

I have tried to speak to as many of you as possible, but if I haven't spoken personally to you, please feel free to phone (or email) me with any concerns or questions you may have. I will get back to you if I'm not in.  
Telephone 675554  
or email [voteorlett@manx.net](mailto:voteorlett@manx.net)

USE YOUR VOTE  
CONSTRUCTIVELY  
VOTE FOR

**Ann Corlett**

Need a lift on polling day,  
Thursday, 22 September?

**Please ring 453259**

HOUSE OF KEYS  
GENERAL ELECTION



Ann  
**Corlett**  
**DOUGLAS CENTRAL**

**22 September 2016**



Catherine Ann CORLETT

*I am 56 years old, born in Douglas and have resided in the constituency all my life. I live in Cronkbourne Road with my husband and three children and have run our family catering business for the last 30 years.*

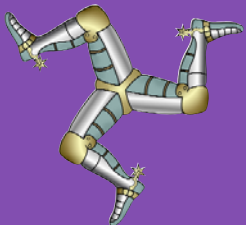
*I was educated at Tynwald Street School, Ballakermeen, Park Road and St Ninian's.*

*Having served on Douglas Town Council for the past three years representing St. George's Ward, the experience gained has fuelled my desire to enter national politics. My parents both served as Douglas Town Councillors, so I have always been encouraged to voice my opinions and had the benefit of theirs, whether I asked for it or not!*

*I have become increasingly frustrated at the lack of decision making during the last government – shelving issues for the next administration to decide upon. There is a real need for people to be elected who will not shirk the responsibility vested in them by the people of this island.*

*I am proud to be Manx and I want to retain the good things that we have, but change is needed and difficult decisions lie ahead. We must protect the next generation.*

Dear Voter,  
I am seeking your vote as one of your candidates for Douglas Central in the forthcoming election to the House of Keys on 22nd September.



## The Rating System

The method of calculating rates is absurd and, as often mentioned, bears no relationship to the size of property, value or location. Rates are calculated on an annual rent for which the property might reasonably be let. This was established in 1969. The current system also makes the water rates unfair as this is calculated on rateable value. I do favour an all-Island rating system based on a current property valuation, not a rental value.

## Roads and Pavements

Of a particular concern in Douglas Central is the state of our roads and pavements. They are in a state of considerable disrepair and I would push for resources to be allocated by way of borrowing money whilst interest rates are low. The work would be carried out by local firms, putting money directly back into the economy.

## Parliamentary Reform

For years now people have been calling for the Legislative Council to be either slimmed down, abolished or, at least, subject to public vote. It has become, at least in the eyes of the public, a retirement home or escape route for MHKs. The farce that ensues when the election of new members is undertaken only adds to the need for a new way.

Public election would seem the most democratic method, but I recognise there are difficulties with this process and therefore perhaps an independent appointments commission may be an acceptable option.

Historically, the Bishop has a seat in the Legislative Council and I don't have a problem with that, but I don't believe that an unelected member should have a vote. The role is that of a moral compass.

## Education and Work Opportunities

***The recent exam pass rates show that the education system seems to be working well.***

I support pre-school education – it must be available to all children. This will benefit them providing it is regulated and standards are set.

We need to provide more opportunities for work-based training and learning that are provided by government and private enterprise sponsorships so that a degree or professional qualification can be attained without the need for full-time university education. It may well take longer to attain those qualifications, but if people are based on the Island they are perhaps more inclined to stay here when qualified.

The cost borne by parents for the living expenses and accommodation for students off-island is money lost to the Manx economy, so it would be advantageous to be able to offer some students the means to achieve what they want on-Island.

Many of the craft apprenticeships are over-subscribed this year and young people are being denied the opportunity to take a trade. This should be addressed.

I support the digital apprenticeship scheme that will help to bridge the skills gap in the IT industry.

## State Pensions

The measures being taken are to ensure a sustainable pension fund for the future. People are unaffected until 2019 and then, for new pensioners only, a gradual reduction of the pension supplement of 5% over 20 years. In order to give younger people the opportunity to plan for a more financially secure retirement serious consideration should be given to workplace pension schemes.

## The Economy

Government's job is to create the environment to attract new business and for existing businesses to develop and grow. Our tax regime keeps us competitive and the ability to pass new legislation quickly gives us an edge. Diversity is undoubtedly the key to a prosperous future, a lesson the Channel Islands have not learnt and for which they are paying the price. We cannot rely solely on finance or e-gaming, however, the skills they bring to the Island are creating new ideas and technologies which help create a climate of innovation. It is this bringing together of skills that make these industries less transient and makes creativity synonymous with the Isle of Man.

We must think ahead and be open to ideas. Data storage and security, IT and the life science industries of BioMed and BioTech, to name a few. Also, manufacturing of high-value precision items where the cost of shipping and labour is not an important factor.

I support the Enterprise Development Scheme which is designed to grow local businesses and jobs.

I am passionate about supporting local produce in order to sustain our own agricultural industry. Buying local benefits the economy because of the “multiplier” effect. Each pound spent locally supports other Manx jobs, families and industries. Building on this, I support Government's plans for a Pensioner's Bond to improve the return that our pensioners can get on their money, whilst using it to invest in our economy and infrastructure.

## Efficiency in Government Departments

We have had over 30 years of economic growth and yet in recent years wages are static, tax revenue has not increased, we are struggling to provide services, some people are struggling to pay their fuel bills and we have a need for food banks. People just aren't feeling the benefit and to add to this, stealth taxes are imposed which affect the people on lower incomes more than most.

## Efficiency in Government Departments contd.

More prudent financial management is required. Government departments must have a more joined-up approach in order to become more efficient. The “silo” mentality must stop – departments should not use their budgets as targets they must hit. Savings should be encouraged and departments not penalised by capping budgets in following years.

### Public Sector Pensions

The previous government had, at last, begun to address this. Public sector workers, and those in receipt of a public sector pension, are being made to feel responsible for a situation where pensions were promised without real consideration for how they were to be funded in the years ahead.

New terms have been agreed with employees paying more, for longer, for less. Other measures may have to be considered. We must at least have parity with the UK or we will not be able to recruit the doctors, nurses and teachers that we need.

### Health and Social Care

The ageing demographic of the Island’s population will put pressure on health and social care resources. I support recent sheltered accommodation builds and live-at-home schemes. We must plan now to ensure that we care for our elderly.

Here we have another section of our society that is being made to feel that they are responsible for the economic pressures that are coming to bear down on us. This is not fair and is disrespectful. So many of our older generation are volunteers, carers or childminders and this unpaid contribution to our society can’t be quantified and can sometimes go unrecognised.

### Free Bus Passes for Pensioners

I am not in favour of doing away with this – or indeed introducing a minimal charge. In operating a bus service throughout the Island is it not better that the buses are full rather than mostly empty? It is not an expensive service to provide for the elderly which improves their quality of life.

## Free TV Licences for Over 75s

In the UK the BBC is taking over the cost of licences for the over 75s over the next three years in gradual stages in return for linking the cost of a TV Licence with inflation. As we will be paying the same licence fee on the Island, it is unacceptable that we are not treated the same. Firm negotiations are necessary to secure the same deal.

## Tourism

The Isle of Man has a lot to offer by way of tourism. International concerns over terrorism mean more UK tourists are staying in the British Isles. I would encourage initiatives to bring high-quality hotels to the Island to improve our tourism offering.

I consider our strength is in niche holiday experiences, especially walking, cycling and other sports, and of course the wealth of heritage sites around the Island.

We have had over 20 cruise ship visits this summer and the feasibility of a deep berth for cruise ships is worth exploring.

## Horse Trams and Douglas Promenade

I am not happy with the “shared space” scheme that, at some considerable cost, was put forward by the Department of Infrastructure as being the only way ahead for the promenade. If we wish to keep the Victorian flavour of the promenade the scheme as envisaged by the Department would be totally out of character.

I believe that the plans for the Promenade could and should have been drawn up in-house without recourse to costly consultants.

We need to deal with the sub-structure and re-surface the road. If we are to keep the horse trams then I believe a single track, with passing places, from the Sea Terminal to the Strathallan is all that’s required.

Use your vote constructively  
please vote for  
**Catherine Ann Corlett**

