



Business as usual

After the bustle of the recent move Loaghtan Books has settled on the Isle of Man and we're busy discovering things about our new home. For example the title of our best selling book *A Brief History of the Isle of Man* is in Manx *Recortys Veg ny Ellan Vannin*. Or at least we think it may be...

'Improving' old photographs

Much of our work for historical publications involves the careful handling of original material. With the best will in the world, old photographs are easily damaged, particularly if they're carried around in the pocket of serving soldiers - they have priorities other than preserving such things. Consequently George, the photographic expert on the team, spends a lot of time and effort digitally 'repairing' old photographs.

A good example of this is the photograph (right) of Tim Elliott in female costume. It is part of a larger photograph of members of the Bow Bells concert party entertaining WWI troops. The upper version shows the original image, the lower how George has managed to reduce or remove the creasing. Such work is particularly difficult if the creases obscure part of a face. You can see the entire photograph in *Tim's Wars*, page 131.



Lock, Stock and Barrel

After the move and the usual hassle of unpacking boxes marked one thing and finding something else inside (why does that happen?) Loaghtan Books is now back at work. I would say 'normal business is resumed', but we hope it never ceased; it was the production of new books which was put on hold.

At least we chose to move, unlike many who lost everything to bombs during WW2. Even then what rankled most was not losing beloved possessions to enemy bombing, but having what was left looted when their owners were taking cover. Then, as now, unfairness mattered. In *Dear Ray* the editorial comments: 'The first trials for looting took place at the Old Bailey on 9 November 1940 and, of the twenty cases tried, ten involved members of the Auxiliary Fire Service... One of the first people to appear in court was Walter Handy who was sent to prison for three years for falsely claiming that he had been bombed out nineteen times in five months.' *Dear Ray*, page 34.

Bah, Humbug!

Cards and Christmas puddings are in the shops, it must be... July!

In 1945 Adelaide Lubbeck's Christmas was not a bright one: 'I have also heard that the NAAFI in Vienna has burnt down, together with nine million cigarettes and all the Christmas drink rations, among other things. This means we get no NAAFI rations now for I don't know how long.' *A Cog in the Wheel*, 17 November, page 120.

I'm only mentioning Christmas because this is the last newsletter before January. Don't forget that we will gift wrap orders free of charge. Just let us know that you'd like this service by emailing us when you place an order through our online shop.

Happy Christmas (!) Sara

Quote of the day

'New furniture. Instead of a settee bed, hospital bed. Instead of an office chair, wheelchair. And then her room is full.

Suddenly my room is no longer as it was. Suddenly I am no longer as I was.' Page 110, *What Nobody Sees*.