



Faill ort gys Treisht Eiraght Rushen!

Welcome to Rushen Heritage Trust!

# Pierrot in the Ports



The Tourism Group relive the Pierrot Shows of the 1900s over a weekend in Port Erin and Port St Mary. What fantastic evenings were had by all! See

# Internment update

by Doreen Moule (Chair of the WW2 Internment HAT)

The development of the schools' packs for the Internment Topic has temporarily been put on the 'back burner', as the Team have had to focus on work for the Internment Book. Most of the material for the schools' packs is ready and waiting to be copied and the accompanying DVDs are in the process of being burned.

Meanwhile, once again Year Six from Arbory School, under the guidance of Mr Stephen Parry, joined us for an Internment Day in early October.

I met the class as they arrived by train (in the steps of the internees)

(continued overleaf...)

We are always on the lookout for new ideas for future exhibitions. Please email us on [rushenht@gmail.com](mailto:rushenht@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook, if you have anything to contribute.

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## PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

We will be holding an event later this year to celebrate past RHT achievements, letting the public know what we are currently up to and looking to the future.

Keep checking our Facebook page and website for further information.

# Internment HAT

## School & Education Packs

By Doreen Moule

and they were very impressive in their costumes, which other travellers on the train found fascinating. Questions were asked and credible explanations were given by the children.

The children were brought to St Catherine's Church Hall, where they were 'registered' (once again in the steps of the internees) and given mock-up 'internee identities' and registration cards, which were taken back to school as a stimulus for imaginative writing and role play.

Mrs Alison Graham (RHT) gave them a question and answer talk about the Internment Camp, after which they had lunch and explored the collection of books and worksheets and the mini exhibition, which we had prepared for them.

Ali took them for a walk to point out buildings and places which were relevant to the internees and the time they spent here.

They then went down onto the beach to search for shells and seaweed, to make the shell jewellery and for making agar jelly at the Biological Station, as the internees would have done.

The RHT Internment HAT has already covered four schools with this unique half-day internment learning experience and plan to organise more in future.

Well done to the team for all their work—it has really made an impact

The staff and children then returned, by train, to school. This is the second year that the school has participated in this available activity



and we hope that they enjoyed it. We hope to run this event for them again, later this year.

Further details for this activity, are available from Doreen Moule (dmoule@manx.net)



# Internment HAT

Since the last newsletter, the Internment HAT has been working hard to compile all the information we have accumulated into chapters for our book. We had a lot of detail for our two exhibitions (2015 and 2016) and this will be in the book, but, because of the size constraints of the display boards, much information had to be edited out. We are hoping to be able to incorporate this extra material into the book. RHT is most grateful to Culture Vannin both for its grant towards this book and for contributions to other projects.



Alison Graham has received useful information from the Metropolitan Police archives about the officers who were based here during the time of the Camp. In turn, the details Alison was able to give them has filled a few gaps in their knowledge of the situation.

Pam Crowe's research into the Lutheran Deaconesses from the Dalston Hospital in London, has led her to their community in Bethel, Germany and to the Museum which chronicles their history. Little was known by their Museum about this period in their story, but Pam has supplied them with new information. As a result, she was invited to attend an international conference on the deaconesses at the Florence Nightingale Centre in Germany. Sadly, she was unable to attend.



David Wertheim is looking to expand the stories of the artists featured in the exhibitions (clockwise from the right) Pamina Liebert-Mahrenholz, Margarete Klopfleisch and Erna Nonnenmacher. He has additional information to share.

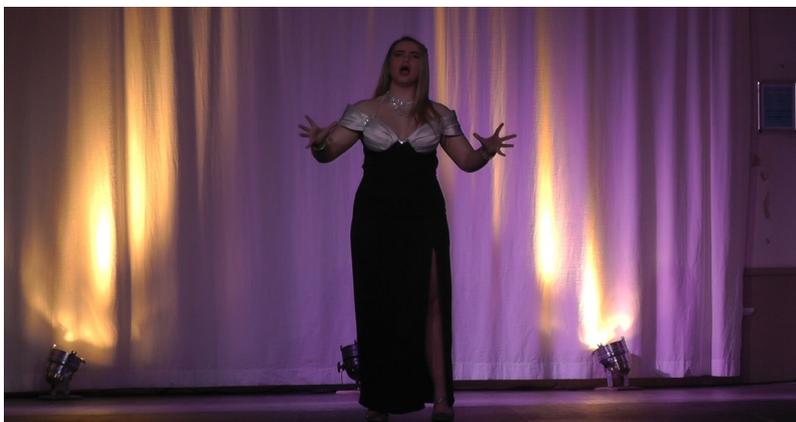


Sandra Davidson has also been expanding her stories of various local personalities and internees. A further job she has taken on has been the co-ordination and formatting of all our material ready for editing – no small task and executed quietly and patiently. Thank you Sandra!



# RHT Tourism HAT: The Pierrot Shows

What an interesting and exciting Pierrot show we were able to present over the two nights, 29th and 30th September last year. The idea to revive the Pierrot tradition came from Sylvia Jarrett who also produced the shows. Susie Beswick did a brilliant job of assembling and inspiring all the talent. Michael Forrester, Chair of the Tourism HAT, always pitched



in. Our MC Geoff Corkish conducted the evening with humour, energy and as was to be expected with such panache!

From the young opening band to the finale, the audience was presented with 26 offerings, with some performers able to offer several items. Geoff Corkish himself also proved his voice was in fine fettle with an opening number.

We had verse from Spike Milligan, Marriott Edgar, Al Reed, Edward Lear; Shakespeare featured as did T. E. Brown. We heard songs made famous by Edith Piaf, Music Hall numbers, a touch of Opera and a few numbers from more modern musicals such as Kiss Me Kate, a powerful rendition from The Enchantress, an unaccompanied Bee Gees number that tugged at lots of heart strings. George Formby captivated us by making a guest appearance would you believe!

Port St Mary Cabaret party threw caution to the wind and entertained both young and old in their inimitable style with song, dance and flamboyance

as they always do. Many younger members, forming the Concert Party, proved that Music Hall entertainment will continue to play a huge part in our lives for years to come. Not content with singing and dancing, Cynthia Gelling, Joyce Crook and a few of the PSM Cabaret Party took on the challenge of making the youth and adult Pierrot costumes look brilliant.

Margaret Galloway and Peta Cubbon organised a superb exhibition about the Pierrot tradition in the Isle of Man, which was displayed at the two locations for the Pierrot Shows.

Peta Cubbon is the granddaughter of Fred Buxton, famous in his days as a show business entrepreneur, and has a lot of historical pictures and posters associated with him.

Buxton's Pierrots were at their peak in the 1920s and performed in Douglas, Onchan, Ramsey and the Traie Meanagh Baths in Port Erin. Fred Buxton built the Pierrot Village on Douglas Prom, near the old Crescent Cinema. It was an incredible entertainment area which included a seated arena for 2,000 people. A Pierrot Group called the Leslies performed in a wooden pavilion behind Victoria Square in Port Erin every summer from 1919 to 1939, but the theatre burned down a few days before the start of WW2.

Many thanks to Margaret and Peta for master minding this fascinating exhibition, to Iris Burton for her vivid memories, and to Gough Ritchie Trust for sponsoring the shows and exhibition.

# The Pierrot Shows

No less impressive and what a whirl to feature Perree Bane in the programme, from Perree Bane Beg, the very little uns to Perree Bane Aeg, the teenage group to the very experienced adults, all dressed in stunning Manx Country Dancing Costumes and accompanied by their own wonderful musicians. It was fantastic to see the children carrying on the tradition.

Talking about accompanists, we were also fortunate to welcome the wonderful Wendy McDowell from Onchan who accompanied the singers.



There was no doubt about the talent and commitment offered by all who participated and gave of their time and expertise to make this Pierrot Show not only one to remember but one to look forward to sometime in the future.

To have such talent on a small island is truly amazing and all I can say is that all the performers were sensational. What good fortune, along with heartfelt thanks to all who contributed.



Believe it or not, Laurel and Hardy, not well disguised if I might say, also made an exemplary appearance, long enough to make us laugh for a long time!

With 'Thoughts from Peel', 'Albert and The Lion' and A Touch of Comedy, our programme included humour, pathos, a blast from the past or a trip down memory lane, bags of talent, energy and enthusiasm. We even featured a 'Two Men In A Boat' sketch - a Manx product too of course!

To prove that Manx talent is varied and diverse we included a young classical Indian dancer, she made her hypnotic appearance with unique form and grace performing a number of complex Indian dances highlighting intricate hand gestures.



# RHT Story of the Land HAT

Members of the Rushen Heritage Trust set out on an ambitious project to document a history of Port St Mary over the last 150 years.

Local historian John W. Qualtrough and the Trust's Staffan Overgaard are looking to build a complete picture of the village, using people's memories and archival material.

They say the port can be viewed as a 'mini-Isle of Man' with its own fishing and farming industries, lime kilns, quarries, and tourism sector.

Mr Qualtrough has collected over 160,000 local artefacts that have acted as a base for their research, and Mr Overgaard was grateful to everyone that came forward to join the project.

It was hoped that something new could be uncovered about the village.



*Organiser of the event, Staffan Overgaard, "If Port St Mary is your town, please join us in the work to write the history of it. We have concentrated on 150 interesting years. Port St Mary has an interesting*



Rushen Heritage Trust appealed to the public to share their memories of Port St Mary from 1829-1979. We utilised the information gathered for the exhibition that focussed on education, place names, tourism, families, churches and others. Memories were collected and will be used in our upcoming book.

Port St Mary is steeped in history and we welcomed everyone to share their memories of a bygone age.

The team writing the History of Port St Mary, 1829-1979, consists of:

Staffan Overgaard (Chair, Street Signs & Shops), Nigel Crowe (Land, maps & roads), Alan Grace (Ships & fishing), Mick Kneale (RNLI, ships & fishing), Professor Angela Little (Education), Cathy Clucas (Farms), Doreen Moule (WW2 Internment), Andrew Foxon (Churches), Steve Malley (pubs) and Hugh Davidson (Tourism).

