



### A BREATHER BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

Another summer season draws to a close and it's been really busy on the Isle of Man. As a Portuguese proverb says: 'visitors always give pleasure; if not the arrival, the departure'!

#### Children's choice

After a summer of upheaval, including a family bereavement, rearrangement of the publishing schedule, and misunderstandings over printing, we've finally published *A Young Manx History*. As we'd not specified when it should appear, it couldn't really be described as late...

As the title suggests, it's a history of the Isle of Man aimed at children. We're not specifying an age group or year, as reading ability varies so much (and changes so fast), but children at junior school would be about right.

Illustrated with colourful cartoons, bits and pieces of extra information, and a timeline, we hope the book will bring Manx history to young readers. (Adults who want something which isn't stuffy might like it too!)

The cartoon to the right is one we *didn't* include in the book. Alexander III of Scotland invaded the island in 1275. He landed his troops at Ronaldsway...



'... WISH AEROPLANES  
HAD BEEN INVENTED...'

#### Did you know?

Today, 6 October, is the anniversary of the birth of George Westinghouse. He developed air brakes for trains, and several of the trams on the MER still have Westinghouse brakes. They are efficient too, as page 72 of *Stops along the Manx Electric Railway* explains:

'On this stretch of the line, between Skinscoe and Ballaragh, one of the hazards that the motormen expect is the herd of wild goats which roam freely in the fields – and over the fences. As there is no winter service, the return of the tram service in the spring tends to disrupt the herd's freedom to roam. Many passengers experience an unexpected braking of the cars in this area and the avoidance of goats on the track is the most likely cause.'

Westinghouse has another claim to fame too. He was the first employer in the US to give his staff paid holidays.

#### The best laid plans...

Motor sports are very popular on the Isle of Man. The TT, MGP, various rallies, all mean that public roads are closed from time to time to be used as a race course. That's fine; why shouldn't people enjoy themselves.

But! It would be nice to be given just a little more warning! The road outside our office was closed just as delivery of our new book was expected.

Perhaps if the delivery driver drove very, very fast... ?

#### Sale!

As some of you know, Loaghtan Books distributes *Tim's Wars* on behalf of its publisher, Burlington-Hub Press. *Tim's Wars* is the diary of rifleman Tim Elliott, his experience of serving in both world wars, and how it affected him in later life.

Burlington-Hub needs to create space in its warehouse so is offering the final copies of *Tim's Wars* at a discount price. Now £9.90, down from £14.95, the offer includes additional material, plus P&P within the British Isles. More information on our website.

This being a quarterly newsletter, the next one is out in January, so...  
Happy Christmas! Sara

#### Quote of the day

'The remoteness of the depot did not preclude it being the site of a notorious crime; indeed it may even have been a contributory factor. On 23 July 1931 a courting couple, Irene Livesay from Rochdale and Duncan Fleming from Glasgow, were shot and seriously wounded at Little Ness by John Collister, one of the inspectors of the Marine Drive tramway.'