



Dear Friends,

Welcome to your April newsletter. We hope you've been enjoying Manx National Heritage's seasonal sites which are open, and free to visit for FMNH members. Please do use your FMNH cards and visit them. Members also receive 10% discount on many of the products in MNH heritage shops.

FMNH's events programme is underway, with the next event coming very soon! Don't miss out, secure your place by emailing hannah@fmnh.im.

Every parent's nightmare: the life and times of Illiam 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 (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 © National Portrait Gallery London.

‘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

'Mind Your Language' at the Manx Museum (25 April 2026 - 4 October 2026)

Manx National Heritage and Culture Vannin are proud to announce the opening of 'Mind Your Language', a new exhibition celebrating the Manx language, at the Manx Museum from 25 April 2026 until 4 October 2026.

Launching as part of Blein ny Gaelgey - Year of the Manx Language, this exhibition invites both local audiences and visitors to discover the richness, history and contemporary relevance of Gaelg - Manx. Whether encountering the language for the first time or reconnecting with familiar words and phrases, visitors will be encouraged to explore, learn and enjoy the Manx language and contemporary culture, and its roots.

Organised around four themes, What is Manx?, Manx and Nature, Manx and People, and Manx and Place, the exhibition brings together historical artefacts, artworks and audio-visual experiences. Highlights include a cast of an ogham stone, poetic interpretations of the language, historic objects such as the Ballamoore Sundial, official proclamations, and displays exploring the meaning behind familiar place names such as Balla, Mooar, Cronk and Beg.



Image: Nicola Tooms, Assistant Curator for Manx National Heritage and Ruth Keggin Gell, Manx Language Development Officer for Culture Vannin, working on the exhibition installation.

Partnership with Unesco Biosphere Isle of Man

Friends of Manx National Heritage has teamed up with Unesco Biosphere Isle of Man, to offer annual FMNH membership as a prize in the Community category of their Isle of Man Photo Competition.

Unesco Biosphere Isle of Man are searching for stunning, high-quality photos that celebrate our Island and are to be showcased in their upcoming Biosphere reports.

Choose from three categories:

- 🌿 Environment - our seas and shores, landscapes, wildlife, and people enjoying the outdoors.

- ✿ Community - culture, heritage, education, research, and everyday Manx life.
- ✿ Economy - local businesses, farming, fisheries, events and activity that keep the Island thriving.

Do you know someone who loves capturing the beauty, culture, character and community of the Isle of Man? Send your photos to Unesco Biosphere Isle of Man: <https://f.mtr.cool/lkmvjztij>.

Entrants to the Community category of the Isle of Man Photo Competition will be in with a chance to win one year of FMNH membership and enjoy free or discounted access to over 650 Isle of Man and UK heritage sites!

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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