



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



www.loaghtanbooks.com

ISSUE 53, JANUARY 2025

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Some of our readers may notice a few changes in our recent publications, including this newsletter. As many of you know, last year we re-kitted ourselves with an updated suite of typesetting software. What many people *don't* know is that the fonts included in such software are rented by the manufacturer from the font's copyright holders. If the rental price changes, or something cheaper or more popular comes along, some fonts cease to be offered within the bundle.

Unfortunately, therefore, some of the fonts we used to use are no longer available as part of the new software package and we would need to rent them separately, which we are not going to do. The main textual font is so common (Times New Roman if you're interested) we've never known it not be included in the list of fonts: this is of course why we chose it in the first place. Future proofing. However some of the others, particularly those used in titles, are not included as standard, so we have had to choose something else. Like the title, issue number and date of this newsletter...

Such cavalier changes are a real nuisance as we're trying to create and maintain a house-style and a series. However, without needless expense which we'd have to pass on to our customers, what can we do?



Where it all began

The first title published by Loaghtan Books was *A Brief History of the Isle of Man*. It's fair to say that it's been very successful so we've reprinted it a few times. We've also revised it when necessary and the latest revision will be published this spring. We haven't completely re-written the book, but much of the text is new, or has a different emphasis, as we've learned more. More than half of the photographs are also new.

The photograph (left) is of the Tynwald building in Douglas and is one we *didn't* use in the third edition of the book. The building was built in 1855 for the Bank of Mona, but was purchased by the Manx government in 1879. Tynwald sat in Douglas (rather than in Castletown) for the first time in 1881. The building was designed by Manx architect John Robinson, and was originally red. Locals call it the Wedding Cake.

New ship!

Those of you who have read *Strandings & Sinkings* (and if you haven't, why on earth not?) will know about the embarrassing stranding of *CEG Orbit* at Cranstal near the northern tip of the Isle of Man on 26 August 2021. As page 77 says: 'At 2.00am, the Chief Officer, the sole occupant of the bridge, left it to go to the toilet. Without anyone at the helm, *CEG Orbit* continued sedately under power before eventually running aground at 2.15am at high tide at Cranstal.' After much effort the ship was refloated, sold off and renamed *Leila*. That, we thought, was that. Not so.

WS Mezeron, the shipping company based in Ramsey, wanted to replace their general cargo vessel *Silver River* with something a bit bigger. *Leila* was for sale and Mezeron bought her. Renamed *Snaefell River* - all the Mezeron boats are Rivers - and given a smart new livery, she arrived at her new home on 28 December. Where she beached is visible from her new berth. The Manx crew know better than to do it again.

Did you know?

25 February is Annual World Bookmark Day.

As you do...

On 22 October 1885, French poet Arthur Rimbaud wrote to his mother to tell her that he had decided to become a gun runner in Ethiopia...

Best wishes
Sara

Quote of the day

The *Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles* state categorically that the victory went to the north, but other sources put the south as victorious, which Manx tradition appears to endorse. Virtually everyone agrees, however, that the victors at Santwat won because they were helped by their women. Watching the battle from the hills and seeing it go badly with their menfolk, wives and daughters swept down to fight, and the extra numbers carried the day. However, it's Celtic women, the pre-Viking natives, who traditionally fight next to their men at need, so perhaps the *Chronicles* were right after all.