

# MADYSS Matters

May 2025 No.219

## Birthday Greetings

This month it's time to say Happy Birthday to:

- Chris Barlow
- Tracey Higgins
- Roy Loughan
- Monica Meah
- John Swindell

## Social Events

### Annual General Meeting, Monday 12 May Macclesfield Tennis Club, SK11 8JR

The Club House is available to us from 12.30 pm and the AGM itself will start at 1.00 pm. There will be the usual business including Review of the Year, Report of the Treasurer, Voting in of the Committee members, etc. After a buffet lunch, our guest speaker will give a talk on the growing trend of scams and how to avoid being scammed.

### Coffee Morning in aid of MADYSS Gawsworth Church Hall Thursday, 22 May, 10.00–11.30 am

Items for the book stall, bric-a-brac, tombola and raffle are requested, but please note that the Church accepts NO ALCOHOL. As it is our charity turn at Gawsworth, PLEASE DONATE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN; give to any Committee member or bring to the AGM. There will be a cake stall, and we hope that the bakers among you can help stock this! We also request food cupboard items.

### Report on Piece Hall Outing, Monday 28 April

Thirty-five members and friends assembled at the Flower Pot by 9.45 am as we had been directed previously, ready for boarding the coach. It wasn't there and didn't appear until 10.10 am! We were told evidently this was a result of technical problems with the wheelchair lift. Why hadn't Belle Vue Coaches checked it the day/evening before?

Following a toilet break post departure, we only arrived at Piece Hall 45 minutes ahead of our tours arranged for 1.30 pm. It is a lovely Grade 1 listed building set around a Square with plenty of places for us to pause later, sit and admire the architecture. But we barely had time to wolf down a snack or sandwich lunch prior to the tours!



*View of the large courtyard where rolls of wool were traded, but only on a Saturday*

After gathering in the Square, we split into three groups each led by a tour guide. The guide of the writer's group was named Sue, and she had a particular interest in the architecture of Piece Hall. It opened in 1779 and is the only Georgian cloth hall left in the world. It was built for the trading of 'pieces' of cloth, a piece was a 30-yard length of woven woollen fabric produced on a handloom.



*A MADYSS tour group resting as the guide explains the history of Piece Hall*

Piece Hall was a highly visible statement of the great wealth, pride and ambition of the cloth manufacturers, but the industrial revolution saw its use decline in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Hall was restored following the receipt of a substantial Lottery Fund grant, to which the then Halifax Corporation also made a large contribution. A pair of ornately decorated East Gates were funded by the Corporation.



*One of the magnificent East Gates that Halifax Corporation installed as part of the renovations*

The sunny, warm afternoon left participants with time for a sit down and cool drink in several of the many bars and cafes around the Square. A good return journey saw us arrive back at the Flower Pot by 6.10 pm, far quicker and less stressful than the outward trip.

Our thanks go to Kay Evans for arranging the outing. She should be commended for appearing outwardly calm and composed when she was doubtless experiencing much inner stress and turmoil with the coach delay and subsequent effect on the day's schedule. Thank you also to Sue for printing off and distributing the coloured diagram of Piece Hall on the coach, which proved very useful.

## Bonus Ball Competition

The bonus ball for last month's competition was number 45. Again, we have yet another rollover, that's three months in succession! As we are having the AGM this month, there will be no bonus ball competition for May and the next one will take place at the Flower Pot meeting on 14 June. A tidy sum should be available to the winner then, but to ensure we DO have a winner, we simply must sell all the numbers.

## News of Our Members

We send our best wishes to **Alan Gatley** who has been unwell recently. Another of our members, **Paul Sutcliffe**, is recovering from a chest infection and we hope to see them again soon.

The group has had several new members join in recent months. Please make them feel welcome if you see them at the Flower Pot meetings and do introduce yourself (and others) where possible.

At the Flower Pot last month Sue, who chaired the meeting in John's absence, welcomed Andy Allan and his daughter Katy Gratton. They were visiting the MADYSS group for the first time. We hope you will go over and have a chat with them should they attend any future meetings.

**The next meeting is the AGM**

**at Macclesfield Tennis Club**

**on Monday 12 May 2025**

### MADYSS Committee

**John Swindell (Chairman) 01625 575753; 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.**