

MAY 2024 Joanna welcomed everyone and thanked those who contributed to the Produce & Craft stall which will be open for sales during refreshment time. We then sang Jerusalem. Apologies were received from Pam F, Iris G, Ruth H, Judy K, Lesley L, Vilma L, Di M, Shirley P, Isobel P and Jill S. Unfortunately, the CHPC were holding their annual meeting at the same time so there were a number of apologies because of this. In Matters Arising Joanna mentioned the enjoyable visit (with guided tour by Pat!) to the Bluebells at Cherry Green Trees and Susan's successful Chain Reaction Film Night to watch Soylent Green. In Correspondence Debbie offered members a final chance to order from the WI bulb catalogue. Joanna reminded members to use the Suggestion and Feedback box. Joanna asked members to look at County News which listed all the events taking place now and later on in the year. The Book Club are meeting on Wednesday 11th June at Lesley's. The Drama group are meeting on Wednesday 15th May and are pleased to welcome Pat to their group. Debbie mentioned the visit to Living Crafts which is happening the next day. There is a sign up board for an outing to Ayot St Lawrence Open Garden on Saturday 18th May at £8 per person. There is also a sign up board for members to see The Winters Tale ballet live screened at Campus West on 26th May - Pam C is arranging this and costs £19.50 plus a booking fee. Sue R mentioned the Town Twining are hosting their French families on 17th-20th May and also there will be a trip on 23rd June to the steam railway at Leighton Buzzard to which all are welcome. Future Plans are the Chain Reaction Fashion Show on Wednesday 29th May 7.30pm in the Village Hall's Studio - sign up board here tonight, there will be light refreshments of soft drinks, sandwiches and cake. The School Summer Fair for which we have a Produce/Craft stall is on Saturday 29th June and there is a produce and rota sign up sheet here tonight. Our next meeting will be June 13th with Philip McKinder on Guilty or Not Guilty. It is our Bring a Friend Night and Debbie handed out invitations to the members for them to pass onto their friends. The competition will be a Copper and members were told to use their imaginations! Pam Rowell and Mavis will help Veronica with refreshments. In AOB Joanna asked if members would like to do a Litter Pick around the village on Sunday 14th July at 2pm and then have cake at one of our houses - a show of hands showed that 10 members were interested in this. Joanna told members of our August Social on Thursday 8th called Fun and Frolics at Veronics (members enjoyed this catchy rhyme!) Starting at 6pm it will include a chocolate treasure hunt, alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks plus canapés and the like. She then informed members of the decision to increase the price for a visitor to attend our meetings from £3 to £4 but to remember that the first visit is still free and we do have the Bring a Friend night next month as well. We then proceeded with the Annual Meeting Agenda the minutes of which are attached. As she is a member of the Board of Trustees at County, our Joanna took us through the resolution; Dental Health Matters. A discussion was had on the shocking figures of how many people were without access to NHS dentists and how many dentists had given up on NHS work and it's complicated contract preferring the much more lucrative private practice. There were 25 votes for this resolution (23 present and 2 by proxy) There were no votes against this and there were no abstentions. It was then time for refreshments. Joanna opened the Produce/Craft stall and members purchased plant cuttings and jars of marmalade etc before chairs were arranged in two facing rows and Gerry led us through a 'speed dating' session; 2 minutes on questions: What drew you to the WI? What do you want from it? What are your interests? This was much enjoyed by the members and the noise level rose greatly with us all chatting away! The competition (homemade button hole) was won by Susan with an attractive colourful one. The raffle was drawn. Joanna reminded members of the Chain Reaction Fashion Show on 29th May and our next meeting on 13th June which is our Bring a Friend Night and she reminded members to use the invitations. We then closed with the National Anthem.