

JULY LUNCH AT THE "OCEAN VIEWS" IN ONCHAN

The July lunch was held at the Ocean Views in Onchan on a lovely day. There was a good turn out with more than 60 members present. The upstairs venue gave lovely views over the park and boating area. The meal was excellent, with a choice of steak and ale pie, cod with white wine sauce or a vegetable curry followed by lemon meringue pie with cream or fruit salad or ice cream. Vegan and diabetic options were also catered for, whilst the service from the staff was excellent and speedy as we've come to expect.

The meal was followed by the usual 200 club draw and raffle that helped raise much needed funds for MRA funds. There was then a excellent bingo session run by Jim and Ann Cottier. Barbara then rounded off the meal with her usual comprehensive list of upcoming events. John Wilkinson

OUR FAIR WEATHER WALKERS

One thing the walkers in our walking group all have in common is that we like to chat. For the actual walking we cover short, slow walks, e.g. round lakes and reservoirs, and along proms, to longer walks of maybe up to 4 miles. These usually take place on Mondays and last from about 30 minutes for short walks to 2 hours for the longer walks.

Over the last few months we have enjoyed stretching our legs on a variety of walks in various parts of our beautiful island. For the slower, easy walks we have recently been to Scarlett and Peel, our last walk being in Silverdale Glen. Once we'd completed the glen, a few stayed round the lake for refreshments and, yes, a chat whilst some walked down to Rushen Abbey /Monk's Bridge and back, which was a slightly more 'bumpy' underfoot walk!!

There are longer walks when plenty of chat also goes on. One of our walkers took us on such a walk, a beautiful bluebell walk in the Baldwin area. It's always such a wonderful sight to see masses of bluebells in amongst shaded tree areas, isn't it!

Our walk up Peel Hill didn't quite get there! It was a beautiful day but very windy so when we got up to the point of choice of paths we took the lower, safer walk so a walk to the top, to Corrin's Folly and down to Peel will be for another day!

The Maughold walk also gave us some challenges. When we got to the coastal path, sections of it had disappeared!! So again, choices were made and we safely completed it along to the stony beach at Port Mooar. After admiring the scenery, we all crowded round one of the beautiful Hospice dolphins seen round the Island at the moment for a photo!

Our walks are to enjoy, meet people and to get some fresh air and exercise. They usually take place on a Monday afternoon (February to November) and on average there are 12 walkers on each walk.

When available our walks end with a place with refreshments – but not always! As the title implies, we walk in good weather and not all weathers.

All members are welcome to any walk and if you're unsure about anything, give me a ring (346239).

We also have our own MRA Walkers' Whats App group to help with communication. It would be lovely to have more members join us, so why not give it a go!. Sally Farrell



200 CLUB WINNERS – JULY 2022

Lesley Nicoll (150) Joan Daniels (44)
Dorothy Pickering (24)
Each wins £30.

Remember you have to be in it to win it!

If would like to take up a number, please contact me; mobile 413767, email frankja@manx.net or via the MRA office. As we are currently near the end of the financial year, the September fee is just £1.25 per number – the full year renewal fee starting from October remains at just £15.00.

New members are always welcome.

Alan Franklin

EVENING AT THE THEATRE

Once again a number of MRA musical theatre enthusiasts enjoyed an evening at the Gaiety for the Taylorian Productions presentation of the legendary Broadway musical 42nd Street. Based on the 1932 novel by Bradford Ropes 42nd Street is most famous as an American musical film released in 1933 which was first performed as a stage musical on Broadway in 1980 and became a long running hit.

This lovely old Hollywood-style show tells the story of Peggy(Natalie Nixon), fresh off the bus from small-town America, starting out as just another face in the chorus line on Broadways newest show by renowned director Julian Marsh (Matt James) She gets her big break when leading lady Dorothy Brock (Kristene Sutcliffe) gets injured and Peggy gets her chance for stardom.

Hats off to the wonderful orchestra that gave us many well known musical theatre standards including 'We're in the Money', 'Lullaby of Broadway' and '42nd Street'

Another reminder of the great wealth of talent we have here on the Isle of Man and I'm sure I wasn't the only one to leave the theatre with a song in my heart, a spring in my step and a smile on my face!

Barbara Mason

QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENT

We have received an invitation from the Chairman of South Douglas Old Friends Association to attend a tea dance on Thursday 8th September at their premises on Finch Road.

This is a supported Queens Platinum Jubilee Event, will take place between 1.30 and 4.30 and is free. Numbers are required for catering purposes A.S.A.P. If you wish to attend please contact the office by telephone (817007) or email.

VISIT TO SUNSET LAKES AT PEEL 19/7 – A COARSE FISHING DESTINATION

The MRA visit to Sunset Lakes was well attended and provided a most interesting and enjoyable tour. There are five lakes which vary in size - each lake well stocked with a variety of fish including Carp, Tench, Roach and Rudd. All fish were initially imported and now thrive and breed in the lakes. A fishing licence can be bought and both pleasure and competitive fishing is undertaken.

As the tour progressed the sky darkened and loud rolls of thunder were heard. Luckily only a few spots of rain fell. At the end of the tour the group were able to view one of the four lovely lodges which are beautifully furnished and looked to be very comfortable.

We then partook of an excellent and very well presented afternoon tea comprising a selection of sandwiches, cakes and scones (the scones complete with jam and clotted cream) – to the delight of all attending!

Sally Farrell

MANX CONCERT BRASS AND MANX YOUTH BAND

The opportunities on the Island for children to develop their musical skills are impressive indeed. We saw this when we enjoyed a superb evening of music from the Manx Youth Band and Manx Concert Brass in the Villa Marina. The group has been providing free tuition to children, making music accessible to all, for over 40 years, and operates on a "development cycle". Children start by receiving one to one tuition, progress to the learner band, then moving on to the Manx Youth Band. On leaving school, members are encouraged to join the Manx Concert Brass. Led by conductor Ian Clague, we saw all groups put on an exciting show – their performances centring on "film tunes". Added to this we were treated to three spots from the Ballacottier Primary School Choir, with members aged from 6-11, who were still just as enthusiastic at 10.15 at night as when they first took to the big stage. All in all, a very uplifting and enjoyable evening.

Celia Marshall