

MARCH 2024 The hall looked welcoming with tables laid with our usual green/white checked tablecloths and also vases of bright yellow daffodils. The buffet table was laden with delicious sweet and savoury food catered by Caroline from The Crooked Billet. Vice President Gerry welcomed everyone especially Geraldine & Priscilla our guests from London Colney WI and visitors Frieda and Sue, we then sang Jerusalem. Apologies were received from Pam Crofts, Joanna Defries, Ruth Herman, Judy Kiln, Di Marlborough, and Alison Tearle. Gerry then read out the risk assessment as required by National stating that it will not be read out at every meeting but will be placed on the top table and also will be shown on our website. Gerry also explained that we will provide a risk assessment for each outing or event that we hold in future. The February minutes were placed on the table for viewing. In Matters Arising Gerry thanked all members that hosted or attended any of the recent Chain Reactions; Joanna's Soup Lunch, Lesley & Judy's cheese & wine and Gerry's Games night. She said that all were enjoyable and good fundraisers but asked members to 'pick up the baton' for the next ones and to remember that they do not have to be big events but just social get-togethers. Gerry told members how well received the Town Twinning Jumble Sale Refreshments had been, making us £57.40 profit and she thanked all those who helped or provided cakes. In Correspondence Debbie thanked London Colney for the lovely birthday card. She also thanked everyone for the contributions last month to the Foodbank and read out a thank you card from a FEED volunteer. Members agreed to do this again at next February's meeting rather than having a bring and buy stall. Debbie told members to expect a NFWI raffle ticket at the July meeting which would be bought for each member from funds as we have done so in the last few years - hopefully one of us will win a prize this time! She then informed members of the HFWI forthcoming 'musical' events on 23rd April and 8th August. Members were to read County News at their leisure. The Book Club are meeting on Monday 8th April at Sue Rowland's. Gerry asked if anyone was interested in joining the Drama group who will be having a meeting on Wed 10th April 3pm at Joanna's. Debbie offered members a chance to sign up to visit Living Crafts at group discounted prices on Friday 10th May - we would need a minimum of 15 to obtain the reduced price. Sue R mentioned the Town Twinning Quiz Night on 23rd March and a WI team was made up consisting of Gerry, Lesley, Pam R, Janet, Pam C and Elizabeth. Future Plans are Amanda's Film Night for a second showing of The Greatest Ever Beer Run on 20th March and Susan's Film Night to watch Soylent Green on Wed 17th April - a sign up board available tonight. Our next meeting will be on April 11th. A workshop with Ruth King on Screen Printed Cards. The competition will be a decorated egg. Iris will give the VOT. Monica & Jackie will help Veronica with refreshments. In AOB Gerry reminded members that subs of £48 plus a bit extra (cost not yet known!) for County News will be due next month and we will email everyone with the bank details or members could pay by cheque but preferably not by cash as cash leaves no trail. This annoyed Nancy Taffs who loudly complained! Debbie said that an exception could be made for Nancy! Gerry reminded members of the Produce & Craft stall which will be at our May meeting for those that would like to contribute items. Gerry then opened the buffet and once all were settled with a plate of food she handed over to Zoe Jasko who gave an interesting presentation on the life and work of Joyce Grenfell including some readings of her monologues and, with an excellent voice, Zoe sang some of Joyce's songs. Zoe also mentioned that it was a monologue of a WI speaker on "useful & acceptable gifts" that got Joyce her first job and led to her fame! Pat gave the VOT. Gerry thanked Sue Andrews for making our birthday cake which Geraldine kindly cut it for us whilst we all sang Happy Birthday to Us! The competition (a hat) was won by Lesley Lewis with a tan felt one sporting a jaunty feather. After the raffle was drawn Gerry asked members to take the daffodils home, reminded members of our next meeting and we closed with the National Anthem.