

BONTFAEN WI MONTHLY MEETING -THURSDAY 20TH JUNE, 2024

- Diane welcomed everyone. There were 8 apologies.

Matters Arising: -

- An email had been sent out stating who to contact to sign up for the forthcoming activities for those members not in attendance.
- Butterfly Walk on 26th June with Dot Williams. Meet at the cattle grid in St. Brides Major at 11am for a 1 -1.5 hour walk. Tick your board entry if you want to go to the Mezze restaurant for lunch afterwards.
- Summer Social on 25th July at Diane Bluck's house for which directions will be provided. Members can arrive from 4pm or 3pm if they want to play tennis before a swim. The business meeting will be at 6pm. Sign up with what plate of food you will be bringing along with your own plate, bowl and crockery. Drinks and glasses will be provided at a reasonable price.
- Mystery Trip on 15th August. Cost £33 including driver's tip. Sign up and pay to reserve your place.
- Thanks to Annie for arranging the superb garden tour and tea at Gileston Manor. Please send Lucy photos for the website.
- Congratulations to Margaret Price and Jean Downing for undertaking the Zip Wire challenge.

Treasurer's Report: -

- 57 members now paid up
- There is £3084.50 in the bank which taking into account outstanding commitments reduces to £2713.00

Correspondence:-

- Hard copies are available of the recently circulated Federation Newsletter.
- Reminder of an Evening with an Author (Sue Barrow) on 11th September, 6.45pm for 7.00 pm at the High Tide Inn, Porthcawl. £21
- Malvern Flower Show on 29th September. £35 including travel and entry.
- Federation Quiz on 22nd October, 7.30pm in the High Tide Inn, Porthcawl. One team of 4 per W.I. Cost £10
- Craft Spectacular on 16th November at Margan Orangery. 2 members can run each craft stall for £20.
- Glamorgan Federation Show on 6th July, 10-4pm at the Aberavon Beach Hotel.
- The NFWI Raffle tickets are still on sale.

Social:-

- As members are already being asked to sign up for events over July and August –(see matters arising), details of the planned social for September will not be announced at this stage.

Sub Groups:-

- Sew 'n' Sews – 2pm on 24th June at Sue Dibben's house. Clay craft -bring a rolling pin and plastic container. Limited to 12 members.
- Walkie Talkies - August 1st at around 10am -Maira is arranging a shorter walk (around 5 miles) in the Wenvoe area to be followed by lunch at the garden centre or Wenvoe Arms. Please comment whether too long or short. The Butterfly Walk is part of sub group programme -see matters arising. Alternative non-WI butterfly walk available on 18th July.
- Culture Vultures -Sue Bradshaw- Jones is arranging a trip to the Royal Western Academy in Bristol on the 25th September. Cost £9.50 payable on door. Car sharing will be arranged. There will be time for lunch, visiting craft shops and finishing in a pub.

A.O.B.

- Margaret Llangdon has provided some schedules for entries into the Vale Show on 7th August in Penllyn. Entries cost £1 each which Margaret can collect.

Speaker:-

Jacqueline Smith then gave an informative talk and presentation on the Bevin Boys. She explained how mining was not a reserved occupation so with miners leaving for the war, Ernest Bevin was tasked with filling the shortfall. When not enough people volunteered –(“Optants”) conscription was started using a ballot system based on the last number of recruits' National Service Registration numbers.(Ballotees) Many people wrongly accused the “Optants” and “Ballotees” of being conscientious objectors and they had to win over the respect and understanding of the miners. They were not given an official uniform and when they were demobbed in 1948, were not given the financial support or medals that military veterans were provided with. In 1989 the Bevin Boy Association was formed which campaigned for recognition resulting in being allowed to take part in the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Days between 1998 and 2012. Surviving veterans also received a Bevin Boy Veteran Bage in 2008. The Association created and issued its own medal.

Jean Lloyd gave the vote of thanks.