



Visits of Her Majesty The Queen to the Isle of Man

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RESEARCH PAPER

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1. 1955: FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT

The first official visit of Queen Elizabeth II, together with Prince Philip, took place on 9th August 1955. The royal couple sailed into Douglas Bay aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, accompanied by their two young children Prince Charles and Princess Anne, who did not come ashore.

The visit involved a number of events, including a tour around the Island, escorted by a number of TT riders; winding the one-handed clock at Castle Rushen; and meeting with the fishergirls of Peel.

As part of the visit, the Queen presided over a [special sitting of Tynwald](#). The Speaker, Sir Joseph Qualtrough MHK, welcomed the royals, saying that, 'it is a source of great pleasure to us that among the many other calls on your time, Your Majesty has found it possible to visit the Isle of Man so early in your reign'.

The Queen told the Court of her pride in being head of the oldest parliament in the Commonwealth, and recalled her father's fond memories of the Island from his visit in 1945. She also expressed a hope that one day she would preside over the Tynwald ceremony at St John's.

With 'as nish, moghrey mie as aigh vie' (and now, good morning and good luck), the Queen ended her speech and signed the Tynwald visitors' book.

A reception for the Island's dignitaries was held aboard the *Britannia* that evening, with a firework display bringing the visit to a close.

2. 1972: VISIT OF THE QUEEN, PRINCE PHILIP, PRINCESS ANNE, AND LORD MOUNTBATTEN

The visit of the Queen, Prince Philip, Princess Anne and Lord Mountbatten on 2nd August 1972 attracted large crowds, despite a failed union bid for a public holiday to be made.

Upon disembarking the *Britannia* at Victoria Pier, the Queen and her company were welcomed by 1500 schoolchildren and the Manx Festival Chorus. After introductions to Members of Tynwald, led by His Excellency, Sir Peter Stallard, the party travelled by horse tram to the Sefton Hotel where Her Majesty and Princess Anne fed the horse sugar lumps.

The motorcade set off for Ramsey where singing from the local Male Voice Choir and Cushag Choir greeted them. The tour returned to Douglas along the TT course for lunch at Government House followed by a Junior Tynwald ceremony enacted by 1400 children at Tynwald Hill in St John's.

During the motorcade tour, the Isle of Man Courier received a telephone call saying that the Queen would not be allowed to visit Castle Rushen because it was the traditional home of Manx monarchs. After a security check was completed while the royal party enjoyed afternoon tea in the castle, the Queen wound the historic clock for the second time as planned.

A 200-strong reception was held aboard the *Britannia* that evening, marking the end of the Lord of Mann's second visit.

3. 1979: ROYAL ATTENDANCE FOR THE MILLENNIUM YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The arrival of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on 5th July 1979 for the celebration of the Millennium of Tynwald marked their third visit to the Island together, and their first for the national day.

The Queen arrived by plane at Ronaldsway, where she was presented with a piece of silver fern to ward off evil spirits.

Upon arrival at St John's by horse-drawn carriage, the royals were received by the Governor, Sir John Warburton Paul, who then introduced the two senior Captains of the Parishes. The Queen then conducted to the saluting base by the Field Officer in Brigade in Waiting and was met with a Royal salute. A fanfare was then sounded by the State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry.

The Queen's next duty was to inspect the Guard of Honour. Afterwards Her Majesty placed a wreath on the National War Memorial.

As Lord of Mann, Her Majesty [conducted the ceremony on the Hill](#), which included fencing the court and calling for petitions for redress, followed by the captioning of the acts in the Chapel. She was only the second British monarch to fulfil these duties in person, after her father King George VI in 1945.

4. 1989: THE QUEEN AND PRINCE PHILIP'S ONE-DAY VISIT

8th August 1989 saw a one-day visit of the Queen and the Duke. They anchored in Peel Harbour aboard *Britannia* and came ashore by royal barge.

The royal motorcade travelled north along the coast road before arriving in Market Square, Ramsey for a brief walkabout. Lunch was then held in Douglas at Government House.

While the Duke visited Pulrose power station for the official opening of a new generator extension, the Queen unveiled the new extension to the Manx Museum. The Duke later joined the Queen at the King George V Park for the Royal Manx Agricultural Show where the monarch presented the main awards.

After the showground proceedings, the royal couple returned to *Britannia* which had taken up berth at King Edward VIII pier. That evening senior figures were entertained on the yacht as a fireworks display brought the day to a close.

A [coin was issued](#) to commemorate the occasion.

5. 2003: TYNWALD DAY VISIT

Queen Elizabeth II's most recent visit to the island was for Tynwald Day in 2003 alongside the Duke of Edinburgh.

They were greeted at the Hill by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Air Marshal Ian Macfayden. Her Majesty's Standard was broken and the trumpeters of the King's Division Normandy Band played a fanfare.

After being received by a Royal Salute there was a fly-past by four Tornados from 617 Dam Busters Squadron.

The Lord of Mann then inspected a Guard of Honour drawn from the Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guard. Together with the Duke she placed a wreath on the National War Memorial before [conducting proceedings on Tynwald Hill](#). The royals sat at the summit on red velvet chairs.

The Queen returned to St John's later that day to watch the Isle of Man Education's 'Manx Celebrations' performance.

6. RESOURCES

- Cringle, Terry et al: *Here is the News: A Chronicle of the 20th Century* (Manx Experience: Isle of Man, 1999) (available in the Tynwald Library)
- British Pathé, [Royal Visit to the Isle of Man](#) (1955)
- British Movietone, [Royal Visit to Isle of Man \(1972\)](#) (YouTube)

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