



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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VANDALISM - OR ARE THEY JUST MAD?



Nowhere else in the world...

... has a Victorian electric railway still operating with its original rolling stock. The two pictures are drawn from *Manx Electric Railway Past & Present*, page 56. The one on the left was taken in 1964 by Vic Nutton and is used courtesy of Travel Lens Photographic; it shows service car 19 heading south at Lhergy Grawe, a steep road which crosses the tracks just before South Cape halt. Lhergy Grawe is Manx for a steep hillside

with gorse. The matching view shows the same tram at the same place doing the same job half a century later.



Quite apart from the trams offering public transport to locals, visitors love riding on them, and transport enthusiasts visit the island purely to enjoy the heritage transport. They raise huge amounts of revenue for the island and are frequently packed. They are also eco-friendly. When they were built they were the future. 130 years later, they still are.

Some of our politicians want to close them down. Madness.

Safe to fly... float

The island letter writers have had notification that its post plane will cease operation this month. All mail will now go by boat. This will of course mean delays to packages as well – take note all those buying through our online shop.

The days are long gone when you could write a postcard in the morning and get a reply the evening of the same day. As it says in the introductions to all four of our Past & Present books, postcards were the text messages of the day. For those of you who don't know, each book covers a different town – Port Erin, Peel, Castletown and Ramsey – and shows old views, often drawn from postcards, matched with modern photographs to show how things have changed. Or not.

A rose by any other name...

We were delivering books to the House of Manannan in Peel the other day and took the opportunity to stroll around the harbour. The marina was full and we began to wonder what had made boat owners name them as they had. Some names were witty: *A-crewed interest* (owned by an accountant?), some were meant to impress: *Sea King* (a tiny rowing boat), some had family connexions: *New Maid* (owned by Mr and Mrs New), and some were rude (use your imagination!).

On the other hand, the Steam Packet showed a distinct lack of imagination when they called their new ferry *Manxman*, managing to be racist (the name is not in Manx), sexist and boring all at the same time. When we published Brian King's book *The Wreck of the Racehorse*, about the only thing we didn't consider was why it was called what it was. The book covers the ship's history, crew, why it wrecked on the Manx coast, the resultant founding of the RNLi and the ship's underwater excavation. But not the name.

A quick look though Royal Navy records shows that there have been ten ships of the line named *Racehorse*, the earliest a privateer captured from the French in 1757. The most recent sold in 1949. 'Our' *Racehorse* was the sixth, built in 1806 and wrecked in 1822. And why that particular name? No idea!

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

Overheard

A lady shopping for air fresheners asked the assistant: 'Do you have one which smells of books?'

'No madam.'

'Libraries?'

'No madam.'

'Bookshops?'

'NO madam.'

'Pity.'

Quote of the day

Billy 'Erbert was also reputed to have arrived at the doctor's surgery with a requested sample of urine – in a chamber pot. The doctor was aghast. 'Surely you've not walked through the village with that!' he exclaimed. 'No,' replied Billy 'Erbert calmly, 'I came on th'bus.'