



Year of Our Island - School Holiday Activities

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The summer holidays have arrived and the Year of Our Island team would like to share with you some exciting and easily accessible activities for you and your family to do over the next six weeks.

This year is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate our environment, our culture and our community and there are plenty of ideas below on how you can do this, as well as information on what there is to do and see on our island this summer.

This email sets out lots of information (with links to online resources) for those ideas and we hope it may help. For more information on each activity please visit our website www.ourisland.im or call us on 687007.

The Year of Our Island Summer Passport!

A 'Summer Passport' has been created to encourage your children to explore more and do more over the holidays, from collecting stamps to filling in the pages with stories of their adventures along the way.

Your child's passport will ask them to explore our island by train or tram, to visit a Manx National Heritage site, to pick an adventure trail and to seek out a glen, amongst other things. Stamps are available along the way for each challenge and there are prizes for completing the passport.

The Year of Our Island Summer Passport will be available to be collected from the Welcome Centre and local libraries from Monday 23 July. If you cannot make it to one of these locations, you can call 687007 to have one posted to you.

Our Island Rocks

Another challenge for you to try this summer is the 'Our Island Rocks' adventure hunt. We have hidden specific 'our island' rocks along the Year of Our Island Trail (see below for more details) and in some of our beautiful glens (follow the link for information on which glens).

When you find a rock we ask you to take a picture of the rock and then leave it where it is, in a prominent position, for the next person. Once you have found three rocks head to the Welcome Centre to pick up a prize.

Year of Our Island trail

A brand new 'Our Island Trail' guide for 2018, comprising 12 short walks, has been designed to encourage families of all ages and abilities, to explore more. The trails routes range from one to four miles and the guide includes lots of activities and interesting facts which we think younger explorers will really enjoy.

Copies of the trail guide can be found at the above link, the Welcome Centre and local libraries.

[Our Island Garden](#)

The Blein yn Ellan Ain Garden is located on Station Road in St John's. This garden features the work of 17 primary schools from across the Island who have worked to create gardens which celebrate what makes our island and their environment so special to them. Download the information leaflet, and enjoy the different displays on offer.

[Culture Month Booklet](#)

Our Culture Booklet has been developed with Culture Vannin for you to enjoy with your children. Whether you want to learn some Manx, or try to make some Bonnag, there's something for everyone! Culture booklets are available at Culture Vannin, the Welcome Centre and can be downloaded at the above link.

[Cultural treasure hunt at St John's](#)

This treasure hunt will take you on a short adventure through the village of St John's and its many cultural landmarks. Download the one-page treasure hunt at the above link, and head out for a fun afternoon out with the family!

Drop your completed treasure hunt into Culture Vannin in St John's or the Welcome Centre in Douglas. The first 100 completed and correct entries will win a prize!

[Seas and Shores](#)

Take time out to celebrate our 'Seas and Shores' using our handy guide. This booklet will give you some interesting and useful information about our stunning coastline. Become a Citizen Scientist for a day and help to identify invasive species or if you're looking for something more relaxing you can head to one of our beautiful beaches and try out some of the suggested beach activities.

[Dark Skies](#)

In January we celebrated our 'Dark Skies' but we don't have to just star gaze in January. We are so lucky in the Isle of Man to have dark skies sites which have been recognised for their uninterrupted views of the stars and Milky Way. Pick up or download our Dark Skies Guide, grab a deck chair and a blanket and head out to one of our 26 dark skies sites, all of which offer stunning views of the Milky Way!

[Activities page](#)

This link provides you with a comprehensive list of free and paid for activities for your child, or children, to take part in over the summer.

We would love to hear how you spent your holidays. Share your stories and pictures with us through our social media channels! Make sure you tag your photos with #ourisland2018 and tell us what you love about our island!

Explore more, do more and share more.

Year of Our Island Team

PS check out our [photography competition](#) that you might like to take part in this summer.

