

# *The Friends of* Manx National Heritage



## Chairman's Letter September 2012

Dear Member

Looking back over the last few letters, I detect a certain degree of repetition. However, I acknowledge this, not with an apology, but in recognition that some aspects of the world in which we operate is locked in a slightly depressing state and yet, at the same time our members continue to deliver really substantial benefits to MNH.

In line with our planned shift in expenditure planning set out last year, we have agreed with MNH that our contributions to acquisitions focus on those that are really important, rather than merely desirable.

This has resulted in a shorter list but even at this stage there are unfinished developments that I hope that I or the Director may be able to report on at the AGM. We have previously agreed a level of contributions towards the iMuseum of £100,000 for the digitization project and to the House of Manannan of £50,000 for specific improvements to the visitor experience. During the year we have made further contributions towards meeting these commitments.

We have seen the introduction of the changes to the structure of the Manx National Trust, and the new Trustees are now in place. The Trustees and the Committee of the Friends will be meeting on a 'getting to know you' basis soon.

Nicola's FMNH events programme, yet again, goes from strength to strength – and not only are the events always a sell-out, she continues to be inventive with new ideas that are both fun, informative and a positive contribution to the cause.

Our challenge is to ensure that we can continue to differentiate the offering that we can make to our members in such a way that both FMNH and MNH continue to benefit. This is at the forefront of our minds and we will continue to work to

achieve our aims. We are very conscious of the need to ensure that our members' benefits package is both relevant and desirable.

Very positive is the news that we have agreed terms with Friends of York Archaeological Trust for reciprocal access to their sites for members. These include Jorvik, DIG, Micklegate Bar and Barley Hall. Nicola will be telling us more about that in her letter. Together with the very welcome reciprocal arrangement with CADW announced during the year, this represents a further enhancement of benefits for Friends.

Last year over 9200 hours were engaged by FMNH volunteers on MNH projects. This is a staggering achievement. Without doubt, this major contribution is assisting MNH achieve goals and succeed in areas that might otherwise be under threat for lack of resources. The thanks of the Committee and, I know, of MNH are richly deserved and all I can say is – keep it up!

I thank the Committee and Officers for their continued efforts and all of the members for their contributions however given. I wish I could say that the environment is looking up, but we still need to work through these troubled times. The Committee is committed and I know that you are too.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Fayle', written in a cursive style.

Michael Fayle  
Chairman