

*The Friends of*  
Manx National Heritage



**Members' Events List  
& Volunteer Programme**

**Nov 2021 - Apr 2022**

Tel: 01624 824137

Website: [www.friendsofmanxheritage.org](http://www.friendsofmanxheritage.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/friendsofmanxheritage](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmanxheritage)

E-mail: [nicola@manxnationalheritage.im](mailto:nicola@manxnationalheritage.im)



# *The Friends of* Manx National Heritage



October 2021

## **FMNH Chairman's Letter**

Dear Friends,

When I wrote my Chairman's letter back in October last year, I had no idea what the following year would bring and certainly not how the pandemic has continued to affect us all. Charities have had another pretty tough year, so we are delighted that so many of you, individually, family or through corporates, have continued to support our work by renewing your membership and hopefully been able to travel and use the additional benefits as the year progressed. Without you we wouldn't be able to assist Manx National Heritage (MNH) with their requests for specific funding when sought and approved by the Board of the Friends of Manx National Heritage (FMNH).

One of the latest commitments made to MNH is to assist financially with the textile conservation and the dynamic mounting of leathers for the new TT & Motorsports world-class gallery. This gallery is going to be an exciting addition to the Manx Museum.

We have arranged a wide variety of interesting members' events over the summer which I know many of you have attended. Just to select a couple of events, members were provided with a fascinating opportunity to enjoy a private viewing of the recently unearthed Viking Hoard, and another event was the recent hugely successful talk by Charles Guard on "Filming the Isle of Man" at the Erin Arts Centre.

Over the summer we have seen the huge difference that Philip Payne, MNH gardener (funded by FMNH), has made to the gardens at the Grove and Rushen Abbey and they have been well worth visiting over the year. Karen Griffiths at Cregneash has also made lots of improvements to those gardens in quite a different setting. Both these gardeners are assisted by a brilliant team of wonderful gardening volunteers who have made a huge difference to all these gardens so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them formally. We held three enjoyable private events to visit these gardens which allowed members to hear Philip and Karen explaining their current planting schemes and their ideas for the future.

While on the subject of gardens we were lucky enough to be able to visit Nicola's garden in May. Nicola was delighted she had so many volunteers ably assisting her with the many jobs involved to the run up to the opening and over the two days resulting in taking £4000 for FMNH funds, which is fantastic. My thanks to you all, you know who you are!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer - not just for gardening - we would love to hear from you. The team of volunteers is growing and there are many opportunities for you to become involved with us and MNH. Please do contact Nicola if you have a skill, or are interested in anything in particular, or would just like to be involved and have fun meeting other volunteers. The FMNH trailer attended by Nicola and her volunteers, took up their regular positions at both the Agricultural Shows, and on the Tynwald Day fairground where the Princess Royal stopped by for a chat, and if you attended any of these events we hope you also sought Nicola out for a chat.

During the period of lockdowns, we hope you enjoyed the newsletters, quizzes and recipes that were shared with you. I know from Nicola that many members enjoyed the quizzes and some were even able to share with family as far away as Canada and so our thanks go to Jane and Norman for setting them.

I know the office was busy during the lockdowns updating lots of your records. We are trying to use email more and more as the preferred way of staying in touch as it saves so much on postage and administration. If you are on email and are happy for us to communicate with you this way, please send your email address to Nicola@fmnh.im and we will do the rest. We wish to also thank those of you who have moved to Direct Debits for payments which has been a great help. We would like to show our appreciation to all of you and I can announce that your Directors have decided to keep subscriptions at the same level for another year.

I am delighted that Connie Lovel, the new Executive Director of MNH will be attending the AGM, and she has kindly agreed to say a few words.

I am also delighted to be able to announce that we have two new Directors joining the Board of FMNH, Ian Young and David Bellamy and we look forward to welcoming them at the AGM.

Finally, I must place on record my thanks to Nicola and Mary for all their efforts in keeping the office going during the various lockdowns, and to Harley Shimmin our Treasurer for his sterling work. Thanks also to my fellow Directors for their valuable contribution to the work of FMNH.

Wishing you all a safe end to 2021 and that we hopefully get back to more normality in 2022.

Thank you all for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Crowe  
Chairman



Dear Friend

This is my first opportunity to engage with Manx National Heritage's wider family of the Friends of Manx National Heritage and my first priority is to thank you for your ongoing support of the important work carried out by the dedicated MNH teams across the Island.

Since arriving on the Isle of Man in early August to take up my new post as Executive Director, I have been very rapidly immersed in the role and Island life. In the few short weeks I have been here I have received the warmest of welcomes and am experiencing a genuine desire from everyone I meet to work collaboratively with MNH to achieve the best outcomes for all involved in our work protecting our heritage for future generations.

For the past nearly 7 years, I have worked for the National Trust for Scotland and for the last 18 months of my time with the NTS, I was deeply involved with dealing with the enormity of the breadth and depth of the impact of Covid-19 on the Heritage sector in Scotland. Latterly, I was avidly watching events unfolding on the Isle of Man and could see the similarities of challenges being faced and overcome by MNH.

Having been in post for just a few weeks at the time of writing this letter to the Friends of MNH, I have asked my colleagues on the senior management team for details of highlights of the past 12 months for their respective areas of responsibility. I hope you will be as fascinated and delighted as I have been to learn about some of the meaningful initiatives MNH has been involved with over the past year.

**Visitors to MNH sites** - in 2020, despite the late start of our Season and closed borders we were still able to welcome over 30,000 visitors to our sites including 2,735 visits from FMNH Members and 783 visits from reciprocal organisation members which included some from Guernsey.

In 2021 MNH has faced 93 days of Covid lockdowns with our borders remaining closed until 28 June. There was immediate interest and strong demand from off-Island groups and we welcomed the first of these group visits to Peel Castle on 29 June. MNH sites officially opened to the public on 16 July and to date we have welcomed over 45,000 visitors through our doors with just over 2,000 FMNH member visits recorded so far and over 7,500 reciprocal visits.

The UK staycation market has had a very positive effect on travel to the Isle of Man which is perceived as a 'safe' destination by UK independent travellers and Tour Operators. This trend has also been reflected in the number of bookings for our Holiday accommodation at Eary Cushlin <https://www.islandescapes.im/property/562726> and Yn Thie Thooit at the Lhen <https://www.islandescapes.im/property/562727>, where we are seeing excellent occupancy rates continuing into the autumn months ahead.

FMNH's volunteers provided vital support for some of our key events during the year including Little Peoples Picnic and the Tanya Anderson workshop at Rushen Abbey and a host of Volunteers are lined up once again to help us deliver this year's ever popular Heritage Open Days in the first two weekends of October. An enormous thank you for your support at these events.





## 2021 Refurbishment of the Court Room, Castle Rushen

You will have seen the images of the Courtroom in relation to the Lieutenant Governor's swearing in ceremony, this photograph having been taken just a few days before the event following the completion of the refurbishment works in preparation for the ceremony.



**Horticultural developments** - Philip Payne has continued his work planning and executing a programme of garden site improvements with the support of FMNH and FMNH volunteers.



*Gardens at the Grove*

- Appointment of John-Paul Walker to the position of Historic Buildings Architect. John-Paul joined MNH in July and is the only professionally accredited conservation architect on the Isle of Man.
- Launched in March 2021, the **Isle of Man Historic Environment Record (IOMHER)** is the primary information **service** for the historic environment of the Isle of Man and will inform its future management and enjoyment.

The IOMHER includes all statutorily protected Ancient Monuments and all war memorials as well as more than 200 medieval carved stone crosses; 200 medieval chapels ('*keeills*') and burial grounds;

more than 300 Neolithic and Bronze Age prehistoric burial sites between 1,500-5,500 years old; over 100 medieval upland seasonal settlement sites or 'shielings'; over 500 mills and water-management features associated with them; and over 1,500 records of prehistoric finds including worked flint and pottery.

- **'Unpath'd Waters: Marine and Maritime Collections in the UK** - MNH were approached by Historic England (HE) to become a partner in a potential new maritime heritage project. The project covers three geographical areas; the North Sea, the Solent and adjacent English Channel, and the Irish Sea. It aims to involve local and national heritage organisations to explore and resolve the complexities of joining up maritime and marine collections (datasets, maps and charts, documents, archives, surveys, artefacts) in order to help the public access, understand and even co-create a more complete British-Isles wide marine heritage record.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/towards-national-collection/>

Although no funding will be available to MNH directly, collaboration with HE and its partners in this initiative will allow cross-organisational knowledge-sharing (including IT considerations such as the incorporation of maritime sites into the Isle of Man Historic Environment Record (IOMHER) and a raised awareness of the significance of the Island's maritime heritage, both on and off-Island.

### Digital Collections

- **Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Project 2020-21**

This is a British Library led project to digitise sound archives across the British Isles. More than 600 recordings from MNH collections were transported to National Museums Northern Ireland in October 2020 for digitisation. A digital volunteer listening project was established in 2021 to transcribe and catalogue the archive in advance of release to iMuseum and later in 2022 the main British Library website. The 60 plus volunteers that have engaged with this project are essential to help us achieve our vision to improve accessibility and promotion of the sound archives collections.

- **IOM on Film**

Throughout 2021 we have been putting various clips from our film archives onto iMuseum. Predominantly from the camera of J. Royston, subjects include boxing, flower shows and a trip to the Douglas Art School. The films, dating from the 1930s to the 1950s, were originally digitised with the financial assistance of FMNH back in 2010.

- **The TT Gallery** has made significant progress during the year despite the challenges of lockdown. The detailed design scheme of the new gallery was completed in December 2020 and good progress is being made with Graphic design.

We have also engaged specialist textile conservator Zenzie Tinker to provide advice in relation to the mounting of costumes and textiles for the gallery. In September 2019 boxes of leathers, helmets and boots were taken to Zenzie Tinker's conservation studio in Brighton to begin their conservation journey. We will provide updates on Zenzie's work over the next 6 months and are grateful to the FMNH for their financial support for the conservation of these items.

Although there were no major purchases in the year for the new gallery we did acquire key sections of the TT Scoreboard when it was dismantled at the Grandstand. The scoreboard will provide a magnificent backdrop to the collections and the human stories that we will tell and will definitely evoke a sense of place.



- **Exhibitions Programme** - despite the disruption of lockdowns we were able to deliver four exhibitions this year including *Kevin Atherton – The Works*, a retrospective for this Manx born artist exploring the universal questions in life in a challenging, intriguing and often humorous way. The island is at the core of Kevin's character and the complicated nature of the relationship he has with the land of his birth was only exaggerated by the circumstances of 2021 which meant that he never actually got to physically visit his own retrospective from his current home in England.
- At the **House of Manannan** we were able to work in partnership with the Island's Creative Network to open an exhibition called *Boundaries*. Work by more than 60 local artists explored the theme of boundaries – a title which had been proposed long before we were aware of Covid 19 and the physical boundaries that became such a part of our lives. The exhibition shows the artist constantly exploring boundaries and their ever-changing style, materials, cognitive and aesthetic processes.
- **Treasure - in February 2021 a stunning collection of Viking Age artefacts** was declared Treasure by the Isle of Man Coroner of Inquests, Mrs Jayne Hughes. The internationally significant find consists of a gold arm-ring, a large silver brooch, at least one silver armband and other associated finds, buried around AD 950, all discovered in late 2020 by metal detectorist Kath Giles.

The hoard went on display in the Viking & Medieval Gallery at the Manx Museum prior to valuation and further conservation work. Due to the significance of these finds we will seek to acquire them for the national collections. MNH also acquired another Viking assemblage – two highly decorated brooches and a glass bead – discovered in 2018 and declared treasure in July 2020.

- **Calf of Man stamps** – we worked with IOM Post Office regarding a Calf of Man 10 stamp issue which also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of Manx National Trust in 1951.

I hope the above snapshot of a cross section of activities over the past year provides an insight into just some of the breadth of work undertaken by MNH.

In challenging times such as the past 18 months of the Coronavirus, we are reminded of the importance of providing support and encouragement to one another. The level of commitment at MNH, from Trustees, staff and volunteers across all sites, serves to highlight how amazing things can be achieved when we work together to achieve a common purpose. The support of the Friends of Manx National Heritage is particularly important during such times, when working together collaboratively can make such a difference and have such a positive impact.

I look forward to meeting members of the Friends of Manx National Heritage and once again, thank you for your invaluable support of the important work undertaken by MNH to protect and promote the rich heritage of the Isle of Man, safeguarding our amazing places and spaces for future generations to enjoy.



Connie Lovel  
Executive Director, Manx National Heritage

# Members Events Programme 2021 /2022

## November

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November

**'Coffee at the Castle'** – Come and enjoy tea / coffee and homemade cake at Derby House Courtroom, newly decorated for the swearing in of the new Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Lorimer.

**Time: 11am**      **Venue: Castle Rushen**      **Max 50**      **£5pp**

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November

#### **'Quilliam Tour'**

Join Matthew Richardson, MNH Curator Social History, for a historical tour of significant places to do with Captain John Quilliam RN, who was a Royal Navy officer who served as the First Lieutenant of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Starting at Balcony House, Castletown ending at the Station café Douglas for tea and cake. Share/use own cars (Nicola will liaise).

**Time: 1pm**      **Venue: Meet at Balcony House, Castletown**      **Max 25**      **£6pp**

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Patchwork Workshop**

Join MNH Cregneash Crafters to learn how to make a traditional Manx patchwork Square inspired by Manx National Heritage collections, and take your square home at the end of the workshop. The Manx Log Cabin Patchwork has been made since the early part of the 19th century on the Isle of Man and would have been used to make blankets, bedspreads, and cushions to brighten and make cosy your Manx Cottage in a cost-effective way. All resources included.

**Time: 1030am**      **Venue: Quirks Croft, Cregneash**      **Max 10**      **£15pp**      **Pay at Cregneash**

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Friends of Manx National Heritage AGM**

**Time: 11am**      **Venue: Manx Museum Lecture Theatre**      **Free**

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

#### **No organism on earth lives in isolation – Laura McCoy, Curator Natural History**

They are all interconnected; some of those relationships are harmless or beneficial, but others can be damaging and can even lead to death. For every species, another will have evolved to take advantage of it, and we will explore just a handful of these fascinating interactions, from zombie making fungi and sex changing barnacles to tongue eating isopods.

**Time: 11am**      **Venue: Manx Museum, Seminar Room 1**      **Max 50**      **Free**

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

### **A light-hearted evening of Manx entertainment**

Featuring music from Caarjyn Cooidjagh and the Skeddan Jiarg dancers. Interval with light refreshments. The Michael Players will then present a play loosely based on 'Mr Quilliam decides'. 'Peggy Rum' Auction. Tickets via [www.centenarycentre.com](http://www.centenarycentre.com)

**Time: 8pm    Venue: Centenary Centre, Peel    Max 150    £10pp**

## **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

### **Library & Archives Conservation Studio Tour**

Join Emma Le Cornu, MNH's Library & Archives Conservator, for a look behind the scenes at how the Library & Archives collection is preserved. See a treatment in progress, learn how to examine a document and leave with the knowledge of how to care for your own precious documents and photos at home. Part of the tour involves climbing steep stairs.

**Time: 11am    Venue: Manx Museum, Clifton Conservation Studio    Max 8    Free**

## **December**

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

#### **Seed Papermaking**

Join Emma Le Cornu, MNH's Library & Archives Conservator, to make your own sheet of paper out of old paper scraps and add wildflower seeds. Learn about papermaking with a brief overview of its history and see how handmade paper is created in different part of the world. Take away a few sheets of paper that you can use to make cards, gift tags, invitations and more. When you are finished with it you can sow it in a pot or in your garden and watch it grow!

Equipment and materials are provided. However, feel free to bring your own seeds leaves, flowers, or any other decorative elements that you would like to add to your sheets of paper.

**Time: 11am    Venue: Manx Museum SR1    Max 8    £10pp Pay at Manx Museum**

## **January**

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

**Latest Projects - Emma Le Cornu, MNH's Library & Archives Conservator**, will give a presentation of Library & Archives Conservation projects over the last year. See images and video footage of treatments in progress, view examples from the collections up close. There will also be a chance to learn how to care for your own documents and photos at home.

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

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **'Getting in the Way of Ships' – Allison Fox, MNH Curator Archaeology**

Talk on underwater archaeology around the IOM. With some finds to view hence the lower number of possible attendees. So please book early.

**Time: 11am    Venue: Manx Museum SR1    Max: 30    Free**

## February

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February

**'Fun Quiz Night'** - not too difficult (not Mastermind!). Pictures, music, themed rounds, general knowledge, and fun - something for everyone. Come along and meet the Quiz Masters who entertained us through lockdown via the FMNH newsletters.

Hot pot supper. Bring your own wine. Prizes, Raffle.

**Time: 7pm**      **Venue: Ballasalla Village Hall**      **Max 60**      **£15pp**

### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**Atholl Papers project – Gareth Pugh** - MNH project archivist. A talk on the papers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Atholl and an update on what work has been done on them in Gareth's first 11 months in the job.

**Time: 11am**    **Venue: iMuseum or SR1**      **Max: 30**      **Free**

## March

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

#### **Vasa – Mary Rose – Peggy**

Chris Weeks, MNH Collections Care and Conservation Manager. Talk on the Peggy - and more.

**Time: 11am**    **Venue: iMuseum or SR1**      **Max: 50**      **Free**

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March

#### **Douglas School of Art – Yvonne Cresswell, former MNH Curator Social History**

An illustrated talk, then the opportunity to look round the display in the Art Gallery with Yvonne on hand to answer any questions.

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

## April

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

#### **Cathedral Tour** – enjoy a guided tour of the Cathedral and gardens

Refreshments available tea/coffee/biscuits for a donation. (1hr 40min – meet by Cathedral steps).

**Time: 2pm**      **Venue: Cathedral Peel**      **Max 40**      **Free**

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

#### **Murder Mystery Dinner: 'Champagne, Caviar and Masked Murder'**

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

Any dietary requirements, please let Nicola know.

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

# 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**

Fun Quiz Night Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February

☐ Help with setting up ☐ assist with food and clearing up

Murder Mystery Dinner Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

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

### **☐ 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

☐ Sewing Bees – for future projects date to be confirmed.

### **Gardening at Rushen Abbey, the Grove and Cregneash.**

We have had a successful summer with help from many volunteers who have made such a difference to the gardens. We are looking for more volunteers who might be able to give some time to work alongside Philip on a Monday at Rushen Abbey, on a Friday at The Grove, and Tuesday and Thursday morning with Karen at Cregneash. We would love to hear from you if you can help.

☐ Rushen Abbey

☐ The Grove

☐ Cregneash

Also, a request for raffle prizes for future fundraising events! Do you have any spare raffle prizes you don't need?





# Friends of Manx National Heritage Booking Form Oct 2021 - Apr 2022

Fill in the booking form and either email Nicola on nicola@fmnh.im 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 4th Nov	Coffee at the Castle	£5		
Mon 8th Nov	Quilliam Tour	£6		
Wed 11th Nov	Patchwork Workshop (Pay at Venue)	£15		
Sat 13th Nov	FMNH AGM	FREE		
Wed 17th Nov	No Organism on Earth	FREE		
Fri 19th Nov	Manx Entertainment	£10		
Thurs 25th Nov	Library & Archives	FREE		
Thur 2nd Dec	Seed Papermaking (Pay at Venue)	£10		
Mon 10th Jan	Latest Projects	FREE		
Thur 27th Jan	Getting In the Way of Ships	FREE		
Fri 11th Feb	Quiz Night	£15		
Mon 28th Feb	Atholl Papers	FREE		
Wed 2nd Mar	Vasa – Mary Rose – Peggy	FREE		
Mon 21st Mar	Douglas School of Art	FREE		
Sat 2nd Apr	Cathedral Tour	FREE		
Fri 8th Apr	Murder Mystery	£20pp		

