Dear Friends,

Welcome to your January newsletter. We wish all our members a happy and healthy 2026!

Thank you for supporting Friends of Manx National Heritage to conserve the cultural heritage and natural environment of the Isle of Man for future generations.
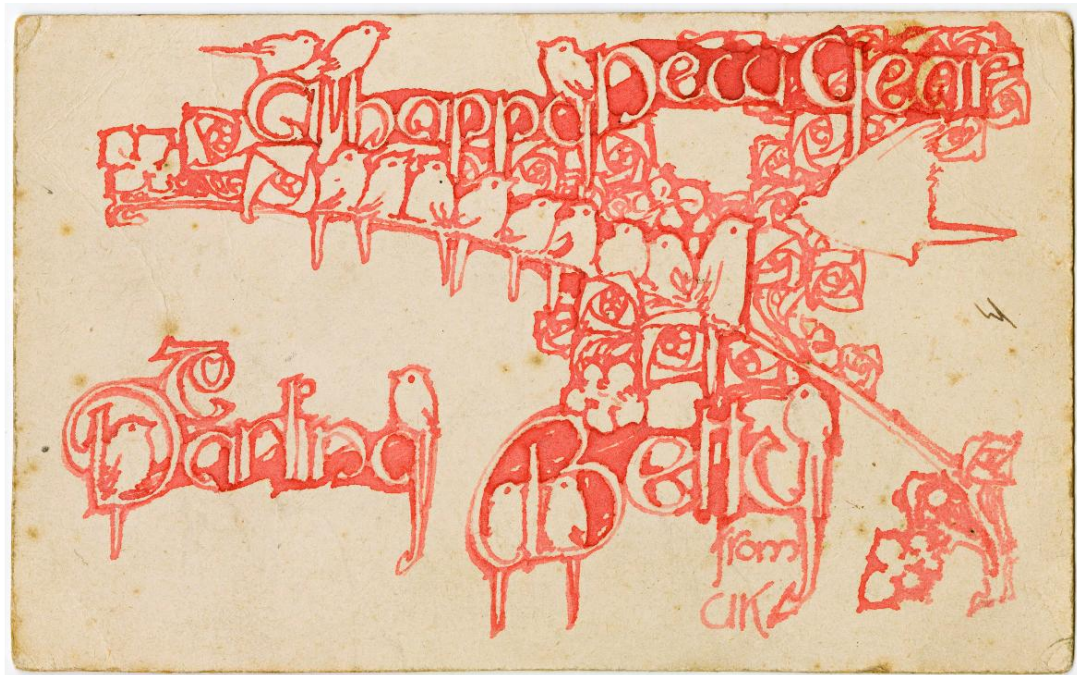

Image: a greetings card hand-drawn by Archibald Knox for his god daughter, Betty with the inscription in red ink, 'A Happy New Year to Darling Betty'. Over 200 Knox pieces are on display in the exhibition 'KNOX: Order & Beauty', led by Manx National Heritage and the Archibald Knox Forum, at the Manx Museum until 1st March 2026

KNOX: Order and Beauty Exhibition

Manx National Heritage Events

Plenty of Knox-related events are happening during the final few months of Manx National Heritage's major exhibition 'KNOX: Order and Beauty', closing 1st March 2026. For information, or to book these Manx National Heritage led events, visit: What's On and Events Isle of Man : Manx National Heritage

Digital Collections

If you can't get to the exhibition or events in person, you can still enjoy Manx National Heritage's digital collection of Knox works. Over 200 Knox works have been photographed and displayed on Manx National Heritage's iMuseum.im, and the images are zoomable, for viewing up close: https://bit.ly/4jQKuUK.

Museum Projects in Focus

Round Mounds of the Isle of Man

The 'Round Mounds of the Isle of Man' osteological analysis has been supported by Friends of Manx National Heritage. Research began in 2016 and continued up to 2025 with a final assessment by Human Osteologist, Dr Michelle Gamble.

Allison Fox, Curator of Archaeology for Manx National Heritage, says: "The physical cataloguing and identification of the human remains found during excavations at Berk Farm has now been completed. Following the end of the excavation, the remains (mostly cremated bone) were cleaned and sorted at the Manx Museum by Dr Michelle Gamble from Newcastle University, with the assistance of a group of experienced volunteers. Dr Gamble travelled to the Island again in early November to assess a final group of cremated bone from the 12 deposits recovered during excavations. Initial findings are that these deposits of cremated bone in the mound

actually represent the remains of at least 16 individuals, and the group includes male and female, adults and children. Many thanks to Friends of Manx National Heritage for their help with this fascinating part of the project."

More information about the project can be found on the blog: **https://roundmounds.wordpress.com/about-the-project/**

Image: the excavation site in 2017. Image courtesy of Manx National Heritage.

Cregneash Stove Repairs

The kitchen range at Cregneash has recently been repaired off-site with funds provided by the Friends of Manx National Heritage. The stove will be installed at Church Farm in time for the site opening on Friday 27th March. We're looking forward to cooking up a feast and enjoying a 'bravvag' by the fire!

Image: the kitchen range at Church Farm, Cregneash

Friends Events for 2026

We're currently planning our programme of events for 2026. Further information will be provided in our February newsletter and via our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmnh/.

Are there any events you'd like to see on the programme? Do you know anyone who would like to host a talk or a tour for the Friends? We'd love to hear from you. Contact Hannah Murphy: **hannah@fmnh.im**.

Manx.net

We've received many emails from members who are moving from Manx.net to another email provider, due to the Manx.net email service being transitioned to Junara by 20th January 2026. Thanks to all members who've been in touch to inform FMNH of your new email address. If you've changed your email address and you haven't already notified us, please email **hannah@fmnh.im** with your new email address.

Warmest wishes,

Hannah

Email: hannah@fmnh.im

Tel.: 07624 243806
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmnh/
Instagram: friendsofmnh