

**SAHGB**The Society of  
Architectural  
Historians of  
Great Britain**SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS OF  
GREAT BRITAIN**

Hon. Conference Secretary:

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**Annual Conference 2014  
ISLE OF MAN  
Thursday 4 – Sunday 7 September****DRAFT ITINERARY**

Please note that this itinerary is provisional and may be subject to change.

This year's conference is being organised by Jonathan Kewley. It will endeavour to give an overview of the architecture of the Isle of Man from the High Middle Ages to the present day, so far as is possible within a three-day conference. Full Conference notes will, as usual, be supplied to all members attending; this may be especially useful as there is no Pevsner for the Isle of Man.

**THURSDAY 4 September: Pre-Conference Tours****A. Baillie Scott**

Led by Peter Kelly

*09.30 Provisional departure time from the Empress Hotel*

This tour will visit as many as possible of the surviving buildings designed by M H Baillie Scott during the period he practised on the Isle of Man, but excluding Onchan Parish Hall (the venue for the Annual Dinner) and Castletown Police Station (which the whole conference will visit on Saturday). After visiting a number of private houses in Onchan and Douglas, the tour will travel out of town to see New Kirk Braddan with its Baillie Scott chancel pavement and Braddan Cemetery where he designed the cemetery office and the stained glass in the chapel. This will also be a chance to look at some of the gravestones designed by Baillie Scott's contemporary, the Liberty's designer Archibald Knox.

*Peter Kelly, an architect by training, is caseworker for the Isle of Man Victorian Society and editor (and principal author) of its Newsletter.*

**Cost: £40** (including coach transport, coffee, lunch and tea)**B. Manx Baroque?**

Led by Jonathan Kewley

*09.30 Provisional departure time from the Empress Hotel.*

Much church-building took place in the Isle of Man in the eighteenth century, generally to enlarge or replace small, simple mediæval structures. Most of these new or remodelled churches survive, in some cases with their interiors more or less intact. This tour will look at seven of them. Many have distinctive bell-cotes, seemingly more southern European than English, which has led to the coining of the term Manx baroque. One has applied orders on the west front; most have corner features which can be interpreted as pinnacles or small obelisks. The opportunity will be taken to look at a selection of funerary monuments and gravestones.

*Jonathan Kewley is secretary of the SAHGB and editor of the Proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society.*

**Cost: £40** (including coach transport, coffee, lunch and tea)**C. Southern Vernacular**

Led by Andrew Johnson

*09.30 Provisional departure time from the Empress Hotel.*

The vernacular building style of the Isle of Man bears many similarities to the surrounding Celtic countries, despite being under English rule since the 14th century. In 1938 the first outdoor folk museum in the British Isles was created at Cregneash, an upland village of the far south-west; this tour will visit it and its many buildings, all original and none brought in from elsewhere. It is, however, in many ways untypical, being a crofting community of smallholders and fishermen. The tour will go on to look at other buildings more typical of the rural vernacular in an island characterised by non-nucleated settlement and small, usually owner-occupied farms.

*Andrew Johnson is an archaeologist and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the Isle of Man; he has a special interest in thatching.*

**Cost: £40** (including coach transport, coffee, lunch and tea)

**D. In Search of Manx Monasteries and their Architecture**

Led by Dr Peter Davey

*09.00 Provisional departure time from the Empress Hotel*

This tour will visit four monastic sites which cover the history of religious life on the Isle of Man for at least seven or eight centuries up to the Dissolution. At Maughold an over-restored church still has some Romanesque features, and within the large, possibly fortified site are the remains of three field churches which may have been part of a Celtic monastery before the Viking raids. Sir David Wilson will talk about the fine collection of Norse and earlier crosses currently in a cross-house (by a local Arts and Crafts architect) and the late-mediaeval parish cross now rather incongruously in the church. Moving south, St Trinian's is the Romanesque and later extra-parochial chapel, now roofless, of a barony belonging to the Priory of St Ninian at Whithorn. The third site is the chapel of the 14th century Bemaccan Friary which survives in a farmyard after many years' use as a barn. Finally Rushen Abbey, a Savignac/Cistercian house, was founded in the 12th century but extensively rebuilt towards the end of its life; most was demolished in the 1540s but a tower and a number of other structures survive, including a fine pack-horse bridge.

*Dr Peter Davey was formerly Director of the Liverpool University Centre for Manx Studies and carried out annual excavations at Rushen Abbey for a number of years; he has recently published After the Vikings: Medieval Archaeology of the Isle of Man. Sir David Wilson was formerly Director of the British Museum.*

**Cost: £40** (including coach transport, lunch and refreshments)

**Friday 5 September: The North**

Douglas, Castle Mona (George Steuart)

Ramsey, St Olave's (M P Manning)

Ramsey, Our Lady, Star of the Sea and St Maughold (Giles Gilbert Scott)

Ramsey – short walking tour of the old town, including Ramsey Courthouse (George Steuart)

Milntown, Lezayre (C16-19)

Jurby Airfield (WWII)

Jurby Church (early C19, remodelled 1939)

Michael Church (Welch brothers) with Norse crosses (led by Sir David Wilson)

Michael, Ebenezer Methodist Chapel (C19)

Michael – short walking tour

All Saints', Douglas (1967)

Optional early evening walk into central Douglas, finishing near pubs and restaurants for free evening

**Saturday 6 September: The South**

Castletown, Castle Rushen (C13-19) including Derby House (C16-19) (led by Paul Drury)

Castletown, Old Grammar School (C13-19)

Castletown – an early C18 private house

Castletown – short walking tour of the old capital

Castletown Police Station (M H Baillie Scott)

Malew Church (mediaeval to C20)

The Great Meadow near Castletown (C18-19)

Ballahott, Malew (C18)

New Kirk Braddan (J L Pearson)

Douglas, St Thomas' (Ewan Christian/Basil Champneys)

*Dinner: Onchan Parish Hall (M H Baillie Scott)***Sunday 7 September: The Central Valley**

Douglas, Gaiety Theatre (Frank Matcham)

Douglas, Sea Terminal (1965)

St John's Chapel (Richard Lane)

Peel Castle, including Keep, Round Tower and Cathedral (C11-16)

Dalby, St James' (Welch brothers)

The Niarbyl Cottages (vernacular)

*16.35 Drop-off at Ronaldsway Isle of Man Airport**17.15 Arrive back at hotels*