



Dear Friends,

Welcome to your March newsletter. Today, Manx National Heritage's seasonal sites reopen! We're looking forward to exploring and supporting the range of activities, events and exhibitions taking place across Manx National Heritage sites during the 2026 season.

As a member of Friends of Manx National Heritage, you can enjoy FREE admission to all Manx National Heritage attractions and a 10% discount in on-site heritage shops. For Isle of Man residents, there's also FREE or discounted admission to over 650 historic sites across the UK and beyond. Enjoy the benefits of membership this season!

Volunteers for Cregneash Event

👉 Can you help? We're looking for two of our members to help at the annual Egg Rolling at Cregneash, on Easter Monday, 6th April, from 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm. You'll be a Judge for the Best Dressed Egg competition and a Spotter as the eggs roll down the hill at Cregneash. If you can lend a hand at this fun, much-loved event, please email hannah@fmnh.im or phone 243806.



Friends Events for Spring 2026

Places are available on the following talks, don't miss out! To book, email hannah@fmnh.im.

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

Saturday 25th April, 11.00am at the Manx Museum Lecture Theatre.

A talk by author and historian Derek Winterbottom. Derek says: "A lot is often known about William Christian (William 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.

'Tholtans of Tholt y Will' a talk by Ray Kelly and Carla Callow

Sunday 17th 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. Come wander through our snippets of Tholt Y Will history, marking the Tholtans on the hills."

Ray and Carla have a YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/4bQGgsM> and a Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/4m3N3Uv>.



Image: Tholt y Will Glen and Farm © Ray Kelly

How to Book onto FMNH events:

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

New Exhibitions at Manx National Heritage

The National Art Gallery Reopens (Manx Museum, 27 March 2026)

The National Art Gallery reopens today, Friday 27 March, following the conclusion of the landmark exhibition KNOX: Order & Beauty.

The refreshed gallery introduces a new section dedicated to Archibald Knox, showcasing highlights from the national collection. This includes two significant new acquisitions, a rare modernist inkwell and an opal pendant, which were previously on loan for the KNOX: Order & Beauty exhibition. Both pieces have now been secured for the nation thanks to the generous support of the family of Martin Moore MBE, former Chairman of the Trustees of the Manx Museum and National Trust, in his memory and in recognition of his longstanding dedication to Manx National Heritage.

Support from the Friends of Manx National Heritage has enabled the acquisition of key works over the years, with around 21 of these featured in the new display. Highlights include Douglas from the Nunnery Howe (1833) by James Strutt; a rare pastel portrait of Countess Charlotte de la Tremouille by Anthony van Dyck; Mona's Isle (c.1835) by Samuel Walters; Peel Castle (1830s) by Frederick Parker; and a bronze sculpture by Frank Mowbray Taubman.



Image: Rare inkwell designed by Archibald Knox, acquired thanks to the support of the family of Martin Moore MBE.

Museum Projects in Focus

Star Artworks Acquired over the years by the Friends of Manx National Heritage

As the National Art Gallery reopens, let's recap on some of the stunning pieces FMNH has helped to acquire. Links to view these artworks on iMuseum.im are included below.

Katie King, Curator of Art and Social History for Manx National Heritage says: "Friends of Manx National Heritage have certainly helped us to acquire art and to build our Knox collection over the years. We have no budget to acquire items for the National Collections, so without the support of FMNH, we would not be able to have such a strong collection. Around 21 pieces purchased by FMNH are included in the new Art Gallery hang, opening on 27th March at the Manx Museum." Of the many artworks FMNH has purchased, highlights are:

★ Douglas from the Nunnery Howe, 1833 (1960-0013) by James Strutt. One of the earliest known oil paintings depicting Douglas. FMNH have recently funded its conservation:

https://imuseum.im/search/object_record/view?id=mnh-museum-36673

★ Portrait of Countess Charlotte de la Tremouille, 17th century (1954-7822) by Anthony van Dyck. This exceptionally rare pastel has also been conserved by Emma Le Cornu, for special inclusion in the rehang:

https://imuseum.im/search/object_record/view?id=mnh-museum-34870

★ Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. vessel 'Mona's Isle', c.1835 (1959-0405) by Samuel Walters. One of the leading maritime artists of the day: https://imuseum.im/search/object_record/view?id=mnh-museum-35753.

★ Peel Castle, 1830s (1988-0447) by Frederick Parker. One of the earliest oil paintings of Peel:

https://imuseum.im/search/object_record/view?id=mnh-museum-141530.

★ Bronze head and shoulders of a child, 1893 (2002-0070) by Frank Mowbray Taubman:

https://imuseum.im/search/object_record/view?id=mnh-museum-265391.

A wider selection of the artworks featured in the National Art Gallery are available to view as a curated group on iMuseum.im: [Search results - iMuseum](#).



Image: Douglas from the Nunnery Howe, 1833 (1960-0013) by James Strutt

Thanks to all our members 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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