



Dear member,

Welcome to this first email bulletin to members of the Isle of Man Natural History & Antiquarian Society. We will only use the email address you have provided to keep you informed of matters relating to the Society, in accordance with the [IoM NHAS email communication/privacy policy](#). If at any time you wish your email address removing from this circulation, please send a message to Communications@manxantiquarians.com

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1 Tynwald Fair

The Society will once again have a stall at Tynwald Fair on Tuesday 5th July, our plot (no. 96) is between the War Memorial and the Church. The centerpiece will again be our “How well do you know YOUR Island?” activity (report on the fun at last year’s fair [here](#) – but with new challenges and clues this year). **We urgently need volunteers to help man the stall** – if you could possibly help (even if only for an hour or two) please contact Dave.Martin@manx.net If you can’t help, but are visiting the Fair, please drop by and say hello and test your knowledge of the Island – you might even win a lollipop!

2 Excursions

We have a long-weekend trip to visit sites in and around the port of Whitehaven, with its historic connection to the Isle of Man, sailing from Douglas on Friday 15th July on MV Balmoral, and returning on Sunday 17th July (with alternative travel by IOMSP should MV Balmoral not sail). **There is currently one place remaining** - anyone interested should contact our Hon. Excursion Secretary Pat Newton on patricianewton@manx.net or phone 861560 / 366269.

Just as a reminder, we also have on-Island three excursions coming up in July:

Saturday 2 July : Narradale - Abbeylands, Commons and Orchids
Leader: Paul Quayle

Following his talk on the formation of the commons Paul will lead us on a "gingerly" exploration of Abbeylands up the lower part of the Narradale step road to view the Commons and Cronk Sumark from a distance, visit some little known historic "pillars" whose origins are open to debate and hear about the "Black Doors". Hopefully verge side orchids will oblige en route. Wear walking boots. Refreshments available in the Ginger Hall PH afterwards

2pm Meet at Ginger Hall SC394945 – parking available in the Ginger Hall PH carpark

Saturday 16 July : The Parish Church of St John the Baptist, The Royal Chapel
Leader: Dr Patricia Tutt

Following her fascinating insight into design of stained glass, architect Dr Tutt will guide us round the architecture and stained glass of The Royal Chapel.

2pm meet at Arboretum Car Park SC279818

Tuesday 19 July : The Manx Uplands
Leader: Alan Jackson

In the evening when grouse and mountain hare are more likely to be visible, Alan and his helpers will lead us around Slieu Maggle explaining and demonstrating how the uplands are managed for all forms of wildlife, flora and fauna. Wear stout walking boots

7pm meet on B10 Brandywell Road at SC343866 opposite Sartfell Plantation

3 Buildings at Risk

In Autumn 2015, your Society, alarmed at the continued neglect of the Island's built heritage, offered to host a meeting with like-minded groups to discuss what might be done to highlight and promote awareness of the plight of vulnerable buildings.

As a result, a network has been formed which already includes all the active Heritage Trusts on the Island and national groups such as the Victorian Society, Steam Railway Supporters Association, and of course the Antiquarians. The mission is to draw the Nations' attention to buildings of architectural or historic value, and what's at risk; and to encourage and support Government, Planners and Developers to return to best practice (which sometimes need not cost much more than neglect).

It is absolutely recognised that, with rare exceptions, buildings cannot just be preserved – the ideal result is often if a building can be adapted to provide a sustainable use without damage to the important features. Key to this is the availability of conservation support to/within the Planning & Building Control Directorate and to owners/developers; and recognition of buildings of value and their registration if appropriate.

Starting on Tues 24th May, a fortnightly series of features is being carried in the IOM Examiner (for which we are grateful to IOM Newspapers) comprising features by Simon Artymiuk (the Society's Hon. Publicity Secretary) on buildings great and small, visible and hidden – which are at risk, which have found sustainable saviours, and those we have lost through private and/or government neglect. These features are being accompanied by articles highlighting the importance of our built heritage, how it can be sustainably conserved, and issues with Planning and Registered Building and ways in which these might be improved.

Along with other groups, such as Culture Vannin's "Building Conservation Forum", we hope these various campaigns will promote awareness of, and spark debate on, Manx built heritage; and we would urge members – especially in the run up to the General Election on 22nd September – to take any opportunity to raise public awareness of the threats to our built heritage and the need for improvements to our Registered Building and Planning systems.

More details and links to the articles [here](#) (that page will be updated as subsequent articles are published).

4 Planning

The Society continues to monitor and comment on planning applications where appropriate, including objecting to the as-yet-undetermined application to remove Lorne House in Castletown from the Register of protected buildings.

The remains of Ballaughton Manor, which is still the subject of an unresolved Registered Building proposal, have been the subject of several recent planning applications. The original redevelopment proposals, which included removal of much of the building but left the majority of the key front rooms intact, gained planning approval in 2015. However, a new application has recently been submitted to complete the demolition of the remaining rooms, principally based on the exterior masonry paint containing traces of asbestos which might be hazardous to the inhabitants or workmen in the future. Unfortunately, despite our objection, this too received approval, although it was conceded that things might have been different if Ballaughton had made it onto the Protected Buildings Register. Importantly though, as a result of our objection, for the first time ever the Society was granted 'Interested Party' status for this latter application - we hope this is a welcome sign from the Planning Committee / Planning & Building Control Directorate. Your Committee took the decision that the Society would exercise the right conferred by 'Interested Party' status and lodge an appeal against the latest planning application – any member who would like more details please contact Pat Newton or Dave Martin.

5 Consultations

In recent months, the Society has made submissions to Government consultations on:

- a possible new Treasure Act (including suggesting a unified code for all archaeological finds) - [our submission here](#)
- the possible introduction of red squirrels – now [rejected by DEFA](#) on scientific advice (including that from IoM NHAS)
- inshore marine zoning - [our submission here](#)

6 “Keeills and Cake”

One of our members, Katie Newton, and her friend Nicola Curphey, have a project to visit all the remaining upstanding Keeills in 2016. Their 'blog' entitled “Keeills and Cake” is a fascinating and informative compendium and can be read [here](#).

7 FaceBook

Just a reminder that updates and snippets of interest from on- and off- the Island are posted to the Society's FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/IsleofManNaturalHistoryandAntiquarianSociety> (you do not need to be a Facebook user in order to view this page).

We hope you have found the above interesting – these email bulletins won't replace the Newsletters, but allow us to circulate information more frequently when needed and share some of the work the Society is engaged in on behalf of our members. Any feedback is welcome.

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