

BONTFAEN WI MONTHLY MEETING -THURSDAY 20th MARCH, 2025

Diane welcomed everyone and said that there had been 13 apologies.

Matters Arising: -

- The Annual Meeting will be in the Lesser Hall and will be chaired by Anne Hordley. Diane is happy to stand for re-election but will step aside if someone else wants to become President. Members can also volunteer to join the committee.
- 2025/26 Programme will be emailed to members after the Annual Meeting.
- May Fayre 5th May -Members were asked to sign up to run the tombola for half hour sessions between 12.30pm and 4.30pm. They were also thanked for the donated gifts brought to the meeting. A small group will meet to put the raffle tickets on them.
- Town Hall Survey -has been submitted.
- Resolutions -No information has been received on which motion(s) has been voted for nationally.
- The Glamorgan Show theme is nursery rhymes. Schedules available.

Treasurer's Report: -

- Accounts have been audited, let Jean know if you want a hard copy.
- There is £2043 in the bank after adjustments.
- The Bont Faen subscription will be £45 (reduced from £51) and can be paid prior to the April meeting,

Correspondence: -

- Hard copies of the Federation newsletter are available.
- Members asked to provide an emergency contact number. List on board.
- Belinda Hansford has been appointed as the Federation's Safeguarding Officer. This role is now required due to legislation and also gives a reporting avenue as she can advise both on any issues within the WI and also in relation to concerns regarding a member's wellbeing outside the WI.
- River Ogmore May 5th to 9th -over the 5 days it is hoped that 13,000 tyres will be removed from the river along with tons of rubbish. Members asked to volunteer to run the refreshment stall during either a 7am -11am session or 11am to 3.30pm session. All provisions will be provided. Members can also attend the event to do litter picking.
- Chepstow Races on 16th June, closing date May 2nd. Cost £91 to include transport from M4 corridor, drink on arrival, private suite and bar, tipster talk and pre- ordered two course meal.

Social: -

- 3rd April -Cardiff Arcades tour – 25 members attending, meet at the John Batchelor statue near St, David's Hall in the Hayes at 10.50am. Lifts not being arranged as bus from Cowbridge should leave from 9.12am arriving at 9.54 or 9.42am arriving at 10.21am. Let Sue know of any travel problems.
- Sue and Annie will meet to arrange social for May.
- Mystery Trip, arranged by Maggie Cooper and Jan Thomas will be on the 14th August. £30 per person.

Sub Groups: -

- Sew 'n' Sews meeting at Sue Dibben's house, 2pm on March 24th. Bring scissors and a sewing kit to make an Easter floral arrangement. The April session will not take place due to Easter holiday commitments but hopefully will be rearranged.
- Walkie Talkies – 5 members enjoyed the 3 mile walk from Penarth marina into Penarth and lunch thereafter. Moira provided a lot of historical information on the sites seen along the way.
- Culture Vultures -Members to sign up to see "Women of Llanrumney" at the Sherman Theatre on the 6th May. £16.50 if over 65 and £18.00 if under 65.

Annual Meeting :-

- Tea rota Mary Hopkins, Maggie Cooper and Evelyn James.
- Diane asked that one person takes the cups home in the black bag provided for recycling. She also thanked Diana Sloman for bringing the refreshment bag and asked for any volunteers who might like to take over this role.

A.O.B. :-

- Sue Dibben promoted the Cowbridge bowling club open day on 6th April from 11am to 4pm.

We were then joined by John Chard, his wife Gill and their trainee guide dog, Dillan. John explained that a doctor used to take his German shepherd dog with him to a Switzerland hospital where he was treating soldiers injured in WW1. One day he was called away and, on his return, he found his dog leading a patient around the grounds. From this moment, the concept of guide dogs for the blind was formed with the first dogs being trained in 1931. John explained how the organisation is run and that it cost £38k for each dog to be trained. He outlined the training stages that a puppy undertakes before being placed with a blind person. Dillan, a gorgeous golden retriever demonstrated some of the things that he has learnt and captivated the audience. We all hoped that he can get over his fear of getting into strange cars and not be one of the 20% who fails

to make the grade. Members donated £157.60 for the charity. Lynne Mulcahy gave the vote of thanks.