

Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self-help Group

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 24 March 2026

Chairman: Angela Bennett

Treasurer: Renee Smith

Newsletter: Liz Janes

Secretary: Heather Bounaouara

Attendees

15 ladies attended.

Welcome

Angela welcomed everyone to our meeting including one new member.

Apologies had been received from Liz Janes, Communications organiser, who was recovering from recent surgery; Renee Smith, Treasurer, and Heather Bounaouara, Secretary, who was away abroad. Also from several other group members. It is not obligatory for people to attend each month, nor to give formal apologies although this is helpful for the specially arranged social events so that organisers know approximately how many people to expect.

Speakers

Mr Geoff Sharpe, Secretary of the Basingstoke RSPB, gave a very interesting and entertaining talk this evening accompanied by his own slides entitled 'The Magic of Kenya' – beautiful photos of birds and animals and lots of amusing anecdotes from his trips all over the main safari areas of Kenya.

Next month's meeting, **21 April 2026** we have Posy Mudie coming to demonstrate a Himalayan Sound Bath and group attendees are encouraged to take part.

Speakers for the rest of the year are listed on the back of the monthly BBCSHG Newsletter.

If anyone has any ideas or requests for speakers for 2027 please let Jane Bishop know (with their contact details if possible)

Upcoming Events

Wed 10th or Wed 24th June 2026: Doreen has made enquiries at Whitchurch Silk Mill. 20 or more people are needed to book a guided tour at either 10.30am or 2.30pm – these take approximately 1 hour and covers the history of the mill, the water wheel, the looms, and an exhibition of the woven silk. Admission to the mill is £13.50 for over-60s or £14.50 for under-60s. There is a café where we can have tea. Various menus are available. We need to decide what to have so that Doreen can make a booking.

Friday 17th July 2026: Maggie Shukla has confirmed the annual Basingstoke Canal boat trip and this has been paid for. The boat will leave promptly at 7pm from Odiham Wharf. People going on the canal trip are invited to bring their own picnics but please buy drinks from the bar on board.

Tuesday 18th August 2026: the usual monthly meeting will be replaced by the annual buffet supper and skittles evening at Loddon Valley Indoor Bowling Club which Liz Janes has organised. This is open to family and friends and the charge for the buffet remains at £10 per person. A bar is also available for drinks.

Friday 11 September 2026 11.30 am: there is an exhibition and talk about 'Wild Flowers & Nature' in Winchester Cathedral. Cost £19.00, people interested in going could travel there by train from Basingstoke.

Any other business

Angela attended the Memorial Service for Mr Myrddin Rees, Consultant Surgeon, held in Winchester Cathedral recently. Angela brought the order of service for the group to look at. Mr Rees had been the driving force behind setting up The Ark and it was he who had originally allowed the BBCSHG to meet there every month and for the past 23 years.

Angela confirmed that the BBCSHG is now permitted to continue using a room in The Ark once a month for its evening meetings. And the car park is also available to Speakers and people attending.

Angela reported that Liz is recovering well from her recent surgery, and also Joanna, and that she will be visiting them both soon with flowers and cards from the group.

The meeting closed at 8pm.