

Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self-help Group

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Held on 20th June 2023

Chairman: Angela Bennett

Treasurer: Renee Smith

Newsletter: Liz Janes

Secretary: Heather Bounaouara

Attendees

18 ladies attended.

Welcome

Angela welcomed everyone.

Minutes

Heather read out the minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Ark on 23rd May 2023. They were then signed by Angela.

Chairman's Report

For the canal trip on 14th July, there are 35 people coming, which means there are 5 places left. Please bring a torch to help with disembarking around 10pm.

Our August meeting will be a social evening as usual and will be a skittles evening at Loddon Vale Bowling Club near Milestones Museum. This is open to partners and/or guests. Please put your name on the list going around. Buffet food will be available, and the cost is £8 per person payable on the night (cash and correct money please). The start time is 7pm and please bring prizes for the raffle, the proceeds of which will go to our group.

For our September meeting, we will welcome the oncologist Dr Rema. This will be the first time he will have attended our group.

For our proposed sale in October, Angela has written to our local MP, Maria Miller. Maria will forward our request for a shop space on to the Festival Place Management Committee. Michele, the company secretary of the Ark, has also forwarded our request to eight committee members. Hopefully, next meeting, Angela will have some news on this.

Mrs Rosie Stanton, a breast surgeon at Basingstoke Hospital, will be our guest speaker in November. This will be her first time attending our group.

Renee was recently interviewed on Radio Berkshire to discuss breast cancer. She spoke of how treatment and support have improved over time. In addition, she talked about our group and what we do. As well as being our treasurer, she is also our spokesperson, taking care of publicity. Thank you so much Renee.

The Hospice Sunflower Appeal is next month. Our group has donated £150 in memory of friends we have lost. We make two donations per year to the hospice, this one and one to the Light up a Life Appeal. I received a lovely thank you card for our most recent donation.

For our meeting next month we will not have a speaker. Instead we will reflect on the last six months and discuss ideas for next year's speakers.

Some ideas expressed for future speakers at this month's meeting included: art or history of art, Tai Chi, and products to aid intimacy for women in the menopause.

Speakers

Our speaker this evening was Kelly Gibson, a fundraising manager from Against Breast Cancer. After her excellent talk, she informed us that there will be laboratory tours in October in Southampton if anyone would like to come along.

The meeting closed at 8pm.