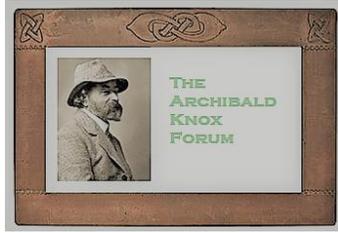


# KNOX NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHIBALD KNOX FORUM

ISLE OF MAN REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1221

ISLE OF MAN COMPANY NO: 131101C

Newsletter No. 4

October 2017

It has been another fruitful three months since July, and there are now 140 recipients of the newsletter.

Facebook responses received from India, Australia, USA and several European countries as well as UK and IOM. The website framework is completed, and the uploading of images, descriptions, reports etc. will take up to 8 weeks to complete. The launch will definitely be ready for 01 January 2018 and new items, research etc. will be added as and when required in the future.

There have been opportunities to visit sites of Knox interest:

- a) Braddan - New Cemetery to see 11 gravestones/memorials designed by Archibald Knox between 1896 and 1933.
- b) Douglas - to see places of Knox interest including the sunken garden, the site where he lived as a boy on South Quay, 70 Athol Street, the site of St. Barnabas School, Douglas Grammar School, St Matthew's Church and the former St Matthew's Church that was demolished c 1900, Douglas Art School etc. No more events now until January.

A talk, together with the 2014 Olympia film, and an exhibition of 40 pieces by Knox, was given on 15 August to The Friends of Manx National Heritage at the Manx Museum. About 40 people attended and it was very well received.

Further talks at the beginning of 2018 have been arranged for 9 January to All Saints' and St. George's Unity Group, Douglas, 18 January to a group at St Stephen's Church Hall in Sulby and 24 January to Mothers' Union at Marown Church.

You may remember in the first newsletter in January 2017 I wrote the following:

"The Archibald Knox Forum will be free for everybody throughout 2017. We will then take stock of the situation to see if it is proving to be a success. At that stage, if it is successful and people are interested in seeing it flourish, we will set up a proper membership system and ask for donations in order to continue the work of spreading the legacy of Archibald Knox to as many people, worldwide, as possible."

I now want to ask you if you wish to take up membership from January 2018. The cost of membership will be £25 per person per annum or £35 for a family group. There is no need to pay before January 2018, but I would like you to let me know, as soon as possible, if you would be interested in becoming a member by e mailing [akforum@manx.net](mailto:akforum@manx.net) with your name, address, telephone number and what type of membership you would require. The final running costs for 2017 will be approximately £2,500. Life membership and corporate membership will also be available.

If there is enough interest I will write later in the year to give details of how to become a member.

Chris Hobdell

**So what are some of the things that have happened or have been discovered/rediscovered since July 2017:**

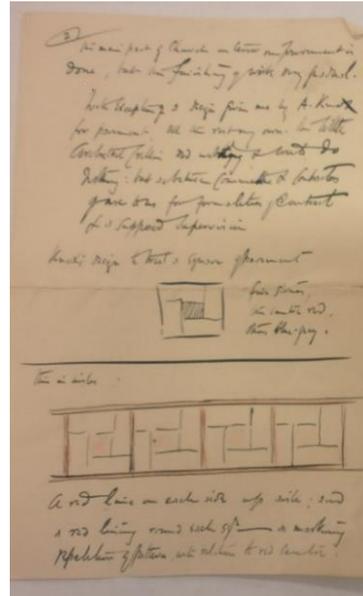
This quarter, photographs showing Knox's designs in All Saints' Lonan Church, Isle of Man, and Knox's influence on Europe by way of photos of designs by Archibald Knox and Peter Behrens.

**News about Archibald Knox designs in a closed Manx church that is little known and was completed in 1914**

All Saints' Church, Lonan on the Isle of Man has been closed for about three years due to electrical problems etc.

A meeting was held in July in order to seek permission and give help on re-opening the building as a festival church and community centre. This is very good news as the church houses three wonderful examples of Knox's designs and work. There are two war memorials in the church, the first for those who had served in WW1 and the second for those who lost their lives in WW1. The first includes the Manx Sword of State in a vertical position and the second shows the Manx Sword of State in a horizontal position. Also, in the church is a pavement designed by Knox for the church when his friend (and former headmaster) Canon Quine had the building renovated in 1914. Canon Quine was vicar of All Saints' Lonan for over 40 years and more can be found out about him on Facebook - "John Quine Forum."

Below are photos of the two memorials plus a photo of Knox's pavement and an extract from a letter from Canon Quine to his son dated just before Christmas 1914, showing a sketch of the pavement and attributing it to Knox.



The Archibald Knox Forum would certainly hold some functions there if the re-opening and renovations go ahead.

**Stop Press:** The Archdeacon has given permission for the church to be open from 2pm on Sunday 12 November 2017, and this will be a wonderful last chance to see the church in its present state.

**Knox's "influence" on Europe with two examples of Peter Behrens' designs.**

For those of you who have not heard of Peter Behrens a brief background to the highly influential architect and designer is given in the following two paragraphs. He was one of the most influential 20th-century German designers. At the beginning of the 20th century, his outstanding works in painting, architecture, graphic design and industrial design, exerted a paramount influence in all these various fields, opening up uncharted territory for generations to come. He is viewed as the founder of modern objective industrial architecture and modern industrial design.

Born in Hamburg in 1868, Peter Behrens studied at the Hamburg Kunstgewerbeschule [School for the Applied Arts] from 1886 to 1889 before attending the Kunstschule in Karlsruhe and the Düsseldorf Art Academy. From 1890, he worked as a painter and graphic artist in Munich, where he joined the Jugendstil movement. In 1893 he was a founding member of the Munich Secession.

In order to give an insight into the "influence" of Knox's work two examples are shown below. Probably, the two men never met but exhibitions and design magazines etc. meant that there could be some exchange of ideas and concepts.

The first pair of examples are shown below:



Archibald Knox silver, blister pearl and enamel box  
Hallmarked for 1900



Peter Behrens pewter, and gemstone box  
Marked as "ISIS" pewter which was first  
developed in 1902

The Behrens' box is definitely a minimum of two years later than the Knox box and without a doubt it is a great compliment to Knox that the design influenced such a great European Secessionist designer.

Below are claret jugs designed by Knox and produced in c 1902 and Behrens in c 1905. Again, a great compliment to Knox that shows what an innovative designer he was.



Knox c 1902



Behrens c 1905

### **Ongoing research**

Knox did move to Sulby in the spring/summer of 1902 (having purchased property there at the end of 1901), and he left in September 1905 when he was told that there was an outstanding mortgage on the property.

Knox was a regular worshipper at St. Matthew's Church, Douglas, when he was on the Isle of Man. He had his own favourite seat and he acted as a sidesperson there.

### **In future newsletters there will be updated news on:**

How the drop-in centre and visits to sites of Knox interest is progressing.

Latest news regarding the new Knox book by Dr. Stephen A Martin which will have over 1,000 new images in it.

Talks about Archibald Knox that will be given on the Isle of Man and further afield.

Road shows have been put on hold until it is clear whether the Archibald Knox Forum will attract enough members to make it viable going forward.

### **Your input**

It is important that The Archibald Knox Forum listens to, and responds to you and the public to discover what people wish the Forum to be and what topics they would like covered and discussed in the future.

To this end, we would be delighted to receive any ideas, information and suggestions from the public in order to make this venture interesting, relevant and, above all, reflect the needs and wishes of everyone.

If there are Knox places of interest you wish to visit, or you wish to find out more about, please let us know and we will endeavor to answer your questions or arrange for such visits.

We would like to hear from anybody who wishes to help us with any aspect of The Archibald Knox Forum.

### **Thank you**

Mary and I would like to thank you for your interest and support over the past 9 months and we will report back in December regarding the future of The Archibald Knox Forum.



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