

OCTOBER 2023 Joanna welcomed the members and we all sang Jerusalem. Apologies received from Pam Fox, Ruth Herman, Annegret Hicks, Alison Tearle and Nancy Taffs. Minutes of the September meeting were *not* on the table as Debbie had forgotten to bring them! In Matters Arising Joanna explained how the Birthday Cards i.e. free tea/coffee/cake at the meeting on the month of your birthday is very old custom and difficult to manage now. She asked members to vote whether or not to continue this from January next year, remembering that we give free refreshments at our March, June and December meetings and the August social anyway. So it's fairer to stop it as otherwise those who have birthdays not in March, June, August or December get an extra freebie! If members vote to continue with the birthday cards but do not attend the meeting on their birthday month then they forfeit it. Show of hands to continue = 7. Show of hands to stop this = 15. So the custom will stop from January 2024. Joanna then showed members the Tips & Hints box and asked for contributions to this with the aim to produce a booklet eventually. She thanked all who contributed to this evening's Craft & Produce stall which was opened for sales during refreshment time. Under Correspondence Debbie mentioned the HFWI Annual Council meeting on 14th Oct which Gerry and Amanda will attend and they will give a report on it at our November meeting. We are on p.3 & p.5 of County News. The Book Club are meeting on 18th Oct at Lesley's. The Carol Concert HFWI are having on Friday 1st Dec in Wheathampstead will cost £10 each. Christmas Lights Trip as in previous years - sign up board tonight but date to be confirmed. Sue R told members about the Town Twinning Christmas buffet on 2nd Dec. Susan gave an update on the Vinted account and explained that sales will be 50% to seller and 50% to our funds from now on and reminded sellers to package items well enough to withstand postage. Future Plans: There is a sign up board for Gerry's Chain Reaction Games Night in the Community Room Friday 20th October 7-10pm £5 each. Christmas Meal Out Thurs 7th Dec at The Sibthorpe Arms 7pm. 2 courses for £23 and 3 courses for £27 - both prices include a £1 tip as we have done in the past. Members had tonight and the November meeting to sign up, choose their grub and pay up. Our next meeting is November 9th, the speaker will be Aruna Mene on From Rags to Riches plus, possibly, a member from Handside & Sandridge Walking Netball Team. Joanna will give the VOT. The competition is a handmade item (but not food!) Sue C and Sue R will help with the teas. In AOB, Joanna told members of the dates of the next 3 Parish Council Meetings as there is so much going on in the village with housing proposals. Members agreed to have a Christmas Hamper raffle again as in the past and will bring in items 'pamper' gifts (toiletries) as well as food/drink at the next meeting. Joanna then introduced Katie Lynn on Molten Wonky i.e. fused glass. Katie started her talk with many photos of her travelling before explaining how she came to be interested in glass work resulting in having her own workshop/studio. Members learnt a new word, 'frits', which are pieces of crushed glass. She had a lot of her attractive items displayed for members to look at and buy. Members then enjoyed the refreshments and shopping at Katie's stall as well as our own Craft/Produce stall. The competition was won by Sue Crawley. The raffle was drawn. Joanna reminded members of Gerry's Games Night and to bring in hamper items next month. We closed with the National Anthem.