

MADYSS Matters

November 2022 No.189

Birthday Greetings

We can say Happy Birthday this month to:

- Roger Smith

Last month it turns out that we *did* have a birthday after all as one of our newer members, Keith Pembery, celebrated his on 17 October.

Our apologies Keith.

Social Events

Chatsworth House and Christmas Market Coach Trip, Tuesday, 8 November

The coach will leave the Flower Pot at 8.45 am. We will stop at the Chatsworth Farm Shop for refreshments on the way. After a tour of the House, for which the theme this year is *Deep Midwinter: A Nordic Christmas at Chatsworth*, there will be plenty of time for shopping at the Christmas market. The current plan is to depart at 4.30 pm for our return to the Flower Pot.

Christmas Meal, Deanwater Hotel, SK7 1RJ Thursday 15 December

The Christmas lunch is booked for 1.00 pm, but arrival at the venue is from 12.00 noon onwards. At the hotel the car park is at the back and there is easy access to the hotel from here.

Please note that the menu for the meal will be available to peruse at the November meeting, at which members' choices should be made. The meal cost is £20 per person and must be paid at the November Flower Pot meeting.

Report of Port Sunlight Coach Trip Thursday, 20 October

Nineteen of us gathered at The Flower Pot on a drizzly and gloomy day for an early morning departure. Our Chairman John Swindell and his wife Anne had to miss out on the trip as John had tested positive again for Covid. We hope you will be back with us soon John. We made good time

to Port Sunlight and got through the Broken Cross roundabout nightmare in just five minutes!

Before our guided coach tour of the village began, we had time for refreshments. Jean, our guide, then gave an interesting commentary as we went around. This included details of the Lever brothers' family history with early years in Bolton before setting up their first soap factory over in Warrington. She explained that in the late 19th century Port Sunlight was then chosen by William Lever and his brother James due to its good transport links of road, rail and sea.

An excellent business man, William quickly recognised that his workforce (and thus their productivity) would benefit from decent working conditions, housing, healthcare, education and a green and pleasant environment in which to live. He employed more than 30 architects to design the houses, a theatre, school, and swimming pool for residents of Port Sunlight. Today a team of gardeners cares for the neat lawns in front of the Grade 2 listed cottages, for which residents must pay the huge sum of £1 each year towards their maintenance.

Following the village tour we retired to the Bridge Inn for a buffet lunch. Although the room was a little cold, we warmed ourselves with either hot or alcoholic drinks from the bar!



Judy, Kay and Michael at the Bridge Inn

Our day continued with a visit to the Port Sunlight Museum where we were able to view a film that

provided a fascinating history of the company and its employees through a number of characters who were representing William Lever and the various workers. There were also examples of Lux Flakes, Vim, and Sunlight Soap of course as part of the Museum displays.



Buffet served at the Bridge Inn

A short expedition to the Soap Works after the museum proved rather disappointing as it was small and seemed aimed more towards children. Therefore, we left a little earlier than planned at 4.00 pm, had a good journey and were back at 5.15 pm. Our thanks to Kay for organising the trip and to Paddy our coach driver who worked hard throughout the day, loading and unloading two wheelchairs, a rollator and a scooter – the writer thinks it was at least six times in total!



Port Sunlight Museum ©Port Sunlight Village Trust

News of our Members

Yvonne Smith, who has been awaiting a date for her hip surgery, has now heard that the operation will take place on 18 November. Roger and Yvonne's son Michael will stay at their house to look after Roger while Yvonne is in hospital. Our best wishes for a successful operation and speedy recovery go to Yvonne.

Long-standing members will be aware that **Ramala Bakaya** and her late husband, Ted Brindley, regularly used to attend MADYSS meetings and activities. Ramala is now a resident at Dystleigh Grange retirement home. The Committee has decided to make Ramala an Honorary Member in recognition of her support for MADYSS over many, many years. Ramala has said what a kind and thoughtful gesture this is. Although she is unable to attend events, she looks forward to hearing about us via the newsletter and through occasional visits from members.

Margaret Barry has moved to Sheffield recently to live with her daughter Fiona. At the last Flower Pot meeting she was presented with a leaving gift from the group and informed that a second gift ordered online had yet to arrive! Sue Stephenson has her new address and telephone details for those who would like these.

Bonus Ball Competition

Last month it was number 37 that was the winning bonus ball number. As no one chose this number, we have another roll over month. Just in time for Christmas!

**The next Flower Pot meeting is on
Monday, 14 November 2022**

MADYSS Committee

John Swindell (Chairman) 01625 575753; Michael Fleming (Deputy Chairman) 01625 426879; Judy Fleming (Treasurer) 01625 426879; Sue Stephenson (Membership Secretary) 01625 876285; Anne Swindell (Administrative Secretary) 01625 575753; Monica Meah (Activities Organiser) 01625 428951; Kay Evans (Activities Assistant) 01625 574330; Julie Karnon (Greetings Cards) 01260 273969; Diane Thomas (Fundraiser) 01625 613004; Kay Kennedy (Meeter and Greeter) 01625 871314.