

# RADSTOCK WI NEWSLETTER – SEPT 2025

## From the President

Welcome back – I hope you have had lovely family times, travels, and home staycations enjoying the hot weather – if a bit too hot. We are aware that the last few months have been hard for some of our members either grieving the loss of loved ones, struggling with the care of loved ones or have health worries. I wish you all my very best wishes and prayers.

We have had some special Radstock events – a fabulous summer social dancing, chatting and eating - what more could you want and a boat trip on the Thames at Henley. Thank you to the Committee for organising them.

Hopefully catch up with you at our meeting.

Ann

## New Bank Account

We have now closed our old Santander bank account, please use the new one for any payments, the details of which are on page 5 of this newsletter.

## Be a Buddy

We are looking for members to be a buddy for new starters at Radstock to help them settle in. If you can help, please sign up on the board at the meeting.

## Tea and Coffee Helpers

Thank you in advance to Tricia Chamberlain and Laura Draper who will be serving refreshments this month.

## Birthday Wishes

September Birthday wishes to Caroline Day, Sheila Ephraim, Brenda Evans, Ann McKie and Sheilah Walker.

## Summer Social and Henley Boat Trip Pictures



EVENTS		
September		
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wokingham Theatre, Dead Guilty 7.45pm	If you have signed up, please meet at the theatre, the performance starts at 7.45pm. Tickets will be handed out on the night.
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Members Meeting 7.30pm	Richard Anderson speaks about the story of Edward VIII & Mrs Simpson. <b>Competition theme:</b> A flower from your garden
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	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 30 <sup>th</sup>	Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. Everyone is welcome to come for a knit and natter or just to natter!
October		
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sewing Bee 10am (B)	Meet at Karen's house to make bereavement bags for the RBH. Please sign up on the board if you would like to come along.
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	Members Meeting 7.30pm	Jim McLeod's informative talk on the history of the toastmaster. <b>Competition theme:</b> Autumn
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch at the Heron on the Ford, Woodley 12.30pm (B)	<a href="https://www.heronontheford.co.uk/">https://www.heronontheford.co.uk/</a> Meet at the pub for a 12.30pm lunch.
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Wokingham Theatre, <i>The Winslow Boy</i> 7.45pm (B)	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. Tickets cost £16 with payment due by 25th Sept for BACS or the September meeting for cash and cheques.
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. Everyone is welcome to come for a knit and natter or just to natter!
November		
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Members Meeting 7.30pm	Clare Goodall, storyteller and musician. <b>Competition theme:</b> Festive
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night 7pm at Trinity (B)	Join us for the annual Quiz Night, £5 a ticket to include nibbles and drink. Please sign up on the board.
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	Busy Hands 10am	Salvation Army Coffee Hub. Everyone is welcome to come for a knit and natter or just to natter!
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	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, please sign up on the board if you would like to join us.

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 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><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>For 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. Books are sold at £1 for 3 with larger books priced individually.</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 Music and Dancing	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
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	Clare Goodall	Storyteller & Musician	Festive
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Social with Ukulele band	No competition
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Anica Zeyen	Training Guide dogs for the blind	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
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	<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: 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.