

# RADSTOCK WI NEWSLETTER – MAY 2025

## NOTICES

### From the President

Once again, I'm writing to you while enjoying a week away. I know there's a heatwave in Reading but it's also nice and sunny in Scotland. We came up so that I could take part in the Glasgow kilt walk, a 22 mile charity walk from Glasgow to the shores of Loch Lomond. It was tough but I did it along with one of my sisters and my niece. Together we raised over £700 for the British Heart Foundation in memory of my dear friend. Hope you all find some time to relax in the sun.  
Marion

### VE Day

In celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day we are inviting members to wear red, white and blue to our meeting this month.

### Monthly Competition

This month's theme is in celebration of VE Day, please bring your entry 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.

### Bring a Friend in July

The July meeting is an opportunity to bring a friend who may be interested in joining the WI. We will ask for a show of hands at the June meeting to gauge numbers.

### Sales Table

There will be a sales table at the May meeting for members to bring along any items they wish to sell e.g. plants, seeds etc. We ask for a minimum of a 10% donation from the value of your sales to go towards our fundraising for the Christmas Social.

### Tea and Coffee Helpers

Thank you in advance to Ann McNamara and Lesley Buckle who will be serving refreshments this month.

### Birthday Wishes

May Birthday wishes to Angela Francis, Margaret King, Jill Leon, Sue Reeves, Jennie Walker and Shirley Pyall.

### NFWI Raffle Tickets

These will be available to purchase at the May, June and July meetings at a cost of £1 per ticket.

1st prize: £10,000

2nd prize: a cruise for two to Spain, Morocco & Canaries

3rd prize: KitchenAid Hand mixer and blender

The summer social will feature a bumper raffle to raise funds for the Christmas Social.

## April Events

### Sound Bath



### Marion's Walk



EVENTS		
May		
Tues 6th	 <b>Wokingham Theatre, Home I'm Darling 7.45pm (FULL)</b>	Home, I'm Darling from Laura Wade is a dark comedy about sex, cake and the quest to be the perfect 1950s housewife. Meet at the theatre, tickets will be handed out on the night.
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Members Meeting 7.30pm</b>	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. <b>Competition theme:</b> VE Day
Wed 14th	<b>Loddon Group Meeting 2pm, Trinity Church</b>	Group meeting with guest speaker Imran Khan talking about the blood bikers. Payment of £5.50 by cheque or BACS is due by the 8 <sup>th</sup> May.
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Visit to Englefield House Gardens and tea rooms (B) 10.30am</b>	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 <sup>th</sup>	 <b>Busy Hands 10am</b>	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome.
June		
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	 <b>Uxbridge Bunker Tour, 10.15am 4.30pm (FULL)</b>	We will leave Suttons Car Park at 10.15 and the tour will commence at 12.00 followed by lunch in the café and a look around the exhibition and gift shop.
Wed 11th	 <b>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. Payment due by the May meeting.
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Members Meeting 7.30pm</b>	We welcome Mike Payne speaking about the 'History of Pinewood Studios'. <b>Competition theme:</b> Roses
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>New Members' Coffee Morning 10am Salvation Army Coffee Hub</b>	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 will be sent out; we look forward to seeing you.
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Summer Garden Party 2pm (B)</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. Please sign up on the board.
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	 <b>Busy Hands 10am</b>	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome.
July		
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Members Meeting 7.30pm</b>	Cheryl Insley will be talking about Colour Analysis. Please feel free to bring a friend who may be interested in joining the WI. <b>Competition theme:</b> Summer holidays
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	 <b>Wokingham Theatre, Much Ado About Nothing (B)</b>	Shakespeare's classic comedy in a new production set in 1940s Britain. Tickets £16, please sign up on the board and pay by the June meeting.
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	 <b>Busy Hands 10am</b>	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. All welcome.

GROUPS	
	
<p><b>Book Clubs</b></p> <p><b>Morning Group</b> runs on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at the Salvation Army Coffee Hub at 11am. Group co-ordinator Sue Lunn</p> <p><b>Afternoon Group</b> Group members should contact Isobel Breheny for any queries. This group is currently full.</p> <p><b>Evening Group</b> Group members should contact Ann McNamara for any queries. This group is currently full.</p>	<p><b>Busy Hands</b></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><b>Craft &amp; Chat</b></p> <p>This group is currently full.</p> <p>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><b>Royal Berkshire Hospital Knee Blankets</b></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><b>Raffle Prizes</b></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><b>Fabrics and ribbons</b></p> <p>To use by the Sewing Bee group to make bereavement bags for the RBH.</p>	<p><b>Spectacles and contact lenses</b></p> <p>Please donate any old spectacles or lenses that you no longer need.</p>
<p><b>Books</b></p> <p>Please bring your unwanted books for our own fund raising.</p>	<p><b>Royal Berkshire Hospital Dressing with Dignity</b></p> <p>Donations of nightwear, t-shirts and casual wear for use at the hospital.</p>
<p><b>Comfort Packs for the RBH</b></p> <p>We are collecting combs, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face cloths, sanitary towels and soap to make comfort packs.</p>	<p><b>Postage Stamps</b></p> <p>Bring your used stamps to help the RNIB.</p>

## SPEAKERS\*

Date	Speaker	Topic	Competition Theme
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	No speaker	AGM	
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dilip Amin	The Normandy Landings on D Day and beyond	Easter
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mariana Swann	Magical Bolivia – an introduction to a fascinating Latin American country	VE Day
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Payne	The History of Pinewood Studios	Roses
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl Insley	Colour Analysis	Summer holidays
August 14 <sup>th</sup>		Summer Social	No competition
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Anderson	The story of Edward VIII & Mrs Simpson	Flowers
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jim McLeod	History of the traditional toast master	Autumn
13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Gillian Crane	The Mitford Sisters	Festive
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Social with Ukulele band	No competition
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Clare Goodall	Storyteller & Musician	White
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	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 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
Marion Hodgson	President
Steph Leary	Refreshments
Sue Lunn	Donations co-ordinator
Ann McKie	Vice President
Jennie Walker	Secretary
Committee email address	<a href="mailto:radstockwi@berkshirewi.co.uk">radstockwi@berkshirewi.co.uk</a>

## 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](mailto: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.