

SEPTEMBER 2023 Joanna welcomed the members after our August break and also, a new member, Isobel Pile, before we all sang Jerusalem. Joanna then introduced our speaker, Lucy Allen who had to drive to Cardiff straight afterwards for the unexpected role of a zombie! Lucy amazed us with her video and talk on her 30 years of being a stuntwoman. She told us how she was inspired to join the Stunt Register and the skills needed to do so, the many actresses she had 'doubled' for and about Stunt Risk Assessments! Sarah gave the VOT, we wished Lucy a safe journey and then we then went on to our usual 'business' part of the meeting. Apologies received from Iris Green, Ruth Herman, Annegret Hicks, Shirley Paine and Alison Tearle. Minutes of the July meeting were on the table for viewing. In Matters Arising Joanna spoke about the enjoyable and successful Waterways Canal Trip back in August along with our social event Fizz, Fun and Games which lived up to its title! Susan was given a thank you bouquet and a round of applause from members for being such a terrific hostess. Under Correspondence Debbie gave the first notice of the NFWI Annual Meeting (5th June 2024). Offered observer tickets for the HFWI Annual Council meeting (14th Oct - Gerry and Amanda will attend this.) She mentioned that this would be the last chance to order a 2024 NFWI diary and/or a HFWI calendar. Members were reminded we are no longer collecting for the Recycling for Good Causes (ACWW) as the sack is now heavy enough to be collected. However, we will continue to collect broken or unwanted jewellery for the Alzheimers charity. We will have an article in the October County News. Susan and Mavis will be attending the Speakers Auditions. The suggestions in the Feedback box from last meeting have been addressed i.e. 1. we will be repeating the 'speed dating' at a later meeting 2. our Chain Reaction fund raising money cannot be split with another charity. 3. members are agreeable to having a Tips and Hints box at each meeting with a view to making up a little booklet eventually. The Book Club are meeting on 19th Sept at Sue Rowland's. We will be arranging two outings in December; the Carol Concert HFWI are having on Friday 1st Dec at Wheathampsted Memorial Hall and a Christmas Lights Trip as in previous years. After a show of hands, 5 members were interested in the former and 12 in the latter. Joanna thanked the Sewing Group for raising £82 for our funds - she gave a thank you card to Veronica on behalf of us all. Sue R told members of the next Town Twinning event; a Come Dancing evening on 28th October. Susan gave an update on the Vinted account. Joanna handed round the birthday cards but 3 members pointed out that they had missed out on their free refreshments in June. There was some confusion so the future of Birthday Cards will be discussed at Committee. Future Plans: Gerry will host a Chain Reaction Games Night in the Community Room on Friday 20th October 7-10pm. Christmas Meal Out on Thurs 7th Dec at The Sibthorpe Arms - members were told to save the date. Our next meeting is October 12th, the speaker will be Katie Lynn on Molten Wonky plus there will be our Craft Stall. Pat will give the VOT. The competition is a Fabulous Glass. Lesley & Judy will help with the teas. In AOB, Susan mentioned a Parish Council Community Conference due in November. Members then enjoyed the refreshments and a good chat with each other. The competition (a doll) was won by Susan Blunt. The raffle was drawn. Joanna reminded members of the October Craft Stall and agreed to it being a Produce stall as well. We closed with the National Anthem.