

# DECEMBER AND JANUARY ISLANDER

## Dear Members

Is this year nearly over??? I can't believe that we are now issuing the December/January Islander. What a year, filled with a plethora of changes and challenges, but as they say, "we grow when we face challenges" and indeed we have. This issue of The Islander, apart from the usual booking forms for our lunches and events, includes the membership renewal form. We wish all our members the very best for 2025.

**Silvana Evans**

## LUNCHES

### THE ABBEY RESTAURANT

The setting of the Abbey's historic building was enhanced by the glorious afternoon for this month's MRA luncheon. The shape of the dining room meant tables of various sizes were offset to each other, but this made the atmosphere one of a family gathering rather than an official luncheon which was very enjoyable. Despite there not being a speaker, the conversation flowed freely, Silvana and John were as usual, excellent hosts flitting from table to table to make sure everyone was enjoying themselves. The food was delicious with three options of starter/main course followed by chocolate brownies and tea or coffee. Everyone was very complimentary about their choices and a good time was had by all. It was a real treat to lunch at this lovely venue.

**Carole C Whittle**

### OCEAN VIEWS RESTAURANT

Our lunch in October was held at the Ocean Views restaurant in Onchan Park. Usually, a lovely location with distant sea views, unfortunately not with the pea soup conditions we had on the day. Seventy-Two of us enjoyed a carvery lunch with a fish and vegetarian option. Credit to the restaurant for the excellent service and the hot food which is not always the case at restaurants these days. After the 200 club and raffle were drawn, Jim and Ann Cottier provided the entertainment with a nail-biting game of Play Your Cards right which was enjoyed by all who could remember the simple rules of the game. As always, an enjoyable lunch.

**Margaret Hyde**

## THEATRES

### We will Rock You

Fifteen of us were treated to an amazing performance of School of Rock put on by Centre Stage Productions. Joey Wylde entertained us in hilarious fashion as the struggling Rock Star Dewey Finn, who, when kicked out of his band, impersonates his roommate and takes a position as a substitute teacher. While breaking all the rules he inspires his class to try to win the Battle of the Bands. We were captivated by the talent of the youngsters, as they demonstrated their excellence on instruments and as soloists, and their extraordinarily energetic dancing. Dewey took the time to really listen to his class, win over the parents, and so transform their lives.

**Celia Marshall**

### Edward Scissorhands

On Sunday 29th September a small group of MRA members attended the Broadway Cinema for the filmed stage dance version (2003) of the Tim Burton classic film (1990) of the same name.

We were transported back to the 1950's (by famed choreographer Matthew Bournemouth) and a superb cast, including Liam Mower playing the title role who is left with scissors for hands when his father/creator dies before completing him. We followed him as he is welcomed into the pastel perfect (or is it?) suburban setting whose community have their own stories!

I wasn't the only one who thought it was certainly different and unusual but on reflection (and watching the film for the first time) I really enjoyed becoming immersed in the story, dance energy of the cast, scenery, props, costumes and amazing music in this magical, bittersweet tale of love, acceptance and the bravery needed to embrace those who are different.

**Lorraine Moffitt**

## MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to our new members Fay Corlett, Robert and Jennifer Flanagan, Marilyn Gould, Jan Sonneveid, Anne Hepworth and Gails Jones!! Welcome to the MRA family.

## EVENTS/ACTIVITY NOTICES

### Events Coordinator

The Management Committee have appointed Neil Corlett as Events Coordinator. Neil will coordinate all events and activities working closely with our activity and event organisers. Any suggestions for events and activities you wish to see, take part of or even host please contact Neil on 469470 or Email: [manxraiom@gmail.com](mailto:manxraiom@gmail.com).

### Government House Visit

Yesterday lunchtime thirty members of our Association arrived with anticipation at this lovely house and were welcomed in the very pleasant, spacious hallway by no less than the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Lorimer, himself. After introductions Sir John went on to explain something about the history of the house it being built as Bemahague Farm in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Prior to this the land was strongly associated with the Christian family and the Heywood family. Previous official residence of the Governor had included Lorne House in Castletown (when Castletown was the capital), Castle Mona and even the Villa Marina area. The first Governor tenant of the present house was Sir Keith Loch (we all know Loch Promenade), a popular and well-respected Governor who did a lot for the Island. The present house with all its extensions is now used to provide accommodation for official guests and holds many official functions throughout the year, including many visits from various local groups as well as school visits. We were all impressed by his knowledge of the house and the Isle of Man in general. Sir John then took us through the public rooms on the ground floor offering information on each room as we went. The dining room, a beautiful long spacious room with a sprung floor could sit 24 people though he considered 16 to be 'comfortable to talk to' maximum number. It apparently has a lovely floor for dancing! My favourite room was the lounge with its beautiful bay window. The last room visited was the library and again Sir John gave us interesting information and anecdotes about it. We then all went back to the first room for tea and cakes and to continue chatting. The Lieutenant Governor left us at this point to go and get the boat! This was a very worthwhile event. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we were all very appreciative of the time Sir John gave to inform and entertain us so well. **Sally Farrell**

### **200 CLUB**

Our Lucky Winners for October were S. Parkin 67, D. Patel 147, C. Whittle 149 all winning £25 each. **Sylvia Evans**

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

It was a pleasant autumnal evening as more than 50 MRA members and friends made their way the hospitable Manx Legion Club in Douglas. There we were met by Jim Cottier on the door, Ann Cottier selling raffle tickets and Steph Cottier preparing to be a fantastic Quiz Master. The quiz questions were wide ranging and varied, taxing everybody's mind trying to remember the answers to some questions about some well-loved adverts, events from long ago and women's sport, amongst other things. At the interval, a tasty hot-pot supper was served, and I know that at least a few members who went back for seconds. The end of the quiz left us with a winning team that was led by our Director, Howard Parkin, and his team. They also managed to win several raffle prizes. Our thanks go to the organising team of Ann, Jim, and Steph Cottier for a well-run and fun night. **John Evans**

### **A NOTE FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Office Move:** The Office Move went well. Thanks to all those who helped, much appreciated. We are now based in **The Garff Commissioners, Room 4, 35 New Road, Laxey, IM4 7BG**. Our email and telephone number are the same. If you wish to visit, please let Silvana and John know they will be happy to show you around.

**Membership:** Included within this Islander is your membership renewal form; membership fees remain the same this year, so great value for money!

**Raffle Prize Donations:** If any members have raffle prizes, they wish to donate they will be welcomed as we are running low, search your cupboards for any unwanted gifts, they do say your unwanted items could be someone's welcomed treasures. Gift and Bottle Bags, baskets, and small gift boxes also needed. **Management Committee**