

Bont Faen WI

Minutes for the Monthly Meeting:

Held: 19 February 2026

1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Margaret Price, Lucy Higgins, Jacquie Smith, Alison Hannaby, Lesley Freeman, Margaret Langdon, Kathleen Small, Ros Davies, Lianne Brown, Jane Makin, Sian Thomas, Evelyn James.

Number of members present: 40

Number of visitors present: 1

2 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes approved

3 ANNOUNCEMENT

It was with great sadness that the deaths of Rosemary Ryland, a former long time member, and Ellie Latisser, current member, were announced. The whole WI offers their heart-felt condolences to Rosemary and Ellie's families. Cards and flowers have been sent on the behalf of members.

Funeral arrangements were announced as known at the time of the meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 **May Fair** (4 May 2026):

Diane called for donations of items for the tombola, to include children's item. The Fair will be held in the School Field (behind the Scout Hall), not the Bear Field as previously announced, due to building work. Volunteers were requested to let a member of the Committee know that they were available to help on the stall and a board will be available next month for those able to help.

4.2 **2026-27 Committee**

A number of members will be leaving the committee. An appeal was made to members to consider coming on to the committee. Interested members should speak to any committee member.

4.3 **Mystery Trip**

Diane asked for volunteers to organise the Mystery Trip, explaining that it was not a function of the Social Secretaries but something that members usually took on. She has given lots of notice because of the complexity of organising the event!

5 REPORTS

5.1 TREASURER'S REPORT

Adjusted balance: £2219.91.

Some refund payments from the Forage meal in January were still outstanding. A list of names was read out as a reminder.

5.2 CORRESPONDENCE

- **Reminder: Fashion Show and Lunch**

- Heronston Hotel Bridgend (Samantha B):, 10, 11, 12 March 2026, £25, (Closes 30 January 2026)
- Norton House, Swansea 21 – 23 April 2026, £25, (Closes 13 March 2026)

- **Reminder: Murder Mystery Evening**

Hi Tide, Porthcawl, 18 March 2026. Cost £25 (Closes 27 February 2026)

- **Malvern Flower Show**

10 May 2026, £45 including coach (from Sarn). (Closes 27 March 2026)

- **London Trip (Closes 30 April 2026)**

11 – 13 September 2026. Strictly Studio visit and Buckingham Palace tour. Two nights cost Twin £349 and single £510.

- **Denman Grant**

Singing: two venues: Murton (W) 16 May 2026, Rhiwbina (E) 21 May 2026 (own lunch)

Calligraphy: Port Talbot, 16 May 2026 (own lunch, materials provided)

Booking system to be put in place (details to follow)

5.3 SOCIAL

- **Beetle Drive: Thursday 26 February:** Lesser Hall at 7.30pm.

Reminder to bring pencil or pen and own refreshments.

- **Llanelly Plas trip: Wednesday 22 April 2026**

Leaving Cowbridge at 9am for tour of house at 11am. Lifts to be organised. £15.50 to include coffee.

- **Skittles, 26 March 2026**

Pontyclun Sports & Athletics Club. £25 for hire. Buffet supper £6/head. Probable cost for evening <£10. Cost and further details to follow.

6 SUB GROUPS

6.1 Crafty Sew ‘n’ Sews

Next meeting: 23 February 2026 at Sue Dibben’s.

Friendship brooch.

6.2 Culture Vultures

Red Shoe Ballet: 4 March 2026. Two members have signed up.

No further activities planned at present.

6.3 Walkie Talkies

Possible Federation walk in April, if weather improves. Details to follow.

7 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

19 March 2026 at 7.30pm:

The Balloon Girl

Speaker: Rosemary Challoner

Teas: Maggie Cooper, Jane Crowe, Ros Davies

8 AOB

8.1 Resolutions:

Once the Resolution was announced, two speakers (for and against) will be needed for debate to be held at Annual Meeting in April.

8.2 Raffle: **won by:** Diane Sloman

9 SPEAKER

Secret lives of water voles: Richard Bluck

Diane Bluck introduced Richard, explaining how health challenges had helped him to make the decision to study nature conservation during lock down and subsequent shielding and become a full-time conservationist.

Richard explained to members how to recognise “Ratty”, the Wind in the Willows hero, and distinguish the water vole from its smaller cousin, the more familiar field vole, or the more notorious (and unrelated) brown rat (smaller ears and fluffier tail, apart from very different habits!). Richard then gave fascinating details on how INCC and in particular the Upland Water Vole project is identifying, monitoring, protecting and, where possible, re-introducing water voles in our local area, including the River Thaw.

Sue Bradshaw Jones gave the vote of thanks.

Minutes taken by: Anne Hordley

Chaired by: Diane Bluck