protection Officer to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh'. Information is available on the SHRA website.

[www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)



## THE HARBOUR W.I.

Despite the awful weather it was a full house for the Harbour WI's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party; with nearly all the 104 Members attending, plus invited guests from local WIs. Heather Hyrapiet, the original founder President said how thrilled she was to see the Harbour WI being enjoyed by so many.

After various correspondences had been read out, Irene Scoble introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Richard Griffin LVO – former bodyguard to Her Majesty the Queen. Richard started by telling the members that unlike Richard Madden in the television series 'The Bodyguard' he had never slept with the person he had guarded! He was a Police Officer dealing with vice when he was asked if he would take on the role of guarding Prince Edward at Cambridge University. Protection for the Royal Family had been increased after the attempted kidnap of Princess Ann in 1974 when 5 shots had been fired; then in 1982 Michael Fagan had scaled the walls of Buckingham Palace, entered the Queen's bedroom and sat on her bed chatting. In a report to Parliament it was decided to update alarms and review security!

When Edward left Cambridge and joined the Royal Marines, Richard took over looking after the Duke of Edinburgh for 13 years before becoming the Queen's personal protection officer in 1999. He toured the world with Her Majesty and had slides showing meetings with many famous people including the Pope, Mrs Thatcher and President Trump. Richard had some amusing tales to tell, including when they were walking with the dogs in the Highlands near Balmoral and met some American tourists who gave their camera to the Queen and asked her to take their photo!

When he retired in 2013, the Queen gave him a retirement party for 200 people in the State Apartments at Buckingham Palace. She turned up unexpectedly and was introduced to his Mum! She also bestowed him with the LVO – Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order - for his devotion to duty. Richard and his wife receive Christmas cards from the Royal Family and are still invited to a number of Royal functions. They now go round the country giving talks [sometimes up to 3 times a week!] to raise money for the Air Ambulance [with the Queen's approval] and to date have raised over £21,000.00. So much for retirement! Jackie Stevens thanked Richard for his very amusing and fascinating talk.

The afternoon continued with a delicious tea, with cakes and savouries supplied by the Catering Committee led by Pat Pearce.

The Chairman of the East Sussex Federation of WIs, Gill Nokes, thanked the Harbour WI on behalf of the visitors and also said how proud she was to be a member herself.

The Lunch Club had a lovely Cream Tea at Castle Cottage Tea Rooms in Pevensey on the 25<sup>th</sup> September and is going to the Thai Marina on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October for lunch. A Christmas Carol Service is being held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at St Barnabus Church and

Christmas Lunch at the Hydro is being arranged by Liz Newman for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The Craft Club meet every third Monday afternoon at St Barnabus Church hall in Langney and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club will meet in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat on the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

The Harbour WI has a meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. The next meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November is the Annual General Meeting and will be followed by a light-hearted Quiz. Information is available on the S.H.R.A. website. [www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

Despite the awful weather it was a full house for the Harbour WI's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party; with nearly all the 104 Members attending, plus invited guests from local WIs. Heather Hyrapiet, the original founder President said how thrilled she was to see the Harbour WI being enjoyed by so many.

After various correspondences had been read out, Irene Scoble introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Richard Griffin LVO – former bodyguard to Her Majesty the Queen. Richard started by telling the members that unlike Richard Madden in the television series 'The Bodyguard' he had never slept with the person he had guarded! He was a Police Officer dealing with vice when he was asked if he would take on the role of guarding Prince Edward at Cambridge University. Protection for the Royal Family had been increased after the attempted kidnap of Princess Ann in 1974 when 5 shots had been fired; then in 1982 Michael Fagan had scaled the walls of Buckingham Palace, entered the Queen's bedroom and sat on her bed chatting. In a report to Parliament it was decided to update alarms and review security!

When Edward left Cambridge and joined the Royal Marines, Richard took over looking after the Duke of Edinburgh for 13 years before becoming the Queen's personal protection officer in 1999. He toured the world with Her Majesty and had slides showing meetings with many famous people including the Pope, Mrs Thatcher and President Trump. Richard had some amusing tales to tell, including when they were walking with the dogs in the Highlands near Balmoral and met some American tourists who gave their camera to the Queen and asked her to take their photo!

When he retired in 2013, the Queen gave him a retirement party for 200 people in the State Apartments at Buckingham Palace. She turned up unexpectedly and was introduced to his Mum! She also bestowed him with the LVO – Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order - for his devotion to duty. Richard and his wife receive Christmas cards from the Royal Family and are still invited to a number of Royal functions. They now go round the country giving talks [sometimes up to 3 times a week!] to raise money for the Air Ambulance [with the Queen's approval] and to date have raised over £21,000.00. So much for retirement! Jackie Stevens thanked Richard for his very amusing and fascinating talk.

The afternoon continued with a delicious tea, with cakes and savouries supplied by the Catering Committee led by Pat Pearce.

The Chairman of the East Sussex Federation of WIs, Gill Nokes, thanked the Harbour WI on behalf of the visitors and also said how proud she was to be a member herself.

The Lunch Club had a lovely Cream Tea at Castle Cottage Tea Rooms in Pevensey on the 25<sup>th</sup> September and is going to the Thai Marina on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October for lunch. A Christmas Carol Service is being held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at St Barnabus Church and

Christmas Lunch at the Hydro is being arranged by Liz Newman for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The Craft Club meet every third Monday afternoon at St Barnabus Church hall in Langney and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club will meet in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat on the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

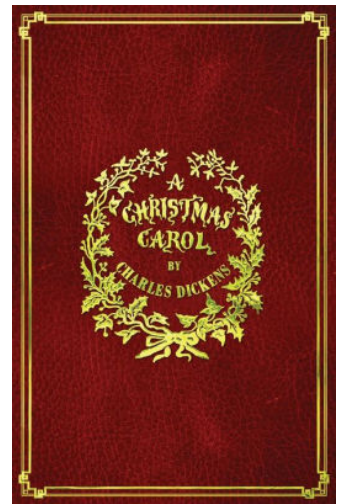
The Harbour WI has a meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. The next meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November is the Annual General Meeting and will be followed by a light-hearted Quiz. Information is available on the S.H.R.A. website. [www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

## THE HARBOUR W.I.

December was a very busy month for the Harbour WI. They hosted The Marshdown Group Christmas Carol Service at St. Barnabas Church, Langney on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The prayers and service were led by Reverent Paul Tabraham and Organist Spencer Freeman MBE. Member Yvonne Simnick started the carols with a lovely solo performance of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Refreshments were served afterwards by Pat Chatterton and a group of members. It was a delightful morning and really started the Christmas spirit.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December it was the Christmas Party held at the Sovereign Yacht Club. There were more refreshments supplied by the Catering Committee and more carols and a 'Festive Talk' from Katherine Collett.

Katherine is a soprano and encouraged the members to join her to sing carols from the Victorian times. She wore a beautiful authentic costume from the late Victorian era and talked about the history of Christmas from the early 1840s when Charles Dickens wrote the Christmas Carol. Before this in 1644 Oliver Cromwell had famously 'banned Christmas'! and Dickens's book brought about a revival.



Many of the features we take for granted now came about during Queen Victoria's reign. Christmas trees, crackers, holly and ivy, mince pies and carols are just a few. But 'Father Christmas' or 'Santa Claus' in his red coat etc. didn't start until the Coca Cola advert in the 1930s! Jackie Stevens thanked Katherine for her very interesting talk and the afternoon finished with a bumper raffle.

Festivities continued at the Hydro Hotel on the 15<sup>th</sup> December with a Christmas Lunch. Fifty-one members were served with a delicious lunch in the Garden Room. Several members stayed on for coffee and chats to finish off a lovely day.

Next month's Lunch Club are going to the Royal Oak and Castle on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The Craft Club meet at St. Barnabas Church Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Club meets in Simply Italian for coffee and a chat.

The Harbour WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite. It is the 'Resolutions' meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January.

The Harbour WI 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 SHRA. website [www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)