

MADYSS Matters

October 2016 No.126

Birthday Greetings

Our greetings this month are sent to:

- Allan Bush

Have a very Happy Birthday.

Social Events

October Social Event

We are awaiting news of Cinemac films to be shown this month before deciding on our social activity.

Macclesfield Silk Brass Band, Congleton Daneside Theatre, Friday 3 December

The band, accompanied by the Can't Sing Choir, will be performing a concert of Christmas carols at the Daneside Theatre. We may arrange for a meal before the concert; details of this will be circulated when available in due course.

Beamish Holiday Report by Tina Yearsley

The holiday began with Gary proudly showing off his new T shirt which read, 'MADYSS Cardiff holiday 2016'. The back of his T shirt proclaimed, 'Not Bloomin Durham again' or words to that effect! Gary was suitably punished by being forced to eat lunch wearing his jacket so as not to offend the lovely staff at the Half Moon pub where we stopped for lunch. Thanks to Kath and Jim for finding this gem, to put us in a relaxed mood to begin the holiday in earnest.

Quite a few of us had been to The Beamish Park Hotel two years ago, and we were welcomed with some familiar kindly faces. Our wonderful driver Lee helped with all the scooters and buggies and even joined in with our quizzes. After a hearty breakfast on the first day, we enjoyed a full day out in Berwick on Tweed. Between us we caught some of the Lowry Trail, art galleries and the museum; walked areas of the town's walls; and generally helped out the local economy by

drinking coffee and spending. Kay won the prize for the most bags, whilst I raced around in search of Vintage shops. On the way back we visited Holy Island (well the car park at least). Then we made our way to Seahouses where Chris fell foul of the Morris Dancers' curse. After doing a little jig in the street, Chris took a tumble and hurt her ankle. Luckily nothing was broken and the hotel had plenty of ice for the medicinal Pimms as well as for the offending foot!



Sunday saw us visit the Beamish Open Air Museum with the added treat of a classic car show on the events field. Unluckily, a sudden downpour caused an impromptu gathering in Ye Olde Worlde pub. That evening after our three-course meal we enjoyed a relaxed quiz led by Sue back in the bar; we were too full either to argue or to compete too energetically.



The final full day was to Wallington Hall and Gardens, a National Trust property. I'm not sure if anyone in the group actually spotted the red squirrels as the weather was not on our side. The River Walk was absolutely beautiful, albeit rather adventurous. The magnificent house was packed

full of interesting treasures, not least of which were the MADYSS members who kept appearing from all the rooms, halls, nooks and crannies.

After more shopping, the back of the coach was beginning to look like a menagerie with all the bird sculptures taking roost. Ramala had a lovely surprise for us by producing a few bottles of Prosecco on the journey back to the hotel. We raised a toast to all our friends and also for those absent this time, who were much missed. I think we had just about saved enough energy for our last evening's entertainment. This was a rather rowdy competitive quiz, once again hosted by Sue. Rival teams fought a tense battle of wits with the winners being The Oddballs who celebrated their victory with great zeal chanting "Losers!" to our other halves across the bar.

Much quieter at breakfast we reflected on our holiday. I would like to give special thanks to Chris and Sue, and to the Committee members who helped organise all the details which made our trip a joyous adventure.

What a Joke!

Philosophy of Life

A professor stood before his Philosophy 101 class, before him was a table and a large box. Wordlessly, he picked up a large and empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then produced a jar of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They were silent. The professor picked up a bag of sand and poured it into the jar until it filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. Most of the students nodded.

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar. The students laughed. "Now", said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognise that this jar

represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children, your friends, your favourite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full."

"The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first", he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your wife out to eat. Play another 18. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and work around the house. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."

News of our Members

We are pleased to report that arrangements have now been made to enable **Pat Snelling** to return to the familiar surroundings of home after a lengthy spell in hospital. Our best wishes go to Pat for her continued recovery.

Kay Evans has retrieved the bench which was given by MADYSS to the stroke ward at Macclesfield hospital in memory of her husband, John. Members' ideas are now sought for a new permanent place to keep the bench and to ensure that it benefits all.

Bonus Ball Winner

Last month's winner was Diane Thomas who fortunately picked 28 as her lucky number. Well done Diane!

The next meeting is on Monday, 10 October at The Flower Pot

MADYSS Chairman

Ike Karnon 01260 273969