



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



www.loaghtanbooks.com

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TWO FACED?

Janus is the god of gateways and transitions and usually pictured as having two faces, one looking forward and one back - hence 'January'. At this time of year we usually review last year's work and check what's coming up.



Consider and reconsider

As regular readers will know, we published five books last year: *A Key to Tynwald*; *The Manx Cad*; *I Never Wanted a Pub...*; *The Wreck of the Racehorse* and *Ramsey past & present*. Looking back they're an eclectic bunch: an introduction to the Manx political system; the biography of a man who went all round the world living on other people's wives; the hilarious memoirs of a reluctant landlady; how a nineteenth century sailing sloop was lost and found; and a century of change in the island's largest town. (Since the platinum jubilee Douglas is officially a city.) Appropriate really, as the next book we're likely to publish will be respected journalist Robert Kelly's collection of Manx Miscellanies.

The photographs are from *A Key to Tynwald* and show Cronk Urleigh, the open air site where Tynwald was held until 1422, and Tynwald Hill where it is held each 5th July today.



Bookselling trials

Occasionally we attend book fairs or have a stall selling direct to the public. Picture the scene: we're hovering, smiles in place, surrounded by books, with a big banner which says 'Loaghtan Books' over our heads. Then a customer scurries over and asks: 'do you sell chocolate?'

Other questions we've had include:

'Can you recommend a good church?'

'If I buy a book do I get a free cup of coffee?'

'Is a loaghtan a mythical animal?'

'If I send you my idea will you write my book for me?'

'Would you recommend Kindle?'

'Are you our MHK?'

'Isn't TV better than books?'

'Didn't you used to be dead?'

If you're interested, the answer to all the above questions is No!

Don't forget to look

at our blog!

Best wishes Sara

New Year?

Written in 2018 on page 26 of *My Year as Manx Bard*:

'...it's artificial isn't it? The whole New Year idea I mean. After all, it's just a number. The previous year was 2017 in the Isle of Man, 1379 in Burma, 5778 in Israel and 4714 or 4654 in China. And all the 'new years' don't start on the same day either. Time passes even if we don't number the seconds. The seasons carry on turning even if people are not there to label or count them. Things happen even if they are not planned in a diary or written on a calendar.'



Quote of the day

Racehorse was therefore under sail, in the dark, in an increasingly heavy sea, under the control of a Pilot who didn't know where he was, how far away the land was, or what the lights he could see on shore meant.

Page 8, *The Wreck of the Racehorse*