

DECEMBER 2023 With the bring and share buffet tables full of food and everyone happily seated at tables laid with Christmas decorations and Christmas crackers, Vice President Gerry led the meeting explaining that Joanna sent her best wishes but was unable to join us as she was currently in Germany. Apologies were also received from Iris Green, Judy Kiln, Lesley Lewis, Isobel Pile and Alison Tearle. We sung Jerusalem. Minutes of the November meeting were on the table. In Matters Arising Gerry reported that the County Christmas Carol Party was well supported and an enjoyable afternoon out especially with a good old singalong! Those that went to the Christmas Meal Out at The Sibthorpe Arms had a very jolly time with good food (apart from rock hard parsnips!) To a round of applause from members Gerry thanked Amanda for arranging it all. In Correspondence Debbie told members that we had received a thank you email for the jewellery recently sent to the Alzheimers Charity and reminded members to bring in their Resolution Choices voting slips (see November WI Life) at the January meeting. Gerry suggested members read County News at their leisure. The Book Club are meeting on Wed 20th December at Alison's. The Christmas Lights Trip on the minibus around St. Albans and finishing at the Football Club will be on Saturday 23rd Dec 7pm. Sue R told members that the Town Twinning had enjoyed their Christmas buffet and dance including music from Katie's Jumping Fleas. Future Plans so far are a couple of Chain Reactions namely Amanda's Film Night on Thursday 25th January (there will be a sign up board for this at the January meeting) and Gerry's Games Night during February - date to be confirmed. Our next meeting will be on January 11th with Pauline O'Connor, an author on a book about living with a mild brain injury - the difficulties of diagnosis and recovery. At the speakers auditions her talk was entitled brain injuries and how they affect women. Our brains different to mens? Superior? !! The competition will be a heart. Susan will give the VOT. Shirley and Janet will help Veronica with the refreshments. There was no AOB so Gerry declared the buffet open and whilst eating we were entertained by the very musical and amusing Lisa Garrity. Lisa played an alto saxophone and Irish flute among other instruments and encouraged us to sing along to some Christmas songs including the 12 Days of Christmas which some of us attempted complete with actions. Members enjoyed Lisa's witty tales of travelling and teaching music to children in Bolivia which made a nice change from her normal job in the Pharmaceutical industry (her so called "drug days"!)

The Christmas Hamper Raffle was drawn - the hampers looked splendid. The competition (a party hat) was won by Gerry. Santa's Elf (Susan!) took the Secret Santa sack round - alas one gift was just a washing up brush! Gerry reminded members of our January meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We closed with the National Anthem.