



Our most recent publications have been reprints or revisions - *A De-tailed Account of Manx Cats* and *Three Legs Good* respectively - but we seem to be making friends in high places...

#### If you can walk with kings...

Well, OK, not quite, but Kipling's sentiment is still applicable. On the Isle of Man the King is known as the Lord of Mann, and his representative is the Lieutenant Governor. The post is currently held by Sir John Lorimer KCB, DSO, MBE. His Excellency asked if he could visit Loaghtan Books.

The King's representative wanted to come here. HERE!

Gulp.

We were cleaning for days, but we needn't have worried. Sir John and Lady Lorimer are nice people and remarkably un-stuffy. More details of the visit are in the blog post on our website dated 1 May. I envy him his hat...



Getting five bikes in one shot is fairly unusual, given that they start 10 seconds apart. This is the Senior race from 2018. If you want to know who the riders are then get in touch!

#### Tremendous

For those who have never seen the TT it's difficult to understand what all the fuss is about. That's until you do see it. Mrs So-and-so can be in her front garden weeding her begonias while, on the other side of her garden wall, bikes race past at eighty miles an hour. On the mountain section (see photograph) bikes can reach speeds of around 180mph; the fastest part of the course is the Sulby straight where speeds can top 200mph. To people used to motorways the mountain road has too many bends to be a really fast road but that doesn't discourage the riders.

As the TT is a highly specialised area we don't publish much about it, but books about the Isle of Man can hardly ignore it. *Two Fish for the Summit* covers all aspects of life on the Manx Mountain and, on page 29, says: 'In 2010 Conor Cummings was dicing for the lead in the Senior race when he came off at 150mph at Verandah, between the 29th and 30th mile posts. He broke five vertebrae, shattered his left arm, dislocated a knee, had a hairline fracture to his pelvis and bruised his lungs. He comments laconically: "it's not something I really want to remember to be honest".'

You surprise me...

#### Overheard in bookshop

We're not wasting our money, we're ransoming trapped books.

#### Squatters?

Most years the eaves of the office pay host to a family of house martins (office martins?). This year they're nesting again, so, in order not to disturb them, we don't use the outside door nearest the nest. Being in the countryside we see a lot of buzzards and have even had hares on the drive, but there are certain animals we never see. Page 32 of *A Manx A-B-C-Dery* explains: 'Being an island, eight of the animals which live in the UK are missing from Mann. The island has no squirrels, badgers, foxes, deer, moles, snakes, otters or voles. But it does have wild wallabies, tailless cats, four-horned loaghtan sheep, wild goat and basking sharks.'

Best wishes  
Sara

#### Quote of the day

To recap; in 1651 the Earl of Derby and Lord of Mann was dead. His widow was holding the fort, the fort in this case being Castle Rushen. The British king was also dead. The UK parliament was running Britain and calling it a Commonwealth. The king's son and the earl's son – both called Charles – were running in France, but they were on the run. Who was running the Isle of Man?