“The Trouble with Goats and Sheep” by Joanna Cannon.

The novel is set in a quiet cul de sac in England during the sweltering heat of 1976. One of the neighbours has gone missing and Grace, aged 10 and her friend Tilly, 9, begin making door to door enquiries under cover of working for their Brownie badges. They are searching for God having been told by the local vicar that “God is everywhere” and they think if they find him then everyone will be safe.

Gradually the reader discovers that something which happened 9 years ago is disturbing the neighbours as they believe the missing Mrs Creasy has discovered their secret and may reveal it on her return.

The title comes from St Matthew who taught that God divided his flock into sheep, who were kind and served him well and goats who lacked compassion and faith. But how do you tell the difference?

The characters were all well written and the troubles of childhood friendships well portrayed, especially when one is desperate to be older!

Most of the group enjoyed the book but some were disappointed with the ending which left the reader wondering. It brought back memories of the heatwave to those who lived through it and we all enjoyed reminiscing about Babycham, Jackie and Angel Delight!