

*The Friends of*  
Manx National Heritage



**Members' Events List  
& Volunteer Programme**

**Oct 2019 - Apr 2020**

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# *The Friends of* Manx National Heritage



September 2019

## **FMNH Chairman's Letter**

Dear Member,

I realised recently that I have now served on the Friends for 31 years, and my colleague Anne Kaye for 30 years, both of us having been elected to serve originally on the Friends of Manx Museum & the Friends of Manx National Trust respectively. We both propose to step down at the forthcoming AGM to make way for fresh ideas & new enthusiasm.

Much has changed in the 30 years since we were appointed.

- The two sets of Friends merged into Friends of Manx National Heritage (FMNH).
- FMNH became a charitable company limited by guarantee.
- MNH grew, not least with the addition of the House of Manannan, and the Old House of Keys in Castletown.
- The Manx Museum in Douglas has been extended, remodelled and refreshed.
- The iMuseum has been created.

But probably the most significant change has been how Manx National Heritage (MNH) is funded, with Government making a much smaller contribution towards its running costs, and MNH having to become much more reliant on its charitable status to raise funds from its supporters and other charitable sources. The role of FMNH has therefore become even more important than it was in the past.

How has FMNH supported MNH in the past year? In a variety of ways both direct and indirect, but most notably the contribution of FMNH volunteers has made a major difference to so many functions of MNH that would otherwise have fallen down the priority list, would have cost valuable resources, or would just not have

been done. There is almost limitless opportunity for enthusiastic volunteers to make a significant difference to MNH - our Administrator will be pleased to provide information on how you could help.

Funding specific acquisitions and significant projects remains an important element of our work - the emphasis has shifted from relatively minor amounts to make additions to the collections, to making larger contributions towards specific projects which might otherwise not proceed were it not for FMNH. The most exciting of these is the restoration and refurbishment of Thornbank, which 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. FMNH has pledged £336,000. Yes, it is more contemporary than many projects undertaken by MNH - but the present becomes the past so quickly and actions taken now to protect future inheritance will prove priceless. FMNH has also already agreed to make a further substantial donation to the proposed Motorsport Gallery which MNH wishes to create.

But FMNH is not just about fundraising - there have been visits and events such as a visit to the newly opened Knockaloe Camp Exhibition and Interpretation Centre in Patrick, a marvellous local initiative (but I may be biased!), and a tour of the Round Mounds of the Isle of Man Project being led by Dr Rachel Crellin & Dr Chris Fowler. FMNH also supported the Flower Festival at Cregneash with the help of very talented volunteers.

After 30 years dedicated service to the Friends of Manx National Trust and subsequently Friends of Manx National Heritage, Anne Kaye deserves our thanks. Her wisdom, enthusiasm and knowledge will be greatly missed. I must also thank our energetic and efficient Administrator, Nicola Pemberton, who is always coming up with new ideas as to how FMNH can support MNH, and of course, our wonderfully efficient Membership Secretary, Mary Bridson whose contribution to FMNH and other charitable organisations was deservedly recognised in the New Year's Honours List - our congratulations and thanks to her.

Next year FMNH will have a new Chairman - I wish him/her and FMNH well!

Yours sincerely

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

Robert Quayle  
Chairman



# Manx National Heritage

## *Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin*

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

Dear Friend,

This letter comes to you in advance of the FMNH Annual General Meeting. In terms of the MNH year – it is at the end of the traditional summer tourism season, about half way through our financial year, and at a time when we are preparing budgets for next year. So I thought it worth looking back initially and then ahead.

One of the most important things that happened to us last year was a letter from the Attorney General of the Isle of Man which gave us some helpful advice on our status as an organisation and the way our Trustees govern it. The AG confirmed that the Manx Museum and National Trust (trading as Manx National Heritage) is a Manx charity and should visibly operate at “arms length” from Government. This is not new (or indeed a change) as we have been a Trust since the 19th century and registered as a Manx Charity since the 1990’s. It is however difficult to explain as even though we are not part of Government we have a close partnership with it – particularly in terms of funding. We also receive economies of scale by having access to services such as Information Technology, Human Resources and Insurance to name but a few.

The advice means that we have to be more explicit about the work we do as a charity and we will enter into more formal agreements with the Government relating to the services and benefits we provide to the people of the Island using public funding. We hold the iconic sites such as the Laxey Wheel and Peel Castle in trust for future generations and the Government gives us tax-payers money to care for these. There is no appetite or desire to change this and the fundamental partnership is very strong.

The change in emphasis does offer advantages though. We hope to use the “arms length” position to further develop the independent and specialist advice we give to Government and third parties on aspects of the Island’s historic and natural environment. We also want to play our part in promoting the UNESCO Biosphere and tackling the impact of Climate Change.

We are very positive about the financial relationship with Government which currently provides approximately 75% of our annual running costs. But we think we can do more to generate funds as a charity and offer the generous Manx community more opportunities to engage with us and support our work. The more we generate – the greater the benefits we can deliver. FMNH is a critical partner in developing this area of our activity: you have networks and contacts in the community and have already demonstrated how generous support can really make a difference to a charity.

In talking about fundraising I single out for praise two examples of recent FMNH support. The first is the use of a single generous legacy to develop our horticultural expertise. We have never had a specialist gardener on the staff and with FMNH support we were able to redress this. Philip Payne’s remit has been to design and redevelop key sites and train a team of volunteers to establish and maintain these. I know many FMNH members have come forward to volunteer at the key sites of Rushen Abbey, the Grove, and Cregneash. The results have

been transformational and I am now getting regular praise from our visitors about these sites. We have made the gardener's role permanent but the pump-priming from FMNH was critical.

The second example to celebrate is the decision by the FMNH Board to allocate over £300,000 from reserves towards the restoration of the Baillie Scott house, Thornbank, in Douglas. This donation allows us to proceed with the work immediately.

The relationship with FMNH continues to be hugely supportive. I meet with the FMNH Board regularly and both bodies send observers to each other's meetings. One of the challenges we tackled during the year was to raise our standards for the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults who interact with us. We could only do that by working together and we decided to make the training we give to staff and volunteers compulsory. This meant improving our documentation on volunteers and tackling issues such as security checks together. We also did one of the training sessions at a weekend to allow volunteers to attend.

I am acutely aware that changes to the way we work can cause tensions and anxiety but the safety and care of our users is my highest priority. So I have to express my sincere thanks to all those who have participated in our surveys and training programmes.

On the horizon is another change but a welcome one. We are members of the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) which brings together over 80 like-minded organisations world-wide. The secretariat is with the National Trust in London and we have been in close contact during the year. INTO is proposing to pilot a scheme to promote and facilitate a new Reciprocal visiting scheme. This should provide more opportunities to FMNH members to enjoy heritage around the world – but at the same time simplify the arrangements at sites through standardising procedures such as the design of membership cards. The pilot won't start till later next year but it is a welcome direction of travel.

Apart from Thornbank the MNH priority for the next couple of years remains the two major projects of new visitor facilities at the Laxey Wheel, and the development of a new TT gallery at the Manx Museum. We haven't forgotten the Peggy though and the FMNH Board have asked if members can "adopt" this project and work closely with MNH over several years as the scheme to return her to Castletown is planned and delivered. We are excited by this approach.

I look forward to seeing those of you who attend the AGM but would encourage all of you to make use of our social media channels to keep in touch. It's an exciting time for MNH and FMNH.

As ever – many thanks for all your support.

With best wishes,

Edmund Southworth

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edmund Southworth', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Director

# Members Events Programme October 2019 - April 2020

## NOVEMBER

### Thursday 14th

#### **This is Winter – Photographs from Manx Press Pictures Archive from the 1950's, 1960's & 1970's**

Join Katie King for a guided tour of the new exhibition. This Is Winter celebrates life on the Island during the long winter months. From sink holes appearing in a Douglas street to snowstorms, Christmas turkeys, drinks parties and pantomimes.

**Time: 11am**                      **Venue: House of Manannan**                      **Max 25**                      **FREE**

### Saturday 23rd

#### **Christmas Handbells with Kiaullaneyn Noo Carnane (St Germans Handbells)**

Can you count to 3 or 4 and laugh at yourself?

An afternoon learning the basics of ringing handbells and using belleplates.

Hopefully by the end of the session everyone will be able to play Carols or

Christmas music in a band. You do not need to be musical or read music!

Refreshments provided.

**Time: 2pm**                      **Venue: House of Manannan**                      **Max 16**                      **£3pp**

## 2020

## JANUARY

### Thursday 16th

#### **William Hoggatt: Capturing the Light and Shadow.**

Talk and exhibition tour with Yvonne Cresswell, MNH Curator Social History.

This is the second exhibition tour as the first one was oversubscribed!

**Time: 11am**    **Venue: Manx Museum Temporary Gallery**    **Max 25**                      **FREE**

**Monday 27th**

**'How to love bugs: invertebrates in the Isle of Man and their conservation'.**

**An Illustrated talk by Kate Hawkins – former MNH curator Natural History.**

Kate will explore the alarming decline of insects only recently detected in Europe and the implications for other animals and plants for all of us. Kate will give examples of species found in the Isle of Man and investigate some aspects of their ecology and importance for wildlife communities. Also touching on recent initiatives to encourage more involvement in invertebrate identification and recording by MNH, DEFA Manx Wildlife Trust and the Manx Biological Recording Partnership.

**Time: 11am**

**Venue: SR1 Manx Museum**

**Max 50**

**FREE**

## **FEBRUARY**

**Saturday 29th**

**The Natural Beauty of Wood by Gavin Carter**

Well known wood sculptor Gavin Carter will explain his personal creative work with wood and his love of the material, which has stemmed from a lifelong connection with the natural world. His work is not over laboured through deep thought or meaning but rather seems to centre around an enjoyment of the material itself. Gavin has an innate skill in bringing out the natural beauty of all wood. Gavin will explain how to appreciate the material for what it is and even let you have a hands on go at creating!

Refreshments provided.

**Time: 2pm**

**Venue: The House of Manannan**

**Max 30**

**£3pp**

## **MARCH**

**Thursday 12th**

**A Time of Change – Allison Fox, MNH Curator Field Archaeology**

A closer look at the Isle of Man in the Bronze Age. What can artefacts tell us about Manx society four thousand years ago?

**Time: 11am**

**Venue: SR1 Manx Museum**

**Max 50**

**FREE**



## **Monday 16th**

### **Creating An Imaginary World: Theatre Design From Temple To Playhouse, Into The Picture Frame And Out Again**

#### **Joint lecture with The Arts Society Isle of Man**

Theatrical scene design is one of the world's most beautiful, varied and lively art forms. In his talk, Bertie Pearce looks at the relationship between actor and audience and how this transformed the space and architecture of theatre throughout the ages. Beginning with the Greeks and their remarkable innovations to pageants, masques, liturgical drama, through the science of perspective, to court theatre. A quick glance at Commedia dell'arte before entering the Elizabethan stage of the Globe and the Fortune and arriving at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. From great architects such as Inigo Jones and Frank Matcham, to practitioners such as Granville Barker and Gordon Craig and designers Cecil Beaton and Oliver Messel, Bertie brings to life the magical world of theatre. Bertie has a BA (Hons) in Drama from Manchester University, and a Diploma Internationale from the École Internationale du Théâtre, Jacques Lecoq. He is a member of the Inner Magic Circle, with Gold Star. Past experience includes lecturing and performing on cruise ships, and to U3A, historical societies, festivals, schools and colleges. In addition, he has toured the world with a magic cabaret show and a one man show entitled All Aboard. Has written articles for newspapers and magazines on entertainment and theatre. **Welcome drink from 6.30pm**

**Time: 7pm Venue: Manx Museum Lecture Theatre Max 90 £10pp**

## **Friday 27th**

### **Murder Mystery Dinner - 'A Question of Murder'**

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

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

## **APRIL**

## **Thursday 2nd**

### **From Stranding to Skeleton – Laura McCoy, MNH Curator: Natural History**

How a stranding of the first ever Striped Dolphin on the Isle of Man has been prepared to be a mounted skeleton on display in the Manx Museum.

**Time: 11am Venue: SR1 Manx Museum 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**

- ☐ Monday 16th March – Serving drinks at the Manx Museum for the lecture with the Arts Society.
- ☐ Friday 27th March – Helping to set up Ballasalla Village Hall for the Murder Mystery Dinner
- ☐ Friday 27th March - Assisting with serving food and washing up for Murder Mystery Dinner
- ☐ Can I please contact you if any other events come up

### **ASSISTING AT MNH EVENTS**

27th October Hop Tu Naa Day 10-4pm

Turnips & Wrist band checks ☐ 2 x AM ☐ 2 x PM

Quirks Crafting ☐ 3 x AM ☐ 3 X PM

Harry Kelly's Queue to Meet Jinny ☐ 1 x AM & ☐ 1 X PM

Crebbins Salt Dough ☐ 3 x AM ☐ 3 X PM

Stringing Turnips ☐ 2 X AM ☐ 2 X PM

### **TURNIP FUN IN THE MARQUEE 1 VOLUNTEER NEEDED EACH DAY 10AM – 4PM**

- ☐ 29th October
- ☐ 30th October
- ☐ 31st October
- ☐ Laura McCoy, MNH Curator Natural History has a short project for someone who doesn't mind something a little unusual.....! She has a Striped Dolphin skeleton that she buried in compost; it is now completely dry and not smelly in any way, but it does need some of the compost cleaning off it. She wondered if there was anyone who would be willing to help her wash it? They would need an accurate eye for detail, be somewhat dextrous and be happy standing at a sink rinsing and cleaning the bones in cold water with toothbrushes and small tools. Full training would be given, and gloves and tools provided. She estimates it will take 2 full days, or 4 half days.



- ☐ Wendy Thirkettle, MNH Archivist, is looking to find someone who might be available for translation work (German to English). Wendy has some letters from the Second World War era which it would be great to have translated to improve access for internment researchers. Ideally, they would be typescript transcriptions rather than long hand.

### **Snow Queen at Castle Rushen**

#### **Saturday 7th December – helping with: -**

- ☐ Crafts
- ☐ Sweet cone activity
- ☐ Serving tea, cakes and ice cream.

### **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 Rushen Abbey and the Grove.**

We have had a successful summer with help from many volunteers who have made such a difference to the gardens. Philip has exciting plans for improvements at the sites. We are looking for more volunteers who might be able to give some time to work alongside Philip on a Monday at Rushen Abbey, Karen at Cregneash on a Thursday and Philip on a Friday at The Grove.

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

- ☐ Rushen Abbey
- ☐ Cregneash
- ☐ The Grove

# Friends of Manx National Heritage

## Booking Form Oct 2019 - Apr 2020

Fill in the booking form and either email Nicola on [fmnh.njp@manx.net](mailto:fmnh.njp@manx.net) or return with your cheque, made payable to FMNH, to: Mrs N Pemberton, FMNH, Ballachrink Mill, Santon, IM4 1HE. **Alternatively**, you can do a bank transfer to sort code 55-91-00, account 12756466. **Please ensure you add your name as the reference.**

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
Thur 14th Nov	This is Winter	FREE		
Sat 23th Nov	Handbells	£3		
Thur 16th Jan	William Hoggatt	FREE		
Mon 27th Jan	How to love bugs	FREE		
Sat 29th Feb	Beauty of Wood	£3		
Thur 12th Mar	A Time of Change	FREE		
Mon 16th Mar	Joint Lecture	£10		
Fri 27th Mar	Murder Mystery Dinner	£20		
Thur 2nd Apr	Stranding to Skeleton	FREE		

