

MADYSS Matters

June 2020 No.169

Birthday Greetings

- Mike Arrowsmith
- Kay Evans
- Alan Gatley
- Leo McMahon

A Word from the Chair

Dear Friends

March and April were very sad months for MADYSS. We lost three dear members. It is difficult to say how much was due to the pandemic, but it definitely played a big part in our loss. We shall always remember George, Pat and Justi as we treasure the memory of all our departed members. May they rest in peace.

We had to cancel all our activities. I am sure that, like me, you were looking forward to our first meeting in the newly refurbished Flower Pot. We missed Diane's coffee morning, the trip to Port Sunlight and, of course, our A.G.M. At least we have continued to provide you with our Monthly Bulletin. It is as full as ever with stories, a joke or two, etc. Thank you Kath for keeping it going.

Life has become dull under lockdown and so far, there is no real light at the end of the tunnel. We hoped that Boris would give us some good news but he couldn't really. If anything he has only confused us more. If you want your son or daughter to visit you, put your house on the market and they can visit as potential buyers. Simple! We can meet them in the park but not in our garden. You can go to Land's End as long as you are back home at 23.59! It all makes a lot of sense (or should I say non-sense). We don't know where we can go with whom; do we have to wear face masks; are schools re-opening? If you are aged 5 years maybe. If you are 7-9 years no, if you are 10, perhaps! You can go to work if you must but don't use public transport. Use your car by all means but congestion charges are going up. Ha Ha! As someone said: "Friday was the best Monday Bank Holiday Ever!"

The pandemic is persisting; it is perhaps easing a little but for the time being we must continue to remain very vigilant. My view is that we shall not be rid of it completely until such time as we have a proper vaccine.

In the last few weeks several of us, mainly Meet, Move and Improve members at Bollington, have joined up for a Zoom session on our computers, laptops, tablets or phones. It seems very successful: we all have a chat, a bit of a laugh, and as we have nothing better to do or to see, we enjoy seeing each others' smiley faces. You are all welcome to join, every Friday at 11.00 am. I'll be happy to give you the 'technical' details. If I can do it, everyone can.

Keep your spirits up, take care and as Vera Lynn says, **We will meet again some sunny day!** God Bless.

Only a life lived for others is worthwhile.

Albert Einstein

Never see a need without doing something about it.

Mary Mackillop

What a Joke!

Notice seen on the door of a Congleton barber:

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, strict restrictions will apply to only one haircut per customer.

Heard on a flight from Manchester to London:

"Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. This is your pilot speaking. Today I am working from home . . ."

Thought for the Day

[Submitted to the newsletter before the easing of lockdown restrictions last month, but thought it was still worth including here.]

When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don't say to yourself, "It looks like the end of the world." What you're seeing is love in action. What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, our parents, our brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet.

People will lose jobs over this. Some will lose their businesses. And some will lose their lives. All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk, or on your way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love. Let it fill you and sustain you. It isn't the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.

Our Dearly Departed Pat Snelling

Tribute by Ike Karnon

It requires more than a paragraph in a monthly bulletin to describe Pat's rich and varied life story. She was born in London in 1943. After attending grammar school where she enjoyed acting, singing and performing, Pat got her Pitman secretarial qualifications and worked in the Bank of England. She joined the Young Conservatives where she met Roger. They married in 1964 and they settled in Bean near Dartford, Kent, where after giving birth to Heather and Tracey, Pat became the local Avon lady. I can hear her now saying: "Avon Calling" in her soft yet assertive voice and, of course, a big smile.

Roger's job took them to Kent, to Worcestershire and in 1973 they moved to Macclesfield where Pat had her third daughter, Nicola. Pat and Roger ran a successful greengrocers and flower shop until it closed due to ill health. Pat then reverted to her

Pitman qualification and joined Rieter Scragg, where she became a PA and a very popular staff member. Pat was always the first to volunteer to organise a party or any 'good time' activity. She was invariably full of cheer and *joie de vivre*. She always greeted you with a smile and was helpful and efficient in her job. I was fortunate and privileged to be her colleague. For a period she stepped in to be my PA when Gail, my regular PA, was in hospital. I got to know Pat well and we had an excellent working relationship. She walked into the job with ease.



This photograph was taken before she had suffered a stroke. It shows Pat with her usual happy smile accompanied by two colleagues, one Spanish, the other Italian. What can I say? This was Pat. It was taken at one of the famous Christmas parties, an event that Pat loved, always attended, and which continued for many years after the company ceased trading.

I lost touch with her for a while, so you can imagine my surprise when Julie had a stroke and we joined MADYSS. The first person I saw was Pat. She was disabled but still had her wonderful special smile. It was sad to see her condition deteriorating, but until the end she was always her cheerful self.

We shall always remember you Pat as a lovely, cheerful, helpful and kind lady. RIP.

MADYSS Committee

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