



## Tynwald

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From around the 9th century, the Isle of Man was subject to attacks by Viking raiders, but despite the hostilities, within a hundred or so years the fearsome invaders had settled peaceably on the Island and turned to farming and trading. Intermarriage by the Norse with the local Gaelic-speaking population became commonplace and their integration into Island life, complete.

But perhaps the greatest legacy of the Norse Kings of Mann was the founding by them of the Manx Court of Tynwald, which, as a parliamentary system, predates both Westminster and all forms of Government in Europe. The Norse system of law-making and open-air assemblies at which laws were promulgated was established, and continues uninterrupted today though in 21st Century get-up. Tynwald (from the Norse 'thingvalla' meaning 'assembly place') is the oldest continuous parliamentary tradition in the world.

1077 is the year of the earliest reference to a Parliamentary Tynwald assembly in the Isle of Man.

For further information on Isle of Man law issues, please contact us on (01624) 676868

*This publication is intended only to provide a brief guide. It does not purport to be comprehensive or to provide legal advice.*

May 2013

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