

## **Manx Museum and National Trust**

### **(Trading as Manx National Heritage (MNH))**

## **Annual report to accompany accounts 2018/19**

### **1. Governance**

The Manx Museum and National Trust Act as amended in 2012 makes provision for the establishment of a new Board every five years after a General Election and a new Tynwald. Board members can serve a maximum of two five years terms and must re-apply for the position. Recruitment of a new Board took place in the spring of 2017 – with the new Board being formally endorsed by Tynwald in May 2018.

There were no changes to the Board during the year.

Jonathan Hall remained Chairman and Malcolm Kelly was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

#### **Statement of Purpose:**

The powers and duties of the Manx Museum and National Trust are laid out in section 24 of the Manx Museum and National Trust Act 1959 (and subsequent amendments)

The Trust shall:

- a. Promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the people of the Isle of Man of lands and tenements (including buildings) of beauty or historic interest and, as regards lands, the preservation (so far as practicable, of their natural aspect, features and animal and plant life; the preservation of buildings of national interest or architectural, historic or artistic interest, and places of national interest or beauty, and the protection and augmentation of the amenities of such buildings and places and their surroundings;
- b. Preserve all furniture and pictures and chattels of any description having national or historic or artistic interest;
- c. Provide access to, and enjoyment of, such buildings, places and chattels by the public, whenever desirable

The formal objectives of the Charity are as follows:

1. Public Museum, Library and Art Gallery and any purpose of a historical, scientific, archaeological, ecclesiastical, physical, industrial or educational character with or incidental to a Public Museum, Library or Art Gallery (Section 5, 1959 Act)
2. Manx National Trust the promotion or the permanent preservation for the people of Isle of Man of lands and tenements including buildings of beauty or historic interest, the preservation of buildings, features and chattels of national, historic or artistic interest (Section 24, 1959 Act)

The following statement of purpose adopted in 2018 remained unchanged:

*“Manx National Heritage exists to take the lead in protecting, conserving, making accessible and celebrating the Island’s natural and cultural heritage for current and future generations whilst contributing to the Island’s prosperity and quality of life”*

The following “Critical Success Factors” agreed in 2018 remained unchanged:

- Responsible management of the IOM’s natural and cultural heritage
- Accessible assets and services
- Coordinated natural and cultural heritage activity on the Island
- Being accepted as an essential part of the visitor economy
- A positive working relationship with our supporters and members
- Delivery against agreed performance measures
- MNH internationally respected as a National heritage organisation

## **2. Activity Report**

### **2.1 Responsible management of the IOM’s natural and cultural heritage**

**Manx Crosses:** In July 2018 representatives from all parish churches and owners of Manx crosses were invited to a meeting at the iMuseum. The event brought stakeholders together and heard from the different parties about how they are caring for and interpreting their crosses at local level. The evening drew out a range of ideas and a strong desire for the stakeholders to meet more regularly to tackle shared issues – possibly in the form of an association. Colleagues from the University of Southampton spent three weeks on the island laser scanning the collection of over 200 Manx crosses. MNH staff organised logistics and ensured that all stakeholders are fully aware of this Trustee funded project.

In September staff presented a paper on this project at the British Museum conference: *Museums and digital memory: from creation and curation to digital preservation.*

**Police Station in Castletown:** Agreement was reached with Treasury and the Department of Home Affairs for MNH to buy the Baillie-Scott designed Police Station. The funding package included the sale of a property on Kingswood Grove which had been judged surplus to requirements. The balance came from reserves.

**Asset Management:** Work on No 7 Kingswood Grove was completed during the year and the property added to the rental portfolio.

**TT Collection development:** During the year Trustees agreed to maintain a programme of targeted acquisition to fill in gaps in the national collections and support the plans for a new TT gallery at the Manx Museum. Both the Trustees and the Friends of Manx National Heritage (FMNH) agreed to commit a sum from Reserves for this. Negotiations with multiple TT winners Tom and Ben Birchall culminated in the purchase of a package of items relating to their 2018 victory. This not only included their hand-crafted sidecar but leathers and other paraphernalia

relating to the victory. The sidecar was delivered to the Museum at the end of August when the brothers were also interviewed on film to add to the archive. The bike itself is a significant acquisition but the additional materials and detailed documentation will enrich the provenance of this significant acquisition for the national collections and add to the quality of the future display of the machine.

**James Brown, reformer, journalist and founder of the Isle of Man Times (1815-1881).** In August the Library and Archives acquired James Brown's remarkable handwritten diary which describes his appearance before the House of Keys on 16 March 1864 on charge of 'contempt and breach of its privileges' relating to libellous articles about the House of Keys printed in the Isle of Man Times. The diary also includes his day-by-day account of his time in Castle Rushen Gaol (**MS 14488**).

## **2.2 Accessible assets and services**

The concept of access covers a wide range of activity and is core to the Trusts charitable purposes. It implies the removal of all barriers including social, economic, intellectual and physical.

As is the case every year a wide range of public programming was offered to visitors. This included exhibitions, lectures and family activities. Other physical improvements and refurbishments were completed.

**Mann at War Gallery.** This new gallery containing over 200 objects from the collections was officially opened by British naval historian Professor Eric Grove on 4th November to support the concluding commemorations of the centenary of WW1. A series of 8 short films were created and made available as a separate playlist through the Manx National Heritage Youtube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/user/ManxNationalHeritage/playlists>

In 2016 we had contracted accredited textiles conservation specialist Jacqui Hyman to survey and conserve uniforms for the new gallery. The uniforms range from extremely rare Napoleonic officers' dress uniforms with outlandish hats to equally rare but more humble volunteers' jackets. They incorporate silk, linen, cotton, wool, silver, gold and brass and have suffered damage from light, humidity, insects, stretching, staining, patch repairs and, in at least one case, battle.

**Explore Your Archives:** is an Archives and Records Association initiative which aims to engage communities with their local archive service. For 2018, the MNH Library & Archives team developed a series of informal reminiscence sessions based in public houses, in order to try to engage a new audience. These sessions focused on remembrance as a basis for engagement and were held at two pubs across the Island and at the MNH Library and Archives between 6- 10 November 2018. The title was "Pubs, Pints and Poppies".

Facsimiles and transcriptions of WWI diaries, letters, newspaper articles and photos were taken out, in addition to a Museum object handling collection of replica WWI items. These were used to invite participants to discuss their own connections, memories and stories and to discover more about the Manx people involved in the WWI conflicts.

**Changing Places accessible toilet:** During the year we were particularly pleased to install a new toilet facility at the Manx Museum for those with severe disabilities. The installation meets the new “Changing Places” standard which is the subject of a major campaign across the UK. It is the first public facility of its type on the island and has been well-received by the community. The facility also has a quiet space which can be used by those with conditions such as autism. The funding for this project was taken from reserves – with a grant of £26,000 from the Manx Lottery Trust.

**Laxey Wheel:** Work started on the project planning for a new facility at the Laxey Wheel to provide new ticketing, staff facilities, retail and toilets. Trustees agreed to commit a substantial sum from reserves to this project alongside Government Capital Funding.

**Sunday opening of Manx Museum:** Following a question and discussion in Tynwald our sponsor, Department for Enterprise, offered to support a pilot to judge the potential for, and practical issues associated with, opening the Manx Museum on Sundays. The pilot was delivered with temporary staffing arrangements and closely monitored during the year. By the end of the first six months it was clear that both local residents and visitors alike were taking advantage of the initiative and trustees decided to make it permanent. The MMNT legislation requires Tynwald approval for such a move – which was unanimously given just before the start of the 2019 financial year.

**Castle Rushen:** Opened on 26th May 2018 after a significant winter refurbishment. We have converted the Outer Gatehouse to accommodate a bright and accessible retail and ticketing space which visitors now pass through as they enter and exit the castle. Two sets of bespoke glass doors have been installed which flood the space with light and are operated by touch pad to ensure ease of access. The interior space benefits from a new oak floor with underfloor heating and new lighting. A new and completely accessible bridge has been installed taking the visitor to the inner courtyard where a subtle ramp ensures physical access to the ground floor.

New interpretative displays on the ground floor emphasise the main social and political moments in the castle’s history using key people from each period; from its foundation by Viking King Reginald to Armitage Rigby’s conservation works in the early 20th century. Visitor feedback in 2016 told us that many were exhausted by too much reading and so the team have reconditioned an old model, created a new timeline and commissioned new 3d digital scans of the castle to engage the audience in different ways. The digital scans enable those who can’t physically climb the spiral staircase to see the extent of the castle and its layout. A new film has also been commissioned to tie the themes together. Where possible the team have worked with local suppliers and those working in the Island’s creative industries.

## **Exhibition Programme**

**Have I Got News for you Yessir! Cartoons of Phil Woodford** opened at The House of Manannan on 5th May and ran until August. Phil was the cartoonist on the Examiner newspaper for a number of years and in retirement continues to sketch topical island events for his Facebook page taking a light-hearted approach to raise a smile.

**Racing Lines:** opened at The Manx Museum at the end of May and ran until September. It brought together recent motorsport acquisitions, including race-winning bikes and Percy Evans 1911 Junior TT trophy from the first race over the mountain circuit which took more than 3 ½ hours to complete. This exhibition is a prelude to the opening of a permanent motorsport gallery at the Manx Museum and we used it as an opportunity to find out what the audience would like to see as well as asking for help to source new exhibits.

**Follow A Star – Sir Norman Wisdom:** opened on 18th August. We worked with Nick Wisdom (son of Sir Norman) to curate this show which displayed the personal archive of Sir Norman celebrating his career through musical instruments, handwritten scripts, original suits, photographs, stage props and film footage, along with objects from our own collections. An evening with Nick Wisdom gave an exclusive opportunity to join Nick Wisdom as he took visitors on a journey through his father's life in comedy.

**That's Entertainment:** An internally-produced exhibition exploring the phenomenon of assembly rooms, circus acts and cinemas opened at the Manx Museum on 22nd September. It was a great opportunity to display Florrie Forde's stage outfit from her Gaiety act alongside a genuine bed of nails – an integral part of Salamander's Manx magic nights in the 1950s and 60s.

**Archibald Knox – Artist, Designer, Teacher:** The Archibald Knox Forum took over the Cabinet of Curiosities at the Manx Museum for a display of Knox clocks, silver and pewter metalware and exquisite jewellery all borrowed from private collections and not seen on the Island before. Paul Quayle also wrote a number of haikus to accompany the display inspired by Knox's watercolours of Sulby.

## Visits

**Archives & Records Association:** On the 9th July staff welcomed members of the ARA North West region to the Isle of Man for their summer meeting. The event was co-hosted by MNH and the Isle of Man Public Record Office and gave an opportunity to explore Manx archives as well as some of our sites.

**Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland:** Members of the BSBI visited the Isle of Man for their annual field trip in July. Led by Dr Richard Selman of DEFA, they were taken to Langness where they were shown our main salt marsh area along with other heritage and conservation points of interest. During their weeklong visit members conducted surveys and the data will eventually be added to the NBN Atlas Isle of Man, the new website that makes wildlife data publicly available for research, conservation and education.

**PGCE Training:** On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November we welcomed 13 trainee teachers, postgraduates from Edge Hill University, to a workshop on self-led visits to a museum setting. They explored:

- How museum collections can be used to support the curriculum through an enquiry approach.
- How to plan a learning experience, identifying their learning objectives for a primary class.
- How to recognise the importance of working with the learning department of the museum to plan and enhance their visit whilst still taking an active part in the delivery of the learning.

The November sessions were repeated in March-May 2019 for a further group of Year 2 BA Hons students who are studying Primary Education with QTS. (Qualified Teacher Status).

**Labyrinth** once again brought their unique style of promenade theatre to the Manx Museum in November. Tickets sold out in record time and more than 200 people joined the heritage players over a week of performances for an evening of immersive theatre with tales of Manx history brought to life inspired by objects from the collections. All members of Labyrinth are volunteers.

**Art UK:** In July the Art UK Sculpture Project visited the Manx Museum to photograph a selection of sculptures from the Art Collection. Art UK's major new project to catalogue the UK's national sculpture collection will see around 170,000 sculptures from public collections being published on the artuk.org website by 2020. The sculptures will join our existing collection of digitised oil paintings on Manx National Heritage's [Art UK page](#), and also on [iMuseum](#). For more information visit: <https://artuk.org/about/blog/announcing-our-new-sculpture-project>.

MNH is in the process of signing an agreement with the charity *The Watercolour World* which will see us share around 500 digitised watercolours from our collection, including those by Archibald Knox. *The Watercolour World* (TWW) is creating a visual on-line record of the world before photography by aggregating digital images of pre-1900 watercolours of record on to a single geographically-indexed website.

### **2.3 Coordinated natural and cultural heritage activity on the Island**

As the national heritage agency MNH works closely with many other individuals and agencies. As is the case every year it responded to many individual planning applications on the Island. In some cases it recommended further archaeological investigations or survey of site biodiversity. Staff and Trustees have engaged at Officer and Ministerial level over the future resourcing and direction of work on Registered Buildings. The Director has attended meetings of the Building Conservation Forum.

The March edition of the Institute of Building Conservation journal *Context* was published just before Easter 2018. This edition focussed on the Isle of Man and included eleven articles on aspects of Manx architectural and cultural heritage, six of which were contributed by MNH staff and Trustee Catriona Mackie.

Staff of the Trust continued to support the Biosphere Vannin project and have engaged with communications and marketing.

**Public Record Office:** For several years there have been informal discussions about the relationship between MNH and the PRO. We provide different functions but work together closely. The recent implementation of the Freedom of Information Act and staffing changes at the PRO have transformed the culture and awareness of the importance of Public Records.

A formal Memorandum of Understanding between the PRO and MNH was drafted during the year and staff have worked together to develop a new capital project to provide new PRO facilities and amalgamate these with the Manx Museum Library and Archive.

**Year of Our Island:** Castle Rushen opened in the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in association with the “Festival of Light” organised by the Cabinet Office in Castletown as part of the conclusion of the Year of Our Island celebrations. 220 admissions were recorded on the day with 209 people participating in the hunt for the elusive Dragon’s egg!

**The Area Plan for the East:** In connection with TAPE we have given advice to a potential developer about archaeological assessment. A recent geo-physical survey suggests significant archaeological activity in part of the site which will require further investigation.

**Wildlife Week:** To mark the launch of the National Biodiversity Network Atlas Isle of Man website we worked with DEFA and the Wildlife Trust to create a new “Wildlife Week” in April 2018. The week included talks, tours and workshops to raise awareness of Manx wildlife and to encourage community interest in recording and reviewing data via the Atlas website. The week will conclude with MNH hosting naturalist and broadcaster Simon King in the Museum Lecture Theatre for a public talk as well as a tracking workshop in the field. The response to the event was so positive that we took the easy decision to plan a repeat of the week for 2019 in the expectation that “Wildlife Week” will become an annual feature on our events calendar.

**Calf of Man, 1959-2017:** Since 1959 ornithological recording has been carried out on the Calf of Man and for every year a daily log of birds recorded for the season has been taken by the bird wardens. These logs have enabled the writing of the Calf of Man Bird Observatory Annual Report which give a summary of the season and which are available to browse and search on iMuseum Newspapers & Publications for 1960-2009 (<https://www.imuseum.im/newspapers/>).

A project was undertaken to make the detailed data contained in the Calf of Man Daily Logs accessible and plotted on a map for the first-time within the NBN Atlas Isle of Man website. This project was made possible by a four-strong volunteer team who transcribed and checked the data before publishing; one of the volunteers was a warden on the Calf of Man in the 1970s bringing his expertise and passion to bear on the project.

**Round Mounds Isle of Man:** This archaeological fieldwork project undertaken by the Universities of Newcastle and Leicester and supported with funding from Trustees continued for a further season in 2018. Two human cremations have been found within the cairn material as well as two pottery vessels, both of which contained cremated human remains. The mound itself is showing a number of phases of construction and use, with a possible domestic function at some stage, due to the large number of flint tools found.

One of the urns shows an unusually high level of decoration and contained the remains of one adult. The bone fragments, despite being cremated, are quite large, so it is anticipated that a high level of information about the individual buried will be discovered following scientific analysis.

**Isle of Man Family History Society:** MNH has had a strong and formal relationship with the IOMFHS for many years and this was strengthened during the development of the iMuseum. They generously allowed data they had gathered to be digitised and made available online. Volunteers from the Society regularly provide support in the Library Reading Room.



The Society has rented premises in Peel – which are small and not DDA compliant. Following a formal approach from them, we have had productive discussions about moving their headquarters and records into the iMuseum. This would seem to be an excellent opportunity to increase the public use of the facility in a highly relevant way. A partnership arrangement based on the recovery of any additional costs is proposed rather than a commercial lease arrangement.

#### **WWI Commemoration:**

At the request of the Director, His Excellency the Governor agreed to host a small reception at Government House to thank representatives of the organisations that organised activities and events to mark the 100 years commemoration of the first World War. MNH's role in the event was praised by a number of the participants.

## **2.4 Being accepted as an essential part of the visitor economy**

Trustees have acknowledged that the local community is not a large enough market to sustain the wide variety of heritage sites and activities for which they are responsible. Cultural Tourism has become much more important in recent decades and MNH now has a key role in the visitor economy with at least 75% of visitors engaging with MNH in some form. During the year MNH welcomed an increased number of groups in organised tours and more cruise ships than ever before. A new Group Travel brochure was produced and distributed to the trade. Joint ticketing with the IOM Railways continued and income reached record levels. The team again attended the World Travel Market in London to promote the Island.

The company Great Rail Journeys organised a press visit in April 2018 with a number of journalists and travel writers to promote their "Vintage Railways of the Isle of Man" Tour. A number of MNH sites were included and some very positive coverage seen on social media. GRJ say that this tour is now their third best selling UK holiday. The following week MNH and IOM Railways jointly hosted a trade familiarisation visit with visits to our key sites. The visit included existing customers and potential new ones including a London based tour operator targeting the Chinese market. We hosted a small reception at the Manx Museum which allowed local hoteliers to meet the group.

A new "Visit IOM" tourism agency has been established with most of its members from the Private Sector. The Chair is Ranald Caldwell and we have given him an extensive regular briefing. Liaison meetings are now held bi-monthly with him and the Chief Executive of the Department for Enterprise.

MNH jointly hosted with Isle of Man Transport, the annual Group & Travel Trade seminar on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 bringing together Isle of Man visitor economy representatives to review and discuss the 2018 performance and looking forward to the 2019 season. Staff were also given a preview of the new extension to the Ramsey Park Hotel which is scheduled to open in May 2019.

**TT 2018:** The Isle of Man basked in glorious sunshine for the full 2 weeks of the TT festival with no cancellations or significant delays to racing and no respite from the warm and sunny weather. Our busiest sites were Peel Castle and Laxey Wheel, however both these sites have very limited facilities which severely inhibit our ability to generate secondary spend from the influx of visitors.



## **2.5 A positive working relationship with our supporters and members**

MNH considers itself part of the Manx community and the most concrete expression of this is the existence of the Friends of Manx National Heritage, which only exists to support MNH.

MNH sites now sell Membership of FMNH – on the basis of shared income.

FMNH generously agreed to support a range of our activities and specifically to allocate a sum of £100k towards the purchase of material for the collections related to the TT.

For 2018/2019, the contributions from FMNH totalled £137,897, broken down as follows:

- £51,608 Motorsport Acquisitions
- £20,000 Military History Gallery
- £900 Nautical Museum Dock Project
- £16,897 Rushen Abbey Excavation
- £5,114 Rushen Abbey Glasshouse
- £10,884 Professor Bucke Legacy (for horticulture)
- £32,494 Professor Bucke Legacy (support for Horticulture Manager)

One of the most important examples of relationship building is the Heritage Open Days which takes place every year in October. HOD 2018 was once again a great success with over 100 events taking place across the Island. All of the events were fully booked within a few days of the programme being released in September. This year over 3,000 visits were made over the six days. It remains the largest heritage and cultural festival on the Isle of Man and the largest event organised by MNH.

## **2.6 Delivery against agreed performance measures**

The Trust is concerned to improve its own governance and has worked closely with the Executive to establish a performance management regime. Its committee structure remained unchanged:

- a. Finance Audit and Risk Committee
- b. Policy and Development

Day to day management of the organisation is formally delegated to the Director and staff through a formal scheme. The Trust also accepts the current IOM Government Financial Regulations as best practice.

A “traffic light” review of performance was presented to the Board on a quarterly basis.

A major exercise was undertaken during the year to review policies, procedures and training relating to Children and Vulnerable Adults. An external consultancy was engaged and overseen by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of the Board. Advice was sought from the Attorney General’s chambers which confirmed that we do not offer “Regulated” services under the terms

of the relevant legislation. In advance of forthcoming Manx guidance Trustees have sought to follow the Best Practice as advised by the UK Charity Commission.

Staff undertook a detailed review of volunteers working within MNH to refresh details held on file and to assess individual roles on a “traffic light” system to identify the need for training or additional safeguarding and safety implications. This process also provided the opportunity to ensure records are updated in accordance with GDPR requirements. For the start of the 2019 season we developed a new and intensive programme of training and took the decision to make the sessions compulsory for all staff and volunteers. Topics covered included Safeguarding, Risk Assessments, Fire Safety, Equalities and Governance. To facilitate this we closed the Manx Museum and the House of Manannan on one day each. In total over 200 people attended the sessions. For many people the sessions were as much about awareness as training and the days have given us valuable feedback about the materials and systems we use. We had some very generous and positive feedback from participants including from volunteers who attended.

**Staffing:** A number of key appointments have now been completed:

Collections Care and Conservation Manager

Fundraising Manager

Environmental Planner

Project Manager

Charity Finance and Administration Officer

## **2.7 MNH internationally respected as a National heritage organisation**

MNH continued to be a member of a number of professional bodies and attended seminars and conference. The Head of Properties continued to serve on the Board of the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group. The Director continued to serve on the Board of the Destination Viking Association and was elected Chair during the year.

**Access:** In September 2018 VocalEyes, in collaboration with Stagertext and Autism in Museums published the report “*State of Museum Access 2018: Does your museum website welcome and inform disabled visitors?*” The report examines the levels of advance information available to disabled people visiting museums. While their audit of the websites of UK accredited museums found that 20% failed to provide any access information online, we were delighted to see that Manx National Heritage scored 100% - the highest of any area in the UK.

**Vikings:** MNH continued to be an associate partner in the “Follow the Vikings” project funded by the Creative Europe Programme and managed by the Destination Viking Association. The Director delivered a presentation on Group Travel and convened a workshop on “Risk Management in commercial activity” at the Lofotr Viking Museum in Northern Norway. This was part of a seminar on “Selling the Vikings”. Travel and accommodation were funded by the Project.

The Director attended the AGM of Destination Viking in Stockholm (where he was elected Chair). As part of the meeting he had the opportunity to visit the new “Vikingaliv” attraction – which uses similar technology to Yorvik and some of the same story telling ideas as the House of Manannan.

The end of the “Follow the Viking” project was brought forward to try and avoid issues to do with Brexit. The final performance of a Roadshow and a best practice seminar were held in York in February to coincide with the 2019 Viking Festival. The Director spoke at the Seminar and represented the organisation at a number of events in the City including a VIP reception.

To coincide with the 2019 Viking Festival the York Archaeological Trust loaned a selection of artefacts from MNH relating to the Pagan Lady of Peel – including her necklace – to the JORVIK Viking Centre as the centrepiece of a display about Viking women. MNH Curator Allison Fox spoke on Viking Women at a seminar associated with the exhibition.

**Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group:** Several Members of the Executive team attended a workshop in June at the Giant’s Causeway Visitor Centre which opened in 2012. The workshop focussed on managing a major tourism site and in particular visitor behaviour as they transition from the relatively safe environment of a visitor centre to the wild coastal landscape which surrounds it. Head of Properties, Steve Blackford, continued to serve on the Management Board of the Group.

**UNESCO Biosphere:** A senior official from UNESCO visited the island in 2018 to review the Biosphere programme and in particular the public engagement programme. MNH hosted a private meeting with colleagues from DEFA where we were able to brief her on our role and in particular the new Biodiversity atlas. Ms Meriem Bouamrane then went on to present a lecture on the Man and Biosphere programme at the Museum hosted by the Minister for DEFA.

**Lancaster University:** The Director spoke to staff and students at the University in February to promote potential research opportunities on the Island.

### **3. Financial sustainability**

The budget support from IOM Government during the year was agreed in February 2018. A target to increase income by 2% was applied across the public sector. A small increase was allocated for pay awards but the remainder of the budget was effectively capped at previous levels. An additional amount of £100,000 was made available specifically for property maintenance and £56k for Sunday opening.

In line with a previously agreed financial strategy the Trust has continued to develop different income streams. The main ones are retail, admissions, rental and event hire. Sales of pre-booked tickets to organised groups from tour operators and cruise ships reached an all-time high – as did income overall. Retail turnover remained relatively flat – though considerably outperformed the High Street average. New merchandise helped to improve margins as did sales of TT Pins and FMNH memberships.

### **3.1 Bequests, donations and income**

A number of significant bequests were received in the year.

- Mr Paton of Castletown died a few years ago but the estate passed to his brother to manage. In line with his wishes a payment of £37,500 has been made. He also left the same sum to FMNH.
- Mr Rodger of Ramsey left us money some years ago but the assets of the estate had not been realised. An interim payment of £100,000 has now been received.
- Mr Corlett of Peel left us £10,000.
- A further notification of a bequest of £10,000 was received from the estate of Mr David Kneen of Onchan.

A long-standing benefactor continued to make further regular donations to the Curatorial and Professional Development Fund.

The conveyancing of No 6 Kingswood Grove was concluded and the sum of £135,500 was transferred to our accounts. However, this sum is earmarked for part payment for the former Police Station in Castletown.

## **4. Relationship with IOM Government**

The relationship with the IOM Government is key to the Trust's sustainable funding and is at the heart of our service delivery. We worked very closely with DEFA on a range of issues including signage, Registered Building and Planning Issues. We continued to work closely with IOM Railways on ticketing, marketing, familiarisation visits, and cruise ship excursions. We worked closely with the Cabinet Office on the "Year of Our Island". Our Sponsoring department is the Department for Enterprise and our work together included Tourism, Creative Industries and the Registries.

MNH has continued to provide technical support to the IOM Government War Memorials Committee during the year.

A Tynwald Select Committee on the development of Brownfield sites reported in July 2018. The Director attended a half-day workshop which was an opportunity to meet a wide range of stakeholders and raise important concerns about how development is managed.

MNH supported the development of the Area Plan for the East and commented on it when it went out for consultation.

The Director continued to chair the WW1 Steering Committee on behalf of the Chief Minister.

The Isle of Man Government continued to provide a range of infrastructure and services to the Trust including computing, accounting, staffing, insurance and legal advice.

## **5. Challenges and risks**

MNH continues to operate within a challenging environment. The key risks to the organisation are around the resources available to it to fulfil its statutory duties. The financial strategy for the organisation has had three main components: seek efficiencies and savings wherever possible, increase income from visits, and increase income through diversifying and exploiting assets. However, the organisation is dependent on Government funding, circa 75%, for its long-term sustainability and in particular the care of its assets and the delivery of its public services. In recent years this funding has been capped or reduced. We have also seen significant inflation in the construction sector which has resulted in tenders for projects often over expectation.

We note that other stakeholders such as the new Visit Agency would like us to extend the traditional visitor season by opening our heritage sites for longer. This has been trialled and accommodated where possible to support stakeholders but this is not affordable within existing resources which are reducing both in monetary and real terms.

MNH trialled and supported opening of the Manx Museum on Sundays during 2018/19 at Tynwald's instigation and with financial support from the Department for Enterprise. An amount was subsequently made available for Sunday opening in 2019/20 but is limited to one year only.

Concerns were also raised by the Public Accounts Committee that we were not allocating sufficient resources to the care of our buildings. Government is not unsympathetic and additional funding of £100k per annum for three years was made available from Treasury starting in 2019/20.

MNH has a significant responsibility for the care and storage of its collections, much of which are held in reserve. The space to do so is now full and there is significant pressure on our ability to accession further items. This will be alleviated in the short term as reserves will be used to buy a storage unit which will also aid the creation of the new TT Gallery at the Manx Museum. A major investment is required to extend the current collections store or otherwise provide additional facilities.

Our position as a charity is a matter which we will be promoting and educating. There is an irony that the significant support we receive from Government has the impact of making it more difficult to explain our "arms length" status as a charity.

## **6. Note on accounts**

The Isle of Man Government makes a significant contribution to the core activities of the Trust and the Trust used the Government accounting services and systems to hold and manage transactions. Historically the Government has included that financial contribution within its Revenue budget and as a consequence has also included the Accounts relating to these activities within its consolidated accounts. A draft unaudited version of these is published annually for the July Tynwald (Light Blue Book) and a summary, audited, version for the October Tynwald (Dark Blue Book).

Historically the Trust's operational budgets and accounts associated with the Government support have been managed and reported separately from accounts described by the Trust as Charitable. As a result of matters raised by the Attorney General's Chambers in 2018 in the capacity of Attorney General's statutory role concerning Manx charities, it is accepted that the Trust has an obligation to describe the full range of its activity in its accounts, and should not artificially separate out accounts or describe them in this way.

Significant progress has been made in rectifying this position but it has involved a complete review of the Trust's relationship with Government and re-engineering of the Trust's accounting processes and systems in order to consolidate the full picture of the activities of the Trust. The Trust are grateful for the support of the IOM Treasury Department's staff and a small grant to employ a specialist consultant. It is has not been possible to resolve this retrospectively for the financial year 2018/19 and as the framework to provide a single set of accounts will not be available until April 2020 a similar issue will arise for the reporting period 2019/20. As previously the relevant extracts from the Light Blue Book have therefore been appended to the Trust's accounts for that year.

Discussions with the Attorney General's Chambers have also confirmed that all property in the name of the Trust is owned by the Trust irrespective of the source of any funding. Significant progress has been made with documenting this but it has not been possible to secure all necessary revaluations for the financial year 2018/19. Trust property also remains in the Government consolidated accounts, details of which are appended to the Accounts.

Work continues on developing formal heads of terms for Partnership Agreements which documents the relationship between the Charity and the Government including the various support and services provided by the relevant partner.