

DECEMBER 2024 Members were greeted with jolly Christmas music playing and the hall tables laid out and decorated with Christmas crackers and chocolate-nosed Rudolphins! Joanna welcomed everyone including Lydia Ottavio (who came as a visitor but has since joined) We then sung a rousing rendition of Jerusalem. Amazingly we only had the one apology and that was from Ruth H. The October and the November minutes were on the table along with the risk assessment. Joanna advised members that Elizabeth C was co-opted onto Committee this month so we now have 7 members and this was met with applause. In Matters Arising Joanna thanked Sue A for making the Rudolphins, mentioned the nice afternoon spent at the Christmas Carol Party at Wheathampstead on 3rd Dec thanking those members that had joined her for the event. She also mentioned our Christmas Meal at the Sibthorpe Arms on 5th Dec which was, as ever, very jolly with good company, food and service. Under Correspondence Debbie reminded members of the resolution shortlist for which details and the selection slip are in the Nov/Dec WI Life. She asked members to bring in their choices at the January meeting. Joanna reminded members to use the Suggestion & Feedback box which we place on the stage ready for any comments, good or bad - she urged members not to be coy! Joanna pointed out page 2 in County News which shows that subs have risen - these will be due in April. The Book Club are meeting on Wednesday 22nd January at Pam Croft's house. The Drama group are performing tonight for one night only (before they go off to Broadway!) Outings; the Minibus Christmas Lights Trip will be on Friday 20th December at 6.30pm £5 each and a sign up board was available, there are just 2 spaces left. For the Town Twinning, Sue R told us how enjoyable their Christmas dinner and dance was last Saturday and reminded members of their AGM on 8th January and their Jumble Sale on 15th February. For our Future Plans there are 2 Chain Reactions: Mulled Wine & Monica Mince Pies at Pam Croft's on Tuesday 17th Dec from 7.30pm - sign up board here tonight and Joanna's Soup Lunch on Tuesday 28th January 12.30pm for which there is also a sign up board here tonight. Members were asked to save the date for Judy & Lesley's Cheese & Wine Chain Reaction which will be on Thursday 20th February. Next meeting will be on 9th January with First Aid by St. John's Ambulance - so an important one to attend especially considering the latest resolutions shortlist! Only Gerry was brave enough to offer to do the VOT. The competition will be a medical instrument! Vilma and Ann will help Veronica with the refreshments. There was no AOB this month. Joanna then declared the very appetising bring and share buffet open. After the drama group (Amanda, Joanna, Susan, Isobel, Pat, Pam C and Gerry) had eaten they delighted the members by giving an amusing performance in front of the stage. It concerned a WI drama group trying to plan a pantomime with interference from two members of the 'ministry of political correctness'! This also included audience participation with the singing of two well loved carols and three Christmas songs. The group gave each other a VOT at the end to much amusement. After tea and coffee, more food and more chatting, Debbie, Elizabeth and Amanda took round two large Santa Sacks so that each member could have a 'lucky dip' and pull out a gift bought from funds. Joanna drew the Christmas Hampers raffle. There were 3 super hampers to be won plus a box of biscuits along with a bottle of Bucks Fizz. There were a number of entries for the competition of an angel. Sue Rowland was the winner with her crocheted one! Joanna reminded members of the Mulled Wine & Monica Mince pies chain reaction on Tuesday 17th, the Minibus Christmas Lights trip on Friday 20th and the next meeting which would be on 9th January. She wished us all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we closed with the National Anthem.