

'Teeval' the first Laxey Community Skiff launched 2 December 2023

2024 CALENDAR

Daphne Caine MHK



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Shading indicates Isle of Man school holidays

Political surgery dates 2024 for all Garff constituents

- Saturday February 3 at Garff Commissioners Office, New Road, Laxey 1030-midday*
- Thursday April 11 at Archibald Knox pub meeting room, Onchan, 5-6pm
- Saturday May 11 at Garff Commissioners Office, New Road, Laxey 1030-midday
- Saturday July 13 at Garff Commissioners Office, New Road, Laxey 1030-midday
- Saturday September 14 at Cooil Roi, Laxey, 1030-midday*
- Saturday Oct 5 at Garff Commissioners Office, New Road, Laxey 1030-midday
- Thursday Nov 21 at Archibald Knox pub meeting room, Onchan, 5-6pm

Dates correct at time of printing - please see media for confirmation near the time. All Garff constituents are welcome to drop in to any scheduled surgery. They will be hosted by Daphne Caine with other local or national politicians depending on availability. *Andrew Smith MHK will also attend on Feb 3 and Sep 14. Please contact Daphne to arrange a meeting outside these times.

Contact Information

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Email: **Daphne.Caine@gov.im**



Celebrating 130 years of the Manx Electric Railway 10 September 2023

Dear Garff constituent

Community is at the heart of what makes the Isle of Man a special place to live and I am lucky to have witnessed some encouraging developments in the past year. The launch of the Laxey skiff (pictured overleaf) was a wonderful culmination of 10 months' work by a small group of people, with hopefully more to follow.

I am acutely aware, however, that the lack of affordable housing and cost of living concerns result in some people having to move out of our community. Progress on delivering the housing strategy has been slow.

Delays in the Area Plan for the North and West is unfortunate as it is hoped this will result in designation of some development land in Maughold - bringing much needed housing and boosting the numbers for local schools.

I have also highlighted in the past year the worrying levels of ultra processed food in school menus, and I am pleased that is being reviewed.

The state of the Island's finances and provision of health and education services continue to be the main political focus. As a member of the Social Affairs parliamentary scrutiny committee, the lack of NHS dentists, especially for children, prompted our first report seeking improvements. I opposed the proposal for IoM Public Health to research adding fluoride to our water - and will keep an eye on that report (due February).

Road safety remains a priority across Lonan, Laxey and Onchan, and I continue to engage with Garff road safety community partnership and Highways officers on various matters, not least improving roads, footpaths and road crossings.

The year 2023 was a significant one for the Island's heritage railways, and it was a pleasure to see the well-attended 130th anniversary celebrations of the Manx Electric Railway. However, I remain concerned about the future retention and operation of our railway network in light of transport consultants SYSTRA's long-awaited review. I support more efficient ways of operating our heritage assets but they must be adequately funded. Savings should not be achieved through reductions to the remaining rail network or attractions.

I welcome news that Laxey Wheel restoration will continue through 2024-25 with repairs to the rod duct and T-rocker.

Two other matters that generate much discussion are concerned with democratic representation in our parliament: There is a public consultation on whether the Lord Bishop should continue to have a vote in our parliament. Details available in the media but please contact me if you would like assistance to take part (closing date 29 February 2024).

The Electoral Commission is due to report soon on constituency boundaries and voting accessibility (amongst other things). Should community boundaries or equalising voter numbers determine a constituency? I would welcome constituents' views on the recommendations, which are due soon.

I always welcome feedback and comments on these or any issues that concern you. Please drop in to any of the political surgeries listed overleaf or contact me to arrange meetings or phone discussions outside these times.

With very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024



USEFUL CONTACTS

- Flood queries email** iomfloodhub@gov.im
- Flood tel / Dol control room**..... **850 000 / 672 000**
- If threat to life** **999**
- Isle of Man Government 685 685
- Airport 821 600
- Bus Vannin 662 525
- Level crossings 672000
- Manx Utilities 687 687
- Garff Commissioners 861 241
- Onchan Commissioners 675 564