

THE HARBOUR WI

President Diane Beere welcomed 58 members and 3 visitors to the May meeting of the Harbour WI.

The speaker was Naomi Lane, talking about the History of Underwear. She introduced herself as an “Enthusiastic Amateur” not an expert; but she has been researching and giving her talk for about 20 years and had a lot of knowledge. She said that men were the first to wear linen or cotton garments under their clothes to protect the fine materials. Women didn’t wear anything until the 1800’s, when they started wearing ‘drawers’! They were separate for each leg and ‘drawn’ on. Hence - ‘a pair of’. Bras weren’t invented until 1914. Before that women would wear chemises made of lightweight calico and stays that finished below the bust.

Underwear has changed through the ages; mostly with the fashion of the day, as Naomi illustrated with her slides. There were crinolines and bustles and corsets and stays – all intended to alter the shape of the outerwear. Naomi also brought along her extensive collection of antique underwear for everyone to admire, and even try on if they wanted!



During the tea break Diane went round with a list for members interested in a Book Club and also a ‘Knit and Natter’ group. There were also half price handmade cards for sale and various outings to sign up for.

After tea members were asked to vote on which resolutions they would like to go forward to the NFWI Annual Meeting. There were two resolutions – Accessible Public Toilets and Action on Women’s Homelessness. It was voted that they both should go through with no discretion for the Delegate to change the vote.

Nicky Clifford had been to the annual ESFWI Craft Day in Uckfield and had been one of the models for the Strictly Come Dancing costumes! She gave a very entertaining account of the day and encouraged everyone to put next year’s date in their calendar.



Sandie Goman has been supporting the Women’s Refuge charity for the last 5 years with help from donations from members; and gave an update on how the bags of toiletries are funded by the sales of her handmade cards as well as the donated items. She will be accepting donations again in September.

Judy Latter reminded members that they have their own webpage which can be found on the SHRA website www.shra.co.uk/wi/

The following dates were noted:

Craft Club	Tuesday 26 th May at Sandie’s house
Lunch Club	Wednesday 20 th May at the Castle Inn, Pevensey Bay
Family History Club	Monday 18 th May at Sue’s house
Coffee Morning	Tuesday 26 th May in Seasons
Knit and Natter	Wednesday 27 th May at the Maris View Care Home.

The President distributed birthday cards and thanked the tea ladies and raffle organisers; and the raffle was drawn.

The next meeting is on the 8th June at 2pm in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. It will be the Annual meeting and the speaker will be Alan Wenham talking about The Crumbles. Information on the Harbour WI can be found on our webpages on the SHRA website:

www.shra.co.uk/wi/