

RADSTOCK WI NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025

From the President

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all were able to enjoy the Christmas and New Year festivities.

It's that time of year when we come to think of resolutions. The usual suspects are to eat and drink less and do more exercise.

Of course, this cold snap doesn't help with any of these. Instead, I will just have to look forward to the full program of WI future events for my exercise and learn to say no thanks to all the cake! Not sure if I can do the latter.

Anyway, I hope you will join me in our events program and will save me from myself by eating all the cakes throughout the year.

Hope to see you on Thursday.

Marion

Tea and Coffee Helpers

Thank you in advance to Carol Head and Angela Francis who will be serving refreshments this month.

Birthday Wishes

January Birthday wishes to Rhona Djaelani, Stephanie Leary, Sue Brickell, Anne Mackenzie. Maureen Maddocks, Bev Painter, Phyl Prior and Kathleen Rayner.

December Events

Carols at the Royal Albert Hall



The Games Afoot at Wokingham Theatre



Christmas Makes

Christmas Social and Birthday Party



| EVENTS | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| January | | |
| Wed 8th | New Members' Coffee Morning 10.30am Salvation Army Coffee Hub | We invite all members who have been with us for less than a year to come to a coffee morning to get to know each other. Invites have been sent out, we look forward to seeing you. |
| Thurs 9th | Members Meeting 7.30pm | David Allen speaking about the making of 'The Sound of Music'. |
| Wed 22nd |  Lunch at Sonning Golf Club 12.30pm for 1pm lunch | Thank you to everyone who has paid, the balance is due by the 9 th January, £28 for two and £33 for three courses. There will be an envelope on the table for gratuities. Meet at the venue. |
| Tues 28th |  Wokingham Theatre, The Truth 7.45pm | If you have signed up and paid, tickets will be given out on the night. Meet at the theatre for a 7.45pm start. |
| Tues 28th |  Busy Hands 10am | Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome. |
| Wed 29th |  Sewing Bee 10.30am | Meet at Marion's house to make bereavement bags for the RBH. |
| February | | |
| Wed 12th | Visit to Welford Park to see the snowdrops 10.30am (B) | The board will be at the January meeting to sign up if you haven't already done so. Tickets are £11 plus the cost of the Earley bus if you would like to use it (price to be confirmed). |
| Thurs 13^h | Members Meeting 7.30pm | Professor Kemp speaking on the history of Greenham Common. |
| Tues 25th |  Busy Hands 10am | Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome. |
| March | | |
| Thurs 13^h | Members Meeting 7.30pm | Our speaker is Sarah Somerville talking about Shaw House in Newbury, one of the best preserved Elizabethan Mansions in England. |
| Tues 25th |  Busy Hands 10am | Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome. |

| GROUPS | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| | |
| Book Clubs Morning Group runs on the 1 st Thursday of the month at the Salvation Army Coffee Hub at 11am. Group co-ordinator Sue Lunn Afternoon Group Group members should contact Isobel Breheny for any queries. This group is currently full. Evening Group Group members should contact Ann McNamara for any queries. This group is currently full. | Busy Hands Informal coffee morning to meet up, socialise and make new friends. Bring along your knitting/crochet/sewing or just yourself! Meets at 10am on the last Tuesday of the month, at the Salvation Army Café, Chalfont Close, Lower Earley, RG6 5HZ (car access via Durand Road). |
| Craft & Chat This group is currently full. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Maureen's. | |

| DONATIONS | |
|--|--|
| If you would like to help any of the causes below, please bring along your items to our monthly meeting. | |
| Royal Berkshire Hospital Knee Blankets Sue Lunn will be collecting donations of baby cardigans, knitted knee blankets (around 36 inch square), toys etc for the RBH. If a whole blanket is a challenge, Maureen is accepting 8 inch squares. | Raffle Prizes Any unwanted items for our members raffle would be much appreciated. Do you have any unwanted presents, bottles of wine, chocolates, etc that would make a suitable prize? |
| Fabrics and ribbons To use by the Sewing Bee group to make bereavement bags for the RBH. | Spectacles, contact lenses, candle wax scraps Please donate any old spectacles or lenses that you no longer need and candle wax scraps. |
| Women's Refuge Maureen is collecting toiletries or sanitary products. Any donations would be gratefully received. | Royal Berkshire Hospital Dressing with Dignity Donations of nightwear, t-shirts and casual wear for use at the hospital. |
| Comfort Packs for the RBH We are collecting combs, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face cloths, sanitary towels and soap to make comfort packs. | Postage Stamps Bring your used stamps to help the RNIB. |
| Books Please bring your unwanted books for our own fund raising. | |

SPEAKERS

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|------------------------|------------------|--|
| April 11 th | Paul Johnson | Scam awareness |
| May 9 th | Lindsay Browning | Navigating sleeplessness |
| June 13 th | Susan Howe | Indiscreet revelations of a tour guide |
| July 11 th | Joy Pibworth | Heroes of Woodley Airfield |
| Aug 8 th | Social | Sing-a-long |
| Sept 12 th | Stuart Flitton | 45 years as a journalist |
| Oct 10 th | Jane Sellwood | Appalachian Mountain settlers – Pocahontas to Dolly Parton |
| Nov 14 th | Dorothy Cook | Tales of a midwife |
| Dec 12 th | Christmas Social | No Strings Attached, Ukelele Band |
| Jan 9 th | David Allen | The making of the Sound of Music |
| Feb 13 th | Prof Kemp | History of Greenham Common |
| March 13 th | Sarah Somerville | Shaw House, Newbury |

REFRESHMENTS ROTA

If you are unable to do your session, please try to swap with someone else or contact the committee if that's not possible.

| Month | Member 1 | Member 2 | Member 3 |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 9th May | Beverly Painter | Janet Whiteman | Joan O'Callaghan |
| 13th June | Brigid Edwards | Josie Smith | Eileen Fulbrook |
| 11th July | Isobel Breheny | Sue Eckett | |
| August | Summer Social | | |
| 12th September | Jean Gardiner | Yvonne Hailstone | |
| 10th October | Tricia Chamberlain | Karen Garrod | |
| 14th November | Stella Webb | Linda Hay | |
| December | Christmas Party | | |
| 9th Jan 25 | Carol Head | Angela Francis | |
| 13th Feb | Steph Leary | Ruth Winch | |
| 13th March | Elaine Brimmer | Melanie Brooks | |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| Name | Role |
|-------------------------|--|
| Margaret Brain | Speakers |
| Judith Campbell | Raffle |
| Caroline Day | Treasurer |
| Tricia Chamberlain | Events co-ordinator |
| Brenda Evans | Bookstall and MCS membership |
| Karen Garrod | Newsletter |
| Marion Hodgson | President |
| Steph Leary | Refreshments |
| Sue Lunn | Donations co-ordinator |
| Ann McKie | Secretary and Vice President |
| Committee email address | radstockwi@berkshirewi.co.uk |

USEFUL INFORMATION

On Arrival, please collect your badge from the badge table, register as attending and proceed into the hall.

Visitors will be wearing a badge identifying them as such. Please make them welcome.

Don't Forget: - A mug for your tea / coffee.

- Any donations of the items listed above.
- Cash for the raffle (50p a ticket) books and monthly competition.

Payments

When you sign up to an event / activity you are making a commitment to attend. The numbers attending determine our costs. If you are unable to attend, even if it's free, then please ensure you contact the person responsible as soon as possible. If we have sent you a payment reminder and you haven't responded, you will be taken off the list of attendees. Please provide your mobile number when signing up so that we can contact you on the day if necessary.

Events where a fee has to be paid in advance, such as when coach travel or tickets have been booked, will require full payment or a deposit as appropriate. If you need to cancel you should find your own replacement as fees cannot be refunded. Events marked with a **(B)** denote that a board is available for sign-up at the members meeting.

To reduce our administration time, we would really appreciate it if payments were made by bank transfer. Please make separate payments for each activity. Bank details are:

Account Number: 52148302

Account Name: Radstock Womens Institute

Sort Code: 09-01-51

Reference: Surname,Initial,Trip

After making a payment please email radstockwipayments@gmail.com with date of payment and what it relates to.

For those members without access to online banking, cheques made payable to 'Radstock Women's Institute' will be accepted. Please place in an envelope with your name, amount, and reason for payment on the back and post in the payments box at the meeting.