



Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Spring 2022 newsletter

Welcome to our Spring 2022 newsletter which is intended to give a summary of some of the recent activities and future plans of the Society, and other selected topics of interest to members.

We are delighted that we managed a full programme of winter lectures; enclosed is the summer programme card detailing a rich variety of summer excursions that Pat Newton has once again assembled for us.

IoMNHAS Bronze Medal Presentation



Before the 2022 AGM closed, opportunity was taken to make a presentation to Clare Bryan, the former Hon. Secretary and Membership Secretary, which had been prevented due to the COVID epidemic.

Clare became the Hon. Sec. in 1997 and later also took on the Membership responsibilities in 2004. Ever since joining in 1984 she has been enthusiastically involved in all aspects of the Society, from participating in excavations to organising the 'tea ceremony' after our lectures.

Many will remember that in the Society's centenary year (1979) a number of medallions were produced for us by the Royal Mint of which one face was based on the design by Archibald Knox for a medal to mark the Society's silver jubilee year; the other face having a view of Castle Rushen as it was about the time of the Society's founding. A small number of these medals had been retained to be presented to those giving outstanding service to the Society – and Clare clearly deserved one of these.

Frank Cowin

Nigel Crowe RBV

The Society were delighted when one of our stalwarts, Nigel Crowe, received the 2022 Reih Bleeaney Vanannan award; seen below being presented by the Chair of Culture Vannin (and fellow IoMNHAS member) Chris Thomas MHK.

Nigel joined the Society in 1975, he is a longstanding Committee member, and has served as President (1991-92).

The RBV though was not awarded for (just) services to IoMNHAS. There were multiple nominations for Nigel, reflecting his contributions to Manx knowledge across various spheres, unstinting with his time and energy, willingness to share information, reasoning and an understanding of his sources with enquirers around the world.

Everything Nigel does is with passion for matters Manx, and a passion to gather and spread knowledge – he has contributed so much; and continues to make significant contributions. The Island is culturally richer for Nigel's diverse contributions.



Excavation opportunities

With the lifting of travel restrictions, the Round Mounds team will be back digging at Berk this year, starting on site on Saturday 18th June to Friday 15th July. Volunteers are welcome again – contact Rachel Crellin (rjc65@le.ac.uk).

Excursion Secretary

Its time for fresh face and ideas and younger walking legs and knees! Pat Newton wants to stand down from this post next year.

What does it involve?

- Basically with the help of the Committee and membership at large, coming up with ideas for excursions including family orientated ones e.g. based on previous winter lecture series, heritage open days, and one's own ideas; being willing to contact potential leaders and landowners; help will always be available from Pat and others to identify the latter; linking up with them can be very enjoyable and rewarding in terms of knowledge; you don't have to lead excursions albeit it is good if you want to.
- preferably to attend the excursions and act as back marker / and carrier of first aid kit on them or to ensure someone else will do this for you;
- when needed, take bookings for and enquiries about excursions;
- getting a 'blurb' for the excursion programme and a write up, preferably from the leader, for inclusion in the Proceedings.

The excursion programme is roughly based on having one weekend afternoon walk once a month April to September inclusive and one midweek evening walk once a month May to July inclusive. However, as can be seen from this summer's programme, there are no set rules on this! One goes with what one can get! Variety is the spice of life! The Society also tries to join in with a walk during Heritage Open Days. For the past few years Pat has led or helped lead the latter walks.

While Pat has organised a number of off-Island excursions this is not a pre requisite of the role. Clearly that depends on time and resources, both of which are recognised as being in increasingly short supply.

With this advance warning it would be good to have someone - or more than one person - willing to come on board in time to work with Pat preparing next year's programme prior to the role being handed over. Ideas can be collected and worked on at all times of the year. We already have one in!

Interested? Please contact Pat tel 861560 / 366269 email patricianewton@manx.net

Fairs and Festivals

This year the Society will attend four events – the new Local History Day (21st May), Tynwald Fair (5th July), the Southern Show (30th and 31st July), and the Food and Drink Festival (17th and 18th September). **We need your help** as we can only do this with volunteers to help run the Society's stall – please contact Ian Burrell (froybeg@gmail.com) if you think you would like to join in and have fun on our stall.

Building Research

Both in terms of trying to identify, and help protect, the best of Ellan Vannin's built heritage research on the history and architecture of buildings needs to be undertaken. This can be in response to proposals to Register a building or in response to a planning application proposal to alter it. When making comments IOMNHAS always endeavours to fulfill its stated Objects and simultaneously inform and educate the decision makers on such matters. Sometimes research for walks, one's own or other people's, is also undertaken. The research can require a mixture of working from museum and family history resources at home, library resources at MNH Manx Museum and the Public Records Office at Springvalley or contacting individuals for their knowledge. Help in undertaking / putting together such research would be welcomed. Sometimes it has to be done at comparatively short notice. Guidance will be given. Interested? Please contact Pat Newton tel 861560 / 366269 email patricianewton@manx.net

Isle of Man Studies (Proceedings of IOMNHAS)

IOM Studies volume XVII was distributed at the last couple of lectures and then posted to those who hadn't collected/ordered. If you haven't had your copy, or as a Life Member would like to order one, please contact the Hon. Librarian (Dave.Martin@manx.net)

Research co-ordinators

We currently have two Research co-ordinators on IOMNHAS Committee; our Society Rules allows up to four. 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

Keeping in touch

- **About 80% of our members have kindly provided their email address. If you haven't done so and would like to receive appropriate bulletins please drop an email to membership@manxantiquarians.com and ask for your email to be added).** Our privacy and data protection policy can be found at: 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/
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