

VISIT TO KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE

38 of us were taken on an extensive tour of King William's College by Mike Hoy, the very knowledgeable author of a book about the College's history. We admired the architecture and learned how the school had developed over the years. The origins go back to 1668 when Bishop Isaac Barrow left an endowment for the building of a College for university aged pupils on Hango Hill Farm. The college was finally opened in 1833, only to burn down 11 years later! Bishop Isaac also funded free primary schools for all Manx Children, 200 years before such schools were established across. He also founded the Old Grammar School in Castletown. The current Barovian Hall was previously the chapel for the college boys and also all the community of Derbyhaven, which at that time was the main port serving Castletown, the then capital of the Island. The new chapel was built in 1879, thus allowing the college to expand. Currently there are 365 pupils, 70 of whom are boarders. The alumni include TE Brown as both pupil and teacher, and Nobel Prize winner Sir William Bragg who worked on Xray Chrystalography. With refreshments to finish, it proved a very interesting tour. Celia Marshall

SEPTEMBER LUNCH AT THE PALACE HOTEL, DOUGLAS

Another enjoyable lunch was held at the Best Western Palace Hotel and Casino on Friday September 16th. Always a good venue in a central location with views over the promenade and bay, particularly with the good weather we had on the day. The food and service were again of a good standard and seemed to go down well.

The speaker for the day was replaced at short notice by Maurice Powell, conductor of the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra. He gave us a talk on entertainment on the Island in the fifties and sixties from memories written in diaries by Joan Huntley, a teenager living on the Island at the time.

She wrote of dances at the Palais de Dance, Palace Ballroom and the Crescent and band leaders such as Ivy Benson and Joe Loss. She was also a great film fan and mentioned many of the films of the time such as Rebecca, High Noon and Vertigo. Being of a certain age many of us could remember the venues and films she had written about.

A good speaker, a very interesting talk, and a veritable blast from the past. Margaret Hyde



200 CLUB WINNERS – SEPTEMBER 2022

- 17 Margo Naylor 59 Peter Maillard
- 150 Lesley Nicholl
- Each wins £30.

Remember you have to be in it to win it!

If you would like to take up a number, please contact me via mobile 413767, email frankja@manx.net or via the MRA office. All participants are reminded that a new financial year is starting so the annual renewal fee of £15.00 per number is now due. New members are always welcome.

Alan Franklin

COFFEE MORNINGS

We hope to have the function room at the Terminus Tavern, Strathallan Crescent as a permanent venue for the Douglas coffee morning. However, this may change so please always check the events list! During the months of November and December the Ramsey coffee morning will be from 11a.m. This change is to fit in with Ramsey Golf Club Winter opening hours.

We are always grateful for raffle prizes donated to all the coffee mornings and also a little while ago I introduced the 'table top sale', This is for items donated by members that can be purchased for an appropriate donation.

Funds raised pay for raffle prizes for lunches and coffee mornings. If you don't attend either of these but would like to contribute, items can be left at the office in Ramsey or brought to an event you do attend. Items not sold after several weeks are taken to a charity shop.

Barbara Mason

“GREASE” - THE MUSICAL

On the afternoon of Sunday 25th September a group of us met at the Gaiety to a full house to watch the musical “Grease”. This musical took us on a trip back to the fabulous 50’s featuring rock ‘n’ roll classics. This was an unforgettable rock ‘n’ roll musical which featured hit songs such as “Greased Lightnin’”, “Hopelessly devoted to you”, “You’re the one that I want” plus many others. We could have been listening to John Travolta and Olivia Newton John when Danny and Sandy were singing “Summer Nights”. The story of the musical was about 2 gangs called “The Pink Ladies” and “Burger Palace Boys” who were competing with each other. The singing and dancing were very professional and the period costumes brought back memories of what we used to wear. What a fantastic show.

Christian

Doreen

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PLANS FOR THE “FAIR WEATHER WALKERS”

November 14th - As the weather is less predictable, we’re having a “there and back” walk along Marine Drive starting near the Arches at 1.30pm, finishing about 3.30pm. .

November 21st - A short slow walk along part of Douglas promenade starts at 1.30pm. We park at the north end near the Terminus Tavern (where we are likely to end up!). I shall be on the promenade more or less opposite the Tavern. Always wear suitable shoes for your own comfort and safety please.

Walks in December and January - No specific walks in December or January are planned. However, if the weather is good and I’m here and free, I shall post them on the walkers’ ” What App” site. If you would like to be part of the “Whats App” walking group, just let me know (there is no obligation to turn up each month). If you don’t do Whats App or if you have any questions about any walks, then contact me.

Enquiries to Sally - 622632 / 346239

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CASTLETOWN WALK 10/10 - THE STORY OF THE “PEGGY” AND A £5MILLION SPEND

The “Fair Weather” walkers took advantage of some beautiful autumn sunshine on the 10th October for a very gentle stroll around Castletown, with particular interest shown in the nautical museum and the story of the “Peggy” being preserved by Manx National Heritage.

The Peggy is unique – a small two masted coastal vessel fitted with lug sails, largely complete as originally built in the 18th century, the oldest surviving schooner in the world, and the oldest fitted with sliding dagger boards (lifting keels). As such, her significance is reflected in her listing on the UK’s National Register of Historic Vessels.

The Peggy was designed and built for George Quayle, a prominent manx businessman and politician who lived in Castletown between 1757 and 1835, the vessel being housed in a dock specially built to accommodate the Peggy and now the home of the Nautical Museum.

Over the years however, her condition had deteriorated and in 2014, the decision to conserve and protect her was taken, together with a need to ensure her on-going display met her world heritage status. The total bill – both for the ship and the boathouse required for display purposes - will be some £5 million – hopefully money well spent.

Chris

Blyth

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10 Pin Bowling

Whether it be lunches, theatre trips, mini golf, games, visits, walks, NSC activities etc, there is always something of interest for MRA members (with thanks of course to those who organise these events - we know who you are!).

So it was that 18 of us went 10 pin bowling at the Fun Farm on Sept 23rd. All six lanes occupied, and with various shouts of 'well done!, Wow!, Oh no!, I was robbed!, How did that happen?' mixed with a load of laughs, the Fun Farm lived up to its name.

Afterwards we all sat down to a lovely soup sandwich lunch to chat and reflect on an enjoyable couple of hours. A lovely venue, lovely lunch and great company. Thanks to Barbara for organising, roll on the next one.

Les Crellin