



NEWSletter

WELCOME

The Commissioners of Santon Parish would like to welcome you to our second edition of our Parish newsletter, where we hope to keep you informed of matters arising in our Parish, that concern you, our residents.

CHAIRMAN:

Ann Davidson

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Ned Kennaugh

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Howard Benson – 1943-2022

Howard served with the Santon Parish Commissioners for over 40 years, first as Clerk and then latterly as a Commissioner where his long experience and wise counsel were much appreciated by his fellow Commissioners. One Parish amenity that he was particularly pleased to see created in his time was the playground at Ballanoa, and we have placed a bench in his memory overlooking the neighbouring meadow.



The Southern Swimming Pool Is Santon Southern?

Well – when it comes to swimming pools – yes. Santon is a contributor to the Southern pool because part of the Parish falls into the Castle Rushen High School catchment area. The long term future of the Southern Pool is still up in the air. Government has commissioned a report – due in October 2023 – on the situation of all the Island pools. We await this report but, in the meantime, please let us know your views. If you or your family swim, do you use this pool? If not, why not?

Ballanoa Meadow

This summer we want you to be able to enjoy the orchids and other flowers in the meadow at closer range – so we shall be opening the gate for a trial period and cutting a path through the grass. Please enjoy the meadow when the gate is open, but help keep it special by: *only walking on the mown path; not littering, and removing any rubbish you might find; keeping dogs away; and taking nothing but memories and photographs.*



Santon facilities

To many outside the parish, Santon is simply a piece of green belt land between Douglas and Castletown.

Those of us who live here know better – there are so many different leisure activities available. Golf at Mount Murray; horses at the Ballavartyn Equestrian Centre; motocross at Knock Froy and Murray's Motorcycle Museum for biker enthusiasts; the Isle of Man Clay Pigeon Shooting Club; access to the steam railway at Santon station; the gym and health club at the Comis Hotel; and all through the parish – totally free – walking on beautiful coastal or inland footpaths.



Roadside cutting

You may have noticed that we cut the hedges and verges at the end of February, just before the recommended March to August moratorium to allow birds to nest and insect pollinators to get to work.

The next scheduled cut will be in early September – though if you see any roadsides that need to be cut earlier for safety reasons do let us know.

Please remember that garden hedges which front onto the roadside are the owner's responsibility, not the Commissioners'.

Glee on the Glebe

Santon Parish Church had organised a 2022 Jubilee Celebration – which was held on the first Saturday after the schools went back for the Autumn Term.

In the event it became a celebration of the late Queen's life, starting off with two minutes silence, and the tolling of the church bell 70 times (the number of years in her reign). There had been some discussion as to whether it was appropriate to hold the event – but all concerned agreed that a Queen who kept a marmalade sandwich in her handbag would not have wanted the cancellation of what was in effect a children's party!

Some 250 people joined the festivities at Santon Church where the sun shone, a magnificent tea was provided by the local WI and the bouncy castle had to compete with a vintage tractor and a shire horse for the children's attention. Finally those same children helped plant a number of commemorative trees in the Glebe land and donations were received for many more.

Planning has started for a repeat event on Saturday 9 September 2023: anyone interested in helping should contact the Church Wardens – email peter@davidsonstechnology.com



Recycling and rubbish

In Santon we are continuing with a weekly rubbish collection, and this is included in your general rate – some Parishes have a separate flat rate refuse charge for each household (which may result in a lower headline rate).

We are also continuing to subsidise recycling by paying 1/3 of the basic two-box subscription to RecycleCollect – this provides for kerbside collection of paper, cardboard, glass, steel and aluminium cans and many plastics. For details of this Santon-based operation go to www.recyclecollect.im, and if you sign up, your Santon postcode will automatically get you the discount.

If you have any queries on how the service works, the direct contact is hello@recyclecollect.im and further information is also available on their Facebook page.



Also – a thank you to those of you who may not have signed up to RecycleCollect, but none-the-less have made an effort to take recyclables out of your rubbish bins. Over the last year, the weight of garbage sent to the Energy from Waste Plant (aka the incinerator) has reduced by more than the weight of the RecycleCollect kerbside collections – and since we are charged by weight this is financially valuable as well as environmentally sound. Keep up the good work!

Likewise – a thanks to all who help keep the Parish looking good by picking up the bits of rubbish that get blown into the hedgerows or washed up onto the shore – we have a Beach Buddies collection skip at Port Grenaugh for use at anytime, by anyone, not just official Beach Buddies collection parties.

Finally – a very special thank you to the person who has been keeping the verges of the Old Castletown Road pristine for many years (you know who you are!).



The new Eastern Civic Amenity Site

Is Santon East?

Yes, for this. In practice, there is currently agreement between the amenity sites such that all island residents can use any site, but your Santon rates go towards the provision of the Eastern site. A new amenity site is scheduled to open at the end of June – accessed from the slip road to the Energy from Waste Plant near Kewaigue school: DOI will be putting up clear signage on the various approach roads. There will be three days closure of both the existing and the new site while equipment is transferred from the Middle River Industrial Estate and the new site is made ready for operation.

Santon is only a minor contributor to this new project, and we have been able to fund our share of the costs from reserves rather than borrowing.



Wheelchair and other mobility devices – recovery and recycling by the Rotary Club of Douglas

Redundant wheelchairs or other mobility aids are often thrown away because people are not aware of an alternative. In fact most can be used again and the Rotary Club of Douglas can arrange to collect them from anywhere on the Island. They will be assessed by Manx Care for suitability and either refurbished for use on the Island or shipped to England to the charity PhysioNet. Shipping costs are met by the Rotary Club of Douglas Charitable Trust. Even child car seats can be part of this process – not for use in cars but as a secure positioning aid for disabled children. PhysioNet repair these items and then ship them to countries where they are needed.



If you have any redundant mobility equipment please call 499177 or 851854 or leave a message on the website www.douglasrotary.org

Where is this? Do you know your Parish?

Answer – bottom of back page



The Department of Infrastructure and Santon

Things which are DOI responsibility not the Commissioners'

- Potholes, blocked drains
- Broken traffic lights
- Broken street lights
- Anything to do with the New Castletown Road
- The recycling BringBanks at Mount Murray

If you are not sure, feel free to contact the Clerk to the Commissioners (details above) – but for some things all he can do is log up the issue with DOI and if you do so directly it may be quicker.

How to report to DOI?

Online – at www.reportaproblem.im – or using the free app which can be found by searching for 'NotifyIM' from wherever you normally get your Apps. Once downloaded users must enter the code 'IOM' to report an issue.

For emergency repairs call 850000

THE RATE FOR 2023 – 2024

The rate for 2023/24 will be 155pence in the £.

Once again, with high inflation, we have reluctantly been forced to raise the rate. For 2023-24 it is 155p in the pound. Our main on-going costs are rubbish collection and disposal, hedge and verge cutting and clearing, and our contribution to the running of the Eastern Civic Amenity Site. As noted elsewhere, we have been able to fund our share of the purchase and construction of the new site from reserves, thus avoiding interest charges. We aim to build those reserves up again slowly over the next few years in order to provide a cushion against unexpected events or to fund future projects of benefit to the Parish.

For comparison, the 2023-24 rates in our neighbouring parishes are:

Braddan	257p in the £ (plus a domestic refuse charge of £88)
Malew	199p in the £
Marown	181p in the £



Incidental work

The Commissioners invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons, companies or organisations in respect of incidental work required from time to time in maintaining the hedges and verges of the Parish.

This would include, but not be limited to – gully emptying, pavement sweeping, grass cutting, removal of weeds and street cleaning. The areas to be covered are roadways and attendant adopted footways in the Parish of Santon but excluding the New Castletown Road.

Should you wish to discuss any support for your community, please contact the Clerk to the Commissioners.