

Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self-help Group

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Held on 15th November 2022

Chairman: Angela Bennett

Treasurer: Renee Smith

Newsletter: Liz Janes

Secretary: Heather Bounaouara

Attendees

18 ladies attended.

Welcome

Angela welcomed us all and reminded us that the Christmas buffet is next month. Chris was welcomed back and thanked for coming. Rosie Stanton, being ill at the moment, will hopefully speak for us next year.

Minutes

Heather read out the minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Ark on 18th October 2022. They were then signed by Angela.

Chairman's Report

As regards Christmas dinner, our group had already decided that we will not have a formal meal. Should any ladies want a 3-course Christmas lunch at the Ark for £25, it was suggested they arrange that themselves. Afternoon tea at the Ark is also available at £12 between 3pm and 5pm and is between 13th and 21st December. Liz will take names of those interested in the afternoon tea.

Group Christmas Party - Sharon and Debbie are doing the list of foods to be brought. Please write down your contributions. No cold rice or nuts, Sharon asked. Angela reminded us that the group will provide the drinks. Secret Santa gifts are to be wrapped please (limit of £5). Please bring your own plate and glass (Angela can provide plastic cups).

The Hospice Light up a Light and Sunflower Appeal: Every year we donate to the Hospice in memory of the ladies we have lost - fifteen ladies now. We used to donate £20 per lady and Angela and Renee think we could reduce the amount to £10 per lady as costs have gone up recently and we have no fundraising event planned for next year. The ladies agreed that our group is right to reduce the money we donate. The reduction means that we'll give £150 for both appeals instead of the former amount of £300.

Francis's funeral is tomorrow, Angela said she'll tell the family that our group will make a donation every year to the hospice. 12.15pm at St Thomas's church, Worting.

The Hospice's Light up a life is on 4th December this year, a Sunday, and it starts at 6pm. There is a Christmas market there, with the vicar giving a talk. Angela will be helping in the star tent and all are welcome.

Donations - Andy Hunt collected £175 and has deposited it in our bank account. He raised the money with friends as his wife, Kelly, has received from breast cancer. Angela may well go and meet him and Kelly for a coffee.

Angela met Jo Kelly of Basingstoke Shop Mobility recently. Jo asked if there are any volunteers to help with gift wrapping in the town centre from December 12th to 24th from either 10am to 1pm or from 1pm to 4pm. Please phone Jo on 01256 328702 if you are interested.

The date cards for 2023 have been printed by BDBC at a cost of £13.53.

Pam and Pat - Tadley Citizen's Advice held their AGM and it was an occasion for voluntary organisations to exchange leaflets and information. Macmillan now has a financial advisor at the radiotherapy unit on Mondays and at the hospital on Wednesdays; she helps with financial hardship. Citizen's Advice has recently had a 25% rise in people needing advice and help due to the cost of living crisis. Tadley CA are desperate for food for their food bank. Supermarkets in the Basingstoke area are taking food donations for this.

Maureen said that the heart-shaped cushions exceed 70 (there are 77). The lady who makes them kindly provides everything herself. It was suggested that maybe a charity called Chemo Gift Bags would be interested in these cushions.

Maureen mentioned there'll be another coffee evening in Odiham on December 6th, like the one last year in December that was a really lovely evening.

Liz is having a craft table at More of the Good Stuff on 20th November, along with many other creative sellers, this coming Sunday. There will be refreshments available, of course.

For the Craft Sale this evening at our meeting, the ladies brought along a selection of handmade items. They were placed on the top table for us to look at.

The cream tea and museum visit at Milestones will be on 7th March at 1.30pm and costs £14; this includes entrance to the museum. Money by February please as this is when the order will be placed. It will take place in the bandstand, with copious amounts of tea and coffee. November was not possible due to Christmas markets being held there.

Janet Webster, Karen Allen and Renee went to John Lewis to be models to assist ladies in their training for fitting bras. It was good fun for our three ladies, and the women training found it very useful and were very happy with the event. Angela then thanked Renee for organising this.

The meeting closed at 8pm.