

THE OLD HOUSE OF KEYS PRESENTATION

The Old House of Keys building was designed as the workplace for the twenty four members of the Lower House of the Manx Government, Tynwald, and was used from its construction, completed in 1821, until the move of the Keys from Castletown to the new capital of the Island, Douglas, in 1874. Its refurbishment has been designed to show it in 1865, immediately before the decisive year of 1866 in Manx politics, when the hitherto self-appointed Keys became popularly elected, although by only a small qualifying number of the adult male population at the first elections held in 1867.

The refurbished Chamber is designed to seat up to twenty four people, each with a role to play as a Member of the Keys. Each shheading (Rushen, Glenfaba, Middle, Michael, Garff, Ayre) is represented and eight topical issues spanning the years from 1833 to the present are presented in debate and background audio visual information for visitors' votes as Honorary Members.

The audio visual presentation is timed to last forty minutes and viewing is shown as advertised. At the

appointed time the Secretary to the House calls in visitors, as Honorary Members of the Keys, to the building and introduces them to the House. As they file in to the Chamber, they are asked to sit in their place and the Speaker, a seated figure, welcomes them and introduces the themes of the powers and responsibilities of the Keys, and also the visitors' role in the proceedings.

As each issue is debated by the Members, together with projected audio visual effects 'outside' the Chamber to highlight the topic, the Speaker sums up the issue and calls for a vote. All the Honorary Members present cast their vote and, depending on whether the 'Ayes' or the 'Noes' carry the day, the Speaker summarises the results of the Honorary Members' vote, and also gives the actual result which happened at the time.

When all eight issues have been debated and votes cast, the Secretary to the Keys shows the visitors out of the Chamber.



Video Loop



Key Points



Background Info



Look out for