



# LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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RED TAPE AND RULEBOOK

## Near at hand yet far away

The pandemic has taken over from Brexit as the dominant news story, at least in the British Isles, but Brexit still rears its head occasionally. The junior partner was recently forced to close a building society account in the UK ‘because of Brexit’. As the Isle of Man has never been a member of either Europe or the UK, nothing had changed and the argument was rather specious. Page 139 of *A Brief History of the Isle of Man* explains:

‘The Isle of Man is not independent of British rule, but nearly so. Like Jersey and Guernsey, Mann is a Crown Dependency, which means that it is neither part of the United Kingdom nor of Great Britain but is a British Island (a political entity into which the Channel Islands fall) and part of the British Isles, which is a geographical term referring to the islands off the



north west coast of Europe. The Isle of Man is self governing but Manx legislation requires royal assent to become law. Since 1981 the Lieutenant Governor, as the Queen’s representative, has been permitted to grant royal assent on her behalf. As royal assent has not been refused since 1707 it is deemed to be largely automatic.’

The photograph (left) is of Eary Cushlin looking towards the Calf of Man, and appears on the title page of *A Brief History of the Isle of Man*.

## Passing trade

As promised in the last newsletter, the fourth book in our Tram Tales series of children’s books, *To the Rescue!*, was duly published in April.

One of the things we always do when a new book is published, is to ensure that the media has publicity photographs available for their use. You know the sort of thing – suitable background with the author grinning sheepishly (loaghtan-ishly??) and clutching the book in the foreground.

Well, we were at Groudle taking shots of some of the places which appear in *To the Rescue!* when a couple walking past asked what we were doing.

Having explained, they bought the book!

Sales are always welcome of course, but we only had the one copy with us, so had to go back to base to get another one to finish the shoot. We’ll take more next time.

## STAY CATING?

When we are finally allowed out to play again, and to go on holiday to loved places, we may well find that pandemic precautions have changed what was once familiar. Those who have lived through war know this all too well. Adelaide Lubbock was a Staff Captain in the Allied Commission for Austria dealing with refugees and prisoners of war, and was one of the first people to enter Austria as the Second World War was ending. On page 95 of her diary *A Cog in the Wheel*, Adelaide writes:

‘We arrived in Vienna this afternoon. The whole thing is like some nightmare. I don’t know what to say or what to write it is so unreal, so horrible, changed like some familiar face in violent death. The years between seem suddenly to be telescoped and it is as if it was only yesterday that I stood outside the Stefansdom on the fateful day in March 1938 when

Hitler rode into Austria, and listened to the tramp of the Nazis’ boots and the roar of their tanks down the Kärntnerstrasse, and wondered what was to become of Vienna and the world.’

Best wishes, Sara

## Customer comments

‘Oh yes, we love your Tram Tales audiobook. We often put the CD on when the grandkids visit.

It’s also the only thing which stops the budgie squawking...’

## Quote of the day

Perhaps surprisingly, the mountain road actually predates many of the roads on the island. Parts of the mountain road date from the deforesting of the early 1860s when access was needed to remove trees from the lower slopes. Tracks which already existed were joined up, but much of the road was built from scratch, particularly the section from Keppell Gate, north west of Creg-ny-Baa, to near the Guthrie Memorial.

Page 30, *Two Fish for the Summit*