

RADSTOCK WI NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2025

NOTICES

From the President

I'd like to thank all of you who attended our AGM last month. It was a very successful meeting despite the change of venue and loss of speaker.
I'm writing this to you all from a walking holiday on the Isle of Wight. The weather has been just fabulous, and the lighter evenings make me feel that summer is just around the corner (I hope 😊).
This will be my third and final year as your President so together, let's make it a fun one!
Marion

Monthly Competition

This month, the theme is Easter, so please bring something Easter related and 20p to vote for your favourite item. The winner will receive a raffle ticket for the evening draw. Money raised will be used to buy cords and ribbon for the RBH bereavement bags

Loddon Group Meeting Wednesday 14th May

The board will be out, if you haven't put your name down. Payment of £5.50 by cheque or BACS by our May meeting please.

Emergency Contact Numbers

If you haven't already done so, please provide us with a contact number in case of an emergency. If you would like us to be aware of any health conditions, please email the committee in confidence radstockwi@berkshirewi.co.uk.

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members, Anita Stevens
Sheila Ephraim and Margaret Simons.

Tea and Coffee Helpers

Thank you in advance to Mariana Swann and Alison Bright who will be serving refreshments this month.

Birthday Wishes

April Birthday wishes to Margaret Brain, Isobel Breheny, Melanie Brooks and Beryl Platt.





East Reading Horticultural Society

The Society are running a coach trip to Mottisfont Abbey in Hampshire on Tuesday 24th June and have spaces on the coach they need to fill. If anyone would like to go the cost is £11 for National Trust members or £31 for non-members. Please phone John Peacock on 0118 986 7303 to book your seat.

March Events

Afternoon Tea at Riseley Tea Room



EVENTS		
April		
Thurs 10 ^h	Members Meeting 7.30pm	Dilip Amin will speak about the 'The Normandy Landings on D Day and beyond'. Competition theme: Easter.
Tues 15 th	 Soundbath, Crescent Centre, Lower Earley 6.30pm (FULL)	Meet at the Crescent Centre for a 6.30pm start. Please bring a blanket or duvet, pillow, warm socks, water and a yoga mat if you have one (they will be provided if you don't)
Wed 16 th	 Sewing Bee (B) 10.30am	Meet at Marion's house to make bereavement bags for the RBH. Please sign up on the board if you would like to come along.
Tues 29 th	 Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome.
May		
Tues 6 th	 Wokingham Theatre, Home I'm Darling 7.45pm (FULL)	Home, I'm Darling from Laura Wade is a dark comedy about sex, cake and the quest to be the perfect 1950s housewife. For those attending, payment of £16 is due by the April meeting. Meet at the theatre, tickets will be handed out on the night.
Thurs 8 th	Members Meeting 7.30pm	Mariana Swann speaks about 'Magical Bolivia – an introduction to a fascinating Latin American country'. Please come dressed in red, white or blue to celebrate VE Day. Competition theme: VE Day
Wed 14 th	Loddon Group Meeting 2pm, Trinity Church (B)	Group meeting with guest speaker Imran Khan talking about the blood bikers. Please sign up on the board, payment of £5.50 by cheque or BACS is due by the 8 th May.
Mon 19 th	Visit to Englefield House Gardens and tea rooms (B) 10.30am	Meet at the entrance to the gardens for a leisurely stroll around the gardens followed by coffee/lunch in the tea rooms and a visit to the garden centre if you would like. Entrance to the gardens is £5 cash on the day or free for RHS members.
Tues 27 th	 Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome.
June		
Tues 3 rd	 Uxbridge Bunker Tour, 10.15am to 4.30pm (FULL)	We will leave Suttons Car Park at 10.15 and the tour will commence at 12pm followed by lunch in the café and a look around the exhibition and gift shop. The cost of £12 (£9.50 for over 65s) is due now plus minibuss.
Wed 11 th	 Wokingham Theatre, Love from a Stranger 7.45pm (B)	Agatha Christie's Love from a Stranger is a remarkably contemporary thriller about a lottery winner seeking adventure with a new love, brought up to date to 2025. Tickets are £16, please sign up on the board if you would like to attend.
Thurs 12 th	Members Meeting 7.30pm	We welcome Mike Payne speaking about the 'History of Pinewood Studios'. Competition theme: Roses
Mon 23 rd	Garden Party 2pm (B)	Lynda Brannelly has kindly offered to host this year's garden party in her garden in Earley. Tickets cost £5 to include tea, and cake.
Tues 24 th	 Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome.

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 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.</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>To 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.</p>	<p>Royal Berkshire Hospital Dressing with Dignity</p> <p>Donations of nightwear, t-shirts and casual wear for use at the hospital.</p>
<p>Comfort Packs for the RBH</p> <p>We are collecting 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	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
13 th Nov	Gillian Crane	The Mitford Sisters	Festive
Dec 11 th		Christmas Social with Ukulele band	No competition
Jan 8 th	Clare Goodall	Storyteller & Musician	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
February	Steph Leary	Ruth Winch	
March	Elaine Brimmer	Melanie Brooks	
April	Mariana Swann	Alison Bright	
May	Ann McNamara	Lesley Buckle	
June	Ann McKie	Devi Sabaratnam	
July	Tricia Lloyd	Jayne Hammerton	
August	Summer Social		
September	Janet Whiteman	Laura Draper	
October	Rhona Djaelani	Shirley Pyall	
November	Val Brighenshaw	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
Marion Hodgson	President
Steph Leary	Refreshments
Sue Lunn	Donations co-ordinator
Ann McKie	Vice President
Jennie Walker	Secretary
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: 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.