

**Deemster Corlett's Address to
Welcome Sir John and Lady Lorimer
At the Lieutenant Governor's Swearing In Ceremony
29 September 2021**

Sir John and Lady Lorimer, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen and may I offer an especial welcome to our very recently elected MHKs whom Deemster Needham and I swore in to office yesterday. It is also good to see the Chief Minister with us today clearly on the road to recovery.

Primarily, may I offer you Sir John and Lady Lorimer a very warm welcome to the Isle of Man and to this historic castle, Castle Rushen, the seat of the Kings and Lords of Mann and the traditional location for these special occasions.

I am delighted that you have been joined by members of your family today and I feel sure that you will thoroughly enjoy your time with us on this beautiful Island over the next few years as you make it your home.

The Isle of Man has enjoyed a strong connection with the Crown for centuries. We are here to witness the taking of the Oath of Allegiance to the Crown and the Oath of Lieutenant Governor in the latest embodiment of that connection. Sir John, in taking those Oaths you will become the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, the successor to the Lords of Mann and the Viking Kings of Mann and the Isles. Through your Office, you demonstrate our continued allegiance which we share with others under the Crown.

One of the clearest examples of this allegiance is the service that generations of Manx men and women have given to the Armed Forces of the Crown including in conflicts large and small across the globe. It is therefore a particular pleasure to welcome as Lieutenant Governor such an accomplished officer of the British Army. With your wide and distinguished international experience and knowledge I know that you will be able

to have a clear and well informed focus on the challenges that the Island faces at what has been an unprecedented time in our recent history.

I trust that in due course Sir John you will be able to report to Her Majesty that the Isle of Man is resilient, in good heart and is well governed. We cherish our traditions, but we also take great pride in our ability to innovate economically, evolve constitutionally, and to undertake our international commitments responsibly.

Across the world, the past 18 months has presented challenges which beforehand would have been unimaginable. But what this time has shown, and what many of us have drawn such comfort from, is the power and strength of the Island's community.

In our time of need, the Island pulled together and supported each other, particularly our most vulnerable. However, for those who know our Island well, this response was not a surprise. As well as coming to a beautiful Island, you and Lady Lorimer have come to a place which possesses a very strong sense of community. I am sure that in the years ahead you will both come to feel a real part of our open and welcoming society and make many friends within it.

Sir John, the Isle of Man is a proud Island with a rich history and many aspirations for the future. We are an Island that punches above its weight in many areas, including in our sporting and cultural endeavours: one need only think of Mark Cavendish's record equalling exploits in the Tour de France, or Samantha Barks' star performances in the West End as evidence of what our talented sons and daughters can achieve.

I hope that when your term of office comes to an end, you and Lady Lorimer will look back on your years on this Island with great satisfaction, immense pleasure and real affection.

I extend to you a very warm Manx welcome and wish you all the very best for your time as the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man.