

Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self-help Group

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 September 2025

Chairperson: Angela Bennett

Treasurer: Renee Smith

Newsletter: Liz Janes

Secretary: Heather Bounaouara

26 people attended

Welcome

Angela welcomed everyone to the meeting including several people who were attending for the first time.

Speakers

Angela introduced Dr M Remer, consultant oncologist (breast and lung cancer) and Dr Veli, consultant oncologist (breast and upper gastrointestinal cancer) who has recently joined Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Remer explained their role within the overall cancer teams at Hampshire Hospitals. He noted the newly refurbished Greenham Unit (formerly the Basing Unit) which houses the Chemotherapy Day Unit, Clinic Rooms, and the Acute Oncology Service. It was officially opened in July and funded by the Ark Charities and others.

Dr Remer outlined the three main sub-types of early breast cancer and current treatments. He also described some of the newer approaches such as targeted drug therapies approved by NICE. And he explained how the cost of these medicines plus the cost of monitoring their use for patients, along with the national shortage of oncology staff, is proving challenging.

Unfortunately, there was not enough time for Dr Remer to go on to speak about treatments for stage 4 breast cancer when it has spread to other sites. Hopefully he will be back next year to continue his interesting talk.

Recent and upcoming events – outlined by Angela

The boat trip on the Basingstoke Canal in July was very enjoyable.

The tea held at The Ark in August was enjoyed by all who went.

The skittles evening at Loddon Vale Bowls Club was also enjoyed by all who attended and the Raffle there raised £130.00. Thanks to those who organised this event.

Tuesday 21st October – next BBCSHG monthly meeting with the Macmillan Breast Care Nurses from the Breast Unit at the DTC coming to speak.

Wednesday 29 October - 10.30am to 12 midday – cake sale to raise funds for the BBCSHG. Angela requested donations of home-made cakes and biscuits for the sale if possible please.

Tuesday 18th November – BBCSHG monthly meeting with Mrs Rosie Stanton, Consultant Breast Surgeon, as speaker. Group members are welcome to bring crafts for sale or just for show.

Saturday 22 November – Loddon Vale Bowls Club are kindly hosting a dinner and raffle in aid of the BBCSHG. Angela and Liz are attending meetings about the dinner. Angela is working very hard to try and obtain good quality, high value raffle items.

Any donations of very good quality items from BBCSHG group members would be welcome.

Liz will be bringing the list of names of those who have signed up to attend and has said that the payment of £25 cash per person **must** brought to the October group meeting please.

Tuesday 16 December – BBCSHG Christmas party evening with food, games or quiz.

Any other business

Angela explained that Christmas lunch at The Ark will be available again in December this year and is good value for money. The date for BBCSHG members to have a Christmas meal together at the Ark will be announced at the October group meeting. Please sign up on the list which will be provided at the October group meeting. The price for the lunch will be announced at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 8pm.