

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2025 ISLANDER

Dear Members

Here we are again saying goodbye to Christmas and the New Year Festivities and saying hello to Valentines Day and, would you believe it, Easter eggs in some shops!

Firstly, congratulations to our very own Director of the MRA Howard Parkin for being awarded an MBE in the New Years honours list. Well deserved.

E-mail Change – we have changed email provider as we are experiencing so many problems. Please note our email is now manxretirement@gmail.com , please use this email with immediate effect.

February is one of my favourite months, it is the month of extra love and kindness to everyone. The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a “leaper” or “leapling.” So MRA members are any of you leapers or leaplings?? Please let us know.

March is much more than a simple transition between summer and autumn. This month of the year marks a period of exploration and new beginnings, full of possibilities and opportunities. Recognised as International Creativity Month and Self-Love Month, March encourages people to explore new hobbies, interests, skills, and passions. Are you up for it Members? Till next time.....

Silvana Evans

LUNCHES

PEEL GOLF CLUB – NOVEMBER

I awoke in Onchan to snow and ice on the ground and dire travel warnings from the police. So it was with some trepidation that I ventured westwards to Peel, only to find the area bathed in glorious sunshine, with not a flake of snow for miles around. About 60 of us enjoyed a lovely meal at the Golf Club, taking in the views across the golf course as we ate. Our speaker was Bill Mummery from Housing Matters. He gave a very informative and thought-provoking talk about the semi-hidden problem of those struggling to find decent accommodation on our Island. The problems are complex, and it made us reflect on how fortunate we all are.

Celia Marshall

THE PALACE – CHRISTMAS LUNCH DECEMBER

107 members met at the Palace Hotel in Douglas to celebrate Christmas 2024. A rather spectacular grey sea, approaching high tide and whipped up by yet another south westerly did not detract from a most splendid occasion. You read lunch reviews saying a meal was ‘superb’ but then you look back and remember it as rather ordinary. Not in this case, the meal was truly magnificent, palatial even! Excellent selection and generous portions. There was a buffet style starter table, a carvery followed by a dessert buffet. OK, it does take a while to get 107 diners served especially as a bewildering choice made dithering more prevalent. The time was happily filled with lively conversation and the waiting tables got down to Howard Parkin’s fiendish quiz.

Marking the quiz involved a good deal of animated audience participation when it seemed there might be several different versions of the question paper out there! It was all too clear to everyone that Howard’s plan was to get someone else to do it next year. Treasurer Jeff Campbell’s table won despite a surprisingly low score and received a drum of Celebrations.

The raffle and table envelopes bidding for a pair of Sylvia Evans’s most excellent cakes made some £740 for Association funds. We all wished each other a *Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa* and faded away into a crepuscular and still windy Doolish. There was one slight hiccup during lunch; I mistook the horse radish for bread sauce - make a note for 2025 - if all else fails, read the labels!

Roger Putman

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to our 2025 new members Emmanuel and Yvonne Patsourakis, Kim Corlett, Phil and Barbara Robinson, and John and Shirley Kneale. Welcome to the MRA family.

EVENTS

Ten Pin Bowling in Ramsey

Twenty-six members enjoyed an afternoon of fun, frustration at times and good company at Ramsey 10 pin bowling.

Once we'd signed in with Izzi and Celia and found out which lane we were playing on, we went and put on a pair of bowling shoes then went and rolled down a few practise bowls. Not that that helped matters particularly as most play just for fun. It did however give us time to chat within our groups and do what MRA members do best and that is socialise! We played 2 rounds with 8 games in each and by the time we had finished we all warmed up and were ready for our cuppa afterwards.

As usual we all enjoyed a piece of delicious cake with our hot drink and a sit and natter. Celia gave us the final scores and little prizes for both individual lane games and then overall points winners. This was also when those who were less successful shall we say also received a prize and well done to them for trying so hard! As it was Christmas there was also a surprise winner for the best Christmas jumper so well done to all of those. This was a most enjoyable afternoon, and thanks go to both Celia and Izzi for organising it.

Sally Farrell

TECH GROUP

Your host for the 5th February 2025 meeting will be Keith Glover who will be contactable on 817403.

200 CLUB

Our Lucky Winners for December were Christine Sugden, Tony Wenn and David Moore each receiving £30 (Christmas 200 club prize) each. You need to be in it to win it so contact Sylvia Evans on 485474 for more details.

A NOTE FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Howard Parkin MBE

Happy New Year to all. Now that the Festive Season is behind us, and we embark on the new year, it is vital that we find someone to take over Silvanas and Johns post in the office as soon as possible. It does not have to be an MRA member but someone with the necessary administrative skills to undertake this very important role for the MRA. I would ask if any of you or your friends with administrative and computer skills and experience are interested and would consider applying. Please contact me direct or any committee member at the earliest possible opportunity. The Position is a paid one and we currently pay approximately 24 hrs per week, the role is based in our Laxey premises, and we could offer some flexibility regarding hours, days etc., to a suitable contact. Thank you.

Ann Cottier

I would like to ask that all event/activity organisers send photos of any events or activities as I will be compiling a Calendar for 2026. I would also like to ask members to email their favourite recipes to include those for an air fryer which will be printed on the back of the calendar. Email anncottier52@gmail.com, direct many thanks.