



**RUSHEN**  
Heritage Trust  
the beautiful south

*Autumn Newsletter*  
**2015**

## **Exciting plans unveiled for RHT!**

The Rushen Heritage Trust represents a new way for people to discover the South of the Island as well as bringing the community together. Leaving behind the 'bricks and mortar' approach to museums, our vision is for an online museum, supplemented by 'pop up' exhibitions driven by local volunteers. We want our content to be accessible worldwide, in a way that encourages people to visit the Beautiful South of Rushen Sheading. Our curators are our volunteers, who have chosen fascinating topics across a wide spectrum of our history, bringing it up to date with interactive walking tours.

**The next three years are set to be very exciting for Rushen Heritage Trust and we hope that our three year plan will inspire you to get involved in our vision!**

### **In the beginning...**

Over the course of many consultations and workshops with vital partners such as the trading associations of Port Erin and Port St Mary, the Rushen Rotary Club, Manx National Heritage and Culture Vannin plus the expertise and advice of specialists such as JW Qualtrough, JK Qualtrough, Nigel Crowe, Mike Kewley and Edmund Southworth (not to mention the support of 120 people at our first public meeting on a very wet and windy night in April 2014...)

**Rushen Heritage Trust was officially launched on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and we became the "Museum of No Fixed Abode"**

### **Why "No Fixed Abode?"**

Because we do not want one. A building costs money to buy and needs volunteers to staff. People visit it once and say "I've done that". So we run exhibitions and "Pop-Up" events in a variety of places around Rushen, save costs and encourage people to visit Rushen many times. And... **the future is online.**

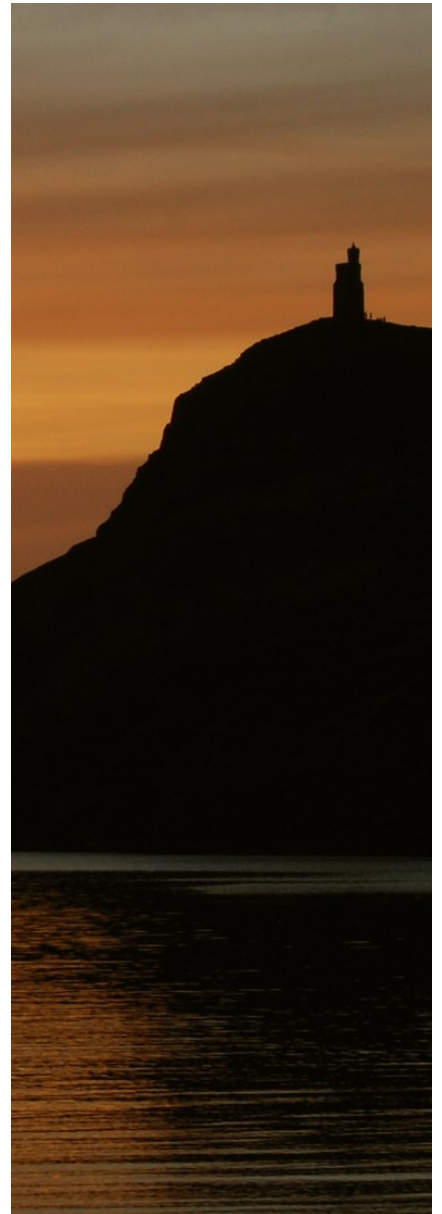


Photo taken by Seamus Wheeler of the Southern Photographic Society.

### **Look Inside...**

- 4,000 visitors to our exhibitions in 2015
- A new Coordinator for the Trust
- The World's Largest Black Forest Gateau
- Unveiling plans for our interactive walks
- 2016 Events Programme



Jane Saywell, David Wertheim, Doreen Moule, Graham Hall, Ali Graham and Hugh Davidson promoting our first WW2 Internment Exhibition in May 2015.

## New Coordinator for the Trust

Laura Cuthbertson joined RHT on 17th August in a part time role to provide cultural services. Director Hugh Davidson commented "We had a number of very strong candidates, but Laura met the specification with a degree in Journalism and skills in social media and marketing. She has a positive and enthusiastic approach with much experience of working with schools and organising UK national conferences."

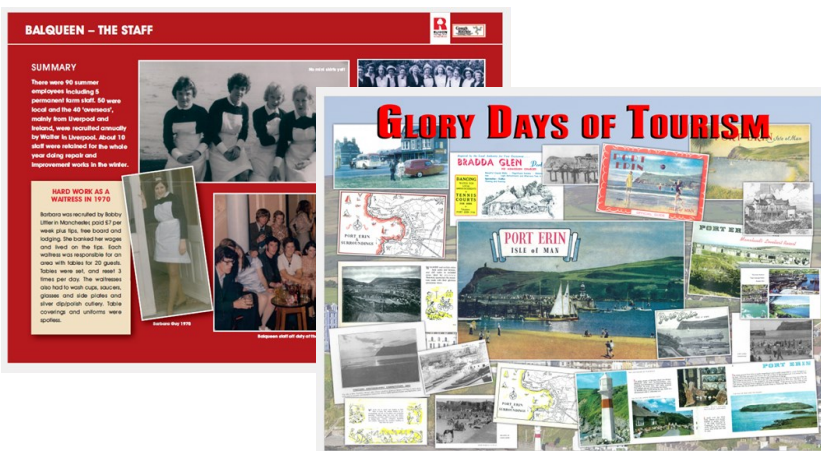


Hon Juan Watterson MHK, Chair of RHT said: "Laura succeeds Graham Hall, who did an excellent job in starting up RHT and remains an important volunteer. Her role will be to coordinate the HATs and our supporting specialists in IT, film and interviewing; to involve the whole Rushen community in some aspect of heritage; to help communicate widely the excellent content developed by HATs, especially online and via social media; and to help implement our three year plan."

## Over 4,000 visitors in 2015

RHT is non-profit organisation led by our Heritage Action Teams (HATs) - The **Story of the Land**, The **Story of the Sea**, **Tourism** and **WW2 Women's Internment**. Responsible for their own exhibitions, publications and dissemination of content, the HATs choose their own topics, driven by community interest and focusing on people and their stories.

In 2015 we saw over 4,000 visitors to our two major exhibitions "**Friend or Foe**" from the Internment HAT and "**The Glory Days of Southern Tourism**" created by the Tourism HAT. Both were extremely successful and will be continued in 2016 by two more exhibitions and short publications.



In 2016 our Story of the Land HAT will host their first exhibition based on the book "**A Year on Ballachury Farm 1943-44**" written by Stanley Clucas, which will be available to buy next summer. The Story of the Sea HAT will close the summer events with a series of talks and lectures - and don't forget to look out for us at the Southern and Royal Agricultural fairs!

### Get involved with Rushen Heritage Trust!

There are many ways you can get involved with RHT from helping out at one of our exhibitions or even just "liking" us on Facebook!

For more information speak to Laura on 321847 or email [rushenht@gmail.com](mailto:rushenht@gmail.com)

## The World's Largest Black Forest Gateau

May 29th 2015 marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of more than 3,000 women internees in Port Erin. To celebrate, Bradda Glen Restaurant and Tea Rooms created a two-metre Black Forest gateau replete with a defensive fortification of Manx bonnag for a tea party event on that day.



President of Tynwald, Clare Christian, cuts the two-metre gateau flanked by Hugh Davidson and Juan Watterson MHK.

The party launched our 'Friend or Foe' exhibition, which generated 3,000 visits in four weeks over the summer, at which Bradda Glen provided fresh cakes and scones.

As a thank you and acknowledgment to Rob and Sheila, and their team, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded.

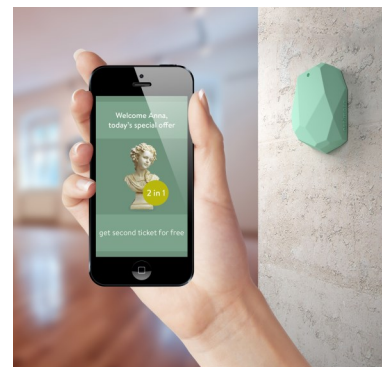


Thank you to Bradda Glen Restaurant: Hugh Davidson, Juan Watterson MHK, Laura Cuthbertson, Sandra Davidson and Doreen Moule with Robert and Sheila Creasey.

## Unveiling plans for interactive walking trails in Rushen

We have developed a unique mobile application "tomWalks" which will bring to life the outdoor walking trails of the Isle of Man, preserving the rich heritage of the communities on the island and sharing the memories of people, places and past events with local residents and visitors.

Working in partnership with Fuzzelologic Solutions in Douglas, the project will be initiated by the development of a pilot trail of 15 stations from Port St Mary to the Sound, launching Spring 2016. An **interactive beacon** will be attached to each station and will broadcast signals, activating an app on your mobile phone full of text, images, film and audio all about the heritage of the environment you are walking through.



Our vision is to become internationally recognised as an interactive walk, supported by local organisations to share cultural and heritage information with residents and tourists, generating significant economic benefit for the Isle of Man. By 2018 we hope to have a fully completed and interactive "Rushen Walk" from Port St Mary to Fleshwick.

**Would you like to be involved in this exciting project? We're looking for anyone interested in researching historical content, photography and enthusiasts of walking and mapping! Contact [rushenht@gmail.com](mailto:rushenht@gmail.com)**

# 2016 Events Programme

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## May

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### **iomWalks Launch Party at Port St Mary Town Hall**

**Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May, 10am to 4pm**

Download the app and immerse yourself in the beautiful landscape from Port St Mary to the Sound with our interactive heritage walk.

### **WW2 Internment "Friend or Foe 1940 to 1941" Book Launch The Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin on Saturday 29th May, 1pm**

Discover the stories of the women and children who were interned within Camp W during 1940 to 1941 and the landlords and property owners who shared their lives and homes with them.

## June

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### **Family Beach Games at the Port Erin Beach Festival**

**Port Erin Beach on Saturday 4th June**

Enjoy the games your grandparents and their grandparents played on Port Erin beach as part of the annual Port Erin Day celebrations!

### **"A Year on Ballachurry Farm" Book Launch**

**The Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin on Saturday 11th June, 1pm**

Read this wonderful and often humorous account of the farming year from 1943 to 1944, written by Stanley Clucas about his memories from the farm that has been in his family for almost a hundred years.

## July

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### **"A Year on Ballachurry Farm" - The Exhibition**

**Port St Mary Town Hall from Saturday 9th to Sunday 31st July**

Based on the book by Stanley Clucas, this exhibition is a wonderful way to explore the stories of farming life in the 1940s.

### **WW2 Internment "Friend or Foe 1941 to 1942" Exhibition**

**St Catherine's Church in Port Erin from Thursday 28th July to Thursday 25th August**

Our second instalment of this fantastic exhibition, looking at the lives and stories of Rushen Camp W and the creation of the world's only Married Camp in World War Two.

## August

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### **"A Diary of the Glory Days of Southern Tourism"**

**The Scout Hall in Port Erin from Saturday 6th August to Sunday 29th August**

Exploring the activities of holidaymakers and local residents across a range of decades, our Tourism HAT will bring a stunning collection of stories and images in Rushen - a wonderful opportunity to reminisce about the glory days of Southern Tourism.

## Contact Us

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