

BONTFAEN WI MONTHLY MEETING -THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER, 2024

- Diane welcomed everyone and said that there had been 17 apologies.

Sue Bradshaw-Jones introduced Rhisart Arwel a friend and rival of Rene Griffiths, the intended speaker, who was unable to attend due to a recent accident. Rhisart explained how he had started guitar lessons in Chester and gone onto study at the Royal College of Music in Manchester. Following a spell as a professional magician and then working in media, he had now returned to music. Rhisart introduced and played a number of pieces from South America, Spain and Wales, one of which he had composed himself. Sue thanked Rhisart for standing in at short notice and providing an excellent evening of entertainment.

Matters Arising: -

- Diane explained that due to concern over securing a hall for 2025, the booking had been made to continue the current set up. The vote will now take place at the Annual Meeting and will determine the favoured venue for 2026. In the meanwhile, a trial will be carried out to see if having rows of seats and not tables upstairs addresses some of the concerns raised.
- Several members had enjoyed the Burlesque evening hosted by Rhoose WI.
- It has not been possible to source a trailer for the Christmas Parade. About 8 or 9 members indicated that they would walk, dressed as angels, in the parade from the leisure centre instead.
- The committee has decided with regret to now only send cards to people who are hospitalised in future. The purchase of flowers although lovely to do is probably not the best use of WI funds, especially when an aging membership is resulting unfortunately in more cases of illness. Flowers will still be sent following the loss of a spouse/partner or child.

Treasurer's Report: -

- Jean and Miranda visited the Barclays Hub to start the process of adding Miranda as a signatory with no success as they had just dropped in, so Miranda now has an appointment at the hub in Barry.
- There is £2420 in the bank taking into account various adjustments.
- Unfortunately, the Glamorgan Experience weekend has again been cancelled due to lack of uptake so the figure includes the return of the £300 bursary. It was noted that not all WIs award a bursary and that costs can be prohibitive. Diane will provide feedback when she attends the Presidents' coffee morning.

- Members were reminded to make payment for the bingo night. Annie will chase up any outstanding payments to finalize by the weekend.

Correspondence: -

- Hard copies are available of the recently circulated Federation Newsletter.
- An email had been circulated regarding “The Developing Strategic Vision 2025-2030”. Members should contact Lucy if they have any comments a.s.a.p. as there is a short deadline. No comment signifies that we are happy with the proposed constitution wording changes.
- Federation events being held are: - Seasonal Dabble Day at Carmel Chapel, Port Talbot on Saturday 7th December 10am to 3pm. Cost £20 to include Dorset buttons, shadow work, ribbon craft and miscellany. Bring pack lunch. Refreshments provided. Closing date 15th November.
Whist Drive at Murton Methodist Hall, Swansea on Saturday 30th November from 1.30-4pm. Cost £5. Refreshments provided -closing date 1st November

Social:-

- A number of members had enjoyed the scary ghost tour of St. Fagan’s castle and an article and photo has been published in the Glamorgan Star.
- Bingo evening. November 7th in Ystradowen Village Hall from 7.30pm - Members reminded to bring their own drink and glasses, there will be small nibbles and prizes for a line and house!.
- The New Year/ post-Christmas Meal - 9th January at Forage. 3 course meal for £35 plus £2 tip. Some free bottles of wine will be provided. Members to sign up to express an interest and if ready can make their menu choice.
- No event has as yet been arranged for February.
- March 6th – 7.30pm performance of “Murder on the Orient Express” at the New Theatre, Cardiff £42.50.

Sub Groups:-

- Sew ‘n’ Sews –2pm on 28th October at Sue Dibben’s house. Make an impression -bring a blunt needle/ knitting needle and scissors.
- Walkie Talkies – Several members enjoyed the Federation run Rhossili circular walk. Moira will lead a short walk of 3-4 miles around Porthkerry Park on the 1st November if members are interested.
- Culture Vultures -Unfortunately changing the date of the trip to the Royal Western Academy to a Monday due to bad weather, resulted in four ladies arriving to find out the not only was the Academy not open but neither were nearby tourist venues. So, they enjoyed a walk reading the historical plaques and lunch out instead.

A.O.B.

- Diane asked that anybody interested in forming a team for the Rotary Quiz on the 16th November to let her know. The WI will fund the entry cost.
- Next meeting -Speaker Kerry Sanson -Zumba and Qigong so wear suitable clothing.
- Teas -Dawn Jones, Denise Jones and Leanne Brown.