

The Friends of
Manx National Heritage



**Members' Events List &
Volunteer Programme**

2016

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The Friends of Manx National Heritage



March 2016

Dear Friend,

What a dreary winter we have had! Windy and wet almost every day!

Having said that, I hope that those of you, who have attended FMNH events over the winter, have enjoyed them. I've certainly had some good feedback, for which thank you. We still have some excellent events to come – for example a new initiative joining forces with NADFAS for a lecture on Glasgow's Art and Architecture is eagerly awaited.

Spring is on its way though, and I'm turning my thoughts to the summer programme, which is attached. Again, something for everyone I hope. Early booking is always recommended – and a reminder that we don't send out tickets!

FMNH are also going to be involved with this year's flower festival again. The venue is going to be at the Old Grammar School. The volunteers do a fantastic job and speaking as someone who has no talent with flowers, it always amazes me what they can achieve. Not to be missed. A big thank you to those involved.

My usual thanks go to all our wonderful volunteers. Too many to mention individually, but you know who you are. We remain so grateful for your time and enthusiasm. There is a volunteering form for 2016 with this pack. Please let me know if you would like to assist our work.

As ever please do let us know if you have a skill that you would like to share with us. We are hoping to be organising a musical themed extravaganza in the winter programme, for example, so we would love to hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you during the summer at the many events and shows, and when we are out and about with the FMNH trailer.

Best wishes
Nicola



Manx National Heritage

Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

www.manxnationalheritage.im

February 2016

Dear Friend

By co-incidence I am writing this immediately following a highly enjoyable visit to York at the invitation of the York Archaeological Trust. We have close ties with the Trust and indeed they offer FMNH members reciprocal benefits. We lent them Manx Viking material for an exhibition in York last year and our current exhibition – Heroes – is one of their touring shows. Later in the year we are taking another Viking show from them on the theme of Valhalla.

Every year YAT hosts a major Viking Festival with hundreds of costumed re-enactors on the streets of the city and a host of special events ranging from “Beowulf by Candlelight” to “King Canute’s Wedding Banquet”. The event this year also marked the launch of a new fundraising campaign to rebuild the famous Yorvik Viking centre which received substantial flood damage in December 2015. In their publicity they use the term “re-imagining” to describe the process of upgrading the content and approach to an attraction which is nearly 30 years old.

I quite like that term “re-imagining” because it neatly describes what we have been doing here at Manx National Heritage in terms of upgrading our displays and facilities. We had several drivers for this when we embarked on the programme and several years later the results are beginning to show.

The first driver was simple: the age of many of our displays and facilities. An average museum display is built to last 15 to 20 years, but often they end up lasting for a lot longer. Apart from the obvious wear and tear caused by hundreds of thousands of visitors, electrical and technical systems need replacing, walls need repainting, carpets need replacing and so on. In some cases we have made new discoveries or indeed new scientific evidence means we have to tell different stories. Some of our displays are now very old indeed.

A second driver was a better understanding of the audience we served and the way we had designed our interpretation. In our research many local people told us they only visited when they had guests, as nothing had changed since they last visited. They also told us that some things such as the computer inter actives were now old-fashioned. We were also failing to attract local families and hadn’t really picked up on the fact that a typical family group has several generations in it. Indeed many children are brought by grandparents supporting hardworking families. Sometimes we made things worse by only offering a limited choice of interpretation or inflexible techniques not suitable for all our visitors.

A third driver is the simple economic fact that the annual revenue support we get from the Isle of Man Government continues to decline as the Government balances its budget. Rather than close things down and reduce the level of service we are working hard to increase income from admissions and trading. Many of our facilities did not reflect that need.

Driven by these factors we embarked a few years ago on a substantial programme of intervention at a number of our sites. Each intervention is not very substantial or expensive but the cumulative investment is now beginning to make a real difference. Rushen Abbey was the first major “family friendly” investment and we are seeing substantial numbers of local families using the site. For the first time ever we opened up Rushen Abbey at the February half-term weekend and were really pleased by the numbers who came. The House of Mannanan has seen several interventions in the last three years but the new “Kingdom” gallery was the first change behind the pay barrier. The first week of February saw over 1500 visitors to the site – well up on previous years. The builders are in at the Manx Museum again and a newly cleaned and restored Great Dear will soon greet visitors to a new Geology Gallery.

FMNH continues to give us amazing support. Because of this we were able to double the amount of work we could do at the House of Mannanan. I am very grateful. As we continue our programme of “re-imagining” I am sure there will be many more opportunities to collaborate and add value.

Our relationship with our Friends continues to strengthen and adapt as the world around us changes. This coming year we will be looking more closely at volunteering within MNH and how we can increase opportunities for Friends to get more involved. We’ll also be using the programme funded by the Donnie Collister Bequest to improve training and support.

A small but significant recent milestone we passed was the number of “Likes” on facebook surpassing 8000. I know that social media is not for everyone (and, don’t worry, we have no intention of abandoning print) but this medium is immediate and cheap. We post things we hope people find interesting several times a week and it’s the best way of finding out about special offers and new activities. If you want help in accessing it just get in touch.

With all my best wishes for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Edmund Southworth
Director

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MEMBERS EVENTS PROGRAMME 2016

APRIL

Saturday 2nd

Mini garden party and skeet at Yn Thie Thooit, The Lhen

Join us for refreshments and enjoy a 'skeet' at the beautifully restored cottage. Please park beyond the cottage in the beach car park. Car share if possible.

Time: 11am and 2pm Venue: The Lhen Max 25 Price £5pp

Sunday 3rd

Mini garden party and skeet at Yn Thie Thooit, The Lhen

Join us for refreshments and enjoy a 'skeet' at the beautifully restored cottage. Please park beyond the cottage in the beach car park. Car share if possible.

Time: 11am and 2pm Venue: The Lhen Max 25 Price £5pp

Monday 18th

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

For those of you who missed this notice in the last events list. 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

Wednesday 27th

Tales from the Camp: Second World War civilian internment camps

(Hutchinson Square). Walking tour of Hutchinson Square with MNH Curator of Social History Yvonne Cresswell.

Time: 11am Venue: Meet at Hutchinson Square, Douglas Max 25 Free

Friday 29th

Silverdale supper and tour of Manx Ices.

Enjoy a delicious two course meal, followed by a tour of the magnificent renovated 18th century water wheel that provides power for the ice cream production.

Time: 6.30pm Venue: Silverdale Café Restaurant Max 40 £20pp

MAY

Thursday 12th

Access for All at MNH

Join Katie King MNH Community Outreach Officer as she explores MNH's 'access for all' philosophy and how the organisation seeks to create an inclusive visitor experience.

Time: 11am Venue: Manx Museum SR1 Max 50 Free

Thursday 19th

Chris Killip's Isle of Man Revisited

Join Wendy Thirkettle for a walk through the current exhibition which affords a rare opportunity to view prints of this fêted photographer's stunning portraits and island landscapes, taken in the 1970s.

Time: 10.15am **Venue: Manx Museum** **Max 20** **Free**

JUNE

Friday 17th

RNLI: Hope in the Great War

Join MNH Assistant Curator Hannah Murphy for a guided tour of the new RNLI exhibition. The session will also include a visit to Peel Lifeboat station.

Time: 11am **Venue: The House of Manannan** **Max 25** **Free**

JULY

Monday 11th

The Geology Gallery & Cabinet of Curiosity Gallery

Join MNH Curator of Natural History Kate Hawkins as she leads a guided tour of the new gallery at the Manx Museum.

Time: 11am **Venue: Manx Museum** **Max 15** **Free**

Saturday 16th

'From Piers to Palaces'

Join guide, Jane Hodson, for a nostalgic walk on the Promenade to the Villa Marina / Gaiety complex. Followed by tea and scones at the T Junction.

Time: 2.30pm **Venue: meet at the lifting bridge on South Quay** **Max 12** **Price £6.50**

AUGUST

Wednesday 3rd

Manx Worthies – Famous people of Maughold. Tour of the Churchyard with Marinda Fargher. Meet on the village green.

Time: 11am **Venue: Maughold village green** **Max 20** **Free**

Wednesday 17th

Unlocking stories from the Archives

MNH Project Archivist Eleanor Williams has been researching and exploring the Manx archives, unlocking their secrets and stories for release of descriptions online via the Archives Hub. Come and join Eleanor while she shares her favourite finds, from tales of a Glen Maye postmaster to Manx miners in South Africa.

Time: 11am **Venue: Manx Museum SR1** **Max 50** **Free**

SEPTEMBER

Monday 12th

Women in the Manx Viking Age

Explore the perceptions, roles and evidence of female life between AD800-1300 with MNH Curator of Archaeology Allison Fox.

Please note artefacts from the archaeological collections will be on display, which may contain human remains.

Time: 11am

Venue: Manx Museum SR1

Max 50

Free

Saturday 17th

Ballaugh Heritage Trust welcomes Friends of MNH to 'A trip out to Ballaugh'

Visit the last remaining goods shed on the Northern Line and an exhibition on Ballaugh which focuses on the building of the Northern Railway. A member of the Trust will give a short talk.

Afterwards, at 12.00, either visit Ballaugh Old and New Church and complete the St Mary's de Ballaugh Church Trail, or take part in a guided walk up to Glen Dhoo and The Purt. Parking is available at the plantation car park above the Ravensdale Castle, Ballaugh Glen. Walking boots or wellies are advised - the walk is not arduous.

Refreshments are available nearby from the Spar Shop or The Raven Hotel.

Time: 11am

Venue: Old Railway Goods Shed

Max 30

Free

Directions - Turn at Ballaugh Bridge towards Jurby and the shore. The goods shed is on the right hand side before the Parish Hall and New Church - you will see the gates from the old railway crossing.

Saturday 24th

Kelly's Eye in Pictures

A look at photographs from MNH's Collection on the big screen with Peter Kelly

Time: 2.30pm **Venue: Manx Museum Lecture Theatre**

Free for FMNH members, £5 for non-members

Wednesday 28th

Scholarship and Scandal!

Walking tour of Castletown by Helen Leigh, following the fortunes of Headteacher JT Whiksey, who died a hundred years ago.

Time: 11am

Venue: Meet outside No 10 The Crofts

Max 20

Free

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:

ASSISTING AT FMNH EVENTS

Monday 18th April – Dear Green Place

Lecture.

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

Isle of Man Flower Festival

After the success of FMNH's involvement with the flower festival over the past few years, FMNH is taking part again at the Old Grammar School.

- Anyone able to donate funds for flowers from Longs in Douglas, or provide flowers from their own garden.
- Are you a keen florist and would like to be involved with the event?

FMNH Trailer

Are you interested in helping to man the FMNH Trailer? We are looking for volunteers who would be able to assist at the following venues.

- Tynwald Day – Tuesday 5th July
- Royal Show – Friday 12th and Saturday 13th August

MNH Access and Inclusion Consultation

Panel MNH are looking to form a community based Access and Inclusion Consultation Panel made up of heritage enthusiasts who consider themselves to have a disability. MNH would like to consult the panel to help them improve their sites for visitors with diverse access needs. If you would like to volunteer on this panel or to learn more please make direct contact with Katie King, Community Outreach Officer, 648035 or katie.king@gov.im

- Sewing bees needed** Nicola Tooms (assistant curator MNH) would love some help to make some garment bags for the textiles in the collection. Come and be part of a sewing workshop.

ASSISTING AT MNH EVENTS

Sunday 19th June. Back stop needed for Summer Solstice Eve walk to Meayll Hill. 7.45pm - 10pm. Guided walk with Andrew Foxon.

Thursday 11th August. Back stop needed for walk from Manx Museum. 6.45pm

Sunday 21st August from the Manx Museum. 2.15pm Guided walks with Andrew Foxon - The 1866 Election Act: Governor Loch & the Politics of Tourism

Summer Adventure Days at Cregneash:
will involve walking

Wednesday 27th July, Cregneash 2-4pm

assisting crafts and guiding

Wednesday 3rd August, Cregneash 2-4pm

assisting crafts and guiding

Wednesday 10th August, Cregneash 11am-4pm

assisting and guiding

Wednesday 17th August, Cregneash 2-4pm

assisting crafts and guiding

Monday 24th – Friday 28th October

Turn up for turnips, Cregneash

Crafts games

Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri

Sunday 30th October Hop tu Naa, Cregneash

Crafts Stewarding Car park Trailer

Assist with lantern making, at the House of Manannan, to coincide with the Christmas lights being switched on in Peel.
Date to be confirmed.

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.

Dates to be confirmed

Gardening at Cregneash and the Grove

Assisting Cilla Platt with the gardens at Cregneash with lifting, clearing and weeding.

Weeding at the Grove



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

TelephoneMobile.....

Date	Event	Price pp	No's	Cost
Sat 2nd April	Skeet at the Lhen	£5.00		
Sun 3rd April	Skeet at the Lhen	£5.00		
Mon 18th April	Dear Green Place	£10.00		
Wed 27th April	Tales from the Camp	Free		
Fri 29th April	Manx Ices	£20.00		
Thu 12th May	Access for all	Free		
Thu 19th May	May Chris Killip	Free		
Fri 17th June	RNLI	Free		
Mon 11th July	Geology Gallery	Free		
Sat 16th July	Piers to Palaces	£6.50		
Wed 3rd Aug	Manx Worthies	Free		
Wed 17th Aug	Unlocking Archives	Free		
Mon 12th Sep	Manx Viking Age	Free		
Sat 17th Sep	Ballaugh Heritage Trust	Free		
Sat 24th Sep	Kelly's Eye in Pictures	Free for FMNH members, £5 for non-members		
Wed 28th Sep	Scholarship & Scandal	Free		

