

The Friends of
Manx National Heritage



**Members' Events List
& Volunteer Programme**

2017

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The Friends of Manx National Heritage



March 2017

Dear Friend,

It's been a busy winter, both here in the office and with a full events and volunteer programme. Our winter events kicked off with a very well attended Trafalgar Night dinner, and as I write, we look forward to The Suspect Players presenting the premiere of their latest Murder Mystery 'whodunit'.

From the office – having been working on it with my counterparts in Jersey for quite a while, and with the new season about to start, I am very pleased to announce that we have just added The National Trust for Jersey to the list of reciprocals that FMNH members are able to visit and enjoy exploring. The National Trust for Jersey cares for over 1500 vergées of land, covering 170 sites, 28 historic buildings and 12 miles of public footpath, making it the largest private landowner in Jersey.

I'm also delighted to welcome Thomas Miller as Corporate Members, and hope that their staff will enjoy the benefits of membership. I also look forward to properly meeting some of our other new members who have joined this winter.

Another piece of good news is that I'm delighted to report that thanks to a generous legacy, FMNH is able to assist MNH by funding the position of the new Horticultural Manager, Philip Payne, for three years. Philip has lots of great ideas and we are now looking for volunteers who might be able to give some time to work alongside him on a Monday at Rushen Abbey, and on a Friday at The Grove. See the volunteer opportunity form if you would like to join the team.

Still on gardening, MNH have a new gardener at Cregneash, Karen Griffiths, who is also looking for some more volunteers to assist her and the wonderful band of volunteers who already help on a Tuesday. Any age and ability, hours to suit the individual. It's a beautiful place to work even when the weather isn't at its best! Again, the form is at the end.

Our brilliant volunteers give us so much time and energy, and it was lovely seeing so many of you at the Volunteers Thank You Party in October. If any new volunteers would like to join us, but are not sure what they can offer, do please give me a call to discuss.

But this letter is not just about asking for volunteers! It's also my chance to thank you all for your support and friendship. The first of the 2017 events list has a diverse choice of subjects, so I hope you will find something to enjoy!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the summer.

Best wishes
Nicola



Manx National Heritage

Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

www.manxnationalheritage.im

Letter from MNH Director, September 2016

March 2017

Dear Friend

I am always delighted to write to you at the time when the nights are getting lighter and the spring bulbs are beginning to flower. Some of our sites are still cleaning up after storm Doris and the usual winter weather but others have been open for a few weekends. We have already welcomed our first groups travelling to the Island on holiday. This is earlier than ever before because together with colleagues in the tourism sector we've been trying to send the message that the Island is open for business for the majority of the year. The trams and trains start to operate in the middle of March and even the Snaefell Mountain Railway is challenging Manannan by opening in April this year. Our bookings for holiday-makers coming in groups are up and I think we are in for a great year ahead.

We also want to build on the excellent PR we've had on TV recently. The BBC Countryfile featuring Cregneash was filmed in bleakest January but the Island looked great. It was also fascinating to follow Julia Bradbury walking through the Laxey Valley on Channel 4.

I also want to tell you about a few things you might not have picked up. Indeed there's so much happening that it's worth repeating some things which you might have missed first time round.

Access for all

We are celebrating being recognised for our commitment to access and inclusion. This is not just about getting it right for wheel-chair users or others with limited mobility, but it's about recognising that many people in our community have disabilities or limiting conditions. Both the House of Manannan and the Manx Museum have recently been awarded Silver in a new Government scheme organised by Crossroads Care on the Island.

Often it only requires small changes to make a big difference. One thing we are trialling is 'Quiet Time' where we'll be turning down our sounds and creating a more relaxed environment for visitors. All our sites now have access guides and we hope we give the warmest welcome to visitors with a disability who might be paying us a visit for the first time.

Exploratorium refresh

Ahoy There! Our new maritime themed Exploratorium has opened at the Manx Museum, with visitors invited to become a pirate and go swashbuckling on the high seas. The gallery is very kindly supported by Lloyds Bank, who are making a donation to our charitable funds. A further donation will be made for the provision of new Bee and Bug Explorer Bags for Cregneash and the Grove. Many thanks to Lloyds Bank for their generosity and continued support of our work.

Free entry for Marshals

We will be trialling the provision of free entry for Marshals at Manx National Heritage sites during the race season running from 22 May 2017 – 10 September 2017. All TT and Festival of Motorcycling Marshals presenting their warrant card will receive free entry during this period. This recognizes the contribution the Marshals make to the TT and Festival of Motorcycling, two events which have become an iconic part of our heritage and culture.

Horticulture

Our new Horticultural Manager, Philip Payne, joined us on 23rd January. Philip's position is funded by FMNH thanks to a generous legacy. To begin with he will be concentrating on improving the physical maintenance and management of the existing garden regimes at the Grove, Rushen Abbey and Castle Rushen to raise the standards of presentation for the forthcoming season. At the same time he will be working to draft garden development plans for the Grove and Rushen Abbey. At the Grove, Nicola and some new volunteers, looked at historical material with Philip along with an initial Concept Design Plan and walked the site; this gave the volunteers a good insight into our thoughts. It looks like Fridays will be a regular FMNH session at the Grove. Philip will repeat the process at Rushen Abbey with regular sessions there commencing on Mondays. This is all very new and exciting for us.

Reciprocal arrangements

Recently some of you were able to attend the first Marshall Cubbon Memorial Lecture given by Dame Fiona Reynolds, former Director of the National Trust. It's available online on our Vimeo channel if you want to catch up. Dame Fiona is President of INTO, the International Association of National Trusts Organisations, and she reminded us of the importance of this movement across the world which protects and promotes the historic environment and natural landscape. Many of these organisations have similar remits and constitutions to MNH and it is very helpful to be a member of a larger family. I am especially delighted therefore that we have been able to extend our reciprocal arrangements to more members of INTO such as the National Trust for Jersey. We also expect to announce further links with the Jersey Heritage Trust any day now.

Once again, I am particularly grateful for all the support we get from FMNH during the year and I look forward to seeing many more of you in the year ahead.

With best wishes



Edmund Southworth
Director – Manx National Heritage

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Members Events Programme 2017

MAY

Wednesday 10th

Whisky Tasting

Enjoy the unique experience of sampling 7 year old and rare Scotch single malt whiskies, from the fine collection at the Wine Cellar. Anne Berry will guide you through a tasting that can be paired with cheese and chocolate. The perfect way to start an evening!

Time: 7.00 – 8.30pm **Venue: The House of Manannan** **Max 50** **£20pp**

Saturday 13th

Eary Cushlin 'skeet' and guided walk

Join us for refreshments and enjoy a 'skeet' at Manx National Heritage's latest visitor accommodation. The project has involved the sympathetic restoration of Eary Cushlin, a remote farmhouse on the West Coast of the Island. Meet the project manager and hear the stories of the work involved. For those of you needing to build up an appetite, you can enjoy a guided walk with Dessie Robinson first!

Time: 11am and 2pm **Venue: Eary Cushlin** **Max 25** **£5pp**

Monday 15th

'Seaside Piers'. Lecture by Chris Foote-Wood

Chris Foote-Wood is an author, stand-up comedian and was a politician until 2015. He is the brother of the late comedian and actress Victoria Wood. Described as 'Enthusiastic, dynamic, energetic, loves life, painfully honest, greatly values loyalty, outspoken'.

This shared lecture with NADFAS will be an entertaining evening looking at British seaside piers, historic and present, including our own in Douglas and Ramsey.

Doors open at 6.30pm, drinks and canapes served before the lecture.

Lecture start at 7.15pm sharp.

Time: 6.30pm **Venue: Manx Museum** **Max 190** **£10pp**

JUNE

Wednesday 14th

Exploring the Textile Collection

Join Assistant Curator Nicola Tooms to learn more about the ongoing textile collection storage project. The tour will be in the textile store, and does involve walking up a steep flight of steps. Tour will last 40 minutes.

Time: 10:30am & 11:30am **Venue: Manx Museum, meet in reception**

Max 6 per tour **Free**

JULY

Friday 7th

Ballafayle Cairn guided walk

Guided walk with Marinda Fargher to visit the Ballafayle Cairn, Quaker Burial Ground and “Charlie’s View” named after the late Sir Charles Kerruish, First President of Tynwald. Approx 1.5 miles – uphill, some rough ground. Bring a picnic.

Time 11am **Venue: Meet at Ballaglass Glen Car Park** **Max 20** **Free**

Thursday 13th

Large Object Store Tour

Join Katie King on a guided tour around some of the larger social history objects in the national collection. The tour will focus on highlights from the collections – which this year include mantraps from Castle Rushen, the famous Governor’s Carriage, and Dracula from White City. Contact Nicola for directions.

Time 11am **Venue: Balthane Industrial Estate** **Max 35** **Free**

Tuesday 18th

‘Smugglers, Pirates, Slave Traders and Rich Merchants: The Isle of Man, 1651-1831.

Illustrated talk by Dr Kit Gawne

Time: 11am **Venue: House of Manannan** **Max 50** **Free**

AUGUST

Tuesday 8th

This is Summer - Photographs from Manx Press Pictures, 1960s to 1970s

Join exhibition curator Katie King for a tour of This Is Summer - an exhibition featuring highlights from the Manx Press Pictures archive held at Manx National Heritage. From the thousands of Manx Press Pictures photographic negatives, one thousand have been selected and digitised for the years 1956 – 1979. They give a ‘snap shot’ of events which took place from May to September, months often referred to on the Isle of Man as ‘the season’.

Time: 11am **Venue: House of Manannan** **Max 30** **Free**

Tuesday 15th

Chris Hobdell - Archibald Knox, Teacher, Designer and Artist

Illustrated talk and opportunity to have a close look and handle Chris’s private collection of Archibald Knox items. Also a chance to find out about the work of The Archibald Knox Forum - an Isle of Man charity set up for the education of the public about the work and legacy of Archibald Knox.

Time: 11am **Venue: Manx Museum SR1** **Max 50** **Free**

SEPTEMBER

Friday 29th

Quilliam Birthday Dinner

Back by popular demand in conjunction with the Quilliam Group. A cornucopia of entertainment with a nautical theme!

Pre-dinner drinks and rum for toasts, but bring your own wine.

Time 7.00pm

Venue: Ballabeg Village Hall

Max 65

£20pp

Saturday 30th

Guided 'round' walk of Knockaloe with Alison Jones from the Charity www.Knockaloe.im

During the First World War, Knockaloe Farm on the west coast of the Isle of Man became an internment camp, home to almost 25,000 'enemy aliens'. Starting in Patrick, the walk follows the main drive of Knockaloe and to the fields beyond, telling the story of the camp and its inhabitants along the way. From here we shall link up with the coastal path, stopping for lunch at the picnic area with incredible views along the beautiful west coast of the Island, before following the coastal path past Corrin's Tower into Peel, where we turn back inland following part of the old Knockaloe branch railway line, before returning back to Patrick. Bring a picnic lunch (& good walking boots & wet weather clothing as appropriate).

Time 11.00pm

Venue: Start at Old Patrick Schoolroom

Max 25

Free

OCTOBER

Tuesday 10th

Secrets from a Bronze Age cist

In 1947, a Bronze Age cist containing cremated remains and pottery was found at the site of Staarvey. In 2016, during scientific analysis of the cremated remains, a number of previously un-noticed bone objects including a rare bone pommel were discovered. Join Dr Michelle Gamble and Dr Rachel Crellin for a chance to see and discuss these amazing new finds.

Time 1.45pm – 2.45pm and 3pm - 4pm

Venue: Manx Museum SR1

Max 30

Free

Volunteers needed ...

Can you help?

We are really grateful to all our members who volunteer to help FMNH. Your contribution greatly assists our work and without you we couldn't achieve all that we do. We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers.

Please fill in the details below if you would like to give some time to help the work of FMNH. It can be rewarding and fun! More information and times will be confirmed nearer the time of the events.

Name

Address

.....

PostcodeE-mail

Telephone (Home)

(Work)

(Mobile).....



Please tick the box with any areas you are able to help:

ASSISTING AT FMNH EVENTS

Seaside Piers

Monday 15th May

☐ Assist with making food

☐ Serving at the reception

Eary Cushlin

☐ Saturday 13th May. Assist with serving food and clearing up

Tynwald Day

☐ Wednesday 5th July. Assist FMNH in the trailer

Royal Show

☐ Friday 11th and ☐ Saturday 12th August. Assist FMNH in the trailer

Quilliam Dinner – Ballabeg Village Hall Friday 29th September

☐ Assist with serving food and clearing up

☐ **Sewing bees needed**

This has been requested before! Nicola Tooms (assistant curator MNH) would love some help to make some garment bags for the textiles in the collection. Come and be part of a sewing workshop to the House of Manannan. If you have a sewing machine we would love you to bring it. Lift available for transporting.

ASSISTING AT MNH EVENTS

☐ **Monday 17th April. Cregneash.**

Assist with the egg rolling event. Marshalling and ticket checking.

☐ **Friday 5th May. House of Manannan.**

This is Summer Exhibition launch – help with preparing retro food and serving drinks

☐ **Friday 11th or 18th May. House of Manannan.**

Date TBC. This is Summer Exhibition launch – help with preparing retro food and serving drinks.

2nd – 8th July Flower Festival at Old Grammar School

☐ Can you donate flowers or foliage from your garden for arrangements?

☐ Welcoming visitors during the festival and encouraging membership

Sunday 2nd July Garden Party at the Grove

☐ Help with planned activities e.g. manning the coconut shy

☐ Manning croquet & Garden Games such as Hoopla

☐ Face painting

☐ Parking

☐ Manning the Friends trailer / encouraging membership



Sunday 27th August Little People's Picnic – Rushen Abbey

- ☐ Assisting with craft & garden based activities
- ☐ Manning the Friends trailer / encouraging membership
- ☐ Parking
- ☐ **25th September – 8th October.** Heritage Open Days Administrator(s) – assisting Katie King and Suzie Walker for the two weeks leading up to HOD and during both week ends. This will involve volunteering for several hours each day Monday – Friday helping to administer bookings for Heritage Open Day. This will also include manning the phone line and email inbox during the weekends. Computer skills required. Full training will be given.

Heritage Open Days

- ☐ 29th September – 1st October.
Stewards to 'back mark' walks and offer support at events.
- ☐ 6th October – 8th October.
Stewards to 'back mark' walks and offer support at events.

☐ **Supporting MNH Education Department.**

Assisting with preparation for their Schools workshop days. Anthea runs a great programme and FMNH are delighted to support her. Workshops are at the Manx Museum or House of Manannan. Dates to be confirmed

Gardening at Cregneash, Rushen Abbey and the Grove.

We are now looking for volunteers who might be able to give some time to work alongside Philip on a Monday at Rushen Abbey, and on a Friday at The Grove. Philip has exciting plans for improvements at the sites.

Also, MNH have a new gardener at Cregneash, Karen Griffiths, who is looking for some more volunteers to assist her and the wonderful band of volunteers who already help on a Tuesday. Any age and ability, hours to suit the individual. It's a beautiful place to work even when the weather isn't at its best! We would love to hear from you if you can help.

☐ Cregneash ☐ Rushen Abbey ☐ The Grove

☐ **Volunteers at the Grove**

The Grove Site Supervisor, Danny Spencer, is looking for some volunteer support at the Grove Museum in Ramsey. Danny is keen to gather a small volunteer team to assist him and the visitor service staff throughout the summer season. Tasks could include things as varied as assisting on event days, providing lunch cover, chatting to visitors about the site or perhaps playing some garden games with families? If you would like to have a chat about joining a small volunteer team let me know and I will arrange a meeting. The role might suit people living in the North, as volunteers might be contacted at short notice.



Friends of Manx National Heritage

Booking Form 2016 / 2017

Fill in the booking form and return with your cheque, **made payable to FMNH**, to:
Mrs N Pemberton, FMNH, Ballachrink Mill, Santon, IM4 1HE

NB: to save on postage **WE DO NOT SEND OUT TICKETS**. We will contact you if you are not successful. Events on a "first come, first served" basis.

Name

Address

.....Postcode

E-mail

TelephoneMobile.....

Date	Event	Price pp	No's	Cost
Wed 10th May	Whisky Tasting	£20		
Sat 13th May	Skeet 11am	£5		
Sat 13th May	Skeet 2pm	£5		
Mon 15th May	Seaside Piers	£10		
Wed 14th June	Textile Collection 10.30am	FREE		
Wed 14th June	Textile Collection 11.30am	FREE		
Fri 7th July	Cairn walk	FREE		
Thur 13th July	Balthane	FREE		
Tue 18th July	Kit Gawne	FREE		
Tues 8th Aug	This is Summer	FREE		
Tues 15th Aug	Chris Hobdell	FREE		
Fri 29th Sept	Quilliam Dinner	£20		
Sat 30th Sept	Knockaloe walk	FREE		
Tue 10th Oct	Bronze Age cist 1.45pm	FREE		
Tue 10th Oct	Bronze Age cist 3pm	FREE		

