

Bont Faen WI

Minutes for the Monthly Meeting:

Held: 20 March 2026

1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Margaret Price, Julie Harris, Paula Hof, Alison Tinkler, Alison Hannaby, Margaret Langdon, Evelyn James, Jean Downing, Jacqui Smith, Christina Burgin, Mary Noyes, Sandra Phillips, Melanie Fairfax, Pam Harrison.

Number of members present: 36

Number of visitors present: 3- Rebecca Heath, Sue Tomlinson, Annette Stone.

2 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes approved

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Ellie Lassiter and Rosemary Ryeland

A number of members attended Ellie and Rosemary's funerals.

3.2 Resolutions

Notification received that two resolutions have been selected: "Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion" and "Action on women's homelessness". The first will be accepted as a "local" resolution and the second as a "national" resolution as it was felt public toilets were more likely to be achieved by local action.

A suggestion to have for and against discussion for "Action on Women's homelessness at the May meeting will be voted by a show of hands at the Annual Meeting in April.

3.3 May Fair (4 May 2026):

A good number of donations of items for the tombola were received at the meeting. 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 sign up for half hour slots and also to turn up on the day to give a show of support.

3.4 2026-27 Committee

Diane thanked members who have stepped forward to join the Committee.

4 REPORTS

4.1 TREASURER'S REPORT

Adjusted balance: £2102.62.

Some refund payments from the Forage meal in January were still outstanding.

Subs are now due: £49 main WI; £22.10 Second WI. Members were asked to complete the membership form. Copies of the Equality and Diversity Policy and FAQ (as forwarded by Diane Bluck to all members) were made available.

4.2 CORRESPONDENCE

- **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)

- **Board Games and Afternoon Tea (Closes 13 June)**

Saturday 27 June at All Hallows Church Hall in Miskin from 2 pm, Cost £15

4.3 SOCIAL

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

The Beetle Drive had been well attended and enjoyed by all.

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

Leaving Cowbridge at 9am for tour of house at 11am. Lifts have been organised.

Places still available as some members have had to drop out. Contact Sue Dibben or Annie Williams.

- **Skittles, 26 March 2026**

Pontyclun Sports & Athletics Club. Lifts to be arranged.

5 SUB GROUPS

5.1 Crafty Sew 'n' Sews

Next meeting: 23 March 2026 at Sue Dibben's. Easter folded paper.

5.2 Culture Vultures

Gwen John exhibition at the Museum of Wales in Cardiff, possibly May or June. Cost approximately £10. Details to follow.

5.3 Walkie Talkies

6-mile circular walk on **Wednesday 15 April** from Bracelet Bay. Bring pack lunch. Cost £3. Members need to sign up and complete emergency contact details on back of form.

6 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Meeting 16 April 2026 at 7.30pm

Teas: Cynthia Evans, Lianne Evans, Melanie Fairfax

7 AOB

7.1 Federation Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show

Jacky Jones report that three members had attended and they had all enjoyed the event, especially the very generous tea (with optional doggy-bags of treats to take home!).

7.2 Raffle: won by: Maggie Cooper

8 SPEAKER

The Balloon Girl: Rosemary Challoner

Sue Bradshaw Jones introduced Rosemary who had chanced upon the fascinating story of Louisa Maude Evans, the eponymous Balloon Girl. Lousia was a tragic figure: abandoned by her mother at 18 months old and then given away into domestic service at the age of 14, she nonetheless showed an adventurous spirit that would lead to her daredevil attempt to entertain the crowds at the 1896 Fine Arts Exhibition in Cardiff, only to drown in the Bristol Channel when she leapt from the balloon in an attempt to float to safety on a rudimentary parachute. Sadly, those who should have protected her lied about their involvement in her untimely death and, it would appear, were never held accountable for her death.

Lynne Mulcahy gave the vote of thanks.

Minutes taken by: Anne Hordley

Chaired by: Diane Bluck