



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



www.loaghtanbooks.com

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COMING SOON - AND ALREADY HERE!

Kelly from the Isle of Man

The older readers among us will recognise the headline as a line from one of singer Florrie Ford's music-hall songs. Florrie's real name was Flora Flannagan which explains a line from another of her songs: 'Flannagan, Flannagan, take me to the Isle of Man again' (I've always admired the cheek of that rhyme). I discovered recently that, although Florrie found fame in Britain and performed a summer season at Douglas for 36 years, she was born in Australia.

What does all this have to do with Loaghtan Books' next publication you might ask. The true answer, I suppose, is nothing at all, but its author, Robert Kelly would probably have delighted in the arcane details, particularly as applied to Mann.

Robert was born a month after Florrie died. For more than half a century he was a journalist and newspaper man, researching and writing about his homeland. Robert amassed a huge fund of fascinating and little-known information, but died in 2018 leaving behind him a collection of unpublished work. Which is where Loaghtan Books comes in.

Robert's book *Manx Myths, Mysteries and Miscellanies* will be available in May.



Crowville Farm, one of the pictures we won't be using in Manx Myths, Mysteries & Miscellanies. The house just visible above the farm buildings was built as a retirement home for Hugh Crow, captain of the last British slave ship. He is mentioned on page 115 of Robert Kelly's book. In a valley and surrounded by trees there are very few vantage points from which the house is visible.

Overheard in a bookshop...

(Teenager) 'So a road atlas is like a SatNav on paper?...'

'I want to buy the library book I've just read.' 'Certainly, what was the title?' 'I can't remember, but it was green. With a black cat on the front.'

(Small boy) 'Daddy, you know you say I've got enough toys? Haven't you got enough books?'

'This is not a bookshop, it's like the back of the Narnia wardrobe; a doorway to new worlds.'

(Harrassed shop assistant) 'Any book you're buying is the perfect gift.'

Different Springs

It's always lovely to watch the world wake up in springtime, but not all springs are such a treat. When Adelaide Lubbock was a member of the Allied Commission for Austria, her diary entry for 25 March 1946 was: 'Theo Turner, a friend of Maurice's and a KC has arrived in Vienna. He is on his way to Graz to act as prosecutor in the Eisenerz war crimes trial. 300 Jews were battered and shot to death at Eisenerz whilst on a forced march to Mauthausen concentration camp last spring. They were murdered by Austrian Nazis. I hope a lot of publicity will be given to the trial as the Austrians are always saying that *they* never committed any atrocities, only the Germans and the Russians.' In early April, as Adelaide explains in *A Cog in the Wheel*, she was 'in the Graz military court listening to the trial of the Eisenerz murderers'.

Don't forget to check our blog!
Best wishes Sara

Quote of the day

Ever the businessman Andrew Mellon spotted the possibility of a deal and the means to get Curphey out of their lives. He made enquiries and discovered that Ballamoar was indeed connected to the Curphey family. Unfortunately his enquiries did not go so far as to realise that Alfred had no connection to this particular Curphey family. With further urging from Nora, Andrew agreed to pay Alfred Curphey money, ostensibly to redeem the debts on the family home but in reality a payoff to get rid of Alfred Curphey from their lives once and for all.

Page 18, *The Manx Cad*