

## Failt ort!

### Welcome to Rushen Heritage Trust's summer newsletter!

We have so much going on this summer with two free exhibitions, a book launch and a cultural festival celebrating Wagner and Rushen Internment. Meet us at the agricultural shows and the Port Erin Beach Day and find out how you could win £100 in our calendar competition!

## A Year on Ballachurry Farm



With a beautiful and diverse collection of photographs and illustrations, "A Year on Ballachurry Farm 1943-1944" perfectly captures the stories and memories of a traditional Manx farm during WW2.

Meet the Boss and his wife "The Missus", and the hard-working farm-hands who keep the day-to-day workings of Ballachurry going, despite the demands of the war effort and the enigmatic new workers from nearby internment camps who are employed to help.



From the milking and calving of cows to ploughing fields and stacking the hay, there's not a dull moment on Ballachurry with the mischievous antics of the Boss and his workers!

Written by Captain of the Parish Stanley Clucas, this is a very personal book with photographs taken from both the Clucas family album and local Rushen farmers.



Stanley writes with special affection and humour of farming through the changing seasons, illustrating the colour and rhythm of the busy farm that has been in his family for almost a hundred years.

Meet Stan at the book launch on Saturday 9th July at 1pm and take time to visit the special free exhibition that celebrates this wonderful piece of Rushen heritage.

### A Year on Ballachurry Farm, 1943-1944

Book launch on Saturday 9th July at 1pm

Free exhibition open daily from 10am to 4pm from

Saturday 9th July to Tuesday 26th July

at the West Room, Port St Mary Town Hall



Photo taken by Sam Styles, Story of the Land HAT Volunteer.

### Look Inside...

- Meet our volunteers and hear their stories
- Read the next preview of *A Year on Ballachurry Farm*
- Find out why we're getting excited about Wagner in Port Erin this August
- How can you win £100 in gift vouchers this summer?

## Welcome to RHT!

We're always looking for new members and this month we put the spotlight on two of our much appreciated volunteers!



Photo courtesy of IOM Newspapers

**Nigel Crowe** was born in Douglas although his mother's Clague and Kinvig ancestors belonged to the South. Nigel worked in the IOM Planning Department before reading Land Management at Reading. On his return to the island he made his career with Chrystal's, ultimately serving as a Director and becoming FRICS. With an interest in Manx Studies, Nigel was a long-time officer of the IOM Natural History and Antiquarian Society and served as Society President in 1991/2. He was a founder member of the IOM Family History Society in 1979. Nigel also serves as an officer of the farmers' co-operative IOM Farmers Ltd.



Since moving to the Isle of Man in 1975, **Hilary Peterson** has lived in Colby. She and husband Steve are passionate about the island and whenever travelling will extol its virtues to anyone who might be interested in visiting! In her spare time away from her accountancy practice, Hilary likes gardening, cultivating her allotment and enjoying the wonderful walks that the island has to offer.

## Get Involved!

Contact Laura on 321847 or email [rushenht@gmail.com](mailto:rushenht@gmail.com) to find out how you can join in.

## Looking back across the decades with our Tourism HAT

On Friday 27th May, the volunteers of our Tourism HAT launched our first exhibition of the year with "The Happy Days of Southern Tourism" at St Catherine's Church Hall in Port Erin.

Attracting over 1,000 visitors in just 19 days, the exhibition looked at the memories and stories of tourism in Rushen from swimming at the Traie Meanagh Baths to golf at the Rowany, dancing at Bradda Glen and Collinson's Café to tennis or bowls in Breagle Glen - showing just how much things have changed in the south since the late 1800s.



Left: Anna Kelly, Sylvia Jarrett, Hugh Davidson and Kerry Hudson preparing for the big launch of our Tourism Exhibition.

Below: The exhibition has seen over 1,000 visitors from all over the world in just over two weeks!



"The hey days of southern tourism may be a bygone era," says Minister the Hon Laurence Skelly MHK, who opened the exhibition at our launch party, "but tourism is such a valuable part of our local economy. When you see the glens that the Victorians give us and the history and heritage that surrounds us – tourism is still here and the volunteers of Rushen Heritage Trust are keeping these stories alive through exhibitions such as this one."



The Tourism HAT are now looking forward to a new project in 2017. Would you like to join in and share your own memories or do some research about local people and places?

Contact Laura King on [rushenht@gmail.com](mailto:rushenht@gmail.com) or call her on 425642 and she will be happy to talk about all of the ways that you can get involved with the team!



# Historian Nigel Crowe on the trail of the 'richest historical record'

**Exciting progress has been made by Nigel Crowe, a member of our Story of the Land Heritage Action Team.**

Thanks to the help of Annie Nédallec, Honorary French consul in the Isle of Man, a photographic record dating from the 1950s has been secured. Created by the late Professor Pierre Flatrès, latterly of the Sorbonne in Paris, the record features areas of historic landscape in the south of the island.

Professor Flatrès spent several weeks in the Isle of Man in 1951 working on Manx aspects of his doctoral studies. His 600 page thesis, which compared the historic geography of 'Four Celtic Countries', appeared in print in 1957.



Professor Pierre Flatrès was born in Saint-Jean-Trolimon in 1921 and died in Paris in 1998. He was part of a Brittany School of Geography that helped to better understand the geography of Britain and other Celtic countries, devoting his thesis to the four Celtic countries of Ireland, Wales, Cornwall and the Isle of Man.

The possibility occurred to local historian, Nigel Crowe, that additional, unpublished Manx material might remain in the hands of the Professor's family and this proved to be true. Thanks to Annie and her husband, Michael Kneale, contact was made with Madame Flatrès, who has generously donated the material to MNH and has given permission to the Rushen Heritage Trust for its use in a forthcoming exhibition being organised by the HAT.

Nigel hopes to involve the team in rolling out the first phase of an Historical Landscape Character project, which will eventually cover the whole island.

"No-one else has seriously applied a similar analytical approach to the landscape since Flatrès' time," explains Nigel on the importance of the Professor's work. "This will provide a unique opportunity to see how his ideas contribute to the new approach which we are adopting".

**Look out for more information about this exhibition in early 2017!**

***Our Story of the Land team open their first exhibition "A Year on Ballachurry Farm" in July. Enjoy this special preview!***

It's one of those balmy summer evenings and the Boss and the Missus are leaning on the house field gate, gazing over the crop of oats which lay before them like a sea of gold, whispering and rippling in the light evening breeze.

Above them, young swallows from the first hatching are playing 'tag'. Ducking and diving in the late evening sun, building strength in their wings for the long journey south while their parents, busy with their second batch of young, are flying high and catching insects that rise above the corn.

Like the hay, the oats stand straight, undamaged by strong winds so it's easy to cut. Clovers and trefoils grow in abundance, making the crop rich in food value. A week after cutting, when the sap has dried out in the warm sunshine, every hand is called on to turn the swathe. With the pitchfork reversed, the handle slides under the heavy row and with just a flick of the wrist the swathe is neatly turned and the damp side exposed to the sun.



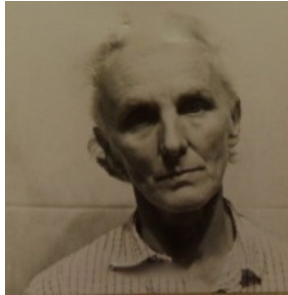
The men are all skilled in the use of the pitchfork and they build the loose hay into a ruck. When freshly built, the ruck can stand over seven feet high. It's then carefully raked down and the bottom tucked underneath to make it neat and waterproof. Like all work in the fields it will be compared and discussed in fine detail at the Station Hotel on Saturday night!

**Visit the *Ballachurry Farm* exhibition at Port St Mary Town Hall from 9th to 26th July 2016, where you will also be able to buy the book by Stanley Clucas.**

**Find out more online: [www.rushenheritage.org](http://www.rushenheritage.org)**

# Interned ...but not forgotten.

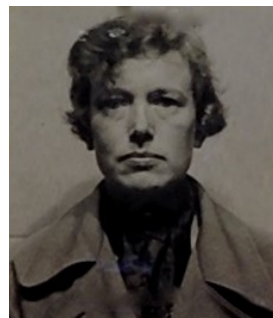
Internment must have been a traumatic experience for the majority of the women detained. Most returned after the war to a 'normal' way of life, but there were many highly educated individuals amongst them and a number went on to have quite interesting careers. Here are two such women...



**Minna Specht** taught at a number of progressive boarding schools in Germany. In 1933, she fled the country with pupils from her school when she refused to conform to Hitler's principles of a military education. Whilst interned in Rushen, she set up schools in Port St Mary for kindergarten and up to 16 years old, and classes for adults.

After the war, she worked in London and with UNESCO to help young people brought up with Nazism, whose lives had been shattered by the war.

**Marie Reidermeister** studied Mathematics and Physics. In 1925, she went to work in Vienna with Otto Neurath as a designer before they left for The Hague in 1934.



When Germany invaded Holland in 1940, they escaped to England and were both interned on the Island. Marie contributed to the education of the internee's children as a teacher.

After their release they married and, after Otto's death in 1945, Marie translated and edited his documentation of methods of designing and disseminating data, which has played a major role in 20<sup>th</sup> century graphic design.

She also went on to write several history books for children, which became a mainstay of class libraries across the UK in the 1970s.

See these stories and many more in the next instalment of our "Friend or Foe?" WW2 Women's Internment exhibition this summer, where even more interesting stories have been discovered about the people who lived and worked in Rushen Camp W.

## WW2 Internment Exhibition: "Friend or Foe? 1941-1942"

Thursday 28th July - Wednesday 24th August  
St Catherine's Church Hall in Port Erin  
Open daily from 10am until 4pm  
Free Entry and refreshments available

## Special memories of our Internment HAT volunteers

Sisters Ali Graham and Jane Saywell have become specialists in Rushen internment since joining Rushen Heritage Trust and passionate about preserving the memories of the women who were interned as well as the local landladies who shared their lives with them. Here they remember their grandmother, who was one of them.



Our grandmother Mary Eslick (nee Brew) ran a boarding house on the Promenade in Port St. Mary during the time of the Women's Internment Camp. Southlands was a large double fronted house (now Aaron House) and in May 1940, over 20 internees were billeted with her and her five children.

Our grandfather had succumbed to his injuries from the First World War in October 1934 and she was finding it very hard to manage on her own, as visitor numbers had dropped significantly. When she heard the news that they were to house the internees and receive a guinea a week for each adult, her words were "it saved our bacon!".

During the first year, many of the internees were released back to the UK and so in May 1941, Port St. Mary Promenade was used as a 'mixed camp' and Mary received a number of married internees.

Dr. Gerhard Bersu and his wife Maria were billeted in Southlands and became good friends with Mary. They were renowned archaeologists and Dr. Bersu uncovered the Viking Long ship buried at Balladoole. They remained on the Island after the internment camps were closed to finish their archaeological work.



Dr. Gerhard Bersu

Mary moved to Manchester House in Port St. Mary High Street (now a chemist's shop) which she continued to run as a boarding house. She also opened an antique shop on the ground floor.



Mary (May) was a well known and well respected member of the Port St. Mary community and wherever possible, she would always help anyone in need, even when she had so little herself - but then they were a 'bulldog breed'.

# Richard Wagner's great-granddaughter joins Rushen Heritage Trust in our unique festival at the EAC this summer!

Led by our WW2 Internment HAT, the festival will celebrate the life of Richard Wagner's "rebellious" granddaughter Friedelind (1918-1990), who was interned in Port Erin in 1940. She was the only member of the Wagner family to be strongly anti-Nazi and her mother was a close friend of Hitler. Richard Wagner's great-granddaughter, Dagny Beidler who will be joining Professor Eva Rieger at the festival, met Friedelind in 1964 and they became very close friends.

## Join us for a weekend of Music and Memories A festival of Wagner and Rushen Internment in WW2

*Friedelind Wagner was an internee in Rushen Internment Camp. Eva Rieger was born in the Camp and is an acclaimed biographer of Friedelind Wagner. Dagny Beidler is the great-granddaughter of Richard Wagner.*

### **"Re-enactment of 1940 Women Internees Concert"**

with Cleveland medal winners: Karen Johnson, Graham Crowe and Hugh Elliot, introduced by Prof. Eva Rieger and produced by Dr. John Bethell MBE.

*Friday 5th August at 7.30pm. Tickets £12*

### **"Reflections of a British Internee"**

Prof. Chris Rieger shares memories of his childhood in Port Erin.

*Saturday 6th August at 11am. Tickets £5*

### **"Friedelind Wagner in Rushen Internment Camp"**

by Prof. Eva Rieger and **"Friedelind: Life after Rushen"**

by Wagner's great-granddaughter Dagny Beidler.

*Saturday 6th August at 7.30pm. Tickets £5*

### **"Opera on Film: Lohengrin"**

by Richard Wagner, Placido Domingo, Robert Lloyd, Cheryl Studer and the Chorus and Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera.

*Sunday 7th August at 2pm. Tickets £5*

## Buy a complete festival ticket with a complimentary glass of wine for just £20!

Book your tickets on 01624 834614, the Erin Arts Centre on 01624 835858 or visit [www.rushenheritage.org](http://www.rushenheritage.org) for more information.



Professor Eva Rieger was born on 21st November 1940 in Port Erin and christened in what is now the Erin Arts Centre.

She lived with her parents, the German pastor Julius Rieger and the librarian Johanna Rieger, in London and moved to Berlin in 1953. There, Eva studied music education, musicology and English and in 1976, wrote her doctorate with a thesis on Music Education in the GDR. Between 1978 and 1991 she was Academic Councillor at the Universities of Göttingen and Hildesheim; from 1991 Professor of Historical Musicology at the University of Bremen and then from 1988 to 1992, a Board member of the journal "Feminist Studies".

Eva gave lectures worldwide from the US and Canada to Japan and Europe. In 1996, she co-founded "Gender Studies" in the German Society for Music Research and in 2000 assisted in the creation of the "Mariann Steegmann Institute of Art & Gender" at the University of Bremen and the "Research Center for Music and Gender" at the University of Music, Drama and Media in Hanover.

In 2009, she was a corresponding member of the American Musicological Society and the first person to create a musicological study on discrimination against women in the German musical culture. Her main study focused on the life and work of Richard Wagner and she wrote her acclaimed book about his granddaughter Friedelind Wagner in 2012.

# Thankyou to our partners

We couldn't tell the stories of our local heritage without the support of our wonderful volunteers, donations that we receive and the organisations and trusts who help us in so many ways. This year we are proud to be sponsored by:



The **Gough Ritchie and Donny Collister Trusts**, who have supported our tourism exhibition and our Isle of Man Walks app, which has also been sponsored by the **Manx Lottery Trust** and supported by **3FM** and **Manx Radio**.



Our Ballachurry Farm exhibition is sponsored by both **The Elizabeth Clucas Trust** and **Culture Vannin**, also sponsoring the accompanying book produced by **Lily Publications**.



**Culture Vannin** and **IOM Arts Council** will both support our WW2 Internment Exhibition and Festival in August.



Special thanks to **MNH** for all of their help and support and to the **Copy Shop** in Douglas, who help us with all of our publicity and exhibition printing and who produce this quarterly newsletter for free.



Your donations help us to tell the stories of Rushen. Call Laura on 425642 to find out how you can help.

# Thankyou for the memories!

One of the ways that Rushen Heritage Trust brings together the local community is through sharing memories across the generations of families who have lived in Rushen over the years.

On a quiet Thursday in May, we were privileged to share an afternoon tea with some wonderful members of the local community who were happy to tell some fascinating stories about their childhoods and memories of the past.



From left: Sandra Davidson, Hugh Davidson, Dollin Kelly, Irene Jackson, Ruth Matthews, Betty Vernon, Pam Crowe, Alan Jackson, Doreen Moule, Nora Lewis, Brenda Watterson and Drew Herdman

Do you have any memories that you would like to share? We'll be holding more afternoon sessions in Port St Mary and Port Erin over the year so please get in touch if you would like to take part. They are free to attend and a chance to share your stories over a nice brew and tasty piece of cake!



## Isle of Man Walks is still on track for launch this autumn!

We've been breaking new ground in developing the walking app "Isle of Man Walks" which uses iBeacon technology. Beacons have only ever been used in an indoor environment before – so the wilds of the *Raad ny Foillan* have been a bit of a surprise to them! We have a special team of over 70 volunteers lined up to field test the app over the summer ready for our launch on October 1st, with an expanded version of the app that will feature walks across both Port St Mary and Port Erin too. Watch this space!



## The Story of the Sea - in words and music!

There are many stories of the sea across the Isle of Man from famous shipwrecks to the arrival of the 'Gutter Girls', the annual Queenie Festival and the traditions of seafarers still kept alive today. Some of the most interesting stories of the sea are based in Rushen and our Story of the Sea HAT are planning a series of evening talks, starting this Autumn.

"I have written the first in a series of unique presentations on the Story of the Sea in words and music", says Steve George, Chair of the Story of the Sea HAT. "It will be held in early October and the evening will feature at least three different personalities, all with a sea related story to tell, who will be interviewed by Alan Jackson. The evening will be supported by music and songs with a sea theme and will be held in a venue with a very relaxed atmosphere."

**Join us at 7pm on Thursday 6th October at The Falcon's Nest in Port Erin!**  
**Tickets available now for £5 each on 425642**

## WIN £100 in our Competition

We're still open for entries for our 2017 Calendar Competition - "My Favourite Place in Rushen" for any age group.

It might be an old photograph found in an attic or one you have taken this morning. It could be a poem you've written yourself or even a picture your grandchild has drawn. Whatever it may be, if it's your favourite place in Rushen Sheading then this competition is perfect for you!



## "My Favourite Place in Rushen"

Entries can be any image, story or poem based on your favourite place in Rushen. The competition will be judged by public vote during August and the winner will receive £100 in gift vouchers of their choice plus a special framed copy of their entry, which will feature on the front cover. The winner and all eleven runners-up will each receive a copy of the calendar. **The deadline for the competition is Friday 22nd July 2016. To enter or find out more, please visit: [www.rushenheritage.org/calendar-competition](http://www.rushenheritage.org/calendar-competition)**

## Dates for your diary!

**If you're coming to the Port Erin Beach Festival on 16th July, we'll be setting up traditional games for the children!**

**We're also appearing at the Southern Agricultural Show on the 30th and 31st July and at the Royal Agricultural Show on the 12th and 13th August.**

**Come and find us to say hello!**

**If you have any memories, interesting facts or stories you would like to share, drop Laura a line at [rushenht@gmail.com](mailto:rushenht@gmail.com)!**

# 2016 Events Programme



## **Book Launch and Exhibition: "A Year on Ballachurry Farm 1943-44"**

*sponsored by Culture Vannin and the Elizabeth Clucas Charitable Trust*

**Port St Mary Town Hall - book launch on Saturday 9th July at 1pm and exhibition from Saturday 9th to Tuesday 26th July, 10am - 4pm daily**

A wonderfully humorous account of the farming year, written by Captain of the Parish Stanley Clucas, about the farm that has been in his family for almost a hundred years accompanied by a free exhibition about how farming used to be.



## **Free Exhibition: "Friend or Foe? 1941 - 1942"**

*sponsored by the IOM Arts Council and Culture Vannin*

**St Catherine's Church in Port Erin from Thursday 28th July to Wednesday 24th August, 10am - 4pm**

Our second instalment of this unmissable exhibition explores stories of Rushen Camp W and the creation of the world's only Married Camp in WW2.



## **Festival of Music and Memories: Rushen Internment and Wagner**

*sponsored by the IOM Arts Council and Culture Vannin*

**Friday 5th August to Sunday 7th August at the Erin Arts Centre**

Celebrating the life of Richard Wagner's rebellious granddaughter Friedelind, who was interned in Port Erin. Join us for a range of special talks and events.



## **Story of the Sea in Words and Music**

**Thursday 6th October at the Falcon's Nest in Port Erin**

Join Dessie Robinson on the subject of Herring Fishing, Michelle Heywood on Diving and the Wrecks of the South of the Island plus the story of Captain David Clarke - "from Cadet to Captain" and his first trip to sea as a Deck Cadet.

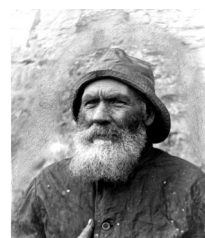
get involved and keep updated at [www.rushenheritage.org](http://www.rushenheritage.org)

## **There are so many ways you can get involved with Rushen Heritage Trust!**



Come to one of our Memory Sharing Afternoon Teas and bring photographs, talk to the volunteers in our Heritage Action Teams about your memories or share your stories so that they will never be lost or forgotten.

Join one of our Heritage Action Teams and research your local history with other members of the community, exploring the stories of the land, stories of the sea, the glory days of southern tourism or the internment camps of World War 2. You could even start your own HAT and special topic or area of interest!



If you like photography and technology, you could get involved with our social media, help with website or exhibition design, or help to design interesting new walks on our Isle of Man Walks mobile app! Or if you just have a few hours to spare here and there, you can help to cover our exhibitions, serve tea and coffee or help distribute our quarterly newsletters.

**Whatever you'd like to do, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Laura at [rushenht@gmail.com](mailto:rushenht@gmail.com)**