



**SIGHT MATTERS**

# Optic Topics

Issue No 130  
Winter 2024

**A newsletter for blind & visually  
impaired people**

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**Manx Registered Charity No. 132**



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## **Celebrating 21 Years of Impact: Join Sight Matters in a Year of Fundraising Creativity!**

On **April 25<sup>th</sup> 2024**, Sight Matters will be raising a toast to a significant milestone – the **21<sup>st</sup> birthday** of our cherished premises, **Corrin Court**. Over two decades, Corrin Court has been the heart of our mission, providing support, community, and resources for individuals with visual impairments.

To mark this momentous occasion, we are thrilled to announce a year-long celebration filled with creativity, community spirit, and, of course, fundraising! We invite each and every one of you to join us in coming up with fun and innovative fundraising ideas throughout the year and ideally, implementing them for us.

Why Fundraise? Sight Matters continuously strives to make a positive impact on the lives of those with visual impairments. The funds raised through this year-long celebration will empower us to expand our reach, enhance our programs, and make an even greater difference in the lives of individuals facing visual challenges.

## **What we're doing.**

We're hosting a variety of events throughout the week of Corrin Court's birthday (starting on Saturday 20th), including Dining in The Dark, a 21<sup>st</sup> Coffee Morning, an event held by ManninSight and a series 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party celebrations in our lunch club

We're linking our 21<sup>st</sup> celebrations to our SUN-Raiser campaign, our initiative to install a solar panel array on Corrin Court. As such, this year we're looking to raise **Twenty-One for Twenty-One** and secure £21,000 for this worthy cause before the end of the year.

**Donate:** Visit our website or contact our office to make a direct contribution towards our £21,000 goal. Every pound brings us closer to a greener, more sustainable future.

**Spread the Word:** Share our campaign on social media, with friends, family, and colleagues. Your voice amplifies our reach and impact.

**Join the Celebration:** Follow our social media channels for updates, stories, and live events as

we celebrate 21 years of Corrin Court. Your engagement is a testament to the strength of our community.

As we embark on this exciting journey, let's unite to make Twenty-One for Twenty-One a resounding success.

And we're asking for your help, too! We'd love to see you get creative and come up with your own unique fundraising ideas that resonate with the spirit of celebrating Corrin Court's 21st birthday. Perhaps it's a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday themed dress down day, walking 21 miles in 21 days (or, if you're very brave, running 21 5ks in 21 days!), or hosting a 21-question trivia night. Whatever it is, we'd love to hear about it – and we will do anything we can to support. So please keep us up to date with your fundraising ideas.

## **Dive into Darkness: Join Us for Dining in The Dark on 20<sup>th</sup> April**

We're excited to extend a special invitation for you to join us at Sight Matters' upcoming fundraising event: Dining In The Dark!

Save the date for **Saturday April 20th** and head to Corrin Court for an evening that promises a unique sensory adventure filled with laughter, surprises, and, most importantly, a chance to make a difference.

Immerse yourself in a culinary journey like no other as you experience a 3-course meal served in total darkness. Picture this: heightened senses, tantalising aromas, and the excitement of trying to identify each bite without the aid of sight. Our talented chefs have curated a menu with three options – meat, fish, or veggie – ensuring a delightful challenge for your taste buds, whatever your preferences.

The element of darkness adds mystery and fun to the dining experience. You'll find yourself relying on your sense of taste and touch, engaging in lively conversations with fellow diners, and perhaps sharing a few laughs as you navigate the unique adventure of eating in the dark.

As you savour your mysterious meal, the intrigue continues with post-meal entertainment designed to engage your senses in unique and unexpected ways. Get ready for surprises that will tickle your taste buds and entertain you.

And it's all for a good cause. Dining in The Dark supports Sight Matters in our mission to make a positive impact on the lives of those with visual impairments. Your ticket purchase will contribute to providing essential resources for Sight Matters' cause.

With limited tickets available, this event is expected to sell out quickly. Secure your spot now by emailing [events@sightmatters.im](mailto:events@sightmatters.im). Tickets will be priced at **£75** which includes a bottle of wine per head.

So, get ready to join us for an evening of mystery, flavours, and entertainment – all for a good cause. We can't wait to share this extraordinary experience with you.

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Manx Blind Welfare Society**

This is notice of our Annual General Meeting to be held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 3.30pm** at our Headquarters - Corrin Court, Heywood Avenue, Onchan

## **Quiz Night 16<sup>th</sup> February**

We are holding our annual Quiz Night **at Corrin Court on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm**. Our quiz master Dave holds all the answers- no questioning him please – for a fun filled night. Tickets are £10 per person to include soup and cake. Enter as a team or individually (and we'll make sure you are teamed up!). To book email **events@sightmatters.im** or call **674727**

## **New Sight Matters Amateur Radio Club (Ham Radio)**

CQ, CQ, CQ, this is the Sight Matters Amateur Radio Club calling all current amateur radio operators, or those interested in learning about the hobby, to our QTH (headquarters at Corrin Court in Onchan). We will be holding an open afternoon and first Annual General Meeting of the Club on **Friday 8th March**. We will have volunteers on hand to demonstrate some of the different types of radio equipment that we will potentially be using in the Club, and you can have the opportunity to get on the air yourself and chat to some radio amateurs around the world. We can also explain a little more about how things work and what we hope to do with the Club.



To go on the air an operator needs to obtain a license, although you can operate at club meetings under supervision. There are three levels of license available. A foundation, intermediate and full license. They come with varying levels of privileges. A person sits an exam to obtain each license. Special adaptations are put in place to assist those with additional needs to take the exams. The Club will be setting up a training programme to allow its members to gain their licenses.

Lots of modern radio equipment has a talking feature built in so it can be made to work for those with sight problems. You also don't always need to have antennas installed on the side of your building to be able to operate, a simple and cheap handheld radio which is setup properly, can allow you to talk to radio operators around the world. We intend to have some radios available for loan to licensed members.

So, if you would like to find out more, have a go, or even get involved by joining the Club Committee, then come along on the **8th March** to Corrin Court **between 12 - 5pm**. The AGM will be from **3.30pm**.

73's (Best Wishes)

Dave.

Sight Matters Amateur Radio Club (S.M.A.R.C)  
Radio Callsign MT0KKG (mike, tango, zero, kilo,  
kilo, golf)

## **Race Night 15<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm**

Back for 2024 is our ever-popular Race Night – not sure how it works? We play old horse races and you place £1 bets on the winners! We also have the crazy pig race – just remember to hold your piggies in the air like you just don't care! Horse pundit Dave and Bookmaker Debbie make sure this night runs without a hitch – but remember it's a night to put the 'fun' into fundraising! Tickets are £10 to include soup and cake. To book email **events@sightmatters.im** or call **674727**

## **21<sup>st</sup> Coffee Morning – 25<sup>th</sup> April**

In celebration of the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of Corrin Court we are having a Coffee Morning on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**. Come along for coffee and chat with your friends and the team. We'll have a raffle, cake stall and games stalls. With a 21<sup>st</sup> theme –

it's sure to be a special morning. No need to book, £2 on the door. Doors open at **10.30am**

## **Raffle Prizes**

If you have any items to donate for raffle prizes please pop them along to Corrin Court or The VIP Store – they are always welcome

## **Over 18's Activity Club**

Upcoming members events for members over 18  
If you are interested in any of the events below please contact Julie Cannon on **674727** or **[jcannon@sightmatters.im](mailto:jcannon@sightmatters.im)**

Please be aware that there is no charge for any of the activities and numbers in some sessions may be limited. Transport is provided for the events.

## **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Poetry with Boaksey Closs, Manx Bard at Corrin Court 13.30-15.30**

Always fancied writing poetry, but don't know where to start? Or are you an experienced poet, looking for inspiration and ideas to take your work further? Join Boakesey, the IXth Manx Bard in a fun, supportive workshop, giving you the

opportunity to play with words and see what happens. No critiquing of work, just a chance to enjoy yourselves.

## **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Art Exhibition called HOME at the Manx Museum 10.30-12**

The artworks in *HOME* are from a collective of around 65 artists on the island and represent different ideas and aspects of the Isle of Man, the place in which we live – whether real or ideal, celebratory or critical. Visitors can explore artworks from members of the Creative Network including paintings, sculptures and decorative arts.

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Evita at the Gaiety Theatre- 14.30 show.**

The **Douglas Choral Union** presents Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical **Evita**. This compelling production recounts the remarkable journey Eva 'Evita' Duarte, the former First Lady of Argentina, from her modest beginnings to her ascent as a powerful and controversial political figure. Dive into the narrative that explores her meteoric rise, unwavering advocacy for social justice, and the

profound sacrifices she made to achieve her ambitions.

'Evita' features a plethora of unforgettable songs including 'Buenos Aires', 'Another Suitcase in Another Hall', 'Oh What a Circus' and the stirring 'Don't Cry for me Argentina'.

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Neil Diamond at the Villa Marina-19.30**

The World's Greatest Celebration of The Life & Work of NEIL DIAMOND... Evocative imagery, video and narration enhance the magic, as the show takes you on a musical journey through Neil Diamond's glittering 50 year career.

From The Bang Years to the present day you'll soon be singing along to all the hits including Sweet Caroline, Cracklin' Rosie, Forever in Blue Jeans, Song Sung Blue, Hello Again, Love on the Rocks, America and many more.

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Creative Writing with Boaksey Closs, Manx Bard at Corrin Court 13.30-15.30**

Another chance to play with words in the company of IXth Manx Bard, Boakesey. This workshop will

look at creative writing and will offer tips on writing prose. If you fancy being an author of short stories or even a novel, you will have an opportunity to have a go. It's a brief introduction to the craft, but I hope it will be lots of fun. No critiquing of work will be done, so there's no pressure at all.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Oliver at the Gaiety Theatre -14.30**

The **Manx Operatic Society** presents **Oliver!** Oliver is a coming-of-age stage musical by Lionel Bart, based on the 1838 novel, Oliver Twist. It premiered at Wimbledon Theatre in London in 1960 before opening in the West End, where it enjoyed a record-breaking long run. Many revivals have shown how popular this musical is to this day, with its familiar themes and well-loved songs.

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March –Have a go Acoustic Shooting at Corrin Court (1/2 hour slots)**

Back by popular demand. Try something new and have a go at shooting an air rifle by listening to sound to. This is a sport for any degree of sight loss and you do not need to have any previous experience. The session is safely supervised.

Acoustic shooting uses specially adapted rifles fitted with special sights, which measure the level of light reflected from a target. Participants wear special headphones to hear a sound, which becomes more frequent and a higher tone the closer they are to the target.

## **Activity Groups**

The monthly activity groups are now up and running in the East, North and West of the island and are due to start in the South in January 2024.

The sessions are a mix of activities including craft, games such as Bingo, curling and quiz's as well as social activities. This is a great way to try new activities, meet new people or catch up with old friends. If you would like further information please give Julie a call on 674727 for a chat and dates can be provided.

South – Monday 10.30-12.30 at Thie Rosien, Port Erin

East - Monday 13.30-15.30 at Corrin Court

North - Friday 10.30-12.30 at Jurby Community Centre

West- Friday 14.00-16.00 at Peel Football Club

## **Calling All Octogenarians.**

Local photographer Tony Lloyd-Davies is looking for local people over 80 to be part of a photography project. It basically involves those having a portrait photograph taken in their own home or other familiar environment and will be used in an exhibition. We know we have many fantastic members over 80 who would make wonderful models, so if you're interested in taking part, please contact Cathryn Bradley on **674727** or **enquiries@sightmatters.im** who will coordinate with Tony.

## **Your Best Story" Podcast – Call for Participants**

As a valued member of the Sight Matters community, we're excited to extend a special invitation to you.

We are thrilled to introduce our brand-new podcast, Your Best Story, dedicated to sharing the best stories and anecdotes from Sight Matters members and those associated with our organisation.



Why You? We believe that everyone has fantastic story in them – it could be a story from your childhood, a funny memory, an unbelievable coincidence or something you found moving or inspiring. Whatever it is, we'd love to hear it. It doesn't have to be long – ideally under ten minutes; and it doesn't have to be rehearsed. We're looking for real human stories and personality.

How to Participate: If you're interested in being featured on "Your Best Story," please email [pmarshall@sightmatters.im](mailto:pmarshall@sightmatters.im). We'll coordinate a time for a casual and friendly interview where you can share your story.

Your participation not only adds a personal touch to our podcast but also helps build a stronger sense of community within Sight Matters.

We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your best story with Your Best Story listeners!

## **Dying to Talk About Death Conference**

In a departure from the norm, we held our Dying to Talk About Death conference on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Many questioned what such a topic actually had to do with Sight Matters but we felt we had a responsibility to let our community know

about the administration surrounding death. The attendees included members, professionals, the public and colleagues from other third sector organisations. We had an excellent panel of guest speakers and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Thanks must go to the speakers who made the day so interesting, informative and despite the topic, amusing. Special thanks must go to our Chair of Trustees, Charles Fargher, MBE who stepped in at the last minute to compere the event.

## **Sight Matters Legacy packs**

At the Conference we launched our new Sight Matters legacy packs. These packs are to help you to understand the importance of planning and writing a will. If you would like a copy please let us know and we can post one out to you or you can find it on the [www.sightmatters.im/support-us](http://www.sightmatters.im/support-us)

## **Callin Wild Law firm.**

Callin Wild are a big supporter of Sight Matters, including supporting us with a Will writing month, being involved with our Dying to Talk About Death conference and assisting with benefits appeals. To develop this further, they have

agreed to consider a bi-monthly service at Corrin Court in which members will be able speak to an Advocate and obtain advice. Further details will be published in the near future.

## **Our Aims**

Do you know our aims? Let us know if you think we are delivering on these or how we can improve – email [KHealey@sightmatters.im](mailto:KHealey@sightmatters.im)

### **Aim 1 - Enabling & Empowering**

We shall strive to give people living with the challenges of sight loss a stronger voice and greater influence in areas of policy and legislation, so that decisions impact positively on their lives.

We shall work to ensure that our Members are better equipped to fully participate in all areas of society, and in particular those areas they choose. Our Members have expressed concerns about accessibility of information, facilities and services which sometimes leaves them feeling disenfranchised from decisions that impact on their lived experiences.

## **Aim 2 – Opportunity & Choice**

We shall work with our Members and others to improve employment and independent living opportunities whenever necessary, using support from the Equality Act 2017 to ensure a consistent and fair approach to inclusion. To ensure people of all ages receive the right levels of support when they need it, the way they want it, and to help them achieve their goals and fulfil their potential.

## **Aim 3 Independence & Wellbeing**

We have a strong track record in this area, and, in recent years, we have collected wide-ranging evidence of the beneficial outcomes and tangible improvements in people's levels of independence. We have a strong track record in this area, and, in recent years, we have collected wide-ranging evidence of the beneficial outcomes and tangible improvements in people's levels of independence. We also have detailed feedback from Members about how we might offer additional help in this area

## **Aim 4 – Sustaining Services**

The delivery of our services relies exclusively on the kindness of individual supporters, businesses and the generosity of our benefactors. Our financial independence is one of our greatest strengths, and enables us to make operational, tactical and strategic decisions to benefit our Members expeditiously. This financial independence is vital to ensure that our services can be delivered now and into the future. To ensure more people understand the work we do, the challenges blind and visually impaired people face, and how individuals, businesses and organisations can support us to extend, improve and sustain our services

If you would like to know more about our aims or like a copy of our business plan 'Moving forward' please let us know or go to [www.sightmatters.im](http://www.sightmatters.im) under resources.

## **Safeguarding Matters**

A copy of our Safeguarding policy is available on request in your preferred format.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Cathryn Bradley

Our Deputy Safeguarding Officer is Michelle Ferrer

## **Younger Members Activity Club**

Over the Autumn our younger members activity club took part in many, fun & varied activities.

They visited the Home of Rest for old horses to stroke and feed the horses donkeys and chickens. They enjoyed lunch in their café before heading to Archallagan Plantation, and who doesn't love jumping in muddy puddles? The group certainly did – if only we had a photo of the aftermath!

For the next activity the younger members came up to Corrin Court to help to make their own dinner – chicken wraps with chips and salad. Under the expert tuition of our Chef, Claire Quayle, they helped to make the batter and coated their chicken pieces then they peeled and chopped their own potatoes. Now we couldn't leave them without dessert, our Chef had premade some Halloween shaped short bread biscuits. The children happily decorated them using lots of different coloured icing and then of course sampled them!! They must have been good as there was none left for the staff on Monday morning!!! And as if it wasn't fun filled enough,

they also made clay Christmas tree decorations ready to hang on their Christmas tree in December!

During the October half term, the group enjoyed lunch at the Creg ny Baa before heading down to the Villa Gaiety Cinema to watch 'Trolls band together'. It must have been a good film as after that big lunch we thought we might have heard some snoring!

The next activity held was the Hot Rocks Climbing Wall. For some of the group this was the first time they had attended and tried this. They had no fear and were climbing straight away, some of the older members even managing to get to the very top!! Rather them than us!!!

Where do you take our Younger members for their Christmas lunch that not only offers fabulous food but a dance floor and a multi-talented Chef who can use the DJ system? The Douglas Golf Club of course. The Younger Members had their Christmas lunch on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, a private event which included a carvery lunch for those that wanted it and a children's lunch for those that didn't. Everyone had a fantastic time,

there was laughs, music, dancing, friendships forged and many versions of the Macarena seen. **Our groups promote independence, build a support network, help the children to socialise and are fun!!!**

If you would like to know more about supporting our groups, please speak to us!

## **Social Welfare & Inclusion Lead – Michelle Ferrer**

Social Welfare and Inclusion Lead, it's a long title and a very diverse role. I get to travel round the island, spot some beautiful views and picturesque places, visiting people new to us and those who know us already. Uphill and over dale as they say, sometimes finding where I need to go, other times not so lucky. But when phoning someone to say "hi, I'm lost, where are you?" I can sit and admire the view. While having words with the Sat Nav for not taking me to the right place..... I grumble quietly as I admire the scenery!

Referrals to Sight Matters are vast and varied, having a chat about how visual changes have impacted in daily life. Looking at what works well and what can be a challenge, supporting people to



adapting the usual way of doing things, to a way that works for them. This can be reminding everyone around them to put things back in the same place, to simple but effective gadgets. The Liquid Level Indicator (every home should have one) that beeps as the hot water reaches the desired level in the cup. The bump on "dots" that make the world of difference when differentiating between items that are similar...but not the same, or just to know where the marker is on the washing machine dial. Promoting independence for people with visual impairments not only boosts their self-confidence but their wellbeing too. Our filter glasses are also big hit, they help to remove the bad light and allow more good light to filter through. People are always coming back to me with stories of how they have helped them in daily life. Then we have the more complicated bits of equipment.....but that's another story for Dave to tell.

I also get to support the groups we run, anything from canoeing and horse riding (well leading the horse, but not necessarily to water...sometimes we were dragged along) with the younger members, to guided walks and activity groups around the island (really must remember to keep spare boots and coats in the car). Lunch club is always a good

place to meet and catch up with members...though I do end up with 'something to do' after chatting with people.

A diverse role most definitely!

If you'd like to contact me - Michelle Ferrer, email **MFerrer@sightmatters.im** or phone **674727**

## **Roc Vannin Choir**

Thanks to the fabulous local choir, Roc Vannin who nominated us as their charity of the year for 2023. Some of our members and volunteers are part of the choir and performed a number of times over the last 12 months at various places round the island, including entertaining the shoppers during the Christmas period. Thanks to member Tanya Longworth and her gorgeous Guide Dog Delsie for this photo.

## **ManninSight Thanksgiving Dinner.**

ManninSight, one of our fundraising arms held a Thanksgiving Dinner at Bonds restaurant on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. It was very well attended; the food was fantastic and a fabulous £2,362 was raised. Our CEO, Cathryn drew the raffle;

somehow the first ticket to be drawn was her very own ticket – we're not sure how that happened?! ManninSight have another planned fundraiser to tie in with our 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations, so please watch out for future events.

## **Useful Contacts**

### **Manx Care Advice and Liaison Service (MCALS)**

For advice, support and feedback. Tel: 01624 642642

### **Emergency Dental Treatment**

For patients who do not have an NHS dentist Tel 01624642785

For out of hours emergency treatments for patients registered with a dentist, visit [gov.im/dentists](http://gov.im/dentists)

### **Ramsey MIU**

For minor illnesses and injuries Tel 01624 811800

### **Manx Emergency Doctor Service (MEDS)**

For out of hours emergencies when your GP surgery is closed Tel 01624 650355

## **Manx Utilities**

For electricity faults and loss of supply Tel 01624 687687

## **Isle of Man Energy**

For a problem with your gas connection Tel 01624644444, for emergencies call 0808 1624 444

## **Manx Energy Advice Centre**

For free local energy advice Tel 01624 851482

## **IOM Floodhub**

For information on preparing for a flood or reporting a flood Tel 01624 686100

## **Winter Help Advice Line**

For community support signposting Tel 01624 686262

## MBWS audio library

Please remember if you need an up to date catalogue, please let us know and we will forward one onto you.

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author Surname</b>	<b>Author Forenames</b>
MM2091	77 North	Marshall	D.L.
FI9153	A Stroke of the Pen	Pratchett	Terry
MM2092	A Body in the Borderlands	Cox	Helen
FI9140	A New Day at Paradise Pottery	Johnson	Lynn
FI9158	A Vacancy for a Village Vet	Boden	Joanne
FI8636	A Workhouse Christmas	Brellend	Kay
FI9125	All Change At The Beach Hotel	Capaldi	Francesca
MM2095	Black Valley Farm	Bugler	Sheila

MM2093	Children of the Mist	Skelton	Douglas
FI8197	Cinnamon Gardens	Jacobs	Anna
FI9126	Cleopatra & Julius	Courtney	Joanna
FI9136	Dance Upon The Air	Roberts	Nora
MM2104	Danger of Defeat	Marston	Edward
FI9149	Droits of the Crown	Donachie	David
FI9138	Face The Fire	Roberts	Nora
FI9151	Fanny McBride	Cookson	Catherine
BM414	For The Love Of Animals	Greenwood	Dr James
MM2094	Foul Play at the Seaview Hotel	Young	Glenda
NF105	Great Tales from English History Vol 3	Lacey	Robert
MM2102	He Who Whispers	Dickson Carr	John

FI9137	Heaven and Earth	Roberts	Nora
FI9152	It Always Snows on Mistletoe Square	McNamara	Ali
FI9142	Jane	O'Byrne	Linda
FI9127	Land Girls At The Wartime Bookshop	Eames	Lesley
FI9154	Light Over Liskeard	De Bernieres	Louis
FI9160	Loyalty	Scottoline	Lisa
FI9155	Maisie's Way	Thompson	Grace
FI9128	Miriam	O'Byrne	Linda
MM2086	Mirror Image	Staalesen	Gunnar
MM2101	Mrs Pargeter's Patio	Brett	Simon
FI9141	One	Smith	Eve
MM2107	Payback in Death	Robb	J.D.

FI9129	Reasonable People	Hulse	Caroline
MM2088	Revenge of the Stormbringer	Tremayne	Peter
MM2106	Scarlet Town	Nattrass	Leonora
FI9159	Swimming For Beginners	Gill	Nicola
MM1633	The Bad Fire	Jardine	Quintin
FI9150	The Ballroom Girls Christmas Dreams	Holmes	Jenny
MM2103	The Blind Detective	Koning	Christina
FI9143	The Coal Miner's Wife	Felton	Jennie
FI9161	The Country Girl	Tarpey	Sally
RO500	The Fight for Lizzie Flowers	Rivers	Carol
MM2085	The Fine Art Of Uncanny Prediction	Goddard	Robert



FI9156	The Fortune Teller's Secret	Mason	Maggie
FI9135	The Invisible Women's Club	Paris	Helen
MM2089	The Killing Place	Ellis	Kate
MM2096	The Knights of Atlantis	McDermott	Andy
FI9133	The Little French Village of Book Lovers	George	Nina
MM1312	The Melody Lingers On	Higgins Clark	Mary
FI9131	The Mistress of Ashmore Castle	Harrod-Eagles	Cynthia
MM2105	The Night House	Nesbo	Jo
MM2099	The Opposite of Lonely	Johnstone	Doug
FI9148	The Palace Girls	Royal	Emma

FI9146	The Ration Book Baby	Curzon	Ellie
FI9144	The Runaway Girl	Mason	Elsie
MM2098	The Running Grave	Galbraith	Robert
FI9157	The Short Straw	Seddon	Holly
MM2090	The Theft of the Iron Dogs	Lorac	E.C.R.
FI9130	The Traitor's Wife	Steele	Sarah
MM2087	The Trap	Howard	Catherine Ryan
MM2074	The Trial	Rinder	Rob
FI9134	The Vintage Dress Shop On Primrose Hill	Darling	Annie
FI9132	The Weston Girls	Thompson	Grace
MM2097	The Wheel Spins	White	Ethel Lina
FI9147	The Wild Card	Murray	Judy

FI9139	The Wren The Wren	Enright	Anne
MM2100	Trust in Me	Veste	Luca
FI9145	University Tales	Sheffield	Jack
BM415	Winkle	Beaver	Paul

## **Manx Macular Support Group**

Registered Charity 1258 Manx Macular Support  
Group

### **LOSS OF CENTRAL VISION**

I trust you all had an enjoyable time over the festive period? Particularly good news from my point of view is the continued success with the Iluvian implant I received last May. As most of you know this is an expensive treatment costing the NHS/DHSS £7000 an implant. The manufacturers hope to extend its effective life to 36 months but currently NICE are saying they hope for between eighteen and twenty-four months. In my case I had check-ups in August and November and am due the next one at the end of March. So already this expensive implant has saved the cost of my monthly travel and eylea injections for what will be 11 months when I next visit St Pauls. As each

injection, travel and surgeons time was costing the DHSS/NHS around £2000 a month that is a current saving of £15000 compared to the Iluvian implant. The potential savings country wide to the health service in time and money are certainly a game changer. Sadly, this treatment is not for everyone at present.

Talking of changes, we hold our AGM on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of January starting at 1100 hrs in Sight Matters. Anyone reading this is welcome to attend. We also meet as a group on the third Friday in the month at Sight Matters, but a recent questionnaire has revealed that monthly is too much for the majority. The majority view was for six meetings a year at Sight Matters, and this will be explained at the AGM and accepted. There has been a significant reduction in those attending since Covid. Whereas we regularly enjoyed thirty to thirty-five members attending prior to Covid, last year we have been lucky to see ten and sometimes as low as five. It's difficult to recruit presenters when you answer their first question of "How many do you expect to attend." Of course, we will keep this under review and if the appetite to change grows so will the frequency of the meetings increase again.

There is one other important matter we will discuss at the AGM. We are looking ahead and planning for continuity in terms of the number of serving Trustees. We currently have five whose average age is eighty plus. We are seeking volunteers to join the current Trustees with a view to them taking over as the current ones retire. Anyone interested in talking to me and reading this article is welcome to call me on 813774 or email at [nhmalpass@manx.net](mailto:nhmalpass@manx.net) to learn more about what this will entail. You do not need to have macular problems just a wish to help those here on the Island that do.

Kindest regards Nigel H. Malpass Chairman  
Manx Macular Support Group

**Special dates for your diary**

Fri 16 February -7pm – Quiz night

Fri 8 March – 12-5pm Radio Club (AGM at 3.30pm)

Fri 15 March – 7pm Race Night

Wed 27 March 3.30pm – Sight Matters AGM

Sat 20 April – Dining in the Dark event

**Thurs 25 April – Corrin Court is 21!!**

Thurs 25 April 10.30am – 21<sup>st</sup> Coffee Morning

## **Donations**

Thanks to everyone who gives us donations because as you are all aware the society is entirely reliant upon fundraising, donations and legacies.

## **Sickness**

Please do not attend the Centre if you are ill. If you are suffering with a sickness and diarrhoea type illness, it is essential that you do not attend the centre until 48 hours after your last episode. If, however you require assistance, please contact us immediately.

Complaints Procedure
Whilst we appreciate the positive feedback that we receive on a regular basis, there may be times when we have not provided an acceptable standard of service. If you do have a problem or concern and you are able to make a member of staff aware of it at the time, they will endeavour to resolve the matter quickly. If this is not possible then we have a complaints procedure available on request in your preferred format.

**A standard digital version of Optic Topics  
can be obtained from the Manx Blind  
Welfare Society on request.**