



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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Two new books to report on, and a headstart on next year's publications



NEARLY HERE!

Sorry to shout, but when I say 'nearly here' that's exactly what I mean. Our latest publication, *Port Erin; past & present*, is due here next week - weather and printers permitting. Based on the extensive postcard collection of Ray Stanfield - the postcard, left, is one of the ones we *didn't* use - the book does exactly what it says on the cover. The old images have been matched with modern photographs. and captions added to give a pictorial potted history of Port Erin since its Victorian heyday.

When putting the book together we also discovered some fascinating facts. For example, the first fish hatchery in the British Isles was the Marine Biological Station based in Port Erin. During the Second World war the

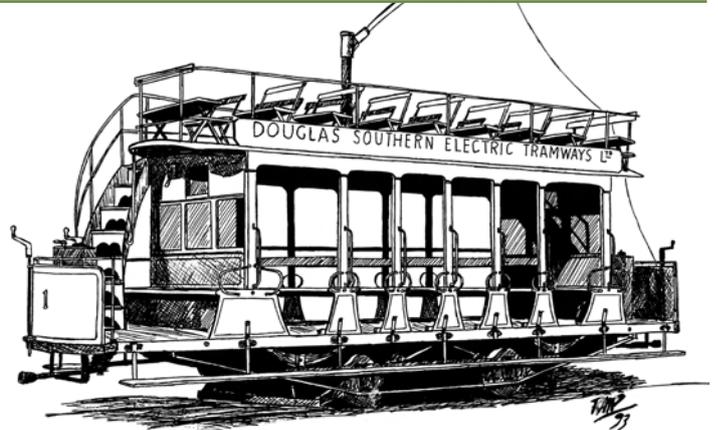
Wesleyan schoolroom next to what is now the Erin Arts Centre, was used as the post office for the Port Erin internment camp. And the first steam railway on the Isle of Man was the Port Erin Breakwater Railway. Oddly, it was broad gauge; none of the island railways built later was broad gauge. The book is packed with such detail and we do hope that readers will have as much fun reading it as we had compiling it.

Postal woes

It's expected, in the Isle of Man where we're based, that Saturday postal deliveries will cease on 21 October. (Shame!) It's a far cry from when letters were the only means for those apart to keep in touch with loved ones. As page 99 of *Dear Ray* says: 'I've had to destroy some of the letters I've had from you - I hated doing it but I can't carry them now there's no room in the new kit bag and I've had to cut down as much as possible. All I have with me now is my army issue kit... So I'll write tomorrow evening Ray but I expect it will be a bit scrappy - they might decide to give me my kit check at about 8 o'clock tomorrow evening or something.'

A Nag Ram

One of our regular readers (are you reading this Tony?) has sent us a list of very clever anagrams. Most are nothing to do with the act of writing, but I'm sure proof readers can sympathise with 'A decimal point' becoming 'I'm a dot in place', while everyone struggling with recalcitrant text can understand 'desperation' becoming, grimly, 'a rope ends it'!



Another book which does exactly what it says on the cover is the *Manx Transport Colouring Book*. Published in July, we haven't made a big song and dance about it, as we thought it was fairly self evident as to what it was. We were delighted to discover that some transport enthusiasts are purchasing the book because the drawings are so good. Have a look at the picture on page 27 (above) and see what you think.

Best wishes and, as this is the last news-letter before January, Happy Christmas! Sara

Quote of the day

She goes straight to her pink bean bag. Her legs are extremely tired and she wants to rest.

That transpires to be her very last step.

She has to be lifted up from the bean bag. Her legs will no longer carry her, nor has she any feeling in them.