



# Visits of His Majesty King Charles III to the Isle of Man

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## RESEARCH PAPER

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## 1. His Majesty's Visits to the Isle of Man

King Charles III has visited the Island on four occasions to date. On his third visit in 2000, he presided over the Tynwald Day ceremony.

### 1975: Visit to the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Volunteer) Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Wales

His Majesty, then HRH Prince of Wales, made a short unofficial visit to the Island on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1975. He flew into Ronaldsway to visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Volunteer) Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Wales, of which he was Colonel in Chief. The regiment was in camp at Jurby.<sup>1</sup>

### 1996: First Official Visit

The Prince of Wales's second, and first official visit, took place on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1996. The main purpose of the visit was to meet local members and officials of the Prince's Trust and Prince's Youth Business Trust, the venue for which was Douglas Youth Centre. He also visited Cregneash, Port Erin, Castletown, and Douglas Town Hall. On the way to Port Erin, after seeing around thirty people waving to him, he stopped the royal motorcade at Southlands retirement home and spent some time talking to the residents.<sup>2</sup>

### 2000: Tynwald Day

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2000, The Prince presided over Tynwald at St John's. He arrived at the Chapel in an open royal carriage escorted by the Household Cavalry.<sup>3</sup> Prior to the service, he inspected a guard of honour drawn from Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards.<sup>4</sup>

On his arrival the night before Tynwald Day, His Royal Highness attended a garden party in the Villa Marina. Whilst on the Island, he also paid a private visit to the Manx Wildlife Trust's reserve and wildflower meadow at Close Sartfield in Jurby. Before leaving, he started a large digital clock which counted down to the next Island Games, which were to be held in the Isle of Man.<sup>5</sup>

### 2012: Diamond Jubilee Tour

As part of the tour to mark the Diamond Jubilee, The Prince visited the Island along with his wife, then The Duchess of Cornwall, on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

They first visited the National Sports Centre in Douglas, where The Prince started a four-lap outdoor race for members of the Team Royal London 360 Isle of Man Cycling Club. After the race had finished, they met World Champion cyclist Peter Kennaugh and scratch race World Champion Ben Swift, as well as members of the cycling club and the parents of young cyclists.<sup>6</sup>

Later they went to Peel, where a reception was held at the House of Manannan. The royal couple met local food producers and young farmers, along with representatives from the local Prince's Trust, the

<sup>1</sup> Gordon N. Kniveton et al, *Here Is the News: A Chronicle of the 20th Century. Volume II: 1951-2000* (Douglas: The Manx Experience, Alden Press, 2000), 135.

<sup>2</sup> *Chronicle of the 20th Century, Vol II*, 250.

<sup>3</sup> *Chronicle of the 20th Century, Vol II*, 275.

<sup>4</sup> Tynwald (5 July 2000), T879-T882, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/hansard/19802000/TC-20000705-v0117.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> *Chronicle of the 20th Century, Vol II*, 275.

<sup>6</sup> 'Special Commemorative Cover Issued to Mark the Royal Visit - IoM Post', Isle of Man Post Office, accessed 13 September 2022, <https://www.iompost.com/our-news/isle-of-man-stamps/special-commemorative-cover-issued-to-mark-the-royal-visit/>.

Manx Wildlife Trust, and the Manx Osteoporosis Society. Moving outside to the quay, they were introduced to the crew of *Vital Spark*, a replica Viking longship which was to take part in the Thames Pageant on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012, and local fishermen. They then attended the launch of the regeneration of the Isle of Man Food Park, unveiling a plaque to mark the beginning of the redevelopment. They also toured a sustainable scallop processing facility; after the visit, His Royal Highness praised the Isle of Man's approach to fishing conservation during his keynote speech at the World Fisheries Congress in Edinburgh in May 2012.<sup>7</sup> Finally, The Prince and The Duchess of Cornwall visited Peel Lifeboat Station to meet RNLi volunteers, coastguards, and members of the emergency services.<sup>8</sup>

The Isle of Man Post Office issued a Special Commemorative Cover to mark the occasion.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> 'Isle of Man Government - Prince of Wales Praises Island's Efforts to Promote Sustainable', gov.im, accessed 13 September 2022, <https://www.gov.im/news/2012/may/15/prince-of-wales-praises-islands-efforts-to-promote-sustainable/>.

<sup>8</sup> 'Special Commemorative Cover Issued to Mark the Royal Visit - IoM Post', Isle of Man Post Office, accessed 13 September 2022, <https://www.iompost.com/our-news/isle-of-man-stamps/special-commemorative-cover-issued-to-mark-the-royal-visit/>.

<sup>9</sup> 'Special Commemorative Cover Issued to Mark the Royal Visit - IoM Post', Isle of Man Post Office, accessed 13 September 2022, <https://www.iompost.com/our-news/isle-of-man-stamps/special-commemorative-cover-issued-to-mark-the-royal-visit/>.