

*The Friends of*  
Manx National Heritage



**Members' Events List &  
Volunteer Programme**

**2015/16**

Tel: 01624 824137

Website: [www.friendsofmnh.org](http://www.friendsofmnh.org)

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# *The Friends of* Manx National Heritage



Chairman's Letter September 2015

Dear Member,

First and foremost I must thank my fellow Directors and Administrators for their support over recent months during my enforced absence. In particular I thank Robert Quayle who so ably stepped into my shoes.

The Friends have provided financial assistance for a diverse and interesting range of projects showing yet again how material your contributions are. These projects include:

- Archaeological management at Rushen Abbey
- Grove Museum porch reconstruction
- Peggy workshop and storage facility
- Oxford Archaeology – nautical dock
- All-Terrain Vehicle for the Calf
- External courtyard – House of Mannanan

Given the above list, it will not be lost on you that the focus of providing assistance outside the realms of acquisitions continues, and our contributions are providing essential and meaningful support to the work of MNH.

Nicola's FMNH events programme, yet again, goes from strength to strength – and not only are the events always a sell-out, she continues to be inventive with new ideas that are both fun, informative and a positive contribution to the cause. Notably, in a new departure, we recently had a very successful fundraising art auction held jointly with the Quilliam Group.

The work of the volunteers continues to make a tremendous contribution to MNH in addition to the essential support they give to FMNH events. Highlights include:

- Flower festival at the “Nautical”
  - MNH events at Cregneash, Rushen Abbey, Castle Rushen and education workshops
  - Painting seats at MNH sites
  - Stands at Tynwald, Royal and Southern Shows
- and much more ....

Nicola has been successful in the recent past in extending reciprocal agreements. She has continued to do so and we hope to be able to make new announcements soon.

Finally, I thank the Committee and Officers for their continued efforts and all of our members for their contributions however given. Whilst circumstances remain challenging I am proud to be able state that FMNH, through your support, continues to be an important contributor to the protection and development of our heritage.

Yours sincerely,

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

Michael Fayle  
Chairman



# Manx National Heritage

## *Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin*

[www.manxnationalheritage.im](http://www.manxnationalheritage.im)

Letter from MNH Director, September 2015

Dear Friend,

I thought you may like to have an update on some of our recent projects, which have included the following:-

### **House of Manannan: New Kingdom of Man Gallery**

In April 2015 FMNH agreed to contribute up to £80k from its charitable funds toward the transformation of the Kingdom of Man Gallery at The House of Manannan. This is part of a wider capital programme to refresh galleries and museums at Manx National Heritage.

The new gallery and external courtyard development will energise tired spaces and tell the rich story of the powerful Kingdom of Man & the Isles between AD 1000 and 1300. FMNH funds have been specifically targeted at improving the courtyard area which is now a flexible and beautifully designed space which can be used for evening functions and corporate hire as well as for public programming events.

Investment in the courtyard has brought back into use a previously run down area which has been inaccessible for several years. The new courtyard – with interactive games and activities -- will directly appeal to family audiences and is due to open in October.

In order to thank FMNH members for your contribution to the new gallery, we would like to invite you to an informal evening with the project curator Allison Fox on Thursday 29th October at 5:30pm. If you would like to attend please contact Nicola Pemberton before Friday 23rd October.

### **Secret Treasures: Modern British & Irish Art on the Isle of Man**

Manx National Heritage and the Isle of Man Arts Council are hosting an exhibition of paintings by leading artists drawn from private collections on the Isle of Man which opens to the public on 17th October at the Manx Museum and runs until 28th November. The show has been curated by international auction house Christie's and is accompanied by a beautiful catalogue. It will provide a unique opportunity for a wide audience to see these usually hidden treasures. There may

be an opportunity for a small number of FMNH members to take a private tour of the gallery on Friday 16th October. If you are interested please contact Nicola Pemberton by Friday 2nd October.

### **Rushen Abbey**

In November 2014 FMNH agreed up to £80,000 toward archaeological management at Rushen Abbey. This included the commissioning of a detailed narrative report on the excavations which took place between 1998 and 2008. A full assessment of the archive will be researched and the report written by the director of the excavations, Dr Peter Davey. The project has started and is expected to be delivered in 2016/17.

Funds will also allow excavations to be completed to a professional standard in a small area in the southern half of the site which will then enable the provision of a safe area for anchoring points for event marquees. Further landscaping in the northern half of the site will tidy up previous archaeological activity, securing archaeological remains, removing fencing and reinstating pathways. It is hoped that this work will also be delivered in 2016.

### **The Peggy**

In 2014 FMNH committed up to £50,000 toward the fit-out of the new conservation facility at Cooil Smithy for the Peggy. As many of you already know, Peggy was moved to her new home in January 2015 and was protected for the first few months in a purpose-built insulated close-fitting box in order to stabilise temperature and humidity. Meanwhile preparation of the conservation facility has been completed and Peggy can be thoroughly assessed in an appropriately conditioned and constantly monitored environment using equipment purchased by FMNH. Several of you have already had the opportunity to visit the facility with Christopher Weeks, conservator at MNH and it is intended that future visits will be made possible.

### **Project Archivist**

In November 2014 FMNH agreed to contribute toward the recruitment of a professionally qualified project archivist for 12 months in partnership with MMNT. The archivist will provide top-level summaries for iMuseum of all the major manuscript collections in the National Archive. These include business records, historic public records, Isle of Man diocesan records, Methodist church records, voluntary and charitable organisations (associational records) and papers of private individuals. This will dramatically improve information about the extent of each archive through summary descriptions on iMuseum and will provide a framework for future more detailed cataloguing projects.

Eleanor Williams took up the position of project archivist with Manx National Heritage in September 2015. Eleanor is from the Isle of Man and has just

completed her post graduate MSc in Information Management and Preservation (Digital/Archives/Records Management) at the University of Glasgow.

### **Horticultural Manager Post**

Following a generous bequest to FMNH in 2014 from the estate of the late Professor Bucke, it was agreed with his executors to support the creation of a 3 year post to address horticultural management at Manx National Heritage sites. This post has now been advertised and interviews will take place in October.

As ever, I thank all members of FMNH who have volunteered to help MNH over the year. Your time and enthusiasm is much appreciated.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,



Edmund Southworth  
Director

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# Members Events Programme 2015/16

## November

### Thursday 5th

#### **Ride the Rocket to Port Erin Fireworks and enjoy a three course dinner on board!**

The beautifully restored Isle of Man Railways dining car will exclusively transport you to Port Erin at a leisurely pace. Enjoy the first two courses on the way. Watch the Fireworks and return to Douglas with dessert and coffee. Please notify Nicola of any dietary requirements.

**Time: 6.15pm    Meet in the Ticket Hall    Max 44    £35pp**

### Wednesday 11th

**Day in the Life of 'The President of Tynwald'.** Hon Clare Christian BSc MLC, President of Tynwald, will kindly give a tour of the Tynwald building.

**Time: 11.00am    Meet in the foyer at the Finch Road entrance    Max 30    Free**

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## January

### Tuesday 19th

#### **Magic Lantern Show**

Slides of IOM in the 1900's – Presented by Jack Kaighin. Supper before the lantern show.

**Time: 6.30pm    Venue: Salmon Lake Centre, Laxey    Max 40    £18pp**

### Thursday 28th

#### **Spring is on the way!**

Out of season visit to The Grove garden to see snowdrops in flower. To include discussion about snowdrop origins, varieties etc., hopefully with expert advice from Sarah Marsden.

**Time: 2.00pm-3.30pm    Venue: Grove    Max 20    Free**

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## February

### Wednesday 3rd

#### **Cinema and Supper**

Enjoy a delicious locally sourced supper followed by film 'Woman in Gold'. The perfect way to enjoy a winter's evening in the company of friends.

**Time: 6.30pm    Venue: Patchwork Café, Port St Mary    Max 40    £20pp**

### Saturday 20th

#### **Happy Holidays 2**

Features more fascinating footage from the film archive of the Isle of Man Department of Tourism. Pride of place goes to the earliest known film about the Island made in 1920.

**Time: 2.30pm    Venue: House of Manannan    Max 60    Free**

## Friday 26th

### Isle of Man Creamery

See how the Creamery's award winning cheese is produced – perhaps with a little taster!

**Time: 10:30am**    **Venue: Meet at Reception, Isle of Man Creamery Ltd, Ballafletcher Farm Road, Cronkbourne**    **Max 30**    **£5pp**

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## March

### Tuesday 1st

#### Show & Tell

Recent archaeological accessions. Allison Fox – MNH Curator Archaeology

**Time: 11.00am**    **Venue: SR1 Manx Museum**    **Max 10**    **Free**

### Friday 11th

#### Murder Mystery Dinner -- 'Murder in Toy Land'

The Suspect Players are delighted to present the premiere of the latest 'whodunnit'. (No acting/active participation required). Bring your own wine.

**Time: 7.00pm**    **Dinner Venue: Ballasalla Village Hall**    **Max 70**    **£20pp**

### Tuesday 15th

#### 'The Origin of the Manx Peacocks' Tony Pass

What shaped the design of the Isle of Man Railway locomotives - a social as well as an engineering history. You won't need much technical knowledge, but you do need to have an interest in all things Victorian!

**Time: 11.00am**    **Venue: iMuseum1**    **Max 50**    **Free**

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## April

### Monday 18th

#### 'Dear Green Place: Glasgow's Art & Architecture'

Lecture by Dr Evelyn SILBER PhD, MA, FSA, FMA (in conjunction with NADFAS). Evelyn explores Glasgow's cultural flowering from the 18th to the 20th century, including 'Greek' Thomson, C R Mackintosh and contemporaries, the Glasgow boys, and more.

Doors open at 6.30pm, drinks and canapes served before the lecture. Lecture starts at 7.15pm sharp

**Time: 6.30pm**    **Venue: Manx Museum**    **Max 190**    **£10pp**



# Volunteers needed ...

## Can you help?

We are really grateful to all our members who volunteer to help FMNH. Your contribution greatly assists our work and without you we couldn't achieve all that we do. We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers.

Please fill in the details below if you would like to give some time to help the work of FMNH. It can be rewarding and fun! More information and times will be confirmed nearer the time of the events.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... E-mail .....

Telephone (Home) .....

(Work) .....

(Mobile).....



Please tick the box with any areas you are able to help with:

- Do you have any experience with Wikipedia?** We are looking for someone to assist another volunteer with putting entries onto the system. The aim is to get more Manx people into the encyclopedia, especially women.
- Typing Volunteer.** Helen Ashcroft, site manager Cregneash, is looking for a computer literate typing volunteer or volunteers with access to a computer with Microsoft Word and Excel. Required to type up journals, and documents, for Cregneash. There are a number of large handwritten documents which need to be recorded digitally to improve data analysis accessibility of information. Documents include gardener's journal and visitor's book comments. Would suit a typist with a good eye for detail and accuracy.

### **Assisting at FMNH events**

#### **Friday 11th March Murder Mystery Dinner**

- Assist with setting up and serving food

#### **Monday 18th April – Dear Green Place Lecture.**

- Assist with making canapes for the Lecture
- Assist with serving food and drink at the Lecture.

### **Assisting at MNH events**

- Are you interested in helping with crafts, stewarding, assisting at exhibition launches, and general assistance? FMNH will contact you with more information as and when details are given.

Saturday 31st October Hop tu Naa, Cregneash.  Crafts  Stewarding  Car park

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th November, Turn up for turnips, Cregneash.  Crafts

Saturday 28th November 2.00pm-4.00pm  assist with lantern making at the House of Manannan

### **Supporting MNH Education Department**

**Assisting with preparation for their Schools workshop days. Anthea runs a great programme and FMNH are delighted to support her. Workshops are at the Manx Museum or House of Manannan.**

- 28th and 29th October at the Grove. Volunteers to assist Anthea making biscuits for a schools workshop. 10.00am – 4.00pm.
- 14th and 15th January at the House of Manannan. Assist Anthea with making chess pieces for a schools workshop. 10.00am.
- 24th and 25th February at the House of Manannan. Assist Anthea with making Tiles for a schools workshop. 10.00am.
- 9th and 10th March at the House of Manannan. Assist Anthea with preparation of cross-stitch for a schools workshop. 10.00am.



# Friends of Manx National Heritage

## Booking Form 2015/16

Fill in the booking form and return with your cheque, **made payable to FMNH**, to: Mrs N Pemberton, FMNH, Ballachrink Mill, Santon, IM4 1HE

NB: to save on postage WE DO NOT SEND OUT TICKETS. We will contact you if you are not successful. Events on a "first come, first served" basis.

Name .....

Address .....

.....Postcode .....

E-mail .....

Telephone .....Mobile.....

Date	Event	Price pp	No's	Cost
Thur 5th Nov	Ride the Rocket	£35		
Wed 11th Nov	Day in the Life of The President	Free		
Tue 19th Jan	Magic Lantern	£18		
Thur 28th Jan	Spring is on the way	Free		
Wed 3rd Feb	Cinema and Supper	£20		
Sat 20th Feb	Happy Holidays 2	Free		
Fri 26th Feb	Isle of Man Creamery	£5		
Tue 1st Mar	Show and Tell	Free		
Fri 11th Mar	Murder Mystery	£20		
Tue 15th Mar	Manx Peacocks	Free		
Mon 18th Apr	Dear Green Place	£10		



