

JANUARY 2025. Vice President, Gerry, welcomed members and wished them a Happy New Year. We sang Jerusalem. Apologies received from Joanna, Di, Iris, Ruth and Pam Fox. The December minutes are on our website but Debbie will bring them next month. The risk assessment was placed on the table. In Matters Arising Gerry mentioned the 2025 programme and thanked Susan for arranging this and Sue A for making the cards. She also reminded members that next month we are asking them to bring in a item for the FEED food bank as we did last February. Debbie handed a list of required items to each member but it was stressed that this was only voluntary as some members already support the food bank. Gerry mentioned both the recent Chain Reaction events (Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at Pam Crofts and the Minibus Christmas Lights Trip) stating how much both of these were enjoyed. Correspondence: Debbie reminded members of the resolution shortlist. Those members that hadn't bought in their choices were able to choose using Debbie's copy of WI Life during refreshment time. Debbie had emailed members with the 2024 Annual Review video from NFWI and some members had watched it. All agreed it was a good and encouraging piece. Debbie explained the 2025 NFWI Annual Meeting taking place on Wednesday 4th June would be a virtual event and asked if any member would like to be our delegate or maybe just an observer. She also explained the linking system and that we were the link delegate this year. There was no response from members other than Jill Stocks telling Debbie to attend. Debbie cannot do so and will raise the subject again at the February meeting. Gerry reminded members to use the Suggestion & Feedback box. She then pointed out that we are mentioned on page 5 in County News and thanked Amanda for her article. If anyone would like to join Susan at the next Speakers Selection Day (Mon 24th March) they are to let Susan know. Gerry asked members to get their diaries out and we proceeded with the Sub Committees: The Book Club are meeting on Wednesday 22nd January at Pam C's. The Drama group are resting! Outings; Living Crafts at Hatfield House Friday 9th May, after a show of hands 10 members were interested in this which is also open to family and friends as we will need 15 people to get the cheaper group price tickets. Gerry explained that we are to provide refreshments again at the Town Twinning Jumble Sale on 15th February. Susan, Lydia, Monica, Pat, Sue A and Sue C (& Joanna) offered to make cakes for this and Monica, Veronica, Sue A and Gerry will serve on the day. Future Plans are 2 Chain Reactions: Joanna's Soup Lunch on Tuesday 28th January 12.30pm- there is one place left. It was confirmed that none of those attending are vegetarians! Judy & Lesley's Cheese & Wine Chain Reaction on Thursday 20th February 7.30pm for which there is a sign up board tonight. Next meeting will be on 13th February with Jen Misseldine on The Enigma of the Bra World. Debbie will give the VOT. Competition will be the prettiest bra (so please don't wear yours on the night!) Shirley and Judy will help Veronica with the refreshments. In AOB Sue A was the only member willing to make our birthday cake for March. 10 members were interested in helping with the river clean (date t.b.c.) as shown in The Kite. Susan Blunt is the winner of the Competition Cup. Gerry asked for more tips and hints for our box and mentioned that Lydia was selling honey during refreshment time. Gerry apologised for a mix-up with the bookings so instead of St. John's Ambulance we had Rachel Woolf telling us about her charity Street Storage which helps homeless people by storing their possessions for a limited time enabling them to move more freely when attending interviews and looking for work etc It also provided advocacy support. She told us the charity was helping to change the narrative of homelessness. Members found it most interesting and wondered why no-one had thought of it before. During refreshment time members moved around the hall to take part in the animal advert quiz that Sue A had fixed on the walls. Which was fun but not one of us could name them all! The competition (a medical instrument) was won by Pat with a pair of forceps. After the raffle was drawn Gerry reminded members of Joanna's soup lunch on 28th January and of our next meeting on 13th February. She asked members to bring in an item for the food bank at that meeting if they wished to do so. Gerry then closed the meeting after we had sung the National Anthem.