



WELCOME

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

CHAIRMAN:

Ann Davidson

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Ned Kennaugh

OTHER MEMBERS:

Voirrey Kelly

Anna Parker

CLERK TO THE COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. G. Barry Kennedy

The Ridings, Foxdale Road,

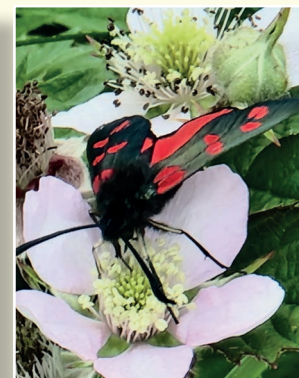
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Visit by Sir John & Lady Lorimer



The Commissioners were delighted to show the Governor and his wife some aspects of the local area during an afternoon visit to Santon at the end of June. David Bellamy of the Manx Wildlife Trust gave a tour of Ballanoa meadow where the orchids were in flower, along with so much else. Grasses and sedges, and birds, butterflies and moths as well. We shall need to expand the information board now in place, and next summer shall prevail on David or other experts to show off the meadow on selected days.

After Ballanoa, George Radcliffe at Ballkissack showed us his amazing collection of old Manx farming equipment – and both he and Commissioner Ned Kennaugh were able to explain in detail how many of the items worked – from heavy horse-drawn granite rollers to thistle stubbers. Sir John and Lady Lorimer were also able to meet George's daughter Sandra Kinvig and her husband Ashley, along with two more generations of the family who now farm Ballakissack as a modern dairy farm.

At Arragon Mooar, John Taylor's magnificent early English clocks and watches amazed us all – and you too can get a taste of this collection via his online museum, www.clocktime.co.uk

And finally – after a detour to the Sunshine Nursery where the Governor was greeted with a poster made by the children – Santon Church provided a venue for tea and the opportunity to meet more local residents, including Don Gelling, Captain of the Parish and other members of the Santon Endowment Committee and representatives of RecycleCollect.



Mobile Library

Although Santon does not have its own library, the mobile library visits Newtown fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon (approx 4.20pm). The mobile library is free to join and members can borrow both books and audio books. General enquiries: rakie.bennett@familylibrary.im



Do you want a say in how Santon is run?

If so – please consider standing as Commissioner when the current term ends in 2025.

What does a Parish Commissioner do?

The answer is – it all depends. On what, you may ask? Partly on the size of the Parish and the services provided. In some there will be a fully staffed Commissioner's office, dealing with everything from Commissioners' housing, street lighting, a library, flower tubs and rubbish collection. In others – such as Santon – the services are more limited. We are responsible for rubbish collection and disposal, for a small playground and a meadow, and – where adopted – the verges and footways (= pavements not footpaths) and street lighting. [For those of you who live in Mount Murray all of those apart from rubbish collection are the responsibility of your management company.]

In order to fund these activities, the Commissioners review the budget and set the annual rate – with the able assistance of the Clerk, who is the responsible Financial Officer.

What is the time commitment in being a Commissioner?

Formal meetings are held once a month, normally on the first Tuesday of the month, in the old School – though the timing and location may vary due to personal commitments and the availability of the School. They are held in the evening and generally last about 2 hours. Meetings are divided between public and private sessions, the latter dealing with financial matters. If you are interested in standing as a Commissioner then please do come along to observe the public session. We'll put the time and location up on Santon Chat, or you can contact the Clerk to confirm details.

The Commissioners also appoint one of their number to attend other relevant meetings such as the joint Committee that oversees the Eastern Civic Amenity Site. Other than that – the interaction with Parish residents and activities will depend on the individual Commissioner.

Local Elections

The next election for local authority commissioners will be held on 25 April 2025.

There are five Commissioners, and unless only five or fewer stand, there will be an election.



In order to stand for election, you must have two proposers and six people who approve your standing. All must be on the electoral roll for Santon (this is the same roll as for the election of MHKs, so everyone on that roll who lives in Santon automatically qualifies).

A notice will go in the press on Friday 14 March 2025, nomination papers will be available on Thursday 20 March and must be returned to the Clerk on or before 1pm on Thursday 27 March. (Contact details for the Clerk are on page 1.)



Glee on the Glebe

In September 2023 the celebrations at Santon Church, arranged by the Church Wardens and the congregation, included a bouncy castle for the children, magnificent teas and tree planting with the assistance of both the Lieutenant Governor and the Bishop.

Rubbish Collection – your views

You will be aware that the different Parishes have differing approaches to rubbish collection.

Some provide alternate weekly collections of rubbish and kerbside recycling, some charge a separate fixed rate per household, rather than including it in the general rate. So far, in Santon, we have kept a weekly collection of general rubbish, and subsidised some kerbside recycling.

The cost of rubbish collection and disposal is a significant proportion of your rates bill and we want to ensure that we are continuing to provide the service that suits you. In order to assist us in this aim we should be grateful for your views on the current service and how it could be improved, or on other ways in which an acceptable service could be provided.

The questionnaire below is anonymous – but it would be helpful if you could indicate whether you live in the “urban” or “rural” part of our Parish.

Rubbish Collection – questionnaire

- I live in Newtown, Mount Murray or along the main road (= New Castletown Road) Yes No
- Are you happy with your current weekly bin collection? Yes No
- Do you already use the subsidised kerbside collection of bottles/cans/paper/cardboard/plastics 1, 2 and 5? Yes No
- Would you use a kerbside collection of bottles/cans/paper/cardboard/plastics 1, 2 and 5 if it was wholly paid for by the Parish? Yes No
- Do you think alternate week recycling and general waste is a good idea? Yes No
- Would you use a regular green waste recycling bin if the cost was subsidised? Yes No
- Would you use a regular green waste recycling bin if it was wholly paid for by the Parish? Yes No
- Do you have any comments regarding waste collection in Santon?

Please email responses to: The Clerk comms@santon.org.uk
Or post to: The Ridings, Foxdale Rd, The Airy, Isle of Man, IM4 3HN

Recycling and the Eastern Civic Amenity Site

We continue 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.

We also have a representative on the Joint Committee that oversees the running of the Eastern Civic Amenity Site. The new site seems to have met with general approval, but if you have any comments for improvement please do funnel these via the Commissioners.

Where is this? Do you know your Parish?

Answer – bottom of back page



The Department of Infrastructure & Santon

Things which are DOI responsibility not the Commissioners' –

- Potholes, blocked drains
- Broken traffic or 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 on page 1) – 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

Roadside cutting

As in previous years we cut the 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. **Please remember that hedges which front onto the roadside are the landowner's responsibility, not the Commissioners'.**



Domestic Abuse –

The IOM Government wants all Island residents to be aware of the specialist services available to them.

Much helpful information is available on:

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/cabinet-office/public-health/health-improvement/domestic-abuse/#accordion>

In particular – people who can help:

Isle of Man Constabulary – the police will respond to emergency calls and reports of domestic abuse, at any time of the day or night.

Boots the Chemist – in Strand Street in Douglas are taking part in the 'Ask for Ani' code word scheme to help victims discretely report domestic abuse. Visit gov.uk for more information. This scheme is also run in some independent chemists.

Manx Telecom – the shop in Strand Street offers a 'safe space' for domestic abuse victims. Safe spaces are areas, within the local community, where information and support can be discretely requested; police can also be called.

Victim Support: Open 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday.

Telephone: +44 1624 679950

Email: enquiries@victimsupport.im Visit Victim Support's website.

A Women's Refuge: is open and available to victims of domestic abuse who need somewhere to stay.

Telephone: +44 1624 677900

The Women's Refuge can also be accessed via the Police or Victim Support.

The Men's Advice Line: is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. It can be contacted on **0808 8010 327** and **emailed on info@mensadvice.org.uk** They also offer a Webchat service at specific times on specific days. The opening hours are limited to weekdays however, and this should be borne in mind.

Finally – the IOM legal framework:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2020 ("the Act") gives the police and courts the powers to remove a perpetrator from an abusive environment by using Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs), should the relevant criteria as outlined within the Act be met. DAPNs can be issued on the spot by the Police if there is an immediate welfare concern, or a DAPO can be granted by the courts to protect victims and survivors of abuse on a longer term basis.

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.