



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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Magnificent from above

After a bumpy year where the publication schedule was interrupted by building work, caring for a seriously-ill elderly relative, and an irritatingly time-consuming illness in one of the partners, we've been lucky enough to team up with an expert who produces the most fantastic aerial photographs.



Jon Wornham is an expert drone pilot. Now before you all write in to remind us that drones have something of a bad press, Jon is also a former pilot and retired air-traffic controller. If he doesn't know what is and is not permitted when flying a drone then few will. His new book forms the latest in our occasional 'Hoofprint' series, and it's a corker. Each page is devoted to aerial views of different parts of Mann while the brief commentary gives interesting facts about things difficult to see from the ground. Jon also includes information about the regulations a responsible drone user should obey. As a taster, the above photograph, also Jon's copyright, did *not* appear in his book. The white building in the middle is the Creg ny Baa Hotel, and the road which forms the top of the Y is the TT course. Kate's cottage can just be seen at the top of the hill on the right.

Mann with Altitude will be published at the end of October and costs a mere £5.95. Watch out for it on the website.

Of course, powered drones are not new. Had Jon been flying his drone during WW2 it would probably have come under fire as a V1 doodlebug or V2 rocket!

What many do not realise is that the Home Guard took over manning the anti-aircraft guns. Page 97 of *Dear Ray*, explains: 'By January 1943 members of the Home Guard were on duty at gun and rocket sites all over London. The rocket batteries situated in Hyde Park, for example, were manned by Home Guards. That particular battery was under the charge of personnel who were scientists by day and had such a high reputation for accuracy that, according to German prisoners of war, the Luftwaffe tried to avoid flying anywhere near them. About 142,000 Home Guards served in anti-aircraft batteries, while 7,000 were assigned to coastal artillery. Mr Hibberd senior could therefore have been doing the same job (unpaid) which his son had been paid to do two years earlier.'

Fair and square

On a bus I watched a backpacker fish out a four-inch square bundle of folded paper apparently hammered flat and used as a wedge. As he unfolded it I saw it was our *Things to do with Vikings*. He and his girlfriend then pored over the crumpled remnant all the way to the airport. We do like our books to be useful...

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas, let me be the first to wish you a (ridiculously early) Happy Christmas! Sara

Quote of the day

'The unromantically nicknamed 'Creosote Cottage' stands in the middle distance. It was named such, as this was where the MER treated its wooden sleepers with the preservative, prior to installing them in the running lines.'