

THE HARBOUR W.I.

The first meeting of 2026 was on a cold, wet, grey day and the lift to the second floor was out of order! In spite of this, 47 members, 3 new members and one visitor were welcomed by President Diane Beere.

There were two speakers; the first was Mimi Bogelund telling members about 'The life changing magic of tidying up'! Mimi is a professional organiser. She goes into people's homes and reorganises their possessions. She started when she was made redundant from her job and read a book by Marie Kondo who invented a simple method of organizing called KonMari. The method suggests that you dispose of anything that you no longer like or use and only keep things that are relevant or give you joy. This should be done all at once and in a certain order to gain 'Inner Calm.' Mimi demonstrated how to fold clothes and put them in small boxes to take up a third of the space. The discarded items could then be recycled, donated or sold.



The next speaker was Dottie Proietti from ESFWI ([East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes](#)) who brought along a table full of jewellery to be sold in the break. The jewellery together with donations such as mobile phones, tablets, sat navs, cameras, watches, postcards and currency are collected and sorted by Dottie to recycle through auction houses and dealers for sale to raise funds for ACWW ([Associated Country Women of the World](#)), the national WI supported charity that funds education for women's projects all over the world. Dottie showed illustrations of projects such as the Romanian Seed Project and African women being taught about 'smart' agriculture. The charity is all about making sure females have education.



During the tea break, as well as buying Dottie's jewellery, members bought tickets for the Annual Meeting of the ESFWI which 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. They also signed up for Craft Club on the 19th January, Lunch Club at the Beachy Head Hotel on the 20th January and the Family History Club on the 26th January. The 4th Tuesday Coffee Morning is on the 27th January at Seasons.

A vote was taken after tea for the five Resolutions to be put forward at the [NFWI](#) Annual Meeting. Each Resolution was read out by a Committee member and the numbers were counted. The results were 20 in favour of Accessible Toilets, 12 for Every Child Needs a Friend, 10 for Women's Homelessness, 3 for Love Your Vulva and 0 for Nearer to Nature. The results will be compiled nationally.

President Diane Beere asked for volunteers to be 'Fairy Godmothers' in their areas. The idea is to be available to run errands, or help in other ways if a member has a problem. Sue Boyd will be coordinating the scheme. Diane also reminded members that Judy Latter is collecting 'anything orange' to put in the basket that is donated to be sold at the ESFWI Annual Meeting to raise funds.

The next meeting is on the 9th February at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. The speaker is Fern Lulham with her dog Nancy and she will be talking about 'What life is like when you are blind'. Information on the Harbour WI can be found on the SHRA website.

www.shra.co.uk/wi