



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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PLEASE DO NOT ADJUST YOUR SETS...

Website woes

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed that there has been little alteration to our website for rather a long time.

Basically it's stuck! It still works if you want to order anything (please do!), but we are unable to amend it or change it in any way. This is why there have been no new photographs, news, blog updates or advance warnings of new books. We apologise for this disruption in service.

Of course we have been working for some months to put things right, although we've had to fit the work around our normal jobs of promoting books old and new. The problem with the website is that we have inadvertently wandered down a technological cul-de-sac. Those of you of a certain age might remember the betamax versus VHS video recorders question? Both did the job, but VHS cornered the market so betamax fell by the wayside. Our situation is analogous to that. We have the 'betamax' version of a website and so need to change.

It took us longer than it should have done to work out what was happening, but now we do, the problem is being fixed. (Phil are you reading this?) However, the fix means throwing away the old website and effectively starting again so may take a few weeks. Sorry for the slight hiccough in service, but please do not adjust your sets...



Seen...

...outside a book shop in London, a large sandwich board which said:

'You've just *passed* a bookshop.
Are you feeling alright?'

Things spiritual

We've just celebrated Christmas and the turning of the year; in many countries this is synonymous with winter and cold weather. When they weren't pillaging, the Vikings were farmers who lived in a cold Northern climate and their gods reflected their way of life. Page 26 of *Things to do with Vikings* explains: 'although their jobs often overlapped, many gods were thought to look after aspects of the natural world. Byggvir, for example, was the god of barley, while Ull was the god of frost; he is supposed to have invented skiing?'

Avast Ye!

This I'm told is a naval phrase meaning 'pay attention' (not one criticising someone's weight). The above photograph of fishing boat *Eileen* comes from our forthcoming book *Strandings & Sinkings: shipwrecks in Manx waters*, which will be published around Easter, or before if we're lucky.

The book has been a long time in the preparation – longer indeed than we expected – because people kept coming up with more and more interesting photographs for us to include. We have drone pictures of wrecks hidden in secluded coves, underwater photographs of boats lying on the seabed and several of rescues in progress.

Unsurprisingly, pictures of wrecks are not particularly common – after all if your vessel is sinking beneath you you have better things to do than pose for a selfie – but we've gathered together a remarkable collection. And not all the boats featured were truly wrecked. There was no saving *Eileen*, which hit rocks at Creg Malin, Peel, on the opposite side of the bay from the castle, but many of the boats featured in the book were raised, repaired and refloated.

Happy New Year! Sara

Quote of the day

Derby and Joan, Numbers 1 and 2 and the Oldest Trams in the World, were dozing peacefully. Van Rooj, the red Post Office van, and Van Goff the green goods van were gossiping at the back of the shed. Regina, the Royal Trailer, was asleep dreaming of carrying the king and queen. Sven, the Number 7, was resting. Twain the Twenty Two was having something done to his motors.

Page 5, *To the Rescue! Tram Tales of the Manx Electric Railway No 4*