



IT'S HERE!



'BH3'

We've talked about the third edition of *A Brief History of the Isle of Man* rather too much of late, but can at least report that it's now here and available. The photograph (above) is part of the picture which appears on the front cover. It was not easy to get and, as the senior partner was lying on the ground trying to take the shot, a passing dog-walker thought he was dead! It took five minutes to take the photograph and three-quarters of an hour to calm her down.

Did you know?

The first mobile library was started by George Moore in 1857. He arranged for a horse-drawn cart with bookshelves mounted on the outside to lend books freely around eight villages in Cumbria, England.

Quote of the day

Grandma once gave [Billy] some of grandad's long-sleeved woollen vests, which she considered were past their best but still had plenty of wear left in them. She was afraid Billy 'Erbert would die of pneumonia, so ill-clad in such a cold, wet winter, with scant protection against the elements. The next time she saw the vests, the horse was wearing them. Billy 'Erbert thought the beast was feeling the cold more than he was.

Page 32, *I Never Wanted a Pub...*

Voices in the air

One of the things we do to publicise our books is to be interviewed on Manx Radio. The presenters are a friendly bunch (are you reading this Bob? Howard?) although, when they're interviewing us, in our terrified minds they do rather resemble the Gestapo. Manx Radio, the 'Nation's Station' began broadcasting in 1964 but Manx schools were introduced to radio long before that. As Robert Kelly explains on page 31 of *Manx Myths, Mysteries and Miscellanies*: 'In March 1925 [Foxdale] became the first Manx school to be equipped with a wireless set. It was primarily due to its supposedly eccentric headmaster, the moustachioed Roland Percival Hewitt. One of his alleged eccentricities was a practice of taking out his false teeth in the classroom, putting them into a glass jar and punishing any children who laughed.'

False teeth aside (or perhaps not) Hewitt urged 'that the use of the wireless for educational purposes merited consideration by everyone. It would broaden children's outlook on life, and one of the benefits would be a more enlightened and intellectual people. On 24 March 1925 Hewitt recorded in the School Logbook that he provided a "wireless concert" at the school between 3.05pm and 4.15pm. The subject of the transmission from the BBC's Manchester studio was "Harmony Demonstrated".'

Overheard in a bookshop

I'm reading a great book about anti-gravity.
It's impossible to put down...

Forefront of technology

The Isle of Man's tram systems are now revered for their antiquity, but when they were built at the end of the nineteenth century they were using the newest technology available. The Summit Hotel, the terminus of the Snaefell Mountain Railway, still is. *Two Fish for the Summit* explains: 'The hotel has a ground source heat pump. Ground temperature is warmer than air temperature and, generally speaking, the further into the ground you go the warmer it is; potholers and miners know this well. Ground source heat pumps circulate water down pipes laid into the ground; water goes down cold, is heated by the natural warmth of the ground and returns warm. It's like a central heating system where the ground takes the place of the boiler. The Summit Hotel gets much of its heating and hot water from its ground source heat pump. Not only is it economic to run, as everything is located within the building, it also avoids the problem of equipment having to withstand extreme weather conditions.' The book also explains that the hotel has its own water source and sewage system. Talk about off grid...

Best wishes
Sara