

The Friends of
Manx National Heritage



**Members' Events List
& Volunteer Programme**

2018

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The Friends of Manx National Heritage



Dear Friend,

Hopefully spring is really on the way. Our beautiful Island is definitely beginning to wake up after the recent battering, but we could do without the cold! Time to brighten things up with the latest news and events list from Friends of Manx National Heritage!

The first piece of good news is that FMNH has a new reciprocal agreement with Jersey Heritage. This means members (who are Manx residents) can enjoy visiting both Jersey Heritage and National Trust for Jersey. Just remember to take your membership cards with you!

On the 6th January Matthew Richardson (Curator Social History) and I met with a group of FMNH motorsport enthusiasts. This was the first informal meeting to discuss ways in which FMNH could possibly support the development of a new motorsport gallery at the Museum. We will keep you updated on any progress!

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have helped with various volunteering projects over the winter. You know who you are! Those who help in the MNH gardens are making good progress and it will be worth visiting The Grove, Rushen Abbey and Cregneash during the year to see the changes (see event list later). The educational and costume bag workshops are a tremendous help; assisting at FMNH events, guiding and working in the library are all of great value. The level of volunteering that FMNH provides is a tremendous achievement which was acknowledged by the Director at the AGM.

We have at last managed to set up a Direct Debit payment system for annual membership. We will be sending everyone a form when we send out the reminders. This will help to save time on reminders and the cost of postage.

We have lots of interesting FMNH member's events and I have also put the release date for looking at the Heritage Open Days site, for your diary. I know how many of you enjoy them.

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

Best wishes
Nicola



Manx National Heritage

Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Letter from MNH Director, March 2018

Dear Member,

Writing to you at this time of year gives me an opportunity to highlight some of the exciting things MNH is doing during the year and give you an opportunity to plan your visits to our sites. Many of you already follow our social media pages and website – and our newly printed “What’s On” leaflet is enclosed.

The IOM Government are promoting 2018 as the “Year of our Island” which not only celebrates our UNESCO Biosphere status but highlights the Island’s unique qualities as a place to live. Each month will have a different theme and as you would expect we’ll be contributing to these so look out for our events. October is Heritage Month and the hugely popular Heritage Open Days are expected to be better than ever.

One of the most exciting things we are doing to celebrate this year is to open the Manx Museum in Douglas on Sundays from Easter Sunday 1st April 2018 through to the end of March 2019 from 10am to 5pm. It’s actually a one year trial with financial support from the Department for Enterprise to help us assess the demand (and costs) for a permanent Sunday opening. So we look forward to seeing you there. You might see the builders when you do visit as work is well advanced on a new Military History Gallery which will open in November this year. We’re also upgrading the Gents toilets and installing a new Changing Place for disabled visitors. This will be the first publicly accessible Changing Place on the Isle of Man and will remove another barrier to accessing the Museum.

Another experiment for us is a new Information and retail kiosk within the Sea Terminal in Douglas. We opened this quietly in November and it’s been well received so far. It houses a changing selection of our normal retail stock such as greeting cards and last-minute gifts for travellers but it will also sell tickets for our sites and support the increasing number of cruise ships arriving in Douglas. We are still working out the best pattern for opening hours but we hope to be open longer than our other sites. Call in and let us know what you think.

For the first time in a generation Castle Rushen in Castletown is undergoing some significant development work. Again with improved access in mind we are focussing on the ground floor and creating a new entrance and shop area, an orientation space, improved interpretation and a new bridge into the keep. We haven’t set a date for opening this but we intend to offer our Members a special preview event before TT.

Trends in tourism suggest a pull towards holidays of our childhood and visits that evoke feelings of nostalgia for the days of our youth. Our very successful toys exhibition at the House of Manannan in Peel certainly did this. In that vein, from 18th August, Peel will host an exhibition celebrating the life and work of Sir Norman Wisdom, a long-time resident and adopted son of the Isle of Man.

You'll also get a sense of nostalgia when you visit the Grove House in Ramsey, Rushen Abbey and Cregneash. As you know we are using a bequest that came to FMNH to support a new horticultural role and we've had a number of volunteers who have specifically worked on the gardens at these sites. The difference this has made is noticeable and if you've not been to these sites for a year or so – you really should take the opportunity this spring. Our gardener, Philip, is keen to grow the team and indeed start trying to improve the grounds at Castle Rushen, so we're looking to use the undoubted gardening skills in our membership and recruit more of you.

We couldn't talk about the year ahead without mentioning the world-famous TT races. FMNH has been supporting our efforts to build the motorsport collections as part of our aspiration to develop a new gallery on the subject at the Manx Museum. As part of the process the Manx Museum will be staging a "Racing Lines" Exhibition from 26th May which will give visitors the chance to shape the future of our forthcoming TT Gallery by telling us what they feel should be in it. We will also be showing some of the recent acquisitions you've helped us to acquire for the nation to whet your appetite.

Just a word about the recent Manx Budget. No surprises for us in it which means we can plan ahead for the year. MNH continues to get significant financial support from the taxpayer for our core functions but the real value of this continues to decline as inflation eats into our budget which is essentially capped. We have to generate increasing amounts every year from our trading and charitable activity to meet the expectations of our community. I remain exceedingly grateful for the support of the FMNH Board and our members in this process and I am confident we will achieve our ambitions.

The relationship between the Manx Museum and National Trust and FMNH remains strong but continues to adapt. Trustees have invited FMNH Chairman Robert Quayle to attend Board meetings to make sure we take into account the view of members as they plan ahead. Trustees have agreed to support fundraising and communications activity as part of our efforts to become more financially sustainable. In particular we want to avoid any duplication of effort and make sure we operate together as efficiently as possible.

With my very best wishes,



Edmund Southworth

Members Events Programme 2018

APRIL

Saturday 21st

Douglas Borough Council - Parks Services

Providing the public with an insight into how the Council produce 180,000 summer and 65,000 spring flowering bedding plants. Including a tour of the Council glasshouse facility, automated planting equipment and green waste re-cycling facility.

Time: 1pm (approx 1 hour)

Venue: Ballaughton Nursery

Max 15

Free

MAY

Thursday 10th

Knock-e-Dhooney, Andreas – Ice Age to the Vikings

Dave Martin, MNH Trustee, will lead us on a walk around parts of Knock-e-Dhooney Farm, looking at the effects of glaciation, the Keeill and the Viking ship burial. A gentle walk through farm fields, mostly on the flat - 1½ miles / 2 hours. Please wear appropriate clothing.

Time: 11am

Venue: Knock-e-Dhooney, Andreas

Max 25

Free

Monday 14th

Rushen Abbey Garden visit

Discover the gardens of Rushen Abbey on a guided tour with Philip Payne, MNH Horticultural Manager. A great opportunity to learn more about the gardens and Philip's plans for the future. With homemade refreshments.

Time: 2pm

Venue: Rushen Abbey

Max 20

£5pp

Friday 18th

The Grove Garden visit

Discover the gardens of The Grove on a guided tour with Philip Payne, MNH Horticultural Manager. A great opportunity to learn more about the gardens and Philip's plans for the future. With homemade refreshments.

Time: 2pm

Venue: The Grove

Max 20

£5pp

Saturday 19th

Knock-e-Dhooney, Andreas – Ice Age to the Vikings

Dave Martin, MNH Trustee, will lead us on a walk around parts of Knock-e-Dhooney Farm, looking at the effects of glaciation, the Keeill and the Viking ship burial. A gentle walk through farm fields, mostly on the flat - 1½ miles / 2 hours. Please wear appropriate clothing.

Time: 11 am

Venue: Knock-e-Dhooney, Andreas

Max 25

Free

JUNE

Thursday 14th

An evening of Gin - and associated delights!

With Mark Leveson-Gower of Pinkster Gin and Anne Berry of the Wine Cellar. Come and learn how Gin is produced, taste a selection of different Gins with mixers along with a few carefully selected nibbles to complement each Gin.

Time: 7pm

Venue: House of Manannan

Max 40

£20pp

Tuesday 19th

Summer fruit and flowers at Cregneash

Karen Griffiths, the gardener at Cregneash, will show us round Cregneash and the ever evolving garden. We will be strolling through the gardens, taking in the wildflowers, old medicinal herbs, fruit and vegetables. Many of the gardens are a work in progress with lots of projects on the go. With homemade refreshments.

Time: 2pm

Venue: Cregneash, Meet at the Farmhouse Max 20 £5pp

JULY

Tour of the Round Mounds of the Isle of Man Project

The Isle of Man is home to over 160 round mounds but very few have been excavated using techniques that have left a detailed and reliable record. Round mounds are earthen mounds built over human burial sites. They are found throughout the British Isles and in Continental Europe. First appearing in the Neolithic Age around 3500 BC, their use continued in some form into the Bronze Age. The current project, led by Dr Rachel Crellin and Dr Chris Fowler aims to investigate these sites and their associated burials.

FMNH has been offered a site tour with one of the staff, who will also show us around the mounds.

Time and date to be confirmed. Please let Nicola know if you are interested.....

Monday 16th

Thornbank

A visit to Thornbank with Steve Blackford, Head of Properties, MNH. Thornbank is one of a group of four terrace houses built in Douglas in 1897 to a design by the renowned Arts & Crafts architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott. Find out more about the property and what MNH have planned for the conservation project.

Time: 11am and 12 noon

Max 10

Free

Friday 20th

Enjoy the thrills and spills of the TT races with 'THE VOICE OF MANX ROAD RACING' Mr Roy Moore.

Have a flutter on your favourite racer – buy your own race team - enjoy a “Marshal's Picnic Supper” – all whilst being regaled with the history of the world famous TT races. BYO wine. This fun evening is arranged in conjunction with our friends from the Quilliam Group.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Ballabeg Village Hall

Max 40

£5pp

Thursday 26th

Discovering the Giant Deer

Laura McCoy, MNH Curator Natural History will share findings of the Giant Deer found off Kirk Michael in the West of the Island in February 2018.

Time: 11am

Venue: Manx Museum SMR 1

Max 50

Free

Monday 30th

The Peggy

A visit to the conservation facility at Cooil Smithy, with Chris Weeks (MNH Conservator), to see The Peggy and hear an update on the conservation project. Please wear appropriate footwear, warm clothing and bring a sitting stool if you tire easily.

Time: 11am

Venue: Joining instructions on booking Max 25

Free

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 8th

For the Love of Trees

An illustrated talk from well-known horticulturist and Bee Keeper Cilla Platt.

Cilla has always loved trees since growing up with a tree crazed mother beside their own piece of ancient woodland. Cilla will present pictures of anything to do with trees, coppicing, plus a bit on fruit tree pruning (part of her horticultural training was in commercial fruit orchards!).

Time: 2pm

Venue: House of Manannan

Max 50

Free

Thursday 13th

A Calf Year Supper

Dr Lara Howe, Marine Officer Manx Wildlife Trust will give us an insight of what happens during the year on the Calf, and in the waters and skies around it.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: The Sound Café

Max 80

2 course dinner £25

Thursday 20th

The Naples of Britain?

An Illustrated talk by Dr Catriona Mackie FSA 'The Development of the Tourist Industry on the Isle of Man'

Time: 11am

Venue: Manx Museum SR1

Max 50

Free

Saturday 22nd

"—and the Laxey River runs down to the sea."

A guided walk by Pat Newton, Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society. Residents of Laxey Glen made full use of the power of the Laxey River and its tributaries for a wide variety of industries which existed both before, during and after the heyday of the mining village. Our walk will take us along the banks of the river viewing the many existing and former "manufacturing" localities. Please wear walking boots as some paths may be muddy. This walk is specifically not about the mining industry and therefore does not include the Laxey Wheel or Laxey Village Gardens (ie the washing floors)

Time: 2pm Venue: Meet at entrance to Laxey Glen Gardens – by the plaque to the Williamson family. Parking available in Laxey Glen Gardens.

Free

OCTOBER

Heritage Open Days

A series of free events which explore the diverse history, culture and architecture that the Isle of Man has to offer. Discover hidden spots, try out new experiences and celebrate the Island's outstanding heritage.

Weekend One – Friday 5th – Sunday 7th October 2018

Weekend Two – Friday 12th – Sunday 14th October 2018

All events will be released for booking on Thursday 6th September at 7pm.

<https://manxnationalheritage.im/whats-on/detail/heritage-open-days-2018/>

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

☐ **Thursday 5th July. Tynwald Day Assist FMNH in the trailer**

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

☐ Donate funds for flowers to be purchased from Alexander Nurseries

☐ Welcoming visitors during the festival and encouraging membership

Friday 20th July

☐ Manx Road Racing evening. Assist with preparing, serving food and clearing up. Ballabeg Village Hall

Royal Show - Assist in the FMNH Trailer

☐ Friday 10th August

☐ Saturday 11th August

ASSISTING AT MNH EVENTS

10th June - 80th Anniversary of Cregneash Museum

☐ Making cakes, ingredients supplied

☐ Serving tea

6th July - Year of Our Island 'Culture at the Castle'

☐ Ushers

14th & 15th July. 12-5pm Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering IOM Community Weekend

☐ Guide, House of Manannan. There will be music and dancing and it should be a lovely atmosphere. It will be mainly chatting & directing.

25th July - Adventure Club at Rushen Abbey

☐ Crafty volunteers with skills working with children

30th and 31st July - Peel Castle

☐ Peel Castle - 2 x volunteers to set up for the Commonwhelk Games.

Help with painting the lines and generally preparing the ground for the races.



2nd August. 2-4pm - the Peel Castle Commonwhelk Games

- 2 x Volunteers who enjoy working with children to help hold the finish line and give out stickers at the end of the race. Need to be physically fit for getting about the Castle.
- If it is wet this event will be cancelled.

8th August. Adventure Club Nautical Museum.

- Games / play volunteers with skills working with children

9th August. 2 – 3pm - Rock pooling at Niabyl

- 2 x Volunteers to help Laura & Anthea with the groups of children. Need to be good with children and physically fit. If it is wet this event will be cancelled.

17th August - Follow a Star– Norman Wisdom Exhibition Opening

- 1 or 2 x Volunteers to serve the drinks and generally help out with the event

18th August - An Evening with Nick Wisdom

- 1 or 2 x Volunteers to help serve the drinks & possibly food

22nd August – Adventure Club Cregneash.

- Nature/cookery volunteers with skills working with children.
- Backmarker

26th August – Little People’s Picnics Rushen Abbey – Marvellous minibeasts.

- Ushers
- Parking
- People to run games and attractions

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th October

- 6 x Volunteers for Heritage Open Days. Stewards to ‘back mark’ walks and offer support at events.

Friday 12th – Sunday 14 October

- 6 x Volunteers for Heritage Open Days. Stewards to ‘back mark’ walks and offer support at events.

Cregneash Hop Tu Naa Week

25th October

- Turnip Carving workshop – Help with catering, supplying materials, general support

26th October

- Ceilidh in marquee – Help with catering and ushering

27th to 31st October

- Turn up for Turnips – drilling line and assisting in tent.

29th October - Hop Tu Naa Festival

- Crafts □ Stringing □ Admissions □ Salt dough

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 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. We would love to hear from you if you can help.

- Rushen Abbey
- The Grove



Friends of Manx National Heritage Booking Form 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

TelephoneMobile.....

Date	Event	Price pp	No's	Cost
Sat 21st Apr	Park Services	FREE		
Thur 10th May	Knock-e-Dhooney	FREE		
Mon 14th May	Rushen Abbey Gardens	£5pp		
Fri 18th May	The Grove Gardens	£5pp		
Sat 19th May	Knock-e-Dhooney	FREE		
Thur 14th Jun	Gin Tasting	£20pp		
Tue 19th Jun	Cregneash Gardens	£5pp		
Mon 16th Jul	Thornbank 11am	FREE		
Mon 16th Jul	Thornbank 12am	FREE		
Fri 20th Jul	TT Race Supper	£5pp		
Thur 26th Jul	Giant Deer	FREE		
Mon 30th Jul	The Peggy	FREE		
Sat 8th Sep	Trees	FREE		
Thur 13th Sep	Calf Supper	£25pp		
Thur 20th Sep	Naples of Britain	FREE		
Sat 22nd Sep	Laxey Walk	FREE		



