



Manx National Heritage
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John Donald Collister Bequest

Consultation Report

September 2012

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PART A – Introduction

1. Background

- 1.1 In January 2012, the Manx Museum and National Trust were confirmed by the High Court to be the legal beneficiary of a bequest from the late Mr John Donald Collister from Colby, Isle of Man.
- 1.2 Much of the work of the Manx Museum and National Trust is only possible because of the generosity of the Manx people. The purpose of the consultation was to enable the Trust to prepare an evidence based framework on the manner in which this bequest should be used.
- 1.3 The interpretation and determination of the Will of Mr John Donald Collister was considered by the High Court, Isle of Man on 13th January 2012. Reference to the full judgement can be found at <http://www.judgments.im/content/J1200.htm>
- 1.4 In summary the bequest to the Manx Museum and National Trust includes personal property, liquid assets (circa £635,000), a plot of land which includes a large dormer bungalow located in Colby.
- 1.5 The late Mr John Donald Collister lived in Colby and died at the age of 93 in 2007. By trade he was a painter and decorator. His war service was in the Manx Regiment and he was active in the support of Laa Columb Killey.
- 1.6 Mr Collister's personal possessions consist of medals, coins, badges, commemorative ceramics and photographs. The fact that he served with the Manx Regiment, the Island's national formation, gives this added significance in the wider context of Manx history. Indeed this is one of the most complete sets of documentation MNH have seen relating to an individual who served in this regiment, comprising medals, photographs, documents and three dimensional souvenirs.

2. MANX MUSEUM AND NATIONAL TRUST

- 2.1 Manx National Heritage has the statutory title of 'The Manx Museum and National Trust', but this body is also a Manx registered charity (no 603) reflecting its charitable functions in the community. It administers a private charitable fund separate from Isle of Man Government's annual financial support. Charitable

funding comprises of donations, legacies and bequests from members of the public etc.

- 2.2 The current process by which the charitable funds are managed is based on the need to strike a balance between current expenditure and provision for the long-term preservation of the Island's heritage. Similarly some monies are always held in reserve as contingency for unknowns. The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on whether to use this bequest for short, medium or longer-term purposes – or a balance between the three.
- 2.3 During the determination of the Will, the Manx Museum and National Trust expressed willingness to consult widely as to the manner in which the bequest should be utilised in order to attempt as far as possible to respect Mr Collister's wishes expressed generally in the Will and how his personal property should be exhibited as part of his personal story. However, the manner in which the Trust utilise this bequest does not absolve the Trust from operating in a fair and transparent manner to ensure the statutory duties of the Trust are also fulfilled.

3. Scope and Consultation Documentation

- 3.1 Manx National Heritage sought views and feedback to the manner in which the bequest from the late Mr John Donald Collister of Colby should be used. Comment was sought from individuals, groups or organisations on options, projects and activities falling within the remit of the Manx Museum and National Trust which may be partly or wholly funded by this bequest.
- 3.2 Respondents were asked a series of questions to help classify the respondent themselves and then understand the following key themes:
 - (1) Display, archive and access to wartime personal wartime memorabilia
 - (2) Delivery mechanism for projects/activities funded from this bequest
 - (3) Criteria used to evaluate options, projects or partnerships funded from this bequest
 - (4) Categories of persons benefiting from this bequest
 - (5) Timescale for utilisation of the bequest
 - (6) Invitation for further comment

PART B – The Consultation Exercise

4. Consultation Process

- 4.1 The consultation process commenced on 19 April 2012 and closed on 29 June 2012 covering a 10 week period.
- 4.2 Access to the consultation paperwork, which included a specific response form for respondents to complete was made available at the following locations:
 - online at Chief Secretary’s Consultation website (with links from MNH website);
 - by invitation to MNH stakeholders and partners in writing from the Director of MNH to participate;
 - numerous media press releases, radio interviews and newspaper articles during April.

PART C – The Responses

5. Summary of Responses

- 5.1 A total of 112 consultation responses were received from the individuals and organisations listed in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Outlined below is a summary of the aspects raised, grouped in accordance with the key consultation themes (as outlined in 3.2 above). Any other related issues, not assigned to these key themes has been summarised below in other issues raised. This has included capturing the suggested themes and projects funded from the bequest.

Question 1

Mr John Donald Collister's personal property comprises of personal wartime memorabilia. This material will be considered by the Manx Museum and National Trust using a formal acquisition process, including an assessment of how significant these items are.

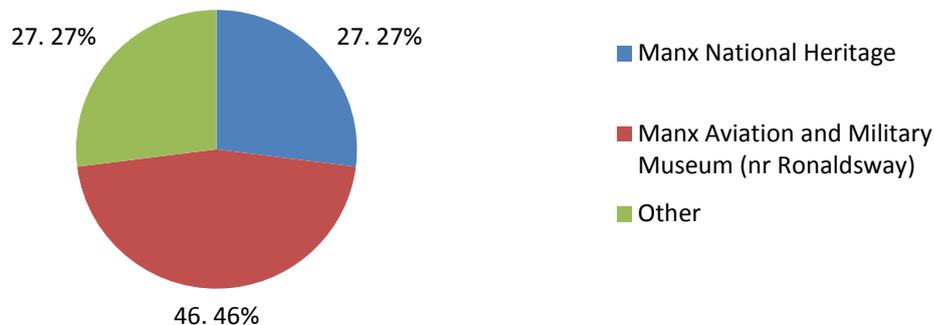
In what way would the local community, visitors and residents benefit from these items being

- (i) Displayed or archived by Manx National Heritage
- (ii) Wholly or partly deposited with another Heritage Museum
- (iii) Other (please specify)

The majority of responses were supportive of a public display of the wartime memorabilia. The responsibility or location of this display was varied and the following summarises the percentage of respondents citing a specific organisation to display this memorabilia:

Benefit to Local Community, Visitors, Residents: Personal Wartime Memorabilia

(% respondents who cited a place/other use)



Other uses/locations were suggested as follows:

- *Jurby airfield interpretation centre*
- *Manx Military history room*
- *Greater war display*
- *Replace Donny's Ford 10 van with original signage*
- *British Legion Hall in Colby (WW1 hut; about to be demolished)*
- *Display cases in a hall, could be built on land at Ballastroan and used for British Legion and Laa Columb Killey*
- *At one of the military themes muses*
- *Partly displayed with another heritage museum*
- *Displayed at a museum with a connection to the Manx Regiment*
- *Displayed at an appropriate places; in the south by MNH*
- *Colby Legions hit (previously a Knockaloe hut) could be moved and connected that could join military memorabilia with a Colby hut*

- *Heritage trail attractions in Colby*
- *Displayed in Colby where Mr. Collister said it should be*
- *Displayed and preserved for the future education of local children at Arbory School*
- *Online virtual museum – oral history vault, illustrating Mr Collister’s life and endow a sense of place to Colby, work with local secondary schools*
- *Mobile display for use at Laa Column Killey, Air Museum at Ronaldsway, Primary Schools, secondary schools other interest groups e.g. scouts, guides, WI.*

Question 2

Should the Manx Museum and National Trust be

- (i) Directly responsible for delivering projects or activities funded by this bequest
- (ii) Establishing a heritage grant scheme to fund projects delivered by others
- (iii) Establishing community heritage projects or activities delivered in partnership with Manx National Heritage
- (iv) Other, please specify

Your response to Question 2

This prompted a mixed response which included recommendations specific projects and items for funding from individuals and groups participating in this consultation.

A heritage grant framework, administered by MNH has been frequently suggested as the mechanism for expenditure from the fund which includes a partnership approach where projects can be delivered by others.

A number of respondents recognised Mr Collister’s wishes should be considered in the projects particular for the area of Colby/Arbory e.g. supporting Laa Columb Killey.

Question 3

What criteria do you suggest being used to evaluate the benefit of options, projects or partnerships funded from John Donald Collister's bequest?

E.g. local benefit, sustainability, attract new visitors to the local area, focus on particular community groups, income generating, preserving a particular aspect of heritage (e.g. military history) etc

Your response to Question 3

A wide variety of criteria has been suggested and this has been summarised below:

- *Military involvement and accessibility*
- *Local significance to Colby Village, some examples were suggested by respondents as: horticulture, Laa Columb Killey, local history and Manx Regiment*
- *Manx War History*
- *Preservation of a particular aspect of our heritage*
- *Grants/scholarship*
- *Preservation of military history for research*
- *Safeguard WWII heritage*
- *Local benefit*
- *Benefit to community groups in Arbory Parish in the name of Mr Collister*
- *Community Groups benefit*
- *Sustainability*
- *Attract new visitors*
- *Focus on community groups*
- *Income generation*
- *Support schemes or projects that are similar to what Mr Collister originally had in mind albeit in any island location*
- *Local benefit; existing and future generations to Colby FC*
- *Attract new visitors to the island*
- *Parish Church improvements – maintain fabric for future generations or making venue more welcoming to wider audience*
- *Service historic buildings*
- *Spirit of Mr Collister's wishes*
- *Criteria listed in the question was acceptable by some respondents*

Overall a strong sense of community benefit, both on a national and local scale, being sustainable, protecting heritage and attracting new visitors and income were most common themes cited.

Question 4

Should the bequest be used for the benefit of people:

- (i) In very local communities (e.g. within a parish)
- (ii) Area-based (North, South, East, West)
- (iii) Nationally (within the Isle of Man)
- (iv) Off-island including for visitors

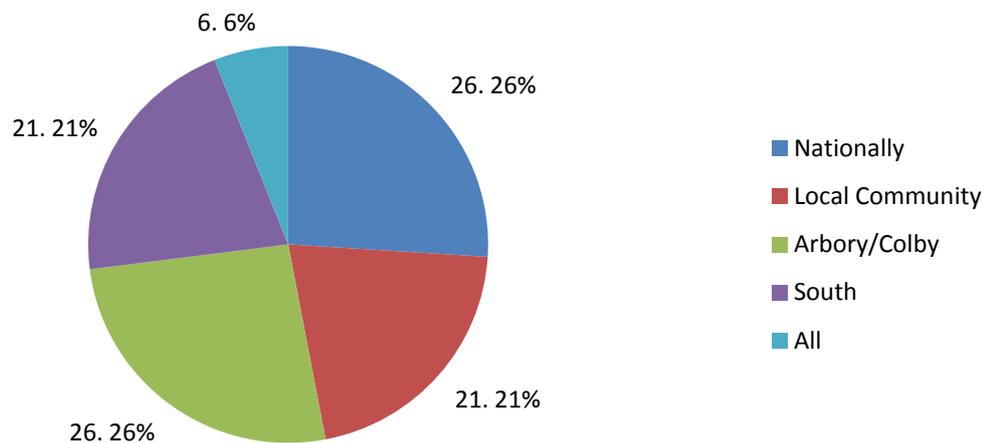
Please provide a reason for your selection(s)

Your response to Question 4

Limited responses were provided for reasoning behind these choices, there was a strong response that local communities/South and Arbory/Colby should benefit.

Benefit of the People: By Geographical Location

(% of respondents who cited a location)



Question 5

Over what timescale should the Manx Museum and National Trust be utilising this bequest?

- (i) Short-term (within the next 12 months)
- (ii) Medium-term (over the next 1 to 3 years)
- (iii) Longer-term (3 to 7 years plus)

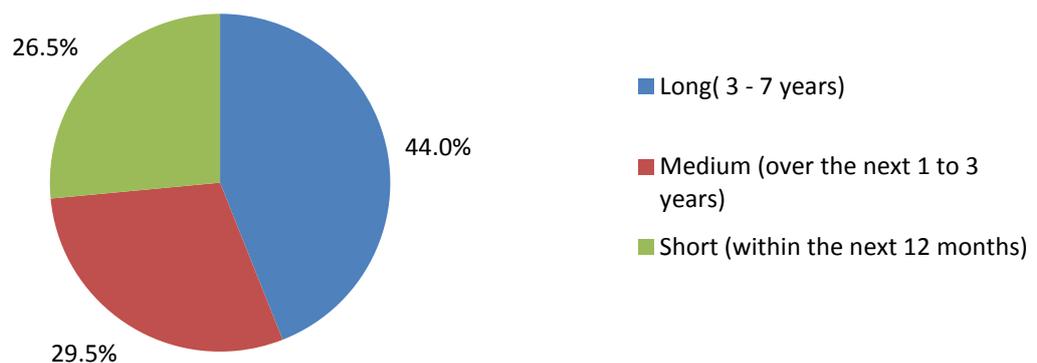
Please provide a reason for your selection(s)

Your response to Question 5

Limited responses were provided for reasoning behind these choices.

Timescale over which MNH should utilise this bequest

(% of respondent who cited a timescale)



Please provide any further comment or additional information relevant to this consultation process.

The consultation process prompted a wide range of responses from local community groups with the village of Colby, to broader responses from residents on the Island. Responses included suggestions similar to those already attributable to a specific questions listed as above. Other suggestions included in 'further comment' section of the response form or identified in general correspondence submitted as part of the consultation, these have been summarised below:

- Military history room in an MNH property
- Purposeful way to have Mr Collister's name permanently remembered within the village
- Funds to remain within MNH otherwise a delegation could lead to funds being swallowed up within a large project elsewhere
- Up to £50,000 for heritage projects in Sheading of Rushen; residue for MNH general purposes but a major part should be for conservation, protection and interpretation of Manx Celtic and Viking Age crosses, particular in Maughold and Kirk Michael
- Arbory/scouts/cubs/beavers/guides/brownies/rainbows are the only group in the south that don't have a scout hut; Mr. Collister's bungalow/large garden in Colby could be well suited to this facility
- Safeguard WWII heritage for the island, but also help attract visitors to the Island
- Support for local historic buildings e.g. ancient mill's open to the public in National Mills week in May
- Plaque at House/Bridge/Colby village; Memorial bench on Colby Glen Road or Colby Glen
- Prize at Laa Columb Killey or similar in memory of Mr Collister; Refurbishment fund and Store for Laa Columb Killey equipment
- Improve access and signage at Keeil Vael, Balladoole, Cabbal Dreem Ruy, the Friary.
- Extra gallery at the Nautical Museum
- Research and publications of Manx military involvement in 20th Century
- Links to Colby Football Club (rights to name new complex after Mr Collister)
- New all weather pitch as part of Colby AFC being funded and named after Mr Collister
- Suggested name for new Colby Football Club: The Donny Collister Memorial Ground, with memorabilia on display in the clubhouse
- Purchase a field near the new clubhouse and create a wood feature on the Manx Heritage Trials
- New Colby AFC funded and named after him
- Interpretation centres, café and surfaced access road at Ayres Nature Reserve
- Turn land into allotments so more people could grow fruit and veg. like Mr Collister; assistance with equipment and information website
- Improve access to maps held within the archives e.g. digitisation, indexing
- Replace Story of Man film at the Manx Museum to improve visitor impression
- Commission of a book or film about Mr Collister's life and other fascinating Manx men and women, commission stamps through Isle of Man Post Office.
- Improve display of National Art Gallery, including paintings and sculpture, rather than being held in store; New museum to display works of arts by Manx artists
- Enhance recognition of Archibald Knox through MNH
- Worthwhile causes e.g. Clock tower at Foxdale

- Restore House of Manannan to original concept
- Old Kirk Braddan restoration support and assistance (roof of tower, Manx Crosses etc)
- Extend Road ny Foillan
- Improve access to Island's original bank vault, Bridge Street, Castletown
- Refurbishment of upper storey of the Old House of Keys, Castletown. Use upper storey from exhibition space/civic events, weddings.
- Review options and concepts for a new building complex at Ramsey Pier
- Capital investment in Marine and Heritage Centre, Port St Mary
- Promotion of Manx language
- Researching, documenting and writing a book about the 144 year heritage of the Children's Centre
- Heritage Centre in Colby (e.g. proposal for existing property in Colby with an area dedicated to Mr Collister and his regalia;
- Improve access to arts and heritage for blind and partially sighted persons
- Education projects funded from a Donald Collister Memorial Trust
- Facilitate the publication of the history of the churches of Arbory
- Proposals for a new building, visitor facilities and exhibition hall at the Manx Aviation and Military Museum
- Refurbishment of the public clock tower at Colby Bridge
- Colby Heritage Trail
- Memorial garden
- Project to increase a sense of community belonging especially amongst young people in the village
- An iMuseum spur (an MNH online service/Collections, Newspapers and Publications service)
- Manx Regiment memorial in the Colby Millennium Wood
- Annual awards for ideas for improving the village
- Financial support for heritage related research projects on subjects relevant to Colby
- Nature projects in Colby Glen
- Refurbish the round house horse walk at Balladoole Farm, Arbory
- Portrait of Mr Collister at the Manx Museum
- Statute of Mr Collister to be erected at Colby village
- Internship for a local student undertaking MRes in Manx Studies via the Centre for Manx Studies
- Write regular bulletins for Colby residents with updates on how the bequest is being used
- Support local events in the name of Mr Collister
- Use Mr Collister's property for hosting interviews with people who knew him
- Work with Isle of Man Family History Society and other heritage organisations
- Twin Colby with a town in Crete where Mr Collister served during WW2 to promote cultural and commercial ties
- Financial support for the Quilliam stained glass window project at Arbory church
- Jurby Airfield Interpretation Centre development; new build accommodation for Jurby Transport Museum, Manx Transport Trust archive / digitisation of photographic
- Community project in Laxey Glen Gardens (recognising strong historic Celtic spirituality on the Island and Island's Christian heritage)
- Fund could be used to set up Manx Language Centre

PART D – Conclusion

6. Summary

- 6.1 The Trust thanks all participants in this consultation process.
- 6.2 A wide range of projects, ideas and mechanism for using this bequest have been suggested by respondents. The purpose of the consultation exercise was to assist the Manx Museum and National Trust in creating a decision framework for managing this bequest in accordance with its statutory duties.
- 6.3 Two common key themes have emerged from this consultation process, these are summarised as follows: support for the local community and associated events in Colby and Arbory and the display of the personal possessions of Mr Collister in a Military museum.
- 6.4 The Manx Museum and National Trust will consider also how a Donald Collister Fund could be established to support specific projects within the remit of the Trust and in accordance with the key themes emerging from this consultation process.

Appendix 1: Consultation Respondents

1. Geoff Allen
2. All Saints & Lonan Christ Church, Laxey
3. Arbory Commissioners
4. Arbory Parish Church Wardens
5. Arbory School
6. Archibald Knox Soc
7. Audio Visual Archiving
8. 1st Arbory Scouts
9. Ballabeg WI
10. Ian & Elizabeth Bleasdale
11. Laura Bromley
12. Audrey Brown
13. Tony Brown
14. Adrian Cain
15. Alfred Cannan
16. Castletown Commissioners
17. Castletown Heritage
18. Caarjyn ny Gaelgey Friends of Manx Language
19. Liz Charter
20. Colby Football Club
21. Colby Resident – confidential response
22. Dympna Connolly
23. Sue Copstake
24. Confidential Response
25. Ian Costain
26. Mr Costain
27. Frank Cowin
28. Andrew Cox
29. Alan Crowe MLC
30. Local Minister, for St James Church, Dalby
31. DEFA
32. Pat Duke
33. Tom Durrant
34. Paul Fellows
35. Sue Furner
36. Annette Gill
37. Eileen Gill
38. Juan Gill
39. Tara Hampson
40. R W Henderson MHK
41. Isle of Man Children's Centre
42. Isle of Man Natural History & Antiquarian Society
43. Isle of Man Victorian Society
44. Peter Jordan
45. Sheila Kelly
46. Terry Kelly
47. Phil Kennaugh
48. Friends of Old Kirk Braddan
49. Jonathon Kermode
50. Pam Kerruish
51. Laxey & Lonan Heritage Trust
52. Secretary, Laa Columb Killey
53. Alan Leece
54. Thomas R Leece
55. Terry Liddiard
56. Laurence Maddrell
57. Manx Aviation Preservation Society
58. Manx Heritage Foundation
59. Manx Regimental Trust

60. Manx Transport Trust
61. Marown Commissioners (acknowledgement only)
62. Kate Matthews
63. Manx Wildlife Trust
64. Maughold Commissioners
65. Michael Heritage Trust
66. Michael WI
67. The Milntown Trust
68. G R M Moore
69. Jane Mylchreest
70. Robert Mylchreest
71. Martin Norbury
72. Kevin Oliver
73. Patrick Parish Commissioners
74. Nicola Pemberton
75. Peel Belles WI
76. Peel Commissioners
77. Peel City WI
78. Susan Pickard
79. Nicholas Poole-Wilson
80. Port St Mary Commissioners
81. Chris Robertshaw, MHK
82. John J Reid
83. M Reubens
84. Rushen Commissioners
85. Santon WI
86. Canon and Mrs John Sheen
87. Laurence Skelly MHK
88. J B Skinner
89. Southern Community Initiatives
90. St Johns & District
91. Billy Stowell
92. Paul Thompson
93. Philippa Tomlinson
94. E Turnbull
95. Alice Quayle
96. John Qualtrough
97. Ramsey Harbourside WI
98. Ramsey Heritage Trust
99. Ramsey Town Commissioners
100. Ramsey WI
101. Matthew Richardson
102. Margery Vernon
103. VocalEyes
104. Juan Watterson MHK
105. Window Design Sub-Committee, Arbory Parochial Church Council
106. Tony Wild MLC
107. Sir David Wilson
108. Arbory Parochial Church Council
109. Mary Brew
110. Confidential Response