

**DOUGLAS EAST**

Quintin  
**Gill**



House of Keys General Election Thursday 22nd September 2016



*WE NEED POLITICIANS  
WITH COMMITMENT,  
INDEPENDENCE  
AND EXPERIENCE*

The General Election on 22nd September is your chance to cast your vote for MHKs to represent you, your family, friends, neighbours and everyone in our community across the Island. It will be an important election as the Isle of Man faces some pressing challenges and serious threats. I believe that more than ever we need politicians with the vision, skills and commitment to make many overdue and very necessary changes in our Parliamentary and Governmental systems. A further five years of the same attitudes and behaviours will further damage the Isle of Man – possibly irreparably.

**YOUR DECISION WHO YOU VOTE FOR  
IS THEREFORE CRUCIAL.**

The comment I have heard most over the past few years, and certainly since canvassing homes and businesses across the constituency, is one of frustration with, and criticism about, the Government. Certainly the Government has been weak, inconsistent, secretive and arrogant but frankly they have been largely allowed to get away with this as the rest of Tynwald Members have failed to hold them to account, let alone present a coherent and positive opposition. All our new MHKs need to have the courage, character and experience to understand what their new role really is. They will then need to act to make the necessary overdue decisions to turn around the fortunes and future of the Isle of Man. With several long-serving politicians retiring it is more important than ever that we have politicians with the necessary experience to understand and undertake their roles fully and immediately.

I believe we need honest and straightforward people to represent us and they must have the understanding and strength of purpose to get the right answers for the Isle of Man. Across the Island I see many candidates who I believe fall short of this basic test.

The people of the Isle of Man are not fools. They recognise that the “*We’re all in this together*” line and the boast to have “*balanced the books*” are both false and insulting. We all know that if we spend more

than we earn we will inevitably face financial meltdown. We also all know that there are no painless or easy answers to the problems we face, **and we most certainly all know that things cannot go on as they are.**

We went into the 2011 Election suffering from a significant loss of VAT income. After that Election the majority of realistic people across the Island expected the Government to address this financial reality. Five years on, and despite countless consultations, reports, debates, review committees and so forth, **Government now employs more staff and spends more on its seemingly ever-increasing activities.** We see our reserves being used to finance this and those charges and cuts we have seen introduced are mainly impacting on those least able to suffer them. This is neither fair nor sustainable.

No one has all the answers to our troubles but clearly we need politicians to face up to our real challenges and look at all options to address them no matter how unpalatable or unpopular. I said this in my 2011 manifesto and I say it even more clearly and loudly now. I cannot and will not tell you that there won't be structural changes. These may possibly include public sector job losses or new ways of providing services if my policies are adopted. The decisions about how the next Government addresses

its commitments will need to be taken with Tynwald Members showing courage and leadership. The Public Service, and I include Tynwald Members in this, has shown a predictable lack of commitment to embrace change, particularly change which is seen as diminishing the current establishment. Our new MHKs need to take responsibility and ensure sustainable and structural policies and practices are put in place as soon as possible and new ways of working for the benefit of the Manx people are introduced.

In the wider public sector **we need to consider what Government does and why**. Some functions undertaken by Government should, in my opinion be rightly retained under public control. For example, I would argue that the public utilities (water and electricity which now come under the Manx Utilities Authority MUA) are national strategic assets and should remain as a public authority. Certain services should remain mostly in the Public Sector but we must also look for the benefits of cost effectively providing partnerships with the private, voluntary and charitable sectors. Other areas currently provided by the large public service need not necessarily remain in public control.

**The Report into the Scope and Structure of Government** has effectively been ignored by successive Governments since its initial publication in 2006 and update in 2012. It now needs to be discussed as a priority. If elected I will place this important matter before the earliest possible sitting of Tynwald Court

for debate. One reason this should happen quickly is to give all Members an opportunity to speak independently. That is before the new Chief Minister can arrange his or her new administration's entrenched cover of 'collective responsibility', a measure which has so often suppressed genuine debate and innovation. The will of Tynwald Court, which determines matters of policy and finance, can, if members take this opportunity to engage fully, inform and influence the selection of the next Chief Minister and guide Government policy.

These considerations are, of course, matters of policy and in considering them our politicians have a duty to make rational and balanced arguments supporting their views. Ultimately it will be their, probably unwelcome, role to decide upon affordable and sustainable policies which will serve the Isle of Man into the future. The un-costed lazy ideologies and dogma which has stifled this debate is unhelpful. Your political representatives must be courageous enough to make sensible policy decisions to ensure future services we will depend upon are readily available and cost effective. Personally I would like to consider a mixed economy with the private and third (charitable and voluntary) sectors taking on roles where they can maintain standards and services. I do not believe in privatisation of all services but our public sector is simply too large, cumbersome and frankly sometimes self-serving. **It is overdue for reform**

**and this will involve making changes.** This must be a priority for the next administration. **Introducing cultural change into any large organization is never easy** especially if that organization is resistant. But this will be a political challenge the Isle of Man's politicians **MUST** face up to and succeed if we are to overcome the financial challenges we face.

**Our tax system and rates are NOT set in stone** despite the repeated assertions of successive Treasury and Chief Ministers. Duties, charges, fees, rates and penalties have all been increased and invariably the effect has been hardest felt by those least able to pay. Of course some people always object to paying for anything ever and they expect everything to be provided free of charge to them. These irrational and selfish expectations and demands must be confronted. Many reasonable people have no objection to paying more in tax as long as they feel they, or the community, are getting value for money and the services being paid for are necessary and efficient. **Tax revenues should fund efficient and valued services.** Our tax gathering services must address and pursue individuals and companies who are avoiding paying their share towards the cost of maintaining our Islands' services. Equally Government must ensure every taxed pound is spent carefully and adds real value to our services. **Our Tax policies need to remain competitive but also be fair to all.**



**The issue of pensions will affect many of us IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE** particularly women who have been especially unfairly treated and we need to address this as a matter of urgency. The policy of attracting thousands more younger people to work on the Isle of Man so that the existing pension commitments can be met in the short to medium term looks to me to be unrealistic. Government needs to bring clarity to the framework of an affordable and meaningful programme of pension reform and management.

**Generally the public sector spends money and the private sector makes that money.** Bureaucracy and ever-increasing regulation have been the hallmarks of this Government and often these functions are increasingly costly to both customers and taxpayers. They are intrusive and stifle innovation. Of course we need regulations and enforcement powers, but I believe we need to move to a 'light touch' responsive and educational model rather than a system where regulators invariably see their role as constant policing and checking. Intelligence-led practices can deal with offending individuals or organisations. Punishments can rightly reflect any breach of trust involved. This shift of emphasis might be uncomfortable for some and I accept is not without risks; but I contend that this will facilitate and attract legitimate business much better than the onerous system we are currently allowing to grow.

## CONSTITUENCY MATTERS

I believe the constituency of Douglas East reflects some of the most heartening and positive aspects of our capital. It is a cosmopolitan community which is home to many new residents, young families in first homes and older people who are long term residents. It still retains a very **Manx spirit** and is home to some of the most important retail, tourist and public buildings on the Island. We have seen investment in hotels, restaurants, bars, nursing homes and the catchment area for the new primary school in Westmoreland Road includes parts of Douglas East. In many ways it is a vibrant and busy centre of the capital. **Yet it is undoubtedly also a constituency with serious and deep-seated social and infrastructure problems. As a Social Worker I see these problems on a daily basis.** The standard of some of the rented accommodation in Douglas East is totally unacceptable. The botched Landlord and Tenant Bill and associated legislation completely failed to understand, or properly address, this issue and the next Government should make the introduction of new fit for purpose laws a priority in their Legislative Programme.

Another important issue will be to ensure that our new residents who have moved here to work and raise their families are made to feel welcome and totally included into Manx life. Our economy and services simply would not manage without the valued role of so many people who have moved here from the Philippines, Eastern Europe, Africa and elsewhere. We must all work hard to make our society as integrated and harmonious as possible and I applaud the efforts to achieve this and commit myself to supporting any activities with this aim.

Similarly many minority groups need to be reassured that intolerance and bigotry is unacceptable and contrary to the inclusive and compassionate community I believe we all should want to live in.



*TEAM WORKING WORKS -  
SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES  
AT NOBLES HOSPITAL*

*Douglas masterplan....*



***REALISTIC ASPIRATION  
OR FANCIFUL WASTE  
OF PUBLIC MONEY?***

**Government should ditch the fanciful 'masterschemes'** which bluntly are never going to materialise (like the ridiculous plan for private funding to build the grandiose high rise buildings around the Sea Terminal area). **We should get on with making the sensible and necessary decisions** to allow funding for more realistic and modest projects at sites like the Old Prison on Victoria Road and the Summerland Site. It was a missed opportunity when the last Government was giving public funds to the Sefton Group not to require a condition that they developed or sold for development the Castle Mona site. The Government alone is responsible for the **huge expenditure of public money on the Promenade without any tangible benefit to be seen**. In today's financial environment I would take the most cost effective measure to enhance the Promenade whilst retaining the horse trams in their current location. Douglas Promenade should be the focal point of our cultural, tourism and hospitality activities. It should be the shop-front of the Isle of Man for visitors. At the moment it is a sad and crumbling testament to political ineptitude.

The role of an MHK is effectively split in three overarching areas:

- CONSTITUENCY MEMBER
- PARLIAMENTARIAN
- GOVERNMENT / SCRUTINY ROLE

All are equally important and I know from direct experience need complementary skills and attention. However, the role of a constituency member is slightly different in that many constituency issues should fall within the responsibilities of the local authority and I will aim to form a positive working relationship with local Councillors to best serve all our constituents. As a qualified and long serving Social Worker I know how the various welfare systems work and will use this knowledge for the benefit of my constituents.

## **HOLDING YOUR MHK TO ACCOUNT**

As a candidate seeking the right to represent you in the House of Keys and Tynwald Court I would like you to assess me against the following principles which I believe should underpin all public service:

**HONESTY** Sounds like stating the obvious? Yet politicians generally are often regarded as dishonest or at least untrustworthy. The only promise I made to my then young daughters when first elected was that I would always act in an honest manner, work hard and be fair. I have always tried to live up to that promise and it is a promise I again commit to you.

**INTEGRITY** In a small community we all have various friends, colleagues, business partners or other relationships. MHKs must declare and, if necessary, resolve any potential or real conflict of interest or potential influence openly and fully. I believe most MHKs, Civil Servants and Public Servants are sincere, genuine and honest in their dealings and want to serve for the benefit of the Isle of Man generally: that is certainly my motivation.

**SELFLESSNESS** Of course MHKs are paid and I am happy that payment means we are no longer ruled by an unrepresentative wealthy elite who do not need to earn their day to day living. However, **in**

**my view no public servant should decide their own pay.** In the case of Tynwald Members an independent review of pay and allowances should be undertaken immediately. My preference would be to ask our learned Deemsters to undertake this role utilising expert advice. Tynwald Court should accept their findings without debate or comment whatever they may be. This would be consistent with the principle of Members acting solely in the public interest.

**OBJECTIVITY** MHKs must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence available and without discrimination or bias. But **THEY MUST MAKE DECISIONS AND MUST STOP MAKING TIMID AND POPULIST U-TURNS.**

**ACCOUNTABILITY** As your representative I will be accountable to you and the rest of the public who can scrutinise my actions. I believe in the power of meeting face to face and plan to hold surgeries in the constituency. Here, the people I represent, can meet me to discuss issues affecting them, their families or my record in office.

**OPENNESS** Having served in both the Royal Navy and the British Army Reserves I know the importance of maintaining operational integrity and ensuring personal security; keeping classified information secure can be essential. In my career as a Social Worker and Probation Officer dealing with sensitive issues I

always have to maintain confidentiality. I therefore understand that sometimes, in public service, it is necessary to ensure information and advice is managed securely and sensitively. But the guiding principle in public life is that of **Openness** where an MHK acts and takes decisions in an open and transparent manner unless there are overriding and lawful reasons to do otherwise. The secrecy which has become prevalent in Government must stop.

**LEADERSHIP** All MHKs, like others with public leadership responsibilities, have a duty to actively promote and support the above principles. They should appropriately challenge behaviour in public servants which falls short of the required standard. **I DO NOT set myself up as someone special. I am a person with strengths and weaknesses just like everyone else.** However, I know from my ten years in the House of Keys and Tynwald Court that these principles direct and assist all honest and hardworking representatives in their varied duties.

My commitment to you as my potential constituent is to always try to uphold the highest standards and be honest with myself and you. You may not like everything I do or agree with the reasons for my actions but I sincerely hope I will earn your confidence and respect through my service to you, our community and our Island.



## ABOUT ME

My parents are both from Douglas and I moved from the south of the Island to Douglas in 2012. I have served in the Royal Navy and in the Army Reserve in an infantry battalion. I still have a voluntary role supporting visiting Royal Naval ships and personnel and I am a keen supporter of the Sea Cadets. My particular interest is naval history and I am a founder member of the Quilliam Group who aim to raise awareness about Manx and general maritime issues.

I have served for two terms as MHK for Rushen between 2001 and 2011 and was unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker. I have been the Presiding Officer, which entails acting as both the President and Speaker, in both the House of Keys and Tynwald Court. During my career in social care I have qualified as a Probation Officer, Higher Education Teacher, Occupational Welfare Officer and Counsellor. I currently work as a Social Worker in the NHS in Nobles Hospital.

Together with my partner Voirrey Cowley, who also lives in Douglas, we are TT & MGP Marshals, keen motorcyclists, enjoy the arts, hiking and watching sports.



I am actively involved in several charities, the Manx Courts Mission (providing tangible help to rehabilitate offenders), RELATE (promoting positive relationships), MOTIV8 (supporting people with addictive behaviours) and I am a school governor. I have three adult daughters and I want them to have the choice to live and enjoy working in a successful, safe and happy Isle of Man.

*WORKING TOGETHER  
WE CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN -  
VOIRREY AND ME MARSHALLING AT BRANDISH*

## TALKINGPOINTS / SOME THINGS I BELIEVE...

- Our most important political, economic and cultural relationship is with the UK – we need to strengthen this
- BREXIT will impact on the Isle of Man – we need to enhance our relationships with the UK Government to promote our position
- I promoted the change of law to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote
- I support the move to introduce a Manx National Service medal
- I have served in leadership roles as Chairman of two statutory authorities
- During my time as Chairman of the MEA I led a Board which resolved the financial mess we inherited whilst also cutting the Senior Management team by 40%
- I led the move to resist introduction of SATS tests in Manx schools

- Manx legislation should be up to date I support the debate to consider our abortion laws.
- I was unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker of the House of Keys and have presided in the Keys and Tynwald Court.
- I support a just outcome from the BBC Licence arrangement and believe our residents over 75 years old should be entitled to a free TV licence.
- I support the initiative to make the IoM the World's first Dementia Friendly Nation.
- Making our roads as affordably safe as possible for cyclists and motorcyclists should be a priority.
- We need a sustainable balance between economic growth and conservation.
- I am pleased to see a military presence on the Island and support the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Housing Associations and Shared Equity Schemes to help first time buyers are needed to address our housing problems.

- Proven renewable technologies will help us move towards a low carbon future.
- I support Everton – but I still have an optimistic view of life.
- I want all Manx schoolchildren to be able to visit the Tynwald Chambers to enhance their understanding about society and politics.
- Respect, courtesy, equal opportunity and inclusion are the cornerstones of a fair society.
- I want a fairer society.



*TEAM WORKING*

## CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto for the 2016 General Election. I hope you will have the opportunity to consider the merits of the other candidates and having done so choose to vote for the most **EXPERIENCED, COMMITTED AND INDEPENDENT** candidate. In addition to these necessary qualities I hope you will choose a candidate who is balanced, open-minded and hard working. The Isle of Man needs MHKs who can understand and manage the difficult issues facing us all and show leadership and consideration in deciding and acting upon policies to address these issues. I am seeking your support because **I believe I am the right candidate to represent the people of Douglas East as your MHK.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Lhiats.

Vote  
Quintin

**Gill**



September 22nd 2016



# DOUGLAS EAST

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# Vote Quintin Gill

## Polling stations

Douglas East CDGE1 - Promenade Methodist Church Hall, Loch Promenade, Douglas

Douglas East CDGE2 - iMuseum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas (opposite The Ellan Vannin Home)

Douglas East CDGE3 - Freemasons Hall, Woodbourne Road, Douglas

Douglas East CDGE3 - Spiritualist Church, Lower Dukes Road, Douglas

Douglas East CDGE5 - Promenade Methodist Church Hall, Loch Promenade, Douglas

Telephone: **333075**

Email: [quintingill.election2016@gmail.com](mailto:quintingill.election2016@gmail.com)

[www.quintingill.com](http://www.quintingill.com)

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