



Heat - and haste

Forget the hottest summer on record - ours was one of the busiest we've had. Never before have we managed to put together a 96-page book from scratch during our busy season...

Verse? Or worse?!

As readers of this newsletter will know, the junior partner became Manx Bard for 2017-18. Relinquishing the annual appointment at the end of August, she was persuaded to write a book about her bardic year. From the highs of the Lieutenant Governor's Christmas reception, to the lows of attending an event she hadn't been told had been cancelled, the book provides a flavour of what the Manx Bard actually does.

My Year as Manx Bard will be launched at 10.30 am on Saturday 27 October in Lexicon bookshop, Douglas:

You are what you eat

It's odd isn't it, how sometimes we miss the most obvious? On a visit to Newcastle I stopped by a street vendor who was selling 'Viking fast food'. Intrigued, I bought something resembling a small pie. It was truly delicious but... not Viking. When I mentioned both these facts to the lady behind the counter she asked why not and I pointed out that the pie had potato in it. To my relief she wasn't at all offended (I suppose pointing it out was a bit rude) and we laughed about Vikings rowing back from North America with rather more valuable cargo than potatoes. As it says on page 19 of *Things to do with Vikings*: 'Raiding or invading leaves little time for fancy cookery and one of the main 'packed lunches' for Vikings was dried cod. Because cod contains almost no fat it can be dried hard and will keep almost forever as long as it's kept dry. To use, just add water. It's like a Viking Pot Noodle! Vikings even gnawed on the dried cod fillets if they didn't have time to turn them into soup.'



Sven, Jeff North his Motorman, and Sara. We'll leave you to sort out which is which

You'd be wrong to think verse boring,
Spurning it for wasting time;
Verse expands ideas, exploring
Everywhere by means of rhyme.

But the Bard's job's more than writing
Shaping text to rhyme and scan,
It's promoting and highlighting
All that makes the Isle of Man.

If you want more information
On the Manx Bard, take a look –
There's no need for speculation
As it's all here, in this book...

Overheard

Customer, proffering ticket to conductor: 'What time does the 11.40 tram leave?'

Conductor: 'Twenty to twelve, madam.'

Customer, boarding tram: 'Thank you.'

Er...?

Take three!

The Really BIG Surprise, the third in our series 'Tram Tales of the Manx Electric Railway' was published during July. The trams of the MER celebrated their 125th birthday at the beginning of September, and Sven, the Number 7 and the MER's only blue tram tried very hard to work out what the really big surprise could possibly be. He didn't guess! (Hint: it's NOT the horse on the front cover...)

Whether we do more in the series - and we've already thought of a few more tales - depends on how well they sell.

So... you know what to do!

Best wishes

Sara

Quote of the day

'Being an island, eight of the animals which live in the UK are missing from Mann. The island has no squirrels, badgers, foxes, deer, moles, snakes, otters or voles. But it does have wild wallabies, tailless cats, four-horned loaghtan sheep, wild goat and basking sharks.'