

The Friends of
Manx National Heritage



October 2022

Dear Friend,

It's been another busy year for FMNH, with the Charity working hard to get back to normal after the pandemic. We have run a full programme of sold-out events, have run a busy volunteer programme and I'm pleased to report that membership numbers have almost returned to pre Covid levels. Thank you all for your continued support.

Turning to specifics, we have supplied volunteers to MNH for a number of events and activities with Hop-tu-naa being one of the busiest. Volunteers this year will be helping to prepare packs for children for the Hop-tu-Naa event at the Grove. They will also be helping with the event at Cregneash assisting with crafts, potions, turnip stringing and salt dough activities. As I write Heritage Open Days are happening and many volunteers assist with the two weekends, including a volunteer Heritage Open Day co-ordinator, to assist MNH with the events. We've provided volunteers for the Flower Festival, Sewing Bees making costume covers for the MNH costume collection, bench painting and most importantly gardening volunteers at Cregneash, Rushen Abbey and The Grove making a huge difference with the continued development of the gardens. Thank you to everyone who has helped.

At our own events volunteers made the Billown garden visit possible with meet and greet, serving refreshments and car parking. They have assisted with the hugely successful quiz night and dinner (don't miss this year's quiz night on Fri 4th November!) and also the equally successful Murder Mystery dinners, thanks to Jane and Norman for all their artistic imagination for these hugely popular dinners. Volunteers also help with running the FMNH trailer at events such as Tynwald Day, Southern Show and the Royal Show. We couldn't run what we do without them. Thank you all.

During the year we have allocated financial assistance to MNH by providing £10,000 for repair costs of 'Yn Arreyder' or 'The Watcher' sculpture outside the Manx Museum. We have provided £5000 for repatination of the statue of the Manx Trafalgar hero Captain John Quilliam on the Quarterdeck in Castletown. Both of these items are by internationally renowned artist Bryan Kneale. The financial assistance also includes £20,000 for a stacker truck for moving artifacts at the MNH storage facility at Balthane.

Ian Young, who works for our Corporate Member Thomas Miller, joined the FMNH Board in the New Year. He brings a range of very useful corporate experience with him, and we will be seeking your ratification of this appointment at the AGM.

Connie Lovel Executive Director of MNH will be giving a presentation to our members at the AGM.

The other item of news is that our Development & Admin Officer, Nicola Pemberton has announced that she will be retiring at the end of December after over 20 years' service to FMNH, which you will have seen in Nicola's recent emailed newsletter. Since joining the Board of FMNH, Nicola has been a great help to me personally and on behalf of myself and our members we owe her a huge debt of gratitude to the dedication she has given to her role, organising all these events mentioned above and maintaining contact with our many volunteers, over the past 20 plus years, no mean task with the growth of our membership. We wish her the very best in her retirement and hope to see her at our members events in the future.

I am pleased to say that the process for seeking her replacement has already commenced.

Lastly, my thanks as ever go to Mary Bridson for her amazing work running the Membership and to Harley Shimmin, our Treasurer, for all his hard work and also to all my fellow Directors for their continued support.

But we wouldn't be where we are without you – our Members – so a continued huge thank you to you all for your support to our Charity. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM on Saturday 12th November.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Crowe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Crowe
Chairman