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«Email_Address»

FMNH May 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to your FMNH May newsletter. I am delighted to bring you updates and events exclusive to FMNH members. As always, you can find a full list of Manx National Heritage sites and their opening times on the [MNH website](#).

Friends Events to Book Now

Illustrated Talk - Fungi 'The Forgotten Kingdom': Join MNH Curator of Natural History Laura McCoy for a delve into a kingdom of life unfamiliar to many, to appreciate how it connects us all and learn about some of the weird and wonderful things it can do.

Date: Thursday 16th May 2024, **11:00am**. **Price:** £10

Venue: The Manx Museum. **Max places:** 40

Guided Tour – 'Curating and Conserving the TT Gallery': Join MNH Curator Matthew Richardson and Conservator Chris Weeks to hear more about the fantastic artefacts on display and learn about the vibrant history of the TT races on the Isle of Man. Matthew's extensive knowledge of the history of motorsport will provide you with a whole new way to experience the Gallery, even if you have visited before. Chris will share some of the challenges and innovations involved in getting the gallery's objects ready for display.

Date: Thursday 13th June 2024, **11:00am**. **Price:** £12

Venue: The Manx Museum TT Gallery. **Only 8 places left**

Illustrated Talk – ‘Watch and Ward’: For hundreds of years before radar and telescopes, it was a legal requirement for Manxmen to keep an organised watch out to sea for signs of potential trouble. MNH Archaeologist Andy Johnson will review the known facts about this system of watch-keeping and present new evidence of how it functioned and where the watch-sites were located.

Date: Thursday 11th July 2024, **10:30am.** **Price:** £10

Venue: The Manx Museum. **Max places:** 40

Guided Tour – ‘Secrets from the Rushen Abbey Excavations’: Dr. Peter Davey of Liverpool University and formerly the Centre for Manx Studies has spent many years excavating at Rushen Abbey. His book ‘Rushen Abbey: 100 years of excavation’ has just been published. Join Peter at the Abbey for a guided stroll around the gardens as he shares fascinating insights into this historic site and enjoy strawberries and cream (hopefully in the sunshine!)

Date: Wednesday 17th July 2024, **2 pm.** **Price:** £15

Venue: Rushen Abbey, Ballasalla. **Max places:** 20

Guided Tour – the Grove Gardens: Embark on an exclusive journey with Philip Payne, MNH Horticultural Manager, through the Grove Gardens. This guided tour offers a unique glimpse into the garden's past, illustrated with historical images. Witness the transformation achieved with our dedicated volunteers, as we unveil the efforts undertaken to restore the garden's beauty. Delve into the challenges we've faced, and the vision we hold for the future. Afterwards, enjoy a cuppa and biscuits while you browse some historic photos and planting plans in the conservatory, where Philip will be available to answer questions and help with any general gardening queries you may have.

Date: Friday 2nd August 2024, **2.30pm.** **Price:** £15

Venue: The Grove, Ramsey. **Max Places:** 15

Illustrated Talk - Art vs. Archives: Join Emma Le Cornu to discover how a paper conservator thinks and acts on different collections at the Manx Museum. Illustrated with stories of items from the collections.

Date: Thursday 15th August 2024, **10:30am.** **Price:** £10

Venue: The Manx Museum. **Max places:** 40

To Book: Email info@fmnh.im call **07624 243806 or complete the booking form on our [website](#).**

Autumn and Winter FMNH Events News Coming Soon

Details of upcoming events can be found on the Friends [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Donations

Big thanks to Lloyds Bank International for a wonderful donation of £250 from their staff. Every month staff at Lloyds Bank in Douglas donate money from their salaries and nominate local charities that they would like to see benefit from their charity fund. In April they chose The Friends of Manx National Heritage.



Image: Emma collecting the cheque from Tracey and Sam at Lloyds

Corporate Memberships

Pokerstars Isle of Man have renewed their Corporate Membership of FMNH, offering over 100 of their staff and families the benefits of Friends membership and supporting our unique Island heritage.



Image: Left to right: Birgit Quayle (Pokerstars), Emma Morter (FMNH) and Jacqueline Danzelman (Pokerstars)

Reminder



A friendly reminder to please renew your FMNH memberships in good time if you are planning to use them when you travel off island. We will always try our best to get your membership cards to you as soon as we can, but please check the expiry dates on your cards well before your planned trip. Thank you!

Manx National Heritage News

Yellow Vetch Rediscovered at the Chasms

First recorded on the Island in 1902, but because of its cliffside habitat it has only been intermittently recorded since. Yellow vetch (*Vicia lutea*) was re-found in 2023 at the Manx National Heritage owned Chasms. Yellow vetch can form long-lasting populations in the right habitat. The Chasms population appears unchanged in 115 years. It requires land with inherent long-term instability to create the open conditions needed for this annual to germinate.

The site visit to the Chasms population in 2023 was near the end of a spell of drought and one feature of the species was evident; when all the other species were dormant, due to drought, the yellow vetch was still actively growing. It was also clear that vetch had been selectively grazed upon by the feral sheep, removing all fresh growing tips and flowers. It is expected that the plant will re-sprout to flower again.

The Mermaid of Gob-ny-Ooyl inspires new Element Isle Range

According to Manx folklore, Bulgham Bay on the east coast of the Island was home to the Mermaid of Gob-ny-Ooyl. Legend has it that the mermaid brought luck to a local fisherman and his family in exchange for apples, which she described as 'land eggs'.

As the fisherman aged, his voyages decreased, causing their luck to fade. Some years later the mermaid appeared to the fisherman's son, inquiring about his father. Upon learning this, the old man advised his son to offer her apples to restore their family's fortunes. The son's fascination for the mermaid grew, leading him to sail away to foreign seas to overcome his obsession. Before leaving, he planted an apple tree on a cliff above the mermaid's dwelling, with ripened fruit continuing to fall into the waters, preserving the family's luck during his absence. Over the years, the mermaid could often be spotted on the rocks, singing melancholic songs of lost love, carried by the wind.

This beautiful story inspired the latest range from [Element Isle](#), with the necklace and earrings available at the Manx Museum and House of Manannan.

'Yn Thie Thooit' Freshly Thatched

Recently, Manx National Heritage started work on re-thatching 'Yn Thie Thooit' (the thatched house in Manx). The cottage at the Lhen is one of only 23 examples of thatched buildings remaining on the Isle of Man. The cottage came into the ownership of MNH in 1989, following a generous bequest from the late Catherine Craine Guyler, a Home Economics Teacher at Ramsey Grammar School and former chairwoman in the Isle of Man Federation of the Women's Institutes. A generous bequest, 'Yn Thie Thooit' now provides a stunning place for visitors to stay and vital income for Manx National Heritage through self-catering accommodation. [Book a stay here](#).

Manx National Heritage Exhibitions

'Wild Mann Nature Photographer' – From 27th April to 23rd June at the Manx Museum this free [exhibition](#) features over 50 inspiring photographs, entries in MNH's photography competition, showcasing the Isle of Man's wildlife and natural environment.

'Tynwald Week - Photos by Martin Parr' - From 29th June to 6th October at the Manx Museum a free [exhibition](#) showcasing photographs captured by British documentary photographer Martin Parr.

'All at Sea' - Until 26th January 2025 at the House of Manannan: a free [exhibition](#) exploring the Isle of Man's maritime heritage and celebrating 200 years of the RNLI.