



MANN O50 Friendship Centre

Newsletter
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Chairman's Letter

It may seem strange to begin a Christmas message by talking about birthdays, but I have recently had a milestone one and have been walking round proudly wearing my '70 year young-ish!' badge. If you can't hide it, flaunt it!

I was delighted to have special visitors, my cousin and his wife, and my oldest friend from Yorkshire. Meeting together set us to reminisce on how Christmas had changed since our childhood. In those days I used to get one present from my parents, and two or three others if I was lucky, in a pillowcase at the bottom of the bed in a freezing cold bedroom, (no central heating) and could choose just one to open, the others to be kept until after the Queen's speech. How different from today, when children have a long list of expensive items and expect to get them all.

One year someone gave me a metal drum and drumsticks, which I loved. It disappeared on Boxing Day and was never seen again. But the thing I remember most is Christmas shopping after school, when it was always dark. Oh! the magic of brightly lit shops and icy cold streets. I have recreated that magic this year by shopping in the late afternoon. The shops are quieter, parking is easier, but best of all, I still get that thrill from the Christmas lights. I wish you some of that magic too. Merry Christmas.

Val Sampson



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy, Healthy and
Prosperous New Year
to all our friends**



The Ramsey Lifeboat crew practising man overboard rescue skills at the Ayres Last week!!



The Andreas Mushroom - as seen on our November 9th walk : A Shaggy Ink Cap (*Coprinus Comatus*) - Does not sound very appetizing- but is edible- and quite tasty - despite it's name! *Marie*



"A snow bunting on The Ayres - November 13th" *Jean*

Activities

AGM 2011

We had a full house for the AGM. As always the Sefton did us proud with an excellent lunch.

Our speaker – Inspector Phil Drowley on his climb to the peak of Everest was spell binding.

His sense of humour; courage and great speaking qualities kept us on the edge of our seats. We were all impressed.

Our AGM followed Phil's presentation as he had taken a late lunch from the Constabulary to be with us.

Val spoke of our growing numbers and living up to our slogan of "Friendship, Fresh Air, Food and Fun".

Terry responsible for the funds reported that we had a healthy balance – which was due to the generosity of members giving to the raffles at each meeting. The Christmas Lunch will be subsidised along with the a free raffle. This year we will not have roses due to the increased cost, but two more generous raffle prizes.

The Committee was re-elected en masse with three new nominees voted in : Irene Jacques; Judi Rivlin and Thora Hurd.

Jean reported on the three 2011 holidays and confirmed that details of what we had in store for 2012 would be in the Newsletter and finalised at our January meeting.

Finally – David reminded us to pass onto him News for this – our Newsletter!

Message from Thora Hurd -Re the new bus passes.

One has to go to the Sea Terminal Welcome Desk, which is where the shop and booking of theatre tickets is, as you enter the Sea Terminal it is the second on the left. You hand in your old bus pass, which apparently is open to forgery, you do not have to produce a new photograph. It takes about 5-10 mins for the whole process and the new bus pass is handed to you, very swish it is. I only found out from a volunteer at Nobles and not many people seem to know about the new bus pass.

Thora.

Fond Thoughts and Happy Memories

We sadly said goodbye to our inaugural Chairman and long standing member Ted Thomas. The service in celebration of his life was held on 3rd November - "Remembrance Day"

Ted will be remembered for his determination to get ARP off the ground here on the Island. At our inaugural meeting in the old Wallberry suite at The Sefton Hotel – Ted's speech in March 1996 resulted in an enthusiastic crowd signing up to become members.

He spoke on our behalf on Manx Radio and made sure we had press coverage. It was Ted who persuaded Norman Wisdom to join us. We owe a lot to his early energy.

Our thoughts are with Yvonne at this special time of the year.

A Mann050 cheque was sent to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in lieu of flowers.

Jean

How to save money on coach travel

The UK Government has abolished the subsidy on non-local coach travel. In response to this the National Express coach network has introduced a Senior discount card to give a one-third fare reduction.

If you're visiting friends and family, going on a UK holiday, short break or day trip, the Senior Coachcard offers a great way to save money for travel to hundreds of UK towns and cities.

The cost of £10 a year gives savings all year round. You need identity proof to show you are over 60. There are no peak or off-peak restrictions. You must book in advance which will guarantee your seat.

Coachcards and tickets can be bought online, by phone, or at counters and ticket machines at any National Express outlet.

When travelling you will need with you your coach ticket, Senior Coachcard and proof of age

(Article by courtesy of the Reporter from The FCF)

The Mann050 Logo on page 1 is a modified version of the Friendship Centre Federation (FCF) Logo

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Mann050 Friendship Centre, Newsletter.

This is the locally produced Newsletter for the above Friendship Centre, based in the Isle of Man.

We are affiliated to the Friendship Centres Federation. Web Site:- <http://www.fcfd.com/index.htm>

The Newsletter appears in the Mann050 page on their Web Site

Every care has been taken in compiling the contents of this newsletter, but we assume no responsibility for any effects arising therefrom."