

MARCH LUNCH AT WOODBOURN HOUSE, DOUGLAS – 20 MARCH

On Sunday 20 March, 93 members (and some guests) arrived ready for lunch. Before the meal our Director Howard Parkin, took the opportunity to thank Margo Naylor for all her work over the last 20 years. Margo together with her late husband John, were the founder members of the MRA which has brought friendship and companionship to so many over the years. Margo is shortly leaving the Island and returning to live near family in the UK. We all wish her well in her new venture.

We then had an enjoyable 2 course lunch. Despite being one of the last tables to reach the carvery our meal was hot, tasty and there was plenty of it. This was followed by our chosen desserts and by the number of empty dishes, this was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our speaker was Ivor Ramsden M.B.E. who gave us a most enjoyable and interesting talk on
'21 Years of the Manx Aviation and Military Museum'

The museum has thousands of objects and although many are displayed in 2 Nissen huts, there is a third hut used purely for storage! One of the main features of this museum is that wherever possible it relates the story of the people behind the objects, and we were told some very interesting and, in some cases, moving examples of this.

Ivor gave us many interesting facts too. Did you know there were 3 airfield radar stations on the Island and no one here ever found out what exactly they were used for? The first flight here took place in 1902; a hot air balloon was filled with town gas directly from the local gas works - Health and safety would have had a field day!! The first airport named after a person was in Jurby on the Isle of Man in the 1930's and not as we are told, in Liverpool. It was Hall Caine Airport.

This museum is an absolute treasure of a place to visit for any age. It has display huts (think of the Tardis!), aircraft and parts of aircraft outside to see as well as a new memorial garden (with a very close link to Canada) and other items I feel sure I've forgotten about. It is open 10 – 4pm at the weekends in the winter and during the week in the summer. You can't miss it either. It's next to the roadside on airport land just past the last little roundabout on the way to Castletown. Visits are being organised as I type and I feel sure it's a place to return to again and again.

Thank you to all those involved in giving us a lovely lunch and a special 'thank you' to our excellent speaker.
Sally Farrell

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rosina (Roz) Gash - South

Suzanne Slatter - North

March 2022 – 200 CLUB WINNERS

Margo Naylor - £30.00 (100)

Celia Marshall - £30.00 (90)

Beryl Jones - £35.00 (73)

New members are always welcome.

Remember you have to be in it to win it!



200 CLUB NUMBERS

Here is a list of available numbers on a first come first serve basis:

47, 48, 56, 81, 82, 83, 85, 87, 89, 94, 97.

103, 109, 110, 113, 115, 120, 121, 124, 126, 127, 128, 131, 133, 135, 136, 138, 142, 143, 146, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 174, 176, 177, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 194, 195, 197.

Joining gives you three chances every month to win a cash prize and helps support MRA activities. If you 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 part way through the financial year the May to September fee is **£6.25** per number.
Alan Franklin

MRA SUMMER BREAK 2023 to EDINBURGH INCLUDING THE TATTOO

In August 2020 the trip to Scotland with Tours, which included the Edinburgh Tattoo, was cancelled due to Covid. It has now been rescheduled for August 2023.

The coach will depart from Douglas on Tuesday 22 August on the 8.45am ferry to Heysham. Our accommodation for 5 nights will be at the Barony Castle Hotel, Peebles, to include DB&B. The visit will include 3 tours, time in Edinburgh and tickets for the Tattoo. The coach will return on Sunday 27 August at 2:15pm from Heysham.

More information, including the cost, will be available in a few months' time when we will send out a flyer. However, if you are at all interested in this trip, **PLEASE CONTACT TOURS on 822611** and they will take your details. Priority will be given to those members that booked for 2020. Availability is limited particularly single rooms.

Barbara Mason

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DOUGLAS TOWN HALL APRIL 2022

The trip to visit Douglas Town Hall proved to be so popular that a second visit was organised. Clearly a chance to see where the great decisions are made that effect the residents of Douglas, was a crowd puller! Fifteen of us met in the agreed location at the top of the stairs and had a chance to soak up the atmosphere - pictures, paintings and photographs of past dignitaries of Douglas.

The Municipal Borough of Douglas came into being and the building started in 1897. It was officially opened in 1900 by the first Mayor Alderman Samuel Webb. We were led into the Council Chamber where the furniture and fittings originate from its formation. The sense of history and decision making effecting the residents of Douglas was palpable. The walls are lined with photographs of Town Mayors from its inception to the present day. Many of us recognized names, faces and even relatives from the past to the present-day Mayor. The photo gallery was the idea of one of Mayor Keig an early Town Mayor, who was also a founding member of a local photographic firm!

We moved on to the smaller committee room where we were assured most of the decisions were actually made! The walls of this room were adorned with documents showing dignitaries awarded Honorary Freedom of the Borough -Winston Churchill and the current Mayor among them! It was suggested by one in our party, that this freedom might allow the individual to drive sheep through Douglas and over the Swing Bridge in the Harbour! Moving into the Mayor's Parlour where we were greeted by The Mayor, Raina Chattel and the Deputy Mayor, Janet Thommeny. This room had framed signatures of members of the Royal Family who had visited the Town Hall over the years, and also paintings showing military links.

To end the visit, we were served with china cups of tea or coffee and some very nice biscuits by the Mayor's attendant who is affectionately known as Dobby! (Of Harry Potter origins!). Signing the visitors book immortalized our visit and recorded it for future visitors to look back on. The morning had been an interesting glance into the corridors of power in Douglas!

Caroline Heathcote

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ARRAGON MOOAR HOUSE TOUR

On Wednesday 23 March we had a visit to Arragon Mooar House, Santon, the home of Dr John Taylor OBE whose interest in horology stems from childhood memories of watching his father repair grandfather clocks. Our first visit was heavily oversubscribed, and this was our third visit to this stand-out property, with its elliptical form and 360-degree views. We still have a fairly long waiting list, we hope to arrange another visit for later this year, and we will contact everyone on the waiting list when we have a date.

Barbara Mason