



Pro-Biz



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ISLE OF MAN HOLIDAY, 26th to 30th SEPTEMBER 2024



Our party of fifteen members and wives. arrived on the Isle of Man from Heathrow and were met by our excellent guide, John, for the trip. The hotel, situated on the sea front, greeted us with a glass of bubbly. We were provided with a Go Card which gave us free access to the vast majority of the attractions and public transport. The next day we took the steam railway to Port Erin, breaking our journey at Castletown along the way to visit the Castle Rushen and the Old House of Keys. After lunch we continued to Port Erin on the train where we had free time to look round the train museum or the town before returning to Douglas by train.

On Saturday we travelled by coach to Peel, where Norman Wisdom went regularly to have the locally made ice cream, viewing along the

way the circuit for the TT races. After lunch in Peel, we travelled to Ramsey where we visited The Fynoderee Distillery. We then returned to Douglas on the famous Manx Electric Railway.



On Sunday we took the Electric Railway back to Laxey where we changed trams to travel the five miles on the Snaefell Mountain Railway to the 2,000 ft high summit. Several of the party walked up to the actual summit but unfortunately this was covered in low cloud so no views! We then returned to Laxey to visit the world-famous Lady Isabella water wheel and mines. Some then returned to Douglas by public bus and others by the Manx Railway and the horse drawn tram along the sea front.

We returned home on Monday via Heathrow having had an excellent tour and we all learnt so much of the history of the Isle of Man.

WALK/PUB LUNCH, THE JOVIAL SAILOR, RIPLEY, 1st OCTOBER 2024



Our small walking group met at the Jovial Sailor near Ripley; in spite of an indifferent forecast, the weather stayed fine. This encouraged a decision to make the River Wey diversion. Sadly, earlier rains curtailed this, but Michael Spraggs treated us to some previously-hidden skills in gate-lassoing. Perhaps the clue to the conditions lies in the names of local features: Send Marshes, Marsh Road etc.

A brisk five miles, and landfall at the pub, our six walkers joining twelve diners.

The staff coped very well on a busy day for them, managing well over the anticipated numbers, and served a quality lunch. Congratulations to diners Bill and Jean Rawcliffe on their recent 60th wedding anniversary.

LUNCH TALK ON “NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING” by INSPECTOR JON McLOUGHLIN

Our guest speaker for September was Inspector Jon McLoughlin, the Met Police’s Community Inspector for our Borough.

Jon joined the Met in 1998, and his first posting was to Teddington. In a wide-ranging talk, he outlined the Met Police resources for the policing of our borough which is now integrated within one of the twelve basic command units across London. There was now only one police station in the borough, at Twickenham. Even so, community policing relied on information from citizens to help determine the allocation of resources, especially for anti-social behaviour. He noted the impact of Covid and increased home working, with an associated increase in the number of neighbour disputes. The recent numerous demonstrations in London had been sapping the Met’s resources. Jon was willing to be held accountable for local policing and invited contact to the relevant local ward team.

The vote of thanks was given by John Murray, a former Special Constable who had also served in Teddington.



FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER: Walk/Pub Lunch, *Details TBC*

TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER: Club Lunch, Speaker: Malcolm Eady, “Our Local History in One Hour”