

## **MRA Technology Group**

Modern technology must be fascinating to many MRA members because in spite of fog and rain, the group of twelve were soon actively engaged in debate. This month, Keith Glover standing in for Ken Horsley as host, introduced many subjects including that often “should people of our generation have to learn new technologies or why do we need smartphones?” a question I am regularly asked.

The answer might be yes! For instance, what happens in the UK invariably arrives here. Are you aware that every NHS region has set up virtual wards as the NHS has heralded a “new era” of healthcare that will see patients avoid lengthy hospital stays and instead be treated in their own homes. From September, over 10,000 chronically ill patients will be cared for on “virtual wards”, using remote monitoring technology, including smart phones which automatically transmit data on their condition to teams of doctors and nurses several miles away.

Artificial Intelligence is hot news, we discussed the massively impressive usefulness of AI and the dangers and security issues to be considered. Two of the many apps available for use on laptops, tablets and mobile devices were discussed plus the Microsoft Bing search engine, already using CHATGPT AI and is known as Bing Chat. Google Bard is a CHATGPT alternative.

On the climate change front, we discovered that in the future, tyre manufactures will reduce the use of petroleum products by 65% by using resin from wood/paper industries, rice husks, plastic bottles and even dandelions.

If you are curious about existing and future technologies or have questions regarding your mobile, laptop, software, you are most welcome to join us. We meet at 10.30 on the first Wednesday of the month at the Archibold Knox in Onchan. Coffee and tea are included and many thanks this month to George, Graham, and Morris for their contribution of Bramley apple pies, biscuits, and treats.

Keith Glover

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## **Wildlife Park Walk**

The day the walk around the Curraghs Wildlife Park was arranged for turned out to be one of the many wet, miserable days we have experienced throughout July. Surprisingly more members turned up on THAT day than the following Monday when we were able to proceed with the walk! A select few met in the car park, paid the £10 entrance fee, and followed the North Path to work our way around the outskirts of the park. After bouncing around on the giant inflatable pillow we continued to the Outback Track looking out for Wallabies that may be roaming around. We didn't see any, but we did spot a few Koalas hanging in the trees. On we went through the Enchanted Wood, which was enchanting, and onto the Curraghs Nature Trail eventually reaching the Otter Enclosure and then winding our way around the South Path to the Penguins where we were able to watch one of the staff Hoover the bottom of their pool. Unfortunately feeding time was over! We then proceeded along the Main Drive to the Mangrove Cafe for a refreshing drink and a slice of cake. Many thanks to those members that came along to join me on what turned out to be a very enjoyable afternoon walk.

Barbara Mason

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## **200 Club winners – Be in it to Win it!**

July Winners – Amy Levitt (49) Malcolm Wenn (7) and Vicky Upton-Jones (137) each win £25.

Contact Alan Franklin or Sylvia Evans for an application form or more details.

Sylvia Evans

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## July Monthly Lunch at the Comis Hotel & Golf Resort

Always a pleasure to have wonderful food in amazing surroundings. The Carvery was amazing, and the desserts were works of art and so yummy. Ron Spencer from Douglas Yacht Club was our guest speaker who gave us a very interesting and informative talk and invited us to join his club or any other yacht clubs around the island.

Numbers were on the low side, but we are hoping the experimental August lunch will see a rise in numbers.

Deborah Lace/Silvana Evans

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## Car Boot Sale and a Quiz Night

We are having a *Car Boot Sale* on Sunday 1st October at Morton Hall in Castletown 2pm-4pm. We will have a Bric a Brac Stall plus a Cake stall. Your donations for these will be gratefully received as all funds are for our MRA. See enclosed flyer for more details.

Join us for our *Quiz night* on Thursday 5th October at the Manx Legion Club Market hill Douglas 7pm to 9.30pm. Cost is £10 per person to include a Hot Pot Supper and a Raffle. Members, family, and friends most welcome to attend. For more details contact Ann Cottier on 472742.

See enclosed flyer for more details.

Anne Cottier

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## Four Night stay at Studley Castle, one of Warners Leisure Hotels

Mon 17 – Fri 21 June 2024

In association with Vannin Travel, Tel: 01624 672828. Email: [tony@vannintravel.com](mailto:tony@vannintravel.com)

Tony Lawrence, Vannin Travel, Tower House Ground Floor, Castle Street, Douglas. IM1 2HE

There are just a few places left for this offer. Please contact Tony asap if you are interested in joining the group.

Studley Castle is the perfect setting for a short break exploring and relaxing in rural Warwickshire. Enjoy all the facilities of the Castle, fine dining, spa, pool, sports activities, gym, yoga, and entertainment every night. There will be an optional group visit to Warwick Castle, and day trip to Stratford upon Avon.

Room Cost (Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal): Twin/Double: £422.00 per person, Singles: £711

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## Kinky Boots

A spectacular stage show that truly captivated the nineteen MRA members, with its energetic performances, catchy music, and powerful messages of acceptance and self-discovery. Taylorian production's dazzling choreography and vibrant costumes brought this performance, based on a true story, to life in a way that was both visually stunning and emotionally engaging.

The heartwarming narrative about the unlikely friendship between a struggling shoe factory owner and a fabulous drag queen was beautifully portrayed, highlighting the importance of embracing diversity and staying true to oneself. With its memorable songs and talented cast, "Kinky Boots" delivered an entertaining and thought-provoking experience that left a lasting impact on the audience. Keith Glover

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## **Your Feedback is Important to US**

How is the MRA doing? Are you enjoying all our Events and Activities? Do you want to try something different? Are you happy with the Monthly Luncheons? Do you want to volunteer? Can you suggest anything else that we may all do to make the MRA even better? We are open to suggestions and your input is so important to us. If you wish to remain anonymous, please post your suggestions to the MRA Office, or e-mail Silvana and John in the Office [mra@manx.net](mailto:mra@manx.net) or Phone 817007 with your suggestions.

Silvana Evans