



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



www.loaghtanbooks.com

ISSUE 37, JANUARY 2021

New Year, New Hope...?

ACTION REPLAY!

As our new book, *Peel: past & present*, has been so popular I thought we'd show you another of the images we *didn't* use. Some of you may find that parts of the image show a weird pattern. This is because the original postcard was printed as a series of dots. When we scan the image, the scanner also copies the picture as a series of dots, and the two series don't necessarily coincide - there are gaps in the pattern. It is these gaps which cause the pattern or aliasing. It's almost impossible to correct severe instances of aliasing without losing a lot of the detail, which is why some interesting images have had to be left out of the printed book. This view from Peel castle towards the harbour is one of them.



GETTING THE POINT

The most encouraging news in the war against Covid is of course the start of vaccinations. Let's hope they are a little more careful than when vaccinating Adelaide Lubbock before her work with refugees at the end of the Second World War. On page 8 of *A Cog in the Wheel* she writes: 'Today I went to be inoculated in the basement of St Paul's School. There were about twelve or fifteen people waiting to be done, rather silent and preoccupied. There was nowhere to sit in the room which contained a dirty-looking cupboard and table with bottles and instruments, all badly kept and unprofessional looking. A sulky and grubby Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) orderly was loafing with his back against the wall. Presently the Medical Officer (MO) came in and we all started baring our arms. The orderly went round swabbing the arms with the same piece of cotton soaked in methylated spirit and the MO followed, jabbing anti-typhus, anti-typhoid and anti-tetanus injections into all the arms with the same needle. It was not as hygienic as one could have wished but it was much quicker over.'

Family was always important

Many of us have taken our families for granted, and its come as a shock not to be able to visit them as much as we'd like – or even at all. Families have always wanted to be together, even sometimes in ways we'd find odd today. Page 9 of *Cross Purposes*, an introduction to Manx mediaeval stone crosses, says:

'Originally the crosses were scattered about the island. Even those used as grave markers wouldn't necessarily have been in a churchyard... before the ninth century, people expected to be buried near their home not near their place of worship, and so graves could be found all over the place. Burying Granny in the back garden would have kept the family together, so to speak. This is possibly why so many crosses were reused as steps, door lintels, gate posts or other building materials: they were the grave markers of previous owners or tenants of that particular farm.'

Stop press!

As our 'past & present' books seem to be well liked, we will be working on another one. We've covered Port Erin and Peel; anyone any suggestions for which town we do next?

Happy
New
Year!
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.