



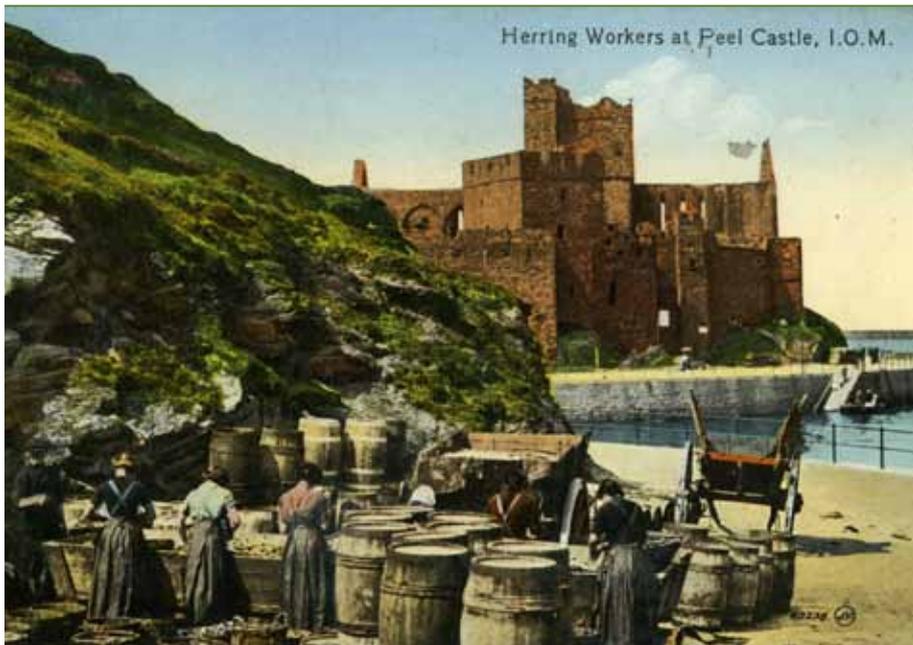
LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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Just in time for Christmas...?



Herring Workers at Peel Castle, I.O.M.

NEW BOOK!

With Christmas around the corner, we're just about to publish our latest book. *Peel: past & present* is a sister volume to *Port Erin: past and present*; both books show old photographs of their towns, with a matching modern photograph illustrating how things have changed. Or not.

One of the things which became apparent when compiling *Peel:P&P* was the ambivalent relationship between the castle and the town. Not surprising really. The fortress was built originally to keep the Manx subjugated. Its massive curtain walls were strongest to defend it from attack from the land, not the sea. Today of course it's a tourist attraction.

The photograph, right, was one we didn't use in *Peel past & present*, but sums up what most people think are the main points of Peel – the castle and the fishing. For hundreds of years fishing supported the local economy and Peel still has the largest fishing fleet in the Irish Sea.

Peel: past & present will be available at the end of October. Both it and *Port Erin: past and present* are 128 pages, two thirds A4 and retail at £13.95 each. And they're post free to the British Isles through our online shop.

Seeing the pattern

As many of you know, we do our typesetting in house. There's often something of a mystique about typesetting but it's only like putting together a jigsaw where the text and the photographs are the pieces. Our problems are as nothing compared with those of Clifford Cole and his demonstration anti-aircraft battery in America during the war. On page 59 of *Invading America 1943* Cole says:

'Because of the size of the demonstration area, we worked out a new type of demonstration that morning. It was almost like being an actor and having to suit our entrances to the size of the stage, but I believed we were becoming really accomplished in getting such details settled. We put on our first show at Camp Edwards the following day, so we spent most of that day getting the equipment maintained and polished.'

Er...?

Mentioned casually by a UK reader: 'I'm zooming but not bubbling'. Eh?? She meant her reaction to Covid...

ADAPTING TO NEW WORKING

Over this last year the pandemic has meant that many of us have had to change the way we work. Of course some people work in unusual conditions all the time. There can be few eateries, for example, which are not only in such an exposed location as the summit of Snaefell, but, as there is no road, which also rely on Victorian trams to bring everything they need to serve their customers.

One of the chapters in *Two Fish for the Summit* talked with Jane Woodiwiss who, with her husband, David, ran the Snaefell Hotel for several years: 'At Bungalow we wait for the staff tram, and then put all the supplies onto it – everyone helps, our staff, the tram drivers, the station people, and anyone else who's on the staff tram. Then we all pile on the tram, get to the top and it's a big mad rush...'

There are compensations though, as Jane says: 'The weather was atrocious down in the valley, but up here we were above everything and it was so beautiful. And nobody knew – nobody knew how beautiful it was. The webcam is at Bungalow, which was in cloud, and up here we were sitting outside sunbathing. There were no customers because they didn't know how good it was.'

Keep well, and,
as this is the last
newsletter before
the New Year,
Happy Christmas!
Sara

Quote of the day

Just like you play conkers in right season, Manxmen were farmers, fishermen and miners in the right season. They worked at farming in the spring (planting) and autumn (harvesting), fished in the summer (herring) and winter (cod) and fitted mining around everything else.