



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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BOOK SHORTAGE! PANIC BUY HERE!!

JUST DELIVERED!

We're delighted to announce that *Castletown: past & present* has joined *Peel* and *Port Erin* in our occasional series matching old postcard views with modern photographs. Each is 128 pages long, two thirds A4 and costs £13.95.

It's always hugely rewarding doing a book like this, not least because we find out all sorts of things we didn't know about the town in question. For example, a Castletown banker, George Quayle was also a smuggler, Speaker of the House of Keys and skilled model maker. More sadly, Queen Street, a road of only 39 houses, saw 40 men volunteer to

fight in the First World War, six of whom were killed. Such stories abound, and many of them we've been able to include in the book.

The postcard (left) is one of those we *didn't* use in the new book. *Shickrys* is the Castletown motto, pronounced (roughly) 'shigurur', and means 'sure' or 'certain'. The card was sent by Nellie on 15 July 1909 to her mother in Port St Mary to let her know that Nellie would be home on the following day. Post was quicker then.



Coming soon

Those of you who visit our website will soon notice an exciting new feature. Some twenty years after everyone else caught on, we will feature a weekly-ish blog (stop yawning at the back there).

Blogs are really just online diaries. Tim Elliott, who served in both world wars, and kept diaries in each, used tiny books in which he recorded his daily entries. Page 48 of *Tim's Wars* says, for example:

'Sun 2nd Jan [1916], Bray shelled in afternoon by Enemy. To concert in evening, and then had jolly time with the Boys.

Mon 3rd Jan., Left for trenches beyond Carnoy. Heavy rifle fire along railway and 41 trench. Enemy active with mortars.

Tues 4th Jan., Bray shelled. To Carnoy with report. British shell Enemy 1st trenches. Enemy reply heavily. Observing shots and reporting. On parapet with Capt. Woolly V.C.' [sic]

Captain G.H. Woolley was the son of a London curate and the first Territorial Army officer to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Twenty Four

Readers across may not know that the Isle of Man has just had a general election to decide who will sit in the House of Keys for the next five years. There's been a lot of debate over the years about where the name 'Keys' comes from. At the end of the nineteenth century, historian and Speaker of the House of Keys A.W. Moore believed that the term probably came from the Manx for 'Twenty Four', *kiare-as-feed*, clumsily pronounced by a non-Manx administrator, and then transcribed phonetically as 'keys' by a fifteenth century English clerk who translated it into Latin.

Each year Tynwald meets, as it has always done, on Tynwald Hill to promulgate the new laws. Page 12 of *Sites & Stories* explains: 'In keeping with tradition Tynwald Hill is said to contain earth drawn from all seventeen parishes in the island [to invoke the Viking law of hospitality]. While the Keys and Legislative Council are unlikely to liven up Tynwald Day by indulging in a bout of fisticuffs, it's a lovely idea that not only the people but also the land on which they live are all represented on the ancient hill in St John's.'

Overheard

'Reading is like eating as much chocolate as I like and not getting fat.'

For those of you who have been with us from the beginning, *Loaghtan Books News* is 10 today.

Best wishes, Sara

Quote of the day

Fenella was pleased but knew that the next bit might be even more difficult. Going downhill she didn't need to work hard to Go. She needed to work hard to Slow!

Page 27, *To the Rescue!*