

RADSTOCK WI NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2025

From the President

I think we can say goodbye to summer but we certainly had a beautiful September.

Four of us met in Englefield but unfortunately the gardens closed at the last minute because it was too windy but we had a coffee and chat in Cobbs Farm Shop which was very enjoyable. This is the second time our trip to the gardens has to be cancelled so I am not sure if it is meant to be but we may try again next year.

We try to organise events that interest you but we have had some disappointing take up so please let us know if you have any ideas for events by putting a note in the suggestion box at the front of Church at our meetings or email us at radstockwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

The family of Jill Ramsden, who many of you know as she was a very active member of Radstock have kindly donated some of her craft items and fabric. We will be selling these at our meeting and any money raised will be used for the RBH Comfort packs. Remember to bring some cash. We send Jill our very best wishes.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be 'Buddies' for our new members.

If anyone can help with the teas on Thursday please let us know as Stephanie is unable to be there.

Ann

Christmas Social and Birthday Meeting

Due to popular demand, the 'No Strings Attached' ukulele band will be playing at this year's Christmas social. The evening starts at 7pm with drinks and a chance to buy raffle tickets before the music starts. Half way through we will break for a supper of jacket potatoes and fillings. Please sign up on the board at the October meeting if you would like to come along.

New Committee Members

Are you interested in joining the committee? We are a friendly, supportive group who meet once a month to organise events and run Radstock WI. We will have some vacancies on the committee in the near future so if you are interested to find out more, please put your name on the board that will be out at the meeting.

Comfort Packs for the RBH

Gwen Schroder is appealing for further donations for hospital comfort packs in order to prepare 100 packs in time for the winter period. These are given to inpatients who need them. Please see below under donations for the items she is collecting.



Tea and Coffee Helpers

Thank you in advance to Rhona Djaelani who will be serving refreshments this month, we need one more helper as Steph cannot be at the meeting.

Birthday Wishes

October Birthday wishes to Jean Gardiner, Jayne Hammerton, Judy Moles and Pat Nash.

EVENTS		
October		
Mon 6th	Sewing Bee 10am	Meet at Karen's house to make bereavement bags for the RBH.
Thurs 9th	Members Meeting 7.30pm	Jim McLeod's informative talk on the history of the toastmaster. Competition theme: Autumn
Mon 13th	Lunch at the Heron on the Ford, Woodley 12.30pm	https://www.heronontheford.co.uk/ Meet at the pub for a 12.30pm lunch. Those attending have been sent an email asking for their food choice by the 7th October.
Tues 21st	Wokingham Theatre, <i>The Winslow Boy</i> 7.45pm	Based on a real legal case, Terence Rattigan's study of family, social expectations, and the cost of standing up for one's principles remains one of his most enduring works. Meet at the theatre where tickets will be handed out..
Tues 28 th	Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. Everyone is welcome to come for a knit and natter or just to natter!
November		
Thurs 13th	Members Meeting 7.30pm	Clare Goodall, storyteller and musician. Competition theme: Festive
Mon 17th	New members' coffee afternoon Salvation Army Coffee Hub 2pm	We invite all members who have been with us for less than a year to come to a coffee afternoon to get to know each other. Invites will be emailed out to you.
Thurs 20th	Quiz Night 7pm at Trinity (B)	Join us for the annual Quiz Night, £5 a ticket to include mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies. Please sign up on the board.
Tues 25 th	Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. Everyone is welcome to come for a knit and natter or just to natter!
Thurs 27th	Festive Afternoon Tea at Riseley Tea Rooms 2.30 - 5.00pm (B)	Afternoon tea with a festive twist at the lovely Riseley Tea Rooms. The cost will be approx £25 (exact cost to be confirmed). Please sign up on the board if you would like to join us.
December		
Tues 9th	Wokingham Theatre, <i>The Unfriend</i> 7.45pm (B)	While on holiday, Peter and Debbie befriend Elsa, they agree to stay in touch – because no one ever really does, do they? When Elsa invites herself to stay, they decide to look her up online. Deadly danger has just boarded a flight to London! Because guess who's coming... to murder! Tickets cost £16, payable by the end of October by BACS, or cheque at the October meeting. Meet at the theatre.
Thurs 11th	Christmas Social and Birthday Meeting 7pm (B)	Join us for a fun festive evening with music from 'No Strings Attached' ukulele Band. Refreshments and a supper of jacket potatoes will be provided. Please sign up on the board if you would like to come along.

GROUPS	
	
<p>Book Clubs</p> <p>Morning Group runs on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Salvation Army Coffee Hub at 11am. Group co-ordinator Sue Lunn</p> <p>Afternoon Group Group members should contact Isobel Breheny for any queries. This group is currently full.</p> <p>Evening Group Group members should contact Ann McNamara for any queries. This group is currently full.</p>	<p>Busy Hands</p> <p>Informal coffee morning to meet up, socialise and make new friends. Bring along your knitting/crochet/sewing or just yourself!</p> <p>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).</p>
<p>Craft & Chat</p> <p>This group is currently full. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Maureen's.</p>	

DONATIONS	
If you would like to help any of the causes below, please bring along your items to our monthly meeting.	
<p>Royal Berkshire Hospital Knee Blankets</p> <p>Sue Lunn collects 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.</p>	<p>Raffle Prizes</p> <p>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?</p>
<p>Fabrics and ribbons</p> <p>For use by the Sewing Bee group to make bereavement bags for the RBH.</p>	<p>Spectacles and contact lenses</p> <p>Please donate any old spectacles or lenses that you no longer need.</p>
<p>Books</p> <p>Please bring your unwanted books for our own fund raising. Books are sold at £1 for 3 with larger books priced individually.</p>	<p>Royal Berkshire Hospital Dressing with Dignity</p> <p>Rhona Djaelani collects donations of nightwear, t-shirts and casual wear for use at the hospital.</p>
<p>Comfort Packs for the RBH</p> <p>Gwen Schroder collects combs, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face cloths, sanitary towels and soap to make comfort packs.</p>	<p>Postage Stamps</p> <p>Bring your used stamps to help the RNIB.</p>

SPEAKERS*

Date	Speaker	Topic	Competition Theme
March 13 th	No speaker	AGM	
April 10 th	Dilip Amin	The Normandy Landings on D Day and beyond	Easter
May 8 th	Mariana Swann	Magical Bolivia – an introduction to a fascinating Latin American country	VE Day
June 12 th	Mike Payne	The History of Pinewood Studios	Roses
July 10 th	Cheryl Insley	Colour Analysis	Summer holidays
August 14 th		Summer Social Music and Dancing	No competition
Sept 11 th	Richard Anderson	The story of Edward VIII & Mrs Simpson	Flowers
October 9 th	Jim McLeod	History of the traditional toast master	Autumn
Nov 13 th	Clare Goodall	Storyteller & Musician	Festive
Dec 11 th		Christmas Social with Ukulele band	No competition
Jan 8 th	Anica Zeyen	Training Guide dogs for the blind	White
Feb 12 th	Peter Tickler	Crime Writer	Love

*Programme subject to change.

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
April	Mariana Swann	Alison Bright	
May	Ann McNamara	Lesley Buckle	
June	Ann McKie	Devi Sabaratnam	
July	Tricia Lloyd	Jayne Hammerton	
August	Summer Social		
September	Tricia Chamberlain	Laura Draper	
October	Rhona Djaelani	Steph Leary	
November	Val Brigenshaw	Maria Pittaway	Kathleen Rayner
December	Christmas Social Meeting		
January	Maureen Maddocks	Lynda Brannelly	
February	Nina Davis	Sheilah Walker	
March	Lynne Haley	Anne Mackenzie	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Role
Margaret Brain	Speakers
Judith Campbell	Raffle
Judith Carter	Birthday cards
Caroline Day	Treasurer and MCS membership
Tricia Chamberlain	Events co-ordinator
Brenda Evans	Bookstall
Karen Garrod	Newsletter
Steph Leary	Refreshments
Sue Lunn	Secretary and donations co-ordinator
Ann McKie	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 (20p).

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: 35628360

Account Name: Radstock Womens Institute

Sort Code: 30-54-66

Reference: Surname,Initial,Trip

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.