



# LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



www.loaghtanbooks.com

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**ALL CHANGE ... (not quite)**

Several things have happened in the last three months so the timing of this newsletter is quite helpful. Some are earth shattering (to us), some less so. Read on!

## 50 not out!

As you may have noticed, we've reached newsletter No. 50 so we thought we'd take stock. It's odd to think that the first one was issued over eleven years ago. Then the mailing list extended to something like three people, one of which was my Dad. Now we have several hundred recipients. Some of them might even read it.

Oscar Wilde said 'wisdom comes with winters'. I hope we're wise enough to make the newsletters entertaining and informative, and also wise enough to know that, if we're haven't, we should stop issuing them. Here's to the next 50.



*The photograph was taken just after Easter ten years ago so is nearly as old as our newsletter. Just like the newsletter, however, tram and driver are still going strong. Even the Easter chick made a re-appearance this year...*

## SNIPPETS and SIDELINES

### Early docking

*Strandings & Sinkings*, our new book about shipwrecks in Manx waters mentioned in the January newsletter, arrived early (hurray). In fact it arrived in time to be available on the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI, which was on 4 March. I'd like to say that this was due to superb organisation on our part, but... it wasn't. Luck played a part in the date of delivery just as it played a part, good or bad, in what happened to many of the boats featured. If you want to buy a copy then try out our new website (see below), but please don't try Amazon (see further below)!

### Website reawakens

After a truly traumatic struggle (the proof reading alone took five solid days, and that was in many ways the easy bit) the new Loaghtan Books website has risen, Phoenix-like, from the ashes of the old. There were pros and cons to both, but the new website has the obvious advantage in that it works! Let us know what you think.

### Postage payments

When Loaghtan Books was founded we took the decision to absorb the postage costs for anyone buying our books through our website. We obviously have to give retailers a discount when they purchase, so thought it would be nice if we could effectively give a similar discount to buyers buying direct. Sadly we can't afford to do this any longer. To put the decision in context, ten years ago we were charged £2.30 to post *A Brief History of the Isle of Man*. To post the same book today costs £4.16. Postal charges are on the website, and we're sorry to have to invoke them.

### Amazon antics

For many years, as well as making our books available through retailers and our website, we have also (reluctantly) sold through Amazon. Not any more. Amazon itself is preventing us from selling to you. Our Amazon account is still visible but we can't access it and can't take it down. For the whole sorry story see the blog post on our website dated 4 March.

Best wishes  
Sara

## Quote of the day

*Inkosi* was settling, her engine room was full of water and sea was breaking over her afterdeck. Yet still she floated. *Inkosi's* lifeboats then found themselves joined on the surface of the sea by [U Boat] *SM U-96* which rose between them. British and German crews must both have had something of a shock.