

LINKS WITH THE CURRICULUM

KEY STAGE 2

The concepts and language of the presentation are at a level for older pupils in Years 5 and 6 to benefit most from a visit.

History

- Several of the debates in the Old House of Keys link well with **'Victorian Britain'**. *The Press War* and *Freedom of the Press on Trial* provide a context for introducing the ideas of freedom of speech and of written information, and of the concept of 'political' crimes and their punishment. An Old House of Keys visit linked to Castle Rushen, used as the Island prison until 1891, for 'political' prisoners, criminals and, for some of the period, also for debtors and lunatics, gives a very graphic picture of the criminal justice of Victorian times.
- The often contrasting interests of country and town, farming and commerce, wealthy and poorer groups in society, are easy to highlight from the presentation.
- If pupils are studying **'Changes in the Local Area in Victorian Times'**, some of the

presentation debates may be of interest. A *Move to Douglas* can help to illustrate the growth of Douglas in tourism and commerce compared to the declining economy of Castletown in the mid to late Victorian period.

Citizenship

- As part of pupils' personal development as future citizens, the Old House of Keys can provide a good introduction to the ideas of democracy and how it has evolved in the Isle of Man and the rest of Britain.
- The debate which may be most interesting at Key Stage 2 is *Votes for Women*, although pupils should gain an insight into the differences between a self-appointed body and an elected one by participation in *Votes for All?*.
- If pupils also have an opportunity to visit the present House of Keys they can watch democracy as it affects their lives today.
- Issues such as road closures for sporting events often cause quite heated arguments which pupils may be aware of or participate in at home - *Open Roads and Fast Cars* may spark lively debate!

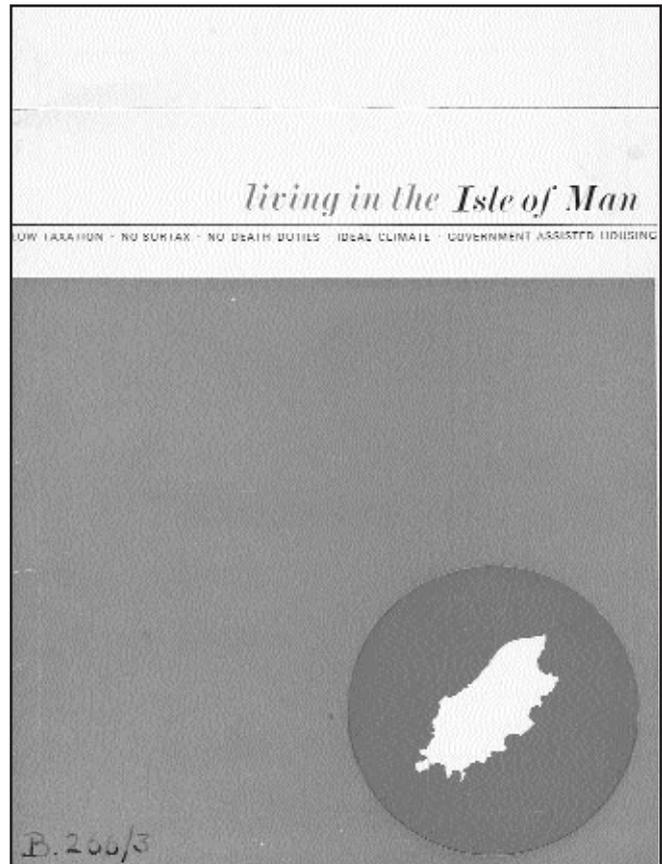


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KEY STAGE 3

History

- The nineteenth century debates link well with aspects of agricultural, industrial and political change in Britain 1750-1900. If pupils are studying industrialisation including the local area, the impact of mass tourism and transport technology on the economy in particular warrants attention.
- The political power groups in the Isle of Man show the divergence of interest between town and country, with Douglas leading the way in the Reform Movements against the established landowning interests in the self-appointed House of Keys.
- Political changes on the Island reflect the wider contexts of reform movements in Britain and Europe, with a move towards democracy, social reform, and a shift in power towards the poorer classes in society.
- Links between the Island and British groups ranging from the Chartists, Women's Suffrage Movement and Electoral Reform Movements can be explored in the contexts of the debates.

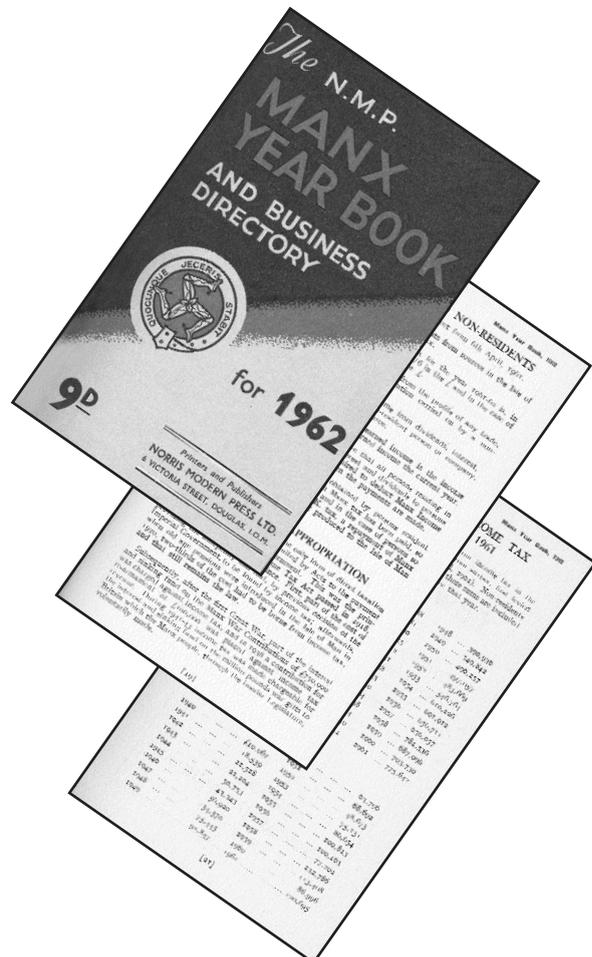


KEY STAGES 3 AND 4

Citizenship

The prime aim of the Old House of Keys presentation is to show how Tynwald, the Island's parliament, has evolved up to the present day.

- Changing relations between the Island and the United Kingdom, the role of the Lieutenant Governor as the Lord of Man's representative, the shifting balance of power between the Legislative Council and the House of Keys, and the increased responsibilities vested in the Island's legislature are all discussed.
- The electoral system and the importance of voting are emphasised.
- The role of the nineteenth century press in society can act as a springboard to discussion on the role of the media today, particularly in politics.
- Interaction between politics and economics is discussed, from the 'Bread Riots' of the 1820s to the 'New Residents Policy' of the 1960s and the current debate over the Island becoming a full member of the European Union.



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EXAMINATION LEVELS

History

Any syllabus where pupils study nineteenth century British political and economic history should find some useful contexts in the Old House of Keys presentations and associated published and manuscript source material, available for research purposes in the Reading Room of the Manx National Heritage Library, Manx Museum, Douglas.

The issues of the freedom of the press, political pressure groups, and electoral reform, including women's suffrage, all have close links with events in the rest of the British Isles and Europe.

Politics

The development of democratic institutions is clearly shown in the presentation, as is the progressive resolution of conflicts between different elements of the Manx Legislature and Executive during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries over issues such as

the powers of the Lieutenant Governor, the role of the Church, and the composition and powers of the Legislative Council vis-à-vis the House of Keys. Source material is available for research in the Manx National Heritage Library, such as Manx Parliamentary Papers, including Hansard verbatim reports of proceedings.

Economics

Many of the political decisions taken in the House of Keys have directly affected the Island's economy. Nineteenth century debates over protectionism or free trade in basic commodities such as grain have their more modern equivalents in concerns over a protected Island market for Manx agricultural products or the requirement to conform to E.U. regulations for the freedom of trade. The question of whether reliance for Government revenue should come mainly from direct or indirect taxation has engendered many lively debates, particularly in the twentieth century as Tynwald has gained relatively increasing fiscal independence from the U.K.. Source material for research is available as described above (History and Politics).