



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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NORMAL SERVICE RESUMED (-ISH)

TWO new books!

We don't usually publish two books close together – time and finance usually dictate otherwise – but the authors of both have been waiting patiently for the Covid disruptions to settle down, so we felt we should get them out as soon as we could. So, in alphabetical order ('Cad' comes before 'Pub!'):

The Manx Cad

No, that is not a misprint – Cad not cat. Subtitled 'the remarkable story of Alfred Curphey, Squire of Ballamoar, the book explores how Curphey went all round the world living on other people's wives. When the money ran out he was quite prepared to disappear leaving a trail of debts behind him.

The photograph below is one we *didn't* use in the book. It is the Mellon Bank, Pittsburgh. The husband of one of Curphey's conquests owned it. Brought up in poverty and determined to escape it, Curphey might not have been a very nice man, but he must have had considerable charm to seduce the wife of an American multi-millionaire.

Researched and written by John Cannan, the book traces the little-known history of a character the type of whom we associate with the late Victorian and early Edwardian era: someone who knows the correct code of conduct, but decides not to adhere to it, i.e. a cad.



I Never Wanted a Pub...

For thirteen years during the 1950s and '60s Celia Bannister and her husband battled leaky roofs, a freezing kitchen and eccentric customers as the youngest pub tenants in North West England.

Particularly memorable are the larger-than-life characters who share Celia's pages. Like the bridegroom who dropped his false teeth down the lavatory... or Tom, who demonstrated that he had no belly button... or Wing Co who had an unfortunate encounter with an animal laxative.

Celia is a born story teller who recounts tales of flooded cellars, disappearing coach parties and a near-miss by a crashing aeroplane with equal gusto and glee.

Supply and Demand

Fuel supplies, food expenses, rising costs; we're all having to watch our budgets even more carefully, but at least we don't have the logistical problems of running an eatery at the top of a mountain. The Summit Hotel on Snaefell can only be accessed by foot or Victorian tram, so all supplies have to come up the same way. This is the reason for the title of *Two Fish for the Summit*, our book about the Manx mountain. The Summit Hotel needed extra fish for an evening dining event, so the missing supplies were sent from Douglas to Laxey on the Manx Electric Railway, and then up Snaefell on the Mountain Railway. To reassure the anxiously waiting chef the message 'two fish for the summit' was relayed via various conductors.

Don't forget to look at our blog!

Best wishes Sara

Quote of the day

The Faroe Islands is one of the first countries in the world to have an official document of government policy. The *Seyðabrævið* ('sheep letter') lays down the regulations for sheep breeding. It's dated 24 June 1298.

Page 32, *A Key to Tynwald*