

OCTOBER 2024 Joanna welcomed everyone and thanked all that had bought along items for our Produce and Craft stall which would be opened for sales during refreshment time. Then we sung Jerusalem. Apologies were received from Elizabeth C, Pam F, Judy K, Lesley L, Vilma L and Di M but not Susan as she was actually with us and so received a round of applause! Minutes of the last meeting and the risk assessment were on the table. In Matters Arising Joanna mentioned the Annual Council Meeting this Saturday which she, Gerry, Jackie, Amanda and Debbie will attend and a report on this will be given at the next meeting. Under Correspondence Debbie told members of the Consultation on changes to WI Governing documents and that any feedback had to be with NFWI by 19th November. She put the papers on the table for members to look at. She then reminded members to bring in any tips and hints as we so that a booklet could be made in the New Year. Joanna reminded members to use the Suggestion & Feedback box. In County News, Joanna pointed out to members that a report from Amanda was shown on p5. The Book Club are meeting on Wednesday 30th October at either Lesley's or Pam C's house. The Drama group are meeting on Thursday 24th October 7.30pm at Joanna's. Outings; the Carol Christmas Party at Wheathampstead was offered (3rd Dec 2.30pm £11) and a sign up board was available. The Minibus Christmas Lights Trip will be on Friday 20th December at 6.30pm £5 each and a sign up board was available. For the Town Twinning, Sue R offered a Games Night on 19th October, a Christmas event with singers and a buffet on 7th Dec, their AGM on 8th January and their Jumble Sale on 15th February! Future Plans: Christmas Meal Out at the Sibthorpe Arms on Thursday 5th December; costs are £26 for 2 courses or £30 for 3 courses both prices include a £2 tip. There was a sign up board available and menus but the choices were not needed until next month. Next meeting will be 14th November with Mark Barbakoff on The Women of Bletchley Park. Sue R and Sue C will help Veronica with refreshments. Amanda will give the VOT. The competition will be a WW2 memorabilia and Joanna suggested a UXB! In AOB Joanna asked members if they would like to have a Christmas Hampers raffle again and a show of hands proved this to be the case so she then reminded members to bring in just food items and to ensure that BBE dates were at least January 2025. Members were then told that Joanna had spoken to Santa and that there will be a present for each member at the December meeting. This is instead of the secret Santa sack that we have had in the previous few years. Jackie then reminded members of her fund raising tea, coffee & cake days on Friday 18th October 2pm-5pm and on Saturday 19th October at 10-12.30pm to raise funds for building accommodation in Kenya for girls escaping early marriage and the abuse of FGM. Ruth H promoted her new book called The Little Book of Hertfordshire and read out her amusing time line from it. Joanna handed over to Gary Fisher for an interesting presentation on the History of Hatfield House - the Jacobean one and it's predecessor, the Old Palace. He spoke about it's royal connections, the beautiful grounds and how the estate had been the home for the Cecil family for 400 years with the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury being the current owners. Pat gave the VOT. There were lots of entries for the competition (a teddy bear) which was won by Amanda. Joanna read out the sweet story that came with one of the bears (Pam C's one) which was well received by the members. The raffle was drawn. Joanna told members that the Produce & Craft stall had raised a brilliant £53.05 ! She then reminded members of the November meeting and to bring in food items for the Christmas Hamper raffle. We closed with the National Anthem.