



# **Isle of Man**

*Ellan Vannin*

**AT 1 of 1753**

## **GREGORIAN CALENDAR ACT 1753**





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## GREGORIAN CALENDAR ACT 1753

*Received Royal Assent:* 31 March 1753  
*Passed:* 31 March 1753  
*Effective from:* 5 July 1753

**AN ACT** for regulating the Commencement of the Year, and for establishing the new Calendar now used in England.

### **Alteration of Calendar**

Whereas an Act of Parliament hath lately passed in England, importing that the legal Supputation of the Year of our Lord, according to which the Year beginneth on the twenty-fifth Day of March, hath been found by Experience to be attended with divers Inconveniences, not only as it differs from the Usage of neighbouring Nations, and even from other Parts of Brittain itself, but also that frequent Mistakes and Disputes are thereby occasioned in the Dates of Deeds and other Writings, and that the Calendar then in use, commonly called the Julian Calendar, being discovered to be erroneous, the Spring Equinox, which at the Time of the General Council of Nice in the Year of our Lord three hundred and twenty-five happened on or about the twenty-first Day of March, now happens on the ninth or tenth of the said Month, and the said Error still encreasing, and if not remedied would in Process of Time occasion the several Equinoxes and Solstices to fall at very different Times in the civil Year from what they formerly did, which might mislead Persons ignorant of the said Alteration, and that a Method of correcting the Calender, in such Manner as that the Equinoxes and Solstices might for the future fall nearly upon the same nominal Days on which the same happened at the Time of the said General Council, having been received and established by almost all other Nations in Europe, it would be of general Convenience to Merchants and others corresponding with other Nations, and prevent Mistakes and Disputes in or concerning Dates of Letters and Accounts if received and established there; and whereas it is the Province and Benefit of the People of this Isle to conform in this Behalf to the said new Method of Supputation established in England, and the same having been already observed here during the Year now last past, that is to say, from and since the last Day of December one thousand seven hundred and fifty-one, the first Day of January then next following, having been accordingly taken and accounted to be the first Day of the Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, and from that Day the several Days of each Month and the Feast of Easter, and other moveable Feasts thereon depending, having gone on according to that Method to the

second Day of September following, the eleven intermediate nominal Days of the common Calender being then omitted, the Day next after accounted to be the fourteenth Day of the said Month, and so from thence the several natural Days reckoned and numbered forwards according to the Order and Succession of Days used in the new Calender; yet nevertheless it being found necessary to establish the same by a Statute Law in this Island,

**1 New Style to commence from last Day of December, 1751**

That all Acts, Deeds, Proceedings, Bills, Bonds, Notes, Letters, Accounts, and other Writings, and all other Matters and Things whatsoever, had, made, transacted, or done for and during the said Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, from the last Day of December one thousand seven hundred and fifty-one, and so on to the Commencement and promulgation of this Act, and which were, are, or shall be dated in that Time according to the New Stile, shall at all Times be held, deemed, as esteemed to be as good and effectual both at Law and in Equity as if they had actually been made and dated, or did bear Date according to the old Method of accounting by the Julian Calender, and that no Plea of that Kind shall be admitted against them, or any of them, in any Court of Law or Equity within this Isle whatsoever.

**2 [1752 and 1753 reckoned from 1st January, and so on]**

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Supputation, according to which the Year of our Lord begun on the twenty-fifth Day of March, shall not be made use of in this Isle from and after the last day of December one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, and that the first Day of this Instant January shall be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted to be the first Day of the Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three, and so on from Time to Time the first Day of January in every Year which shall happen in Time to come shall be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted to be the first Day of the Year, and that each new Year shall accordingly comence and begin to be reckoned from the first Day of January next preceding the twenty-fifth Day of March on which such Year would, according to the Julian Calender or Method of accounting, have begun or comenced; and that from the said first Day of January Instant the several Days of each Month shall go on and be reckoned and numbered according to the new Calender now established in England as aforesaid;

**3 [All acts, deeds etc. after publication to be dated in the new style]**

And that all Acts, Deeds, Notes, and other Instruments of what Nature or Kind soever, whether Ecclesiastical or Civil, Publick or Private, which shall be made, executed, signed, or perfected upon or after the Day of the Publication of this Act, shall bear Date according to the said new Method of Supputation;

**4 and 5 [Repealed]<sup>1</sup>****6 Bissextile or Leap Years**

And continuing and for preserving the Calendar or Method of reckoning and computing the Days of the Year in the same regular Course as near as may be in all Times coming, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Years of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, one thousand nine hundred, two thousand one hundred, two thousand two hundred, two thousand three hundred, or any other hundredth Years of our Lord which shall happen in Time to come, except only every four hundredth Year of our Lord, whereof the Year of our Lord two thousand shall be the first, shall not be esteemed or taken to be Bissextile or Leap Years, but shall be taken to be common Years, consisting of three hundred and sixty-five Days, and no more, and that the Years of our Lord two thousand four hundred, two thousand eight hundred, and every other four hundredth Year of our Lord from the said Year of our Lord two thousand inclusive, and also all other Years of our Lord which by the present Supputation are esteemed to be Bissextile or Leap Years, shall for the future, and in all Times to come, be esteemed and taken to be Bissextile or Leap Years, consisting of three hundred and sixty-six Days in the same Sort and Manner as was before used with respect to every fourth Year of our Lord:

**7 Moveable Feasts**

And whereas, according to the Rule prefixed to the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, Easter-Day is always the first Sunday after the first full Moon which happens next after the twenty-first Day of March; and if the full Moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter-Day is the Sunday after: And whereas the Method of computing the full Moons heretofore used in the Church of England, and according to which the Table to find Easter for ever prefixed to the said Book of Common Prayer is formed, is by Process of Time become considerably erroneous: And whereas the new Calender, and also certain Tables and Rules for the fixing the true Time of the Celebration of the said Feast of Easter, and the finding the Times of the full Moons on which the same dependeth, have been prepared and are now established in England, be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Feast of Easter, or any of the Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall be no longer kept or observed in this Isle according to the said Method of Supputation formerly used, or the said Table prefixed to the said Book of Common Prayer;

**8 [English Table of Moveable Feasts etc to be used]**

And that the said Table, and also the Column of Golden Numbers as they are prefixed to the respective Days of the Month in the said Calender, shall be disused, and that the said new Calender Tables and Rules established in England as aforesaid shall be preferred and used in the Room and Stead thereof:

## **9 Holy days to be kept as directed by new Calendar**

And that from and after the Day of the Publication of this Act all and every the fixed Feast Days, Holy Days, and Fast Days, which were formerly kept and observed by the Church in this Island, and also the several solemn Days of Thanksgiving and of Fasting, and Humiliation, which are from Time to Time to be kept and observed, shall be kept and observed on the respective Days marked for the Celebration of the same in the said new Calendar; that is to say, on the same respective nominal Days on which the same were then kept and observed, but which, according to the Alteration by this Act intended to be made as aforesaid, will happen eleven Days sooner than the same by the Old Stile did;

## **10 Markets and Fairs in like manner**

And that the said Feast of Easter, and all other Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall from Time to Time be observed and celebrated according to the said new Calendar Tables and Rules within this Isle; and all Markets, Fairs, and Marts, which by any Law, Custom, or Usage are appointed or accustomed to be holden or kept at any moveable Time or Times depending upon the Time of Easter, or any other such Moveable Feast as aforesaid, shall from Time to Time, from and after the Day of Commencement of this Act, be holden and kept on such Days and Times whereon the same shall respectively happen or fall, according to the happening or falling of the said Feast of Easter, or such other Moveable Feasts as aforesaid, to be computed according to the said new Calendar Tables and Rules settled in England as aforesaid.

## **11 Coroners to be sworn at usual time. - Hiring and yarding of Servants**

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the holding and keeping of all other Markets, Fairs, and Marts, whether for the Sale of Goods or Cattle, or for the Hiring of Servants, or for any other Purpose, which are either fixed to certain nominal Days of the Month, or depending upon the Beginning or any certain Day of any Month, and the Midsummer Tynwald Court usually holden or kept with the Fair or Mart on the Feast Day of Saint John Baptist, at which the several Coroners of this Isle heretofore were and hereafter are intended by this Act to be sworn and admitted into their respective Offices and to enter upon the Execution of the same, and afterwards to appoint their Sub-Coroners or Lockmen, to be likewise sworn in as usual; and the Time or Times of hiring, yarding, publishing, giving warning, obtaining by Juries Freedom from yarding and discharging of Servants from their Servitude, and of entering Choice Children, shall not, from and after the Promulgation of this Act, be continued upon or according to the nominal Days of the Month, or the Time of the Beginning of any Year or Month to be computed according to the said new Calendar; but that from and after the said Promulgation the said Markets, Fairs, and Marts, and the said Midsummer Tynwald Court shall be holden and kept, and the said hiring, yarding, publishing, warning, obtaining by Juries Freedom

from yarding and discharging from Servitude, and of entering Choice Children, shall be done, given, received, had, transacted, and taken upon or according to the same natural Days upon or according to which the same should have been so kept or holden, done, given, received, had, transacted, or taken, in case this Act had never been made; that is to say, eleven Days later than the same would have happened according to the nominal Days of the said new Supputation of Time by which the Commencing of the each Year or Month, and the nominal Days thereof, are anticipated or brought forward by the Space of eleven Days, any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

**12 Letting and taking Possession of Lands. - Houses, etc to remain according to old Style**

And whereas according to divers Customs, Prescriptions, and Usages within this Isle, the entering upon the Possession and Occupation of Lands and Houses, either by Recoveries of Titles or by setting and letting or opening of Grounds for Pasture and other Purposes, are often on particular nominal Days and Times in the Year; and on the other Hand the Owners of such Lands, Houses, and Grounds have, on the Determination of such Settings, and of the letting of Pastures, a Right to re-enter upon, enclose, and shut up the Premises for their own private Use; and there is in many other Instances a temporary and distinct Property and Right vested in different Persons in and to such Lands, Houses, and Grounds, according to certain nominal Days and Times in the Year: And whereas the anticipating and bringing forward the said nominal Days and Times by the Space of eleven Days, according to the said new Method of Supputation, might be attended with many Inconveniences, be it therefore further declared, provided, and enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend to accelerate or anticipate the Days or Times for entering by Recoveries, for settings or lettings, for the opening, inclosing, or shutting up any such Lands, Houses, or Grounds, as aforesaid, or the Days or Times on which any such temporary or distinct Property or Right in or to any such Lands, Houses, or Grounds as aforesaid is to commence; but that all such Lands, Houses, and Grounds as aforesaid, shall, from and after the Publication of this Act, be from Time to Time respectively entered upon, opened, enclosed, or shut up, and such temporary and distinct Property and Right in and to such Lands, Houses, and Grounds as aforesaid shall commence, begin, and determine upon the same natural Days and Times on which the same should have so respectively commenced, begun, and determine, or would have been entered upon, opened, enclosed, or shut up in case this Act had not been made; that is to say, eleven Days later than the same would have happened according to the said Account and new Supputation of Time so to begin as aforesaid.

**13 Lord's Rent or payment of other Money, Boons, etc not to be accelerated by alteration of Style. - Attaining to Age of legal Maturity not to be accelerated by alteration**

Provided also, and it is hereby further declared and enacted, That nothing in this present Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to accelerate or anticipate the Times of Payment of the Lords annual Chief Rents, Boons, Customs, Fines, Duties, Suits, Services, and other Rights, Dues, or Demands whatsoever, nor any other Rent or Rents, Annuity or Annuities, Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever, which shall become payable by virtue or in consequence of any Law, Statute, Custom, Usage, Lease, Deed, Writing, Bond, Note, Contract, or other Agreement whatsoever now subsisting, or which shall be made, signed, sealed, or entered into at any Time before the Publication hereof, or which shall become payable by virtue of any Law or Statute now in force or which shall be made before the said Publication, or the Time of doing any Matter or Thing directed or required by any such Law or Statute to be done in relation thereto, or to accelerate the Payment or Performance of, or increase the Interest of any such Sum of Money which shall become payable as aforesaid, or to accelerate the Time of Delivery of any Goods, Chattels, Wares, Merchandize, or other Things whatsoever, or the Time of the Commencement, Expiration, or Determination of any Lease, Deed, or Demise of any Lands, Houses, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or of any other Contract or Agreement whatsoever, or of the accepting, surrendering, or delivering up the Possession of any such Lands, Houses, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or the Commencement, Expiration, or Determination of any Annuity or Rent, or of any Grant for any Term of Years of what Nature or Kind soever, by virtue or in consequence of any such Deed, Writing, Contract, or Agreement, or the Time of the attaining the respective Ages of fourteen and twenty-one Years, or any other Age requisite by any Law, Custom, or Usage, Deed, Will, or Writing whatsoever for the doing any Act, or for any other Purpose whatsoever by any Person or Persons now born, or who shall be born before the Publication hereof, or the Time of the Expiration or Determination of any Apprenticeship, or other Service by virtue of any Indenture, or of any Articles under Seal or otherwise, or by reason of any simple Contract or hiring whatsoever; but that all and every such Rent and Rents, Boons, Customs, Duties, Fines, Suits, Services, and other Dues and Demands, Annuity and Annuities, Sum and Sums of Money, and the Interest thereof, shall remain and continue to be due and payable, and the Delivery of such Goods and Chattels, Wares and Merchandize, shall be made, and the said Leases, Deeds, and Demises of all such Lands, Houses, Tenements and Hereditaments, and the said Contracts and Agreements shall be deemed to commence, expire, and determine; and the said Lands, Houses, Tenements, and Hereditaments, shall be accepted, surrendered, and delivered up, and the said Rents, Boons, Customs, Duties, Fines, Suits and Services, Dues and Demands, Annuities and Grants, for any Term of Years, shall commence, cease, and determine at and upon the same respective natural Days and Times as the same should and ought to have been payable or made, or would have happened in case this Act had not been made; and that no further or other Sum shall be paid or payable for the

Interest of any Sum of Money whatsoever than such Interest shall amount unto for the true number of natural Days for which the principal Sum bearing such Interest shall continue due and unpaid; and that no Person or Persons whatsoever shall be deemed or taken to have attained to the said respective Ages of fourteen or twenty-one Years, or any other such Age as aforesaid, or to have completed the Time of any such Service as aforesaid, until the full Number of Years and Days shall be elapsed on which such Person or Persons respectively would have attained to such Ages, or would have completed the Time of such Service as aforesaid in case this Act had not been made, any Thing hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.



## ENDNOTES

### Table of Endnote References

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<sup>1</sup> Ss 4 and 5 repealed by High Court Act 1991 Sch 5.