

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

# The Diabetic

All monies  
collected are  
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of Man.  
No monies are  
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off Island

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

Issue number 31

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Date: December 2010



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 only be used on the Isle of Man for the benefit of diabetics and their medical carers

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The Group that fights on behalf of the Manx people without fear or favour

**Secretary of State for Health and our Government model the new Reciprocal Health Agreement on proposals as submitted to the Secretary of State by the Chairman in a letter of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009, nine months before signature.**

**Thanks to all the Manx people that helped secure the agreement**

**The Christmas message by the Rev. John Guilford**

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Important Notice

**Feegans  
Deli**

Food to eat in

Food to take away

Food for

thought

Are all available at  
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**8 Victoria Street, Douglas**

## Health Agreement modelled on proposal as submitted to UK Secretary of State for Health by the Chairman in his letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

Because of the inactivity of our Government in achieving a new Reciprocal Health Agreement and their negative statements in the Keys and Tynwald, the Chairman, wrote to Andy Burnham the then Secretary of State for Health in the UK with a proposal that no one paid each other any money, and the Chairman spelled out the details of a basic understanding for a tentative agreement for Mr Burnham's consideration.

**We would have said nothing and let the matter rest,** but because of their many statements made after the signing, and Ministers and Members of Government coming out of the woodwork to take the credit, and as they wouldn't go with Mr Gill's proposal of a Select Committee, with all the work that had been done by Mr Rodan SHK and the

other five MHK's we are left with no option but to once and for all, set the record straight, as there were many people involved in this, other than the Chairman. (see **Thanks Editorial**)

Out of the blue the Chairman had been informed on the Q.T. nudge nudge, wink wink, the previous day that the signature was imminent.

Why was the Chairman told the day before by this prominent member of the Government, when everyone in the media had an embargo from the Chief Minister that **HE** would announce it himself the next morning at 9.30 a.m., and the Chairman had no embargo put on him the previous day?

The Minister for Health Mr Anderson in the grip of ecstatic euphoria sent a round robin to all members of Tynwald on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 9.02 a.m.**

**Now, this was mainly word for word as the contents of the letter that was sent to the Chairman by the Health Department of the UK, informing him of the agreement and its contents.**

The Chairman had been in correspondence with Mr Burnham and then under the new administration with the new Secretary of State for Health and Anne Milton the signatory to the agreement in the UK, on the matter of the Reciprocal Health Agreement for months.

However the UK Department of Health's letter to the Chairman includes two statements and some comments that are interesting.

On the other hand the Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic, without the Anderson fanfare, or Minister Teare's help at the time, had sent one of his many letters to the Secretary of State on **7<sup>th</sup> December 2009, nine months earlier**, setting out his proposals for a new permanent Reciprocal Health Agreement between the Isle of Man Government and the UK Government.

*The Chairman's proposals to the Secretary of State for Health Mr Andy Burnham are in italics.*

**As the Government said that they did everything, let us see how the**

### **Chairman's proposals compare with the final agreement entered into nine months later by our Government.**

The Agreement entered into, according to the Minister for Health Mr Anderson as explained to members of Tynwald and which the Chief Minister claims his Government had been working 'incessantly' behind the scenes, states:

1) "Manx residents visiting the UK will receive free NHS treatment if they become ill whilst in the UK, apart from Statutory charges which the UK residents have to pay, such as prescription charges".

2) "UK residents visiting the Isle of Man will receive free NHS treatment if they become ill whilst in the Isle of Man, apart from statutory charges which Isle of Man residents have to pay, such as prescription charges".

The Chairman's proposals to the Secretary of State, on **7<sup>th</sup> December 2009** suggested,

*1) a) Any person from the United Kingdom visiting the Isle of Man and any person from the Isle of Man visiting the United Kingdom requiring medical assistance from a GP is to get it free of charge.*

*1) b) Any medical drugs prescribed by a GP to be treated as if the patient was a local resident and he or she will be charged accordingly.*

*2) a) Any person from the United Kingdom visiting the Isle of Man and any person from the Isle of Man visiting the United Kingdom requiring medical assistance at any Accident and Emergency department or hospital is to get this service free of charge.*

*2) b) Any medical drugs prescribed at A & E, to be treated as if the patient was a local resident and he or she will be charged accordingly.*

Mr Anderson agreement on Thursday **9<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

3) "No payment for such treatment will be made to the Isle of Man by the UK, nor by the UK to the Isle of Man".

(This clause though taken verbatim from the Minister's round robin, we think

that there is something wrong with it, as it does not appear to read.)

The Chairman's system similarly ensured that no one paid each other any money so much so that he further proposed in his letter of **7<sup>th</sup> December 2009** at;

**3) b) & d)** *Alternately if the patient has health insurance cover, it will be paid for by their insurance policy provider, not that of their respective jurisdictions.*

Mr Anderson on **9<sup>th</sup> September at 9.02 a.m** went on to say;

**4)** "The treatment of Manx residents referred to the UK by the Isle of Man will continue to be paid for by the Isle of Man Health Services".

But the UK Department of Health in their letter to the Chairman on the above clause also adds ("**and is outside of the agreement**").

The Chairman was also of the opinion, **nine months before, that;**

**a)** *The Isle of Man Government will as heretofore continue to pay for all patients that the Department of Health and Social Security on the Island sends to the United Kingdom, furthermore,*

**i)** *They will pay for their travel arrangements to and from the Island.*

**ii)** *They will pay for their hospitalisation and treatment in the UK.*

**iii)** *They will pay for their repatriation back to the Island if required after treatment.*

**iv)** *In the event of a patient's death they will pay for the repatriation of the body and all expenses connected with such requirements for repatriation.*

The Minister's letter to the Members of Tynwald ends by saying;

**5)** "Each party to the agreement can, if necessary, give 12 months notice of termination of the Agreement".

The Chairman didn't expect everything to be the same as his proposals mainly based on previous agreements.

The Chairman is not really very happy with this termination period as it only gives our Government a year to adjust, and we know how they operate, so he had proposed the following to the Secretary of

State to give us time in the event of a cancellation.

**6)** *This understanding to run initially for a period of **five years**, with an automatic renewal clause for **a further similar period**.*

**7)** *The Government of the United Kingdom and that of the Isle of Man to have a cut off clause of **three years notice** in the event of either party wishing to terminate the agreement.*

**8)** *The United Kingdom Government to enter into an understanding with the Isle of Man Government incorporating the above points and any other safeguards to be mutually agreed, that both jurisdictions may wish to incorporate.*

**9)** *The above to form the basis of an understanding between the United Kingdom Government and the Isle of Man Government.*

Amongst other things the Chairman went on to say;

"As already explained the Friends of the Manx Diabetic do not form part of the Isle of Man Government, or speak on their behalf, therefore cannot commit them to anything.

We only speak for the people of the Isle of Man that back us.

We firmly believe that the proposals that we have put before you are the right and practical way forward for all our citizens".

The letter to the Chairman from the Department of Health in the UK explains, which our Minister didn't include, a further item, item (6) which says, "**repatriation is not—and never has been—covered by the reciprocal healthcare agreement**".

Mr Anderson only went up to item (5), but the Chairman covered this eventuality, in his proposal of **7<sup>th</sup> December 2009** as he proposed,

**4) a)** *Repatriation from hospitals between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man and vice versa, will be the responsibility of the patients concerned, not that of their respective jurisdictions.*

*The patient will require insurance cover for this purpose, otherwise they will have to pay for this service themselves.*

*c) It must be realised that when repatriation does occur, the Hospital Authority in that patient's area, whether the United Kingdom or in the Isle of Man that receives the patient will have to continue to carry the expenses of the patient's hospitalisation.*

*In reality it is just an extension of (3) above, as if the patient had been initially taken to their own area hospital.*

In a subsequent letter to the Secretary of State for Health of the UK the Chairman on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010 said, quote;

*"In the meantime it is no use getting on ones high horse and saying again and again we have taken a decision and that's it.*

*So I would respectfully suggest that we postpone the cut off date of 1<sup>st</sup> April, and have a moratorium of six months. This would take until 1<sup>st</sup> October next. Time enough to sit down and dispassionately review the matter after the election.*

*If you agree with this last paragraph please let me know and I shall inform the Manx Government accordingly.*

*Needless to say your decision is now extremely urgent".* Unquote.

**We all know what happened next, at lunchtime on 16<sup>th</sup> March, four days later, Mr Burnham made a U-turn, rang the Chief Minister directly to inform him of HIS six months moratorium decision.**

Wonder where the word 'Moratorium' came from?

**Though the Chief Minister had been saying that very morning in Tynwald that everything was done and dusted and there was no hope, he immediately claimed the U-turn as his achievement, and Mr Teare quickly fell over himself and followed him on Manx Radio.**

**We presume the Chief Minister must have called the public meeting, the demonstration outside Tynwald, was about to put a moratorium resolution**

**to Tynwald instead of Mr Cannan, on behalf of the Manx people, as dictated by them at the public meeting, or directly ask Burnham for a moratorium. Or maybe it wasn't him at all, it was Mr Teare?**

When in response to a long awaited report into the relationship between the UK and the Crown Dependencies, the UK Government is quoted as saying that "**the Isle of Man had appeared to accept the scrapping of the Reciprocal Health Agreement**". In other words they had done nothing and accepted the rescinding of the Reciprocal Health Agreement.

So where was our Government who claimed to have laid the foundations to the agreement and the moratorium? Who worked 'incessantly' on behalf of the Manx people? Was it the Chief Minister? Mr Teare? or Mr Anderson? Who all according to the British Government '**appeared to accept the scrapping of the Reciprocal Health Agreement**' or could it be that it was Manx people power, that triggered the six months moratorium, and then the final Agreement.

The Chairman's proposals were fleshed out on the proposal of "each pays their own way" as submitted by Mr John Houghton MHK in the House and which at the time as usual, was ignominiously dismissed by the Chief Minister and his cohorts.

But look at them all now, they adopt Mr Houghton's and the Chairman's proposals as their own, pat each other on the back, appear grinning on photos and claim they did it all.

Makes you want to puke into your porridge listening to their antics on Mandate.

Whatever they may say, the people know, and will bring all those that voted against them to book at the next election.

In particular the Chief Minister, unless he escapes the chop by getting his myrmidons to vote him President of Tynwald as their dying swan song.

If they do, he will be in Tynwald for the next administration, and those that

voted for him to be President of Tynwald will not. This action would be the last nail in their coffin.

In any event it has taken years and months for our Government to achieve a signature to a welcomed agreement that the people of the Isle of Man as of right were entitled to.

It was the power of the people that has been evident in pushing this agreement forward.

Minister Anderson says the delay was because of the UK elections, what a load of malarkey, they were informed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, two years before the UK election of the cut off date, and where were they all?

Nowhere to be seen, except spouting negative statements to convince themselves that nothing could be done, and **“accepting the scrapping of the Reciprocal Health Agreement”** It is a good job the people thought otherwise.

However the signing of this agreement does not vindicate the actions of our Government at the October 2009 Tynwald or what the Chief Minister, Ministers and Members of Departments have said at sittings of the Keys and Tynwald throughout the **TWO AND A HALF YEARS** of this sorry saga.

All *The Diabetic*, the Chairman, the six MHK's that voted with the people, and the people themselves were interested in, was that the Manx people were properly covered travelling to the UK as they had always been, hence the Chairman's proposals to the Secretary of State for Health in the UK dated **7<sup>th</sup> December 2009, and then his moratorium request on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010.**

Incidentally there was another statement made by the Health Department in the UK in their letter to the Chairman, which is probably why the Chief Minister and his mates do not want a Select Committee looking into it, as it claims;

“The Agreement is **identical** to current temporary arrangements that ceases on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010. There is only one difference now from the 1970's when the Agreement was last negotiated

and that is the removal of an additional annual financial allocation given to the Isle of Man Government by the UK Government (typically around £3 million)”

For obvious reasons the Chairman had omitted to ask for this in his proposal but, was this really what it cost our Government to treat and give UK residents medical assistance in our hospitals etc in any one calendar year, when the DHSS Ministers have repeatedly said in the Keys and Tynwald that they did not even know the costs themselves as they did not keep records?

So how was this £3 million worked out?

**If it is an ‘identical’ agreement as we had before, why has it taken over two years to agree and sign?**

**What ‘incessant’ work has been involved by the Chief Minister and his Government to sign an agreement exactly like the one they had in 1970 and up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010?**

**If according to the UK Secretary of State for Health to the Chairman, it is ‘identical’ to the agreement we had before, except for the UK payment caveat, what was the problem?**

Now the Government can claim that the Chairman's proposals and the suggestion for a moratorium to the Secretary of State for Health Mr Andy Burnham and Anne Milton, and the intervention of the Manx people, the six MHK's, and Mr Mackinley MP had no influence whatsoever in his U-turn on the moratorium and final **‘identical’** agreement.

But no matter, all we wanted was a permanent extension to the Reciprocal Health Agreement, and contrary to the moaning and wailing of our Government, we got one.

As far as we are concerned, it's the festive season, so God bless the Chief

Minister, let him believe whatever he wishes if that is what makes him think happy happy thoughts, but the people know best.

We would respectfully remind the Chief Minister that the World is the colour of the glass through which, at any time, he is looking through.

In Tynwald Mr Quintin Gill MHK for Rushen, wanted the Government to appoint a Select Committee to look into who did what to acquire the new Reciprocal Health agreement, but this would have shown up the ineptitude, inadequacy and incompetence of the Government in negotiating, and taking so long in getting something **'identical'** to what they already had since 1970, so in their usual bombastic way, the Chief Minister, Ministers and Members blasted Mr Gill's proposal out of the water without even a courtesy shot across the bow.

Let the Chief Minister continue to ride on his now mangy and dilapidated rocking horse, standing on the same spot, rocking himself to oblivion, except fanning the dying embers of his ailing Government, and those associated with it, and what he, in his own mind, as the only person on the Island believes, is riding to the people's rescue.

Reminds us of cartoons of Don Quixote on Rosinante tilting at windmills.

**We are the Group that leads from the front and gets things done.**

**Join us today.**

**Ring (01624) 613702 or  
e-mail [secretary@diabetes.org.im](mailto:secretary@diabetes.org.im).**

## **Thanks**

### **Editorial**

The Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic would like to thank all those that helped in getting a new Reciprocal Health Agreement for the people of the Isle of Man, in particular;

Mr Andrew Mackinley MP whose help behind the scenes was invaluable, and for working incessantly on behalf of the

people of the Isle of Man, in the UK Parliament and the corridors of power.

The Chairman would also profusely thank the six MHK's that voted for the people at the October Tynwald 2009, and who were strong enough to stand up to the Brown Government, when the Brown Government it's Ministers and Members of Departments had abandoned us all.

One Member of the Government even went as far as to say in that Tynwald debate **"We are aware that certain people are going to be hit very hard"**.

And even though you were going to **"be hit very hard"** he went and blatantly voted with the government and against you. (We shall tell you who he was in the June *Diabetic* and remind you in the September issue).

We congratulate the six MHK's for their constant intervention on behalf of the Manx people in Tynwald the Keys and lobbying in the UK Parliament, and who felt that their constituents interests and that of the Manx people, were of paramount concern and voted to help you.

They were also instrumental in pushing the moratorium and agreement through.

These six MHK are the ones that you **must vote in again.**

**Mr Steve Rodan** Speaker of the House of Keys. Garff.

**Mr John Houghton** MHK for Douglas North

**Mr David Cannan** MHK for Michael

**Mrs Brenda Cannell** MHK for Douglas East

**Mr Peter Karran** MHK for Onchan, Lib Vannin.

**Mr Quintin Gill** MHK for Rushen

The Chairman would also like to personally thank Mrs Edith Quaggin for her invaluable help, backing and guidance. Mrs Doreen Smith of Manx Blind Welfare and her staff who were a tower of strength, and Mrs Valerie Cottle for her decisive interventions in the press.

A special vote of thanks must also go to Mr Simon Richardson of Mannin Media for agreeing to act as Chairman at the Public meeting, and for conducting the meeting with such panache, efficiency

and keeping everyone in their proper place, when feelings were running high against our Government.

Our thanks also goes to Mr Theo Fleurbaay for his contribution at the meeting at the head table.

To Mr Eddie Power for his wonderful background work and all those that sent their views to be read out at the meeting and to those that contributed personally on the night.

We cannot forget the many many Groups and Charities that e-mailed the Chairman offering their members support for the work that was being done on behalf of the people of the Isle of Man.

A special vote of thanks must go to all the people that attended the public meeting called by the Chairman, and for their enthusiastic attendance outside and inside Tynwald with the many placards kindly provided by Manx Blind Welfare staff.

We would also thank the BBC, the Television stations across that carried the story, and in particular Manx Radio and the Local Press for their help and publicity in promoting and covering the public meeting.

Our thanks to the above six MHK's that attended the meeting and to Mr David Callister MLC who was also there offering his support.

Last but not least the Chairman's special thanks goes to his wife, Jan, without whose patience and understanding, the meetings, the campaign and copious correspondence would not have been dealt with or made possible.

You were the people, the Manx people that got Andy Burnham to do a U-turn on his intransigent stand, not our Government.

Our Government had already thrown in the towel, see the Hansard statements from that morning in Tynwald, from the Chief Minister down.

The UK report claims and confirms that the Government of "the Isle of Man had appeared to accept the scrapping of the Reciprocal Health Agreement".

An indictment on our Government.

Which means that according to the British Government, it appears, contrary to what they say, that our Government did nothing and accepted the situation.

It was our Government that rolled over and accepted what they thought was the inevitable.

The Manx people were the people that got you a moratorium of six months, not our Government.

The Manx people were the people that got you the New Reciprocal Health Agreement, not our Government.

The Manx people were the people.....the people that will be remembered for their people power that got you the agreement you have today, not our Government.

Our Government once again failed their Manx people.

Our Government members are the elected representatives.....elected by you to look after your interests, but failed.

It is they that voted against you at the October 2009 Tynwald and cut you adrift, they then wanted to get on the band wagon telling the people they did everything in a vain effort to be re-elected, but kept falling off their rickety constructed platforms.

Well done all those of you that contributed with your phone calls, letters and actions that made this possible, because every intervention however small counted, and was one of the important and mighty building blocks of our great adventure and our achievement.

The Manx people are the ones that mattered.

The ones that triumphed and stood up to be counted, not our Government, and we will never forget what they did, and what was done to us.

It was people power that carried the day.

Bless you all for your support, and may you all have Peace, Health and Happiness in the coming year.

**But next September, at the ballot box, we shall remember those that voted against us.**

## The Christmas message by the Rev John Guilford.

Here we are once again preparing to celebrate the coming of the Christ child.



The Rev John Guilford

It's been an interesting year; certainly a year of change as the world continues to come to terms with the effect of the financial crisis.

On that score 2011 does not appear to be too much better as the UK Government cuts begin to bite and we all wait to see what impact they are going to have, both to our family and friends living in the UK and to life here on our beautiful island.

Before, though, you reach for your handkerchiefs or your worry beads and start crying into your beer, let's just take a moment to consider what the Christmas celebrations offer us.

They don't just offer us a few days where we can forget our troubles and party for a bit; they offer us a time of peace and real hope for the future.

With the gift of the Christmas baby, God is cementing his relationship with us, his people, and promising us life with him and in him long after the celebrations are over and the lights and the decorations are taken down and the offer is of a life really worth living.

Don't forget the celebration we have in December is about the first coming of Jesus Christ. Throughout his ministry Jesus told us that he would be coming back to take all those who believe in him to himself.

I have had cause over these past few weeks to dwell on the parable of 'The Ten Bridesmaids' (Matthew 25: 1-13). I encourage you to read it for yourselves.

It is a parable about preparation; being ready for Jesus' promised return. In the guise of the bridegroom coming to 'marry' his church, Jesus comes late and the bridesmaids who have fallen asleep, wake to find that they cannot find their way to the wedding in the dark, so are locked out and miss the party.

They need light. They have lamps and willingness, a desire to find the bridegroom, but they lack oil.

The lack of oil for their lamps is clearly a simile for faith and Jesus is encouraging us all to live in the light of faith, so that Jesus will know us when he arrives.

It appears that only we as individuals can build up this oil in our lives so, as this is one party I promise you do not want to miss,

I would encourage you to begin building up your stock of oil immediately.

Supplies are available at a church near you and the really good news is that it is absolutely free; the best deal of this or any other Christmas!

I wish you peace, health and happiness this Christmas time and into the New Year and I pray that you strike the well of life in your faith walk.

God bless.

## Sailing for the Disabled.

Mr David Killey the Chairman for Sailing for the Disabled has kindly supplied *The Diabetic*, at our request with the following article which we are proud to print.

In his article David points out that;

"Sailing is one of the few sports or activities that can be enjoyed by almost anybody irrespective of their disability or affliction. Sailors can participate on equal terms with able bodied persons.

Imagine the thrill of sailing for people who can feel and hear but have no sight, or of sailing a boat at speed even though they can't walk, or of joining in a sport where deafness or in fact any condition is not a restriction.

Sailing for the Disabled was the inspiration for a group of people 26 years ago in 1984, who then had the vision to

set up in the Isle of Man a charity run entirely by volunteers and funded entirely by donations.

It set down its principle aim to enrich the life of those in our community who have disabilities, irrespective of conditions whether they are physical, mental, temporary or permanently impaired.

The group were driven to do something for people who did not enjoy the level of health that they themselves had. They believed that a sailing experience was great therapy, providing challenges, enjoyment, friendship and fun where each person could find a level of activity that benefited them.



The crew in sailing gear as supplied by the Charity during a trip to Scotland.

The original venture was to facilitate dinghy sailing in Douglas and Port St Mary Bay in the summer and with a few hardy souls at the Injebreck Reservoir in the winter.

It was soon established that a yacht was more appropriate and funds were raised to purchase a 21 ft Sailing Boat named **Creg ny Baa** after the place where Sailing for the Disabled was formed and met as a group to manage the charity.

The support and generosity of the Manx community allowed the charity to grow slowly at first with a replacement yacht a 26ft Westerly "**Dunlin**" to enable disabled sailors to go further afield, and then in 2001 Manx lottery funding helped to acquire a new German built Bavarian 37 **Pride of Mann** which provided a safe and comfortable yacht to cruise the Irish Sea as well as the coast of the Isle of Man and could be berthed in Douglas Marina making it easier for disabled persons to board.

Then in 2004 with a rapidly growing membership and generous support from local commercial organisations and once again the Manx lottery the charity was able to purchase **Pride of Mann II** a larger Bavarian to provide accommodation for 10 people.

The management of the Yacht is carried out by professional volunteers and we operate a Code of Practice which is endorsed by the Royal Yachting Association whose managers believe that measured against UK national standards, Sailing for the Disabled is very much a Centre of Excellence in providing a service for the Manx community.



**Pride of Mann II** passing through Calf Sound

The safety of all participants is absolutely paramount.

There is also an opportunity for Care organisations and Special Needs children in schools to become involved as group members.

The charity is constantly moving forward to serve the Manx community.

All Skippers and Crew of **Pride of Mann II** hold appropriate RYA qualifications, they are very experienced, vetted by the Manx Constabulary and are also Awareness trained to help people with disabilities enjoy their sailing with their support.

The Charity is also affiliated and supported by Douglas Bay Yacht Club and holds regular functions in their premises which range from marine environmental talks to musical, quiz and party evenings for members to enjoy and socialise.

Sailing for the Disabled continues to encourage and support people with all manner of disabilities and conditions

whether or not they are registered disabled.

Our criteria for providing a sailing or social experience is very broad with an opportunity for Diabetics to avail themselves of the charity facilities.

Our membership already has Type 1 and 2 diabetics among its number and if you would like to know more or just have a look at the charities activities and you have access to the internet the website is [www.sftd-iom](http://www.sftd-iom) or just give me a ring, David Killey Chairman Sailing for the Disabled on 627186 or email [davidk@manx.net](mailto:davidk@manx.net)

I would be only too pleased to hear from you and answer any questions you may have”.

*The Diabetic* would like to thank Mr David Killey for his wonderful contribution, and for all the work that the Sailing for the Disabled Charity and members provide on behalf of the disabled and the physically impaired on the Isle of Man.

## **An example to all disabled**

A quadruple amputee swims the Channel in 13.5 hours.

A few years ago his time would have been one of the faster channel swims of all time, yet it is all the more remarkable because Philippe Croizon did it having no arms and no legs. He used special flippers

The quadruple amputee completed the swim from Folkstone to Wissant at Cap Griz Nez almost twice as fast as his backing team had expected.

He was assisted by favourable winds and according to his father, the encouragement of watchful dolphins.

Mr Croizon lost his arms and legs in an accident 16 years ago.

A pod of dolphins joined Mr Croizon for some of the crossing, his father said, ‘we took that as a sign of good luck’.

Mr Croizon’s team believe his crossing to be the fastest for a disabled swimmer.

So if you are disabled, take Mr Croizon as a beacon of light, hope, and an example for you all to do your own thing, which you can, if you set your mind to it.

Disability is only in the eye of the beholder, and in your own mind if you want to be disabled.

Stand for your rights, you are not disabled, it is only others who think you are disabled, and it is they that carry their disability before them, not you.

Mr Croizon is our example.

The Chairman’s personal slogan,

“I may have no legs,  
but in my mind

I can outrun and out think  
everyone with just one blink”.

*You can borrow it if you like.*

**Now that we have got the Government  
a New Reciprocal Health Agreement,  
in the New Year we shall be starting a  
campaign to have the Disability  
Discrimination Act once and for all  
implemented in the  
Isle of Man.**

**All those who want to join and help in  
this campaign please ring the  
Chairman on Tel: 613702 or  
e-mail [chairman@diabetes.org.im](mailto:chairman@diabetes.org.im)**

## **Maintaining front line services.**

At a meeting last December with the then Minister for the DHSS Mr Eddie Teare, the Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic, as gently as he could explained that in his quest to save monies he and his Government could not deplete the front line services, i.e. The Hospital Services, the Police Force and Education.

However as usual, any logical and practical proposals to any of our Government Departments, falls on deaf ears.

Picasso had his colour periods and our Government has a constant negative period.

What did Mr Teare and his successor do? They started by reducing front line services irrespective of what the long term consequences are.

Cutting preventative care just exacerbates the long term expenditure of

the Health Departments, not to mention the pain and suffering to the patient.

The Government emulates Nero and goes and fiddles about with the hospital services, their pensions, running the risk of consultants and personnel leaving and making recruitment a possible disaster.

We cannot continue to emulate the UK health department because we are an Island and they have infinitely greater facilities and resources to ours.

Whatever meanderings the UK Government do only serves to confuse our Government more. We must have our own long term policy and not be in the hands of others.

So the answer is to keep our people happy and interested in their work.

To do so they have to be looked after, have the right complement of staff and must be properly paid.

Now the Gibraltar Government knows how to do it, they have entered into an agreement with their health professionals which we ourselves can't afford, let alone emulate, negotiate, or dream of.

The agreement is quite simple and taking into account the recession it is remarkable, and includes the following.

*The Diabetic* understands that;

- 1) The overall package deal to the Gibraltar Health professionals is worth **24.5%** over the next three years. **An increase of one quarter of their salaries.**
- 2) An immediate increase in a pay deal of 13% backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.
- 3) 5 extra days annual leave.
- 4) A guaranteed 2.5% increase in pay in 2011, 2012, 2013 worth 7.5%.
- 5) An attendance related bonus of up to 2% for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 to 2010.
- 6) This means up to £500 no sick bonus per year.
- 7) Extra duty and responsibility allowances to be made **pensionable.**
- 8) Pay during annual leave will be calculated on the basis of what the individual would have received had he/she been in work.

9) Standardisation of the working week to 37 and a half hours.

10) Staff working fewer hours will be compensated.

The benefits the above will accrue to patients are enumerated, but we shall not go into them here, suffice to say the Gibraltar Minister for Health said the deal "is good for the staff and is good for our patients and the services that we provide for the people of Gibraltar".

The operative words here are "**the services we provide for the people of Gibraltar**"

Something we seem to have lost somewhere along the way ourselves on the Island.

The deal was agreed between the Staff, Unite and the Gibraltar Government..

If they can do this there, why can't we do it here?

What have they got that we haven't?

Why must we continue to cut our hospital services whilst in Gibraltar they improve them?

Either the Gibraltar Government knows something that the Isle of Man Government does not, or the Isle of Man Government doesn't know something that the Gibraltar Government does.

It is about time that we stopped playing about with people's lives to save peanuts when we can cut from other areas.

It is about time that we did what is good for the Island and its people and not just blindly follow whatever the UK NHS does, because in the long run it will not work for us.

We keep on spending ridiculous monies here there and everywhere except where we need it most in this time of priority and austerity, our front line services.

Incidentally, *The Diabetic* understands a Radiologist at Noble's has been offered a job in Gibraltar, and he is taking up post there, to our detriment.

The Minister for Health in Gibraltar wants to attract as many of the best people as they can for their patients.

The Financial Sector must work for the people and they must derive its benefits.

If the Financial Sector does not work for the people, then there is no point in having a Financial Sector, not just for the sake of the kick of pretending to play high stakes poker, which in any event we don't know how to, are unable to, and just to go on freebies.

## **Local News update.**

### **The Home of Rest for Horses.**

After spending £213,832 on the Home of Rest for Horses, monies that we can ill afford, and could have been better spent on our hospitals, the Chairman was rung by a patient on a diabetic pump which had broken and was now not dispensing him with insulin, and the Hospital authorities can't give him a replacement-----you know, they have no money to buy one for him.

Maybe we can send the patient to sit in the Home of Rest for Horses car park or the Laxey Pavilion or Silverburn when they are refurbished, and he can look out of the windows and that will bring his sugar levels down and under control, so that he won't have future major life threatening complications that will cost him and the Health Department dear.

Yet we now find that the Home of Rest for Horses appears to be closed for the winter, what a waste of money.

So where are the 102 cars and the five coaches going to park now?

Will the Government now make alternate arrangements and build another big car parking facility somewhere on the Island for the winter months to accommodate the 102 cars and the 5 coaches somewhere else?

The organisers of the Home of Rest for Horses are now lamenting the fact that they have lost pastures because of the car park etc, which were more important to them.

Now three of their stables *The Diabetic* has been given to understand, appear to be flooding every time it rains as a direct result of the new road. Who will sort this out? How much more money?

Well done Ministers and Members for voting this funding through, when we

can't afford a pump for a diabetic, and when it should have gone to the front line at our hospitals and our patients.

However we have the consolation that at least one Member of Department appeared not to know what he had voted for.

### **The Laxey Clinic.**

Our Government closes podiatry clinics etc, one in Laxey, to the detriment of our elderly patients, whilst at the same time the Government approves the expenditure of £233,000 for the Laxey Pavilion, how crazy can we get?

Where are the priorities of the Brown Government at this time of austerity?

Doesn't the health of the patients of the Isle of Man come before horses and buildings?

What is the Government there for if not to look after its own people.

We have lost our way, we have lost our priorities, and we need new people in Government and in the Keys and Tynwald to show the The Chief Minister, Ministers and all Members of Departments the way.....the way out of the door on stage left.

### **Government loses.**

In the Government's latest annual report The Chief Minister claims The Government has recorded a loss of £2.8 million pounds for the year 2009/2010, and everyone takes it without batting an eyelid.

The report also points out that this compares to a profit of £26.4 million pounds the previous year.

Now since we made a profit of £26.4 million last year and we have now made a loss for this year of £2.8 million pounds, how much has the Government lost over this period?

What is the real loss?

If my mathematics are correct we appear to have a short fall from last year, in fact the Government lost **£29.2 million pounds, not £2.8 million pounds as the Chief Minister claims.**

The £2.8 million loss this year and the profit of £26.4 million they made last year, which they have not made this year and which is what they are now out of pocket and also lost to reach the £2.8 loss.

But with statistics we can call it what we want, especially if lost millions are involved.

Incidentally if we are on a losing streak, why are we spending money like there is no tomorrow, all we are doing is exacerbating the losses.

Are they going to leave a little note for the incoming Government next September, like the Labour Government did, saying **“Sorry old boy, but there is no money left”**.

Happy New Year.

### **The 999 year lease.**

The Government in its wisdom offers the developers of the Bus Station a 999 year lease.

Wonder who gave the Government this fantastic idea?

Has anyone from the Government stopped to analyse what a 999 year lease really means to the Island people?

No one we have consulted with, from ex magistrates in the UK who have dealt with land disputes and many others have heard of a 999 year lease, so this appears to be a first yet again for the Isle of Man, and will win them a place in the Guinness Book of Records, well done.

Let *The Diabetic* respectfully point out that this lease commits over 45 generations of Manx people to a 1000 years into the future before the lease comes to an end.

A generation, according to Wikipedia is around 20 to 22 years so we are using the top figure otherwise it would be 50 generations.

No wonder no one wants to take up the 99 year lease at Summerland when our Government glibly gives others a 999 year lease.

Why spend money in getting a 99 year lease from now on, when if you wait, for peanuts you can get a piece of good real estate for a 1,000 years.

Why does no one comment on this amazing and horrendous event?

Over 45 generations!!!

How many people will be living on the Island in 3010?

You should see the Chairman's family tree, and that only goes back to 1773 when people started settling in Gibraltar.

The number of people from those two original people living today is amazing, and it is only a 237 year period, not 1000 years.

So how many people will be living on the Isle of Man by 3010 when at present there are according to the Chief Minister 81,000 people here?

According to research it is claimed that White Britons will be in the minority by the year 2066. So by the years 3010 will there be any true Manx people left?

More important how many times will someone have made millions and millions and millions at the expense of the Manx people, out of the constant resale and resale over a 1000 years of what used to be the Bus stop.

Let us for fun take us back to the year 1010 A.D. it's half way to Jesus Christ.

Does anyone remember the names of who our family ancestors in 1010 A.D. were?

Could they have been fighting with William the Conqueror in 1066 or maybe Harold? If William had been given a 1000 year lease it would still be running today.

Magna Carta was 800 years ago.

45 or 50 Generations, Oh dear!!!

Or maybe those who agreed the deal, will be administering all this themselves, maybe they hope to become bionic and live the 1000 years with constant mechanical transplants.....the Bicentennial Man times five.

Maybe by the year 3010 when the lease comes to an end, we may be holding our Tynwald and Keys meetings in a spaceship hovering over the Island, having taken off for the sessions from the Cosmonaut Orbital Space Station at Ronaldsway.

The song “In the year 2525” by Zager and Evans springs to mind.

Let us remind ourselves of some of the words, “In the year 2525 if man is still alive and woman can survive.....ain’t gonna need to tell the truth, tell no lies, everything you think do and say is in the pill you took today” and that is only half of the lease.

*The Diabetic* thought you, the Manx public, might like to know what the Government Ministers and Members of Departments are up to and are getting the Manx people into.

But then again we really can’t complain that we don’t have a progressive Government with far reaching aspirations for the future, staffed with forward planning politicians.

Anyway none of us will be around by the year 2525 let alone 3010, so who cares?

Hey idea! why doesn’t our Government hold a séance and call on Methuselah who was born in 687 after the creation of Adam and lived for 989 years, only ten years short of the proposed lease, (maybe that’s where they got the idea from), and maybe Methuselah can give our Ministers some pointers as to what it could be like to live for 1000 years.

In any event it’s mind boggling, in 1,000 years time the Bus Station and whatever may have been built on it, will in all probability be just another insignificant archaeological dig, and people with more sophisticated metal detectors than we have today, sounding for treasure trove.

### **Let the Terminally Ill Die.**

There were two special questions in the October Tynwald when it convened after the recess, and though we have dealt with this in detail in our last *Diabetic* we have no option but to bring it up again.

The Questions were to the Minister for Health Mr Anderson, on life prolonging drugs for terminally ill patients, they read;  
1) Further to the Information provided by the Department about a constituent suffering from cancer including letters from medical specialists in the UK who recommended the use of

SUNITINIB for this person, why his department chose to go against those recommendations when there is a possible chance of prolonging this persons life?

And Question;

2) Why his department is refusing to finance SUNITINIB medication which may help people suffering from cancer to prolong their lives?

We shall not go into the details of the answer by Minister Anderson on behalf of the compassionate Brown Government, his Ministers and Members of Departments, because they don’t merit argument, except to say that the Minister explained that there was no money to treat patients with life prolonging medication, yet Tynwald had down for approval that sitting millions of pounds to be spent on the refurbishment of buildings etc. Have we now gone stark raving bonkers?

Mr Anderson admitted *“these drugs offer a possibility of an extension of life, but usually at a very considerable expense”*.

**So, Mr Brown, questions? Our members want to know,**

**“How much is the prolongation of the life of one Isle of Man resident worth to your Government”?**

**Is your Government now putting a price on extending life?**

**Is your Government now practicing Euthanasia?**

**What do we do now accelerate their deaths?**

**Do we just sit back and let them die?**

**What kind of a compassionate Government do we have?**

Someone who shall be nameless once said “let them eat cake” and they lost their head.

Mr Anderson, The Chief Minister, Ministers and Members of Departments will lose their seats.

Again what and where are our priorities?

We follow everything the UK does and implement it here, well;

The Chancellor confirmed in the UK Parliament on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October

that a cancer drugs fund was being set at £200 million a year. This, to treat terminally ill patients.

If we follow everything they do, what are we doing about it here? Nothing, we let our people die prematurely whilst we refurbish buildings and build car parks.

If the UK are going to look after their terminally ill patients, why can't we do the same here? **Or do we follow them only when we can save monies at the expense of the Manx People?**

In the UK the scandal of terminally ill patients being denied drugs because NICE decides they are too expensive will end, as NICE is being stripped of its powers to ban life saving drugs on the NHS for terminally ill patients, Ministers in the UK have announced.

Instead the £30,000 ceiling for drugs to extend high quality life will be scrapped.

Do we have a ceiling here? If so are we scrapping it here, have we already scrapped it, or have we never implemented it to save monies?

**So what is our Government now going to do here who blindly follow NICE because it suits them?**

It will not be life as we know it, Jim.

**Are we going to be the only Nation in the civilized world to let our terminally ill people die without life prolonging drugs?**

**A Lady as reported in the UK press who was terminally ill, was given three months to live and was put on the drug AVASTIN, she is now in remission into her fourth year.**

**If she had lived in the Isle of Man she would have been dead four years ago.**

The Chairman once again asks the same question that he asked of the speakers at the Legion Hall on the Debate on Euthanasia.

**“Is our Government by their action of deliberately refusing life prolonging support drugs already practicing Euthanasia by withholding life prolonging drugs and accelerating the patients death when the medics say otherwise”?**

If a Diabetic deliberately stops taking their insulin, they will eventually go into a coma and die.

Does this mean that they have committed Euthanasia because they have withheld their life support medication and directly caused their death?

No, so what is the difference?

The difference is that if you do it yourself, you withhold your own life support medication and die, it's not Euthanasia it is **suicide**, but, if somebody deliberately withholds drugs on your behalf, or does it for you, under whatever pretext, the present law says it is **murder**.

As nobody appeared to be able to answer the question at the meeting, maybe some Advocate will kindly ring the Chairman on (01624) 613702 and confirm or deny his hypothesis.

And if the patient dies because our Government withheld life support drugs, can the family take our Government to Court for causing the premature death of the patient by deliberately withholding life prolonging drugs against medical advice?

*The Diabetic* thinks it would cost the Government considerably more than the £1.1 million paid by the NHS in out of court settlement compensations announced in the October Tynwald.

The offshoot of all this sad story is that the questioner is also a Member of the Government, someone who supports the Government and their actions.

It stands to reason that if he is a Member of the Government, then logic dictates he must agree with Government policy, and Government policy is to withhold life prolonging drugs.

So *The Diabetic* asks, what is the purpose of the questions if the questioner is in agreement with the policy of the answer that he is about to be given?

Because, if the answer he is about to be given is put to a vote in the Keys or Tynwald, he would have to vote with the Government and support the answer to withhold life supporting drugs, or lose the membership of his department.

Conversely if he doesn't agree with the Minister's answer and his own Government's attitude on the terminally ill by asking the question and arguing the answer, **then he must resign.**

Otherwise he should shut up and keep toeing the line, and stop playing to the gallery to be re-elected.

What is the point of asking the question if at the same time he is also supporting the Government's answer that he is being given?

Let us once again remind him that he forms part of, props up, and belongs to a Government whose current policy is to withdraw life supporting drugs from the terminally ill and let them die, and by association he must also support it as a member of the Government, otherwise he **must resign.** So again why ask the question in the first place?

The same applies to other members of departments on subjects the Government is intransigent in, and they have to support whatever answer they are given.

Democracy at its most pitiable.

### **The Theme Park.**

Mr Waft MLC suggested in Tynwald that the solution to our island problems was a Theme park with Thomas the Tank Engine.

(We have dealt with this in a previous newsletter).

However we have no money for our front line services, we can't afford life prolonging drugs for the terminally ill and the Brown Government withholds them and lets the patients die, when his own Minister admits "these drugs offer a possibility of an extension of life", which won't look good in a court of law.

Our hospital services are being cut, we can't afford to give a diabetic a diabetic pump to control his sugars, so what do we do?

We ask the Operators of Dunes Adventure Island in South Shields to look into the possibility of a Theme Park being viable on the Isle of Man.

Any infant school child would have told them it was not viable. How

ridiculous can our Government get, we are now past the point of being a laughing stock.

After much deliberation the Government has now issued a Report claiming that a Theme Park would not be viable in the Isle of Man—but there is potential for a small-scaled theme attraction. (Incidentally this won't work either so save your money).

Someone should buy out our Government's comedy act and put it on T.V., it would make riveting viewing and break all audience records.

When the Chairman came to the Island in 1978 he tried to set up a Dr Who exhibition under the Castle Mona. This was at the height of the tourist industry, all the boxes ticked until we discussed the 'spectator numbers' box, then his friends at the BBC explained that the population of the Island and the visitor numbers were a non starter and said, 'forget it there is not enough people to make it viable'.

Thirty two years later the situation is worse.

If the Government had asked the Chairman he would have told them so, for free.

How much has this cost? Money that should have been put towards running our Hospitals and prolonging life, or giving this young man the insulin pump he needs to control his sugars, not cutting hospital services and facilities.

Incidentally, there is no need to apply for the very lucrative post of what would be an excessively highly paid Manager's position for the small Themed Attraction, as *The Diabetic* has been given to understand, that the Government has already short listed two applicants for the post.....Goofy and Dopey.

### **Reminder to all members and readers of *The Diabetic*.**

Just a short reminder to all our members and readers of *The Diabetic* that though you may now have a Reciprocal Health Agreement in place that the people got the Government, and all medical bills

will be taken care for you if you fall ill in the UK, this does not mean that you are high and dry and in the clear.

You will still need repatriation cover just in case you fall ill whilst visiting the UK and have to be brought back to the Island by air ambulance.

If you have no repatriation allowance then you have to foot the bill yourselves, which would be considerable.

Similarly if you die across, then without cover for the repatriation of your body, your family will have to pay for it themselves.

So make sure that you and your children have these two types of cover before you venture to the United Kingdom on holiday or on business.

Also if you do go outside the United Kingdom, ensure that you have these two types of cover in addition to full insurance cover for the countries you are visiting, so always be prepared.

*The Diabetic* is not trying to frighten you, we are just making sure that you understand the practicality of going on holiday or business outside the Island.

As the Chairman always maintains, if you are diabetic, “you may be on holiday but you take your diabetes and your disability with you, and contrary to what you may believe, **your diabetes is NOT on holiday, neither is your disability**”.

So take care out there.

## Latest cuts in NHS Services for the Manx people.

Mr Anderson has announced in a press release that certain vaccines for travel purposes will no longer be funded by the Health Department, as from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

If you want to be vaccinated to go on holiday, you will now have to make arrangement with your GP who will charge you for doing this service for you.

Mr Anderson also says that you must be aware that on top of the cost of the vaccine, a fee may be charged by the GP.

He says “It is incumbent upon me” **no it is incumbent upon us all to vote him out at the next elections.**

So the following vaccines will no longer be available from the NHS for travel purposes unless you pay to cover yourselves.

Typhoid  
Diphtheria  
Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B and  
Hepatitis A/Typhoid

**Whoopee, now those who won't or who can't afford to get immunised can get all the above when they go on holiday and bring them back, and the NHS will put them in Hospital and pay through the nose to make them well again, if they can. If not, the NHS will have to pay for their life long medication.** Great idea to save money.

What has happened to common sense, to proper far reaching advice and most important to preventative care in the lust to chase the ‘identification’ of that elusive dollar, when we have millions available to refurbish buildings and build excessive car parks but not to look after our own people?

Again where are our priorities in this time of austerity?

As the Government appears not to know the definition of certain words, here is the verbatim Collins Dictionary definition.  
**Priority:- the most important thing that must be dealt with first.**  
**Austerity:- reduced availability of luxuries and consumer goods.**

## How about a Swap?

Now that the Department of Social Care has decided it is a good idea to introduce a stealth tax on our poor old senior citizens who are in nursing homes, which is blatant discrimination on those in nursing homes, we thought we would give the Member a better idea for him to implement, which would be more beneficial to all our senior citizens.

So how about a swap?

Lets put all the senior citizens in Jail, and the Criminals into nursing homes.

This way the seniors would have access to the most up to date facilities, hobbies, and walks.

They would have constant video monitoring, so they could be helped instantly, if they fell in their cells, or needed assistance.

A guard would check on them every 20 minutes, and could help them bring their meals, and snacks to their cells if they wanted to.

They would have family visits in a suite specially built for the purpose.

They would have access to a library, gym, spiritual counselling, pool, and education, simple clothing, shoes, slippers, P.J.'s and legal aid, all they have to do is ask, and the advocates would be instantly there to fight their corner, at no expense to them everything on the taxpayer.

They would have private secure rooms for all, en-suite loo facilities and an exercise outdoor yard with big gardens.

Each senior citizen would be supplied with a Television, Radio and daily phone calls.

There would be a board of directors on hand to hear their complaints and instantaneously act.

The "criminals" on the other hand would go to the nursing homes.

Live in the one room, have to sell all their assets and pay some £2,500 per month to stay, and have no hope of ever getting out.

Crime would fall dramatically.

Alternately the Member for the department can give each senior citizen the option of going into a nursing home selling all their assets, be discriminated against by being stealth taxed and paying for their stay themselves, or going to jail and the Government picking up the tab and paying everything for them.

They say there is more money allocated to their meals in jail than if the old dears were in hospital.

A Minister in the UK has proposed that inmates should be presented with a menu, already dubbed 'Porridge a la carte' which will offer a variety of meals.

This is taken from a sample menu proposed by the UK Prison Service.

#### **Evening Meal**

Grilled Salmon

Vegetable Lasagne

Halal Chicken Curry

Prawn Salad.

Jacket Potato

Peas/Swede/Salad

Black Forest Gateaux

Fruit/Yoghurt/Ice Cream.

As soon as this comes into operation in the UK our Government will immediately fall over themselves to embrace it here as we shall have to follow the UK.

If our senior citizens went to jail they wouldn't have to sell their house and their many other assets to pay for their stay.

Hope the above makes the Member for the department stop and think again about his constituents and his Department's Stealth Tax.

As the Member claims, experience in public life is essential to be re-elected, but then *The Diabetic* is of the opinion you don't need much political savvy or experience to be re-elected to play Monopoly.

Just pick up the card which says, go to Jail, do not pass Go, do not collect £200, a n d s w a p t h e m .

## **Cancellation of Human 30 Mixtard Insulin?**

As from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2011 next, Novo Nordisk will be withdrawing the supply of Human Mixtard 30 Insulin.

The Chairman of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic was approached with the information by the Insulin Dependent Diabetes Trust who are based in Northampton.

Jenny Hirst the Co-Chairman tells him that the withdrawal of this type of insulin will affect 90,000 patients in the UK who are on Human Mixtard 30.

*The Diabetic* would like to inform our members that if any of you are on this

insulin you should consult your GP or the Manx Diabetes Centre so that you can be switched to an alternative.

We understand from very reliable sources that there appears to be some 30 patients who are users of Human Mixtard 30 insulin on the Island, and that plans are afoot to resolve this important issue.

In addition the innolet device will be discontinued. The innolet is used by people who have hand movement and/or visual problems so in future this vulnerable group of people will require help with their injections and they will lose their independence.

Novo Nordisk have already removed Actrapid in cartridges for pens, so it is now only available in vials.

Also Novo Nordisk has changed their mixtard 30 insulin in cartridges for pens, and are now issuing disposable pens instead.

If you want any further information go to website:-

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/withdrawal-of-mixtard-30-from-the-uk-market/>

## **News in Brief.**

### **Diabetes Drug Banned**

A diabetes drug that is said to raise the risk of Heart Attacks has been banned in the UK.

The drug taken by some 100,000 Britons has been banned.

European safety chiefs took Avandia off the market, three months after the committee responsible for drug safety in the UK called for it to be withdrawn.

Avandia first came into the market ten years ago as a new way to reduce blood sugar in patients with type 2 diabetes.

But there has been mounting concerns over its safety record with many critics claiming that watchdogs should have acted much faster in banning the drug.

The suspension of the drug from the market means that doctors can now no longer prescribe the drug.

If you are on Avandia please see your Doctor.

### **Increase in diabetic patients**

Our reader in Rochdale Mr Terry Marston writes to inform us that the number of known diabetics in Rochdale has now risen to a staggering 9,282, but that as from the year 2015 this figure is expected to rise to some 12,422.

This is an expected increase of some 25% in diabetics in the area, a tremendous and unprecedented increase.

Preventative care must be the order of the day.

We on the Isle of Man are not immune to these type of increases and we must be vigilant with the anomalies now being imposed by our Minister of Health Mr Anderson in an effort to save monies, and we must not allow him to withdraw any preventative care that we have in place and which has taken us so long in fighting for the benefit of the Manx Diabetic.

### **Diabetic drug approved**

You lose some you gain some.

A drug that could help most diabetes sufferers stabilise their blood sugar levels has been approved in the UK.

It appears that a daily injection of Victoza would benefit Type 2 diabetics linked to obesity and an inactive lifestyle.

Type 2 diabetes affects 90% of sufferers.

The drug works by stimulating release of insulin and reducing appetite, and is taken with other diabetes drugs.

### **Artificial Pancreas, will it work?**

Professor Joan Taylor of De Montfort University of Leicester has developed a device equivalent to an artificial pancreas that could put an end to the daily injections that diabetics endure to regulate their glucose levels.

It would be implanted between the lowest rib and the hip and topped up with insulin every few weeks.

Professor Taylor and her team hopes to move to clinical trials within the next few years, and if these are successful the device could be available in five to ten years.

The device has no moving parts or batteries and would not be visible on the surface of the skin.

### **The Light that tests your blood sugars.**

A technique being tested at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States works by measuring glucose levels in a fluid found just beneath the skin.

It is a Computer programme than instantly calculates glucose in the blood stream.

It is a light source that detects blood sugar levels by simply shining onto the skin.

This could mean an end to finger pricking tests for all diabetics.

Researchers are presently working on a desk top devise to be used by doctors to check patients.

However they hope that they can eventually condense the technology into a small gadget that diabetics can carry with them.

### **Next AGM.**

Just a reminder for you to put into your new diary for 2011.

The next AGM of the Friends of the Manx Diabetic will take place at St Andrews Church Hall Douglas, St Ninians, Glencrutchery Road, on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **The last laugh**

#### **Grandma still drives.**

We must thank Libby for sending the following to Dr Alison Blackman, who in turn sent it on to us.

Because it is the festive season we though we would include it in this quarter's *Diabetic*. Here goes;

By the way, Grandma is eighty-eight years old and still drives her own car, she writes:

Dear Grand-daughter,

The other day I went up to our local Christian Book Store and saw a 'honk if you love Jesus' bumper sticker.

I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting.

So I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper.

Boy, am I glad I did, what an uplifting experience that followed.

I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good he is, and I didn't notice that the lights had changed.

It is a good thing that someone else loves Jesus, because if he hadn't honked I'd never have noticed.

I found that lots of people love Jesus!

Whilst I was sitting there the guy behind me started honking like crazy, and he leaned out of his window and screamed 'for the love of God, Go Go Go Jesus Christ Go!'

What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus!

Everyone started honking!

I just leaned out my window and started waving and smiling at all those loving people.

I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love.

There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a sunny beach.

I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air.

I asked my young teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant.

He said it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something.

Well, I have never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out of the window and gave him the good luck sign right back.

My grandson burst out laughing.

Why even he was enjoying this religious experience!!

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me.

I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the lights had changed again.

So grinning, I waved at all my brothers and sisters, and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed that I was the only car that got through the intersection, before the lights changed again and felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared.

So I slowed down, leaned out of the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck salute sign one last time as I drove away.

Praise the lord for such wonderful folk.  
Will write again soon darling  
Love and kisses  
Grandma.

Thank you grandma for such a wonderful and uplifting letter on this festive season.  
God bless you all  
Keep them coming.

## **Important reminder to all our members and readers of what you have to do, prior and during the next election.**

*The Diabetic* must remind you that if you want to vote at the next election you must be registered to vote, so **check and make sure that you are registered.**

It is no good saying I don't want them back in again, because they have done nothing for the people.

To get out The Chief Minister, Ministers and Members that voted against you in the October 2009 Tynwald, you must exercise your right to vote.

Vote for anyone you fancy on the ballot paper but them.

However if you are not registered you will have no vote. Then there will be no point in blaming others.

We must all have a vote and exercise our vote to make sure that we do not elect those that voted against us back in again by default.

**So please check that you are on the voting register.**

The following MHK's voted against you and for the Teare proposal for us to go it alone, and they abandoned us all.

The motion at the October 2009 Tynwald as presented by Mr Teare contained the following;

***a) That from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 the payment of any NHS charges incurred by Manx residents visiting the UK is an individual responsibility.***

In other words we wash our hands of you all, the people are all on their own, you pay for your health problems or if you can't, then get insurance. Whatever they say to the contrary, the Government and Members of Departments abandoned you all, a) above is what they voted for.

Do not be intimidated by them saying you need experienced people in Government, because they have already proved that they will abandon you at the drop of a hat, experience or no experience.

**Cut this out and put it on your fridge door and when they come to your door tell them you are not voting for them anymore, and take no lip from them.**

**The MHK's that voted against you, and you should not vote them in again are.**

**Mr Tony Brown MHK Chief Minister Castletown.**

He voted against you

**Mr Teare MHK Ayre**

He voted against you

**Mr Earnshaw MHK Onchan**

He voted against you

**Mr Quayle MHK Middle**

He voted against you

**Mr Malarkey MHK Douglas South**

He voted against you

**Mr Cretney MHK Douglas South**

He voted against you

**Mr Waterson MHK Rushen**

He voted against you

**Mr Quirk MHK Onchan**

He voted against you.

**Mr Crookall MHK Peel**

He voted against you.

**Mr Anderson MHK Glenfaba**

He voted against you.

**Mrs Craine MHK Ramsey**

She voted against you.

**Mr Bell MHK Ramsey**

He voted against you.

**Mr Corkish MHK Douglas West**

He voted against you.

**Mr Shimmin MHK Douglas West**

He voted against you.

**Mr Gawne MHK Rushen**

He voted against you.

**Mr Bill Henderson MHK Douglas North**

He walked out of the Chamber so that he did not vote for you.

Whatever they tell you take it with a pinch of salt, this is the vote that the Chief Minister's proud of, and kept on quoting as the Tynwald authority, not theirs for what they did.

They all claim it was Tynwald and the British Government, not any of the above, their easy way out is don't blame us, it's not us, it's Tynwald and someone else,

Have you noticed that some of them are already asking lots of questions so that you notice them and get them re-elected.

Already the Government was defeated with a twelve/twelve vote with the Speaker giving a casting vote. This is the beginning of the end for the Government.

This means that as the election nears they will continue to defeat the Government to ingratiate themselves with you. Pay no attention to this ploy.

They keep intervening in constant supplementary questions to let the people know they are still alive. They have been putting out 'Up-dates' and holding surgeries, are on Manx Radio constantly telling you what they are doing and how well they are doing, and some even saying how wonderful they are by cutting their salary, like Mr 10%.

Pay no attention to them, they are only playing to the gallery so that you vote them in again and they are re-elected.

**Well, it is time to give them the heave ho.**

Don't be put off by them saying 'If you get rid of us you are going to get inexperienced people' or by Mr Bell telling us not to rock the boat.

Well they were inexperienced when they first got in. But now they are supposed to be experienced, look at the mess they have got us into, so it can't be any worse, but with new people it could get better.

Remember what the British Government has said about our Government: -

**“The Isle of Man Government appeared to accept the scrapping of the Reciprocal Health Agreement”**

**The time has come to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. And only you can do that at the ballot box.**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**The Chairman would like to dispel all rumours that now that the Isle of Man is 5<sup>th</sup> in the Space Race,**

**he has set up a fund to buy Mr Brown, Mr Teare and Mr Anderson a one way ticket to the moon,**

**so that they can set up their own unique style Democratic Government on the Sea of Tranquillity, and co-opt all astronauts that land on the Moon as members of departments.**

**The Chairman has already turned down many substantial offers, so please do not send any money for this non existent fund.**

**Thank you.**

