

BONTFAEN WI MONTHLY MEETING -THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

- Diane welcomed everyone and said that there had been 16 apologies.
- A correction was given to the previous minutes in that it was Gill Penny who gave us Colwinston's WI tea set and not Kath Jones.

Matters Arising: -

- The Christmas Party will be in the Lesser Hall.
- Before Diane makes the hall bookings for 2025, the committee have discussed the merits of booking either the lesser or main hall. Both are currently available and the difference in charge is insignificant. Members will be asked to give a clear vote (ie. no abstentions) at the next meeting on their preference, or by email prior to the meeting if they are going to be absent. Some members will find the smaller setting of the Lesser Hall more friendly where as others will find it crowded. With an average attendance of 35-40 we can keep below the 60-person limit even though we are now reaching this membership level. However, it would have an impact if we wanted to invite other WIs to join us or had a speaker that needed a bit more space. There are better kitchen facilities downstairs and we would be able to use the WI china although we would have to store it at our own risk. Concerns were expressed regarding how hot the room can get and noise from outside. In contrast the main hall is larger and airier which might make people with health concerns feel more comfortable. It provides more room for activities and inviting others.
- Both the Summer Social and the Mystery Trip were a success despite the wet weather. Thanks to Diana Sloman and Jacky Jones for arranging the trip to Narberth and Picton Castle and a reminder that you do not have to be on committee to get involved.
- Moira Cotter, Lucy Higgins, Miranda Davis, Anne Hordley and her two grandchildren undertook the beach clean on the River Ogmore in August. At the next event in May, we would like to help run the refreshments stall and relieve Merthyr Mawr WI of some of the burden.
- Members have been invited to join Rhoose WI for a Burlesque evening with Foo Foo La Belle. It's at 7.30pm on October 3rd, in the Community Centre now accessed off either Stewart or Station Road. Cost £4 with a light buffet. Sign up.
- Diane and Lianne Evans attended the latest meeting regarding plans for the Christmas weekend on 23rd and 24th November. They outlined the steps being taken to make this a bigger event. Diane has so far been unlucky in

sourcing a possible trailer if we wanted to enter a float with a Christmas theme so asked if any members had farming contacts.

- Over the Summer, Sue Bradshaw-Jones our welfare officer has taken flowers and cards to three members who were hospitalised.
- As the Glamorgan Denman Experience has now been rescheduled for March 2025, Mary Noyes has been reoffered the Denman bursary of £300 towards the cost of course. Mary won the bursary in the last ballot but was unable to use it when the weekend was cancelled due to lack of interest.
- Diane highlighted the membership survey in the latest "WI Life" which members may like to fill in.

Treasurer's Report: -

- A small surplus was made on the trip.
- There is £2462 in the bank prior to costs for this evening.

Correspondence: -

- Anne Hordley covered for the absent Lucy Higgins.
- Hard copies are available of the recently circulated Federation Newsletter.
- A Stay Safe Keep Safe event is being held at the Senedd on the 23rd October from 10am to 3pm. Bring a friend.
- Sign up tonight for Singing Yoga at the Vivien Centre in the Mumbles on 12th October. £5
- Sign up for stall at Craft Fayre in Margam Park by 9th October or for tickets for the event which are £4.
- Anne Hordley, Margaret Price, Alison Killick and Sandra Phillips have entered the Federation Quiz on 22nd October.
- Members were reminded to pay for events in time as otherwise their names will be removed from the list.

Sub Groups:-

- Sew 'n' Sews –2pm on 23rd September at Sue Dibben's house. Woolly wise owls. Bring sharp scissors.
- Walkie Talkies – A small number of members enjoyed the 3.5 mile walk around the Wenvoe area on August 1st and the refreshments in the Garden Centre coffee shop afterwards. The treasurer of the local church told them about its history. The next activity will be the Federation run Rhossili circular walk on October 9th Cost £3, the walk will start at 10am and be 3 to 4 hours in duration. Leaving Cowbridge around 8.15am, members need to sign up tonight to meet the 30th September deadline. It has been advertised as a not

easy walk so members especially those also going on the ghost tour of St. Fagan's in the evening need to bare this in mind.

- Culture Vultures -Final arrangements in place for the trip to the Royal Western Academy.

Social:-

- October 9th – One place is still available for the ghost tour of St. Fagan's castle. Please let Sue Dibben know if you do not want to be included in the car sharing groups which are being drawn up. Meetings arrangements to be confirmed.
- November 7th in Ystradowen Village from 7.30pm -Bingo Night £5 -members to bring own wine and nibbles.
- January New Year/ post-Christmas Meal.
- March 6th – 7.30pm performance of “Murder on the Orient Express” at the New Theatre, Cardiff £42.50.

A.O.B.

- Pam Harrison, Ros Davies and Jan Thomas on teas next month. Reminder to members to let Diane know of any swaps made.
- Margaret Price will chase up why some new members still not receiving “WI Life”.
- Diane explained that when she sends out the emails, she will follow up any bounce backs by checking the address and making a phone call if necessary. If it does not bounce back, she will be unaware that a member has not received the email.

Diane then introduced Zoe Bradley who has been making paper sculptures for around 18 years. Having trained in fashion design with an interest in theatre and the spectacular she became an unpaid intern for Alexander McQueen for two years before being head hunted by the Japanese designer Michiko Koshina. She has gone on to undertake global commissions for the likes of Liberty, Sotheby and Tiffany. She is clearly fearless and liking a challenge as she explained the magnitude of the displays and the short timespan she works under. Zoe ended the talk with a video and practical demonstration showing us how paper flowers are constructed. Fascinated members had a lot of questions to ask before Sue Bradshaw-Jones gave the vote of thanks.