

## Dates for 2023



Tuesday 5 September - *Afternoon tea at Falshaws*  
Monday 18 September - Macmillan Information Centre Oldham  
Tuesday 31 October – Underground Manchester, Keith Warrender  
Monday 11 December (Christmas Lunch)

## Committee Members

Chair - Christine Hacking 07980 398109  
Secretary - Joan Smith 0161 766 4669  
Treasurer - Mel Smith 0161 766 4669  
Chris Hodgson - 0161 654 8963  
Ian Hodgson - 0161 654 8963  
Martyn Warburton - 0161 797 9730  
Karen Lees - 0161 761 3699

## Venue for next year?

We need to decide whether we meet at the Elizabethan Suite or Fusilier Museum next year. There are pros and cons of each venue. The Elizabethan Suite will charge £52, will provide hot water, cups and wash them and store our tea and coffee. They also have built-in audio visual with a screen so it is not necessary to bring a laptop. However there is a small lift.

The Fusilier Museum charges £56.70, has a microphone and a TV screen but we need to bring a laptop. They do not store anything and we have to wash up. The room is on the ground level.

We will take a vote at the meeting.



West Pennine Myeloma Support Group

Issue 98

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## Next Meeting

Our Next meeting will be at the Fusilier Museum on **Monday September 18th** at the usual time of **1pm**. Our speaker will be Amardeep Bhakar from the Macmillan Information Centre at Oldham on the services Macmillan can provide.

## Christmas Lunch 2023.

Christmas Lunch will be on Monday 11th December. At the meeting we need to decide whether we want to go to **The Royal Toby in Castleton or Owen's Restaurant in Ramsbottom**. We also need to know numbers so we can book the restaurant. As the prices in restaurants have increased the cost will be £12 per head with the balance being met by funds. Menu choices and contributions to the cost will be taken at the meeting on 31 October.



MYEWORD

## Sad News

Bernard Stonely sadly passed away recently. Bernard started coming to the group in 2019 but unfortunately because of covid we did not see him for a while. After covid he came regularly until a bad fall earlier this year. We send our condolences to his daughter and the rest of his family

Christine will represent the group at the funeral on September 6th.



## WhatsApp Group

At the recent committee meeting there was a suggestion that we have a WhatsApp Group as this would be a way of keeping in touch. We could discuss this at the meeting as people would need to opt in.



## Previous meeting - Secrets of the Waterway

Members were treated to a fabulous presentation given by Russ Hedley, a self-professed fanatic from Bolton, who held a passion for the delights of streams, rivers, ponds and all things waterways. Initially an involvement with the 'Canal and Rivers Trust' led him to start his own business some ten years ago, and, as part of that business, he now provides lectures and talks to interested groups and schools on the topic.

His presentation centred around wildlife and botany and how these aspects link to water based 'habitats'. Providing photographs on screen as well as talking descriptively to members Russ provided numerous facts and scenarios, personal anecdotes and amusing insights. The topics discussed were wide, varied and detailed.

Describing for example, Water Lilies. They like fast flowing rivers and always rest on top of the water whereas bulrushes prefer a marshy lifestyle. When it comes to birds male Mallards look their best around September each year with a complete set of feathers and bright yellow beak. There then follows a 'crossdressing' period where a change in appearance helps provide them with a defence from predators. The Moorhen likes the shallows of water systems but will use deeper water to build a nest, the Coot meanwhile has webbed toes which enable it to dive into the water for food.

Russ outlined how 'pond dipping' provides a great opportunity to explore the world of insects, bugs and newts. He then described some specifics to name but a few.....the impact of Dippers (the world's only living songbird on water who dips and swims under the surface), Bats (there are eighteen species in the UK who use echo-sounding to locate food), Mute Swans (they are not really mute, do not mate for life, and have hollow bones so their ability to break your arm is somewhat of a myth!), small mammals including the Vole and the Shrew, and, our fascination with Dragonflies and Damselflies (top predators in the water world).

In conclusion Russ reiterated that habitats are subject to constant change impacted by invasive species, climate change, and water 'disappearing' with ultimately species being lost or significantly reduced. Conversely some species were now returning to the waterways such as the Dog Otter, this being particularly encouraging.

Members asked several questions which were answered with fervour. An entertaining and informative afternoon which was appreciated by members with a raucous round of applause and an invitation to Russ to come along and present again at a future meeting.

*Thanks to Martyn for this.*