



*Dear Friends,*

Welcome to your February newsletter. It's been a busy time here at FMNH and this newsletter arrives just before the close of the month. Spring is around the corner, and I have been arranging the first members events of 2026. I'm delighted to announce some dates for your diary.

*Friends Events for Spring 2026*

*Art Adventures for Beginners: Exclusive Gallery Tour*

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1.30pm at the House of Manannan**

Join Suzie Walker, Arts Project Co-ordinator, from the Isle of Man Arts Council for a tour of Art Adventures for Beginners at the House of Manannan. We will explore colour, shape, and imagination together in this fun exhibition of modern and contemporary art from the Isle of Man Arts Council Collection - where there's no right or wrong way to enjoy art! An opportunity to view works by internationally renowned artists such as Hurst, Hockney and Becket. This is an uplifting exhibition for anyone and everyone to enjoy.



Image: Suzie Walker, Exhibition Curator and Arts Project Co-ordinator for Isle of Man Arts Council.

## *Every parent's nightmare: the life and times of Illiam Dhone's killer, Charles the eighth Earl of Derby*

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 11am at the Manx Museum Lecture Theatre.**

A talk by author and historian Derek Winterbottom. Derek says: "A lot is often known about William Christian (Illiam Dhone) and his execution on Hango Hill but a lot less is known about his effective killer, the 8th Earl of Derby, and why he was so determined that Christian should die. My talk will trace his early life and strained relations with his parents, his unauthorised escape from the family home in Castle Rushen, his marriage to a foreign woman of whom they disapproved, his failure to fight for his father's Royalist cause and his bad relations with his mother and the restored King Charles II. Every parent's nightmare!"



Image: the Earl aged about 30 years old.

## *'Manx Tholtans' a talk by Ray Kelly and Carla Callow*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm, Manx Museum Lecture Theatre**

Ray and Carla have researched and written about the Isle of Man's tholtans extensively, publishing in Nov 2025 their handbook "The Journal of a Tholtan Wanderer". Ray and Carla say: "With 50 years' experience between us, we love to explore the Tholtans and buildings of the Isle of Man. We like to take you on a journey through our videos and pictures, to share the history and folklore of our Island, and to try and give the experience of the peace and nostalgia

that we feel. We also love to hear from the people who share our passion.” This talk is for anyone interested in Manx heritage and the great outdoors. More details to follow about the tholtans Ray and Carla will cover in the talk

If you'd like to find out more, Ray and Carla have a YouTube channel:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCX0GRwAb1oR0-OQYr61jhCg> and a Facebook page: [IOM Tholtan wandering with Ray & Carla | Facebook](#).



Image: Tholt y Will Glen and Farm © Ray Kelly

### *How to Book onto FMNH events:*

Tickets for our events are £10.00 and support the work of our charity. To book your place on an event, please email [hannah@fmnh.im](mailto:hannah@fmnh.im) and Hannah will email you the payment details.

## *New Exhibitions at Manx National Heritage*

### **Art Adventures for Beginners (House of Manannan, 14 February – 17 May 2026)**

The [Isle of Man Arts Council](#) and Manx National Heritage have come together to bring Art Adventures for Beginners to life. The exhibition invites you to explore a kaleidoscope of colour, creativity and curiosity, inspired by the Arts Council's vibrant Modern and Contemporary Loan Collection. Although the title suggests the exhibition is for beginners, it is an exhibition for everyone, and anyone and who loves art.



### **Mann Underground (Manx Museum Cabinet of Curiosities, 28 February – 4 May 2026)**

Major Shane Lucas, an artist, former British Army officer and passionate caving enthusiast, has spent decades exploring the Island's historic mines. Following his military career, he worked for Isle of Man Government surveying the Great Laxey Mine, gaining rare first-hand knowledge of the complex network of tunnels that once powered the Island's industrial prosperity. This exhibition explores the human stories of the mining industry, a hidden world within the forgotten mine workings of Laxey and Lonan.



## *Museum Projects in Focus*

### **Yn Arreyder Returns to the Manx Museum Grounds**

The FMNH-funded restoration of this monumental sculpture by is now complete, with Yn Arreyder (the Watcher) being re-installed within the Museum grounds earlier this week. The sculpture by Bryan Kneale RA has stood proud in the Museum grounds overlooking Douglas Bay for nearly 50 years.

The impact of the marine environment over time meant that the sculpture required extensive conservation to ensure its long-term preservation. Manx National Heritage worked with local business Ramsey Shipping

Services Ltd who stripped the paintwork back to the base metal, treated corrosion, and resprayed the sculpture to reflect its original finish, restoring the bold visual impact intended by the artist. This exceptional standard of conservation work was overseen by MNH's Objects Conservator Chris Weeks, with assistance from Fox Group Isle of Man who transported the sculpture, and Isle of Man Heavy Crane Services Limited who safely lifted and reinstalled it. This marks the completion of another successful project supported by Friends of Manx National Heritage.



Image: Yn Arreyder (the Watcher) by Bryan Kneale RA.

*Manx.net*

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](mailto:hannah@fmnh.im)** with your new email address.

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.

Warmest wishes,

*Hannah*

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