

The Friends of
Manx National Heritage



Chairman's Letter September 2013

Dear Member

I write this year's Chairman's letter with a degree of optimism. Whilst recession is far from over and is still hitting many families hard, the Directors take comfort that our membership numbers have remained relatively stable and in fact our corporate numbers are at an all-time high.

Our events remain fully (and sometimes over) subscribed. Our volunteer programme is extensive, well supported and absolutely invaluable to the work of MNH and FMNH – as the MNH Director has publicly acknowledged, and which I am equally delighted to acknowledge.

But we want to be able to do more! And we also want to continue to make it worthwhile to be a member of the Friends. To that end, you will be receiving a survey with this letter which has been put together so we can better understand what you think the Friends should be doing, how you think we should be utilising our funds, whether you think we are meeting your expectations, what improvements to our benefits package we could make, what events you would like – and so on. I would urge you to take just a few minutes to complete the survey if you can. We will publish the results in due course and take action as appropriate.

I mentioned last year that our contributions to acquisitions would focus on those that are really important, rather than merely desirable. We have maintained that policy this year; however have still been able to make a number of significant donations to MNH. The largest has been the sum of £90000 for the conservation, repair and re-use of Quirk's Croft at Cregneash. Work on this project is nearing completion, and we hope to have a formal re-opening in the next couple of months.

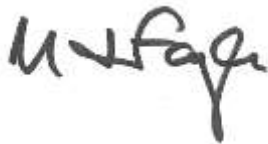
We have also provided £30000 for the acquisition and subsequent collection care for the Chris Killip Manx archive. The archive consists of approximately 250 large high quality Manx photographic prints, made by the influential Manx photographer and teacher Chris Killip in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

During the year Nicola has attended a number of conferences and events off Island, all with the aim of promoting the Isle of Man and its heritage – as well as exchanging ideas.

During the year we have also been extremely fortunate to receive a number of donations and legacies. It would be wrong to single any out specifically, because we are very grateful for each and every one, no matter how large or small. As a supporter of the work of Manx National Heritage it may be fitting to consider granting a legacy to the Friends in your will – it would, of course, be greatly appreciated. If you are minded to do so your advocate will be able to assist.

So there is a lot of success to report – and to build on. We must never be complacent. I thank the Board of Directors for their continued efforts and support, and I thank our hardworking Officers for all that they do to make FMNH the success that it undoubtedly is. I also thank all of our members for their contributions and support, however given.

Yours sincerely,

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

Michael Fayle
Chairman