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This publication is NOT endorsed by the Red Hat Society and is a completely unofficial document. The thoughts and opinions expressed in this Handbook belong to the respective authors of the individual pieces of content. This handbook is simply a compilation of the available resources on the topic of Red Hatting. Most of the content in this handbook has been created from ideas shared from chapter to chapter and found online. Any content will be removed from this handbook by request.

# *Warning (Jenny Joseph)*



*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells  
And run my stick along the public railings  
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.  
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
And pick flowers in other people's gardens  
And learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat  
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go  
Or only bread and pickle for a week  
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.*

*But now we must have clothes that keep us dry  
And pay our rent and not swear in the street  
And set a good example for the children.  
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.*

*But maybe I ought to practice a little now?  
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised  
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.*

# *Starting Your Own Chapter*

## Some tips for starting a Chapter

**Naming your Chapter** – Make it unique and not too similar to an existing chapter. On the Chapter Search section of the RHS website you can see a listing of all the registered chapters, that might help you come up with a name (and check to see if a name is already used). You might want to name it something that has special meaning to you, or that represents you or what you plan to be doing as a chapter. You can include your town name in the chapter if you want to. You can make it humorous or sophisticated – the choice is yours.

**Be a little cautious with your advertising** – Please make sure you consider your personal safety when advertising for members publicly. It is recommended to give out only an e-mail address or mobile phone number, until you know the person is genuine. You may like to arrange to meet up at a local cafe or other public place first before you invite them to your next outing, particularly if it is in someone's home.

**Capping members** – Many chapters have a cut-off at about 20-30 members, as they find that more than this can make organising events difficult, can cause “cliques” within the group, and can have troubles bonding as well as a smaller group can. Work out your policy for ladies who would like to join once you are closed. Some groups have a waiting list, and will remove inactive members to allow new people in.

**Chapter Guidelines** – While the RHS prides itself on being rule-free (mostly), having some guidelines in place can help keep the chapter running smoothly, and lets everyone know what the expectations are. Think about things like wearing the colours, attendance, bringing friends/children/husbands, cancellations. If you have guidelines for your chapter, you may like to provide new members with a little handbook outlining these, or start up a website or facebook page where that information can be added.

**Gatherings – Where, When and What** – While things can change, have an idea of where you would like to have your gatherings, and when. Would you like them at your home, rotating members homes, in a local cafe or restaurant? Will it be casual? Will your chapter be focused on having large lavish parties? Will you alternate casual and more formal gatherings? Will you have a big ceremony welcoming new member in? and so on. Also think of what frequency you'll be meeting, and whether it will be mostly weekends or week days.

**Delegation** - Make sure that you are not the only one running your chapter. The role of the Queen is to be the founding member of the chapter, and to act as the figurehead of the group – but the RHS guidelines specifically say that the Queen is NOT expected to solely run the chapter, and delegating roles is highly encouraged. Often chapters will have a “Vice Queen” (or 2), who assists the Queen, but there are also various other roles that members can take. Members can be in charge of contacting other members, organising events and so on. Some chapters give these roles Royal job titles.

**RHS Membership** - Individuals are only official members of the RHS if they have paid their yearly membership to the RHS itself. Paying a fee or chapter dues to a Chapter, does not automatically make them an official RHS member, and this should be clearly communicated to all members. It is up to you whether or not you will require your members to be supporting/financial members of the RHS, however the RHS guidelines state that a Queen should ensure all her chapter members are fully paid supporting members. With RHS membership, please note that if your membership lapses by more than 1 year, you will be required to pay both the current year and 1 previous years membership in order to renew. So it is important to make sure you keep it up to date.

**Communication** – You need to communicate with your chapter members to let them know about outings and other chapter news. You also should communicate with other Queens to find out about any events and news around the State/Country. Some chapters have newsletters that are emailed or posted out to members once a month. Some chapters may have private facebook groups or other ways of keeping in touch.

The Red hats Victoria website and Facebook page can be a quick and convenient way for Hatters to communicate with others, post event invitations and share information. If the Chapter Queen doesn't have access to the internet, it is recommended to have at least one member who can access these online sources and pass any information on to the Chapter.

**Everyone is Different** – Some Hatters live and breathe the RHS and will want to join in as much as possible. Some people are more reserved and see it as a social club they attend every once in a while. If you're one of the very enthusiastic people and you have people in your chapter who aren't as enthusiastic it can be a bit disappointing – but it is important to remember that people have different interests and different ways of showing it. You can encourage your members to get into the spirit of the RHS by leaving by example and organising gatherings that allow them to have fun. However some ladies may not get as into it as others – and that's ok.

# Getting More Members

**Bring a friend** – Allowing members to bring a friend who might be interested can be a good way to introduce potential members to your group. You may like to organise an outing to a coffee shop or somewhere similar as this first meeting point.

**Business Cards** – Create your own business cards, download the RHV ones from the website, or you can buy inexpensive business cards at places like Vistaprint. Keep these in your handbag to hand out whenever you talk about the RHS so that ladies can contact you later.

**Posters & Flyers** – Hang posters or put out flyers in your local area, advertising the RHS and your chapter. Try places like libraries, Hairdressers, Community centres, Dr Waiting rooms, Supermarkets etc. (Please ask permission, as we don't want to cause problems!).

**Go out in your Colours** – A lot of hatters find out about the RHS by seeing ladies out and about in their Purple & Red. Make sure you have business cards on you, and go strut your stuff! If anyone mentions your outfit, start up a conversation.

**List your Chapter** – Make sure your chapter is listed on the Red Hats Victoria website, Matilda Rose site and the Official RHS Site to help ladies find you.

**Banners** – Don't forget your banner if you're out somewhere you can display it. If you don't have one yet – that could be a great crafty day where you get together to make one!

**Volunteer** – See if you can volunteer to go do a craft activity session at your local community centre, aged care facility or somewhere similar. Not only is this giving something back to the community, but it can introduce the Society to the ladies there.

**Local paper** – if your area has a local community newspaper, contact them and see if they will run an article for you, or advertise your chapter.

**Advertising at the venue** – If you hire a function room, restaurant etc. see if they can take photos of your group and display them, to help promote you too.

**Take their number** – If someone seems interested get their phone number and offer to pass it on to a chapter in their area, or for you to call them to discuss Hatting later. That way you can follow up and it stops them forgetting to look us up!

**Don't forget the Pinkies!** – A lot of women are not aware that you can join before you turn 50, as they had not heard of the "Pink Hatters". So while you're promoting your chapter, please don't forget to let ladies know that women under 50 are welcome too!

# *Lack of Colours and Inactivity*

## **Members not wearing their colours**

Depending on how strict your chapter is on the issue of wearing the Colours, you should encourage your members to always wear their Colours to every Hatting event.

Some common arguments for not wearing the colours may be that they cannot find clothing they like in their size, they might feel uncomfortable wearing such bright colours (or pastel colours in the case of Pink Hatters). So you may need to address which specific reasons they are giving for not embracing the wearing of the colours.

To help encourage them, you can try:

- Discuss the meaning of the colours and how it is an important part of the RHS
- Complimenting members when they do make an effort to wear the colours
- Encourage members to attend larger multi-chapter events where they can see the variety of clothing the other Hatters wear, and may be inspired to make more effort.
- Hold crafting days to help members make hats/bling/clothing.
- Get together and dye clothing to the right colours
- Hold a swap/sell day where members bring along Hatter items they no longer use, which can be traded/sold/given to members who need more gear.
- Some chapters use a system of fines – where a member needs to pay a gold coin if they aren't wearing their namebadge/hat/colours.

## **Inactive members.**

You are free to set the required participation levels for your chapter, however it is important to realise that everyone has different family/work/social/financial commitments and that it may not always be possible to attend each get-together you have.

Members should be encouraged to RSVP in a timely manner. You can also encourage members to attend events even if it is something they aren't particularly interested in going to – simply as a show of support for the organiser and to be part of the group.

If members stop attending events, communication is important to find out why, as you may be able to find a solution that brings them back. It could be financial problems, problems with another member or even something like they don't have anyone to come with.

If you have members who are only coming along every once in a while, they may not have the passion for the Society that you may want in your chapter. While it is important to be supportive of your members, it's also worth remembering that it's not the responsibility of the Queen or other delegate to pester members to keep attending. At some point it might be best to give them the choice to stay and participate or leave.

# Problem Members

## Dealing with problem members.

We all want to be able to have fun, so if there is a member that is causing friction or conflict, this should be addressed as quickly as possible, otherwise it can impact upon the dynamics of the group and can even make some members leave to avoid the problem person.

Addressing issues with a member is likely best done privately unless other chapter members need to be involved.

You may need to be assertive. Sometimes it is better to ask a problem member to leave the chapter, so that the remaining members can have a more positive experience.

If you feel it is best to avoid a face to face confrontation, you can write the member a letter. However be aware that a lot of misunderstandings can happen through the written word as people don't have the benefit of body language, tone of voice and other non-verbal communication tools to help interpret things correctly via letter/email. Email and other electronic message services allow people to make a quick reply, often before they have had a chance to carefully consider their words.

How you deal with the member will depend on whether it is an action, behaviour or situation which can be dealt with. Or whether the problem is as a result of personality clashes. Some people can be very abrasive and direct to the point of rudeness when you first meet them, but they may not mean to be that way. Encouraging a member to see past certain personality traits and focus on the positive aspects about that person may help.

Problem behaviours may include:

- Undermining the Queen or other members behind their back
- Creating cliques and stirring up trouble between members
- Being constantly negative, rude or nasty
- Talking over other people and not respecting other people's right to be heard too
- Not participating as much as would be expected of a member
- Being consistently late/absent

When you address the issues with the member, you may like to focus on things like:

- What behaviours you expect from your members
- What negative behaviours you've witnessed (or been told about)
- How these behaviours are impacting on other members or the chapter
- What changes need to be made to resolve the issue

# Conflict Resolution

## Tips for conflict resolution:

- Communication is the key – some conflict comes from a feeling of not being heard, from miscommunication, from assumptions and from unmet expectations.
- Be calm and deal with the conflict/situation when all parties are able to be calm and have a fair and reasonable discussion. Postpone the discussions if things get heated.
- Listen to both/all sides of the argument, separately if possible. Trying to make sure you listen impartially and that all parties feel that their side of the story has been heard.
- Using the phrase “I understand how you feel” and other forms of empathetic speech lets the person know their voice is being heard and can be calming.
- Respond appropriately – often when we deal with a person we do not like, we are withdrawn or try to avoid them. They may notice this and that can negatively affect their behaviour, making the situation worse.
- Often people respond to what they perceive a situation to be, which may not be what it actually is.
- Make resolving the conflict the focus of the discussions, rather than working out who is “right”.
- Focus on the present and how you can move on – rather than dredging up all past issues and holding grudges.
- Focus on the attitude/behaviour/situation not on the person themselves – try not to make (or allow) personal attacks.
- If pride, a lack of flexibility or an inability to accept any of the blame is making it difficult to come to an agreement or compromise, look to different strategies that may help overcome those issues.
- Be the bigger person – if things get nasty, avoid the urge to stoop to that level. Take strength in your ability to be calm and level headed when the other person is not.
- Appreciate diversity – if everyone was the same, life would be boring. Sometimes we need the “interesting” people around to make things a bit more entertaining. So if they are a bit quirky but not causing too much harm, it may be better to work on strategies for tolerance and focusing on their positives rather than their negatives.
- Make sure the member knows exactly what the problem is and what they need to do to address it.

# Chapter Finances

There will be expenses that the Chapter will need to pay. Unless the Queen wants to pay for those herself, then the chapter will need to raise money to pay for these.

## Expenses your chapter may have can include:

Yearly RHS registration fee	Yearly Public Liability Insurance fee
Birthday cards	Cost of paper newsletters
Prizes for games	Decorations
Business cards	

There are 3 main methods for raising the money needed for your chapter. You can choose to use whatever method (or methods) that best suits the expenses and Chapter you have.

- **Yearly membership dues** – Where each chapter member pays an amount per year to be a member of the chapter. These dues are often around \$10-\$20 a year, depending on the size of the chapter and the expenses they have. If choosing this method you can decide what additional benefits, if any, the membership fees will also provide.

**Advantages:** Easier to make sure you have the money required to run the chapter. Money is available in a larger amount at once, making it easier to pay for the larger expenses and see how the finances are going. May give incentive to members to participate more since they pay to be part of the group. Everyone pays the same amount regardless of participation/activity in the group.

**Disadvantages:** May seem expensive to some members, and may discourage new members joining (A trial period may help overcome this). Need to keep records of who has paid and chase up those whose payments are late. (Delegating a treasurer to handle this can help)

- **Gold coin donations** - Where members are asked to contribute a gold coin to the Chapter funds at each gathering (or other intervals)

**Advantages:** May end up raising more than a yearly membership fee would, and in a way that doesn't seem as expensive as an once-off fee. No need to record who has paid or chase up payments. Easy for those who are having financial troubles to pay.

**Disadvantages:** Members may forget to contribute. Money comes in as a dribble, making it potentially less convenient. Only those who regularly attend are contributing the most to the chapter finances.

- **Fundraising** - Where fundraising activities are held through the year to raise money as needed. Such as having raffles, auctions and other such events.

**Advantages:** May end up raising more than a yearly membership fee would, but in a way that doesn't seem as expensive as an once-off fee. No need to record who has paid or chase up payments. Fundraising can be incorporated into a fun activity or event, so provides more experiences for members. Prizes can be donated by members so that all the proceeds can be used for chapter funds.

**Disadvantages:** May have to work harder to raise enough money. Raffles and other such fundraising methods may have legal obligations/ramifications. Not all members would be contributing equally.

#### Fundraising ideas:

- **Fines** - \$2 fine for forgetting to wear a hat or name-badge, for being late
- **Auctions** – If you have crafty members who can create something (even baked goods) you could auction these off either splitting the profits with the person donating the items, or with the chapter keeping all profits.
- **Mystery Auction** – Everyone brings a wrapped gift worth \$10 or \$20, in a particular theme. People bid on the mystery package without knowing what is inside it.
- **\$2 raffle** – Everyone puts \$2 into a jar and their name goes into a hat. The person who wins gets the prize (an item worth \$2) then buys the prize for the next month.

#### What to do if you have too much money or don't raise enough?

Depending on the size of your chapter and how often you meet up, the methods where you charge a membership fee or ask for donations at each outing may result in either too much money left over after expenses or not enough money raised. Keeping track of how much money you have coming in, as well as how much your expenses should be, will help you work out how much money you'll need to raise for the year to give you something to aim towards.

If you end up with more money than you needed, you can give some back to your members in the form of things like: a small gift at Christmas time (work out how much extra you have and how many people to buy for – to find your budget per person), contributing \$5 or \$10 to everyone's meals at your Christmas outing or on their birthday. It is a good idea however to leave some money in the Royal Purse for emergencies.

If you end up with less money than you need, you can work out how short you are and host a fundraising activity to raise the remainder. If you find that the donation method doesn't work for your chapter finances, then you may like to consider other fundraising options, or combine methods such as smaller yearly dues combined with fundraiser activities.

# *Insurance*

Please note the following information is NOT legal advice and is here to give you a very basic understanding of the issue of Public Liability Insurance as it relates to Red Hatting. If you have any questions about insurance or insurance products please see a professional (Lawyer, financial advisor, insurance agent etc.)

While we don't like to think about it, accidents can happen and if there has been a significant personal injury that results in a claim for compensation, you may need to have insurance cover for "Public Liability".

Public Liability Insurance (PLI) usually covers things such as injury/harm to your chapter members while on an outing (eg falling over and hurting themselves) as well as damage/harm your chapter members do to another person or property while at an outing (eg bumping into someone who in turn knocks a vase off a table and breaks it).

While your members may feel they are friendly enough not to want to sue anyone, their insurance company may be the one trying to sue – so simply being friends may not be enough to cover you.

If you have your outings in a public place such as a restaurant, and the incident happens inside that venue – then their PLI may cover it. If the incident happens while you are meeting up at another members home, then you may not be covered under any existing insurance policy. You can check your house insurance to see if there is any coverage included.

Depending on the situation and your location, the person involved in the incident may be liable to pay damages (or for their own medical bills). If it can be proven that the incident was as a result of a negligent act by you as the host, then you may be required to pay the financial costs. This is where the public liability insurance comes in – If you are covered by PLI, then your insurance policy may pay instead of you.

To assist you in preventing potential incidents, you may like to make sure that any environment you hold events in are as safe as possible, with any potential hazards clearly explained/marked (or removed) and with first aid and emergency contact information readily accessible. One good idea is to have all members write their emergency contact information on the back of their name-badge.

## Public Liability Insurance through ARHGA Inc.

Red Hatter groups around Australia are offered a PLI policy through becoming a member of “ARHGA Inc.”, with a pricing of around \$85 per year. Which is likely to be cheaper than you are able to get yourself. To obtain insurance through them you will need to become a member of their Association and fill out their PLI application form. This must be done/renewed before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June each year. If you miss the deadline you must wait until next year.

Information can be found here:

[www.red-hatters-wa.net/insurancepli.htm](http://www.red-hatters-wa.net/insurancepli.htm)

As with any insurance policy it is not as simple as just signing a form, you need to make sure that you know what you are covered for and what exclusions (if any) there are, have given them the correct information for your coverage and that you comply with any requirements they have. Otherwise you may find out that your insurance policy is invalid and you may not be covered if something happens and you need it.

Points to consider with insurance sourced through ARHGA:

- Obtaining your policy through ARHGA means you will become a member of ARHGA. This means you agree to abide by any rules and requirements of their organisation.
- As with insurance obtained from any company, You should read the Product Disclosure Agreement for the insurer to make sure you know exactly what coverage you have and all the terms and conditions.
  - In particular you should find out:
    - What amount you are insured for
    - What exactly you are covered for
    - What excess you would have to pay
    - What exclusions there are for your cover

As there is no Product Disclosure Agreement provided and none of the information on the above points are included with the application forms, you may need to contact them directly to ask for this information.

# Indemnity Waivers

The following is NOT legal advice and is here to give you a basic understanding of indemnity waivers as they relate to Hatting. If you have any questions please see a professional Lawyer.

In layman's terms, an Indemnity waiver is where you sign a document to say that you agree to accept all the risks involved in partaking in an activity, and agree not to hold the organisers responsible for any injury/harm caused to you, or by you, as a result in your participation.

Having members sign an indemnity waiver when booking for an event and when joining your chapter may offer some protection, however it may not be a substitute for Public Liability Insurance. Liability waivers are not always legally binding, particularly if the terms are unreasonable and if the host has not done an adequate job to make the event safe.

You may also like to include a photographic release as well, which clarifies that there will be photographs and/or video taken at the event, which you may use this for publication online etc. Searching online for an Indemnity Waiver will give you a lot of example waivers you could use to draft a waiver that works for your specific situation. Some example general waivers that are specifically tailored to Red Hatting are below. Please note these are examples and are not guaranteed to be legally binding. Please consult a layer for advice.

## **Indemnity Waiver Example #1**

*By signing this Waiver, I fully assume the dangers and risks in participating in this activity (<name of activity>) and agree to use my best judgment while engaging in these activities. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the organisers (<Queen's Legal name and Chapter name>) from and against any and all liability incurred as a result of or in any manner related to my participation in the activities.*

## **Indemnity Waiver Example #2**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Participant's Name) Understand, acknowledge and accept that: I knowingly and freely assume all risk, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the hosts or any of their individual members of participants or others, and I voluntarily participate at my own risk and assume sole responsibility for any injury, death or property damage I may suffer that arises from my participating in any of the activities.*

## **Indemnity Waiver Example #3**

*By filling in this registration form for the <Name of event>, I hereby agree to waive any liability to <Queen's Legal Name> or any member of her chapter for any personal loss or injury that may result from any activity during the event, including but not limited to, traveling to and from the event.*

## **Indemnity Waiver Example #4**

*The <Name of Event> event to be held in <Location> on <Date> is being hosted by <Chapter Name and Location>. This chapter is not incorporated and has no rules or by-laws. In consideration of being permitted to participate in the event and its associated activities.*

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Participant) Understand, acknowledge and accept that: I knowingly and freely assume all risk, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the Hosts or any of their individual members or participants or others and I voluntarily participate at my own risk and assume sole responsibility for any injury death or property damage I may suffer that arises from my participating in any of the activities.*

*I understand and acknowledge the dangers associated with the consumption of alcohol or any mind altering substance before and during any of the activities and I take full responsibility for any injury, loss or damage associated with any consumption and I take sole responsibility for my actions.*

*I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release and hold harmless and agree not to sue the hosts, or any of their individual members, volunteers, agents and sponsors (all of whom are referred to as releasees) with respect to any and all injury, disability, death, loss or damage to person or property, whether caused by the negligence of the releasees or otherwise.*

### ***EFFECT OF THIS DOCUMENT***

*I have had sufficient opportunity to read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, I fully understand its terms and understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without inducement of any kind.*

*I understand that my signature to this document constitutes a complete and unconditional release of all liability of the releasees to the greatest extent allowed by law in the event of me suffering injury or death or property damage.*

*SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_*

## **Photography Release Example**

*I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction of any and all photography and/or videography that has been taken of me this day for any purpose, without compensation to me.*

# Organising Outings

There are so many possibilities for outings (“get-togethers”, meet-ups”, “Hoots” - whatever you wish to call them). They can be as casual and relaxed or as fancy as you like. It is nice to mix things up to give the members interesting experiences.

Some chapters have different ways to organise what outings they will do, so that it is not one person trying to think of activities all the time.

- **Planning Day** – Hold a planning day once a month, once every 6 months or once a year, where the ideas for upcoming activities can be discussed and entered into the chapter calendar. If planning the whole year in advance, you may like to have a 6 month review day where any changes can be made.
- **Members pick a month** – You can do this either by letting them choose any month, picking a month from a hat or using their birth month. When a member gets designated a month, they come up with an activity idea to do during that month, and they can also be the person who organises and runs that activity. Another option is for the member to come up with 3 suggestions for an outing for their month and allow other members to vote on what activity they would rather do.
- **Alternate Coffee and Outing** – For example every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday may be a coffee morning and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday may be a larger whole-day outing.
- **Alternate Home and Away** – One get-together a month could be held at a member's house (perhaps a casual gathering or a craft day) and the other get-together held somewhere public like a restaurant or park (which could be more formal).
- **International Night** – One night a month (can be a set night, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) go out to dinner, choosing a different International themed restaurant each time.
- **Mistress of Meetups** – Some chapters have one delegated member who is in charge of making bookings and collecting the RSVPs.
- **Annual Getaway** – Some Chapters hold one larger getaway a year, where they may attend an interstate conference or go on a holiday where they share accommodation.
- **Same place each month** – some chapters have a coffee morning at the same place and time each month. Makes it easier for everyone, and can be advertised in the local paper for newcomers to join in and see what the RHS is about.

Once you have organised what and when your outings will be you should make sure all members know when the outings will be and all the information they need on them. E-mail or paper newsletters can be used for this.

If your members have facebook you can create a private facebook group that will allow your members to have discussions and post outing information for all members to see.

# Hosting an Event

You may like to hold a larger get-together with ladies from other local chapters, or open it up to invite any Hatters from around Victoria or Australia. Organising a larger event can be a bit daunting so here are some tips:

- Pick a date that doesn't conflict with any existing events or any public holidays.
- Choose a venue that has good access to public transport and facilities for those with mobility issues. If serving food, check they can cater for food intolerances.
- Work out your costings and what dates you'll need to cancel by to get deposits back.
- Be mindful of the cost – not all Hatters have the same budgets (or time)
- Splitting events up and charging for each part separately would allow for Hatters with a limited budget, or those who cannot be away for a whole weekend to attend some parts of the event
- Communicate with other chapter Queens – Letting them know of the event, and if necessary asking for their assistance in running it.
- Give plenty of notice – so everyone has time to prepare.
- Give all the information – Cost, timeframe, dresscode, expectations, who is running it
- Delegation – Make sure it is not just the Queen running it. Form an event planning committee and set tasks for everyone to help organise and run the event.
- Use your members expertise. If you have members who are creative, set them to work on decorating. If you have members who are good at talking to people they can look after bookings and so on.
- Pacing – not all Hatters can cope with a lot of activity or a long event. You may need to schedule a rest time between morning and evening events.
- Give yourself plenty of time to organise it
- Consider the Public Liability Insurance issue, and if necessary choose venues that have their own insurance cover.
- Borrow decorations from other Chapters, members or even your local theatre group or school to avoid buying them.
- Themed events can be fun, but be mindful of how easily members may be able to find/make outfits to go with the theme. Try to pick an easy theme and perhaps offer some suggestions to get the creative juices flowing.
- If making “showbags” or goodie bags for the attendees, make sure you plan this in advance so you can grab some bargains to keep your costs low. Make sure you check \$2 shops, art supply shops and online stores like ebay for cheap supplies.

# Outing/Get-Together Ideas

## Cafe and Restaurant type ideas:

- Yum Cha / Banquet / High Tea
- Icecream parlour or dessert only dinner
- Pj party in a cafe/restaurant
- Go to the theatre/cinema
- Casino

## Shopping ideas:

- Go on a shopping spree tour to a discount outlet like DFO or go on an "Op Shop" tour
- Craft markets & Farmer's markets

## Pampering ideas:

- Hot springs / Manicure & Pedicure / Makeovers / Day Spa (either at home or visit one)
- Glamour Photography shoot
- Hire out rooms at a hotel (that has a pool) and have a mini holiday

## Gardens, Park & Outdoor ideas:

- Visit Botanical Gardens / zoo
- Picnic in a park
- Horse riding / Go to the Horse races
- Boat ride
- Peddle boats on a lake

## Craft day or home based ideas:

- Craft days - Hats / fascinators / Sash / Jewellery making / Scrapbooking / Quilting
- "Pot Luck" / "bring a plate" meal (another idea is to bring food that fits with a theme or letter of the alphabet)
- Fashion Show
- White Elephant gift exchange / Book exchange
- Reminiscing party (bring old photo albums)
- Cooking day (each make a large portion of your favourite dish, enough for everyone to take a portion home, so everyone leaves with several meals worth of new dishes to try)
- Show & Tell
- Pajama party & Movie Night
- Game Day (board games, trivia etc.)

### Tours & Cultural Ideas:

- Brewery / Wine / Chocolate Tasting tour
- Visit a museum / art gallery / heritage building
- Cooking classes

### Active Ideas:

- Mini Golf / Croquet / Bowling
- Ice skating / rollerskating
- Visit the snow
- Pool Party / Beach party / Dance party
- Dance lessons
- Hot Air Ballooning
- Fishing

### Other Ideas:

- Craft shows
- Scavenger Hunt around town
- Karaoke
- Fundraiser for charity
- Masquerade ball
- Organise a Red Hatter swapmeet
- Tour of "Sexyland" or other adult shop

### Theme ideas:

Ancient Mythology (Greek/Egyptian etc.) , Arabian Nights, Beach, Bollywood, Burlesque, Camping, Cinderella, Circus, Countries & Cultures, Eras – 1940s/1950s/1960s etc., Fairytale, Fantasy, Halloween, Horror, Mad Hatters Tea Party, Mardi Gras, Masquerade, Medieval, Mermaids, Pirate, Phantom of the Opera, Pool Party, Safari, Snow White, Solve a Mystery, Superheroes, Steampunk, Victorian, Western, Wizard of Oz, zoo

# Fun Activities to Try

Some suggestions for interesting activities to try:

- **Eating by the Alphabet** – Pick a restaurant or cafe with a name starting with the letter “A”. Next outing pick one that starts with “B” and so on.
- **Eating By numbers** – Choose a number and try to incorporate that into your dinner as much as possible. For example if you choose number 7, you could pick a restaurant that has #7 as the street number, eating at 7pm, eating the 7<sup>th</sup> item on the menu or selecting items that cost \$7 or have a 7 in the price.
- **Dress as your royal title** – For a bit of fun have everyone dress up as something to do with their Royal title! So for example Countess Champagne might decorate her dress with champagne corks
- **Bag Lady Fashion Show** – Everyone needs to dress up as some type of “bag” - for example if they went as a “hand bag” they could wear something covered in paper hand shaped cutouts. Suggestions: Tea bag, Shopping Bag, Beach bag, Golf Bag, Laundry Bag, School Bag, Sports Bag, Garbage Bag.
- **Literal Fashion Show** – The idea is to take an outfit name, such as “bell bottoms” and make a literal version, for example attaching bells onto your derriere. A selection of names for clothing items that could have literal meanings are placed in a hat and members draw one (keeping it secret), then at the fashion show (perhaps a week or two later) they show off the creations they have made.
  - Examples “Pillbox hat” - a hat with medication boxes attached, “Ball gown” - dress with balls attached, “Bloomers” - pants with artificial flowers on them, “Double breasted jacket” - jacket with 2 bras,
- **Mystery Dinner** – something to do at a members house – hold a sit-down dinner where the menu items are given cryptic names instead (eg “Smiles” could be cheese) Guests have to order their food without knowing what it might be. A funny twist is to also include the type of eating utensil in the menu, so they need to order that as well. They could end up ordering soup with a fork, or steak with a straw! Some menu suggestions can be found in the “Hoot Ideas” section of the Red Hats Victoria website.
- **White Elephant Exchange** – Everyone brings a wrapped up item from their home they no longer need. The first person picks a wrapped gift at random and opens it. The next person can choose to steal the gift the first person opened, or select a new one. Then the next person has their turn, and so on. When a gift is stolen, the person whose gift was stolen may either replace it with a gift stolen from someone else or select a new gift. The game ends when the last unwrapped gift has been chosen.
- **Ceremonies** – Welcome new members, “dubbing” or red sash ceremonies to bestow Royal names.

- **Calendar** – Create a calendar at the end of the year from photos of your Chapter from throughout the year. You could even do a funny “sexy” calendar with each member taking on a month and having a glamorous photo shoot.
- **Debutante Ball** - for the ladies who haven't had one, have a Red hatter one!
- **Bra hat making** – Have a craft day turning bras into hats. Place the centre chest part against your forehead and pin the ribcage straps to make a snug fit around your head. Sew this and cut off the shoulder straps. Use Pipecleaners sewn from the centre V point to the back of the head to add stability and a lattice crown you can decorate with a feather boa – then decorate the cups!
- **Mystery Car trip** - Carpool and follow in convoy to a mystery location (The leader knows where to go!)
- **“Fake Wedding”** - where you hold a wedding ceremony for fun
- **Game show** - Go on a gameshow like family Feud.
- **Celebrate “0” birthdays** - (60/70 etc.).. “sexagenarian” party at 60, “Golduation” when turning 80
- **5 Year celebration** - School uniform dressup event (kids go to school at 5)
- **Valentines Dinner** – bring husbands along
- **Bus Trip** – Hire a bus and go on an outing together

### The Friendship Ball

Find a Christmas decoration ball that has a hinged opening or somehow comes apart. Inside place the Friendship ball poem (below) and a small item. This ball is given to a member who can keep the item inside and add a new one for the next person. They bring the ball to the next gathering and pass it on.

#### The Friendship Ball

A ball is a circle,  
No beginning, no end.  
It keeps us together.

Like our Circle of Friends.  
But the treasure inside, for you to see  
is the treasure of friendship

You've granted to me.  
Today I pass the friendship ball  
to you.

Pass it on to someone who is a friend to you.

## Scavenger Hunts

This could be a good multi-chapter event. There are numerous ways you can hold a scavenger hunt, so get creative. You can break everyone up into teams of 2 or more. You can have them in one location – such as a shopping centre, or have them around a whole town.

Set a start and finish time, hand out each team a sheet of instructions and things they are looking for. Make sure you specify if they are to bring back items or just photograph them, and if they need to enter any shops or if they are only to look from outside. As this is likely to cause some disruption to the shops or shopping centre, please ask the shopping centre management or the council before planning a scavenger hunt.

### Shopping Centre

Go to a shopping centre and split into pairs (best if they don't know each other) and together they need to find landmarks and other points of interest around the shopping centre. Using cryptic clues for the things the members need to find.

### Find a number/letter

Can be done with an indoor shopping centre or small strip of shops – ask the shops to display a number/letter you give them (perhaps cut from red glitter card) in their front window. Hunters need to note the shop name and what letter/number they found.

### Photographic Hunt

Teams must take photos of the following scenarios.

- Photograph a female stranger who is a great example of a red hatter, but doesn't even know it.
- Photograph the cutest pair of purple undies you can find.
- Photograph the team next to a sign with the number 50 on it (*could be a house sign, street sign, price sign, etc.*)
- Photograph a Red Hat (must not belong to any of your team)
- Photograph items that fill in the blanks:
  - I shall spend my pension on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - I shall go out in my \_\_\_\_\_ in the rain
  - And eat three pounds of \_\_\_\_\_ at a go
  - Or only \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for a week
  - And hoard \_\_\_\_\_s and \_\_\_\_\_s and \_\_\_\_\_mats
  - and things in \_\_\_\_\_

# *Christmas and Birthdays*

Some chapters have celebrations they do for Christmas and Birthdays. Some chapters will send members a birthday card on their birthday, or mention all the birthdays for the month in their newsletters. Chapter funds may be used to pay for a drink for the member whose birthday falls during that month – or other such customs.

## **Some ideas for Christmas gift exchange are:**

- Everyone brings a giftwrapped box containing items to a value of \$10 or \$20. These are placed on a table and are given at random to members (making sure the member does not receive her own box). The boxes are reused for the next year gifts.
- As above, but another variant can be that the gifts can have a particular theme, or can be in the form of 5 low cost items of a particular type, for example: “One for the bedroom, one for the bathroom, one for the kitchen, one personal and something red”.
- White Elephant exchange. Everyone brings a wrapped up item with a \$5 value. The first person picks a wrapped gift at random and opens it. The next person can choose to steal the gift the first person opened, or select a new one. Then the next person has their turn, and so on. When a gift is stolen, the person whose gift was stolen may either replace it with a gift stolen from someone else or select a new gift. The game ends when the last unwrapped gift has been chosen.
- Truth be Told – Have around 10-20 statements written on slips of paper. Everyone starts with a wrapped gift in front of them. When a statement is read out, anyone who answers yes to the statement has to swap their gift with someone else. Statements can be things such as “have you ever gone overseas”, “are you wearing pearls” etc.
- The Right/Left game – there are several versions of the stories that can be read out, but the way they are played is always the same. You can start with everyone holding a gift, or just use the one gift – and as the story is read out, whenever the word “RIGHT” is spoken, everyone hands the gift to the person on their right. When “LEFT” is spoken, the gift is passed to the person on the left. Some versions also include “ACROSS” where it is passed across the table to the person opposite.

# Active Games

These games are played while standing/moving, so may not be suitable for members with limited mobility. Some can be used as an ice breaker at the start of an event.

## Famous Couples

A great ice breaker and way for ladies to get to know each other. Have the names of famous couples on separate pieces of paper. Put these into a hat and each person draws one piece of paper. They then have to find who their partner is and get to know them. Examples:

Brad Pitt & Angelina Jolie

Kermit & Miss Piggy

Superman & Lois Lane

John Lennon & Yoko Ono

Romeo & Juliet

Cleopatra & Mark Antony

Fred Flintstone & Wilma Flintstone

Prince William & Kate Middleton

Barbie & Ken

Mickey & Minnie

David Beckham & Victoria Beckham

Michael Douglas & Catherine Zeta-Jones

Lancelot & Guinevere

## The Name Game

Have stickers with various famous people's names on them. As everyone arrives to the event, place a sticker on their back, and they need to ask questions (that can only be answered "yes" or "no") to guess which famous person they have on their sticker. Once they have guessed they can remove the sticker. You could give a prize to the first person to correctly guess who they are, or give a small prize to everyone when they correctly guess.

## Pantyhose Golf/Bowling

Place a tennis ball in one leg of the pantyhose. You can then have the pantyhose tied around the waist by the empty leg, or wear them on your head (cut off or tuck in the remaining leg). Arms must be held behind your back. For "golf" the ladies need to use the swinging pantyhose to tap a pingpong ball across to the other side of the room. For "Bowling" they need to knock over a series of small water-filled water bottles. The winner is the first one to achieve the goal. Can be run in teams of 2 at a time.

## Musical Bag O' Clothes

Take a large bag (that is not transparent enough to see what's inside) and fill it with an assortment of odd/unusual types of clothing articles. Items such as bras, swimsuits, girdles, baggy pants, men's trousers, wigs, hats, etc.... Have the ladies sit in a circle so it's easy for them to pass the bag around to each other. They pass the bag around in one direction, to music. When the music stops, whoever is holding the bag has to reach in without looking and pull out an item. Whatever they pull out, they have to put on and wear. Continue until you run out of items, then vote on who is wearing the wackiest outfit. You can give a prize.

### Feather Blowing Game

Give each Hatter a feather. When you say, "GO!" the ladies have to start blowing the feather in the air. Whoever can keep the feather in the air the longest (using only her breath) is the winner. This game can also be played in teams (the team to keep the feather in the air longest using only breath wins)

### Lucky Seat

A good idea for a lucky door prize (if you don't have allocated seating) – tape a red ribbon under one seat before anyone arrives. When you want to draw the winner, have everyone stand up and look under their seat.

### The Chocolate Game

Have everyone sit around in a circle. A, unwrapped block of chocolate with a knife and fork should be in the centre, along with a hat, scarf and gloves. Everyone takes turns to roll a dice, when someone rolls a 6 they can go into the centre and put on the clothing then use the knife and fork to cut squares of chocolate. They can only eat the chocolate if it has been cut while wearing all the clothing items. While they are dressing and cutting, everyone continues to keep rolling. When someone else rolls a 6, they go into the centre and the first person must take the hat/scarf/gloves off and go back to their place.

### Musical Hat

Everyone sits in a circle. A Red hat containing 3 small envelopes (each with a note inside) is passed around to music. When the music stops, the person holding the hat must stand up, choose an envelope and read out the activity shown on the paper and act it out. This may be something like doing the "I'm a little teapot" song etc. (You could play this with more than 3 envelopes).

### Unwrap the Parcel

A bit like the chocolate game mixed with pass the parcel. Wrap a small item in layers of wrapping paper, as you would for pass the parcel. Have this in the centre of a circle, along with a pair of oven mitts, a hat and a scarf. Players take turns to roll the dice. When a player rolls a 6 they can go into the centre, put on the clothing items and start unwrapping the layers until someone else rolls a 6 and replaces them. Whoever unwraps the last layer to reveal the prize gets to keep the item.

# Pen & Paper Games

These are games that require drawing or writing, so each player will need pen and paper.

## Red Hat Dice Game

You will need one dice, as well as a pen and paper for each lady. Each lady will roll the dice and draw the body part that corresponds with that number. You can either play it so that you need to draw the parts in order (feet to hat or hat to feet), or you can play it so that they can draw any part in any order (which could make a funny result!). If a part has already been drawn, they can't do anything that turn and must wait for their next turn.

Roll a 1 – draw a hat with decorations

Roll a 2 – draw the head

Roll a 3 – draw the face & hair

Roll a 4 – draw the upper torso & blouse

Roll a 5 – draw a skirt

Roll a 6 – draw legs/feet/shoes

## Replace Your Darling Husband

Hand everyone a piece of paper and ask them to write down an appliance they wish they could replace and 5 reasons why they want to replace that item. (Such as refrigerator, car, television, vacuum, etc.) When they've finished that, tell them to replace the name of the appliance with the name of their husband and read the whole thing aloud.

## Drawn Together

Everyone is given a piece of paper and either a small pack of pencils/crayons each, or have a container of them on the table for everyone to use. The ladies are all told to look at each other, to remember what they look like - what clothing they are wearing and what accessories etc. (so that they aren't caught looking at their person later). Each lady then picks a name at random from the hat - this is who they will draw on their piece of paper.

After everyone has finished their drawings, the drawings are held up for everyone to see, one by one. If a lady guesses correctly that the picture is of them, they get a prize. If they are also able to guess who drew the picture, that person also gets a prize. A prize can be awarded to the person who gets the most correct guesses.

## Name that cake

Everyone has a piece of paper, and writes their answer to which cake these cryptic clues could be referring to.

Found on the ocean floor ( <i>Sponge</i> )	It's a small boy's game ( <i>Marble</i> )
A heavenly body ( <i>Angel Food</i> )	What you might call a little imp ( <i>Devil's food</i> )
Make the bottom the top ( <i>Upside Down</i> )	A mouse would like this ( <i>Cheese</i> )
Think diamonds ( <i>Carrot</i> )	A breakfast drink cake ( <i>Coffee</i> )
A kitchen measure ( <i>Pound</i> )	This is not tall ( <i>Shortcake</i> )
This one is made of fabric ( <i>Chiffon</i> )	This is an annual event ( <i>Birthday</i> )
Little girls are made of this ( <i>Sugar/spice</i> )	Monkey would like this one ( <i>Banana</i> )
A calendar supplies this one ( <i>Date</i> )	

## Name that Pie

Everyone has a piece of paper, and writes their answer to which pie these could be.

Cinderella ( <i>Pumpkin</i> )	Greedy ( <i>Pork</i> )	Palm tree ( <i>Date</i> )
Little Bo Peep ( <i>Lamb</i> )	Flowing river ( <i>Currant</i> )	Sour face ( <i>Lemon/Lime</i> )
Monkey's ( <i>Banana</i> )	Uncle scrooge ( <i>Duck</i> )	Little Jack Horner ( <i>Plum</i> )
Up river ( <i>Salmon</i> )	Material ( <i>Chiffon</i> )	Adam & Eve ( <i>Apple</i> )
Children's ( <i>Mud</i> )	Irish ( <i>Potato</i> )	Hawaiian ( <i>Pineapple/Coconut</i> )
Tom sawyer's ( <i>Huckleberry</i> )	Complexion ( <i>Peach</i> )	Red nose ( <i>Deer</i> )
Pie in the sky ( <i>Pigeon</i> )	Coward ( <i>Custard</i> )	Shortcake's ( <i>Strawberry</i> )
Dried grape ( <i>Sultana</i> )	Underwater ( <i>Seafood</i> )	

## If The Hat Fits

Everyone has to list all the expressions/phrases they can think of that contain the word "HAT". Prize awarded to the person who can think of the most. Some examples:

HAT in hand	Toss your HAT into the ring	A tip of the HAT
HATS off to you	Watch me pull a rabbit out of my HAT	Mad as a HATTER
Wear many HATS	Ugly as a HAT full of a-holes	I'll eat my HAT
Keep it under your HAT	Does the Pope wear a funny HAT?	At the drop of a HAT
HAT in hand	Here's your HAT, what's your hurry?	Pass the HAT
Cat in the Hat	Home is where you hang your HAT	HAT trick
Talking through your HAT		
His head's too big for his HAT		

## Guessing Jars

Have about 10 small jars (baby food jars or other similar size) with different kitchen items in each (no duplicates). Things like sugar, poppy seeds, cocoa, cinnamon, salt, instant coffee, etc. Number each jar. Give each person playing a sheet of paper numbered to write their guesses of what each one is. You cannot open the jar to smell, feel or taste. After tallying correct names, a prize is awarded to the person who correctly guessed the most.

## Name That Baby

Each lady brings a photo of themselves as a baby. Each photo then gets numbered and placed somewhere where everyone can see them. Keep a list of the numbers and corresponding names hidden away. Everyone then guesses who the photos are. Give a prize to the one who can identify the most pictures.

## Telegram

Give each player paper and a pen. Each player in turn, calls out a letter of the alphabet at random, and all players write down the letters as they are called out. A list of about 15 letters should be formed in this way. The players then have five minutes in which to compose a telegram, the words of which must begin with the letters in the order they were given. When the 5 minutes are up each player reads his telegram, and the winner is the player whose telegram is judged to be the most sensible, the cleverest, the wittiest, the silliest, etc

For Example: If the letters called out were H, A, I, I, B, B, A, U, T, L, D, H, S, A, O, C – one player might write: Have Arrived In Boston But Am Unable To Locate Deckchairs Hence Send All Over .....Cynthia

Whereas another player might write: Hurry And Immediately Bring Back All Unused Tea Leaves ..stop.. Daddy Hates Sipping Ale Or Cola

## Guess the contents

Fill up a number of small cloth bags with a 4 different small items in each. The bags are sealed so nobody can peek inside. Pass bags around and everyone has to write down what they guess the contents to be. You can either use multiple bags with the same contents (so the ladies don't have to wait as long for their turn), or have multiple bags with different contents and write a number on each bag (so the ladies write what they think is in each bag)

## Word Scrabble

Have a number of letters from a scrabble set (or make up large cardboard squares with different letters that the ladies can easily read). Each participant then has to write down as many words as they form, out of the letters within a certain time. Winner is the one with the most words. A short version can be “winner with most words starting with....”

## Pass the paper / continue the story

Someone (perhaps the Queen) starts writing a story, by writing one word or one line of the story on a piece of paper. The paper is folded so that people cannot read the previous lines that have been written, so nobody will know what the story is about until it is read out. The paper is then passed to the next person, who adds their word/line and so on until everyone has had a turn. It can continue around again or the story be read out then when the last question has been answered, the story is read out. The lines they write could be:

- An adjective describing a person's appearance or character
- The name of a woman
- The word "met" and an adjective describing another person's appearance and character
- The name of a man
- The word "at" and the place the woman met the man
- The circumstance under which they met
- The word "in" and when they met
- The words, "He said to her...", together with whatever he said
- The words "And she replied...", together with whatever she said
- What he did then
- What she did then
- The words, "And the consequence was...." With detail of the consequence
- The words, "And the moral of the story is....."

## Quiz

Have a collection of questions, such as tv shows, music and fashion from the 60s. Read out the questions and have each lady write her answers. When the questions are finished, the ladies swap their papers and the scores are tallied up (swapping the papers for scoring ensures no cheating!)

## What If

Pass out two pieces of paper to each lady present. On one piece of paper, they each write a question that starts with the words "What if ....?" (eg: "What if ....a Red Hatter lost her hat?")

The ladies pass this paper to the person on their LEFT. On the second piece of paper, they answer the question they just received. Then they pass that answer back to the person they received it from. Have the lady on your RIGHT read her question. The lady sitting to her RIGHT reads her answer. She then reads her question and the person sitting to her RIGHT reads her answer. This continues around the room until everyone has read both a question and an answer.

## Sitting Scavenger Hunt

Everyone needs to tally up how many points they have, by adding or removing points according to the following lists (use one or the other):

Mobile phone? If on -9 points if OFF +9	2 points for a cloth handkerchief
4 points for each piece of jewellery	6 points for a pair of gloves
5 points for your red hat	5 points for toe nail polish
4 Bonus points if your wore it from home	4 points for lipstick
3 points for each article of Purple attire	3 points for each red accessory
3 points for a Hat Pin	3 points if you've given yourself a title
9 points for a nametag	2 points if your attire was scavenged

Any Jewellery Item (5 points each)	Emery Board (5 points)
Anything CHOCOLATE (20 points)	Hand Lotion (5 points)
Anything purple (25 points)	Measuring Tape (5 points)
Anything red (25 points)	Pen or Pencil (5 points each)
Band-aid (5 points)	Perfume (5 points)
Breath Mints (5 points per pack)	PICS of Children/Grandchildren (5 each)
Calculator (10 points)	RED Lipstick (10 points)
Calendar (10 points)	Safety Pin (5 points each)
Mobile Phone (10 points)	Salt, Pepper or Ketchup (5 points each)
Chap stick or Lip Balm (5 points)	Scissors (5 points)
Chewing Gum (5 points per pack)	Shopping List (5 points)
Comb or Brush (5 points)	Tissues (5 points per pack)

## Red Hat Regalia Game

Count all the regalia you have on today! The largest number wins!!!

- If you wore a red, purple, lavender or pink hat today, give yourself 50 points.
- Give yourself 5 points for each red, purple, pink or lavender hat you own.
- 10 points for each article of clothing you have on that is red, purple, pink or lavender.
- A properly dressed woman would not step out of the house without purple, red, pink or lavender shoes – so give yourself 5 points for each foot that is covered in our colors (that's a maximum of 10 points in case you are wondering!)
- Often, you have a purse, handbag or totebag to match in purple, red, pink or lavender – give yourself 10 points for small, 20 points for medium, and 30 points for large!
- Was it raining outside? Did you bring a red, purple, lavender or pink umbrella to keep your hat dry? Take 10 points for that.
- 1 point for each hat emblem/design on anything you have – if it is a scarf, hair tie, ribbon, material that has hats allllll over it, make it easy on your brain, just give yourself 50 points. Otherwise, you just get 1 point for each hat emblem/design.
- 1 point for each feather – again, if you have a boa or hat with feathers all over, let's not tax ourselves, just take 50 points. Otherwise, you just get 1 point for each feather.
- Ladies with gloves, add another 10 points.
- Is your lipstick red or pink? You get another 5 points.
- Did you paint your fingernails, add 1 point for each nail. If they are painted red, pink, lavender or purple, add another 1 point for each nail. And finally, if they are your OWN and not fake, double that figure.
- If your spectacles are red, purple, lavender or pink add another 5 points.
- Did you remember to carry a hanky? 10 points if you did. If it is red, purple, lavender or pink, add 15 points.
- Give yourself 15 points for any item you have brought that is sequined.
- We can't forget our jewelry either, so give yourself 5 points for each piece of jewellery that you have on.
- Red Hatters are always happy and make happy sounds wherever we go...especially when we play our Kazoo's. Did you remember to bring yours? Add 10 points.
- Now, let's get personal. Add the amount of the most money you have spent on any one Red Hat item that you've bought. Use whole dollars and be honest.
- Now, let's get a little more personal. If you have on purple, pink, lavender or red underwear or bra, You go Girl! And give yourself 20 points for each!
- Now let's get really personal. Add your age and finally, add your weight!!!

## The Ladies Game

Each lady has a pen and paper to keep track of her score. As the rhyme is read out, the ladies will add or subtract points from their total according to the answers. The player with the most points wins.

*This is a rather peculiar game,  
It really does not have a name  
It's simple to play as a game should be  
You just do as you're told, you see  
So now if you'll please give me your attention  
We'll put an end to this suspension  
In the end, whoever scores the most  
Will receive a prize of which to boast*

*Now since you're all fashionable girls  
Give yourself 5 if you have any pearls  
You may add 3 if your toes peek out  
And earrings will give you 2 more to shout  
Score yourself 5 if you show any red  
Add 6 more for a curl on your head*

*Now before you think you are going to win  
Take away 2 for each safety pin  
Give yourself 6 if your pants are tight  
Add 1 for a scarf which is just about right  
Add 5 more if your shoes are black  
And take away 3 for a zipper in back  
Now count all your buttons, for each you get 2  
And take away 1 for each button that's blue  
Give yourself 5 if your heels are high  
And why not take 10 for the green in your eye  
10 more points for a rose on your clothes  
Take away 5 if you forgot to wear hose  
This is the end...there isn't any more  
Who is the lucky lady with the highest score?*

## Have you ever

Score 1 point for each answer you answer "yes" to. Person with either the most or least points wins depending on how you want to score it..

- Called your significant other by the wrong name?
- Lost a member of the family in the shopping centre?
- Had your zipper break in public?
- Fallen up the stairs?
- Forgotten your home phone number?
- Got into the car to go somewhere and forgot where you were going?
- Put something in the oven to bake and forgot about it?
- Forgot to pick up your kids after school?
- Run out of petrol?
- Gone shopping in your Pjs (as an adult)?
- Lied about your age?
- Worn black lacy knickers?
- Played a guitar (to any degree)?
- Worn braces on your teeth?
- Pawned anything?
- Come home to find out you've worn your top inside out all day?
- Stayed awake for 24 hours straight?
- Met a celebrity?
- Broken a bone?
- Performed on stage?
- Ridden a camel or elephant?
- Forgotten where you parked the car?
- Locked yourself out of the house?
- Put something unusual in the freezer?
- Made a prank phone call?
- Driven a car before you had your license?
- Hitchhiked?
- Gone skinnydipping?

# Seated Games

These games can be played while seated, without needing any pens and paper.

## Handbag Scavenger Hunt

Place some scrabble tiles (or pieces of paper with each letter of the alphabet written on them) in a bowl or bag (1 of each letter). The ladies gathered around have their handbag with them. When you call out a letter chosen from the bowl, the ladies search their handbags to find something starting with that letter. Eg "L" might be lipstick, "P" might be a pen... The winner is the person with the most found items.

## My Life in a Bag

Everyone brings a bag that contains little mementos or trinkets from their life. Everyone takes turns to show these items around and explain their significance in that person's life. For example they could be photos, trophies, awards, ticket stubs.... anything!

## This and That Game

Players sit in a circle. First player asks something that is "This" or "That", The next player answers and asks the next player "This" or "That". Continue playing until everyone has a turn, or keep going just to see how silly it can get. Example:

Player 1 "Meat or Vegetables"                      Player 2 "Meat" – "Cotton or Flannel"  
Player 3 "Flannel" – "Soft or Hard Cheese"    Player 4 "Soft" – "Popcorn or Crackers"  
Player 5 "Popcorn" .... and so on and so on.....

## Sales Pitch

Blindfold one lady and tell her that she must try to sell a mystery object. If she is convincing enough, she wins a prize. The object is placed in front of her, but she cannot touch it or see it. Everyone else can see what it is – and it's a roll of toilet paper! She has to answer questions about the product she is selling.

## The M&M game

Pass a bag of M&Ms (or other lollies) and tell the ladies they may take some, but not to eat them yet. Have plenty available. Once everyone has taken their share, announce that they must tell everyone one fact about themselves for each M&M they have taken!

## Name a Song

Someone starts by choosing any word they want, and the other players have to pick a song that has that word in it. Whoever gets it first, then it's their turn to choose a word. If the group never heard the song before, they will ask you "I challenge you", and that person has to sing a piece of the song. (Just so that everyone knows the person isn't making it up!)

## Kiss The Teddy

A Teddy bear is passed around and everyone takes turns to kiss it somewhere. Once it has been passed around to everyone, they are told they must now kiss the person next to them in the same place they kissed the teddy!

## Pass The Parcel

(Works well seated and without a need for music) – start with a small prize and wrap it in multiple layers of wrapping paper (alternate red and purple wrappings!). On each layer attach a small note that says who the parcel needs to be passed next. To make sure the prize goes to someone randomly, always have the last one being a pass to the right. Eg:

*Now let's get this party started girls, pass this to the one with the cutest curls*

*Search for all the buttons you can find. Look for the most, of any kind.*

*Now don't get mad, and please don't fight. Pass this to the lady, on the Right*

*Some of us may live far away, pass this to the person who came the furthest today*

*Alas this gift is not for you. Pass it to the one with the largest shoe*

*Pass this to the lady that, came today wearing the largest hat*

*Is she here or is she there, pass this to the one with the shortest hair*

*A little discussion and we'll be able to tell, who has the longest name to spell*

*Never believe everything you're hearing, pass this to the lady with the longest earring*

*I'm sorry, you're luck's run dry, pass this to the left, and please don't cry.*

*Aren't you glad you got out of bed, pass this to the lady wearing the most red.*

*Give this to the person with the Shortest name. Learning to spell was no silly game!*

*Search this room, not all through the land. Find the one with the longest nails on her hand*

*Your nails are so long! That totally rocks! Now hand this to the one with the longest locks*

*To whom is this place the dearest? Pass this on to the person born nearest.*

*Look around with eyes discreet. Pass to the one with the smallest feet.*

*Your feet are tiny and very smallest. Now hand this to the very tallest.*

*Of this parcel you are bereft. Give it to the one on your left.*

# Red Hatter Customs

The following are some common customs of the RHS

- **Banners** – some chapters make a banner (hanging fabric sign) to show their chapter name at events.
- **Bling** – The more the merrier! Any kind of shiny, sparkly accessory you can add is great. Many Hatters like to collect brooches as well as wearing pearls and rhinestone jewellery.
- **“Dessert first”** – We’re about having fun and not having to “act your age” – so why not have dessert first!
- **Feathers & Feather Boas** – Boas add some fun, but the feathers themselves represent the freedom to come out and play as well as being love (red) and hugs (purple). If feathers fall off your boas, save them to give away as little gifts – they are “boa-seeds” or “baby boas”, and if nurtured they could grow into a full feather boa one day
- **“Hoots”** – A hoot is a get-together of Hatters. Generally an informal and unstructured event, some people use the term for all gatherings and events.
- **“Hopping the Fence”** - The term used when a chapter becomes too full and splits up into 2 smaller groups so that each may continue to grow. Sometimes this is done with a ceremony.
- **Kazoo** – the official instrument of the RHS
- **Mascot** – The official mascot of the RHS is Ruby Red Hat, but many chapters have a stuffed toy or doll that they will bring to events as their “mascot”.
- **Red Hat Society Day** – is April 25<sup>th</sup>. However since that is Anzac day in Australia, we tend to instead celebrate “Aussie Red Hat Day”, on July 25<sup>th</sup> – which was the date that the first Australian chapter was registered.
- **REDuation** – the name given when a lady turns 50 and is now a Red Hatter.
- **Regalia** – the name given to the ensemble of red hat and purple clothing (or pink and lavender) a Hatter wears. Also called “The Colours”
- **Reversed Colours** – The regular dresscode is a red hat with purple clothing (or a pink hat with lavender clothing). However you can “reverse your colours” (wear a purple hat with red clothing), on your birth month and the birth month of the RHS (April)
- **Sashes & Stoles** – A great way to display your brooches – which saves poking holes in your clothing and means you don’t have to move them from outfit to outfit.
- **Warning** – The poem by Jenny Joseph that inspired the creation of the RHS

# Red Hatter Survival Kit

This is a lovely thing to give to a newly crowned Queen, a REDuated hatter or a new member. This can be a box or bag filled with certain items that have special meaning. You may like to include a list of what the items mean so the recipient knows the significance of the items.

You can choose to use only certain items/meanings from the list that you feel most appropriate.

- Address Book – Your Red Hat Sister’s are always here for you!
- Aspirin/Panadol – when all else fails – take two & call a Red Hat Sister!
- Ball – to remind you that life is a ball
- Candle – when you feel in the dark | to remind you to let your inner light shine
- Chocolate – to remind you of the sweetness of family & friends | To remind you that life is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you’re going to get
- Eraser – to remind you that everyone makes mistakes
- Fly swatter – to slap yourself silly, if you ever get too serious
- Glitter – to add sparkle to your life & spread some on...
- Kazoo – don’t forget to toot your own horn
- Lifesavers – to save you from “one of those days”
- Marbles – to replace the ones that you have lost & will lose
- Mirror – to remind you that you are very important too
- Nuts – to remind you to be a little nutty & laugh
- Paper-Clips – to remind you that you are an important link in others lives
- Peg – a reminder to “hang in there”
- Penny – for your thoughts
- Pretzels – hugs from your Red Hat Sisters
- Roses – to remind you to smell the flowers along life’s way
- Red Glitter – To wish you Scarlet Sparkles!
- Red & Purple Feathers – to remind you that you can fly! | to “tickle your fancy”
- Red/Purple beads – To remind you to always dress up
- Ribbon – a reminder that friendship ties hearts together
- Rubber-band – to remind you to be flexible, and stretch beyond your limits
- Snack cake – to remember to indulge in the pleasures of life
- Starburst – to give you a burst of energy
- Sticker – a reminder to stick together and help each other
- String – to tie things together when everything falls apart | to tie up loose ends  
| For tying your memories together
- Sunflower seeds – so you can spit just because you feel like it
- Teabag – A reminder to sit back and relax from time to time
- Toothpicks – to remind you to pick out the good in all situations

# Royal Names

It is customary for Hatters to take on a fanciful name to be known as while they are Hatting. It's a bit of fun and a chance to give yourself a Royal Title. If you are having trouble coming up with your Red Hatting name, here are some suggestions.

## Coming up with a name

A Red Hatting Royal Name generally has 2 parts – a royal title, and then a name that is usually somehow descriptive of the person or the position they hold in the chapter. Usually this is humorous or a pun. You can include your actual name, or it can be just a whimsical name that doesn't include your actual name at all. You shouldn't use the "Queen" or "Vice Queen" title unless you are the leader or co-leader of a chapter. Any other royal titles are fine to use.

## Example Titles

Archbishopress, Babette, Baroness, Chairwoman, Consort, Contessa, Countess, Chatelaine, Crone, Czarina, Dame, Diva, Duchess, Earless, Eminence, Empress, Enchantress, Fair Maiden, Goddess, Governess, Her Royal, Highness, High Priestess, Jester, Judgette, Lady, Madam, Madame, Magess, Majesty, Mamzelle, Marchioness, Majesty, Marquissa, Matriarch, Mayoress, Mistress, Peeress, Pinkie, President, Priestess, Prime Ministress, Princess, Purveyor, Ranee, Regent, Sultana, Sultaness, Tsarina, Viscountess.

## Example Chapter Role Names

If you have designated roles in the chapter, the titles for those roles could be something like these:

- **Treasurer** = Keeper of the Koins, Duchess of Dough, Miss Moneybags, Purveyor of the Purple Privy Purse
- **Secretary/Communications** = Town Crier, Contessa d'Communique, Dutchess of Dialing, Email Female, Empress of Email, Duchess Ding-a-Ling,
- **Event Organiser** = Mistress of Tourism, Events Un-Coordinator, Chatelaine of Adventure Outings, Regent of Reservations
- **Birthday Organiser** = Baroness of Birthdays, Dame of Dates,

## Example Royal Names

Amethyst Princess	Baroness Bargain Hunter	Baroness Belle Chapeau
Baroness Bookworm	Baroness Bossy Boots	Baroness Bownty-Full
Baroness de Rouge	Baroness of Boobs	Baroness of Bulge
Baroness Blab A Lot	Baroness Von Krapponalott	Baroness Von Hooters
Bodacious Baroness	Billie-Lily-Ring-a-Dingy	Countess Court Jest-Her
Contessa Cabernet	Contessa Coffee Bean	Contessa d'Champers
Contessa of Cosmos	Contessa of Glitz	Contessa of Sparkle & Sass
Countess Champers	Countess of Cats	Countess of Cleavage
Countess of Creativity	Countess of Good Cheer	Countess of Libations
Court Jester	Crone-in-Command	Crone Joan
Dame Depends	Dame of Hotsey Totsey	Dame of Whine and Roses
Delightful Diva of Red Feathers		Divine Diva of Disorder
Duchess Ding-a-Ling	Duchess of Double, Double, Toil and Trouble	
Duchess of Do Little	Duchess of Vices	Dutchess of Yarn
Duchess Shop A Lot	Duchess Short Stuff	Empress of E-Bay
Empress of Eccentricity	Empress of Elegance	Empress Mystique
Empress Wine-o-Lot	Exalted Keeper of the Mindatorium	
Goddess Gad About	Goddess Get it Done	Goddess of Frivolity
Goddess of Garage Sales	Goddess of Glitz	Goddess of the Green Thumb
Governess of Celebration	Governess of Nonsense	Grand Belle Flooze & Feathers
Grand Dame of Desserts	Grand Diva of Pizzazz	Guardian of Geekdom
Healer of Heart and Soul	Her Highness Handler of History	
Her Highness Hot Lips	Her Highness Hysterical Historian	
Her Hot Flushingness	Her Serene Silliness	Her Undeniable Naughtiness
High Priestess of Poetry	Instigator of Impetuousness	La Condessa Loca
Lady Adventure	Lady Catherine of the Chocolates	
Lady Centerpiece	Lady Crimson	Lady Flamingo
Lady Lives It Up To The Last	Lady LaDeeDa	Lady Late-a-lot
Lady Laughs-A-Lott	Lady Lock-up	Lady Tartan-It-Up
Lady of Camping	Lady of Laughter	Lady of Leisure
Lady of the Loo	Lady Twinkle Toes	La Femme Fatale
Luscious Lady of the Lake	Madam de Plonk	Madame LaMuncherie
Madam Work in Progress	Magical Maestro	Miss Chevious
Mistress of Anxiety	Mistress of Ineptitude	Mistress of Manners
Mistress of Merriment	Mistress of Merriment and Mischief	
Mistress of the Vast Waistland	Prime Ministress of Rulelessness	
Princess Delight	Princess Procrastination	Princess Picture Perfect
Princess Cind-a-lot of Spend-a-lot		Queen a da Ritz
Royal Court Damsel	Ruler of Secrecy, Mystery and Clever Antics	
The Chairman Of The Board	The Mad Hatter	Viscountess of Vast Waistland
Viscountess of Visiting	Viscountess Von Foo Foo	Your Grace Lady Ruby Red

# Ceremonies

The purpose of the ceremonies in the RHS is to have fun, be a bit silly, reinforce the ideals of the Red Hat Society and a great excuse for a party!

For ceremonies that focus on a particular member at a time (Reduations, welcome ceremonies, naming ceremonies etc.) you may like to have a red carpet for them to walk up – this could be a length of red fabric or scarf/sarong. The other chapter members could be standing along each side to form a walkway. They could hold (closed) umbrellas/parasols or their hats up to form an archway, or you could have a garden arbour decorated with feather boas and red/purple artificial flowers. You could have them each holding the ends of feather boas to form a chain.

## Welcoming a New Member

New members can be welcomed with a ceremony. Perhaps after they have attended a certain number of events and have paid their membership dues (if any). The new member could take a pledge/vow (some examples on the following pages), which can be in the form of the Queen asking and the member responding (“Do you swear to....” and the “I do” response), or the member can be given the pledge to read from. It is customary for the member to hold their right hand on their hat while making the pledge. The new member could be presented with gifts, these could be: Their name-badge, the Warning poem, Red Hatter survival kit, Token brooch/badge or symbol of the chapter. Etc.

## Red Sash/Naming Ceremony

A ceremony can be held to officially dub the member with their Royal name. With words like:

*“With the power that is vested in me, as Queen of the ..... <your chapter> .....  
and before all of these royal attendees,  
I now pronounce you .....<their royal name>..... ”*

A Sceptre or other such “dubbing” tool is tapped on each shoulder, as the Queen speaks their royal name. They can then be handed their name badge. A red (or purple) sash/stole/scarf can also be presented. The Queen places the sash/stole on the member, with words such as

*“I hereby present you with The Order of the Red Sash”*

A pin can be given, to start their bling collection and as a token of their membership.

# Hatter Commandments & Creed

## The 10 Red Hatter commandments:

1. Thou shalt use thy Red Hat powers for good deeds (bring joy and laughter to all you meet).
2. Thou shalt eat thy favorite foods, including chocolate. After all, diet is just a four letter word.
3. Thou shalt be a kindred spirit in your sisterhood. Keep your confidences and friendships strong.
4. Thou shalt put on the glitz! Wear purple glory, big red hats, flashy jewellery, and feathers: be a Dame!
5. Thou shalt play. Be young in heart and mind and your body will follow - -at least most of the time!
6. Thou shalt welcome the curious and explain the wonders of Red Hat to all who ask, especially small children and handsome men.
7. Thou shalt accept the things you cannot change, big or small. We're good at rolling with the punches.
8. Thou shalt aspire to anything in life at any age. It's never too late to skydive.
9. Thou shalt honour thy age and the need to be a little bad.
10. Thou shalt repeat the first nine commandments, over and over and over.

*Author Unknown*

## Red Hatter creed:

I will not walk softly, but I will carry a big stick.

I will laugh hard, loud, and often I will have fun, and play hard.

I will put all work and responsibilities off until tomorrow.

I will take time to smell the flowers.

I will never use the following words: "diet", "exercise", "fat", "guilt", "careful", "slow", "quiet", "rules", "laws", "boundaries", or "limits".

I will never say "Shhhhhhhh".

I will flaunt my red hat and purple dress.

I will not always endure the restraints of underwear.

I will eat chocolate excessively and unyieldingly.

I will learn to indulge myself in both familiar and unfamiliar ways

And will encourage Red Hat behavior.

*by Lil' Mz. Chevious (Carole Mebane, RHS Moll)*

# Hatter Pledges / Vows

## Pledge Example #1

*"I solemnly swear that I will greet middle age with verve, humour and élan.  
I will take my silliness seriously as it is the comic relief of life in the spirit of friendship and sisterhood.  
I join my red/pink hat sisters as we go for the gusto together.  
And beneath the frivolity we will share a bond of affection, common life experiences and a genuine enthusiasm for life and living."*

## Pledge Example #2

*"We do solemnly promise on our red hats,  
That we will do our best to uphold the spirit  
Of the .....(name of the group/chapter) and Red hatting.  
And proudly wear the colours – purple outfits and red hats, at all our functions.  
And never take our hats off, even though it gives us hat hair."*

## Pledge Example #3

*"I, ..... pledge to have fun, and only fun with the ..... Red hat group/chapter.  
I offer friendship to my Red Hat sisters and respect the ideals of the society.  
I will wear my full regalia of purple (lavender) outfit with my red (pink) hat to all chapter gatherings"*

## Pledge Example #4

*"I,..... not solemnly, but with a silly grin, pledge on to uphold the spirit of Red hatting and have fun while participating with my Red Hat sisters.  
I will proudly wear my regalia of purple/lavender outfit with my red/pink hat and will participate and give all that I can with my red heart."*

## Pledge Example #5

*"I..... pledge to wear my colours proudly, never be ashamed of having fun,  
And show my spirit of adventure at dressing up and trying something new.  
I will forget the troubles of the outside world and turn back the hand of time and reach inside for the little girl within me.  
I will laugh, giggle and enjoy in play and treat all fellow Red hatters with hattitude and show honour amongst my hatter sisters."*

## Pledge Example #6

*"I... being of somewhat sound mind, and desiring to have more fun in the prime of my life, do solemnly swear to uphold the ideals of the RHS, as soon as I figure out what they are."*

### Pledge Example #7

*"I, \_\_\_\_\_, not solemnly but with a silly grin, pledge on my red/pink hat to have fun, and only fun, with \_\_\_\_\_ <chapter name>. I will uphold the spirit by proudly wearing to all gatherings the full regalia of a purple/lavender outfit with an accompanying red/pink hat, even if I look horrific in purple/lavender. I promise to never take off my hat at gatherings, even though it gives me hat hair. I will do more than just belong. I will participate and give all that I can with my red heart. I will be more than friendly, I will be a friend in sisterhood to all the Hatters."*

### Pledge Example #8

*"I vow to embrace this time in my life as the beginning of the best.  
I will reserve at least one day of each month for me.  
I accept chocolate as a main food group.  
I consider dessert as the main course of a meal.  
I will do my best not to take life too seriously.  
I choose to laugh as often as possible.  
I believe that fun is an essential in life.  
I welcome the Red Hat adventures that await me.  
I accept the friendships that are around me.  
I will be a dedicated Red hatter!"*

### Pledge Example #9

*"Do you solemnly promise on your red hat, that you will do your best, to uphold the spirit of ...<Chapter name> ... and The Red Hat Society and proudly wear the colours at all our functions and never take your hat off, even though it gives you hat hair? Do you agree to deal with growing more mature with humour and to take our foolishness seriously? Do you promise to speak only of pleasant subjects at ..<Chapter name> ... gatherings? Do you promise to learn to play your kazoo in the proper manner, or at least learn Happy Birthday? Do you join in the spirit of friendship & sisterhood as we bond together affectionately, by common, been there, done that & with real enthusiasm for whatever comes next?"*

### Pledge Example #10

*"I, \_\_\_\_\_, A royal subject of the <chapter> of the red hat society, do hereby pledge:  
To wear my hatter colours proudly.  
To never be ashamed of having fun.  
To show my spirit of adventure at dress-ups by trying something new.  
To forget the troubles of the "outside" world during dress-ups.  
To turn back time and reach for the little girl inside of me.  
To giggle, laugh, dress-up, and play.  
To treat not only my chapter, but all other chapters of the red hat society with hattitude that shows honor among all my hatter sisters."*

# Coronation Ceremony

## Elements that may be used in a Coronation:

- Procession – much like a wedding ceremony, you could have someone sprinkle rose petals, red & purple confetti or glitter, someone holding a cushion with the crown on top etc. The chapter members may be part of the procession (Either walking before or after their Queen) taking their places on either side of the throne or in a circle for the rest of the ceremony.
- The Queen may be dressed with a royal cape
- The Queen shall sit upon a “Throne” – Which can be a special throne or a chair decorated with purple/red fabrics.
- Crown – this is often brought out on a cushion then placed on the Queen’s head as part of the ceremony to make it official.
- Sceptre – a jewelled stick or other such item, used as a symbol of the Queen as well as being used to tap the member on each shoulder during a naming/red sash ceremony.
- Gifting the Queen a “Red Hat Survival Kit”.
- Chapter members can form a circle by holding feather boas

## Coronation Ceremonies/ Pledges

### Example #1:

*“I, ...<Queen Name>..... do solemnly swear that I, having ascended to the lofty status of Queen, will gracefully and regally fulfil the duties of the office, including, but not limited to, the following:*

*I will reign over my chapterettes with a kind, benevolent spirit, valuing each member for who she is.*

*I will promote harmony and understanding among our world-wide sisterhood.*

*I will wear my colours and regalia proudly.*

*I will wield my sceptre and make grand pronouncements whenever the mood strikes.*

*I will honour the spirit of the little girl who lives inside myself and those of my Red Hat sisters as well.*

*I will promote the core values of the Red Hat Society – fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment and fitness – where ever, whenever I can.*

*I will never call a ‘meeting’, make a ‘motion’, or possess a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order. I will refuse to take myself – or anything else within my power – too seriously.*

*I will do myself and the Red Hat Society PROUD!*

## Example #2

I would like to welcome everyone to the Coronation of our beloved Queen .....<Name>....

*Do you hereby swear on your honour, to rule in a kind and benevolent fashion? (Queen: I Do)*

*Do you promise not to hold long and boring business meetings? (Queen: I Do)*

*Will you always rule with silliness? (Queen: I Will)*

*Do you promise to promote fun, laughter, and comic relief when needed? (Queen: I Do)*

*Will you follow and lead in the tenants from the poem "Warning" and make up for the sobriety of your youth? (Queen: I Will)*

*Will you "pick the flowers in other people's gardens and learn to spit"? (Queen: I Will)*

*Upon hearing your acceptance of all vows, and on behalf of the .....<Chapter Name>..... Pink and Red Hatters, I officially declare you Queen ....<Queen Name>..... of the ...<Chapter Name>..... and I would like to adorn you with your Coronation robe, crown and scepter.*

*May you wear your robe with regality, hold your head high, with pride in your ruby crown, and make wise declarations with your sassy sceptre. May you rule with dignity and honour! Long live the Queen! (All say Long live the Queen!!!)*

## Example #3:

*I will greet middle age with the following mantra: Fun is more fun – after fifty.*

*I will always remember that silliness is the comedy relief of life.*

*I will wear the royal colours of red and purple and whatever else suites me at the time, with pride to every Red Hat Function.*

*I will spread the word to all that will listen: Everything is funny as long as it happens to someone else.*

*I will live the philosophy that women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to it!*

*I will loudly deny that a woman my age is OLD, recanting that Forty is the old age of youth, but fifty is the youth of old age!*

*I will welcome all visitors and friends causing happiness wherever I go, not whenever I go.*

*I will learn that life can only be understood backwards, even though it must be lived forwards.*

*I will do my best to solve the human equation by adding love, subtracting hate, multiplying good and dividing between truth and error.*

*I will always consider the postage stamp while I am Queen. It secures success through its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.*

*I promise not to take life too seriously, knowing that I'll never get out of it alive.*

*I will realize that everyone is gifted; some just open the package sooner.*

*I promise that confusion will not only reign in this disorganization, it will pour!!!*

#### **Example #4:**

*I ....<Queen Name>..... do lightheartedly swear on my Red Hat that I will do my best to uphold the Spirit of Red hatting.*

*I promise to have no meetings as they conjure up images of agendas, motions, and committees. INSTEAD I will invite you lovely Ladies to teas; get togethers, grand events, and fun outings.*

*I will gussy up as your Reigning Sovereign, setting an example that COMMANDS NOTICE and RESPECT, dispelling the notion that women our age are OLD or inclined to DISAPPEAR.*

*If life is a stage then we will not hide in the wings. We will be front and center kicking up our RED and PURPLE HEELS!*

*As a Red Hatter I promise to wear Full Purple Regalia found in thrift shops, rummage sales and bargain racks. It is the thrill of the hunt that intrigues me. And I promise to encourage the ladies to dig out their gloves and get them on.*

*I promise to set an example for the Red Hat Sisters that aging is a matter of the mind and since they don't mind it DOESN'T MATTER.*

*I promise to guide THE LADIES-IN-WAITING (Pink Hats) in the ways of Glam, Giggles, and Sisterhood.*

*I promise to discreetly let a Red Hatter know when something sags, bags, or droops, unless there is nothing she can do about it. Then Ignorance is Bliss.*

*I promise that together we will take our silliness seriously and take our seriousness out for a laugh.*

*And I promise to learn to spit and sit on the pavement. Surely someone will come by and help me up again.*

# REDuation Ceremony

The REDuation ceremony celebrates the progression from Pink Hatter to Red Hatter.

## Ideas:

- The Reduate can wear a pink hat which is then passed to the next youngest Pinkie to represent passing on of knowledge, that Pinkie can use that hat for her REDuation and so on.
- The old pink hat can be burned or put away in a hat box, to symbolise that it is not needed any more.
- The REDuate dresses in purple clothing but with a lavender shawl/cloak/fabric over the top, so that she can remove it when she is declared a Red Hatter
- The Warning poem can be read out, and items given to the REDuate to represent the lines of the poem

## Example #1

The member starts off wearing her Pink Hat and standing on a pink rug/square, with a new Red Hat being held on a cushion by the Queen who has a red rug/square in front of her. The chapter members stand on either side of the room and the Reduate starts walking towards the Queen. Carrying a basket or tote bag. As she passes the members, they hand her items from the Warning poem, such as brandy, sausages, slippers and a bunch of flowers (preferably picked from someone's garden). At the end, the Vice Queen presents her with a copy of the Warning poem and takes the Pink hat from her head. The Queen then places her new Red hat onto her head, and presents her with a certificate of REDuation.

## Example #2

The member, dressed in pink hat, stands on a pink rug and is given a pink gift bag with a symbol of her first 50 years of life (a baby bottle, nappy, doll, training bra, condom etc.). She walks towards the Queen, discarding the items from the bag as she goes. When she gets to the Queen, the Queen says: *"Are you ready to leave behind your 'Pinkness' and move forward to embrace and uphold the spirit of the Red Hat Society?"* When the member says yes, the Queen removes her pink hat and replaces it with a red hat. She is given a red gift bag with symbols of her journey to Red hattedness (tums, incontinence pads, walking stick, license for picking flowers, booklet on learning to spit etc.). The Hatter pledge/vows are read.

### Example #3

Stepping stones are made using fabric/paper squares that start light pink and become red. The member walks on the stones towards the red. As she goes, the other members hand her artificial flowers starting with light pink and becoming darker until she reaches the end and received a red flower. The Queen ties the bouquet together with red and purple ribbons, removes her pink hat and replaces it with a red hat. The pledges/vows are made

### Example #4

The member arrives wearing her Pink Hat & lavender. She walks through the front garden past symbols of her youth (pink accessories). She enters the house and is directed to where she can get changed into her purple clothing and Red hat and walks to the back garden where there are symbols of her old age (red accessories, incontinence pads, glasses etc.). Each member holds a pink balloon which is popped to symbolise popping her Pink bubble.

### Example #5

The members stand facing each other in a column leading towards the Queen. Pink hatters are first in the line, then the Red hatters. The REDuate holds a lit pink candle and the Queen holds a lit red candle. The hatters hold their hats to form an archway for the REDuate to walk under towards the Queen. As she passes under them, they replace their hats and turn to face the Queen. When she has arrived before the Queen, the Queen says: *“Sisters, to represent the death of her old life in a PINK Hat, please extinguish the flame of your sister’s PINK candle”*. The members blow out the candle, then chant *“PINK be gone, PINK be gone, this girl wants a Red Hat on!”*

The Queen hands her the lit red candle will say:

*“Your sisters have put out your pink candle’s flame  
And invite you to join in the Red-Hatter’s fame  
In its place we offer this candle of red  
As we ready to place a new hat on your head.  
So gather around, my sisters fair  
We haven’t got but a minute to spare  
This princess has made her last pink bow  
And she’s aching to be a Red Hat now!  
No longer is 50 a birthday to dread  
But cause for a celebration instead  
So gather around and join in a wheel  
And ask that our sister please kneel  
As I carefully lift her pink hat from her head  
To replace it today with a new one in red  
From this day forward she’ll wear purple to say  
She’s ready to come out with the big girls and play!”*

The sisters all shout: *“PINK is gone, PINK is gone, now a hat of Red is on! YAY!!!!”*

# *Ode to a Red Hatter*

Isn't it lovely and simply divine?  
To finally be fifty and not forty-nine?  
Fifty has substance, fifty has style;  
Now you can do things that make folks smile.

None of this nonsense talk of "over the hill"  
Relax and have fun, just do what you will.  
You can wear purple outfits and a silly red chapeau;  
Trimmed in feathers and flowers, be always on the go.

None of that "old talk" for this active bunch;  
It's off to bingo, or a tea shop lunch.  
We may have some aches; wrinkles may dot the skin;  
But we're in glorious shape, for the shape that we're in.

We giggle and simper, gossip and tease;  
Say what we feel, it's us that we please.  
You may find us silly; you may roll your eyes;  
You may think purple, a strange disguise.

But purple is royal, it makes a grand show;  
We have a Queen Mother; she is wise we all know.  
So dust off the cobwebs and let's have some fun.  
Join The Red Hats, where new life has begun.

You can be an old fogey and sit on the side;  
Or join all of us, wear our colors with pride.  
That is our story; we hope you'll agree;  
Belonging to The Red Hats, is the best place to be.....

*Author Unknown*

# Red Hatter Songs

These are songs that have been created by substituting normal lyrics with Hatter themes ones. The tunes are listed below the song name. Authors are unknown.

## We Are Wearing Our Red Hats

*(Tune: Take Me Out to the Ball Game)*

We are wearing our red hat  
Purple dresses we sport  
Strutting our stuff with the other chicks  
Having a ball as our colours we mix.  
Oh and we will play our kazoos loud  
We don't care what folks say  
For it's good times now that we have  
On our Red Hat Day!

## For She's a Jolly Red Hatter

*(Tune: For He's a Jolly Good Fellow)*

For she's a jolly red hatter, for she's a jolly red hatter  
For her please raise a loud clatter, or play upon your kazoo

On your kazoo, KAZOO, and cheer her proudly, too,  
For she's a jolly red hatter, so cheer her proudly, too.

We won't be home until morning, we won't be home until morning--  
Yes, bedtime we are all scorning. Red Hatters always do.

Red Hatters always do, Red Hatters always do  
Red Hatters heed this warning - No bedtime before two!

## Red Hat Rounds #1

*(Tune : Frere Jacques)*

Come, Red Hatters. Come Red Hatters.  
Hear our call. Hear our call!  
Joy to all we're bringing, with our raucous singing  
Have a ball! Have a ball!

## Red Hat Rounds #2

*(Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)*

Red Hats must be seen, what else are they for?  
In red hats and purple gowns, life is not a bore.

## God Save The Red Hat Queen

*(Tune: God Save the Queen)*

United do we stand,  
Our ladies hand-in-hand  
God save The Queen.

Our hearts are tried and true.  
Our hats are red, not blue,  
Our dress is purple too,  
God Save The Queen

Our power will they dread  
When they see hats of red  
God save The Queen.

As we stand hand-in-hand  
Across our wondrous land,  
In purple shall we stand.  
God Save The Queen.

## Red Hats, Red Hats

*(Tune: Daisy, Daisy)*

Red Hat, Red Hat, Red Hat Society  
We get together for fun and frivolity  
We don't hold monthly meetings  
But we specialise in eating,  
And we all have fun, each and every one  
On our outings, wherever they be.

Red Hats, Red Hats, we wear every time we meet  
With purple dresses, our colours for all to see,  
We wear our colours so proudly, is the order of the day  
Dressed in our best, we outshine the rest  
So here's to us, lets all shout, Hooray!

## Red Hat Woman

*(Tune: I Am Woman)*

I am woman, hear me roar  
As I put my hat on going out the door.  
It's red as red can be  
And when I wear it, I'm filled with glee!

My purple outfit may be a little tight  
But I think it fits me just right.  
My other accessories I do don  
You'd think a fairy princess touched me with her wand.

When I meet my other Red Hatters to shop and dine  
We all look so perfectly fine!  
We have fun and giggle a lot,  
And when we walk down the street, people stop and watch.

Oh, how grand this is for us  
That we've learned laughter is a must!  
And so I say to you dear Red Hatters  
In life, friendship and fun,  
That's what matters!

## In Our Red Hats We're Beguiling

*(Tune: When You're Smiling)*

In our red hats, we're beguiling  
And we're pert in purple, too.

In our red hats, we'll be smiling  
And when you see us, you'll smile, too.

We're at an age when we do as we choose--  
You must agree that we're real piperoots

It's not hat styling, that keeps us smiling  
It's the smiles that come from YOU

## Red and Purple Favourites

*(Tune: My Favourite Things)*

Red shoes and purses and boas with feathers  
Purple ensembles to wear in all weathers  
Earrings that sparkle, and big diamond rings  
These are a few of our favourite things.

Tulle covered red hats and red hats with veiling  
Curvy red visors and red hats for sailing  
Red hats of cotton all crocheted from string  
These are a few of our favourite things.

*We're all Red Hats  
Yes, the Red Hats  
Loving life, not sad  
And while we are wearing our favourite things  
We truly all feel so glad!*

Red hats with wide brims and red hats with roses,  
Red hats with ribbons and red hats with posies,  
Bonnets we keep on by tying their strings  
These are a few of our favourite things.

Red hats with sequins or long trailing feathers,  
Red hats of velvet and hats of red leather,  
Neat hats and chic hats, the smiles that they bring  
These are a few of our favourite things.

*We're all Red Hats  
Yes, the Red Hats  
Loving life, not sad  
And while we are wearing our favorite things  
We truly all feel so glad!*

## You Are My Red Hat

*(Tune: You Are My Sunshine)*

You are my red hat, my lovely red hat,  
And with my purple clothes you are wild.  
It's well known that you're such a show hat  
And you make me feel so beguiled.

You were in a corner, a dusty corner  
Of that thrift shop I adore  
I grabbed you right up, I bought you quickly  
And I marched right out the door.

You are my red hat, my only red hat  
And I'll wear you without fear  
You'll never look like I don't adore you  
I'll always decorate you dear.

I'll use red feathers, and purple baubles  
And put big flowers in your brim  
Pins will adorn you and veils won't daunt you,  
Upon my crown you won't look grim.

'Cause you're my red hat, my lovely red hat,  
And with my purple clothes you're wild.  
It's well known that you're such a show hat  
And you make me feel so beguiled.

## There is a Tavern in the Town

*(Tune – same)*

There is a tavern in the town, in the town  
Where red hatters sit them down, sit them down  
And drink their wine as merry as can be  
While other chapters sip their tea.

When the time comes we sadly leave it,  
You will surely will not believe it  
Though you know that even best of friends  
Must part, must part.

Adieu, kind friends, I say, adieu, yes adieu.  
Red Hatters now are leaving you, leaving you.  
Do not cry or pine or even weep or frown  
We'll all meet at more hoots, farther down.