

NOVEMBER 2023 Joanna welcomed the members and we stood to give a rousing rendition of Jerusalem. Apologies received from Pam Fox, Ruth Herman, Annegret Hicks, Judy Kiln, Lesley Lewis, Alison Tearle and Nancy Taffs. Minutes of the September and October meetings were on the table. In Matters Arising Gerry gave an amusing report on the HFWI Annual Council meeting and its speakers. Overall the membership has stayed the same but the County but has suffered financially due to lack of supports for events. We were given a certificate as we are 70 years old - Amanda put this on our noticeboard. Joanna explained to members that Gerry's Games Night had to be cancelled due to most of those who had signed up having to pull out for one reason or another. Fortunately, we can carry over the rent of the Community Room to early next year. She took this opportunity to remind members that if they sign up they do have to pay up! Joanna then told members about the CHPC Community Conference which she, Susan and Veronica had attended and served refreshments at making just over £90.00 for our funds. Nearly all local organisations were represented and all the new Parish Councillors were there. Joanna reminded members of the Tips and Hints box and to look at our website. Under Correspondence Debbie told members that the recycling for Good Causes sack, which weighed 15kg had been collected and we would receive a cheque for ACWW early next year. She had also posted another envelope of broken/unwanted jewellery to the Alzheimers Charity and has one more envelope to fill. Joanna promoted the Christmas Try a Craft as well as the Coronation Gardens talk as shown in County News stressing that the latter was open to friends and family as well. She reminded members to use the suggestion and feedback box. The Book Club are meeting on 20th November at Susan's. The Christmas Lights Trip on the minibus around St.Albans and finishing at the Football Club will be on Friday 22nd Dec 7pm. Five members will be attending the County Christmas Carol Party on Friday 1st Dec 2 pm in The Marford Hall. If anyone else would like to go they will need to book their own ticket. Sue R told members about the Town Twinning Christmas buffet and dance on 2nd Dec. Future Plans: Christmas Meal Out Thurs 7th Dec at The Sibthorpe Arms 7pm. Members had tonight to sign up, choose their grub and pay up. Our next meeting is our Christmas Party on December 14th with saxophonist Lisa Garrity. Joanna explained about bringing in a party plate plus your own place setting and drink. The competition will be a party hat. Gerry will give the VOT. Marian and Elizabeth will help serve tea and coffee. Joanna asked the members if they would like to have a secret Santa sack again and as the answer was yes, she then explained the rules and asked that gifts should be new, not used or second hand as we have had in the past! In AOB Joanna thanked members for contributing items for the Christmas Hamper Raffle. She then introduced Jean Thomas from Handside & Sandridge Walking Netball Team who gave us an explanation of this sport and encouraged us to give it a go! Joanna introduced Aruna Mene on From Rags to Riches who gave an interesting talk and presentation on textile waste and how she turned such fabrics into pictures. Some were inspired by scenes from her travel all over the world but others from what she had seen under a microscope in her days as a histopathologist! Members then enjoyed refreshments and a chat. After the competition and the raffle Joanna reminded members of our December meeting, party plate & secret Santa. We closed with the National Anthem.