

*The Friends of*  
Manx National Heritage



**Members' Events List  
& Volunteer Programme**

**2017/18**

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# *The Friends of* Manx National Heritage



October 2017

Dear Friend,

Having been Chairman between 2000 and 2004, I find myself again in that role with very mixed emotions – because I have only accepted the Board's appointment to the position because our Chairman since 2004, Mike Fayle, sadly lost his battle against ill health, earlier this year. Mike was an outstanding Chairman and guided the organisation with great skill and enthusiasm for 13 years. He was highly knowledgeable about all matters heritage related and brought his love of the arts to bear on the activities of the Friends. We miss him greatly but are delighted his wife Viv, who very much shared Mike's love for the arts and Manx heritage, agreed to join the Board in Mike's place. We hope members will approve her formal re-appointment today. I am supported in my resumed role by Mike Crowe who has kindly agreed to act as Vice-Chairman.

There has, as always, been a lot of activity during the year, much orchestrated by our dedicated Administrator, Nicola Pemberton ably supported by Mary Bridson our membership secretary. Our thanks are due to them and to all of you who have volunteered during the year. There are still plenty of opportunities for volunteering, the most recent being as gardeners helping Philip Payne, the new Horticultural Manager. That post is funded for three years by FMNH through a very generous bequest from Professor Bucke. Specific opportunities for gardening are available on Mondays and Fridays at Rushen Abbey and the Grove respectively.

Membership numbers have held steady during the year – we remain the largest membership organisation in the Isle of Man. But with 5200 individual members and 550 corporate members, there is room for more! Our latest corporate recruit is WH Ireland, a move which delights me particularly as I am also Chairman of that company. They are generously supporting the interesting exhibition on Manx Tholtans.

The reciprocal admission arrangements enjoyed by members outside the Island remain an attraction and during the year, the Jersey National Trust has entered into a reciprocal agreement with us. Many FMNH members use their cards to visit properties of the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland but we have been asked by National Trust to remind members that the reciprocal benefits do not extend to car parking in the Trust's pay and display car parks.

But that leads on to our subscription fees. These were last reviewed two years ago and, even with inflation, the current rates have fallen significantly behind the subscription rates charged by comparable organisations as well as the admission charges made by Manx National Heritage for their sites. We are aware that MNH are conducting an in depth review of admission charges which are currently less than admission charges made for similar sites elsewhere. We have felt it only right, since our role is to support MNH, to recommend increases in subscription rates that recognise this disparity but which still offer considerable value to members who use their membership to access both MNH sites, but also the sites where reciprocal benefits are offered by other organisations.

All heritage organisations are looking for funds – the needs of Manx National Heritage for voluntary support have increased significantly in recent years due to the limitations on Government support. As Friends we are conscious that our role in raising support will become more critical and we are exploring how best we can complement MNH's own efforts, some of which may be taking on initiatives we undertook in the past. During the past year, we have donated £10,000 for the purchase of a vehicle for the Horticultural Manager, and pledged £50,000 towards a new gallery which will celebrate the Island's motorsport heritage.

Thank you for your support during the year and please continue to be generous in the years ahead – once lost, our heritage cannot be replaced.

Robert Quayle, Chairman



# Manx National Heritage

## *Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin*

[www.manxnationalheritage.im](http://www.manxnationalheritage.im)

### Letter from MNH Director, October 2017

Dear Friend,

It seems odd to be writing a formal letter to you. We are getting so used to e-mails, newsletters and online posts that a conventional letter now seems unusual. But thinking about it – it seems entirely appropriate that this is a more personal contact from me as the Director of Manx National Heritage to you as a Friend of MNH.

I think we are fairly good at keeping in touch with our audiences and the people who use our services. We do use electronic means more than ever before – but we also make sure local newspapers and radio communicate on our behalf. Much of this is routine “What’s On!” information about the times, dates and locations of what we are doing. It’s more challenging though to explain some of the more “Behind the Scenes” activity – so this is going to be the main focus of this letter. And as ever, it gives me the opportunity to acknowledge the support of FMNH.

Collections and the material evidence of Manx culture and heritage are at the heart of what we do and indeed form part of our statutory duties as laid down by Tynwald. This year we have been focussing on two really iconic areas. Watch out for a new book by Sir David Wilson on the Manx Crosses which we hope to publish in the next few months. By contrast at the same time we have our sights set on developing the collections relating to Motorsport and the TT. There is now a world-wide market in TT memorabilia and we felt we should try and acquire key items now before the prices get beyond our reach. Thanks to FMNH for making a significant sum of money available for this purpose. We are also keen to talk to FMNH members who have a particular interest in motorsport and who might be able to open doors to other sources of rare and special material.

You may have seen references to our Holiday Accommodation at the Llen and now at Eary Cushlin. We’ve been very encouraged by the response – which is as much from local people as it is from holiday-makers from across. It’s all part of our strategy of diversifying our income so that we are less dependent on the Isle of Man taxpayer. Not all the properties we have been given over the years are suitable for museums or heritage purposes and they’re best cared for by having people in them and being heated and ventilated. We are never going to have as many as the Landmark Trust or similar but we are planning a couple more in the next few years if the first two do well.

We are acutely aware that we have significant responsibilities to the landscape and environment of this precious Island. These are enshrined in our Act which uses very similar words to those in the National Trust’s founding legislation. I am sure you’ve heard about the work we’ve been doing to promote the breeding of Manx Shearwaters on the Calf of Man, and we’ve now

extended that to trying to attract the Atlantic Puffin to nest there. However, we've also been looking closely at the land we own around Cregneash to agree what are the most important aspects of its biodiversity and conservation. You might have noticed, for example, that some of the grass verges are allowed to grow longer before they are cut – rather than being sprayed with chemicals - thus providing more food for wild birds. We are also looking after fewer animals at the moment with a view to concentrating our efforts in the centre of the village in a fashion closer to older styles of farming. Discussions are also taking place with organisations such as the Manx Wildlife Trust to see if we can work together more closely.

Last year FMNH agreed to allocate a significant bequest towards the employment of a gardener by MNH. We've never had access to specialist horticultural skills before and we felt that many of our sites would benefit from a new approach. We've no intention of creating highly manicured formal parkland but we feel we can look at sites such as the Grove and Rushen Abbey with new eyes and bring back some of the older species and planting schemes which would have been there in previous generations. It's not just the money from FMNH that is making a difference. Our new gardener, Philip, has also been able to recruit a number of volunteers to help him. The Grove is already benefitting and I'm very grateful for FMNH support for this initiative.

I know that FMNH has been very generous in recent years and has been using its financial reserves to help us with key projects. MNH Trustees have also been doing this to maximise the value of the funds we get from the Isle of Man Government. The time is coming when we will be working together to replenish our reserves and fundraise for new projects. It will be a joint and properly coordinated approach so that we each concentrate on the aspects we do best.

The good governance of MNH is in the hands of Trustees who are openly recruited from the Manx community and appointed by Tynwald on a five yearly cycle. I want to express my thanks to the Board members who have stood down. We now have a Board of 11 members, six of whom are new but I think all are members of FMNH. The new Chairman is Jonathan Hall and we will be making opportunities for him and his colleagues to meet as many FMNH members as possible during their term of office.

I am very pleased with the way we have been able to work together during the last year. I must end by acknowledging the contribution Mike Fayle made to this relationship. We have all lost a good Friend.

Thank you for your support.

With best wishes



Edmund Southworth  
Director – Manx National Heritage

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@: enquiries@mnh.gov.im

PS. Don't forget to sign up online for our newsletter.

# Members Events Programme 2017/18

## NOVEMBER

### Saturday 4th

#### **Draw and Paint your own Tholtan with Niamh Kelly**

Draw your own Tholtan with step by step tuition. Suitable for beginners. Limited places, so book early to avoid disappointment. Children to be accompanied by an adult.

**Time: 10.30am - 1 pm    Venue: Manx Museum    Max 15    £30pp (£15 per child)**  
**2pm - 4.30pm for children**

## DECEMBER

### Friday 1st

#### **Exclusive Members Event - Christmas Shopping**

We invite all FMNH members to join us at the House of Manannan for an afternoon of festive refreshments. 15% off in the shop (excludes commission items) plus other special activities.

**Time: 1 - 6.30pm                      Venue: House of Manannan**

### Thursday 7th

#### **Manx Museum early Christmas Shopping Event**

Start your Christmas shopping early with an exclusive discount evening for FMNH members. There will be festive refreshments and music.

**Time: 5.30pm - 7.30pm    Venue: Manx Museum**

### Thursday 7th

#### **Director's Tour of Manx Museum**

Ticket price also includes a Manx Museum guidebook.

**Time: 6pm                      Venue: Manx Museum                      Max 20                      £10pp**

### Thursday 14th

#### **Playful Pasts - Our Journey with Toys**

Guided tour of the new exhibition with education officer Anthea Young.

**Time 11am - 12 noon    Venue: House of Manannan    Max 50    Free**

## JANUARY

## Thursday 11th

## Fortress Mann II

## The Coastal Defence of the Isle of Man 1530 - 1870

Illustrated talk by Andrew Johnson, MNH Curator, Fiel Archaeology

**Time 11am - 12 noon    Venue: Seminar Room, Manx Museum    Max 50    Free**

## FEBRUARY

## Saturday 10th

## Orchid Collector Pamela Gold

A talk on bringing her orchid collection to the Isle of Man, with illustrations including photos and information. Plus a demonstration of re-potting orchids and some tips on getting the best from your plants.

**Time: 2pm**                      **Venue: House of Manannan**                      **Max 50**                      **Free**

## MARCH

## Thursday 1st

## David Gilbert: A Retrospective Exhibition

Gallery tour of the new exhibition with Yvonne Cresswell, Curator Social History.

<b>Time: 11am - 12 noon</b>	<b>Venue: Manx Museum</b>	<b>Max 25</b>	<b>Free</b>
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## Saturday 10th

## The Nunnery - Tour of Chapel, Grounds and Visit to the Mansion House

Join Charles Guard for a tour of this historic site including a visit to the Chapel, a walk through the grounds and a look inside the Mansion House. The extraordinary history of the site will also be explained.

**Time: 2 - 3pm**      **Venue: The Nunnery**      **Max 25**      **Free**

## Friday 23rd

## Murder Mystery Dinner “The Cinderella Murder”

The Suspect Players are delighted to present the premiere of the latest 'whodunit'. (No acting / active participation required). Bring your own wine.

**Time 7pm**                      **Venue: Ballasalla Village Hall**                      **Max 70**                      **£20pp**

## APRIL

### Thursday 12th

#### Castle Rushen and the Kingdom of Man AD 1000 – 1300 – A refuge from “perpetual slavery”

Alison Fox will present an illustrated talk.

**Time 11am - 12noon**

**Venue: Manx Museum SR1**

**Max 50**

**Free**

### Thursday 26th

#### From Apple to Juice

Charlotte Traynor from the Apple Orphanage will talk us through the processes of producing Manx apple juice, soft drinks, wine and cider. There might even be a quick tasting session!

**Time 11am - 12 noon**

**Venue: House of Manannan**

**Max 50**

**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 .....

.....

Postcode .....E-mail .....

Telephone (Home) .....

(Work) .....

(Mobile).....



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

### **ASSISTING AT FMNH EVENTS**

#### **Murder Mystery Dinner**

Friday 23rd March

- ☐ Laying the tables, setting up    ☐ Assist with serving food and clearing up

#### ☐ **Sewing Bees Needed**

We now have a date! Friday 26th January, 10am, House of Manannan  
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 work shop 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**

- ☐ Nicola will contact you with more details as and when required

#### ☐ **Supporting MNH Education Department**

Assisting with preparation for their Schools workshop days.

- ☐ Tuesday 6th February for a workshop making card kits for the Viking workshops.  
House of Manannan, 10am

#### **Gardening at Rushen Abbey and the Grove**

We are looking for more volunteers to work alongside Philip Payne, MNH Horticultural Manager supported by FMNH, on a Monday at Rushen Abbey, and on a Friday at The Grove. Philip has exciting plans for improvements at the sites. Let me know if you are interested.

- ☐ Rushen Abbey    ☐ Grove

#### **Motorsport Gallery**

- ☐ MNH are at the early stages of planning a new motorsport gallery at the Manx Museum and are developing collections and stories to present and would like to work with any bike fans who are members of FMNH to help shape it. Let us know if you would like to be involved.≠



# Friends of Manx National Heritage

## Booking Form 2017 / 2018

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 .....

Telephone .....Mobile.....

Date	Event	Price pp	No's	Cost
Sat 4th Nov	Draw a Tholtan	£30 per adult		
		£15 per child		
Fri 1st Dec	Xmas Shopping	FREE		
Thur 7th Dec	Xmas Shopping	FREE		
Thur 7th Dec	Directors Tour	£10		
Thur 14th Dec	Playful Pasts	FREE		
Thur 11th Jan	Fortress Mann	FREE		
Sat 10th Feb	Orchids	FREE		
Thur 1st Mar	David Gilbert	FREE		
Sat 10th Mar	Charles Guard	FREE		
Fri 23rd Mar	Murder Mystery	£20		
Thur 12th Apr	Castle Rushen	FREE		
Thur 26th Apr	Apple Orphanage	FREE		



