

**Submission to Her Majesty the Queen, Lord of Mann, in the Platinum year of her reign**

**A Bid for City Status from the Town of Purt ny Hinshey (Peel), Isle of Man**



**November 2021**



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**a) Summary**



From the top of Snaefell, the only mountain on the Isle of Man at 621 metres above sea level, on a clear day you can see: Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales. Peel, on the West Coast of the Isle of Man (Map **Photo 50**) was the home of royal rule during the period when the Island was the centre of a maritime empire controlling the Irish Sea, from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century until the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Today her Majesty the Queen carries the title Lord of Mann. The Isle of Man is a Crown dependency in the geographical centre of the British Isles and is the only one of these nations that has no city. Her Majesty opened the Secondary School that serves Peel and which bears her name, while their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall launched the Isle of Man Food Park in Peel and HRH the Princess Royal has opened a number of structures and is Patron of St German’s Cathedral development.

The people of the Isle of Man have always assumed that Peel is a city. From medieval times it has been referred to as a city in various documents and on the Island is known as ‘sunset city’. The spectacular sunsets illuminate the red sandstone as the sun sets behind the ancient Cathedral.

The population of Peel, may not be large (5,374), but it is three times the size of St David’s Pembrokeshire, created a city in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (1,772 in 2020), and one and a half times the size of St Asaph’s Denbighshire (3,470 in 2020), created a city in 2012. Like St David’s, Peel has played a significant role in the spread of Celtic Christianity and the Christianisation of a Viking Kingdom. It has also had a cathedral since the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century making the diocese 150 years older than Canterbury.

Commercially, Peel has had strong links with the sea. It is the main home of the Manx fishing fleet, and, while herring harvested for kippers may no longer be the main catch, it has been replaced by ‘queenie’ fishing - a local delicacy that is exported widely. Peel has gone out to the world and welcomed the world to its community. It boasts the smallest production car ever made and the longest episcopacy in the Church of England.

Peel has made many contributions to the world, both socially and economically. It was at the instigation of our local Member of the House of the Keys (the Manx parliament) that in 1881 brought about the first nation in the world to have female suffrage. It was an ‘enemy alien’, Josef Pilates, interned here in the largest Internment Camp in the British Isles during World War I, who gave his eponymous exercises to the world. Others, who may not be household names, include Archibald Knox ‘Prior of the League of Germain’ and ‘ghost designer’ for Liberty of London, who made Liberty a globally recognised brand. A Peel inventor was responsible for a navy ship being the fastest of her class at 39 knots in 1907.

Peel has long punched above its weight, overseeing the saving of the Manx language through the translation of the Bible into Manx and the re-birth of the language and culture thanks to people like Sophia Morrison. Peel has also seen the re-birth of the Anglican choral tradition through Mary Wood, who was also founder of the Manx Music Festival, still thriving today. Peel is a microcosm of the Isle of Man, distilling Manx identity.

This bid represents a partnership between Politicians, businesses, the voluntary sector and the Cathedral. We are delighted and proud to present our case, garnered from our community on behalf of the people of Peel and wider Manx society as we approach the Lord of Mann’s platinum year of her reign.

**On behalf of Politicians:**

**National** - Tim Crookall & Kate Lord-Brennan (MHKs for Glenfaba and Peel)

**Local** - Hazel Hannan (Chair) & Alan Jones (Peel Commissioners)

**On behalf of the Business Community:**

Ian Tomkins (Joint Chair, Peel Traders’ Association)

**On behalf of the Voluntary Sector:**

Vicki Gillings & Yvonne Cresswell (Peel Heritage Trust)

David Maclean (Chairman of the Centenary Centre)

**On behalf of the Cathedral:**

Peter Eagles (Bishop Sodor and Man) & Nigel Godfrey (Dean)

## b) An introduction

### • Distinct identity

The Isle of Man sees itself as a unique and distinctive part of the British Isles, with its rich cultural history and the world's oldest continuous Parliament (Tynwald). In terms of its physical landscape it has been called a microcosm of the British Isles. The island has its own identity and language (Manx Gaelic) and currency pegged to sterling; the £10 note on the obverse portrays the ancient Cathedral.

Within this unique island, the people of Peel see themselves as being even more distinctive. Peel has a strong sense of identity and of its own sense of 'Manxness'. Peel's history and heritage can be seen as a concentrated distillation of the wider Manx identity.

Peel has been occupied and used by a variety of people over the millennia. Mesolithic hunter-gatherers foraged along its rocky and sandy shores. There is archaeological evidence of permanent settlement on St Patrick's Isle (The Islet from which Peel grew **Photo 1**) from the late Bronze Age. The discovery of a 10th century Pagan Lady's burial site with a stunning necklace of glass, amber and jet indicate wide trading connections with St Patrick's Isle (Innys Pheric in the Manx and Holme in the Norse).

The Celts founded a Monastery here replacing the earlier Round Houses. It was also the home of the Cathedral from the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century when St German, a disciple of Patrick made it his seat (Cathedra). In 1098 King Magnus Barefoot of Norway destroyed the church buildings and commenced the building of his capital of the Kingdom of Mann and the Isles on St Patrick's Isle, which was subordinate to the Kingdom of Norway. The isle was ideally placed to control the Irish Sea for the next 250 years of wrangling over ownership of the Isle of Man **Photo 2**.

During Norwegian rule the Nordic invaders were converted to Christianity and the Cathedral re-built (the remains of the Cathedral built in 13th Century by Bishop Simon of Sodor and Man, formerly Abbot of Iona, are still evident). The diocese was placed under the Archdiocese of Nidaros (Trondheim) in Norway by Pope Eugenius III (1152), an arrangement which was confirmed in 1154 by Adrian IV (Nicholas Breakspere – the only Englishman to be elected Pope). In 1458 Calixtus III transferred Sodor and Man to the province of York. Control of the Island passed to the English by 1333, with the rulers becoming the Kings of Mann. About 50 years later the stone building of the Castle started using red sandstone and slate quarried from the Isle. This was the first of the Isle of Man's medieval fortresses. **Photo 3**

The castle was home to Parliamentary troops garrisoned on the Island after the English Civil War and was the setting for one of the Island's most well-known folk tales – the Moddey Dhoo (a spectral black dog) who roamed the castle at night. The garrison guards always locked up in pairs but one night a single guard locked up and was so frightened by the ghostly dog he died three days later. Sir Walter Scott mentions him in his novel Peveril of the Peak.

St Patrick's Isle has provided a fortress guarding the west of the Island, together with being a Manx 'home' for the Norse Kings of Man. The ruined medieval Cathedral within the fortifications remains, while the current Cathedral built on the edge of the Victorian heart dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Peel is home to one of the Island's major fishing fleets. The 'forest of masts' that could at one time be seen in Peel harbour as the Manx fishing fleet came home with holds full of herring has now been replaced by a more varied selection of vessels. Peel has kept its maritime identity as a working harbour with yachts and cruisers, of varying sizes, alongside the working fishing fleet **Photo 4 & 5**. Even the odd cruise liner can be seen berthed at Peel breakwater. Peel waters are also the home of the West Coast Marine nature reserve, the largest of the 10 that cover the Isle of Man.

Peel promenade and its long sandy beach is still a magnet for tourists and locals **Photo 6**. One can sit and enjoy the view of a majestic medieval castle and Cathedral in one direction, a long vista of sea cliffs stretching out into the distance in the other and distant mountains on the horizon of Scotland directly in front. If you then go to the second beach of Peel (Fenella Bay) you look out to Irish mountains on the horizon. All of this can be enjoyed whilst eating a Manx crab bap and, if lucky, watching dolphins playing in the bay, seals bobbing about around the breakwater, while basking sharks glide below the surface of the sea.

## • Civic pride

Peel people or Gobbags (pronounced Govags, 'dog fish' in Manx Gaelic) have always been proud of their community. The characteristic of a dog fish is that nothing of it is wasted – all finds a use.

In discussing with the people of Peel as to whether we should apply for city status, the usual response has been, *'surely we are already a city!'*. This misunderstanding has arisen for several reasons:

- There is an ancient, ruined Cathedral **Photo 7** and a 'new' Cathedral **Photo 8** and the assumption is made that this automatically makes Peel a city.
- Some ancient documents refer to Peel as a city. A Papal Bull sent to Peel in 1253 addresses the People of the 'Sodor Cathedral City' and the same term is used again in a Papal Bull of 1349.
- The local Newspaper published from 1882 - 2001 was called the 'Peel City Guardian'.
- In 1932 an enterprising tourism official named Peel the 'Sunset City' **Photo 9** and the name has stuck. This is apposite not only because the sun sets into the sea behind the castle, but also because the red Devonian sandstone and Ruabon red brick buildings give Peel a sunset hue.

The 1970s saw much renewal of urban fabric across the Island's town centres with old buildings demolished to make way for modern constructions. The Cullen Report was commissioned to look at Peel (May 1971). At the time it was very much the poor relation of Manx settlements, its centre remaining largely untouched. The report stated: *'Peel is obscure. You cannot adequately describe Peel by photographs; it is a tale told in Braille'*. Views are very restricted, because of the nature of the tiny twisty streets, which follow ancient lane patterns and have helped to keep out the sea gales. Today this gives the centre its charm **Photo 10 & 11**. The whole of the centre of Peel is a Conservation Area.

The Island and Peel have an impressive war record, not just in terms of military service offered, but also with so many people connected with the merchant navy and fishing enabling Britain to be fed. The Peel War Memorial has 106 names of military personnel who died in World War I, 25 in World War II, and 1 in the Afghan Conflict **Photo 12**.

One story of a Peel fishing boat called the Wanderer PL11 gives a flavour of our unsung tales of heroism. The Wanderer was fishing off Old Kinsale Head and had a good catch during the night. At 2pm on 7 May 1915 the watch spotted a liner - it was the Lusitania. At 2.10pm there was a loud explosion and she sank 18 minutes later. The Wanderer was the only boat around for two hours. The crew rescued 160 people and towed two lifeboats in towards Kinsale. Little was ever mentioned of the Wanderer and her crew, though the Island presented medals to the crew at Tynwald day, our national day.

Because of its geographical isolation, the Island became the home of internment camps during World War I and II. A farm on the outskirts of Peel, Knockaloe, during World War I housed 24,500 'enemy aliens' (the equivalent of half the then population of the Isle of Man and the largest camp in the British Isles). Today the site is the home of the 'Knockaloe Centre for WW1 Internment: Visitor Centre & WW1 Civilian Internee Database'. The Cathedral commemorates this with a piece of sculpture by Angela Patchett that pays homage to two global figures associated with the camp: Josef Pilates, an *'enemy alien'*, who within the constraints of internment invented exercises that are now used the world over and Archibald Knox, (a censor) who was Celtic-art-nouveau 'ghost designer' for Liberty of London and Prior of St. Germain. (Archibald Knox indirectly gave his name to Italian Art-Nouveau which is called 'Stile Liberty'.) **Photo 13**

Despite being an urban environment, behind Peel Castle is one of the official Dark Sky Discovery sites in the British Isles, (the Isle of Man has 26 of the 100 sites boasting the largest concentration of them within one area). As well as the spectacular star-studded sky, on occasion the Northern Lights, or aurora borealis, are visible.

Peel is a place where people want to live because there's a sense of community and a sense of identity – there's so much to do or to join in with - there's something for everyone. For those who enjoy quirkiness, in the small local streets there are unusual shops **Photo 14 & 15**, including antiquarian booksellers, antiques and craft shops as well as the kipper yard and fishmongers. Peel is also the home of several wildlife charities: The Manx Whale and Dolphin watch has its headquarters and the Manx Wildlife Trust has its base and shop **Photo 16**. For those more active, there are a variety of societies and organisations from sport, for example, football and golf, or from the arts, including galleries, dance, acting and choral groups.

## Twining

Our Cathedral has links with Nidaros Cathedral (Norway), and officially the Anglican diocese of Sodor and man is twinned with the Diocese of Cashel Ferns and Ossory in the south-east of Ireland, which includes six ancient Cathedrals, (Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin).

### • Cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history and traditions

Hunter-gatherers found Peel an ideal place to live. Peel is one of the oldest occupied locations on the Island, with Mesolithic flints and signs of Late Bronze Age habitation being found on St Patrick's Isle.

Peel has been known by a variety of names: Holmtown, Purt ny hinshey ('Port of the Island') and has served several different functions. It has been a fishing port, a safe harbour, a fortress and garrison, a religious centre, an industrial hub and tourist resort, as well as being home to countless generations.

With the development of the Castle, the garrison needed provisions, so Peel started to grow. St Patrick's Isle was then used mainly by the church. The Cathedral set within the castle contained relics of St German and it was on the pilgrimage routes that linked the Island with communities around the British Isles, Norway and beyond. Today pilgrimage continues with Peel being the centre of the Triskelion Way <https://pilgrimageisleofman.im/triskelion-way/> which links Rushen Abbey (representing the Latin mission), Peel Cathedrals (The Viking Mission) and Maughold (the Celtic Mission).

Conflict between the military and the ecclesiastical demands on St Patrick's Isle led to the demise of the Cathedral. It reached a critical point during the episcopacy of Bishop Thomas Wilson when clashes between church and state led to his imprisonment for a time. He was Bishop of Sodor and Man from 1697 to 1755, probably the longest episcopacy in the Church of England. He was described by John Henry Newman (later beatified Cardinal) as: *'A burning and shining light ... he seemed like the Baptist in an evil time, as if a beacon lighted on his small island to show what his Lord and Saviour could do in spite of man'*. He was deeply influential in the subsequent 'Oxford Movement' which transformed the Church of England. The last Bishop to be enthroned in the ancient Cathedral was Claudius Crigan in 1784. It would take 100 years before another Cathedral was built in Peel and a further 100 years before this Victorian building **Photo 17** was consecrated as the new Cathedral in 1980.

Peel is bounded by Peel Hill **Photo 18** to the west with its Neolithic sites and St Patrick's Isle with the Castle now joined to the harbour by a causeway, where the River Neb flows past the breakwater into the Irish Sea. The Promenade extends to the sandstone quarries and Headlands. When out for a walk on the Prom Gobbags kick the wall at the Quarry face before turning around to walk back. 'Have you kicked the wall today?' in Peel means have you been out for a walk. Old Peel snuggles down behind the prom with its haphazard twisty narrow lanes reaching down to the sea **Photo 19**. The newer housing surrounds the centre to the south and east.

The harbour and Marina are often busy with boats coming and going. The large Peel herring fleets of old have gone the way of the herring. The atmosphere is a gentle port with 'traa dy liooar' (time enough) **Photo 20**. In Peel we like to chat and get the latest Skeet (gossip). There is a Peel pastime of sitting at the breakwater café or 'Spit' corner ('Spit' here means a stretch of beach that projects out to the sea) discussing the world both local and 'across' (the UK is never referred to as the mainland).



The maritime climate, while mild, can see Peel battered by strong south-westerly winds. Sometimes Manannan's Cloak descends covering Peel in a mist. Legend has it that Manannan Mac Lir, the Celtic Sea God, would cover the Island to protect it from invaders. He also protected the sailors of the Island. We share this legend with the Celtic nations which we are linked to culturally (Ireland *Eire*, Cornwall, *Ker.now*, Scotland *Alba*, Brittany *Breizh*, Wales *Cymru*, Galithia *Gallaeci*) with which we are linked visibly in the Celtic flag.

Peel has a rich cultural heritage that is still an important element of community life and is actively growing and developing.

## • Vibrant and welcoming community

The Isle of Man may be an Island, but it has never been insular in its outlook. The Island's position in the middle of the Irish Sea has not historically been a barrier, but instead has facilitated contact with the rest of the British Isles as well as further afield. The Island was in the centre of a major maritime thoroughfare of various trading and fishing routes and Peel, on the Island's west coast, was the maritime centre for the Island.

The international connections continued, with medieval pilgrims and later fishermen and miners following the herring and gold (and even diamonds). A particularly adventurous group of young men from Peel even built their own vessel, *The Vixen*, and sailed out to the Australian gold mines in 1853, before some of them made the return trip in 1859.

The fishing fleet still brings in Queenies, scallops and mixed catch which are processed in the Peel Food Park before being sent overseas. Sea-air is often tinged with the odour of the Smoke Houses preparing the kippers that many associate with the Isle of Man **Photo 21**.

Peel has a strong history of tourism from the English who could not go on the Grand Tour due to the Napoleonic Wars, to the present day with 'staycations'. In the 1880s Peel was a busy place with the Herring Fishery thriving and the start of the tourist boom. The building of Peel's distinctive guesthouses began **Photo 22**. Tourists were attracted to a place very different from their own. Many came from the Northwest factory towns or Scotland's industrial belt for their Wakes Weeks holiday. They could relax and enjoy the outdoors. The Peel folk responded by 'taking in' guests. Some streets had guests in every house **Photo 23**. Entertainment was laid on with swimming pool galas and 'Gymkhanas' in the Castle. Today people come for the same things, the outdoors, relaxed way of life and the history.

A wide variety of different cultural events are held in Peel. These have included the annual Viking Festivals held on Peel beach in the 1960s-1970s and provided the precursor to the annual Viking Long Boat Races still held in Peel Bay **Photo 2**. There is also an annual Peel Traditional Boat Weekend, where wooden vessels (including the Manx Nobby – a fishing boat designed for fishing from Peel) gather from British Isles' ports for a classic boat regatta.

More recent developments have included a Viking re-enactment group creating a Viking village on Peel beach, an annual fire festival on the beach ('Oie Voaldyn', the summer against winter Celtic festival) **Photo 24** and the Western Open Studio Art Trail (WOSAT) that started in Peel and has now become an Island-wide arts festival. There has also been increased interest and involvement in the summer carnival, together with a variety of events being held in Peel as part of the Island's TT motorcycle races. Many of these are community-led initiatives and show the active involvement and pride people have in Peel and which have become highlights of the Manx calendar for locals and visitors alike.

## • Record of innovation

### Industrial Innovation

While there have been many engineering firsts associated with shipping, among them the invention of a machine for harvesting of scallops or 'queenies' (**Higgins**), the most transforming was the invention by Peel citizen **Jonathan Kermode** which involved a new principle of atomizing oil fuel by the method known to marine engineers as the 'tangential hole' system. It allowed the more efficient burning of oil with almost smokeless combustion, thus giving much higher speeds in engines. This was adopted by the British Royal Navy in the fitting of HMS Swift, built in 1907 and was mainly responsible for this ship, the fastest of her class, reaching the speed of 39 knots in her trials. The system was soon fitted to other vessels. Kermode also applied the system to railways in Russia.

At the other end of the scale listed in the 2010 Guinness World Records was the smallest production car ever made by **Cyril Cannell** and **Henry Kissack** – the Peel P50. Only 50 were built (1962-5) and 27 still exist, making it not only the smallest car but one of the rarest **Photo 25**. Today you can once again order one, including electric versions, or build one yourself from a kit: <https://p50cars.com/> The Peel Engineering Company followed in a long tradition of industrial enterprises in Peel, which was home to ship building yards and net factories, as well as fish processing and kipper yards.

## Social Innovation

Peel has a number of firsts when it comes to innovation, some well-known. Peel, for example, has had a lifeboat station since 1823 **Photo 26**. It was the following year that Sir William Hillary, who lived in Douglas, proposed a lifeboat service, later called the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Peel is very proud of its lifeboat. The last Peel event before Covid was welcoming our new boat with a display of lifeboat synchronised manoeuvres. HRH The Princess Royal visited the new lifeboat on her last visit (July 2021).

In 1881 the Isle of Man became the first country in the world to give women the vote. When the House of Keys addressed issues of franchise reform on 5 November 1880 the desire for change had taken hold across the Island. The reformist leading the debate was **Richard Sherwood**, MHK for Glenfaba, (our political constituency today is Glenfaba and Peel) who simply argued that the word 'male' should be removed from the proposed legislation, since 'as a principle of justice, taxation and representation should go together'. The vote was 16 to 3. It is noteworthy that Emeline Pankhurst the great English Suffragette had a Manx mother Sophia Jane Craine.

**Archibald Knox** (1864-1933) has made his mark in two ways. First in pre-empting the work of George Macleod (1895-1991) in his development of Iona Abbey in 1938. Knox had wanted to restore the ecclesiastical buildings on St Patrick's Isle and to do this he founded the League of St Germain in 1896 which sought the '*recovery of the religious houses on St Patrick's Isle*' proclaiming himself '*Prior*'. (Historically the Abbey on Iona and the Cathedral on St Patrick's Isle were at either end of a single maritime empire and both were built by Simon a Benedictine Abbot of Iona - who later became bishop of Sodor and Man from 1226-1247.) Secondly as 'ghost designer' for Liberty of London, Knox's Tudric and Cymric ranges made Liberty of London a global brand and indirectly gave its name to Italian Art Nouveau which is called 'Stile Liberty'.

Children's author, **The Revd. Wilbert Awdry** invented the Island of Sodor as his setting for 'Thomas the Tank Engine' books. Peel Godred (combines the name of the Cathedral Town and Godred Crovan King of Man 1079-1095) and is to be found at the end of Peel Godred line.

Innovation in the fishing industry in particular enabled some locals to amass wealth. One family whose wealth gained in this way subsequently became major benefactors of Peel where the **Corrin's** built the Cathedral Hall, the Commissioners offices, a residential Home for the elderly and some housing for local people. The Corrin Tower (a folly) overlooks the settlement from Peel Hill.

## • Sound governance and administration

### The Governance of Peel

The Isle of Man is governed by the only functioning tricameral parliament in the world (Tricameral refers to the three Chambers: Tynwald Court, the House of Keys, and the Legislative Council. Each Chamber has a different composition and function). They receive their Authority from the Lord of Man <sup>1</sup> (Her Majesty the Queen), and she is represented by the Lieutenant Governor who has limited constitutional powers. The Legislative Council is a reviewing body whose members are elected by the members of the House of Keys, and the House of Keys are the legislating body, when they meet together, they are known as Tynwald Court. The House of keys consists of 24 members who are elected every 5 years and from these members a government is formed consisting of a Chief Minister and various departmental ministers. The constituency of Glenfaba and Peel returns two Members of the House of Keys and the constituency is comprised of Peel and the Parishes of German and Patrick.

Peel and their neighbouring Parishes each have a local Authority body known as Commissioners who are locally elected every four years. The Local Government Act 1985 is the main legislation which outlines the duties and responsibilities of Local Commissioners.

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<sup>1</sup> The Revestment Act 1765 the feudal rights of the Dukes of Atholl as Lords of Man were revested in the British Crown.

Peel has seven Commissioners. A chairman is elected by them annually and other members take responsibility for the committees which oversee the various functions. The Chairman also has the ancient title of 'Captain of the Castle'.

This demonstrates that both National and Local Government on the Island are **accountable**, and through elections, are based on the **consensus** of the population. Members of the public are welcome at any of the sittings of our tricameral government and to observe all meetings of the Commissioners in Peel, showing **transparency**. Whilst the government creates the law, it is also **subject** to it. Both Local and National Governments seek to be **equitable and inclusive**. Monthly joint surgeries (a commissioner and an MHK) are held at Peel Commissioners offices showing the ability to be **responsive**. There is also the ability of the local electorate to call a Requisition Meeting requiring the Captain of a Parish to hold a meeting to hear the grievances of the local electorate, on average one might be called annually). On Tynwald Day (5<sup>th</sup> July) any Manx citizen can formally present petitions to the Lieutenant Governor asking for a review; there are a number each year.

The Commissioners are responsible for the following activities:

- Housing – Peel Commissioners own 350 units of Social Housing and is responsible for their maintenance, allocation and rent collection. (Unlike the UK, no public housing has ever been sold off in the Isle of Man.)
- Rates – Peel Commissioners have the power to set and collect Rates to fund its activities. In addition a separate refuse charge is levied and a burial rate; the cemetery is managed by the Cathedral Wardens.
- Byelaws – Peel Commissioners have the power to set their own byelaws.
- Refuse Collection – Collection of household and commercial waste and recycling.
- Street Lighting – provision and maintenance of street lighting
- Public toilets – Provision and maintenance of public toilets
- Planning - Powers of appeal and consultation relating to conservation areas, registration of buildings and on the preparation of the development plan for their area.
- Trees and High hedges – Local Authorities have the power to deal with trees and overgrown/high hedges.
- Highway service functions – hedge cutting, street sweeping, gully cleaning and weed spraying.
- Litter Officers enforce the litter Act 1972. Peel provides and empty litter bins.
- Abandoned Vehicles - Local Authorities have the power to remove vehicles that are a danger.
- Leisure facilities – provision of recreational and entertainment facilities including parks and playgrounds.
- Car Parking – Maintains and runs off street and short-term disc parking.
- Control of Dogs – Enforcing the Dogs Act and dog related byelaws.
- Public Information and Advice – Point of contact for information on local and central government matters.
- Libraries and Museums – Peel has a Library and the Leece Museum (a local history museum).

There are additional Museums: Manx National Heritage run the House of Manannan, see **Photo 20** an interactive museum, and Peel Castle. Local groups run The Transport Museum which houses one of the rare P50 cars.

In addition, Peel Commissioners work with their neighbouring Authorities on 'Boards' to run the Swimming Pool **Photo 27**, Amenity site (waste disposal and recycling), and sheltered housing. They are also a member of the municipal association, a body which provides a forum for local authorities to discuss and share matters relating to Local Government.

### **Policing**

The Isle of Man has low crime rates and Peel is no exception. This may be due to a mixture of low unemployment, small communities, isolation from conurbations and the challenge of moving rapidly from the Island. The Cathedral has 'Street Pastors' who walk Peel at weekends, to assist people who might need a bit of support at the end of the evening and give assurance of it being a safe place. The Police station, a former Magistrates Court, houses the Island's traffic police **Photo 28**.

• **Associations with Royalty**



St Patrick's Isle from the 9th century was the home of the rulers of Man. In 1098 King Magnus Barefoot made St Patrick's Isle his headquarters for the maritime empire of 'Man and the Isles' which lasted for two centuries and included The Inner Hebrides, the Outer Hebrides, The Islands of the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Man.

Royal rule remained in Peel until the 13th century when the focus shifted to Castle Rushen in the south of the island. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it then moved to Douglas. The Stanleys' however, as Lords of Mann, maintained a royal apartment on St Patrick's Isle, alongside the Cathedral, though it was little used and by the 18th century was ruinous.

From early in the 20th century Peel has been visited by numerous Royals. Every crowned monarch (who also bears the title Lord of Mann) has visited from King Edward VII in 1902 to Queen Elizabeth II. HM Queen has visited four times since 1955 and in the millennium year of Tynwald (1979) she opened The Queen Elizabeth II High School on the outskirts of Peel.

In the 21st century all the Queen's children have also made visits. Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall launched the Isle of Man Food Park in Peel. The Princess Royal has had a special relationship with St German's Cathedral, being ipatron of the development since 2014. In that capacity she has made a number of visits including laying the foundation stone of the Labyrinth in the Cathedral gardens.

HM the Queen also has connections with the Cathedral, distributing Royal Maundy money to recipients from Sodor and Man on 21st April 2011 at Westminster Abbey when the Bishop and Canons of St German's were all present. One recipient now has the stand at Peel AFC named after him (Terry Vincent).

• **Other particularly distinctive features, age, residents or communities who have made widely recognised significant contributions to society and cultural infrastructure.**

Peel has also been a major centre of the Island's cultural life, in particular that of the Manx Cultural Revival. **Sophia Morrison** (1859-1917) was an avid collector and recorder of all things Manx, including Manx Gaelic, music, folklore and folk tales, and a campaigner and promoter of Manx culture in its many forms. Together with the Manx language scholar (and fellow Peel resident) **Edmund Goodwin**, they helped lay the foundations that ensured they were not just preserving the past for its own sake, but were helping to ensure a vibrant future for Manx culture. Sophia and Edmund were founding members of The Manx language Society *Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh* in 1899. The Society has the motto: '*Gyn shengey, syn cheer*' - '*without language, without country*', which sums up the importance of language. Manx was not written down until the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century when Bishop Philips created a script and then translated the Prayer Book. During the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Bishop Hildersley involved all the clergy on the Island in translating the Bible into Manx and the Vicar of Peel, Rev Henry Corlett, was responsible for Exodus and chapters 11-22 of Revelation. In 2019 Cathedral Isle of Man held an exhibition to mark 200 years since Manx people could buy the Bible as one volume (<https://www.cathedral.im/exhibitions>). The value of the work of these pioneers can still be seen in the Manx language being taught in all primary schools and visible in Manx music and dance sessions in local pubs. Artists that have moved away from Peel still maintain connections with Peel such as **Professor Karen Vaughan** who for 30 years was Principal Harp of the London Symphony Orchestra and **Dr Mandy Griffin** Mezzo-Soprano. An important part of Peel's cultural identity and infrastructure is that it's not a passive or static culture and heritage, but one that continues to inspire recent and future cultural developments.

Another formidable character was **Mary Louisa Wood** (1839-1925), who while being born in London made the Island her home. She was the first organist for Bishop Rowley Hill's planned new Cathedral and was responsible for starting a proficient choir, establishing the Anglican Choral tradition on the Island. She also founded the Manx Music Festival, known as the Guild which is still a thriving Festival of one weeks duration.

Other Peel people have made good and returned to pay back to Peel. The Hon **James Kewley Ward** (1819-1910) was born in Peel and travelled to Canada which became his home for over 60 years. He came to Peel frequently and enjoyed Peel's fishing atmosphere, little changed from his youth. He gave money for St Peter's Church Tower **Photo 29** and its clock that served the community. He also totally funded a free library near his birthplace so it would be accessible to all **Photo 30**.

There have been a variety of different types of heritage and cultural initiatives over recent decades.

**The House of Manannan** was a major heritage initiative by Manx National Heritage opened in 1997. It provided an opportunity for urban regeneration of the harbour with the building of a Celtic, Norse and Maritime visitor attraction on the site of the old railway station **see Photo 20**. It was joint winner of the National Heritage Museum of the Year in 1998. A centrepiece of the House of Manannan is the Odin's Raven, a replica of a Norse longship, which was built and sailed/rowed from Trondheim (in Medieval times known as Nidaros) to Peel in 1979 with a Manx and Norwegian crew as part of the Island celebrating 1,000 years of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament.

**The Peel Centenary Centre** opened in 2003 and is housed in the 19th century Centenary Hall of the nearby Peel Methodist Church. It is proud of being the Island's only Arts and Community Centre run entirely by volunteers and provides a venue for a variety of theatrical productions, concerts, lectures, exhibitions, groups and a monthly film club **Photo 31**.

Peel also has its own museum solely dedicated to the history of Peel, the **Leece Museum**. Originally started in 1984, it is now housed in the Old Courthouse on the quayside and is run by volunteers from Peel Heritage Trust. The Trust was founded in 1989 to promote the preservation, development and conservation of the buildings and amenities of Peel, which it has done through annual programmes of talks, guided walks and events such as the 'Secret Gardens of Peel'. They are also consulted on heritage and comment, where necessary, on planning applications for Peel.

The **Manx Transport Heritage Museum** in the office of the old Peel Brickworks completes Peel's museums.

### Schools

Education has been a large part of Peel's history. **Philip Christian** (1593-1653) left Peel to become a successful weaver of the London Clothworkers' Livery company eventually becoming its Renter Warden. He left the rents on houses in London to fund the education of the poor of Peel. The first Clothworkers' school was opened in 1687 with more schools being built in 1860 and 1878 with funds from the Clothworkers' Guild. Our Primary School still has the name Clothworkers' **Photo 32**. There were many other schools in Peel in the 19th century, for example, the Navigation school and Mathematical school (founded 1765) for the sailors **Photo 33** and schools associated with churches. These were used not only for the children but also the adults. Today, Manx education embraces all the new technologies but also teaches Manx language within their curriculum. One Primary school, *Bunscoill Ghaelgagh*, teaches all primary education through the medium of the Manx language and is 3 miles from the centre of Peel.

The Secondary School for Peel for boys and girls had its first intake in 1979. *QE2* as it is known was opened by Her Majesty the Queen. The school has the motto: '*Gleck dy share dy kinjagh*' which means 'always strive to do your utmost', which is something that echoes those who have done so much in the community to make Peel the place it is today **Photo 34**.

### Health

Peel has a large medical centre and a Well-being hub with associated day care centre that serves Peel and the west of the Island. In addition there are a number of dentist practices. There is new sheltered housing provided by the Local Authority for the elderly, and a third phase is nearing completion. An older people's home *Castle View* also has a dementia unit. All these health facilities are post Millennium developments.

**c) Profile**

**NOTE:** While the last census was taken in April 2021, it will not be published until January 2022. Generally the most recent data available relates to the less-detailed 2016 census

**• The resident population of the area**

Peel is the third urban settlement of the Isle of Man in terms of population (Douglas is the capital with a population of 26,997 (32.4% of the Island’s population), followed by Ramsey with a population of 7,845 (9.4%) and then Peel with a population of 5,374 (6.5%). The population of the Island as a whole in 2016 was 83,314, while the local authorities which make up the west (Peel, German, Marown, Michael, Patrick) are 11,753. In 2016 of the 8.5% of the Island’s population not born in either the Island or in the UK or Ireland; 5% were born in Europe. There were in addition significant numbers from the Philippines and South Africa. The 2011 census showed small numbers from 120 different countries. It is likely that Peel’s population reflects these national statistics.

**Source:** 2016 Isle of Man Census Report Economic Affairs Cabinet Office March 2017

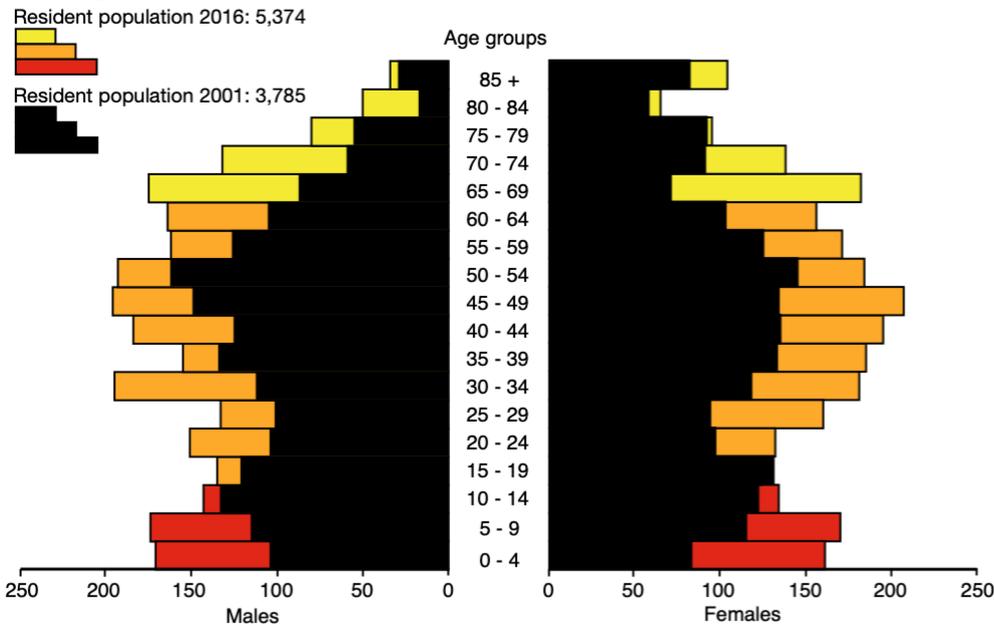
**‘Manxness’**

The ‘Manxness’ of Peel was captured in the 2011 full Census but not recorded in the 2016 Interim Census. The 2011 Census showed that Peel had fewer residents than average who had moved to the Isle of Man since 2001 (16.5% compared with 18.3%). The percentage of the population of Peel that was born in the Isle of Man, at 54.1% in 2011, was higher than any other town or village and above the Island average of 48.1% for local authorities. 3.3% of Peel’s population in 2011 could speak Manx - compared with an Island average of 2.0%. Between 2001 and 2011 the number of people able to speak Manx in Peel increased by 37.1%. whereas across the Island there was a decline of 2.1% over the same period **Photo 35**. This may be largely due to the presence of the *Bunscoill Ghaelgagh* (see schools page 10) and free classes at the House of Mannanan.

**POPULATION FOR PEEL BY QUINARY AGE 2016**

The population of Peel between 2001 and 2016 grew by 1,589 or 42% in 15 years. The 2021 Census results are likely to show continued population growth reflecting further housing development in Peel.

**Peel: age-sex structure 2001 and 2016**



Compared to the Isle of Man as a whole, Peel population’s profile suggests that young families are particularly attracted to Peel as there are increasing proportions of people in the 25-44 age group and correspondingly a larger proportion of the population in the under 10 year age group. This perhaps reflects the large number of houses being built for families by the main island building contractor Dandara. The numbers in the retirement population are marginally less.

● **Economic activity, including the number of people who work (but do not reside) in the area;**

The workforce associated with the population of Peel of 2,787 (51.86% of the total population of 5,374) is almost 2% more economically active than the population as a whole on the Isle of Man 41,636 (49.97% of the total population of 83,314) with a slightly higher portion of women in the workforce.

**RESIDENT EMPLOYED POPULATION BY GENDER RESIDENCE (PEEL AND IOM COMPARED) 2016**

Area of Residence	Male	%	Female		Total	%
Peel	1,439	51.63	1,348	48.37	2,787	100
Peel as a percentage of the Island workforce						6.7%
Peel as a percentage of the population						6.5%
Isle of Man	22,013	52.87	19,623	47.13	41,636	100

Peel, like so much of the Island, has its main place of employment as Douglas (44%). Overall in the Manx economy almost 59.7% of jobs are located in Douglas. If one includes the neighbouring village of Onchan which merges with Douglas, and the community of Braddan, which has so much of the out-of-town shopping and industry and large employers like the Island’s hospital, then this rises to 69.75%. 32.2% of the people work in Peel **Photo 36, 37 and 38** and if one also takes into account those from the two neighbouring parishes of German and Patrick, 35.3% work locally in Peel. Incoming workers are dominantly from Douglas (11.8%) and the neighbouring parishes of Patrick (5.4%) and German (4.4%), but it is a significantly smaller flow of under 650 people coming to Peel for work and almost 1,900 leaving Peel for work.

The overall effect is the creation of a morning and to a lesser extent an evening rush hour. There is a very efficient bus service which sees buses three times an hour travel to and from Douglas Monday to Saturday, while on Sundays and off-peak evenings the buses are hourly.

**RESIDENT EMPLOYED POPULATION FOR PEEL AND THE IOM AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT 2016**

Area		Peel Residents: places of Employment		Employment in Peel by place of residence		People Employed in the Isle of Man	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Towns</b>	Douglas	1,226	44.0	183	11.8	24,840	59.7
	Ramsey	78	2.8	36	2.3	3,135	7.6
	Peel	898	32.2	898	58.1	1,530	3.7
	Castletown	58	2.1	17	1.1	1,379	3.3
<b>Villages</b>	Onchan	59	2.1	33	2.1	1,750	4.2
	Port Erin	17	0.6	18	1.2	853	2.0
	Port St Mary	12	0.4	6	0.4	468	1.1
	Laxey	5	0.2	8	0.5	402	1.0
<b>Parishes</b>	Andreas	0	0	9	0.6	226	0.5
	Arbory	5	0.2	8	0.5	227	0.5
	Ballaugh	8	0.3	22	1.4	164	0.4
	Braddan	174	6.2	18	1.2	2,411	5.8
	Bride	1	0	6	0.4	76	0.2
	German	60	2.2	68	4.4	393	0.9
	Jurby	18	0.6	7	0.5	283	0.7
	Lezayre	4	0.1	8	0.5	144	0.3
	Lonan	4	0.1	5	0.3	137	0.3
	Malew	77	2.8	10	0.6	1,649	4.0
	Marown	26	0.9	28	1.8	308	0.7
	Maughold	0	0	3	0.2	98	0.2
	Michael	11	0.4	36	2.3	268	0.6
	Patrick	24	0.9	84	5.4	253	0.6
	Rushen	1	0	8	0.5	54	0.1
Santon	5	0.2	11	0.7	191	0.5	
Off Island	16	0.6	16	1.0	387	0.9	
<b>Total Employed</b>		2,787	100	1,546*	100	41,636	100

The level of unemployment in the Isle of Man has for decades remained low. In 2016 for Peel it was 2.4% and for the Isle of Man as a whole 2.7%. The job vacancies always exceed the number of those unemployed.

While the Isle of Man was only an associate member of the EU, nevertheless it has been deeply affected by Brexit and the pandemic with shortages of labour in many areas, especially the building industry. This has led to a real spike in housing prices for property under £500,000 affecting first time buyers particularly badly. A newspaper headline in October 2021 summarises it: *'House prices rise £1,000 per week'*.

#### RESIDENT UNEMPLOYED POPULATION FOR PEEL AND THE IOM 2016

Area of Residence	Unemployed, looked for work in previous four weeks	Unemployed, available to start work within two weeks	Unemployed, waiting for work already obtained	Total unemployed	Total employed
Peel	33	22	12	67	2,787
Isle of Man	687	287	167	1,141	41,636

The proportion of the population not in work for other reasons than unemployment are much the same as the Island as a whole Island, with a slightly higher proportion in full-time education and slightly more people who look after the home. There are conversely a slightly lower portion who do not work because of sickness or disability.

#### RESIDENT POPULATION NOT IN WORK (OTHER REASONS) FOR PEEL AND THE IOM 2016

Area of Residence	Is at school or in full time education	Looks after home or family (solely)	Is unable to work due to permanent long term sickness	Is unable to work due to permanent long term disability	Other	Total
Peel	176	131	59	41	14	421
%	42	31	14	10	3	100
Isle of Man	3,469	2,481	1,291	927	333	8,501
%	41	29	15	11	4	100

#### The Retired

The proportion of People of retirement age is slightly less than the Island as a whole representing 6.1%, while that for the Island is 6.5%.

#### Housing

The average level of occupancy in Peel is very similar to the Island's national average at 2.28 per household, while the proportion of people living in different size households is identical to the Island's National average.

#### RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS FOR PEEL AND THE IOM 2016

Area of Residence	Number of Private Households	Residents in Private Households	Average Household Size
Peel	2,295	5,264	2.29
Isle of Man	35,763	81,680	2.28

#### RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS BY NUMBER OF PERSONS (PEEL AND THE ISLE OF MAN) 2016

Area of Residence	Total Households	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
Peel	2,295	680	821	374	306	83	24	7
%		30	36	16	13	4	1	0
Isle of Man	35,763	10,755	12,797	5,631	4,565	1,458	426	131
%		30	36	16	13	4	1	0

The type of housing in Peel differs from the Island profile generally. There are significantly fewer detached houses (14% less) and many more terraced houses (15% more). This very much reflects the ancient heartland of Peel in the Conservation Area (e.g. **Photo 10 and 11**) There are also significantly less flats in converted houses (less than half that of the Island as a whole). This is because so many of the former boarding houses in Peel are built on a relatively modest scale and always doubled up as family homes, **Photo 39** in comparison with those in Douglas where boarding house enterprises were on a more significant scale, more like those to be found on Marine Parade **Photo 22** and more easily converted to good size flats. Other housing is not dissimilar and over time with the increasing homogeneity of new housing estates the difference is likely to become less pronounced.

### Deprivation

Unlike the UK there are no statistics available associated with indices of deprivation. Deprivation can only be deduced by taking some indicators from the census and there is nothing later than 2011. Paul Craine in his 'Isle of Man population Atlas' page 134 took eight variables that could be considered to offer an indication of socio-economic status. Four of these are positive indicators: owner occupancy levels, ownership without mortgage, households with more vehicles per household and detached housing; four more variables might be considered negative indicators: public sector housing, households with no vehicle, terraced housing and households with no central heating. A socio-economic index based on these variables showed that Peel had the third lowest index score out of the 24 local authorities, so would suggest greater deprivation. It is likely that the development of Peel in the years since 2011 will have impacted positively on this index.

### RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION (PEEL AND THE ISLE OF MAN) 2016

Area of Residence	Total Households	Detached House	Semi-Detached House	Terraced House	Purpose built Flat	Flat in Converted House	Other
Peel No.	2,295	569	553	826	253	54	40
%	100	25	24	36	11	2	2
Isle of Man	35,763	13,964	7,667	7,630	4,451	1,627	424
%	100	39	21	21	12	5	1

There is no significant difference between Peel and the rest of the Island when looking at the number of bedrooms in residential accommodation.

### Economic Activity

The Table below represents a snapshot of the Island economy in 2020, (the most recent data available), and while the figures relate to the Island generally they give an overall impression of the general employment of the people of Peel. However there are sectors within Peel itself that are known to be more significant than in other parts of the Island, particularly fishing (in the sector 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing' and 'Manufacturing: Food & Drink', which are associated with the Food Park **Photo 40** near the harbour. As a market town there are also considerable numbers of catering establishments associated with restaurants and pubs (the 'Catering and Entertainment' sector). Those leaving Peel to work are likely to reflect the Island economy as a whole.

## JOBS IN THE ISLE OF MAN BY ECONOMIC SECTOR – QUARTER 1 (JANUARY – MARCH) 2020

Economic Sector	Number	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	450	0.9
Manufacturing: Engineering	842	1.7
Manufacturing: Food & Drink	1,938	<b>3.9</b>
Manufacturing: General	539	1.1
Mining & Quarrying	82	0.2
Construction	3,004	<b>6.1</b>
Utilities	508	1.0
Transport and Communications	1,761	3.6
Wholesale Distribution	460	0.9
Retail Distribution	4,488	<b>9.1</b>
Banking	2,094	<b>4.2</b>
Insurance	1,873	3.8
Other Finance and Business Services	3,277	<b>6.6</b>
ICT	1,302	2.6
Legal and Accountancy Services	1,229	2.5
Corporate Service Providers	1,772	3.6
Education	4,262	<b>8.6</b>
Medical and Health Services	7,018	<b>14.2</b>
Other Professional Services	1,548	3.1
Tourist Accommodation	818	1.6
Catering and Entertainment	2,132	<b>4.3</b>
E-gaming	831	1.7
Miscellaneous Services	2,669	<b>5.4</b>
Public Administration	4,691	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,588</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Isle of Man Government: Quarterly Economic and Statistical Update Quarter 1 2020 Economic Affairs Cabinet Office May 2020

### ● Information on public green spaces, sport and leisure facilities, and shopping centres

#### Public Green Spaces

Old Peel has very few green open spaces. There is the area around old St Peter's Church in the market square and a small garden off St Peter's Lane, but the characteristics of old Peel are narrow streets, with housing straight onto the street with 'secret gardens' often small to the rear. Every other year there is a 'Secret Garden' open weekend when the public are invited to see some of the best of these.

The major open areas are significant in acreage and are on the extremities of the old Peel:

- **The Headlands Photo 18** to the northeast of Peel is an open grass landscape along the clifftops, which is well used by dog walkers.
- **Peel Hill Photo 18** to the southwest of Peel is an even larger area that is largely bracken and heather, but includes some tree planting in memory of those who died in the Second World War.
- **The Raggatt** is a largely wooded area which follows the route of the river Neb down into the harbour.
- **Peel foreshore Photos 24 & 42** is the northern sandy beach front of Peel bordering the promenade.

- **Fenella Beach Photo 3 & 42**, created by the building of the causeway in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, links Peel with St Patrick's Isle. This created a sheltered beach on the west side of the sea wall, while on the east side it forms a harbour wall on the approach to the inner harbour.
- There is of course too, the outer **perimeter of Peel Castle Photo 3**.
- The 'new' Cathedral was built on the edge of the ancient Peel in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and during the 21<sup>st</sup> century the **Cathedral grounds** are being transformed into a series of gardens that tell the story of the Island's history from the arrival of St German in the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. **Photos 13, 41 and 45**

### Newer Areas of Peel

The newer areas of Peel are relatively low-density housing (detached, semi-detached and terraced) which include casual open space as part of the development, often preserving the line of old tree-lined hedges. On the outskirts of the Peel is the cemetery, which was established about the same time as the new Cathedral was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The new Cathedral has no connected burial ground and the old St Peter's cemetery in the centre was full. There was also a burial ground associated with the ancient Cathedral, but this had long since ceased to be used. Newer areas of the current cemetery are now designated as a lawn cemetery and in the Autumn of 2021 a re-wilding exercise was begun in the older parts of the cemetery with the planting of largely indigenous trees.

**A campsite** provides flat pitches for tents, some with electric hook-ups, and hard standings for motorhomes and campervans. The site is well-equipped with hot showers, washing facilities, laundry and kitchen all offering disabled access.

### Sport

The island is famous for a number of sports with some that absorb the whole Island in their activity, for example, the TT races in June and the Festival of **Motorcycling** in August/September. The first course in 1907 actually passed through Peel. One of the famous Island motorcycle clubs is the Moddey Dhoo (Black Dog) based in Peel. Another sport that has made Manx people household names is **cycling** with people such as Mark Cavendish (The Manx Missile), Ben Swift and Peter Kennaugh. The End2end Mountain bike race skirts Peel as does the Gran Fondo while the Manx Mountain bike Enduro race descends Peel Hill. The annual 'Race the Sun' relay travels round the Island's coastal path and starts and finishes in Peel **Photo 42**.

Peel began the Island tradition of the **New Year's Day Sea dip** in 1983 with just 4 participants, by 2021 there were over 300 participants in Peel and the practice has spread across the Island coastal towns and villages involving more than a thousand participants.

A unique sport associated with the Island is the **Parish Walk** which began in 1853 with one person (John Cannell) walking to the seventeen Parish churches of the Island, an 85 mile course which has to be completed in under 24 hours. By 2021 the walk had grown to over 1,350 competitors with 193 finishing. Paul Atherton from Peel was the 2021 winner in a time of 15 hours, 23 minutes and 41 seconds.

Many Sports have their home in Peel, some informal and others competitive. Some sports like Badminton straddle both these categories with one resident Zoe Lambie winning gold in the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Some key sports are listed below. It should be said that unlike UK where schools tend to be closed to the general public, the Island schools are not surrounded by fences, but rather have open playing fields. The local community is welcomed to use the external and internal facilities of the schools and so many resources are shared. In addition, some of these facilities double up as camp sites during the two Motorcycle Festivals which coincide with school holidays.



**Peel Association Football club** was founded in 1888 and were the first winners of the Isle of Man Football League in 1897. Today they remain in the Island's premier league. Their strip is red and white shirts with black shorts. They are the most successful club on the island with 29 league titles and 32 victories in the Manx FA Cup. The club has a reserve team that plays in the Isle of Man Football Combination league. They also have a ladies team **Photo 43**.



**Western Vikings Rugby Union Football Club.** Rugby is played in the Isle of Man under the auspices of the Cheshire Rugby Union which is affiliated to the (English) Rugby Football Union. The club's home is QEII grounds. There is a women's team and various teams for different age groups. The most famous player to live in Peel was Douglas Davies (1899-1987) who was capped 24 times for Scotland and was on the 1924 British Lions tour of South Africa.



**Valkyrs Hockey Club** is currently the premier club on the Island. The club is based at the QE2 astro turf pitch. There are four mixed teams, three men's teams and three ladies teams. They also enter men's, ladies and mixed teams into the indoor leagues and have Under 11 & Under 13 teams for boys and girls.



The **Tommy Clucas Memorial Fund**, an Isle of Man registered charity, built a community sports hall at the football ground of Peel AFC. Tommy was a former player of Peel AFC and lost his life whilst competing in the 2004 Manx Grand Prix. He is the first person to have exceeded 120mph for a lap of the mountain course in the Manx Grand Prix. The facility is 40m x 25m, for multisport use, with an Astroturf surface. The facility is available for hire and is widely used by the community and the QEII high school.



**West Coast Fitness.** This consists of a main Gym comprising a mixture of cardio machines, resistance machines and free weights. A Rig Room offers a range of workout options. Watt bikes to improve upon cadence and power for both the athlete and the beginner. A rig that can be utilised to provide a full body workout. A Heavy Weights Room and a Spinning Room with 19 bikes available. The Studio is the location for the majority of classes.



The **Western Athletic Club** formed in 1980 is based at QEII. The club offer Track and Field events as well as Walking and Road running. Also cross-country through the winter months. The club has produced two Commonwealth Games athletes – Dana Myhill (100 metres) and Martin Aram (High Jump – Manchester 2002) – and Cheryl Done in the Great Britain Bobsleigh Team – Winter Olympics 2002. Inter-Island Games representatives are numerous.



The **Western Swimming Pool** on Derby Road, is a 25 metre length indoor pool with six lanes; alongside is a second pool for families with young children and groups starting out on their swimming journey. The pool is available to the public, schools and for club use. Groups include Aquafit, Silver Club, synchronised swimming, indoor kayaking. Support and coaching is offered for people of all ages with special needs, run by experienced teachers.



For 125 years **Peel Golf Club** has offered an 18 hole course on the edge of Peel. The course was created from farmland which is sandy and therefore offers good drainage, so when other courses on the Island are waterlogged Peel remains playable. The Clubhouse provides drinking and catering facilities and a golf shop.

## Leisure facilities

Peel has several **children's play parks** **Photo 27** and a **skateboard park** is located at the end of the promenade on the site of what was once an outdoor swimming pool. Nearby is a **crown green bowling** green with associated café and alongside this are **tennis courts**.

## The Arts

There are number of **choirs** in Peel, leaving aside the Cathedral choirs which includes 'Women in Song', the 'Mariners Choir' and the 'Glenfaba Chorale'. There is also a variety of **music** groups, from bands including a Ukulele group to school orchestra. There tend to be spontaneous gatherings of musicians playing Manx music in pubs. There is a **Dance** academy with various types of dance offered from Ballet to folk **Photo 44**; the Island has an array of folk dances that are unique to the Island. The University of the Third Age (**u3a**) has a large following.

## Pubs

There is a diverse range of pubs **Photo 45 & 46** in Peel, as you would expect in an old fishing community and much of the beer is brewed on the island. There are 9 pubs, (The Central, The Creek, The Highwayman, The Legion, The Marine Hotel, The Miller's T'ale, The Peveril, The Royal and The White House) all but one has an active darts team (men and women) and pool teams. Most sell real ale and one is a micro-pub specialising in a variety of real ales. There are a number of local breweries on the Island and companies that produce cider and vodka. A local cider business is the 'Apple Orphanage' that in addition to producing freshly pressed apples, makes cider and 'champagne-cider'.

## Restaurants and other eating outlets

Peel has many eating establishments, restaurants and cafés, for all budgets and tastes, often promoting Manx produce. Specialities remain kippers **Photo 47**, queenies and other shell fish, though there is also the Isle of Man Loaghtan lamb (A European Union protected food name).

As well as restaurants specialising in local products, there are Chinese, Indian and Anatolian restaurants offering a more cosmopolitan fare. In addition the Cathedral runs 'The Big Table Café', which enables people to have a three-course menu to '*eat what you want and pay what you can*' enabling all to share a dining experience.

## Churches

The new Cathedral when viewed from the breakwater or Peel Hill is visually dominant **Photo 6**. When it was originally built it had a soaring spire which could be seen for miles. Once in Peel the Cathedral can only occasionally be glimpsed from the narrow streets. Other churches include the Catholic Church of St Patrick (a small church designed by Edward Welby Pugin in 1864), a Methodist Church **Photo 48** (Charles Wesley had visited Peel in 1777 and Methodism became a major force on the Island in the 19<sup>th</sup> and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century), The Elim Community Church, the Grace Baptist Church and an independent church that meets in QEII school, 'Living Hope'.

## Shopping centres

**Michael Street** is the main shopping centre of Peel, containing two of the three supermarkets (The Co-op and Shoprite, the latter is a local chain, which incorporates lines associated with Sainsbury's). There is a second Shoprite 5 minutes' walk beyond the shopping centre, with good parking facilities and a much wider range of products **Photo 49**. Michael Street has a range of shops, some of which are unique to Peel, like 'Celtic Gold', which is a jeweller specialising in Manx products and reproductions associated with the most famous Manx designer, Archibald Knox. There are antique shops, eating establishments and a traditional butcher who will cater for individual needs such as speciality sausages. There are small specialist shops offering 'services' to the local community such as hairdressing, and shops that range from chemists to furniture and hardware.

**Tynwald Mills** The out-of-town shopping centre is at Tynwald Mills on the outskirts of Peel and has a number of specialist shops, such as clothing and a specialist cheese shop. The basis of this shopping centre is an old Woollen Mill.

## **Travel**

### **Public Transport**

Public Transport on the Island since 1976 has been owned by the government who provide three buses an hour between Peel and Douglas and an hourly service to Ramsey in the north, with a reduced service in the evenings. **Photo 50**

Buses begin soon after 0600 with the last bus just before midnight. (On a Sunday they begin an hour later, and on Friday and Saturday there is the Night Owl service well past midnight with a fare that is double the standard). As buses arrive and leave Peel, they are able to provide something of an internal service in the community linking the centre with the outlying estates.

Most other routes are via Douglas, although there is a limited direct summer service connecting Peel to the south of the Island.

### **Fares**

The cost of fares are reasonable and various discounts are offered for frequent and group travel. For those of retirement age, travel is free. An adult journey (except for the express service offered for commuters) is £2.70 for the 12 mile journey from Peel to Douglas.

### **Private Vehicle**

Travel to and from Peel is mainly undertaken by car, with congestion being particularly evident on the roads in the morning associated with rush hour from about 0800 to 0900. The traffic is exacerbated during term time with children being dropped at primary school. Secondary school children sometimes drive themselves to school (the age of being able to take one's driving test in the Isle of Man is 16 years of age) though most travel either on foot from Peel or by school bus collecting from the western catchment area.

### **Active Travel**

As part of the Isle of Man Government Active Travel Strategy 2018-2021, the old railway line from Douglas in the East to Peel has been re-laid with an all-weather surface for walkers and cyclist. This provides both commuting and recreational opportunities. Work has begun to also make the old railway from the North of Peel to Ramsey into an all-weather path with bridges being rebuilt. Walk to school routes are in place with manned crossings where needed.

The objectives for this Active Travel Strategy is to:

- ensure that walking and cycling are normal and realistic transport for people of all ages and abilities.
- increase participation of people travelling actively.
- encourage more people to make the switch from motorised transport to travelling actively.
- consider barriers to people travelling actively and aim to address them in the action plan.
- encourage active travel choices for pupils and students in all the Island's schools and the University College, Isle of Man.

### **• Information on local authority support (of any kind) for the voluntary sector.**

Peel Commissioners are unanimously behind this bid and have given their full support in working with partners to develop and present this bid.

Peel Commissioners provide subsidised premises to the Sailing Club, Scouts, The Philip Christian Centre Elim Church/Pensioners Club, Peel Sunset Bowling Club, Peel Charity Shop, The Leece Museum, Peel Heritage Trust and the Family History Office. In addition they have sponsored the cleaning of the community's War Memorial.

Increasingly the Commissioners and the voluntary sector are trying to work in partnership, for example with Beach Buddies.<sup>2</sup>

The Commissioners also support Peel Day, during the TT Festival, when the focus is on bikes. Everything from acrobatic displays by Steve Colley and the foolery associated with the 'Purple Helmets' to the displays by the Local Moddey Dhoo bike club and the Vintage Motor Cycle Club. The Festival sees the Promenade converted to pedestrian space allowing for bands, catering and other outlets.

In August the Commissioners sponsor the Peel Carnival, when, in a festival atmosphere, Peel showcases its community activities. The Christmas Light switch-on is sponsored by the Commissioners and draws together the musical talent of the community and enables many charities to sell their wares at an associated Christmas market. Other activities sponsored by the Commissioners include: bonfire night, an annual photography competition, various sporting events such as sponsoring Peel Cup for the Golf club, Gardening competitions and on occasion honour those who assist the community with the 'Peel Achievers' award.

### Peel's Bid

We offer our bid in the belief that Peel should be recognised as city in 2022 to mark:

- Peel's unique identity carved out over millennia from Mesolithic times (**page 5**)
- Peel's civic pride manifesting itself in treasuring its urban beginnings as the capital of a maritime empire which lasted for 250 years from the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century (**page 4**). The empire stretched from the Isle of Man to Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides a distance of almost 700 kilometres and brought about governance which owes its democratic origins to the Vikings.
- Peel being the centre of Manxness (**page 4 & 12**) with its 'Cathedra' and Bishop being key in the creation of a script enabling Manx (an oral language) to be recorded and through the translation of the Bible ensuring, Manx people could hear the Gospel in their mother tongue, even if many years after the English Reformation. The Bible's translation ensured a future for the Manx language and a rebirth of its language and culture (**page 10**).
- Peel's history which has shown a community deeply involved in education (**page 11**) and creatively innovative, enabling it to engage with the world and make significant global contributions socially (women's suffrage **page 8**), economically (Jonathan Kermode **page 7**), artistically (Archibald Knox **page 8**) holistically (Josef Pilates **page 5**) and theologically (Bishop Wilson **page 6**)
- Peel's experiencing early on in its life migrants, Celtic missionaries and Nordic invaders. The later may have brought their Viking ways, but in the process of engagement were Christianised and enabled Christianity to be spread far and wide. The welcome of stranger, be they visitors and tourists or migrants has created a vibrant community (**page 7**)
- Peel's connections with Royalty from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the strong connections today with Royal patronage, visits (**page 10**) and names (**Photos 34 & 35**)

We would like to acknowledge the support and encouragement of those involved in the preparation of this bid. Many individuals have contributed through research, writing, photographing and providing information. We have been delighted with the unanimous support offered by the Commissioners, the business community, and all we have approached.

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<sup>2</sup> Beach Buddies began in 2006 when two people walking on a western beach north of Peel at Kirk Michael decided to clear the litter on the beach. It has now grown to be a global phenomenon and has more recently gone into partnership with 'Footpath Friends' to clear country and coastal pathways.

**Photo 1** St Patrick's Isle, which Papal Bulls describe in 1243 & 1349 as 'Sodor Cathedral City'



**Photo 2** King Magnus Barefoot 1098 made St Patrick's Isle the capital for his maritime empire



**Photo 3** The fortress walls were built in stone in the 14<sup>th</sup> century enclosing the 13<sup>th</sup> century Cathedral



**Photo 4** Viking Long boats and pleasure craft in Peel Marina



**Photo 5** Fishing boats at Peel Breakwater



**Photo 6** Main Peel Beach with the new Cathedral in the background (the spire was removed in 1907)



**Photo 7** Ruins of the 13<sup>th</sup> century St German's Cathedral re-built by Bishop Simon (former Abbot of Iona)



**Photo 8** Interior looking East of the 'new Cathedral' of St German built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century



**Photo 9** Sunset at the Breakwater in Peel. Peel is known on the Island as ‘Sunset City’



**Photo 10** Bridge Street - The streets of Peel are narrow and twisty - an attempt to keep out the gales



**Photo 11** Charles Street (Registered buildings). Narrow lanes make many unsuitable for modern traffic



**Photo 12** Peel War Memorial commemorating those who died: World War I, II and the Afghan Conflict



**Photo 13** Angela Patchett's bronze sculpture in the Knockaloe Garden, St German's Cathedral



**Photo 14** Simpsons Superstore hardware store operating from the pavement during the pandemic



**Photo 15** Paradise & Gell in Michael Street, an independent furniture store serving the Island



**Photo 16** Manx Wildlife Trust in Market Place, Headquarter and Shop



**Photo 17** St German's 'new' Cathedral, built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century consecrated as the Cathedral 1980



**Photo 18** View of Peel from Peel Hill. The Headlands, another open space, stretches along the coast



**Photo 19** Castle Street, with a view to St Patrick's Isle and the Celtic monastery's Round Tower



**Photo 20** The Marina, to the rear the large complex of buildings which make up the Manannan Museum



**Photo 21** Moore's of Peel - Traditional, oak fired, chimney smoked Manx kippers



**Photo 22** Guest Houses dating from the 1880s on Marine Parade facing the beach



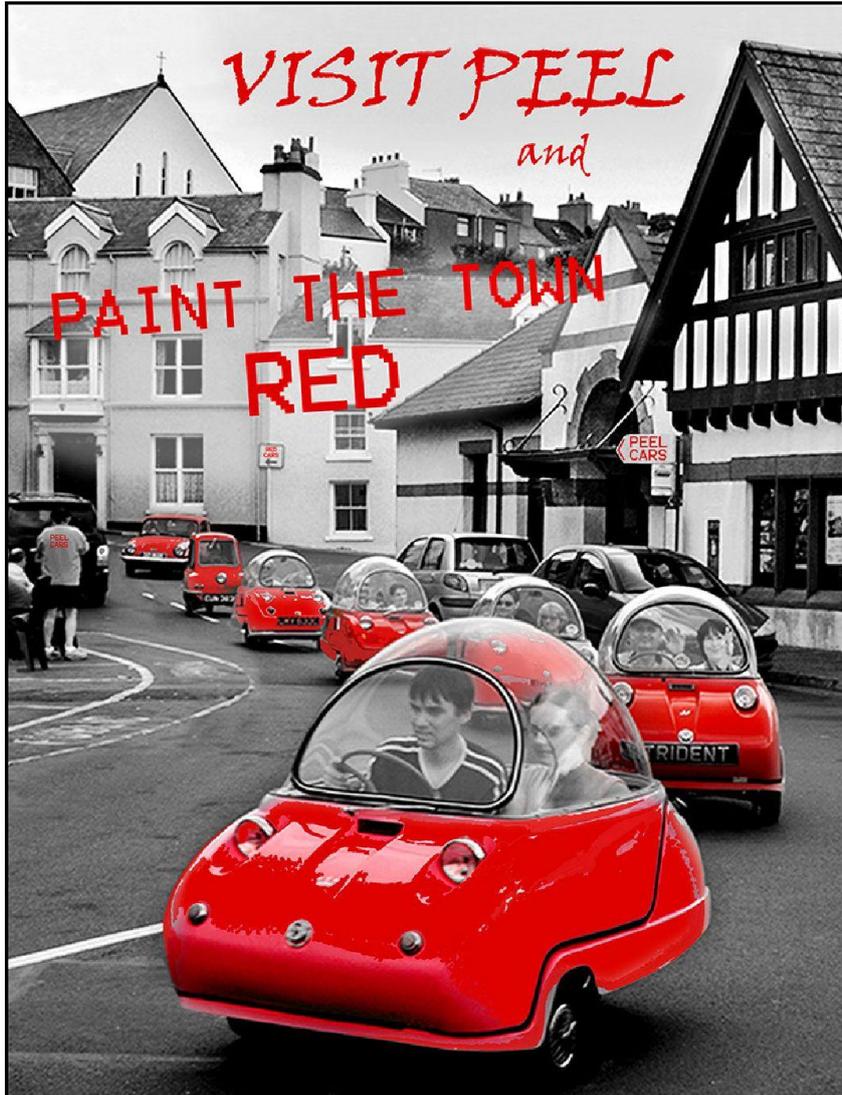
**Photo 23** Stanley Road shows housing where once guests were taken in during the holiday season



**Photo 24** The main sandy beach of Peel at dusk with participants of the Celtic Festival – ‘Oie Voaldyn’



**Photo 25** The Peel P50 in the Guinness World Records as the smallest production car ever made (Background Peel Railway station, now part of the House of Manannan Museum)



For BBC 'Children in Need' this year Alex Orchin, from East Sussex, is driving a Peel P50 from John O'Groats to Land's End a distance of 1,407km

**Photo 26** The Peel lifeboat 'Ruby Clery' outside the lifeboat house near the breakwater



**Photo 27** The Western Swimming Pool with children's playground in the foreground



**Photo 28** The former Courthouse now a Police station, a registered building on Derby Road



**Photo 29** St. Peter's roofless church with a Rhenish helm spire, unique in the Island and rare in the UK



**Photo 30** The Ward Library, a registered building gifted by The Hon. James Kewley Ward (1819-1910)



**Photo 31** The Centenary Centre, Arts and Community Centre established 2003 in the former Methodist hall



**Photo 32** The fourth incarnation of Peel Clothworkers' Primary School



**Photo 33** Former Mathematical School founded 1765 now Grace Baptist Church



**Photo 34** Queen Elizabeth II High School opened 1979 by Her Majesty the Queen



**Photo 35** Bi-lingual Road signs: Queens Drive *Imman y Venrein*



**Photo 36** Workplaces in Peel: new industrial units on Mill Road (Former Gas works)



**Photo 37** Workplaces in Peel: Advocates (Solicitors) on Market Street



**Photo 38** Workplaces in Peel: Antique Shop and Estate Agent in Atholl Place



**Photo 39** Peveril Terrace, perched on the cliff tops, former boarding houses now family homes



**Photo 40** The Isle of Man Food Park *paik bee vannin*, launched by Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall 2012



**Photo 41** Abbey Garden, St German's Cathedral, foundation stone laid by HRH The Princess Royal 2015



**Photo 42** Mountain bikes, a reminder of many cycling events associated with Peel and the Isle of Man



**Photo 43** The Terry Vincent Stand (Terry was a recipient of Royal Maundy Money in 2011). After his death Peel football stand was named after him



**Photo 44** Manx folk dancing on the labyrinth at St German's Cathedral



**Photo 45** Marine Hotel, Shore Road, one of the 9 pubs in Peel



**Photo 46** The Peveril Pub, East Quay with Peel Harbour Master's Office behind (a registered building)



**Photo 47** Manx Kippers, a speciality dish of Peel, oak smoked without using dyes



**Photo 48** Methodist Chapel with associated Guild room, Atholl Street



**Photo 49** Shoprite (an Island food chain) on Derby Road, one of three supermarkets in Peel





e.) Map: The centre of Peel with some of the key facilities marked on the map.

There's always something to do or see in Peel

Stunning scenery	Cafes	Festivals and events	Heritage Centre	Fishing	Surfing
Beautiful beaches	Public Houses	Regular live music	Museums	Basking Shark boat trips	Coastal walks
Accommodation	Shopping Centre	Castle	Sailing	Adventure holidays	Mountain biking
Restaurants	Performing Arts Centre	Cathedral	Swimming pool	Kayaking	See the seals

**Central PEEL**  
PURTY NY-HINSHEY

ST PATRICK'S ISLE

PEEL BAY

PEEL HILL

Scale 200 Feet

CYIC BATES Cartographer Ltd. 2009  
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1	Town Hall/Information Centre
2	Harbourmaster's Office
3	Sailing & Cruising Club
4	Ships Chandlers
5	Oil & Fuel
6	Hardware
7	Supermarket
8	Chemist
9	Marina
10	Doctor/Medical Centre
11	Police
12	Post Office
13	Bank
14	Launderette
15	Launderette/Dry Cleaners

- Shops
- Public Telephone
- Bus Stop
- Public House
- Cafe/Restaurant
- Takeaway Food
- Toilets
- Parking

**EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN PEEL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

- Peel Carnival
- TT Fun Day
- Viking Festival
- Viking Long Boat Races
- Traditional Boat Weekend
- Manx Transport Museum Rally
- Motorcycle Beach Races
- Peel Stock
- Secret Gardens
- Shakespeare in the Castle
- Regular Performances at The Centenary Centre

Further information at [www.peelonline.net](http://www.peelonline.net) and [www.peelboatingclub.com](http://www.peelboatingclub.com)

There's always something to do or see in Peel. A wander through Peel's atmospheric lanes will take the visitor past a whole variety of charming traditional shops where personal friendly service is still a way of life. Here can be found anything from craftsman made jewellery and pharmacies to fishing tackle and gift shops, as well as fascinating antique shops. There are many cafes and restaurants and not surprisingly, a good choice of public houses serving delicious homemade food, with the emphasis very much on the freshest seafood. The world famous Manx kippers are cured in Peel, traditionally smoked with no added dyes or flavouring and celebrated for their unique succulent flavour. Once fortified in one of Peel's excellent hosteries, there is a variety of bracing walks to be enjoyed, such as a climb up Peel Hill to its highest point at 500 feet - the site of Corrin's Tower - from where there are some truly magnificent views over the entire town and out to sea. Fabulous coastal walks are to the north and south of the town, past breathtaking scenery with rocks and caves used in former times for smuggling and views beyond to the hills of South West Scotland and the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland. Peel has a number of visitor attractions, such as the magnificent castle with its ruined Cathedral, the modern Cathedral in the town centre, the Leece Museum, the House of Manannan, the Manx Transport Museum and Moore's Kipper Museum. Our new Marina attracts sailors and boats from all over the world. There is also an excellent modern indoor swimming pool, as well as the two beautiful beaches and our Centenary Centre, with its varied programme of events, including entertainers from all over the world, is not to be missed.