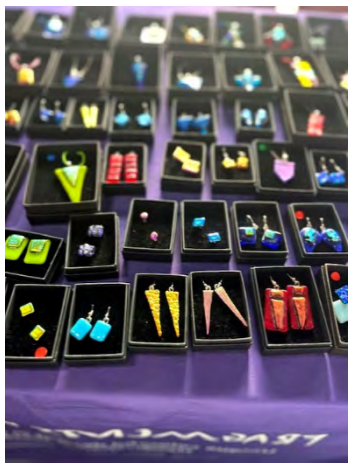
THE HARBOUR W.I.

54 Members and 3 visitors were at the first meeting of the year for the Harbour WI. There was a 'bring and buy' sales table to raise funds for their charities and the speaker Barbara Hibbart had brought along a selection of her beautiful glass jewellery, pictures and glass flowers for members to buy or just admire. As well as making all these lovely items she runs workshops from her home in Heathfield.

Barbara gave a talk on 'The History of Glass'. She explained how it had originated and what it was made from. It was first made in Mesopotamia about 5000 BC but was not made in Europe until the early 16th century, in Mirano, Venice and then mostly for medicinal purposes - bottles etc. It wasn't until a century later that it started being produced in England.



Basic glass needs sand, lime, potassium, lead oxide and plenty of water and Stourbridge in the Midlands was able to supply them all. It became the centre for glass and still is today, boasting an impressive Glass Museum. Glass has had a chequered past. People who worked in the 'Red House Glass Cones' in the 19th century had a low life expectancy with burns, cuts and infections - and severe dehydration with the intense heat. 'Runners' kept them cooled down with lots of beer! There was also a tax on glass for a short while in the 19th Century and people started bricking up their windows!

Originally, glass was only used for small items, and it wasn't until the 1920s that Henry Ford decided that cars needed windscreens and that larger sheets were made. And it was another 30 years before Alastair Pilkington developed a process to increase the size of the sheets by floating them on molten tin. Today there are lots of different types of glass – even one that glows in the dark [it has Uranium in it!] Barbara finished with showing slides of stunning pieces by designers such as Rene Lalique and Dale Chihuly.

During the tea break members could sign up for the Lunch Club at Beachy Head on the 22nd January, a 'Murder Mystery Lunch at the Langham on the 8th February and the Annual Meeting at the De La Warr Pavillion on the 24th March. The Craft Club will meet at Sandie Goman's house on the 20th January and the Fourth Tuesday Coffee Morning will be in Seasons on the 28th January.

After tea there was a discussion and vote on the short listed Resolutions put forward by the National Federation, with a committee member introducing each one. The results will be forwarded to ESFWI.

The next meeting is on the 10th February at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. It will be 'Valentine' themed with a competition for the best home made card and members encouraged to wear something pink!

There is no longer a waiting list to join the Harbour WI and prospective new members are welcome to get in touch with Membership Secretary Frances Harrap on tel: 01323472649. Information on the Harbour WI can also be found on the SHRA website: www.shra.co.uk/wi

THE HARBOUR W.I.

It was a Valentine's Day themed meeting for the Harbour WI with everyone dressed in pink! Founder member Kathy Bronson was presented with a prize by President Jacquie Frost for her very pretty hand made fascinator

Sandie Goman then told the members about 'Ancestry Group'; a new club that is being formed by Sue Howes to help members research their family tree. Sue belongs to several websites that she is willing to share. The venue for the club will depend on how many are interested. A show of hands implied that it's going to be very popular!

A Valentine's Day Quiz came next. Committee member Donna Birkwood asked the members to answer 25 fun questions and the winning team all won a heart shaped chocolate.

After the secretary had read out the notices, Diane Beere explained how members could vote for their favourite Valentine's card. They were hand made by members and very beautiful. The winner was Craft Club organizer, Sandie Goman. The theme continued with another competition. This time it was a Valentine's Word Search and Anagrams. All the winners won a tube of Love heart sweets!

When the tea break was finished, President Jacquie presented Membership Secretary and Vice President Frances with a bouquet to say thank you to her for all she does for the Harbour WI. Jacquie read out a list of everything Frances is responsible for. It was a very long list!

The Craft Club is going to be making Teacup Pincushions at the next meeting on the 18th February, the Lunch Club are going to the Old Oak and Castle in Pevensey on the 19th February and the 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning is in Seasons on the 25th February with everybody welcome.

The next meeting is on the 10th March at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. A lady is coming from Help4Hedgehogs to talk about rescuing hedgehogs.

There is no longer a waiting list to join the Harbour WI and prospective new members are welcome to get in touch with Membership Secretary Frances on tel: 07914 603548 Information on the Harbour WI can also be found on the S.H.R.A. website.

www.shra.co.uk/wi

THE HARBOUR W.I.

58 members and 2 visitors were welcomed to the March meeting of the Harbour WI by President Jacquie Frost.

Diana Groot Copp then introduced Tas from Help4Hedgehogs.com, a charity that Tas set up 5 years ago at her home near Hailsham, to help with hedgehog conservation. She told the members that since 2020 they have become an endangered species and are classed as vulnerable to extinction. This is mostly due to their lack of habitat; something everyone can help to restore just by having a pile of logs and twigs in the garden - to attract beetles [their main diet] and also to make nests for their hoglets. Tas also gave instructions on how to build feeding boxes for them and what to feed them. Not bread and milk! It gives them a bad tummy!! They like snails, beetles, caterpillars and earthworms but can also be given a meaty pet food such as Purina 1 for Kittens, with a bowl of water. The charity supports about 200 hedgehogs a year. They have varying problems, from injuries to malnutrition. Typically it can take 3 days to 'cure' and a further 3/4 days rehabilitation before they can be released back into the wild. A collection box was passed around for donations to the charity.

After tea Jacquie reminded everyone about the Annual Meeting of the Federation on Monday, 24th March and a VE Day lunch at the Langham Hotel on the 8th May being arranged by Jackie Stevens.

The Craft Club met on the 17th March at Sandy Goman's house, the Lunch Club went to the Red Lion at Stone Cross and the 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning is in Seasons on the 25th March with everybody welcome. The newly formed Family History Group had a very successful first meeting but is fully subscribed until they can find a larger venue.

The next meeting is on the 14th April at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. It will be the Easter meeting and will include a competition for the Best Looking Easter Cake!

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Judy Latter

THE HARBOUR W.I.

President Jacquie Frost welcomed 48 members to the April meeting of the Harbour WI. The Ladies had been asked if they could wear something yellow and the effect was very ‘Spring like’.

No speaker had been booked so that members could enjoy chatting and getting to know each other. They also had the opportunity to colour in pictures of Easter eggs which many found quite therapeutic! There was a chocolate tasting with a vote for the favourite and a ‘Best Decorated Cake Competition’ that was also voted on by members. The winner was Sue Stevens who won a Star Baker Apron and a chocolate bunny for her stunning cake topped with a nest complete with mini eggs, chicks and pussy willow. Second went to President Jacquie Frost for her beautifully iced Easter Bunny’s Picnic. A special Easter raffle was organised by Jackie Stevens and raised an extra £41 for charity.

Diane Beere gave a humorous summary of the recent ESFWI Annual Meeting at the De La Warr Pavilion.

The pros and cons of the two possible venues for the WI Christmas Lunch were debated and a show of hands selected Cooden Beach.

The Craft Club meet on the 28th April at Sandy Goman’s house, the Lunch Club went to the Thai Marina in the Harbour and the 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning was in Seasons on the 22nd April with everybody welcome. The newly formed Family History Club also met on the 22nd in the afternoon.

The next meeting is on the 12th May at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club with a visit from the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

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THE HARBOUR W.I.

After welcoming members to the May meeting of The Harbour WI, President Jacquie Frost introduced Elliot from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. Elliot is the team leader of Blue Watch in Whitley Road Eastbourne.

Eastbourne fire station is a very busy one. They cover a large area from Brighton in the West, Bexhill in the East and Hailsham in the North. They have 2 fire engines, an ALP [Aerial Ladder Platform] and an MDU [Mass Decontamination Unit]. There are 11 fire-fighters in all with 8 always on duty.

Three of them were with Elliot to help members with advice on smoke alarms and fire prevention. Members were advised to check their smoke alarms and CO2 alarms regularly. [At least once a week!]

If in any doubt call the team in to fit new ones. This is a free service and smoke alarms are supplied free of charge. They have a 10-year battery life and should be fitted one per level.

Elliot advised members to have a 'Fire Plan' in place for emergencies. He explained how to put this in place and also how to prevent fires. Before they left, the team took details from any members needing help with smoke alarms.

The Craft Club met on the 19th May at Sandy Goman's house, the Lunch Club went to the Kings Restaurant in the college on the 21st May, and the 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning is in Seasons on the 27th May with everybody welcome. The newly formed Family History Club will also meet on the 27th May in the afternoon.

The Harbour WI's next meeting is on the 9th June at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. Paul Lendon is giving a talk entitled 'On the Buses', followed by the Annual Meeting.

There is no longer a waiting list to join the Harbour WI and prospective new members are welcome to get in touch with Membership Secretary Frances on tel: 07914 603548. Information on the Harbour WI can also be found on the SHRA website. www.shra.co.uk/wi

THE HARBOUR W.I.

Jacquie Frost welcomed 58 members and 6 visitors to The Harbour WI Annual Meeting and her last meeting as President. She then introduced Paul Lendon, former Mayor of Bexhill, to talk about his hobby - Buses!

Paul's love of buses began after attending the Festival of Britain in 1951. He worked for BT for 26 years before deciding to become a bus driver. He passed his test the first time. Starting on minibuses, Paul eventually drove the No. 82 from Finchley to Victoria and named every one of the 15 stops on the route! His collection of models and photographs showed the history and development of trams and buses since the turn of the century. After moving to Bexhill in 2000 he was surprised that the museum had no history on buses, so helped them to set up an exhibition. Paul encouraged the members to visit Bexhill Museum.

As it was the Annual Meeting the record of the June 2024 Annual Meeting, the Financial Statement, prepared and read by Jacqui Healey, the Committee Annual Report, prepared and read by Bev Roberts and the President's Report, prepared and read by retiring President Jacquie Frost were all proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The committee were voted in - with the existing committee all agreeing to stand again and two co-opted members, Donna Birkwood and Sue Howes, joining them. Voting then took place for a new President. Diane Beere was duly elected.

Jacquie Frost was presented with a rose bush, very appropriately called Queen Bee, by new President Diane. She was thanked for her lovely 4 years as President – and her jokes! Jean Morren and Anne Biddle were also thanked and presented with plants for managing the raffle for 3 years.

The Craft Club met on the 16th June at Sandy Goman's house, the Lunch Club went to the Hydro Hotel on the 18th June and the 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning was in Seasons on the 24th June with everybody welcome. The newly formed Family History Club met on the 23rd June at Sue Howes house at 2pm

The next meeting is on the 14th July at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club with a speaker from Matthew 25 Mission and Chair Yoga!

There is no longer a waiting list to join the Harbour WI and prospective new members are welcome to get in touch with Membership Secretary Frances on tel: 07914 603548

Information on the Harbour WI can also be found on the S.H.R.A. website. www.shra.co.uk/wi

THE HARBOUR W.I.

It was Diane Beere's first meeting as the new President of the Harbour WI! She welcomed 54 members, 4 new members and 6 visitors to the July meeting.

The first speaker was Simon Kirkdale from the Matthew 25 Mission. The Mission was started in 1996 in an old school hall in Seaside, Eastbourne and became a registered charity in 2015. Their aim is to help homeless and vulnerable people and they work with other agencies in the area to help deal with issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, care leavers, addiction and mental health.

They have 5 staff members and 40 volunteers who serve hot drinks and breakfast from 8am - 10am; then lunch from 12 – 2pm; every day of the year. A lot of the food is donated by Marks & Spencers in the town, who also give support financially; but it costs about £230,000 a year to run and they are always looking for donations and also volunteers. They run a charity shop opposite the hall along Seaside that takes everything apart from furniture [due to lack of space]. In the past year 38,000 'guests' [as they are called] have used the facilities. This number increases every year – as do the costs.

Diana Groot-Copp thanked Simon and his team for a very informative talk and presented them with a donation of £85. The Mission is the Harbour WI's Charity this year and members also contributed to the charity bucket.

Everyone was then asked to move their chairs to be ready for the next speaker! Trish has been teaching Yoga for 25 years and was promoting a new class aimed at people with mobility problems. Trish has had her own health problems over the years including breaking her spine and showed the members how they could easily join in her Chair Yoga class at the Community Centre with a few relaxing exercises.

After tea members were told that the Craft Club meet on the 21st July at Sandy Gomam's house, the Lunch Club are going to the Smugglers on the 23rd July and the 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning is in Seasons on the 22nd July with everybody welcome.

The newly formed Family History Club will meet on the 22nd July at Sue Howe's house at 2pm. Even though there is no meeting at the Yacht Club in August the Tuesday Coffee Morning will still take place on the 26th August.

The next meeting is on the 8th September at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club with a speaker talking about Make Up for the Mature Woman!?

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THE HARBOUR W.I.

With the lift out of action at the Yacht Club, the September Meeting of the Harbour WI was held on the first floor instead of the usual top floor. It was a cosy atmosphere for the 47 members, one new member and eight visitors who made it up the stairs. Everyone was pleased to see each other after the August break and received a warm welcome from their President Diane Beere.

The speaker was Margot Clarkson-Bennett talking about 'Make Up for the Mature Woman'. She was an amusing speaker with her anecdotes from her previous life as a secondary school teacher and teacher trainer. She then decided on a complete change of career and signed up for a psychologist course, but halfway through decided it wasn't for her, so took a make up course instead! - with a company selling their own make up from a shop in Wimbledon. Unfortunately, the shop didn't survive Covid and Margot auditioned to become a WI Speaker.

Margot enlisted member Sue Burgess to volunteer as her model and demonstrated how to apply make up for an every day look. Suitable for popping to Waitrose! She stressed the importance of moisturising, looking after your lips and framing your face with well formed eyebrows. Margot had brought an array of products for members to try and even take samples away. Her advice for the older woman was "Less is more on mature skin. If you feel good about yourself, you will be more confident."

Before tea, Sandie Goman reminded everyone that she was filling more bags with toiletries for the Eastbourne Women's Refuge and asked for donations at the next meeting. Also Hilary Lewis, a former Harbour WI member and now on the Board of Trustees at East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes (ESFWI), told members that she is their 'Link' to the federation and is always available to answer any queries they may have. She said the next Annual Meeting of the ESFWI is to be held at the De La Warr in Bexhill on the 24th March, when one of the speakers will be Charlie Dimmock from Love Your Garden.

Lunch Club Wednesday 10th Sept. 12.45 Langham Hotel
Family History Club Monday 15th Sept. 2pm Sue Howes
Craft Club Monday 22nd Sept. at Sandie Gomans
4th Tuesday Coffee Morning Tuesday 23rd Sept. 10.30am at Seasons Marshdown is being hosted by Hampden Park WI on 23rd October at St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive.

The next meeting is on the 13th October at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. It will be the 18th Birthday Meeting! There is going to be a game of Bingo! - And members have been asked to 'Dress appropriately'?

There is no longer a waiting list to join the Harbour WI and prospective new members are welcome to get in touch with Membership Secretary Frances on tel: 07914 603548 Information on the Harbour WI can also be found on the SHRA. website.
www.shra.co.uk/wi

THE HARBOUR W.I.

The Harbour WI was back in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club for their October meeting [the lift was mended].

The room had been decked out with Halloween decorations by past President Jacquie Frost and members turned up dressed for the occasion! There were lots of witches and autumnal colours. It was the 18th Birthday celebration so there was also cake and fun games with fun prizes.

Firstly President Diane Beere welcomed 57 members, 3 new members and 5 visitors before congratulating founder member Kathy Bonson and her husband Ronnie on their 70th Wedding Anniversary [Platinum] and showed everyone the lovely card they had received from the King and Queen.

Sandie Goman started the games off with a game of Bingo won by Diane Chadderton with a line and Christine Kneale for a full house. During tea and a selection of delicious home made cakes, there was a table top quiz, followed by a Halloween based quiz devised and read out by Sue Howes. The prizes had been sourced by the President and continued the Halloween theme! There were 'eyeballs', spiders, jumping frogs and other spooky things! Both these quizzes were won by tables with new members and visitors.

To help raise funds for the charities that the Harbour WI supports, Membership Secretary, Frances Harrap had a jar of liquorice allsorts for members to guess the number of. Sheena Russell was the nearest with 92 [there were 90!] – it raised £27.

The meeting concluded with Birthday cards being distributed and the Raffle being drawn. Diane thanked all the tea ladies, the cake bakers, the raffle organisers and the games and quizzes arrangers.

Lunch Club	Wednesday 22nd Oct. 1.45pm at the Lansdowne Hotel
Family History Club	Monday 21st Oct. 2pm Sue Howes
Craft Club	Monday 2oth Oct. 2pm at Sandie Gomans
4th Tuesday Coffee Morning	Tuesday 28th Oct. 10.30am at Seasons

Unfortunately Marshdown has been cancelled due to lack of numbers.

The Annual Meeting of the ESFWI is being held in the De La Warr on the 24th March 2026 with Charlie Dimmock from Love Your Garden as one of the speakers.

The next meeting is on the 10th November at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. There will be a talk from Robin Keyte about the wreck of the Dutch cargo ship VOC Amsterdam in the English Channel near Hastings.

There is no longer a waiting list to join the Harbour WI and prospective new members are welcome to get in touch with Membership Secretary Frances on tel: 07914 603548

Information on the Harbour WI can also be found on the S.H.R.A. website. www.shra.co.uk/wi

THE HARBOUR W.I.

Despite the atrocious weather there was a good turnout for the November meeting of the Harbour WI. President Diane Beere welcomed 60 members.

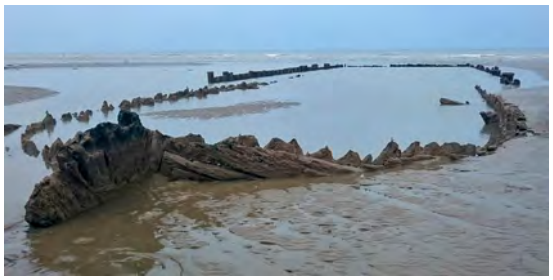
The speaker, Robin Keyte gave a talk on a local wreck, the *VOC Amsterdam*. The wreck lies on the beach at Bulverhythe near Hastings and can be seen at low tide. It was wrecked on its maiden voyage to Batavia [now Jakarta] in 1749 during a violent storm.

VOC was the Dutch East Indies Company and was the world's largest trade and shipping company in the 17th and 18th centuries. They traded all over the world with their fleet of over 150 ships.

VOC Amsterdam had left the shipbuilder's yard in Amsterdam with Captain Willem Klump at the helm, to pick up a cargo in Texel (one of the Dutch Wadden Islands, off the coast of the Netherlands). The cargo was worth millions of pounds in today's money. They also took on 126 soldiers, 5 women passengers and a crew of 198.

After three false starts they finally set sail in January 1749 but with sickness on board and storm force winds they made very slow progress. After two weeks battling against the stormy winds, the captain decided to shelter in Pevensey Bay but smashed the rudder off as it was too shallow. They continued for 3 more days with no steering before beaching the ship off Hastings.

Even though Bulverhythe was a sparsely populated area in the 17/18th century, thousands of people arrived on the beach in the hope of looting. The army were called in and took 27 chests of silver gilders and ingots to the Bull Inn for safe keeping - but one had disappeared!



There were no casualties but 55 bodies were buried in the cemetery of St. Clements Church in Bulverhythe. They were thought to have died of Yellow Fever. The soldiers and crew were sent back to Holland and Captain Willem Klump continued his career for many more years.

It is possible to walk round the protected wreck site at very low spring tides. It is still Dutch property and believed to have a hold full of precious goods! A replica of the vessel was completed in 1990 and is moored in Amsterdam

Lunch Club	Thursday 20th Nov. at Kings Restaurant [The College]
Family History Club	Monday 24th Nov. at 2pm Sue Howes
Craft Club	Monday 17th Nov. 2pm at Sandie Gomans
4th Tuesday Coffee Morning	Tuesday 25th Nov. 10.30am at Seasons

The Harbour WI Christmas Lunch is being held on the 10th December at the Cooden Beach Hotel.

The Annual Meeting of the ESFWI is being held in the De La Warr on the 24th March 2026 with Charlie Dimmock from *Love Your Garden* as one of the speakers.

The next meeting is on the 8th December at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. It is the Christmas Party meeting with festive food and music and a talk by Pat Bryer titled '*Choice Joyce - A Flavour of Joyce Grenfell*'.

Information on the Harbour WI can be found on the S.H.R.A. website. www.shra.co.uk/wi

THE HARBOUR W.I.

For the Christmas meeting of the Harbour WI, President Diane Beere welcomed 64 members and 3 visitors – all festively dressed!

The speaker was Pat Bryer who entertained the members with 'A Flavour of Joyce Grenfell'. Joyce [right] was a comedienne, song writer and actress, born in 1910, who performed on stage, radio and television during the 40s, 50s and 60s. She was best known for her comic monologues and most members remembered 'George' from her monologues 'The Nativity' and 'The Nursery' and were able to join in when Pat sung 'Stately as a Galleon'.

The committee supplied mince pies, stollen and spicy biscuits to go with tea - and a set of Christmas related Dingbats for every table to decipher! There was also a sales table and a charity box which between them raised another £117 for the Harbour WI's chosen charities.

After tea members were asked to join Sue [on Marion's keyboard] and Barbara [her assistant!] singing The Twelve Days of Christmas – and ending the meeting with We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

The Craft Club had another Christmas party on the 13th December! Sandie supplied mulled wine and the Crafty Ladies brought party food. It was a lovely afternoon of chatting and laughter.

The 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning is being held on **Tuesday 23rd December 10.30am at Seasons** – everybody welcome, just turn up.

The Harbour WI Christmas Lunch was held on the 10th December at the Cooden Beach Hotel. Delicious food, excellent service and very good company.

The Annual Meeting of the ESFWI is being held in the De La Warr on the 24th March 2026 with Charlie Dimmock from Love Your Garden as one of the speakers.

The next meeting is on the 12th January at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. The speaker is Mimi Bogelund talking about 'The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up'.

Information on the Harbour WI can be found on the S.H.R.A. website. www.shra.co.uk/wi