



# LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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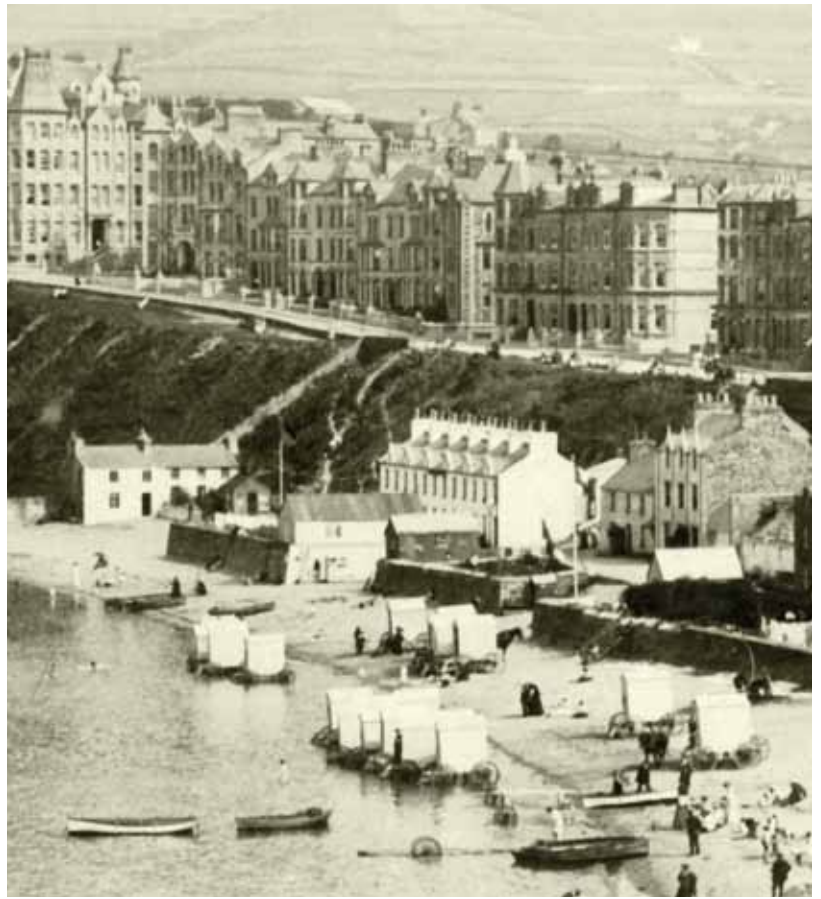
Hi tech 'Tales...' and low tech crosses...

## Port Erin postal

In our last newsletter we talked about our new book *Port Erin; past & present* and illustrated it with an old view of bathing huts on the beach.

James Clague was one of the leading lights behind the development of Port Erin into a favoured holiday spot and, to our great delight, his great-granddaughter has been in touch to say: 'I remember my father telling me how, as a young boy in the 1920s, he would sometimes ride bareback on the carthorses needed to pull the wagons either from or to The (Upper) Rowany at the start and end of "The Season". This was quite an achievement considering the slope of the Promenade up to The Rowany. Apparently the downhill task was achieved by having the bathing wagons tethered in front of the horse, whose weight then counter-acted the weight of the wagons.'

The picture (right) is taken from pages 30-1 of *Port Erin; past & present*, and shows the horse-drawn bathing huts our correspondent is talking about. The Rowany is off to the left on the upper level. It would indeed have taken considerable effort to get the huts up there.



*The wheel-headed cross in Braddan Old Church as depicted on a sixpenny stamp from 1978*

## Cross check

Much has been written by scholars about the mediaeval carved stone crosses on the Isle of Man. The crosses are internationally famous so such books are erudite but a bit heavy (often in both senses). We thought it might be helpful to produce something a bit lighter (also in both senses). *Cross Purposes* is aimed at visitors or anyone who wants a short introduction to what the crosses are, why they are there, what the carvings mean and whether there is anything like them elsewhere.

*Cross Purposes* will be published in the spring and will join our other Hoofprint titles which include *A De-tailed Account of Manx Cats*, *Things to do with Vikings*, *Two Fish for the Summit*, *Three Legs Good*, *Mann with Altitude* and *A Manx A-B-C-Dery*. The Hoofprint series are short illustrated guides, introducing and explaining a topic in a way which is interesting and - hopefully - unstuffy.

## Tram Tales are Go!

To the extent that they are now available online.

Our popular children's audiobook, complete with sound effects and containing all three of the current Tram Tales, can now be purchased as an MP3 download. Have a look on our website for more details.

Best wishes, Sara

## Quote of the day

We were rescued by an anonymous dark figure under a broolly, gesturing us inside out of the rain. Splashing after him (my heels were much higher than I was used to, so running became a teetering stagger) we found, once inside, that the hospitable dark figure was the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Richard Gozney. And, of course, we were the first to arrive. Not a great start, to drag our host out into the pouring rain.

Page 70, *My Year as Manx Bard*