

MADYSS Matters

August 2024 No.210

Birthday Greetings

Only one member has an August birthday:

- Yvonne Smith

Currently life isn't easy for Yvonne (see News of our Members section), but we hope that you are able to enjoy your birthday in one way or another.

Social Events

Avro Heritage Museum, Woodford, 10.15 am for 10.30 start. Lunch, Aviator Pub, 1.00 pm Tuesday 20 August and Tuesday 27 August

Initially, member take-up was low but this has now become a popular outing choice. As such, we have arranged for two separate private visits. For guests the cost is £13, members go free. The group tour on 20 August is full, but a few places remain on the 27 August tour. Anne still requires menu choices for both tours from some attendees.

**Blackpool Zoo Coach Trip
Monday 16 September**

Although this award-winning zoo is smaller than Chester Zoo, it has over 1,000 animals from all corners of the world. The zoo's size makes it easier to get around and you can either purchase light refreshments or take a picnic with you. The cost of £25 for members and £35 for guests includes the coach and admission to the zoo. Please book and pay by the Flower Pot meeting on 12 August. Payment should be made either via BACS or with cash at the meeting.

**Quiz Night at The Poacher's, Bollington
Sunday 22 September**

This is a MADYSS fundraiser that requires your support so please come along. A few raffle prize donations would be gratefully received too. As our group usually finishes last, your support and quiz participation are eagerly awaited!

Report on Fryers Garden Centre Lunch and Gauntlet Birds of Prey Show, Knutsford

On 16 July, 12 members enjoyed chatting over lunch at Fryers Garden Centre. Three tables were grouped together for us at the rear of the restaurant and Anne had helpfully made name cards with our food choices in case we couldn't remember what we'd ordered weeks ago!

A short walk next door brought us to Gauntlet Birds of Prey; Sheila and Geoff Blamire who live close by joined us here. During the private display in the field behind the aviary cages, the falconers showed several birds of prey. Sam, the presenter, gave us lots of detail and data for the different birds. It was rather too much to take in, and as Gauntlet Birds of Prey is on the Manchester airport flight path, he was often drowned out by planes that had just taken off!

First, we were introduced to Gibson, the barn owl. We learned that the barn owl is also called the ghost owl as it flies silently so prey doesn't hear the bird approach to attack. The owl's 50% success rate at catching prey is very high. Then we met Kevin, a Seriema bird who likes to stroll around not fly, and is an expert snake killer.



Gibson the barn owl

Other birds that were brought out included the Secretary Bird, black and white cranes and a white-headed vulture. Sam informed us that two common terms: 1) wrap you around my little finger and 2) under the thumb are derived from falconry. The leash is used for 1) and jesses for 2). Many thanks to Anne for arranging an informative outing and to Geoff for the bird photographs.



Kevin the Seriema bird with snake (rubber!)

News of Our Members

Yvonne Smith has been diagnosed with COPD and emphysema. She must use a portable oxygen cylinder for 16 hours a day and is very breathless. Her carer responsibilities for Roger make the situation even more difficult. In addition, Yvonne's optician has referred her for urgent cataract surgery on both eyes, which will take place at Newcastle-under-Lyme. We send her our thoughts and our best wishes for a successful operation.

Alan Stansfield was hospitalised last month on the day that he, Barbara and Mark had planned to join us for lunch and the Gauntlet Birds of Prey outing. He is now home and feeling much better.

The funeral of **Bev Eccles** was held on 18 July at St George's Church, Poynton. Our group and the Meet, Move and Improve group from Bollington Leisure Centre were well represented with around 20 members paying their respects. It turns out that hedgehogs were Bev's favourite wild animal, so

her son Michael has requested that any donations in her memory should be made to the Cheshire Wildlife Trust at [Gift in memory | Cheshire Wildlife Trust](#) or you can contact the Trust on 01948 820728 to leave a donation.

What a Joke!

- My grandfather has the heart of a lion and a lifetime ban at the zoo.
- Why would you never play poker at the zoo? Too many cheetahs.

MMI Coffee Morning

The success of the MADYSS coffee morning at Gawsorth Methodist Church Hall in May has encouraged the Meet, Move and Improve group that many of you attend to hold its own fundraiser here. It will be held on 12 September and food cupboard prizes for the tombola, raffle prizes, books, and bric a brac are sought. As previously, the Church's policy means that NO ALCOHOL can be accepted.

If the bakers among you could make any cakes, biscuits or preserves, they would be very welcome for our cake stall. We are thinking about having a clothes rail for something different, so if anyone has good quality pre-loved clothing to donate, please pass these items on.

Bonus Ball Competition

There was no winner of last month's competition (the bonus ball number was 54) so once again it is a roll-over month.

The next Flower Pot meeting is on

Monday 12 August 2024

MADYSS Committee

John Swindell (Chairman) 01625 575753; Michael Fleming (Deputy Chairman) 01625 426879; Judy Fleming (Treasurer) 01625 426879; Jim Borggren (Assistant Treasurer) 01625 430886; Sue Stephenson (Membership Secretary) 01625 876285; Anne Swindell (Administrative Secretary) 01625 575753; Kay Evans (Activities Organiser) 01625 574330; Kay Kennedy (Meeter and Greeter) 01625 871314.