



Isle of Man Natural History & Antiquarian Society  
IOM charity no. 428

**IoMNHAS AGM/lecture Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March POSTPONED**

Dear member,

All will by now be aware of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and that there are now a small but escalating number of cases on the Isle of Man despite the Island taking increasingly stringent precautions to try and prevent its arrival; the Government are also taking precautions and issuing advice to slow its spread through the community.

Our AGM and final winter lecture was scheduled for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. We were aware last week that a possibly small number might be unable to attend as they fell into vulnerable groups, or were carers etc.; and we were also concerned that some who might wish to, or feel they ought to, attend, could be in groups at higher risk if they should catch Coronavirus. The Society's rules currently have no provision for proxy or postal voting.

Your committee has been discussing what precautions might be appropriate but the closure of the Manx Museum and losing the use of the Museum Lecture Theatre as a venue meant at a minimum that the lecture would be difficult to hold and if we were to go ahead it might be for the AGM alone.

Any question about holding the AGM was always principally about the safety of members, although the impact on the Society itself does need to be taken into account.

The IoMNHAS 'Rules' (our Governing Document or constitution) state that the AGM shall be held in March each year, and there was some concern over the legal position if we had to postpone the AGM. We have consulted with the Attorney General who, as Charities Registrar, has now said to all charities: (i) Charities whose AGM is due before the end of April 2020 can postpone their AGM for at least a short period; and (ii) they will look favourably on, and assist with, moves to allow proxies and postal/email voting.

In the light of the deteriorating Public Health situation, and the Attorney General's advice, the IoMNHAS Committee has now decided, in the interests of the members, to:

- 1) Postpone the lecture.
- 2) Postpone the AGM. This is a temporary postponement, in accordance with the Attorney General's dispensation, until the first occasion when it can be held safely and practically in some form.
- 3) Investigate, in conjunction with AG's chambers, the possibility for proxy and/or postal/email voting, so as not to disenfranchise members who can't attend the re-arranged AGM (or other similar meetings in future) in person.

We will keep members informed of plans for re-arranging the AGM, the current officers will remain in-post until then. It is also possible that constraints on some of the excursion leaders etc. may lead to some short-term changes in the summer excursion programme which had been planned and we will circulate the summer programme as soon as we can. Please also keep an eye on our web site and FaceBook page (addresses below).

Crucially, we also wish all of our members the very best as we work through these challenging times.

Pauline Stewart, Hon. Secretary

Dave Martin, President

Isle of Man Natural History & Antiquarian Society

Web: [www.manxantiquarians.com](http://www.manxantiquarians.com)

Email: [Secretary@manxantiquarians.com](mailto:Secretary@manxantiquarians.com)

FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/IsleOfManNaturalHistoryandAntiquarianSociety>