



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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Book launch and Blizzard!

We try to bring you varied information in this quarterly newsletter, but much of this one will be concerned with a single topic; the launch of our latest book. The launch was exciting, but so was the weather!



Never work with children and animals...?

Months of planning culminated on 16 March with the publication and launch of *A De-tailed Account of Manx Cats* in Lexicon Bookshop, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Megan Kneale (left), winner of the Manx Cat Story Competition, was presented with her prize by Tony Wild MLC, representing the Manx Department of Education and Children.

Awarding the prize Mr Wild commented that Megan had shown great imagination and thought in her story *Kayt Manninagh*. He added: 'good writing is so important to good communication in these days of high tech. Books are a valuable resource and should not be neglected'.

The competition challenged the island's children to write their own version of why the Manx cat has no tail. Well over 100 entries were received, ranging from fairy tales to science fiction, and including characters as different as Usain Bolt and Dr Who. Megan chose to include the *Moddey Dhoo*, the legendary black

dog which haunts Peel Castle, in her story which was based on her own Manx cat, Laxey. Against stiff competition she was unanimously declared the winner by the panel of judges and *Kayt Manninagh* appears in *A De-tailed Account of Manx Cats*. Megan also received a £50 voucher to spend on books.

Glamour puss, Troubs, the Manx cat who stars on the front cover of the book was also at the launch, accompanied by her social secretary (aka owner). We were particularly impressed with how well behaved Troubs was. She looked on with interest from her seat on the top of a display case and was completely unfazed by the camera flashes and attention.

Getting together so many busy people had been a logistical challenge and we are very grateful to those who took the time and effort to help make the occasion a success (we can now sleep again!).

Did you know?

Before the war, and before she wrote *A Cog in the Wheel*, Adelaide Lubbock was an actress and singer, performing under her maiden name of Adelaide Stanley. When war broke out she was appearing in the revue *The Little Dog Laughed* with The Crazy Gang at Brighton Hippodrome.

The Stanley family had been effectual rulers of the Isle of Man for over three hundred years; see chapter 5, *A Brief History of the Isle of Man*.

Most snow since 1963

According to those living there the snow which hit the Isle of Man was the worst for over half a century.

After the book launch we stayed to enjoy the scenery and fresh air. Fresh air there certainly was! Temperatures tumbled to -5° and the wind chill doubled that. The island's hills provided some protection so we could go from 80 mph winds and 9 ft snow drifts to relative calm and little snow within half a mile. Farmers searched for buried animals, buses and ferries weren't running, and anything not anchored down risked being blown into the sea.

Quote of the day

Manx cats were particularly popular ships' cats, as a common naval belief was that a cat could start a storm using magic stored in its tail. No tail, no storm-starting powers! *A De-tailed Account of Manx Cats*, page 10.

Best wishes Sara