

FEBRUARY 2025. Joanna welcomed members and visitor, Marian Marlborough. She explained that the speaker tonight had asked if she could start as soon as she arrives so we started with the business part of the meeting as usual but then stopped for the speaker and continued it after our refreshments. We sung Jerusalem. Apologies received from Di, Janet, Ruth and Lydia. The January minutes and the Risk Assessment were placed on the table for viewing. In Matters Arising Joanna thanked everyone for bringing in items for the FEED food bank (who are with The Trussell Trust) They know it is coming and have already expressed their gratitude! The items were laid out on a table and photographs were taken for our website and social media. Joanna thanked all who came to her Chain Reaction Soup Lunch which was much enjoyed with soup and 3 hours of chat! The money raised will go into our funds and is much appreciated. She then announced that the winner of the Competition Cup for 2024 is Susan Blunt. Joanna presented Susan with the cup to a loud round of applause and a photo was taken. Correspondence: Debbie told members of the results of the resolution shortlist; 12 voted for *Let's talk about incontinence*. 5 votes for each of the other three: *Bystanders can be lifesavers*, *Join the repair revolution* and *Eliminate landfill of medication packaging* so 27 members voted and the results are now with County. She asked members if anyone had a candidate they would like to vote for in the NFWI Board Elections and referred members to the article in February WI Life, otherwise the Committee would decide on their behalf. The request from Bricket Wood WI for cake makers for Behind the Seams event in April was met by Joanna, Susan, Sue C and Pat. Debbie will advise Bricket Wood. Our speaker, Jen Misselden, then arrived and members settled down to hear her speak eloquently on her 35 years in the bra industry and how she has now changed the structure of wired bras to fit all the different ribcage shapes that us ladies have, something which other bra manufacturers have failed to do. She amused the members by stating that her bras result in uplifts rather than nosedives! Her designs have been patented and she travels around the country educating women's groups in the hope that the uncomfortable and damaging bras that are widely available now will become a thing of the past. She ended her talk with a question and answer session and an invitation to visit her shop with a discount off first orders. We then had refreshments before continuing with the rest of the business. Joanna reminded members to use the Suggestion & Feedback box then asked members to get their diaries out and we proceeded with the Sub Committees: The Book Club are meeting on Monday 17th February at Susan's. Outings; Living Crafts at Hatfield House Friday 9th May, sign up board available, also open to family and friends as we will need 15 people to get the cheaper group price tickets of £9 each. Joanna asked for a show of hands to gauge interest in a guided tour of Copped Hall and Gardens near Epping, 10 members are interested so we will provide more details next month. Sue R advised that the Town Twinning have a Quiz Night on 22nd March. Under Future Plans, Joanna reminded everyone of the Town Twinning Jumble Sale this Saturday for which we are providing refreshments. Details of cakes, drinks, servers and time to arrive were given. Judy & Lesley's Cheese & Wine Chain Reaction is on Thursday 20th February 7.30pm, the sign up board for this is full but Judy has said that she will not turn anyone away! Next meeting will be on 13th March and is our Birthday Meeting. We will be 72. Lisa Garrity will be entertaining us and we will be having a bring and share buffet (Joanna explained the party plate to members again). The competition will be a decorated biscuit. Iris and Lesley will help Veronica with the refreshments. In AOB, useful 'Healthy Hub St Albans' leaflets were handed out to each member, also Pat asked if anyone knew of a Polish speaker to help someone she knew. Then members moved around the hall to take part in the 'name that film villain' quiz that Sue A had fixed on the walls. This was fun but not easy, Isobel won by naming just half of them! There were joint winners of the competition (prettiest bra) namely Sue R and Sue A. After the raffle was drawn Joanna reminded members of the Jumble Sale this Saturday, Judy & Lesley's cheese & wine next Thursday and our birthday next meeting on 13th March. She reminded members to bring in a party plate for this. We closed the meeting with the National Anthem as usual.