



# Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

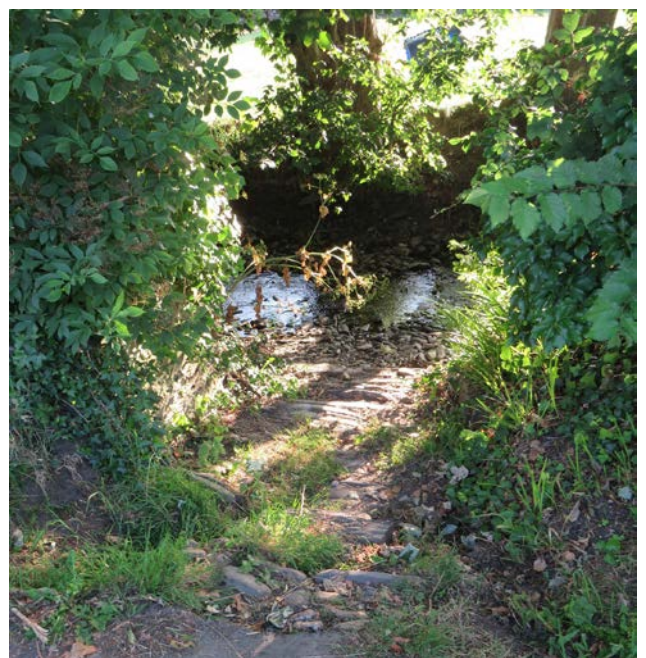
## Autumn 2021 newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn 2021 newsletter. Enclosed is the programme card for the forthcoming Winter 2021-22 lecture series and the pack for the EGM to be held before the lecture on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (more on which below); this newsletter is intended to give a summary of the activities of the Society during the last six months, and highlight other selected topics of interest to members.

### **Excursions**

Excursions this summer were able to go ahead as planned both once a month at weekends and with three midweek outings albeit numbers attending were perhaps disappointingly low on some occasions, natural history being hardest hit. While weather and COVID may account for some of this, it would be interesting to get any other feedback. Are Saturday rather than Sunday afternoons suitable for most? Is the variety right? Do you have any topics you would wish to see covered? And above all, would you be willing to lead an excursion or do you know someone else, whether or not a member, who would? We are very aware that we do not know our members research but we would be delighted to be informed about it. Excursions offer the opportunity to talk about your knowledge in the environment you are most familiar with outside the formality of a lecture theatre. Any thoughts please on any of the above or excursions in general to [patricianewton@manx.net](mailto:patricianewton@manx.net)

From Ballaugh village trades with its unusually wide crossroads and a car owned by a Quayle which had been driven by Errol Flynn in the North to the sights and sounds of The Sound seals and a long distance view of a minke whale and the Langness arch and unconformity in the slightly foggy South, from the bracken covered slopes towards remote Lag Ny Killey in the west and the dormant bats of Laxey in the east, albeit the number of species on the Island has now been recognisably increased from seven, we were able to gather up-to-date information on interpretation of known sites and different viewpoints.



*Cobbles provide evidence of old  
ford crossing Ballaugh River*

Over the slopes of West Baldwin and around Ballacosnahan Farm we were very grateful to private landowners for welcoming us and giving us access to variously interpret one of our treens and its remains in the form of tholtans in the context of the physical environment, and learn of the possible links to the Guinea triangle of trading and the immense suitability of the Patrick slopes for Loaghtyn sheep farming.



*Maughold Rhowin - home of the murderer?*

Maughold slopes had a murderous past with a long term unsolved crime and open case. Finally the Society took part in Heritage Open Days where Hidden Cringle revealed a surprising number of crofters involved in the sea with fisherman and pilots, not pirates or slavers, abounding. Full accounts will appear in a future issue of Isle of Man Studies.

*Pat Newton*

### ***Winter events***

We have a full programme of six lectures this winter, four of which were affected by COVID lockdowns last year, including Bob Stimpson, who was all set up ready to give his lecture on Sir Frank Gill when the Museum was evacuated as the Island went into lockdown just before his lecture started! Please note most lectures still start at 2.30 pm but that we will start at 2pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November to allow time for the EGM before the lecture. The Committee has committed to try to make lectures available on-line as well as in-person; and continues to work to find a practical and affordable way to do this.

### ***Updated Rules***

As previously advised, the Committee has been working with the Attorney General's chambers (who regulate Charities on the Isle of Man) on updating the Society's Rules. When we had the first lockdown, we approached to AG to request consent to introduce an absolute minimal set of changes to maximise resilience if situations similar to the recent lockdowns re-occurred, however the AG indicated that before any change would

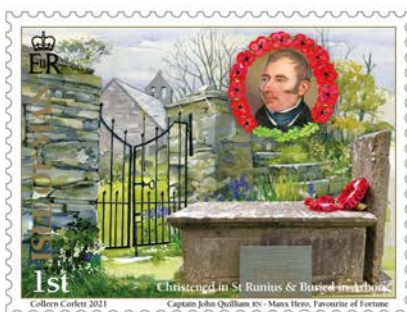
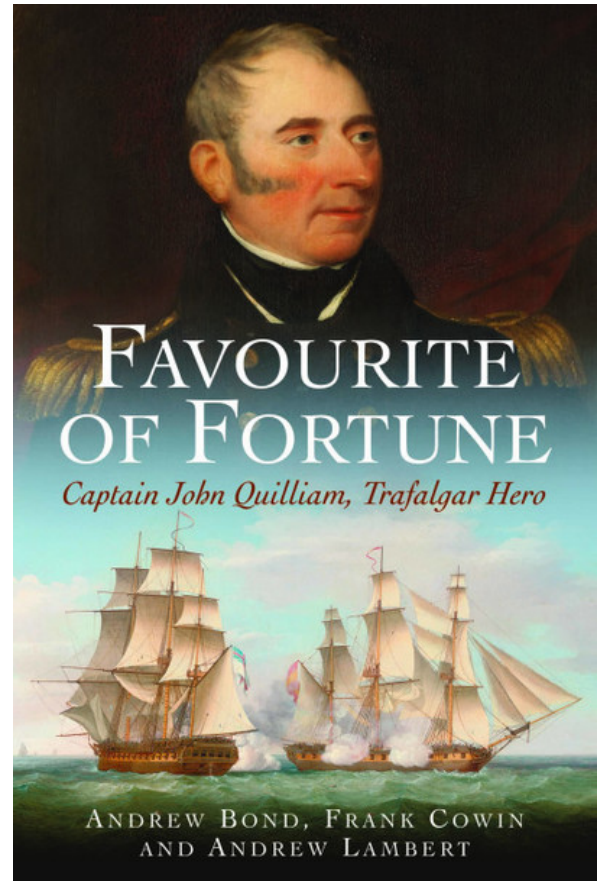


be allowed, the updated Rules would need to comply with the recently updated Charities Act & Regulations. Since then the Committee has spent much time drafting and meeting, on their own and with the AG's chambers, and have come up with an updated version of the Rules which the AG found acceptable; this updated version is being placed before the members at an EGM before the lecture on 20<sup>th</sup> November, the papers for this EGM are enclosed with this mailing.

### ***'Favourite of Fortune'***

This year is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Captain John Quilliam RN HK. Two of the principal celebrations of this anniversary are a biography 'Favourite of Fortune' and a special stamp issue. The book 'Favourite of Fortune' is by three authors, all with deep knowledge of the Royal Navy of Quilliam's time – Andrew Bond, IoMNHAS's Frank Cowin, and Professor Andrew Lambert. Released this summer, it is available in all good bookshops on the Island, and is a readable, real treasure trove.

The stamps, designed by Colleen Corlett, were issued on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Exquisitely detailed, they depict key moments in Quilliam's life: his christening at St Runius and burial at Arbory, on a mission to China, the battles of Camperdown and Trafalgar, taking 'Thetis' whose prize money made Quilliam a rich man, and his association with the old House of Keys in which he served the Island.



## ***Building Conservation and Planning***

Our environment (natural and built), and our built heritage, remains at risk. The Society continues to make representations on planning applications. The Society has also made a number of submissions on proposals to add buildings to the Protected Buildings Register, for which there is an immense backlog. The Society has also made representations on the need to progress Conservation Areas, a number of which have been scandalously outstanding for decades.

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), continues. We originally set out to publish six articles in the run-up to the 2016 Manx General Election – but there was so much more to say that we carried on, and we have just published article number 133. Articles can be found and read online at [www.abc.org.im](http://www.abc.org.im) by clicking on 'Buildings at Risk articles' in the right-hand menu.

## ***Isle of Man Studies (Proceedings of IoMNHAS)***

*IOM Studies* volume XVII is now in press.

## ***Marshall Cubbon Bursaries***

Each year, IoMNHAS awards up to two bursaries, each of up to £250, in memory of Marshall Cubbon to students (undergraduate or postgraduate) who are researching a Manx related topic at a recognised institution of Higher Education.

There were no applicants for the 2021 round, but applications for the 2022 bursary round will open 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, details and the application form can be found on [www.manxantiquarians.com](http://www.manxantiquarians.com)

## ***Research co-ordinators / Minutes Secretary***

We currently have two Research co-ordinators on IoMNHAS Committee; our Society Rules allows up to four. Natural History is still under-represented; we also currently need a Minutes Secretary - any member who feels they can contribute in either area is asked to contact the Hon. Secretary [secretary@manxantiquarians.com](mailto:secretary@manxantiquarians.com)

## ***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](http://www.manxantiquarians.com/page_72633.html)
- Visit our FaceBook page, for information from the Society and selected other items of interest to our members. You don't have to be a member of FaceBook to read our page; but if you are, please "Like" our page to be automatically notified when updates are posted [www.facebook.com/IsleOfManNaturalHistoryandAntiquarianSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/IsleOfManNaturalHistoryandAntiquarianSociety/)
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