

IoM NHAS SUMMER PROGRAMME 2015

Saturday 25 April

Rehabilitation, Restoration and Inducement - Point of Ayre Gravel Pits

Leaders: Steven Smyth, General Manager, Island Aggregates

Sean Grey, Bird Recorder

Over the past 25 years water-filled gravel pits have been rehabilitated to encourage birdlife and the surrounding land restored to Ayres Heath. Our leaders will take us on a tour of the area, explaining how this has been undertaken, the wildlife attracted to the site and plans for the future.

1.40 pm meet at Bride Village Car Park OR

2.00 pm at Island Aggregates Car Park NX465040, Point of Ayre

(turn left off road to Point of Ayre on to unsigned made up access route at this point).

Saturday 16 May

Moores, Jefferson and Riggalls – Billown and Ballahot Estates

Leader: Eric Taggart, Billown Farm

These adjoining estates have a shared history and feature archaeological, geological and natural history sites. We will undertake a circular walk summiting on Skybright Hill, returning via the Cotton Factory on the Silverburn River.

2.00 pm meet at the car park by the ford, Ballasalla SC278703

Tuesday 19 May

From Longtails to Lighthouses via Shearwaters - Calf of Man

Leader: Kate Hawkins, Curator Natural History, Manx National Heritage

Following on from her study revealed at the recent Forbes Seminar, Kate Hawkins will show us around the Calf of Man and the various eradication, conservation and reintroduction projects of Manx National Heritage.

Booking is essential – places limited. Contact Patricia at patricianewton@manx.net or phone Patricia on 861560 / 366269 to reserve your place. Cost will be £22 per person. Participants are advised to wear strong footwear, bring wet weather gear and refreshments. Note the Calf does not have WC facilities. Sailing will be from Port St Mary at 09.30 am.

Saturday 20 June

St Runius and Keeill Vreeshey - A Tale of Two Churches

Leader: Andrew Johnson, Curator Archaeology and Recorder Ancient Monuments, Manx National Heritage

Andrew will compare the parish church of Marown with the nearby Keeil Vreeshey and discuss the surrounding landscape. Depending on the weather and the size of the party we will walk or drive between the two sites. Please come prepared and share transport if at all possible.

2.00 pm meet at St Runius SC322787

Sunday 12 July – please note revised date

Gat-e-Whing, Fairy Doctor Locale and MWT Latest Reserve

Leaders: Erica Spencer and Andree Dubbeldam

Erica will look at the history of the site which formerly included parts of Knock E Dhooney and was home of the renowned “Fairy Doctor” Charles Teare; Andree will lead a botanical walk in this wetland environment, now the focus of the Manx Wildlife Trust’s latest project.

*2.00 pm meet at gate of Gat-e-Whing House NX402017, Coast Road
(white house on corner where old road forms cutoff from Coast Road)*

Saturday 1 August

“Following the Plumb Line – S by SW from Foxdale to Niarbyl

Leader: Pete Geddes MBE

In the 19th century lead veins from Foxdale were found to extend to the south-west. Mines were opened at Dixon / Crosses and Beckwiths in Glen Rushen. Walking between the two Pete will explain the history of their exploration and unravel and interpret the surviving remnants of this once prolific industry. Afterwards, courtesy of Paul Lemaire, there will be a visit to Foxdale Heritage Centre where refreshments will be available.

2.00 pm meet at Snuff the Wind SC262780 – strong footwear advised

Saturday 12 September

Wildlife Park 50th, IOMNHAS 135th and Forbes 200th

Leader: Kathleen Graham, General Manager Wildlife Park

To commemorate all our anniversaries, IOMNHAS will visit the Wildlife Park to learn about their programmes for conservation and species introduction. Afterwards there will be tea at the Wildlife Park Café.

Booking Essential by 5 September: Contact Patricia at patricianewton@manx.net or phone 861560 / 366269 to reserve your place. Cost for entry and tea approximately £16.

1.30pm meet in the Wildlife Park carpark

Saturday 26 September

Inside Arbory Church: A Glimpse Into the Past

Leaders: Dr Pat McClure and Frank Cowin

Pat will consider the building in the C18th landscape and discuss material changes inside the building since its 1759 construction. Frank will talk about the events in the lives of the Cunninghame, Stevenson and Quilliam families who are all remembered inside the church. Tea afterwards!

2.00 pm meet inside Arbory Church SC246705

Friday, Saturday & Sunday 2,3,4 & 9,10,11 October

Heritage Open Days

IOMNHAS will be participating in these weekends. Details will be made available later both in the programme published by Manx National Heritage for these weekends and on the Society’s website www.manxantiquarians.com

For any queries, including car sharing or public transport, please contact Patricia Newton, Excursion Secretary 861560 / 366269 patricianewton@manx.net

**NB MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT
DOGS CANNOT ACCOMPANY THEM ON EXCURSIONS**