

Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self-help Group

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Held on 17th February 2026

Chairman: Angela Bennett

Treasurer: Renee Smith

Newsletter: Liz Janes

Secretary: Heather Bounaouara

Welcome

Angela welcomed everyone to our meeting, including a new lady called Georgina. Angela spoke about having help with running the group; and Liz, Maggie and Jane B have kindly offered to take over specific roles. Angela will still run the meetings, AGMs and monthly ones, meet new ladies and buy and give out all gifts.

Speakers

Angela thanked our speaker this evening, Helena Maskell, Fundraising Manager of the Ark Cancer Charity. Helena gave us a brief history of the Ark and her role as fundraising manager.

Our speaker next month will be Graham Sharp, secretary of the Basingstoke RSPB. He has been our guest speaker before, and this time, he will regale us with his encounters with wild birds in Kenya.

On 21 April, we will have Posy Mudie as our guest, treating us to Himalayan sound healing. Please let Posy know of any contraindications.

We were asked to let Jane B know of any speakers we would like to have next year 2027 as she can make enquiries. Renee reported that HSBC may come in 2027 to talk to us about scams.

Both Mrs Stanton and Clare, lead nurse at the DTC, have thanked us ladies for our input on the topic of mastectomy avoidance.

Angela went on to say that this was a very special meeting as Eileen will celebrate her 90th Birthday next week. For ladies who didn't know, she explained that Eileen's daughter, Sam, was a member many years ago, but unfortunately she died. It is Sam's sons, Jack and Luke, Eileen's grandsons, who come every year to give out the secret Santa gifts at our Christmas party. She thanked Eileen for her continued support over the years and wished her a very happy birthday.

Please let Angela know of any big birthdays we have coming up.

Upcoming events

Liz will prepare and print out lists for us to add our names to for upcoming social events.

Doreen is organising a visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill, which will probably be in June at a cost of £14.50 per person.

Ann will find out if Warner Hotels do day treats that might be of interest to us. Maggie has organised the Canal Boat Trip for 17 July.

Skittles Evening will be on August 18 instead of our monthly meeting.

Liz will source a new venue for our Christmas lunch as the Ark is no longer catering to the degree it was previously.

Other business

Angela updated us on the Ark as our venue - we have been given permission to continue to hold our meetings here now the hospital has taken over the building. She is waiting to know if she has to book a room every month as they have all the dates for this year's meetings. Allocation of rooms will be displayed on a board in the foyer, so please check what room we are in.

Car park - this is now the responsibility of Ian Dickerson, transport manager at the hospital who Angela is in contact with. She is hoping we can continue to use the Ark car park.

The meeting closed at 8pm.