

The Newsletter
of the Friends of
the Manx
Diabetic.
The diabetic
support Group
of the IOM

The Diabetic

All monies
collected are
spent on the Isle
of Man.
No monies are
sent
off Island

The Best and most Informative Diabetic Newsletter on the Isle of Man

Issue number 27

Date: December 2009



LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Caaryjn Lught Vannin yn Chingys Millish

A Charity registered in the Isle of Man. Charity number 894.

All monies collected from whatever source will be used exclusively on the Isle of Man for the benefit of diabetics and their medical carers.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

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Chairman asks Secretary of State for Health for an interview.

After listening to the debate in Tynwald on the Reciprocal Health Agreement the Chairman felt enough was enough.

Not a mention of what the Government had done or what the Government had discussed with the British Government, what they proposed doing, or indeed why it had really been rescinded and what our Government had been told by the UK Government.

If the Island Government was not prepared to tell its people what they had done or been told, the Chairman felt he had to flash out the answers from the British Government and tell the people.

The Chairman decided to write a personal letter to the Secretary of State for Health in the United Kingdom asking for an interview.

From past experience in dealing with real Governments, the Chairman who has dealt with Secretaries of State, and Prime Ministers before, knew that The Secretary of State would be left with two choices, either to agree to an interview, and we would put our proposals to him, or he would refuse the interview and tell us why they had rescinded the Reciprocal

**Feegans
Deli**

Food to eat in

Food to take away

Food for thought

Are all available at

Feegan's Internet Lounge
8 Victoria Street, Douglas

Health Agreement with the Isle of Man, and what they intended to do.

The ploy worked.

He of course refused the interview, but they gave us chapter and verse of why they had rescinded the Reciprocal Agreement and what the real situation was.

In his letter to the Secretary of State the Chairman said.

“It is with regret and apologies that I write you seeking a meeting with your good self to discuss the above problem and propose an agenda to see if the matter can be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned. Please understand that I am not writing as part of the Isle of Man Government or on behalf of the Government, but as a concerned citizen and defender of the interests of the Manx people.”

The Chairman went on to describe who he was and what he did, he then pointed out.

“As you are no doubt aware the Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement by your predecessor Dawn Primarolo, which had been in operation between our two jurisdictions since 1948, has been brought to an end, with disastrous consequences and shock to the peoples of the Isle of Man, their families and friends in the UK and those who come to visit our Island.

We may be a separate jurisdiction, but we are part of the Commonwealth, and your Queen is also my Queen. Her Majesty is the Lord of Mann and we have her representative as Governor on the Isle of Man, so we are bound together as one people.

Because of the above the people of the Isle of Man and the people of the United Kingdom have always been comrades and brothers in arms during two world wars, and some of our young men are even today fighting alongside yours in Afghanistan, suffering the same dangers as your young men, and can die like yours. Why, because we are one people who over the years have worked together and lived together as the relatives of the Manx people on both the Island and the people of the UK can testify.

With all due respect, the present system that has been imposed by your Government leaves much to be desired as it has been conceived on the spur of the moment as a back lash to other unfortunate circumstances. It is fraught with problems both for your Government and that of the Isle of Man. It has been ill thought out, it is

a minefield that will not work for the benefit of both our peoples, and we therefore must find a simpler system of operation on this health scenario, so that we can both return to some semblance of accommodation that will be beneficial to both your Government, that of the Isle of Man, and both our peoples.

We have been given to understand that this has all come about because of the antics of a certain party. But in reality we should not be tarred with the same brush as our Government has been beyond reproach.

One of the great high principles on which all our history has been underpinned has been the judicial system that “you are innocent until proven guilty”. The Isle of Man has not been proven guilty, but your predecessor rescinded the Reciprocal Health Agreement by association, which argument in a Court of Law will not hold water.

There are many on the Island who argue for writing to the Commission of Human Rights and the taking of the British Government to the Court of Human Rights, but I for one, at this stage, do not believe this is the present route to go, as I am a great believer in friendly discussion by both parties. Though time is of the essence, there is still mileage in our putting both our points of view on the table, and coming to an accommodation.

I understand that because of what has happened we cannot get back to how things were before, but I am sure that in talking, we can find a compromise, which is both equitable to your Government and that of the Isle of Man.

I would therefore respectfully ask you to grant us the opportunity to meet with you, as we have sensible, practical and humanitarian proposals to put before you, to try to resolve the problems that have been inadvertently created for both our citizens.

We just cannot continue to stand in intransigent positions to the detriment of our two peoples”.

We awaited a reply, and then we got an answer.

The Letter explained what would happen on 1st April next, what both our citizens needed to do to travel to both our jurisdictions with insurance and the fact that “The Department is looking at ways to reinforce this message to the UK public in light of the forthcoming end to the agreement”.

We are then told of what the Secretary of State thinks it is going to do to the Tourist industry on the Island.

“Whilst the Department understands that this reply will be disappointing, it does recognise that the ending of the agreement will have an effect on the individuals, particularly those that travel regularly to the Isle of Man”

This really means that he accepts what is going to happen to the Tourist industry in the Isle of Man, which if our Government does not do anything about it, it's going to collapse.

They then explain the real reason why the decision had been taken. Money, and in their usual stealth mode, how they had circumvented the problem without mentioning money.

“ However, the decision was taken in overall terms and against the background of the wide availability of travel insurance.”

Basically another stealth tax, but this excuse saves the UK Government £2.9 million pounds, and increases their income through insurance.

They go on to say,

“The UK Government continues to look at all bilateral healthcare agreements to ensure that they are relevant and represent value for money for the UK taxpayer”.

This in reality is what it's all about, we are not in the EU and therefore in this day and age cannot form part of the UK Taxpayer system. A good stick to beat us with at every occasion.

What we need to do is go independent, join the EU and all our problems would be solved.

In closing they say.

“Finally, you asked for a meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss alternative solutions to ending the reciprocal health agreement with the Isle of Man. I am sorry but Mr Burnham is unable to accept your invitation.

The Department has no current plans to revisit the decision to cease the agreement, nor does it plan to seek a replacement agreement”.

*So there you go, **your are on your own.** They are not interested in you. **Wake up Manx Government.***

This is what they have said to the Isle of Man Government. This is what they did not tell us during the Debate on the Reciprocal Health Agreement. Now we all know.

So now it is up to the Isle of Man Government to step up to the plate and resolve the problems that their own people are facing.

The letter ends by saying.

“I am sorry that this may not be the response you wanted, but I hope it explains the UK Government position”.

Of course this should not be the last throw of the dice, as there are other ways to go about it. There is still room for manoeuvre and arguments, but the Chairman is not now prepared to argue the toss with the UK Government or anyone else anymore.

He believes that he has done enough for the Manx people and it is now up to the Manx Government to argue on their behalf, they now know what the British Government is openly saying, all they have to is work around it.

We have done what we can for the Isle of Man people, it is now up to our Government to tell us what they intend doing for us.

Join us
We are the Group that gets things done
Pick up the phone and ring
Jan on (01624) 613702
We also need your help.

Chairman negotiates new deal with insurance company for Manx people

The Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic, Henry Ramage, in view of the inactivity of the department of Health and Social Security again took it upon himself to discuss insurance for the Manx People with Mr Brian Kelly of Medical Health Plus.

The points that were discussed were the inadequacy of the £10,000 cover as this, the Chairman felt was not enough in the event of serious problems if hospitalized.

Of course he was also very worried by the fact that the insurance stopped at 80, which would incarcerate all Manx people over 80 on the Island for the rest of their life.

The Chairman had no problem with the repatriation and the bringing back of a body in the event of death as contained in the policy that was being proposed.

After a few sessions and substantial discussions, Mr Kelly took on board the proposals made for an extension of the age limit

and the increase in cover, and promised to discuss the matter with his underwriters.

On the 11th November the Chairman received an e-mail from Mr Kelly, that contained the following.

“I can now give you the following updates on changes to Medical Health Plus.

1) It has now been agreed by our underwriters to introduce a new age bracket from **80 to 90 years**.

2) The daily premium in this bracket will be from £3.00 per day and they will offer a maximum of 14 days cover for any one trip.

3) No annual policy will be available in this age group.

4) However there will be no limit to the number of 1-14 day policies an individual can purchase in a 12 months period.

5) There are no changes to the pre-existing medical exclusion requirement.

6) Travellers in the age group 0-79 can now also purchase at 50% additional premium, a further £10,000 in medical expenses, to a maximum of £20,000 in health cover.

7) Of course it would be up to the person concerned to take the £10,000 or buy and add the extra £10,000 cover

8) Six and Seven above can be purchased for a single trip or for an annual policy. Naturally the amount payable will reflect this.

9) The repatriation allowance remains the same, i.e. up to £30,000.

10) The bringing back of a body or ashes in the event of a death will also remain the same, i.e. up to £2,500.

11) **This means that everyone on the Isle of Man, can now get health insurance to travel to the United Kingdom, from birth till 90 years of age, with a maximum health cover of £20,000 if they so desire. Provided it complies with the above amendments.**

The Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic would like to thank Mr Brian Kelly of Medical Health Plus for getting his underwriters to understand the requirements of the Manx people as put to him, and raising the age limit and the health cover on their insurance policy.

What must be realised is that if after a year this does not work, and the underwriters feel that there is no return on this cover facilities, then they will probably pull out of offering the policy to Island residents.

It will then be up to our Government to resolve the problem and find an alternate solution because the Friends of the Manx Diabetic will not take the chestnuts out of the Government fire once again.

This insurance is being provided by Offshore Travel Insurance Limited an Isle of Man company.

This policy will work both ways, for people from the Island to travel to the United Kingdom and anyone travelling to the Isle of Man.

If you feel you want to support this facility to travel to the UK please ring Mann Link on telephone (01624) 663377.

The Chairman once again thanks Mr Kelly for all his help in this very important matter to the people of the Island.

Incidentally, some elements of the report that Tynwald voted for, no longer holds, as the last page in the report explaining insurance, is now obsolete because of the above negotiations by the Chairman, they have been superseded, completely altered, and irrelevant.

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The Last Laugh

Are we a Nation or just a nonentity?

The Minister for Health and Social Security Mr Teare confirmed in the House in November, that his Department had indeed been talking to the Scottish Government, who had shown an interest in having a Reciprocal Health Agreement with the Isle of Man.

The Speaker of the House Mr Rodan pointed out that the offer had come six months ago and that negotiations had still not began. Why?

Mr Teare explained that he was still awaiting confirmation from the UK as to whether the Government of Scotland could enter into a Reciprocal Health Agreement with the Isle of Man.

It shows the contempt the British Government has for the Island when after six months they have still not answered a simple question.

Surely it's up to the Scottish Government to tell our Government whether they can or not.

Are we a Nation or are we the slaves of the British Government and they can do whatever they like to us?

If we are a Nation we should be able to enter into agreements with whomsoever we like.

If we are a Nation why must we consult the UK Government every time we want to do anything?

Are we now a Nation that needs the UK permission to run our affairs?

Are we a Nation, or do we have to go cap in hand for permission from the British Government for everything we do, when in return they will treat us like muck, until we are ripe for a takeover?

Are we a Nation, or has the British Government already taken us over by stealth?

What kind of National Government have we got that is impotent in its own decisions?

Let no one ever say again that we are a NATION, we are a NONENTITY if we are not even in charge of our own destiny.

**IF THIS IS NOT THE LAST
LAUGH, WHAT IS?**

Sorry its at the wrong end of *The Diabetic*

Manx Government Ignores wishes of the Manx People.

The Manx Government backed by the members of departments and MLC's threw out a 900 plus signature petition organised by the Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic and supported by the Manx people. It was also supported by Charitable Groups on the Island on behalf of their members. This gave the petition well over a thousand five hundred signatures.



Manx residents signing the petition

The Petition read: -

“We the undersigned, demand that the Government do something to remedy the anomaly created by the rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement, and act as underwriters to the people of the Isle of Man at reasonable rates to ensure that the Manx people and visitors to the Island can travel to and from the UK with impunity”.

Those who took time out to come and sign the petition were snubbed by their government and appeared to be dismissed as irrelevant.

Yet there was someone who had a free vote, but because they belonged to a department they voted with the Government.

They, like all those that voted against the people should be voted out of the House of Keys at the next election.

The people vented their anger on MHK's when signing the petition, but what they said was dismissed by the Court as hearsay, which of course we accept the Court's decision.

Yet, Mr Teare quoted hearsay himself, but that didn't matter, nobody complained.

If they didn't believe the Chairman, they should look at the websites of the press and get to know what the people are thinking about them, and what they intend doing to all those MHK's that voted against the petition or appeared to walk out of the Chamber, when it comes to the ballot box.

The Chairman would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who signed the petition and supported him.



Mrs Brenda Williams, Mrs J Ramagge and the Chairman collecting signatures in Strand Street

All but six MHKs and all MLCs wash their hand of the people. YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN.

All MHK's and MLC's as listed at the end of this report, voted for the motion as put forward by the Minister for Health and Social Security Mr Eddie Teare.

So that you know what his motion stated, and who voted for you, and who voted against you here it is verbatim. **The italics are the Chairman's comments.**

“That Tynwald notes that as from 1st April 2010 the United Kingdom Department of Health will no longer provide a reciprocal health agreement under which the Isle of Man residents visiting the United Kingdom will receive free health care, except for the provision of GP services and treatment at Accident and Emergency facilities.

As a consequence, the report of the Department entitled “The Ending of the Reciprocal Health Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man” be received by Tynwald and its recommendations approved”.

This is old hat, and the public was aware of this situation at least from October last year (2008), but the DHSS had done nothing about this, as an extension was given to our Government of an extra year from notification.

An amendment was put to Tynwald that this clause should be reconsidered as the report said nothing and was devoid of proper resolutions and recommendations. This was the basis of Mr Rodan's amendment and seconded by Mr Houghton which was thrown out by your elected members.

(a) That from April 1st 2010, the payment of any NHS charges incurred by Manx residents visiting the UK is an individual responsibility.

This is what your elected members voted for. You are on your own. They ignored the petition and all those of you that expressed your wishes in the press. They were not interested in what you had to say. Your elected members, except those that voted against this clause, told you, you were on your own. They should not be voted in again. Remember, your treatment by them in Tynwald warrants similar treatment by you at the Ballot Box.

And further that the department of Health and Social Security will continue to cover the costs associated with any medical referrals off island for Isle of Man residents.

Of course they have to continue to send patients across, they have no option because the DHSS do not have the facilities here.

Otherwise they would make you pay for this also.

This is the red herring that they continue to use to try and confuse you with what is really happening.

The DHSS then has the cheek to say.

(b) That the Department undertakes these actions.

(i) Seeks to replace the contribution currently made by the UK Doh to the DHSS budget bearing in mind that the recovery of funds from patients is expected to fall significantly below the allowance given by the UK for the treatment of their residents whilst visiting the Isle of Man.

What the DHSS are paying out in health care across is still the same as they have been paying before, it is what they are getting back from the UK Government that will be missing, and this has nothing to do with you.

The reality is that the UK has been paying much much more, to cover their patients in hospital here than was actually due for having these patients hospitalised. In the above statement even the Minister admits this imbalance

The department does not have to ask permission for the replacement of contributions from Tynwald to do this, they should be doing this as a matter of course, and they should have been sorting this out since the British Government initially gave them the heave ho.

What have they been doing since then? Nothing.

In any event as already pointed out by the Minister the allowance the Government will receive from insurance for UK people using Noble's, will be well below that which the UK Government gave the Isle of Man. It will be equivalent to the realistic subsidy that the UK Government should have been paying all along and not £2.9 million. No wonder they wanted out.

Why should the UK pay more than the actual expenditure incurred by their own people requiring hospitalisation on the Island? Would you not have stopped it also?

The deal is now off because of the imbalance of the agreement, so our DHSS must wake up to reality.

(ii) Ensures that all Manx residents travelling to the UK are aware that if they require emergency treatment in the UK which requires admission, it will be given but they will have to pay for it, either personally or through travel insurance.

Again here we have our Government, the DHSS and all the MHK's that voted for the above clause, washing their hands of all the Manx people. They have done nothing to resolve this matter other than tell us all "you have to pay" either by yourself or through insurance. The truth of the matter is that they have not progressed from the bottom line.

What are the elected members elected for, if not to look after the Manx people that elected them. They cannot just wash their hands of them and hope to be re-elected.

The Chief Minister on more than one occasion said in Tynwald "we must work in the public interest" and then he votes against the public interest of the people.

Compassion for their own people should have been the order of the day, which was blatantly missing from the Government benches and their backers.

The Government has a duty of care to its people which must be enforced by them. That is the primary mandate of their constituents at their election.

If there is no compassion you live and die in ignorance.

(iii) Proposes amendments to the NHS Act 2001 as necessary.

The Minister stood up and said they did not need to bring in **new** legislation, of course not, what he is going to do is to **amend** the existing Health Act to ensure that the DHSS is off the hook, and instead of the Health Act saying the DHSS pays for your Health, it will now say the people pay, and you **will** pay.

If you complain, all they will say is "we have no responsibility, it's in the Health Act that you have to pay which exonerates us". Again they and their hangers on will be voting against your interests.

As usual it is a question of semantics and pulling the wool over your eyes, it is not "**new legislation**", it will be "**an amendment to the existing Health Act, so that you will have to pay**".

(iv) Clarifies the position and continues dialogue with the other devolved administrations within the UK Jurisdiction.

Remember they were told about the rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement two years ago. Two years have elapsed and again they have done nothing about this even though at the last April Tynwald, Mr Teare was told in no uncertain manner to look into this.

Yet the DHSS, six months later could not report back to Tynwald with what they had done. Why? (See the last laugh above).

(v) Continue to support developments in the Insurance industry.

This is very commendable, but the fact remains that well over 1,500 people supported the petition for the Government to act as underwriters and not private insurance companies.

What the people wanted was for the Government to act as underwriters, then everyone could go across and not just the selected few that the insurance companies would condescend to give insurance to, and those with problems, young and old that would have to stay incarcerated on the Island, if the Chairman had not personally intervened.

(vi) Continues dialogue and information-sharing with the Channel Islands

Unbelievable, if in Tynwald everyone was blaming Jersey for being the culprit of this debacle. Why consult them? What words of wisdom are they going to impart for our Mr Teare and the DHSS to follow? Or have they already done so and the DHSS wants to keep their approach under wraps? Beyond comprehension! A cliché springs to mind.

(vii) Continue a public awareness campaign on the Isle of Man.

They have already been given a public awareness position by the Manx people in a sample petition of some 1,500 Manx people, so why didn't they do something about it?

Or as usual are they going to spend copious amounts of money, employ consultants from across to find the awareness of the people, when they already have been given it at no cost, and they threw it in the bin.

If they still have no idea of the awareness of the Manx people they should not be in the Chamber, and pontificate on what they are not aware of.

(viii) Conducts specific insurance-awareness campaign for sports, cultural, trade and other organisations and for other Government Departments.

How much money is all this going to cost? (they haven't done any costing yet) Also how much money is all these interdepartmental meetings going to cost? Mr Teare will be in Tynwald shortly asking for money for all this.

No doubt when the TT and sporting events come along everybody coming over will be

made an exception by the Government and be given free access to Noble's without insurance.

As usual some will be more equal than their own people.

(ix) Address any ongoing or emerging detailed aspects of the ending of the Agreement, through the DHSS Reciprocal Agreement Sub-group chaired by the Minister for Health.

Bingo! It's that man again. They have not been able to detail anything in the report, but he will save us from the jaws of death. The DHSS has not been able to come up with anything positive after deliberations for some nineteen months. The Manx people could be incarcerated on the Island for good, and yet Mr Teare is now once again going to save us.

Manx Radio said he was the man with his finger on the pulse, but the Chairman rang and pointed out to Mr Stewart Peters that the patient was already dead, and therefore had no pulse.

So now you know what your MHK's voted for, a minefield to which no one has put any thought to, does not answer the pertinent questions, or put forward tangible resolutions.

The report wins the highest accolade in gobbledygook.

Please note, that the motion did not mention that the DHSS would continue to negotiate with the British Government, or any details that they had in fact argued the toss with the British Government. Mr Teare, his department and the Government just threw in the towel.

The following are the Members who voted in the House of Keys and who voted for and against you and one who was out of the Chamber at the vote.

I spoke with one of them who told me he was a member of the department of the DHSS and therefore had to vote with the Government and could not vote for the people that elected him, even though we understand he had a free vote.

He was categorically told that he had not been voted in to be a member of any department but to look after the interests of his constituents and they had told him what to do.

It fell on deaf ears. He voted with the Government. But he will get his comeuppance at the Ballot Box.

Those who voted with you were:

Mr John Houghton MHK. (Douglas North)

Mr Steve Rodan MHK (Garff) Speaker of the House

Mrs Brenda Cannell MHK (Douglas East)

Mr Peter Karran MHK (Lib Vannin. Onchan)

Mr David Cannan (Michael)

Mr Quintin Gill (Rushen)

The Following are the MHK's who voted against you and for the Minister's proposal.

Mr Brown MHK Castletown.

Mr Teare MHK Ayre

Mr Quirk MHK Onchan

Mr Earnshaw MHK Onchan

Mr Crookall MHK Peel

Mr Anderson MHK Glenfaba

Mrs Craine MHK Ramsey

Mr Bell MHK Ramsey

Mr Qualye MHK Middle

Mr Marlarkey MHK Douglas South

Mr Braidwood MHK Douglas East

Mr Corkish MHK Douglas West

Mr Shimmin MHK Douglas West

Mr Cretney MHK Douglas South

Mr Watterson MHK Rushen

Mr Gawne MHK. Rushen

There were 16 votes for and 6 against.

Two members did not vote.

However there was one MHK that left the Chamber so did not vote either way The other was not present in Tynwald that day.

Here are the MLC's that voted against you and in favour of the Ministers proposal.

The Lord Bishop

Mr Callister MLC

Mr Crowe MLC

Mr Downie MLC

Mrs Christian MLC

Mr Lowey MLC

Mr Waft MLC

Mr Butt MLC

There were 8 votes for the motion and none against from the Council.

You now know what to do at the Ballot Box.



Hospital sign in Nigeria

As an interlude before we tackle the debate and give you quotes of who said what, here is

something to bring a smile to your face and get you out of your gloom.

The Lion and the Civil Service

Following our last Newsletter when we brought to your notice the meetings system of the Civil Service, we have received the following story from a reader of *The Diabetic* in Bucharest in Romania who reads us on our website. He says that: -

“Two lions escaped from the Zoo. As they escaped, each one went their separate ways.

One made a beeline for the Jungle and the other made his way to the Centre of town.

The zoo staff hunted high and low, but were unable to recaptured them.

After a month, and to everyone’s surprise the Lion that fled to the Jungle returned to the zoo of his own volition.

He was thin, dehydrated and in very poor condition. He was immediately put back into his original compound.

For over eight months, everyone had given up on the Lion that had fled to the Centre of Town, until one day the lion was captured and taken back to the Zoo.

He was in tremendous condition appeared to be extremely well fed, his fur was shinny, in the best of health, and full of energy.

Again he was returned to his original compound with his friend the lion that had escaped to the Jungle. The Jungle lion asked him:

“How did you manage to stay in the Centre of the City so long without being discovered? I went to the Jungle and had to return after a month, as I could not find enough to eat.

The other Lion explained, “It took courage my friend, but I hid in one of the Government Ministries and every day I ate an employee of the Government, but no one noticed that they were missing”.

“So why were you recaptured, did the Government employees run out?” asked the jungle lion.

“Run out? It was nothing like that, Government employees are interminable, they never end, they don’t run out, they are constantly replaced and their personnel increased, its just that, I committed a very grave error.

Look, I had already eaten a Director General, two Superintendents, five Managers, three co-

ordinators, ten Assistant Managers, 12 Heads of Section, fifteen divisional heads, fifty Secretaries and dozens of Civil Service Clerks, and nobody noticed that they had disappeared.

Then one day I made the mistake of my life, because on that day I ate the Tea Lady that served elevenses, they immediately found out that she was missing, as they couldn’t get their tea and cakes, raised the alarm, and they captured me, so here I am.

Drat it, I’d been doing so well”.

We must thank our internet reader from Bucharest in Romania who has hit the nail on the head, for his accurate reflection of the situation.

Keep them coming.



Road sign in Nigeria

The Debate, quotes and who said what

For obvious reasons we cannot bring you the whole debate, so we will just bring you a quote from everyone that took part.

Again any *Italics* will be the Chairman’s.

Mr Teare.

“If the department was to provide the necessary resources to cover emergency medical costs of Manx residents in the UK, this would involve extending the duty of the department to provide NHS services outside the Isle of Man”.

What they seem to continue to miss is that the people would be paying them insurance to them so it wouldn’t cost them anything. In fact they would be making a profit.

What about their duty of care to the Manx people that elected them? What he is going to do is amend the Health Act, so that it becomes legal for you to pay and for the DHSS not to pay, so they are off the hook.

Mr Teare of course voted against the adjournment.

Mr Rodan

“Mr President, I would say that there is much merit in this Hon. Court adjourning the debate until February next year to give the Department a clear message from Tynwald Court that we expect further action to be taken on behalf of the Manx People”.

Mr Rodan’s adjournment was the sensible thing to do but was voted down.

[Mr Rodan voted for the adjournment.](#)

Mr Houghton

Mr Houghton seconded Mr Rodan’s proposed adjournment. He explained what the sample petition taken by the Chairman from the Manx people was, and said “I would like very much to present this petition this morning, Mr President to the Minister for Health and Social Security”.

[Mr Houghton voted for the adjournment](#)

Mr Brown, Chief Minister

“Point of order. Mr President I thought we have Standing Orders to control how procedures worked in this Hon Court and I did not know this was one of them”.

However the Speaker ruled the petition was in order and the petition could be presented, nonetheless he ruled that the letter submitted by the Chairman of what the people had said when signing, be ruled out as hearsay. The petition was duly presented.

However in his intervention Mr Houghton did in fact quote from the Chairman’s letter

[Mr Brown voted against the adjournment](#)

Mr Teare

Mr Teare felt that there was no need to postpone a decision on the motion “I feel that we should get on with it and do it and decide the way forward now sir”.

The problem was that there was nothing to get on with at that point in time, no way forward, so logically we could not understand his comments as there was no decision to take. The report did not even warrant consideration.

[Mr Teare voted against the adjournment](#)

Mrs Cannell

Mrs Brenda Cannell spoke for the adjournment and the fact that nothing tangible had been done by the DHSS to resolve the issue both locally and in the UK. She ended up by saying,

“Well I am saying no, It ain’t over till the fat lady sings and I have not heard that lady sing yet”.

[Mrs Cannell voted for the adjournment](#)

Mr David Callister MLC

“I agree that there should be an adjournment on this matter, and I think the Manx public would not thank us if we just went ahead today. They are not going to thank us for saying ‘Well that’s it, you’re on your own’”.

How right Mr Callister was, and how sad we were that he could not carry his conviction through when he voted for the motion..

[Mr Callister voted for the adjournment.](#)

The Hon Tony Brown

The Chief Minister was of the opinion that an adjournment would not help because it would create uncertainty he said “If Tynwald in February makes a decision you will have six weeks before the agreement is ending”.

By implication he admitted that there was no decision. Surely if they had two years to produce a report with no substance they could have waited until February to see if they could have found some semblance of an answer and a proper resolution for a proper decision to be taken.

[As already pointed out Mr Brown voted against the adjournment.](#)

Mrs Christian MLC

“If there is an adjournment and even if there is not, there is still an awful lot of work to be done to develop these areas which are of concern to the population of the Island.

Mrs Christian enumerated the pitfalls that the Manx residents would be faced with when going into a hospital in the UK. There really is an awful lot of work to be done, but,

[Mrs Christian nonetheless voted against the adjournment.](#)

Mr Earnshaw

“I would urge Hon Members, Mr President to support the Minister. Do not support the amendment. If he thinks he can find a solution I am quite confident he will”.

We would respectfully inform Mr Earnshaw that the Minister has had two years to “find a solution” and by Mr Earnshaw’s admission has not found one. What makes him think that in the short time that’s left his friend will find one?

[Mr Earnshaw voted against the adjournment](#)

Mr Cannan

Mr Cannan in not supporting the adjournment, explained that it was the British Government that had made up its mind and that,

“It was not just to the Isle of Man, its to Jersey, Guernsey, Gibraltar and the Crown Colonies”.

The Chairman spoke with Mr Cannan and brought to his notice that the rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement did not affect Gibraltar, as Gibraltar is part of the EU and they have the EHIC (old E111) and their citizens can travel in the UK without problems.

Mr Cannan voted against the adjournment.

Mr Quayle

Speaking about the United Kingdom said “I do not see how they are realistically going to do a different agreement for the Isle of Man, compared to the Channel Islands, so I will be voting against the adjournment.

Mr Quayle appears to be unawares of what the UK Government has told the DHSS on the rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement.

Mr Quayle voted against the adjournment.

Mr Malarkey

“We are aware that certain people are going to be hit very hard”.

No comment. So even if they are hit very hard,

Mr Malarkey voted against the adjournment.

Mr Karran

In his address Mr Karran explained why he was voting against the adjournment. He said he would be putting forward a solution to the problem in the main debate, saying “This report reminds me of the American System, if you are up, you are up; if you are down, you are down and we do not care. That is not what we want”.

Mr Karran voted against the adjournment.

Mr Crowe MLC

“But I think we cannot delay. We have so much work to do in the few months available and we have no luxury of time, so I would ask that you do not approve the adjournment”.

Luxury of time? So much work to do? we had two years to resolve all this, if ‘we have so much work to do’ why hasn’t all this been done already? What are we going to achieve at the eleventh hour if we couldn’t do it before?

Mr Crowe voted against the adjournment

Mr Gill

“The DHSS Minister thinks, and his department thinks, it is inequitable-for all to pay for the services of some. That Sir, is what the welfare state is about. We pay taxes to pay for the needs of others that is the whole basis of it”.

This is absolutely correct, it comes down to the compassion of the many for the few. You cannot loose sight of what you were elected for, to look after all those that need looking after, not the majority that can look after themselves.

Mr Gill voted for the adjournment.

Mr Henderson

“What did the Committee do, or what do they propose to do, in the next month or two?”

That is the sixty four thousand dollar question. What have they done over the past two years, and what do they expect to achieve over the next five month? Mr Henderson and everyone else wants an answer,

Mr Henderson voted against the adjournment.

Mr Downie MLC

“One of the things that I have liked to have heard today was actually how many people this will affect”.

No one can tell him, because as usual, the DHSS does not know and nobody knows .What The Diabetic can tell him is, that according to the last census there were 6,141 people between the ages of 76 and 95 plus living on the Island. Now with the Chairman agreement we have to look to help the 90 plus, that will be affected.

Mr Downie voted against the adjournment.

Mr Rodan

In closing Mr Rodan enumerated the pros and cons of the debate on the adjournment and emphasised that,

“The purpose of an adjournment is to allow a better-informed debate that will test the options”.

He was correct because the motion as proposed by the Minister for the DHSS did not explain what has been going on during the past two years and what they intend doing about it, either locally or in diplomatic channels. The report did not provoke confidence or put forward resolutions to the problems in hand.

Mr Rodan voted for the adjournment.

The Speaker then called for a vote and the adjournment was defeated.

The following MHK’s voted for the adjournment.

Mr Quirk MHK	Onchan
Mr Houghton MHK	Douglas North
Mrs Cannell MHK	Douglas East
Mr Braidwood MHK	Douglas East
Mr Corkish MHK	Douglas West
Mr Gill MHK	Rushen
Mr Rodan. MHK (Speaker)	Garff

The Following MHK's voted against the adjournment.

Mr Earnshaw MHK	Onchan
Mr Karran MHK Lib Vannin	Onchan
Mr Brown MHK	Castletown
Mr Crookall MHK	Peel
Mr Anderson MHK	Glenfaba
Mrs Craine MHK	Ramsey
Mr Bell MHK	Ramsey
Mr Quayle MHK	Middle
Mr Teare MHK	Ayre
Mr Cannan MHK	Michael
Mr Henderson MHK	Douglas North
Mr Marlarkey MHK	Douglas South
Mr Shimmin MHK	Douglas West
Mr Waterson MHK	Rushen
Mr Gawne MHK	Rushen

In the Keys it was 7 votes for the adjournment and 15 against.

In the Council, the MLC's voted like this.

For the adjournment

Mr Callister MLC

Against the adjournment

The Lord Bishop

Mr Crowe MLC

Mr Downie MLC

Mrs Christian MLC

Mr Lowey MLC

Mr Waft MLC

Mr Butt MLC

In the Council 1 MLC voted for the adjournment and 7 against.

So the adjournment was lost.

We now come to the actual debate on the motion as presented by the Minister for Health and Social Security Mr Teare, which was kicked off by Mr Karran.

Mr Karran

In his address Mr Karran proposed a solution to the problem we are all facing with a counter motion to that presented by Mr Teare. His motion read "And is of the opinion that the Council of Ministers should consider the imposition of a levy on all sea and travel off Island to pay for a compulsory insurance scheme for medical treatment in the UK: and further of the opinion that no charges should be levied on visitors to the Island for healthcare during their stay."

As usual anything proposed by Mr Karran, whether it is good for the Island or not is thrown out. There was not even one member to second his motion which therefore was not put to the vote.

[Mr Karran voted against the DHSS motion.](#)

Mr Cannan

He brought to the notice of the Chamber the many problems that would exist with the cancellation of the reciprocal health agreement and felt that the only solution was the motion that he was putting forward which read. "and further that Tynwald is of the opinion that the Isle of Man Government should cover the costs of (a) Isle of Man residents receiving NHS treatment in the United Kingdom; and (b) United Kingdom residents receiving NHS treatment in the Isle of Man". This motion was seconded and voted on, but again was lost.

[Mr Cannan voted against the DHSS motion.](#)

Mr Houghton

Mr Houghton once again quoted the petition and the anxiety that was being felt by the people. He put to Tynwald that he was of the opinion that the solution to the problem should be that the authorities on both sides of the water should pay for the hospitalisation of their nationals, because if we didn't do that, he pointed out "It will be the end of tourism as we know it".

He called on the Attorney General for a reply to a copy of an e-mail he had been given by the Chairman and Mr Houghton had passed on.

[Mr Houghton voted against the DHSS motion](#)

Attorney General

He explained that the e-mail was from Susi Alegre a lawyer consultant on human rights to Penny Creighton and Henry Ramagge and that it read "I think that it would be worth asking in Tynwald whether or not they have asked the UK government to carry out an equalities and human rights impact assessment, as age is one of the equalities" The Attorney General explained "I do not think that Tynwald or the department is exposed to any Human Rights Challenge".

The idea was for the Government to challenge the UK Government and not to challenge themselves. Subsequent on this Mr Houghton has once again raised the matter with the Attorney General in the House.

The Attorney General does not vote.

Mrs Cannell

Mrs Cannel agreed that the question was to be put to the UK Government and not the Isle of Man Government on the above issue. "I believe that that is a really sound case for standing our ground and fighting this! If we come away with a bloody nose, we come away with a bloody

nose. If we have to make the changes, we have to make the changes. But I do not believe that we should be just surrendering!”

She said it all, we should not surrender.

Speaking on the proposed change to legislation of the Health Act Mrs Cannell asked the Minister for Health “So what changes does the department believe are necessary? Why do they want to? Is it so they can charge? Why? There is a lot of detail that is missing”.

The report as we have told the Minister and the Chief Minister is wishy washy and has no substance, and he intends changing the Health Act to be able to legally charge the Manx residents and make them pay, which as it stands the DHSS cannot do.

Mrs Cannell voted against the DHSS motion.

The Lord Bishop

“I do not think there is any disagreement in the Court that there is an absolute that we should support the weak and the vulnerable. They matter. It is not negotiable that they need to be protected.

No Comment. Most commendable. Except, if this is correct why vote for something that will cast adrift the weak and the vulnerable Manx people.

The Lord Bishop voted for the DHSS motion.

The President of Tynwald at this juncture adjourned the proceedings till after lunch.

When proceedings resumed the first member to speak was Mr Watterson.

Mr Watterson

“I am not alone in saying I am not happy with this report.....I think the people of the Isle of Man need certainty.....They need to know that the government is working hard on their behalf. That is something that is not blatantly evident in the Report”.

This is something we all seem to agree with and understand, except the DHSS and those that voted for the DHSS motion.

Mr Watterson voted for the DHSS motion.

Mr Henderson

Mr Henderson enumerated what the UK Government had done and in his opinion there was no way out of the present impasse, because a decision had been taken by the UK Government and there was no way back. His address was full of gloom, doom and despondency. He said that he had spoken with many Members who’s opinion was “they have done this, tough, we just roll over”.

If that is the case, if those who Govern us have no hope, have abandoned all hope that they can at least achieve some sort of change however small, in the interest of the Manx people, then what hope have we ordinary mortals got?

Mr Henderson did not vote as he was out of the Chamber at the time the vote was taken.

Mr Waft MLC

Mr Waft was of the opinion that we should not pussyfoot with the UK because the DHSS kept banding about reciprocity with the health authorities in the UK, yet whenever it suits the UK they have no reciprocity, as he put it “Reciprocity seems to have gone out of the window. He was “fully appreciative of the fact that we cannot do anything about it”.

This appeared to be the underlying theme amongst all members of the Chamber from the Chief Minister down, that stood up to express their views. There is nothing we can do, everyone except the magnificent six, were prepared to roll over and be stabbed in the back.

Mr Waft voted for the DHSS motion.

The Chief Minister

At this juncture the Chief Minister intervened to explain certain aspects of the rescinding of the reciprocal health agreement, he enumerated the realities of the situation and emphasised that “Unfortunately, the Health Service in the UK has decided – the United Kingdom Government – that they are ending the agreement. We have no say in that”.

Have we had our tongues pulled out? Have we lost the power of speech? Have we lost the power to reason or argue for our people? If we are to have the privilege to lead our people we must be prepared to die for our people.

His address was quite extensive and detailed, and he apologised to members saying “All I would say is I am sorry that members do not feel that the information in the Report provides them with the fullest of information”. This was the understatement of the day. That was precisely why the adjournment had been tabled by Mr Rodan, because the report said nothing. Mr Brown ended by saying that he hoped members would support the motion, a motion that he had apologised for, and that did not provide them with the fullest of information.

Mr Brown voted for the DHSS motion.

Mr Gill

“We might be saying most people, most of the time, will be able to pay, but there will be a significant, possibly a majority, who will not be able to travel, will not be able to get cover, will not be able to afford that cover, and what are we going to do about them. The answer, as far as the department is concerned is “Well, we will keep thinking about it”.

Mr Gill hit the nail on the head. Since the debate, The Chairman has resolved this problem for the DHSS, everyone can now have insurance from the moment you are born on the Island till you are 90. From 90 plus it's up to the Government now to resolve their problem.

Mr Gill voted against the DHSS motion.

Mr Braidwood

Mr Braidwood went through the scenario that existed and called for more information on the report as to numbers of people affected. He was of the opinion that members in the house were able to pay for insurance even if like himself, who had health problems. Though he felt “that the DHSS is only a conduit of the working group, I feel that we have to go along with the recommendations in the report”.

What recommendation? ‘You’re on your own’? Everything on the other side was all the colour of the glass that each Member when they stood up was looking through.

Mr Braidwood voted for the DHSS motion.

Mr Karran

Mr Karran demanded to be heard again and was allowed as he had intervened previously as a speaker to the amendment of Mr Cannan. He said. “Well my national parliament has reminded me more of a playground at a primary school today, because I will be perfectly honest with you, this is an insult -- an insult -- if you are supposed to be national politicians.” Mr Karran berated the report and said “ Mr Teare and the Council of Ministers should resign and the rest of you should go to a general election”.

Unfortunately this is not going to happen, as they well know that if they went to a General Election they would not be re-elected.

Mr Karran voted against the DHSS motion.

Mr Teare

Mr Teare wound up the debate.

The Minister for Health and Social Security made the closing address in support of his motion and promised that he had “taken copious notes and my colleagues in the Department have been doing likewise. We will look at the notes and also Hansard, and we will

attempt to deal with observations and the reservations of Hon. Members”.

Please note that he said he would ‘attempt’, not that he would deal with.

Mr Teare has been saved by the announcement at the same Tynwald of the Loss of £140 million pounds which now appears to be taking precedence to the Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement.

Everything now will be, we can’t do this, we can’t do that, because of the financial loss, and hide behind it.

Well, The Diabetic will not accept the new excuse that we have lost 140 million in VAT, and have to tighten our belts, as this deficit will be covered from outside sources in the coming year.

On 1st January 2010 the VAT reverts to 17.5% this will knock off the 40 million they have lost. Leaving them with £100 million to find.

Then in the Budget because they need money, the UK Government is going to put up the Vat to 20%, This is another 40 million that will leave them with £60 million to find.

The EU under the Lisbon Treaty has already discussed in the European Parliament to standardise the VAT amongst all member countries, which will go up to twenty two and a half per cent.

This will give the Government another 40 million, leaving them with just 20 million to find. This is going to be the real deficit.

Of course this is provided the British Government does not claw back another 100 million and leave them where they started off, which is what is probably going to happen.

Mr Teare of course voted for his motion.

The President then called for a vote on the motion as presented by Mr Cannan and seconded by Mrs Cannell, that the Manx Government should pay for all Manx residents being hospitalised whilst travelling in the UK, and UK residents whilst travelling to the Isle of Man who need hospitalisation.

A division was called and the vote was as follows.

For Mr Cannan’s amendment.

Mr Karran MHK Lib Vannin Onchan

Mr Cannan MHK Michael

Mr Houghton MHK Douglas North

Mrs Cannell Douglas East

Mr Gill Rushen

Mr Rodan MHK Speaker Garff

Against the amendment.

Mr Quirk MHK	Onchan
Mr Earnshaw MHK	Onchan
Mr Brown MHK	Castletown
Mr Crookall MHK	Peel
Mr Anderson MHK	Glenfaba
Mrs Craine MHK	Ramsey
Mr Bell MHK	Ramsey
Mr Quayle MHK	Middle
Mr Teare MHK	Ayre
Mr Malarkey MHK	Douglas South
Mr Braidwood MHK	Douglas East
Mr Corkish MHK	Douglas West
Mr Shimmin MHK	Douglas West
Mr Cretney MHK	Douglas South
Mr Watterson. MHK	Rushen
Mr Gawne MHK	Rushen

Mr Hendersom was not present in the Chamber and therefore did not vote.

It failed in the Keys by 16 votes to 6.

In the Council

For the Amendment

Mr Waft MLC

Mr Butt MLC

Against the amendment

The Lord Bishop

Mr Callister MLC

Mr Crowe MLC

Mr Downie MLC

Mrs Christian MLC

Mr Lowey MLC

It failed in the council by 6 votes to 2.

As no one had seconded the other amendments they were not voted on.

The vote on the DHSS motion as presented by Mr Teare the Minister for Health and Social Security has been dealt with under the article "All but six MHK's and all MLC's washed their hands of the people. You are on your own", at the beginning of the Newsletter.



Advert in Nigeria

Someone else who can't do their sums!

Is this going to happen here?

It has emerged that some £7 million was owed to hospitals in London last year, much of it by **non** EU patients not paying for their stay and treatment.

Substitute non EU patients with UK patients without insurance, and that is what could be happening here.

It is understood that the West Middlesex University Hospital is demanding payment up front.

Is this what is going to happen to Manx patients when they have to go into a UK Hospital, are they going to ask us for money up front?

Conversely,

Is our DHSS going to do the same with anyone from the UK having to be hospitalised at Noble's?

It appears that Doctors across are using what they term a '**Stabilise and discharge scheme**' to deal with each patient from a **non-EU** country to ensure they are not in danger.

By the way as from April's Fools day 2010 this will include us. We are a non-EU country, therefore a non-EU patient.

Anyway they are then told what treatment they require, and those who cannot pay are refused treatment and asked to leave. Some pay, some leave, and go back home as sick as they came into A & E.

You know what that's going to mean for us going to UK, and those coming over --- no dosh ---- on your bike.

A spokesman said "we have saved around £700,000 pounds in a year using this system."

Bully for them. Our DHSS that follows everything the UK does will probably be doing the same here.

"We have a responsibility to safeguard free NHS treatment for those who are entitled to it" the spokesman emphasised.

The operative phrase is "For those who are entitled to it".

Remember we will NOT BE ENTITLED TO IT.

So anyone not an EU resident is not entitled to free NHS treatment.

We used to be entitled to free NHS treatment, but not as from 1st April 2010. We shall be classified as non EU patients.

If you don't believe *The Diabetic*, asked Mr Teare, what is he doing about it?

Whilst you are at it, ask your MHK if he or she voted to tell you, YOU'RE ON YOUR

OWN, why they voted against you? We asked an MHK after the vote, and he said 'It was terrible wasn't it'

So why did he Vote against the people, if it was terrible? He couldn't answer the question. Out with him next time round.

LIKE THEY USED TO SAY IN THE OPENING SEQUENCE OF 'HILL STREET BLUES',-----BE SAFE AND TAKE CARE OUT THERE: BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T, NOBODY WILL.



Road sign in Nigeria

Passports

The question of having to travel to the UK showing your passports has once again raised its head, which you already have to do anyway on departure from the Island and when booking in across, or some other form of identification. Like they did to us demanding our passports on 19th November at Liverpool. Even though a certain member of the Government was adamant you did not need to do so. He should go to Liverpool and see for himself. Again out of touch.

The Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic would just like to bring to your notice that he brought out all these problems facing the Island at the groups AGM on 17th October 2008, when the Rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement was first mooted by the DHSS, even though they had been told a year earlier.

There were 39 quote points in the Newsletter in his prediction in addition to resolutions.

He even said quote: -

“(6) It would maybe eventually come to the old Big Brother system in the old days, when visas were in operation. You could be refused boarding to and from the Isle of Man if you do not have valid insurance, just to cover the NHS in the UK and the DHSS here.” Unquote.

No Government will eventually risk people coming to the Island or going to the UK, being

put into hospital here or there, operated on, and then be told they have no insurance and no money. What would our Government do incarcerate the old dear in Nobles until someone coughs up the money? It would take time to sell their house to pay for their hospitalisation.

Or refuse to operate if they have no insurance and no money and let them die?

Or maybe introduce here the ‘**Stabilise and Discharge Scheme**’ that the UK has in operation.

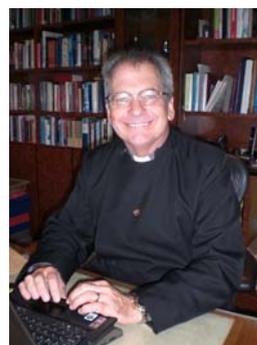
For the full assessment of the Chairman predictions, and solutions at the AGM on 17th October 2008 please go to our website at www.diabetes.org.im click on Newsletters, and then go to the December 2008 newsletter, read it and weep.



Road sign in Nigeria

The Christmas Message

Wow! Another year gone and almost the end of the first decade of the new millennia, I'm sure I'm not alone in wondering where the time goes.



The Rev. John Guilford
Trustee, Friends of the Manx Diabetic

I've always been interested in Political Philosophy and I've had a number of occasions throughout this past year that has caused me to ponder on that discipline. On one occasion I was reminded of a comment by that great philosopher of this present age, Bill Maynard

(aka Claude Greengrass) in an early episode of 'Heartbeat', when asked, 'what is Communism?' Replied, 'people who have nowt wanting the same for everybody else!'

Now I grew up in the 1960s, when the West cast anxious glances at the might of the Soviet Union, when Communist China was a country to be feared, when we saw the McCarthy inspired Communist witch hunts in the USA and I remember a lot of people remarking that Jesus Christ was, in fact, a Communist! This consequently led to a number of protest songs of the age; one I particularly remember was 'Would Jesus Wear A Rolex?' by Ray Stevens.

At the time I guess I could see some sense in what people were saying, but as I became more interested in Theology and started to take a closer look, not only at what Jesus taught, but also at the nature and the ethos behind the early Christian communities created by St Paul and others, it became clear to me that Communist ideology played little part in it.

The coming of the baby Jesus, an event we celebrate once again this month, we are told (Mark 1:15) was to establish the Kingdom of God on earth and scripture is full of arguments to persuade us that this is an event that has already happened, our job is to be Jesus' hands and feet and continue to build the Kingdom here. This 'Kingdom', as the early Christian communities lived it, is not built on Communist ideology and suppression, but on love, care, compassion and respect for our brothers and sisters. Even the slightly 'dodgy' characters in the New Testament, such as Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10) are not castigated for their wealth and position, but for their selfishness and their lack of love for their fellow man. Read the passage, Zacchaeus repented and was saved, but even those who have so much that they can't find a way to Jesus, like 'The Rich Young Ruler' (Mark 10: 17-22) is shown love and knows that Jesus is always available.

So all the time we return to the idea that wealth and power is only a problem when it becomes a barrier to knowing Jesus and knowing Jesus is only shown by the way we live our lives; our speech and our actions. This is not only in the faith part of our lives, but in the whole of our lives and is as true for politicians as it is for the people they serve.

As I see your chairman fight manfully to make our politicians understand the real hardship and fear among the more vulnerable of

our community viz-a-viz the ending of the reciprocal health agreement in 2010 I am given just one example of the work needed to get closer to the community Jesus had in mind for us. Of course budgets are important, of course there is no bottomless pit of money, but for all of us the starting point should be compassion and together you never know what we might achieve.

This festive season let us give some real thought as to why Jesus came. I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.

- 'Would Jesus Wear A Rolex?'
Taken from the 1987 MCA Album
'Ray Stevens Greatest Hits Volume 2'.
- Biblical References taken from
NRSV with Apocrypha.



Road sign in Nigeria

How about this for a speeding ticket?

Two traffic patrol officers from North Berwick, east of Edinburgh, were involved in an unusual incident, whilst checking for speeding motorists on the A1 Great North Road.

One of the officers used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill, and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 300 mph. The machine then stopped working and the officers were unable to reset it.

The radar had in fact locked on to a NATO Tornado fighter jet over the North Sea, which was engaged in a low flying exercise over the Borders district.

When they returned to Police headquarters the Chief Constable fired off a stiff complaint to the RAF Liaison office.

Back came the reply from the RAF. “Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on the incident.

You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado had automatically locked on to your ‘hostile radar equipment’ and sent a jamming signal back to it.

Furthermore the Sidewinder air-to-ground missiles aboard the fully armed aircraft, in automatic self defence, had also locked onto the target.

Fortunately the Dutch pilot flying the Tornado responded to the missile status alert intelligently and was able to override the automatic protection system of the aircraft before the missile was launched, it turned out to be a very good and realistic exercise”.

That would have been a costly speeding ticket.

Manx Diabetes Centre

We still do not appear to have resolved the problems of the waiting lists at the Centre.

We do know that they are understaffed and it is a DHSS problem, but something has to be done to resolve this.

We keep hearing that patients appointments are being cancelled at short notice and these patients are still awaiting a further appointment.

Now someone has rang the Chairman saying that they were given an appointment to visit the Centre on 27th October last. Unfortunately it conflicted with holiday arrangements that the patient had made months before so he could not attend unless he lost all his deposits.

He spoke with the Centre and was told not to worry, they would give him a further appointment. Which he thought was very nice of them. When he returned he had a letter waiting for him on arrival giving him a date for his next appointment of 3rd November **2010**.

He thought this might be a typing error, so he rang the Centre, but was told no, that is the correct date. Really, do we now have a one year waiting list at the Manx Diabetes Centre?

That is not what we fought for years to have a Centre. The DHSS must wake up and do something about this. DHSS you were given millions by Tynwald to resolve the waiting lists at Noble’s so get on with it, unless of course you’ve spent the money on something else.

The Diabetic suggests that you start having meetings, what are we saying, we have been having meetings since April 2008 to improve diabetic response, and as yet not resolved anything but promises, promises of nothing.

Lets get on with it. More action and less threats of cutting services Mr Teare.



No Comment

Blood Clinic

Another ridiculous intervention by someone who can’t leave things alone that are working properly.

Someone has to justify their job.

Now we have to have appointments to visit the Blood Clinic when things used to work properly and nobody complained. Everybody took their little bit of paper and waited patiently for their turn, without a murmur of dissatisfaction.

So instead of employing another Phlebotomist we employ somebody to make appointments. Good thinking Batman.

Now we have created more empire building for the DHSS, and in the process another waiting list, when we didn’t have one before.

Wonderful.

Why can’t we just go back to normal, please?

I thought that the Minister had said in the House that he was going to look at and reduce bureaucracy within the DHSS. Empty words, The Minister has increased his bureaucracy and is now responsible for more waiting lists.

Season’s Greetings To All

Our Readers, Peace, Health

And Happiness

In 2010

DisabledGo, do they go or do they stay?



The meeting of the Isle of Man Steering Group of DisabledGo took place at the Legislative buildings on Tuesday 3rd November 2009.

The main item on the agenda at the meeting as far as the Friends of the Manx Diabetic were concerned, was the question of the renewal of the agreement for DisabledGo to continue to run the website and provide the information for disabled people.

As usual after four years of immaculate running the Government in its wisdom had put it out to tender.

This created a lot of anger from disabled people and of course the steering group.

During the meeting the group discussed the importance of there being disabled access information available for residents and tourists on and to the Isle of Man. And it was unanimously agreed that DisabledGo was the obvious choice to continue with the project.

There was a DHSS representative present and the Chairman was most vociferous in his arguments.

We are now happy to report that the DHSS has seen the light of day and has informed DisabledGo that the Isle of Man Government has decided that DisabledGo is their preferred provider for access information, but that negotiations on the new contract still need to take place.

We shall keep a very sharp eye on what transpires and you will be updated on the progress of the negotiations.

www.DisabledGo.info now has 73 live guides and is working in partnership with over 75 local authorities in the UK. DisabledGo is committed to developing and improving www.DisabledGo.com so it is as useful as possible for the people it serves.

DisabledGo has launched a new initiative DisabledGo-Health. They will be working with local Primary Care Trusts, NHS Trusts and Community Health Partnerships to provide detailed access information for hospitals, doctor surgeries and other health related venues.

DisabledGo has now launched their new website which has incorporated feedback from steering group members over the last 2 years. The new website will have new features. In March this year DisabledGo renewed the information available on DisabledGo-Isle of Man.

The Annual Renewal involved DisabledGo contacting all venues to ascertain whether their access had changed in any way. All venues were written to, and those that appeared in more detail on the website were called to talk them through their entry. Any venue that reported a change to its physical access was flagged to be revisited by a DisabledGo Surveyor.

They also added 61 new venues to the guide DisabledGo Isle of Man and the steering group discussed the need for more questions to be added to the guide for sensory impairments, autism and learning difficulties.

If there are any comments you would like to add after you have visited the DisabledGo website for the Isle of Man then please do not hesitate to contact:

kimberley.dixon@disabledgo.com

Fax: 01438 842717



Road sign in Nigeria

Letter from a local Commissioners Office.

You may recollect a letter that we published in a previous Newsletter regarding an officious approach of a council in the States, due to beavers building a dam in a pond.

Well we have now been given a letter from a Commissioners Office in the Isle of Man It says;
“We believe you are the last registered owner of the above vehicle.

It has been noted that this vehicle has been parked at.....in the car park for some weeks without being moved (being first noted 31/07/09), but was present prior to that date.

Under the conditions of use contained in the....(Parking places) Order 2006, car park is for a maximum stay of 18 in any 24 hours period and is not a long term storage park.

If there is a reason why the vehicle is parked for longer than 18 hours then you can apply in writing to the Commissioners Office for a short term permit stating reasons.

The Commissioners do not issue annual or indefinite stay permits.

However, unless you take action within 15 days of this Notice we will deem the vehicle abandoned and may arrange for its removal at your cost.

Persistent breach of the conditions of use of the car park may render the owner liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.

Objections to the removal of the vehicle must be made in writing to the Clerk.....Commissioners at the above address.

Signed

Clerk to the Commissioners

Now isn't that lovely? How officious can you get? There is only one problem they didn't do their homework properly.

The gentleman in question thought this was not worth putting pen to paper, but he decided to give the Commissioners clerk a ring.

The conversation went like this!

"Is that the Commissioners Office, can I speak to Mr So and So".

"Speaking"

"I have just received your letter dated 11th September and I would like to register a strong complaint, please bring up my reference number.....on your computer"

"I have it here"

"Well we have a little problem, you see my car is not in your car park, because I am sitting in it in my driveway in Douglas. I live in Douglas and I don't visit your neck of the woods very often. So how can my car be parked in your car park for days on end when I use my car every day?"

"Just a minute, is your car a Mazda 626 registration Number.....?"

"Yes it is, but it is here with me, and I am sitting in it"

"We must have got it wrong sorry".

Sorry, this is ridiculous.

Its ridiculous because the commissioners had the gentleman's name and address in addition to his car registration number.

The Gentleman in question has a right under the Data Protection Act, Section 8 to write to the Commissioners with copies to the Department of transport demanding how they got all his details wrong as the car was not his.

Under the act the Commissioners must give him a satisfactory explanation within 21days.

So now you know what to do if it happens to you.

The Gentleman in question, who is a member of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic, should have allowed the Commissioners to take him to court. Then there would have been fun and games.

You thought it only happened somewhere else, well you are mistaken, it also happens in the Isle of Man

Keep them coming.

Baldrine Methodist Chapel Presentation

This was the presentation at the Baldrine Methodist Chapel following their fund raising event with monies raised for the Friends of the Manx Diabetic.



L to R. Jerry Ludford-Brooks (Treasurer -FMD) David Clague (BMC) Joan Wilkinson (BMC) Henry Ramagge (Chairman FMD) Susan Corkill (Secretary Baldrine Methodist Chapel) Ian Quayle (BMC) Edith Gair (BMC) Roy Kermeen (BMC)

The Total money raised during the afternoon entertainment amounted to £410 pounds, which was a tremendous effort by all concerned.

The Friends of the Manx Diabetic would like to thank the committee and their helpers, for

their generous presentation, which they were assured, as is our mandate that it would be spent on the Island, and used for the benefit of the Manx Diabetic and their carers.

News in Brief

If you want to fight diabetes use Teflon-coated cells.

Scientists have come up with the idea of using Teflon-coated tiny implant that contains transplanted insulin-producing cells.

As you may recollect Teflon is the chemical used to coat your non stick pans.

The idea of this is to stop the immune system cells from attacking and destroying what they see as foreign tissue, and cannot stick to it.

As a result the transplanted cells are able to carry on producing insulin.

Video Game helps diabetic Children to test sugar levels.

The blood glucose meter known as the DIDGET, can be used alongside the Nintendo DS games console.

As with other testing kits, the child pricks a finger before entering the blood sample into the meter.

The meter developed by Bayer then plugs directly into the console and transfers points that have been awarded for constant testing habits

The points can then be used to unlock new games levels.

The meter costs £29.99. For further information please go to www.bayerdidget.co.uk



Welcome to St John Ambulance.

St John Ambulance is the nation's leading first aid charity. We believe that everyone who needs it should receive first aid from those around them and that no one should suffer for the lack of trained first aiders.

Our 43,000 volunteers are committed to training, caring and saving lives, helping around 130,000 casualties annually. We're also one of the country's leading youth

organisations with more than half of our members aged under 25.

Our volunteers provide first aid at high profile national as well as local events and provide support to the statutory services, especially in times of emergency.

The origins of St John Ambulance date back to the 11th century and since then we have continued to provide the best medical care using the latest techniques.

First aid advice

Over the next few issues we will provide first aid advice on various illnesses and injuries.

Within this article are links to our national website, please use these links to find out further information about St John and more details on the advice given.

Life saving procedures

As a first aider the priorities when dealing with a casualty are always the same:

- Airway
- Breathing
- Circulation

A [primary survey](#) of a casualty will establish your priorities. When dealing with an unconscious casualty you should open and maintain their **airway** as your first priority. If the airway should become obstructed, possibly by the tongue falling to the back of the throat, then the casualty will be unable to breathe and this will lead to death if untreated.

If the casualty is **breathing**, the simple procedure of placing the casualty in to the [recovery position](#) should ensure that the airway will remain clear of obstructions.

If the casualty has stopped breathing you can assist them by performing a combination of [chest compressions](#) and rescue breaths. You breathe out enough oxygen to potentially keep the casualty alive until the emergency services arrive, the oxygen you breathe into the casualty will need to then be pumped around the body using chest compressions.

It is important to remember that in any life threatening situation the **emergency services** should be called as soon as breathing or absence of breathing has been identified.

Please note:

These hints are no substitute for thorough knowledge of first aid! St John Ambulance holds [first aid courses](#) throughout the year on the island.

For further information please email marketing@sja.org.im

Community First Responders

On the island, St John is at the heart of the community by providing the Community first responder scheme in conjunction with the Isle of Man ambulance service. Community First Responder volunteers are trained to attend **emergency calls** received by the ambulance service and **provide care** until the ambulance arrives.

Volunteers can arrive at an emergency scene in a matter of minutes, as they are sent to calls in their **local area**.

The schemes operate as a **community partnership** between St John Ambulance and the Isle of Man ambulance service. Having someone in the community who has been trained in first aid and can reach the patient quickly makes all the difference.

Volunteers operate as part of a rota system from their own home or place of work. They are dispatched at the same time as an ambulance via ambulance control to attend Category A '**immediately life – threatening**' calls. These calls can include:

- cardiac arrest
- diabetic emergency
- unconscious patient
- breathing difficulties
- seizures

Community First Responders are dispatched to calls under normal road conditions using their own cars. They do not have the authority to drive under emergency conditions.

This worthwhile role means that they can often be first on the scene to a patient in need, assessing the condition and prioritising their response. Community First Responders are trained to not only **assess the immediate situation** but also to **ascertain a previous medical history** whilst treating a patient. Sometimes they can simply be a very vital second pair of hands to an ambulance crew when they arrive.

A CFRs kit consists of a basic first aid kit and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as well as a separate bag for oxygen therapy.

The above article has been supplied by Mr Phil Bennett, Commercial Development Officer, St John Ambulance, Isle of Man.

The Alternate Last Laugh

Little Johnny arrived in class in the middle of the day, the teacher asked him: -

“I hope you have a good explanation for arriving late today?”

“Yes Sir” said little Johnny, “My Father got burned this morning”.

“Was it serious” asked the teacher in alarm.

“As serious as it can get Sir” said little Johnny, “They don’t muck about at the crematorium”.

Cleaned up for *The Diabetic*, but as heard at a dinner given in honour of the Chairman in Gibraltar.

As a lady at the dinner said to him, we now have a crematorium so you can come back.

P.S.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has signed a Statement of Intent with 18 other parties as a partner in a major programme monitoring seabirds around the British Isle.

This is coordinated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the UK organisation charged with coordinating British conservation policy across the UK.

The Diabetic presumes the British Government has given permission to our Government to enter into this agreement.

It appears that our Government is more concerned with seabirds than with the Isle of Man people.

There is no truth in the rumour that the seabirds are massing outside the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, to acquire their health insurance to fly to and from the UK.

The Minister for this department is Mr Phil Gawne.

Mr Gawne voted against you in Tynwald on the rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement, but appears to be with the birds instead.

So at the next election give him the bird.

We are the Group that Gets things Done.

We look after the interests of the

Manx People.

Join us today

Ring

Jan on (01624) 613702

We need your help because without your help we cannot look after, and help you.

