

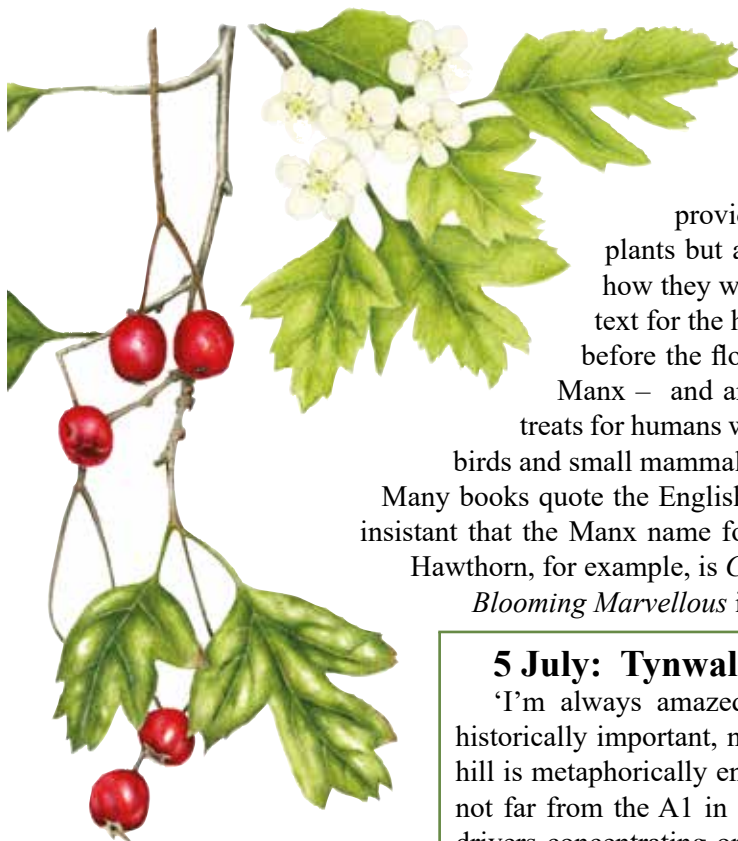


# LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS

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## ONE NEW BOOK AND SEVERAL OLD ONES



### *Blooming Marvellous*

Loaghtan Books has teamed up with local botanic artist, Rosemary Greening, to produce an illustrated guide to native Manx flora. Depicting Rosemary's magnificent drawings and paintings (the mouse at the bottom of the page is hers too), *Blooming Marvellous* provides readers not only with information about the different plants but also includes tales of their place in Manx folk lore, and how they were used in country remedies. Part of the accompanying text for the hawthorn (left) for example: 'the hawthorn grows leaves before the flowers arrive. The red berries are called haws – *skeag* in Manx – and are high in pectin, making them useful in various edible treats for humans when appropriately prepared. Over 300 species of insects, birds and small mammals also love hawthorn berries.'

Many books quote the English and Latin for the plants they cover but Rosemary was insistent that the Manx name for all the plants she illustrated should also be included. Hawthorn, for example, is *Crataegus monogyna* in Latin and *Drine bane* in Manx.

*Blooming Marvellous* is available now.

### 5 July: Tynwald Day again

'I'm always amazed by how small Tynwald Hill is. For something so historically important, not only to the Isle of Man but democracy generally, the hill is metaphorically enormous. Yet in reality it isn't. It stands quite modestly not far from the A1 in St John's and, if traffic is busy, can even be missed by drivers concentrating on overtaking the bus and avoiding the tractor... for 364 days of the year Tynwald Hill stands there, quietly, doing what the Manx (and the rest of the British Isles) do best. Not showing off.'

Page 48 of *My Year as Manx Bard*.

### An attractive rogue

121 years ago, on 1 July 1904, Alfred Curphey finally came into enough money to purchase his ancestral home. The Curpheys were coming home to Ballamoar.

Except they weren't. Oh, Ballamoar had been for generations the home of the Curphey family, but not of this particular Curphey family. Not that that dissuaded Alfred from maintaining the fiction. He was charming, courteous, debonair – and totally unscrupulous, travelling all over the world on other people's wives. Page 18 of *The Manx Cad* says: '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.' The Andrew in question was Andrew J. Mellon, banker, industrialist and reportedly one of the highest paying taxpayers in the United States; only J D Rockefeller and Henry Ford paid more. Nora was Andrew's wife...



Best wishes  
Sara

### Remember...

...our *Manx Transport Colouring Book*? We're reprinting it but, because of the rising cost of paper, we've had to increase the price by £1. It's now £4.95. Sorry!

Incidentally, a fun fact: the cover depicts a half-coloured-in horse tram. On the front cover the front half is coloured in. On the back cover it's the back half which is coloured...

### Overheard

Girlfriend and boyfriend arguing very quietly in a bookshop:

'I didn't change. I'm the same. You just didn't know me.'

### Quote of the day

Kings can of course gain a throne simply because they have a bigger army than anyone else but, that aside, in the eleventh century there were two routes to ruling. English and Scottish Kings inherited their throne; Kings in Ireland were voted in by an assembly of leaders who at the same time chose the king's successor, or *tanist*, in case of his sudden death. It sounds as though the kingship of Mann and the Isles was decided using a system similar to that used by the Irish.

Page 48, *A Brief History of the Isle of Man*