

NOVEMBER 2022

Joanna opened the meeting by welcoming two new members; Pat Pauley and Alison Tearle. We then sung Jerusalem. Apologies were received from Jenny Godfrey, Ruth Herman, Judy Kiln, Lesley Lewis, Janet Littlechild, Pam Rowell and Nancy Taffs. The October minutes were on the table for viewing. In Matters Arising Joanna mentioned the Annual Council meeting that took place on 15th October which she and Gerry attended. Gerry gave an enthusiastic report on this and urged members to attend such meetings in future so they didn't miss out on the exceptional speakers (Baroness Floella Benjamin was the star of this one!) the craft sale and the camaraderie. The Phone Tree was handed out to members whilst Joanna explained how it worked, why we needed one and that it wasn't to be used by anyone outside of our WI. In Correspondence; Debbie gave advance warning of 2023/2024 subs which will be £46 payable in April along with a small as yet unknown amount for those who require a copy of County News. She then showed everyone the Christmas card, update and gift brochure received from the Donkey Sanctuary charity and explained how we first came to sponsor Eeyore a number of years ago. Joanna drew members attention to Ruth's article in this month's County News, rest to be read at leisure. There was one idea in the Suggestion & Feedback box of an outing in spring to the Tewin Orchard Badger Hide - the Committee will look into this. The Book Club will be meeting on 7th December at Pam C's. The Drama Club are always keen to have more members and will be performing at the December meeting. Gerry told members that the minibus outing for Wed 21st December to see the local Christmas lights (along with a visit to a pub) was over subscribed so if 6 more members could sign up they could run 2 trips that night. The Sewing Group will be meeting on Tues 6th December at Veronica's. Sue R reported that the Town Twinning barn dance was fun but really needed more people attending and that their next event will be a Christmas Dinner and Dance on 3rd Dec at £25 per ticket including a buffet. Joanna told members that the Vinted account now has more items for sale and encouraged members to look at the site. Future Plans: Christmas Meal Out at the Sibthorpe Arms 7 for 7.30pm: members were asked to ensure that they had chosen their menu options and paid by tonight. Next meeting is our Christmas Party on December 8th, with a bring and share buffet, music, a turn from the drama group and a couple of party games. There will also be a Secret Santa as in the past and the usual Christmas hamper raffle. Joanna clearly explained party plate, bring your own crockery and drink and the rules of Secret Santa! Joanna thanked members who had already bought in items for the Christmas hampers. Marion and Pam Fox will help Veronica serve teas & coffees from the hatch. The competition is a homemade Christmas decoration. In A.O.B. Joanna told members of the very sad news that Linda Bainbridge (London Colney WI and ex joint member of our WI) had recently passed away. We have sent a card to her family and one to London Colney WI. To help with the Cost of Living Crisis St. Mark's church is open as a warm space with refreshments on Monday afternoons and there is also a food donation box in the foyer where items can be placed and are then taken to FEED (run by the Trussell Trust). Debbie supplied a list of the most needed items. Then Joanna introduced Gaye Illsley who spoke very clearly on the importance of having a Lasting Power of Attorney arranged for health and welfare as well as finance. Gaye likened an LPA to an insurance policy saying that you hope you don't need it but it is there if you do and means that any decisions are taken by people you trust to have your best interests at heart. Her talk was well received by members. Gerry gave the VOT and after refreshments we played a general knowledge quiz so now we all know that Hippo's are the only animal that produces its own sun tan cream! The raffle was drawn with many members winning prizes. Sue Rowlands won the competition with a pair of pretty lacy gloves. Joanna recapped dates of events and after singing God save the King, she closed the meeting.