

SEPTEMBER 2024 Joanna welcomed everyone and we sang Jerusalem. Apologies were received from Susan B, Marion C, Pam F, Iris G, Ruth H, Judy K, Lesley L, Shirley P and Sue R. Joanna gave an update on Susan's progress. Minutes of the last meeting and the risk assessment were on the table. In Matters Arising Joanna thanked Amanda, Veronica and everyone involved in the August Social which was a fun evening despite the weather stopping us from having it in Veronica's lovely garden, but we were fortunate to have use of the Village Hall at short notice. She then reminded members of the Chair's Challenge from July County News and showed them the lovely pennant that Amanda had made to represent us. This will be added to the Institute bunting which will be shown at the Annual Council Meeting next month. Members were asked to look at our website and Facebook page. In Correspondence Debbie offered members the chance to come along as observers (£15 each) to the Annual Council Meeting on 12th October. Gerry, Jackie and Debbie will attend along with Amanda who will go as our delegate. HFWI Annual Report (04/23-03/24) was offered to members to read. Despite encouragement from Debbie no members were interested in any follow-up work on either last year's Clean Rivers resolution or this year's Dental Health Matters resolution. First notice of the 2025 NFWI Annual Meeting was given, this is to be on Wednesday 4th June and, surprisingly, will be live streamed only. Debbie reminded members to join the WI Learning Hub and Gerry had brought her lap top so she could show members how to join this. Joanna reminded members to use the Suggestion & Feedback box. Joanna read out the upcoming events as shown in County News. The Book Club are meeting on Monday 30th September at Sue R's. The Drama group are meeting on Thursday 26th Sept 7.30pm at Joanna's and Isobel will join the group but a non-performer member is also required. Outings; the Carol Christmas Party at Wheathampstead was offered (3rd Dec 2.30pm £11) and a sign up board was available. After a show of hands, eleven members were interested in another Minibus Christmas Lights Trip. Joanna thanked and led a round of applause for the Sewing Group who had contributed another £72 to our funds. For the Town Twinning, Debbie offered Cocktails & Mocktails on 14th Sept and a Games Night on 19th October. Future Plans: members were told to save Thursday 5th December for our Christmas Meal Out at the Sibthorpe Arms with menus and prices available at the October meeting.

Next meeting will be 10th October with The History of Hatfield House by Garry Fisher, a change of speaker from First Aid as shown in the programme but we will have Howard and Co on First Aid in January instead. Sarah and Pat will help Veronica with refreshments. Pat will also give the VOT. The competition will be a teddy bear. Joanna reminded members that there will be a produce and craft stall at this meeting. In AOB Joanna presented a lovely bouquet to Pam Rowell to celebrate her 80th birthday. Members were reminded that this evening is the last chance to order NFWI diaries and HFWI calendars from Amanda. Jackie then told members about 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. Jackie and her husband will be going with Mission Direct and have paid for their own air fare so any money raised will be for building materials only. Sue C has details for those interested in coach trip mini breaks. Joanna handed over to Kay Goddard for an interesting yet sobering presentation on The Patterned Path to Freedom. Kay had brought along a beautiful quilt to show us. She gave a history of the 'underground railway' along which slaves could escape to Canada using the directions given by the coded patterns sewn onto quilts. A clever means of communicating in silence but just a prettily patterned blanket to everyone else. Amanda gave the VOT. Gerry's was the only entry in the competition (a pattern). The raffle was drawn. Joanna reminded members of the produce and craft stall at our next meeting. We closed with the National Anthem.