



Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Spring 2018 newsletter

Welcome to our Spring 2018 newsletter. Enclosed is the programme card for the forthcoming summer excursions; this newsletter is intended to give a summary of some of the activities of the Society during the last six months, and other selected topics of interest to members.

Building Conservation and Planning

The Society made a submission to the 'Planning Review Consultation', a copy of our submission (25 pages of responses to 52 pages of questions) can be read on our web site. Almost everybody who tried to tackle this 'Consultation' found it hard-going or a challenge, and it was variously described as, at best, "a mess" and "confused". We did ask for public meetings to clarify the issues whilst the Consultation was open so those on the Island could respond properly – this was not possible but there is still a chance of public meetings prior to legislation being drafted.

We are pleased to hear DEFA has appointed a Registered Buildings Officer, who will be in-post from the 1st of May. However, the Registered Buildings Officer is just a single post – we used to have a Conservation Officer and a support organisation – and even they couldn't keep up with their caseload. Whilst there are more than enough outstanding Registration proposals to keep the new Registered Buildings Officer occupied, we are concerned and hope the pendulum doesn't swing too far, and the Department restarts the critical provision of advice – to planners, developers and owners of the 99.99% of un-Registered buildings.

We are also heartened that, following our campaign, it appears that DEFA Planning and Building Control are also trying to make more of the registration files eventually available on-line and transparently, just like conventional planning applications. We are aware that there is an opportunity and hopefully an appetite for change and we will do all we can to assist with that.

Central to our strategy is raising public awareness of our built heritage, and a major component of this is our fortnightly double-page Buildings at Risk article series in the *Isle of Man Examiner*, which we publish under the Alliance for Building Conservation (ABC). We originally envisaged 'just a few' articles to raise the profile of the plight of our built heritage leading up to the General Election in autumn 2016, but we've managed to keep going and article number 50 will appear in a few weeks. A full list of previous articles can be found on www.ABC.org.im

Douglas Bay Horse Tram Stables

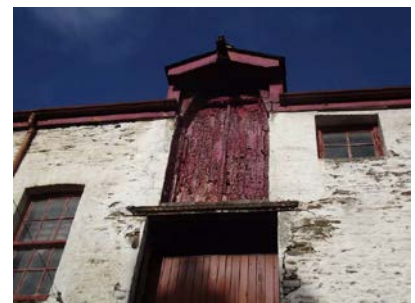
Following our excursion to Summerhill last summer, IoMNHAS amongst other organisations and individuals have been encouraging DEFA to enter the Summerhill Douglas Bay horse tram stables on the list of Registered Buildings. The stables and their frontage, Tramway Terrace, represent what is believed to be a unique example of an artisan designed, working stable yard and blacksmiths.



We were delighted to receive the news in February 2018 that DEFA have officially proposed to register the lower (older, in part Thomas Lightfoot designed) stables, Tramway Terrace and blacksmiths. We believe Tramway Terrace - albeit in poor condition internally - could be refashioned to maintain its frontage but incorporate good staff accommodation, visitor facilities and accommodation for working experience on the transport system and an apprentice.



The proposal to register is only the first stage in the Registration process. With sufficient support and knowledge it may be followed by the Registration of the buildings. However Registration may be challenged by an application to deregister which like a planning application may be taken to appeal. While the deadline to make comment on the proposal to Register was 28th February 2018, any application to deregister must also be advertised. We would hope you will give your support in writing to the DEFA for their Registration.



Fairs and Festivals

Last year, we continued to develop our interactive fair stall. In addition to the Tynwald Fair, we accepted an invitation to participate in the Food and Drink Festival, which – with the help of our members - was a great hit, so much so we were immediately invited back for the tenth Food and Drink Festival this coming September.

This year, your Committee has also accepted an invitation to the Southern Agricultural Show, where we will be running our stall and activities in the organisers' Heritage Tent.

So, this season (2018) we will be at the Tynwald Fair (5th July), the Southern Show (28th and 29th July), and the Food and Drink Festival (15th and 16th September). We can only do this with volunteers to help run the Society's stall – please contact Katie Newton if you think you would like to join in and have fun on our stall. Katie can be contacted by email at braddangirl@yahoo.co.uk

IoMNHAS Committee

With effect from the AGM in March, two long-serving members have retired from the Committee - Pat Skillicorn has given many years of service to the Society (and other Manx cultural bodies); and Jonathan Kewley, our former Hon. Editor of *Isle of Man Studies* (the Proceedings), has stood down after producing three high-quality volumes.

Clare Bryan has decided to reduce her workload in connection with the Society. Clare has been a rock and foundation of the Society for many years, she will maintain involvement with the members by continuing to act as Hon. Membership Secretary, but she has handed over the role of Hon. Secretary to Pauline Stewart.

Last year we moved to a non-personal email address for the Hon. Secretary / Secretarial team of secretary@manxantiquarians.com and we will now be introducing a distinct address of membership@manxantiquarians.com to help ensure any membership matters are dealt with timeously. Full address and contact details are on the Programme card and on the website www.manxantiquarians.com

Pauline Stewart joined the Committee last year as Hon. Minutes Secretary and has now taken on the key role of Hon. Secretary of the Society; we also have been fortunate recently to welcome David Allwood to the committee as a Research Co-ordinator.

Pauline has long been interested in archaeology and recently graduated from the University College IOM. She has assisted at a number of local excavations, and her research on Romano-British brooches was published in *IOM Studies* vol XIV. She is also Chair of Castletown Heritage.

David too is a graduate of UCM, he has carried research on the Maughold High Cross and has contributed to the Manx archaeological reports in recent *IOM Studies*. David also assists the Manx Industrial Heritage Museum in Peel, and volunteers in the Manx Museum Library cataloguing transport photographs to go onto the iMuseum.

Natural History is still under-represented, any member who feels they can contribute in this area is asked to contact the Hon. Secretary secretary@manxantiquarians.com

Isle of Man Studies (Proceedings of IoMNHAS) / Hon. Editor

The Society and the Hon. Editor regret the delay in publishing volume XV of *Isle of Man Studies (Proceedings IoMNHAS)*, copies were despatched to subscribing members in December 2017 and are still available for Life Members and others to purchase.

Although the first three volumes under the *Isle of Man Studies* title targeted annual publication, the Committee recognises the burden this places on the Hon. Editor and it is likely that we will revert to biennial publication.

In preparation for recruitment of a new Hon. Editor, the Committee has reviewed and documented the requirements for the journal, based around the goals: (i) to comply with the Society's rule 16 "*The papers read before the Society, or abstracts of them, may be published in the Proceedings or other publications of the Society*", and (ii) to comply with the Society's aim of the "*advancement of knowledge of Natural History and Human History and Cultural Development, especially in the Isle of Man*".

As no candidate had come forward before the AGM, the Committee hopes to find a suitable candidate and fill the vacancy under rule 9 (filling vacancies during the year). Any member who is interested in the Hon. Editorship can contact Andy Johnson or Dave Martin to discuss the role. Meantime any contributions can be sent to Dave.Martin@manx.net

Data Protection

IoMNHAS introduced a personal data privacy and communication policy some years ago (link below). Following a swift passage through Tynwald in February and March 2018, the new European "General Data Protection Regulations" ("GDPR") are expected to be brought into force in the Island with effect from May 2018. The Committee is reviewing its procedures but is committed to complying with the new GDPR.

Keeping in touch

- If you haven't already done so, you can join our e-mail list used to keep members informed – details & privacy policy: www.manxantiquarians.com/page_72633.html
- Visit our FaceBook page (you don't have to be a member of FaceBook to read our page; but if you are member of FaceBook, please "Like" our page and you can be automatically notified when any updates are posted) www.facebook.com/IsleOfManNaturalHistoryandAntiquarianSociety/
- Visit our web site www.manxantiquarians.com