



Press Release

A right Royal Tynwald programme

Tynwald Day 2003 is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet with countless entertainments to appeal to young and old.

The fun starts at 9am on Monday July 7 with folk music, dancing and exhibitions and continues through until 11pm with a piper playing the Manx National Anthem on a floodlit Tynwald Hill.

President of Tynwald Noel Cringle said: 'This year we have enhanced the entertainment programme even more anticipating many of the Island's residents will wish to come along for part or all the day to enjoy the fun and spectacle of a Royal Tynwald. It's imperative people make plans to arrive in good time for the Tynwald Ceremony at which Her Majesty will preside. We have free buses laid on to hopefully lessen the traffic on the roads and parking areas will be specifically signed.

'Tynwald Day is a symbol of our nation, steeped as it is in tradition; it can be thoroughly enjoyed by young and old alike.'

New for 2003 will be a Big Screen next to the Homecomers' tent - the same type used during the TT festival - which will give many hundreds of people a better view of the ancient ceremony. Footage will be edited into a video available later this year- but television pictures will be broadcast live on the internet on www.manx.radio.com. Highlights will be available in downloadable clips from about 3pm - for more information go to www.gov.im/tynewaldday or www.manx.net.

The Front Green will be transformed after the ceremony to play host to the Department of Education's A Manx Celebration attended by HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Duke of Edinburgh. Following the display, everyone is welcome to compete in the Rushen Round Table's 3-legged World Championships, before enjoying a performance of IoM Wind Orchestra.

Unusual sights to enjoy at the Tynwald Fair will include Cow Parade - the life-size fibreglass bovines, all painted with Manx themes. This is the only opportunity to view the entire herd in a single venue. They will be located at various locations around St John's including the Lych gate, Homecomers' marquee, IOM Post mobile on the Fair Field, outside the new school plus - the largest congregation - in the garden of the Old School.

One of the world's best selling novelists Barbara Taylor Bradford will be an honoured guest at Tynwald Day. Her long awaited sequel to *A Woman of Substance* is to be launched on July 7 and she will sign copies of *Emma's Secret* at the Isle of Man Post stand on the Fair Field between 10am and 10.30am and 1.15pm and 2pm. Mrs Bradford is one of several authors featured on a new Isle of Man stamp series entitled *Manx Bookshelf* - available from all post offices from July 7, and at St John's on Tynwald Day.

A visit to the Old School is essential for anyone attending the festivities. A record number of exhibits, displays and crafts will be found there, including newcomers, the Mannin Woodworkers and Erin Arts Bonsai Tree Society, and old favourites like the scalextric club and several other model clubs. Another first for this year is the Craftworks Studio who will offer 'paint your own ceramic' mementoes. All proceeds from this venture will go to Manx Gaelic playgroup Moonjer Veggey, St John's, who now occupy the Old School. The Isle of Man Amateur Radio Society shall have the Royal Society's bus visiting the Island especially to mark the royal visit. The bus will be alongside the Island's computer bus in the Old School yard.

The Arboretum will again host many events including Ramsey Town Band and the Manx Jazz Aces with a good mixture of Manx music and dance, along with a martial arts display from Yuki Yama Dojo.

The Homecomers' marquee will for the first time have Onchan Silver Band perform early evening before the popular Ceilidh Band, King Chiaullee, with the now famous tasty spuds and herring suppers provided by the St John's and Foxdale live at home scheme.

During the evening many popular concerts will be staged including Castletown Town Band in the Old School, the Regal Singers in the church, Beat Retreat by the military band and the Ellan Vannin Pipes and Drums band who will conclude the performances by playing the National Anthem after the fireworks.

Large crowds are anticipated with more than 500 seats sold for the grandstand seating alone, so anyone planning to attend the Island's annual parliamentary ceremony is advised to arrive at St John's before 9.30am.

The full programme detailing the start times and venues of all events is being distributed in the *Isle of Man Courier* newspaper on July 3. Additional copies will be available from the Information point at the Old School on Tynwald Day. The leaflet also includes details and the entry form of the Tynwald competition with a £1,000 prize.

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