



Ancient rights of Tynwald

On 5 July each year the open-air meeting of Tynwald takes place as it has done for centuries at Tynwald Hill in St John's. Part of the ceremony consists of an invitation to members of the public to approach with Petitions for Redress. Page 27 of *A Key to Tynwald* explains: 'these are grievances presented directly to parliament on matters which individuals think would be to the public good to resolve... Those with Petitions for Redress approach the Hill along the processional way, and the Clerk of Tynwald goes down the steps of the Hill to meet them.' The Clerk collects the petitions and takes them

to the Lord of Man (King Charles), or his representative who instructs the Standing Committee of Tynwald to 'report thereon at their earliest convenience'.

The Isle of Man may be unique in that its constitution allows those living in the country not only to petition parliament directly, but to ensure such petitions, if correctly worded, *must* be considered. Petitioners are however warned that the procedure for considering petitions is extremely slow. It is rare, but there have been cases where Petitions for Redress have lead to changes in Manx law.

This year the junior partner of Loaghtan Books will be presenting a Petition for Redress asking Tynwald to avoid setting a precedent for unconstitutional action by upholding its 2017 decision to reinstate the horse trams along the full length of Douglas promenade.



STOP PRESS

We have just revised and reprinted *Three Legs Good, the story behind the Manx triskelion*. A small amount of the text has changed and there are lots of new pictures. Unfortunately, as, like everything else, paper and printing prices have shot up, we are having to increase the price from £4.95, where it's been for eight years, to £6.95. We will sell out of the cheaper version before we publish (or sell) its replacement, however, so if you're interested...?

Water, water everywhere...

Or not! The Isle of Man has been experiencing a long period without rain, which is pleasant for tourists but a worry for farmers. Streams are very low or have dried up. Fortunately the Manx Electric Railway no longer relies on local watercourses: 'Sited on the land side of the line on the Laxey side of Ballaglass Halt and Glen, the site [for the power station] was selected to use the water from the stream for steam generation and cooling. Coal was brought along the MER from Ramsey and delivered by gravity down the embankment' (page 33, *Power, Poles & Platelaying*).

Today the MER gets its electricity from the national grid and the power station is a rather fine house with its own interior swimming pool. The bank down which coal was delivered is now covered with wild flowers. Most passengers who look down on the house as they ride past don't realise that it once powered the heritage railway.

Not one of ours...!

Published by Kegan Paul in 1937, *Fish who Answer the Telephone*, by Yuri Frolov.

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

Quote of the day

...vocal reasons caused Strathallan Crescent in Douglas to be known as Blarney Crescent. Apparently the official who conducted the opening ceremony in 1829, was so verbose that the humorous considered him to have been full of blarney. In 1924 a new row of houses built in Onchan became known as Honeymoon Terrace. This was because most of the people who moved in to Mountfield Road were newlyweds. Later, a public shelter alongside Ramsey's Town Hall became known as the Kremlin. It acquired its Russian name because so many retired men congregated there to put the world to rights.'