



## SEPTEMBER LUNCH AT THE DOUGLAS GOLF CLUB

Our September lunch was at Douglas Golf Club, who served us a lovely Carvery lunch. The desserts were also good, with the plum crumble and custard being especially delicious. Our speaker needed no introduction – our own Director and Astronomer Howard Parkin. The title of the talk 'Dark Skies' brought to mind the Life of Brian: 'Always look on the Dark Side of Life'. But he gave us an informative if disturbing account of the effect of increasing levels of light pollution throughout the world. Much of this excessive light is inappropriate, costly, and unnecessary. It is not only inconvenient for astronomers but can also be damaging for people and wildlife. On a more positive note, here on the IOM we were given Dark Sky Discovery Status for 26 sites in 2014. Howard is now campaigning for the Government to apply for International Dark Skies Status. There are 200 places with this status, and Howard believes IOM should join this group. He is meeting with Government in October and would like members to contact their MHK's to support this move.

**Celia Marshall**

## JOSEPH AND HIS TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

A group of the MRA attended the afternoon matinee of Joseph and the AMAZING Technicolour Dreamcoat, and it was AMAZING in every way.

Joseph was played by Josh Riordan who gave a most impressive performance - his singing and acting skills were impressive.

The cast ranging from very young children to adults sang and danced their hearts out with such enthusiasm. The lighting and costumes added to what I can only describe as an AMAZING production.

There was some comedy introduced especially when Pharaoh played by Thomas Dixon appeared as Elvis!!

Then Joseph's family were portrayed singing from a French village where they were starving. Jacob was played by Mike Bonner who is a seasoned player on the stage this being his 29th musical at the Gaiety.

The cast frequently appeared in the aisles which brought them close to the audience who were spellbound throughout the performance. The afternoon finished too soon but everyone left with a smile on their face.

Certainly, one of the best shows I have had the pleasure to attend in a long time.

**Rosina Gash**

## PALACE HOTEL CHRISTMAS PACKAGE

Once again, the Palace are offering a 3-night Christmas break away from 24th to 27th December. The package includes full board, evening entertainment and access to the health club facilities.

Cost for a room with a sea view is £390 pp. Non-refundable deposit of £50 pp. is payable on booking. **Full payment by November 1st.**

When booking if you would like to dine with other MRA members ask to be seated with Barbara Mason (not compulsory!)

**To book or for more information please contact the Palace Hotel direct, NOT THE MRA OFFICE, on 697070 or by email [reservations@palacehotel.im](mailto:reservations@palacehotel.im)**

**Barbara Mason**

## 200 CLUB WINNERS – Be in it to Win it!

September Winners–Malcolm Hale (125), Josie Lloyd (27) and Olga Sterling (71) each win £35.

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

**Alan Franklin/Sylvia Evans**

## MRA – NEW MEMBER(S) ALERT

A warm welcome to our 3 new members **Carmel Stephens and Heather and Peter Long**

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## AN EVENING OF QUIZZING

An evening of quizzing was held at the Manx Legion Club on Douglas Quay on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Over 50 of us gathered in teams of 4 to 6 to have our memories tested on music, television shows and general knowledge.

Luckily, the general feeling was that the questions were not too difficult. However, the occasional light from a mobile phone told a different story! At the halfway point, we enjoyed a hot pot supper to sustain us for the final leg of the quiz. An enjoyable evening with hopefully the possibility of another quiz at some point during the winter months.

A big thankyou to Jim and Ann for organising and running the quiz and the raffle.

**Margaret Hyde**

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## .MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

A gentle reminder that your MRA renewal subscription is due on the 1 January 2024. Included within the Islander magazine is your renewal form.

Please note the slight price increase for a single membership the cost will be £25.00 for Joint Membership £35.00. Please alter your Standing Orders accordingly. You can also pay by cheque or bank transfer. In the unlikely event you wish to cancel your membership please contact the Office on 817007, or E-mail: [mra@manx.net](mailto:mra@manx.net)

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## EARLY CHRISTINGLE COFFEE MORNING AT THE TERMINUS TAVERN DOUGLAS - TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 10:30 AM.

Come along to our fabulous early CHRISTINGLE coffee morning. A morning of Christmas entertainment and a bumper Christmas raffle, hosted as always by our wonderful Pat. Feel free to wear your Christmas jumpers and be prepared to hear and sing along to some of your favourite Christmas carols.

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## .SNACK AND SCREEN

Welcome back to the popular Snack and Screen event at the Villa Marina. Twenty-eight members met in the Colonnade Suite to be served a trio of sandwiches, a sweet treat and tea or coffee by the team from Artisan Platters. Following our tasty snack lunch, we moved to the Broadway Cinema for the screening of The Miracle Club. The movie follows the journey of four catholic countrywomen from the village of Ballygar in Western Ireland. They travel on the trip of a lifetime, a pilgrimage to the sacred shrine of Lourdes, France, each seeking their own miracle. A heartwarming story of faith, forgiveness, understanding, and healing portrayed by Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates, Agnes O'Casey, and Laura Linney. A very enjoyable afternoon, thanks to Barbara for organising the outing.

**Noreen Dawson**

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## BEETLE JUICE

Last month's Fabulous writeup for the amazing Beetle Juice write up was by **June Lobb** and not Sally Farrell. Many thanks June.

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