



The talk during our September meeting was interestingly titled **'To cull, or not to cull, bat is the question'**.



Amazingly our speaker, Dr Vikash Tatayah, managed to make most of us feel protective and even affectionate towards bats. Once widespread, the Mauritius Fruit Bat population has decreased considerably due to habitat loss, cyclones and illegal hunting. In November 2015, the government introduced the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity And National Parks Act. This harmless sounding Act actually legalised the culling of Mauritius Fruit Bats on the basis that they are a major pest to exotic fruit plantations. The result of 2 seasons of culling is that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has been re-assessing the Red List status of the Mauritius Fruit Bat to up-list from Vulnerable to Endangered, which will reflect a higher degree of threat of extinction.



While Dr Tatayah accepted that bats are a problem for fruit growers, he surprised us with data showing how much higher damage by other creatures is in comparison. He reported that MWF is advising the use of nets and runs workshops for students and adults to ensure the preservation of the fruit bat.



Dr Tatayah is Conservation Director of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, has been active in conservation for over 20 years. He manages conservation programmes on Mauritius, Rodrigues and outer islands that have allowed the recovery of a long list of threatened plants.

**NEXT MEETING**

**FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> Oct @ 10 AM**

**SPEAKER**

Dr Satish Boolell to give us a talk on the new Road Traffic Act

**COFFEE MORNING**

None scheduled for October but plans for either 28<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> November @ 10.30 am at Caprices De Gervais in Quatre Bornes. Please let us know your preferred date.

**CASELA OUTING**

**This has been provisionally scheduled for 30th October. Please book early so that we can go ahead and confirm.**

The entrance fee has been negotiated to MUR400 per person. The meeting place will be Gymkhana at 9.30. We shall either do car pooling or take a van.

**NOV MEETING**

**FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM**

**DIWALI bring & share**

Members are asked to bring their favourite Diwali delicacies.

**DEC MEETING**

**FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> @ 10 AM**

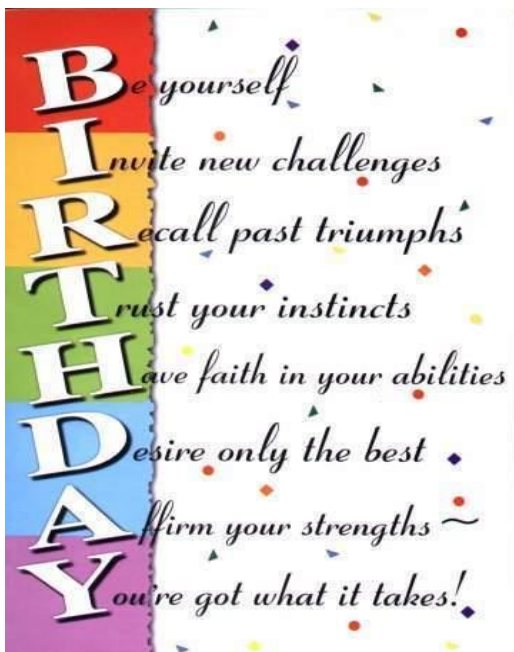
**CHRISTMAS bring & share**

Let us continue our tradition with a splendid spread of international delicacies in

**SEPTEMBER's** coffee morning took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September at the Illico café in SoFlo. Eleven members attended and everyone enjoyed the interaction. There is no coffee morning scheduled for October but do let us know which day you prefer for November.



**Special birthday wishes to all our members who celebrate their birthday in October**



At our September meeting, the cake for the raffle was donated by Binita and won by Emilie. Emilie kindly shared her cake with members at the meeting. The sum collected for the raffle amounted to MUR1,675.00.

The cake for our October meeting has been pledged by Manda.

YOUR 2018/19 COMMITTEE	NAME	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
CHAIR	Binita Gujadhur	5421 6775	<a href="mailto:binitagujadhur@hotmail.co.uk">binitagujadhur@hotmail.co.uk</a>
TREASURER	Rosemarie Domaingue	57215286	<a href="mailto:rosemariedomaingue77@gmail.com">rosemariedomaingue77@gmail.com</a>
COMMUNICATION & SPEAKERS	Manda Boolell	54237476	<a href="mailto:mboolell@gmail.com">mboolell@gmail.com</a>
MINUTE TAKING & EVENTS	Kamini Bassant	57557266	<a href="mailto:kbassant@gmail.com">kbassant@gmail.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS	Neena Misri	54215503	<a href="mailto:neenamisri@gmail.com">neenamisri@gmail.com</a>
IN-HOUSE FUND RAISING	Patricia Mohamed	696 9598	
Not elected but assisting on sub committees	Zandre Latimer Jane Delorie Sara Grihault Lyndsay Riviere Margret Fayolle		Because our elected committee is smaller than usual, we need your help. If you have particular skills or would like to volunteer in any specific area contact Binita.