

## **Y Bont Faen WI Monthly Meeting:**

### **Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 18 September 2025, Town Hall**

**Apologies:** Alison Hannaby, Maggie Cooper, Val Monaghan, Bev Taylor, Jacky Jones, Karen Jacobs, Jule Harris, Lynn Addison, Pam Harrison, Glen Brookfield, Jacqui Smith, Sue Mercer, Sian Williams, Krys Hunt, Joy Thomas, Chris Jenkins, Jane Makin and Sian Thomas.

**Number of Members Present:** 34

**Visitors:** 8 plus 32 guests from invited WI's

**Minutes from Last Meeting:** yet to be approved

Diane welcomed our guests from the following local Wis:- Ystradowen -5, Llanilltyd (Llantwit) -10, St. Nicholas and Bonvilston -7, Southernodown -2, St. Hilary/other 3 and Penllyn – 5. She also welcomed back Bont faen members after the hot summer break.

She advised those present of the procedure in the event of a fire evacuation.

As the speaker had been delayed due to sat nav issues it was decided to go ahead with the business part of the meeting.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

- New members will be issued with a pack which will contain the following: - the M.C.S. Registration form, a questionnaire, a photo consent form, a gift aid declaration form with guidance and the current programme. The questionnaire has been revised in order to collect more personal information from the outset eg. Emergency contact details.
- The Summer Social was a happy occasion with good weather, food and camaraderie. Diane had brought along some cutlery, plates and trays that had been left behind to be reclaimed.  
*Prior to the meeting, the committee had given Diane a voucher for Toscana, the Italian restaurant as a thank you for her and Roger hosting the social at Tudor Lodge.*
- Diane thanked Jan Thomas and Maggie Cooper for organising the Mystery Trip in August. Members enjoyed a splendid day in Broadway and at Stanway House.
- Penllyn WI have invited Bont Faen members to their Harvest Festival on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm for 7.30 start. There will be a cold supper, pudding and drink for £7. Anyone interested need to speak to or contact Novella McClain, their President who was a guest at the meeting. Her landline is 01656 574191.

#### **SUB GROUPS**

- **Crafty sew 'n' sews:** Meeting at Sue Dibben's at 2pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Mary Hopkins explained that the project will be making star decorations for the Holy Cross Church Christmas Festival.
- **Walkie Talkies:** Members are able to take part in the Federation walk from Penarth/Lavernock/Cosmeston Walk: at 10.30am on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Some members walked the route in August and found it to be fairly flat. There may be a parking charge. If interested please contact Margaret Price.07511963284.

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- **Culture Vultures:** Lynne Mulcahy led a group of ladies on a trip to Bath on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The Jane Austin exhibition in the Abbey was a little disappointing but they enjoyed their day nevertheless.

**SOCIAL:** Sue Dibben

Boards are available for signing up to the following activities: -

- **Thursday 23rd October at 10am - Cowbridge Treasure Hunt.** Members will have the opportunity to return to the Lesser Hall for refreshments and scores.
- **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January- Christmas Meal at Forage** – more information to follow
- **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February -Beetle Drive** in the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm
- **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April -Llanelli Plas trip** - leaving Cowbridge at 9am for tour of house at 11am.

#### NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING:

- 16 October 2025 in the Lesser Hall. The speaker is British Champion swimmer Harriet Jones.
- Refreshment ladies are Jane Makin, Susan Mercer and Val Monaghan.

#### AOB

- Diane thanked the members who had made cakes for the evening.
- Federation event boards were put on the table by Lucy Higgins for members to sign up if they were interested in one of the following:-  
Federation Walk -Penarth /Lavernock/Cosmeston **10.30am** on 8<sup>th</sup> October, cost £3  
Closing date 26<sup>th</sup> September.  
Door Wreath Making at Carmel Chapel, Port Talbot Saturday 22 November 2025 £10  
Christmas Carol Service at Margam Abbey Wednesday 3 December 2025  
Escape Room Challenges Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, venues in Swansea and Cardiff, cost ranging from £12-16 (Swansea) to £21 (Cardiff).

Diane and Sue Bradshaw -Jones then introduced the speaker, Asmaa-Al-Attak who is a consultant surgeon and past winner of the BBC “Great British Sewing Bee” competition. Asmaa gave a fascinating talk using slides and clips from the programme. She explained how she was inspired as a child to sew by her grandmother whilst growing up in Iraq. When she came to live in Durham at the age of 14, as the only Muslim girl in her school she was bullied. Her mother believed in education so she studied hard to push back the boundaries she faced and is now a consultant surgeon. She explained that she started sewing again and entered the “Sewing Bee” as working in the NHS during covid left her with a feeling that she needed something for herself. Asmaa then showed the members the dress that she made in the final which unwraps itself changing from one dress to another. After Jean Downing had given the vote of thanks, Asmaa answered many questions from the members and guests about her time on the show.

Following the talk, refreshments were served and members and guests were able to enjoy a social time.