

residents still recall the particular aroma associated with brewing days. The harbour area in front of the Castle is still relatively busy with smaller, pleasure craft. It formerly accommodated larger vessels carrying timber and coal; in season it was thronged with a considerable fishing fleet but now only one commercial fishing boat operates from the harbour. By the swing bridge is The Castle Arms, more popularly known as The Glue Pot, one of the oldest public houses on the Island.

- 5 **The Nautical Museum** is most famous for housing the world's oldest yacht "The Peggy", owned by the enigmatic Captain George Quayle: politician - he was elected as a member of the House of Keys in 1784; banker - founded the first Isle of Man Bank in 1802; soldier - he was a Captain in the Royal Fencibles, and alleged smuggler! A busy man indeed. He lived in the large slate-tung house next door called Bridge House.
- 6 **Old House Of Keys**, seat of Manx Parliament until 1818, since that time the building has been a bank (or two) and The Town Hall before being transferred into the care of Manx National Heritage, who carefully restored it to how it would have been in 1866. It is situated on Parliament Square which was cleared of houses during the Civil War to give a better range of fire for the cannon in the castle!



- 7 **The Old Grammar School** was established in the 17th century and continued as a place of education until 1931, when falling pupil numbers and the poor state of the building led to its closure. From here you can see the full sweep of the bay from Langness lighthouse to Scarlett. The openings in the cliffside are old kilns for burning lime, which was used to build houses in town.
- 8 **The Train Station** originally opened in 1874 and has been carefully and tastefully maintained since. It is a wonderfully preserved Victorian station and it is easy to imagine a busy day with carts and carriages arriving to collect goods and passengers. Now it is a very busy and popular tourist attraction, operating daily during the summer season. Please see www.rail.im for timetables and details of other special events. Just across the tracks is Pouslom Park, which has a large children's play area, skate park, zip wire, bike track and playing field.



- 9 **Hango Hill** (additional 15 minute walk each way from stop 5) is best known as the site of the execution of Manx martyr, William Christian also known as Illiam Dhone (Brown William), on January 2nd 1663. Local people still gather here each year on the anniversary of his execution to commemorate his life. From here you can also take in the beautiful view over Castletown Bay to Langness Lighthouse. Looking inland the rather impressive buildings are King William's College, a private school for boys and girls from 11-18. The school was built in 1933 by Bishop Barrow. King William IV of England allowed the use of his name, though contributed nothing to the cost.
- 10 **Manx Aviation And Military Museum** is a short drive from Castletown and located next to the airport. The museum includes a wide variety of uniforms, weapons, models and memorabilia, as well as the personal stories of the Manx Regiment which makes this a fascinating stop. There is also a WW1 Exhibition which tells the story of the Island at war, with special artefacts, letters and unique stories of the Manx men from the era. Entry is free. More details can be found at www.maps.org.im/museum



Download at www.visitisleofman.com/walking
 Web: www.castletown.gov.im



A WALK AROUND CASTLETOWN

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF MANN



CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF THE OLD MARKET TOWN



This walk is mostly flat and takes around an hour.

- 1 Castle Rushen** is one of the best preserved medieval castles in the world. It was built by a Norse King, ransacked by Robert the Bruce in 1313, handed over to the English in the Civil War and used as the island's prison. It was used as the seat of government until the mid-19th century and nowadays serves as a museum where you can learn about the history of the Kings and Lords of Mann through the ages. The rare, one-handed clock is believed to have been presented by Queen Elizabeth I.

The Speaker's Garden, just off the square, is a peaceful area in the town which connects to the harbour. The Castle is open to the public, as are The Old House of Keys, The Old Grammar School and The Nautical Museum. More details can be found at manxnationalheritage.im



If you are around the Castle area at night watch out for the ghost of the White Lady walking the walls! See www.iomghostours.com for more information and to book.

In the 19th Century, Market Square used to be filled with busy traders with market stalls selling farm, garden and dairy produce and fresh fish. The large flat slabs around the sundial are known as "the fishslabs", as the area was reserved for the fishermen.

The tall column in the square is the Smelt Monument built by public donation in memory of Colonel Cornelius Smelt, the popular Lieutenant Governor who died in 1832, though unfortunately there wasn't enough money for the statue on the top. It was also here in 1617 that the only recorded execution of a witch happened in the Isle of Man. Margaret Quane and her young son were burned alive at the stake as a punishment for trying to work a fertility rite to get good crops. Their screams could be heard over three miles away.

As you walk towards the Town Hall note the new stone circle underfoot citing the Seven Kingdoms of Mann with the Castle at the Centre.

- 2 Castletown Town Hall** is in Barrack Square where soldiers positioned at the Castle used to parade. It is now home to the Commissioner's Office, Town Library, Registrar's Office, Community Hall and Police Station. To the left is the old town morgue which has recently been converted into a restaurant and on the right are new murals depicting the famous annual harbour tin bath races painted by local artist Steadhead Art and a Loaghtan Sheep by Karolina Pawlowska. Public toilets can also be found in the Town Hall.
- 3 Bowling Green And Tennis Courts** are located along Malew Street from Market Place. If there are no matches in progress, equipment for bowling and playing tennis are available in the Bowling Green café.
- 4 Castletown Harbour** in the past would have been a busy scene with ship building, rope making and other industries, all watched over by Castletown Brewery, which was demolished in the 1980's and new housing built in its place. The impressive archway with its Three Legs of Mann emblem still remains and many Castletown