



Top: Blackpool cars 700/147 was taken during this month's FTS Convention tour.
 Bottom: Blackpool Standard 147 is shown here at Ash Street Fleetwood during Tram Sunday last year.
 Both pictures courtesy of Bill Thomson.

TROLLEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERLEE TRANSPORT GROUP

ISSUE 2003/1 stg.trolley@virgin.net MAY 2003



ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM
 THE SUMMERLEE TRAMWAY
 & SPOTLIGHT ON BLACKPOOL

TROLLEY

STG

Trolley is the newsletter of the Summerlee Transport Group, a voluntary support group of Summerlee Heritage Park and is registered as a charity. (Charity No SC020158)

YOUR STG COMMITTEE 2003/4

Chairman	Brian M. Longworth
Secretary	Brian Quinn
Treasurer	Robert N. Sutherland
Membership Secretary	Ronnie E. Maclean
Sales Officer	George Broom
Modelling Officer	Duncan R. White
Trolley Editor	Gary Conn (co-opted)
Ordinary Committee Member	Bob Connor
Ordinary Committee Member	Jim Wilson

All correspondence should be sent to Brian M. Longworth, Chairman, 22 Ratho Drive, Cumbernauld, GLASGOW, G68 0GG.



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Trolley

Bob Docherty indicated that he was no longer willing to be *Trolley* editor after producing one issue. The committee have co-opted Gary Conn to this post.

If you have any articles, news or information for future editions of *Trolley* please e-mail them to stg.trolley@virgin.net or send them to Gary Conn, Trolley Editor, 6 Ratho Drive, Cumbernauld, GLASGOW, G68 0GG. I can use pictures either sent as e-mail attachments or normal prints enclosed with posted articles.

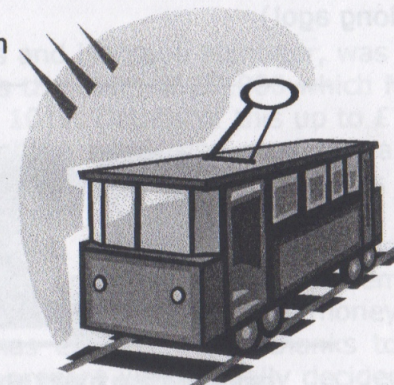
The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the Transport Group or Summerlee Heritage Park.

Cover photo shows one of the latest attractions this year at Blackpool! Twin Car set 672/682 has been repainted into new Metro Coastlines livery and looks resplendent next to refurbished Balloon car 707 at the Pleasure Beach turning circle. (Photo courtesy of Bill Thomson)

Left: Stockport 5, which is very similar in design to Lanarkshire 53 at Ash Street, Fleetwood during last years Tram Sunday event.

Many thanks to Bill Thomson for the excellent pictures of Blackpool featured in this issue.

Why not send in a selection of your photos for the next PHOTOSPOT! All photos will be returned if stated.



Editors Note

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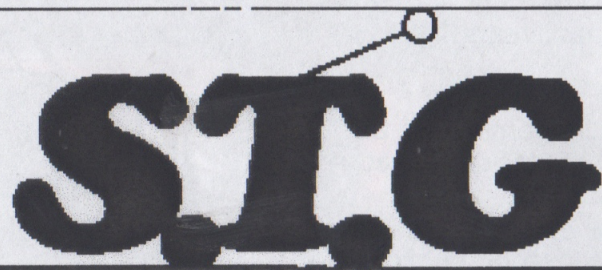
I'm delighted to be given the opportunity once again to produce and edit *Trolley*, the newsletter I developed for the Transport Group in 1991 and edited until 1996. I intend to gradually increase the number pages in *Trolley* and this is where I need you help! If your holiday involves visiting a tramway, why not write a short article and take a few photos and I'll publish them in *Trolley*. Also, if you have any information, news or photos on other British Tramways, both heritage and modern, then I'll publish that too. Letters to the editor are also most welcome.

Unfortunately this is during a very difficult period for The Transport Group. The Park Management have placed severe restrictions on the Group's activities which makes it very difficult to keep up the momentum of the last 15 years. It's unfortunate that we have lost the services of some of our hardest working volunteers.

The first week of June is this year's volunteer week in the UK and I would hope that Summerlee Management take this opportunity to recognise the contribution the Transport Group has made to Summerlee since it opened in 1988 and what the Group and it's members have to offer over the next 15 years and beyond. G Conn

Happy Birthday S.T.G

You may or may not know that 2003 is the 15th anniversary of the Summerlee Transport Group and the Tramway at Summerlee Heritage Park. In the next edition of *Trolley* we'll take a look back at the history of the Group and Summerlee's Tramway from the very beginning. Please feel free to contribute any personal memories to this (it's not that long ago!).



SUMMERLEE TRANSPORT GROUP

Chairman's Remarks

This year's AGM has been the best attended so far with twenty-nine members present. It was explained that due to the ban of the Secretary, Brian Quinn, from Summerlee, which the management had refused to lift for the duration of the meeting, the Group had to bear the cost of hiring an outside venue so that he could attend.

The same committee was re-elected and has co-opted George Broom as Sales Officer and I am pleased to welcome back Gary Conn, who first devised *Trolley*, as *Trolley* Editor in succession to Duncan White. Duncan continues to represent the Model Club in the committee and I am grateful to him for producing the Annual Report and for offering to take on *Trolley* again in the interim. I am sorry that Doug Michael decided that he was no longer prepared to continue as Maintenance Officer in view of the criticism of his work and the questioning of his opinions by council staff. Doug was readily accepted by the other volunteers and brought specialist expertise and fresh enthusiasm for the tasks to be done, many of which were beyond the capabilities of the rest of us. In addition, he has been able to obtain material or get work done at extremely favourable rates which now means that North Lanarkshire Council will need to bear the full cost of any future requirements. The post of 1017 Co-ordinator has lapsed as 1017 is almost ready for service and the Group's involvement is minimal.

The various officers invited comments on their reports and answered questions. The membership gave virtually unanimous support for the course of action undertaken and were given a further update on the situation at the time.

A letter from Carol Haddow, Museums and Heritage Manager, was read out, requesting a contribution towards the costs of £2,000 which North Lanarkshire had incurred to complete 1017. Details of this up to £1684 as previously provided to the Committee were also read out and a lively and complicated debate ensued with various motions and amendments being put forward. Eventually the proposal that we offer approximately half of the original amount, namely £800, as a goodwill gesture but expressing the rejection of criticism of various members made in the letter, was carried with one abstention. This money has now been paid and Carol Haddow has expressed her thanks to the committee, which is passed to those present who actually decided the issue. Illustrations of the bow tower had been sent by the Tramway Technician and were passed round the members. It appears that the

overhead will be lowered, something which the previous incumbent said was not possible, and a normal length bow fitted.

Copies of the draft Service Level Agreement were issued to members present and a brief discussion ensued which gave the Committee an idea of the views of the members. As there was a time limit on the hire of the room, any further debate had to be cut short but it was agreed that the Committee would respond in accordance with the points expressed although further comments would be welcomed as soon as possible.

On the day of the AGM, many members received a letter from Neil Ballantyne, Operations Manager at Summerlee which claimed that 1017 would not have been completed without Bob Docherty's involvement. The members were disturbed that the efforts of the Group during the last ten years were not adequately recognised but it was left to them to respond individually as they saw fit. Members who wished to be trained to operate 1017 were invited to put their names forward to Summerlee.

At the first committee meeting after the AGM, it was confirmed that North Lanarkshire would be taking over full responsibility for training and the existing instructors could decide if they wished to continue. It was also stated then that my services as Examiner were not required and an outside examiner would be appointed.

The letter was sent to those on a previous membership list provided some years ago and we have been asked to provide an up to date list. In order to comply with the Data Protection Act, any members who do not wish to have their names and addresses passed on, should notify me by 1st June.

Since the Annual Report was compiled, there have been further developments.

The articles for Trolley were received in mid February from the former Editor but the details of access to the Web site are still outstanding, having been promised last October.

Brian Quinn has finally received written notification of his ban, over seven months after it was imposed. However we have now been informed that his re-election as Secretary is not accepted by the

Summerlee management. The committee would welcome the views of the members about this.

We had previously been advised that due to restrictions imposed by the insurers, Group members cannot have access to the Depot without a member of staff being present. This meant that on several occasions the Thursday work nights had to be cancelled at very short notice when it was found that there was nobody available. Apologies are due to any members who were not notified in time. We have now been told that staff are not available on a Thursday night but we will be welcome to attend on a Monday night when a member of staff is available for the Friends' work night. However, as access to the depot is still not possible at the moment even for access to a power supply, tools etc. in order to work outside, this is not a practical proposition. The Management are considering whether a member of the Group could be accredited as supervisor which might allow the work nights to resume. As a consequence of the requirement for a member of staff to be present, all weekend work in the depot has also ceased. Members who attended on Thursday nights will be advised if there is any change and a notice will also appear in Trolley. As this may cause difficulty with our Drive a Tram evenings, these are not being advertised in the meantime and, it is expected that arrangements may be made to honour outstanding bookings.

The Group was advised in February that the Council required more control over the donations boxes on the cars. Various proposals were put forward and it was hoped that a meeting could be arranged to find a way forward which would be agreeable to both parties. However as the Museums and Heritage Manager is unable to attend evening meetings, no proposals have been discussed. As requested by the management, we removed our boxes in February, pending discussion, but the Council fitted its own boxes for the Easter weekend so it appears that all donations will go to the Council which will allocate funds as required. Members at the AGM decided that the Group would not handle the donations unless the Group could decide how they were spent.

For the first time since the park opened, we have not been allowed to have our sales stall at a special event at Summerlee. If this is to continue we will obviously have to be extremely cautious in our spending as we will have difficulty in replenishing our funds. We are very grateful for the generous donations made by members with their subscription renewals.

We had originally been advised that 1017 would be launched at Easter along with the new children's playground and the sawmill site but it was later decided that these will be opened separately with the children's playground being first at Easter.

The sawmill is due to open this month and 1017 will be launched in June. We have still to be advised on the detail but hope that all members will be invited to this.

Members may have heard through the grapevine or seen the memo in the Depot which states that the Museum had been awarded a Charter Mark as an acknowledgement of the high standards of excellence provided. At the February committee meeting I was asked if I could attend the presentation of the award which I did. As well as the presentation of the award, the Convenor of the Community Services Committee presented Charter Mark badges to all staff and to me and the Chairman of the Friends of Summerlee. In his speech he said that the Award had only been achieved by the hard work and enthusiasm put into the Museum over many years by all concerned. Obviously our Group has contributed to this in no small way, so I had decided, as many members had done much more than I had, that I would not wear it but would display it in the depot as an acknowledgement of the contribution made by the working members. As this is not appropriate at the present time, it is reproduced below.

Good wishes go to Ronnie Maclean, Jim Riddell and Willie Wilson who have all had their activities reduced due to health problems.

We are concerned that the social side of our activities are also affected by the restrictions imposed. Although we could try to arrange film shows etc, these were not very well attended in the past. We were made very welcome at the monthly meetings of the Scottish Tramway and Transport Society which have now finished until the autumn. Group members will be notified of next year's programme in due course and I would urge as many members to attend a very enjoyable evening (particularly as I will be giving one of the talks!) It has also been suggested that we could meet up for a meal maybe once a month so anyone who is interested should let me know.

Brian Longworth



NEWS

Please note that Summerlee will be closed for 1 day towards the end of June for upgrading of the electricity supply to the Park. This work is expected to take 1 day.

Operations

225 has been the main operating car for most of this year with 53 also in use weather and crews permitting. Concern has been expressed by Summerlee staff at the amount of sand being dropped on the line, particularly at termini. All motormen are kindly asked to attempt to minimise the amount of sand dropped until modifications to the sanding gear can be carried out.

Tramcars

Lanarkshire 53 has been running well. The car looks good after the groups' cosmetic refurbishment of the upper deck last year. The Jubilee lettering has been removed from this car. The controllers have been serviced and the handbrake rigging has been altered which will should make braking easier. Springs have been altered to improve the ride of this car and hopefully reduce bodywork movement.

Graz 225 Work by site staff to appears to have rectified the problems with the brakes on this car.

Dusseldorf 392 Unfortunately there has been no recent progress on this car due the limited access the group now has to the park. This car is now stabled outside the depot.

Glasgow 1017 The coat of arms has been painted onto 1017. Otherwise the Group have had no involvement in this car. The Summerlee Management intend to launch the car in June. We will keep you informed as soon as further details are released to us. Work continues on the snagging list to allow driver training to commence on this car.

Glasgow 1245 There has been no word from Summerlee regarding their plans for restoration of this car.

Depot

There has been no group work undertaken within the depot as Summerlee Management has severely restricted access for working members. Security at the depot has been improved with the provision

of a visitor's book, which will be used to record the entry and exit of all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors. This will be kept on top of the sand box and all persons must sign in and out. This procedure was previously proposed by the Group. The depot power supply switches are being modified to handle the possibility of breaking the current of a car, should it have been left switched on.

Permanent Way

The rough joint at the depot points has now been rectified.

Motorschool

This is unfortunately suspended at present. Summerlee Management has dictated that they will take over all aspects of training and assessment. This will include trainees who have already started training under the old group Motorschool training programme.

Tramway Modelling Group

The Model Club was open over the Easter weekend. Summerlee management have indicated that they hope to have space within the 'Blue Train' to house the Model Club.

Membership

Those members I have not already seen will find their current membership card with this edition of *Trolley*. May I thank the majority of members who kindly included a donation with their membership renewal. To save postage we are sending the membership cards a little later with *Trolley*. At present we have 99 members. R Maclean

Website

Unfortunately the Group's website has not been updated for around a year. We are awaiting access details from Bob Docherty at Summerlee so that it can be updated. Watch this space for more details.

Sales

The Groups Sales Stall was in attendance at this years' Model Rail at the SECC which was very successful.

In recent years the Park has benefited from funds raised by the group running stalls during the main events organised by the Park. Last year in spite of poor conditions the Group managed to make a profit of £750 during the Easter event. This money, as will all monies raised by the Group, would have eventually been spent on the Park's Tramway. The stalls themselves are a very popular attraction in their own right and

involve a lot of thought and effort beforehand to ensure that good value is given to the public.

This year the Park Management would not allow the Group to participate at the Park's events as they appear to be dissatisfied with the procedures the Group have in place regarding the spending of the Group's funds. This was despite the Group settling the £600+ costs for work carried out on 1017 and contributing to Alan Masterton's invoice as agreed by the membership at the Group's AGM.

This is a regrettable way to treat once enthusiastic volunteers who were prepared to give up time and give a considerable effort to raise funds for the Park Tramway. The above action by the Park Management is difficult to comprehend as the only consequence will be less money spent on the Park Tramway.

George Broom

Special Offer – Lanarkshire's Trams

It's 10 years since this excellent book by Alan Brothie, well known for his transport publications, was published on behalf of the Transport Group and Summerlee Heritage Trust. It covers the operations of: Airdrie & Coatbridge Tramways Co, Lanarkshire Tramways Co, Glasgow Corporation Tramways in Lanarkshire, Carstairs House Tramway and The Summerlee Tramway. It was published in May 1993 to coincide with the launch of Lanarkshire 53 at Summerlee shortly afterwards. The book has 96 pages with a colour cover and over 100 illustrations and maps.

We have copies available at the special price of £7.95 including p&p (cover price £9.95) and with ever order we'll enclose a copy of the excellent *100 Years of Glasgow's Transport* by the Group's own Brian Longworth at no extra charge. If you wish to take advantage of this special offer please send a cheque or postal order made payable to *Summerlee Transport Group* with your details to Brian Longworth at the address shown inside the front cover.

Trolley Back Issues

I have a number of back issues of *Trolley* (1-18) available. If you are a new member and would like to have a copy of early editions of *Trolley* or if you've lost or, heaven forbid, thrown out your old issues then they are available at a minimum donation of 50p per issue from the editor (address inside front cover). Cheques or postal order made payable to *Summerlee Transport Group*. With ever order of 4 or more issues we'll enclose a copy of the excellent *100 Years of Glasgow's Transport* by the Group's own Brian Longworth at no extra charge.

Special Events 2003

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 May: Spring Fling

Sunday 15 June: Mid-Lanark Amateur Radio Society Day. A gathering of radio enthusiasts, with trade stalls, equipment displays and all-day transmissions to the four corners of the globe.

Sunday 29 June: Remotely-Controlled Models Day. All sorts of radio-controlled models on display, with opportunities for 'hands on' experiences too!

28 June to 24 August: Kid's Summer Holiday Activities Programme: A seven-days a week schedule of organized activities for 6 to 16s. Includes indoors and outdoors events such as Washday Fun, Traditional Games, Model-Making, Painting and Colouring Competitions and much more besides!

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August: Grand Steam and Model Fair Weekend. A celebration of steam at Summerlee... both the park's own and invited machinery on show. Plus loads of activities for children, trade stalls, funfair and trips on the canal in the historic launch the Fire Queen.

...and the Organ Concerts too:

7 June: Michael Wooldridge

5 July: Duncan Sinclair and Friends

30 August: from the USA, Jelani Eddington

20 Sept: Classical Concert with Alison Baker, FRCO.

4 October: Chris Powell.

All concerts are admission by programme only, cost £5.00 at the door. Time is from 7.30pm to around 9.30pm. Enter Summerlee by the side gate opposite the houses towards the top end of Heritage Way.

Concerts organised by the Scottish Cinema Organ Trust (SCOT). Details from the President, Ian MacNaught, on (01355) 908647. Or e-mail: ian@macnaught.freemove.co.uk

Thanks to Duncan Cameron, Promotions Officer (Museums), North Lanarkshire Council for this information.

Archive Open Day

As part of 'Museums Month' in North Lanarkshire, the Archives Centre at Kelvin Road, Lenziemill, Cumbernauld will be holding an open day on Friday 30 May from 10am to 4pm.

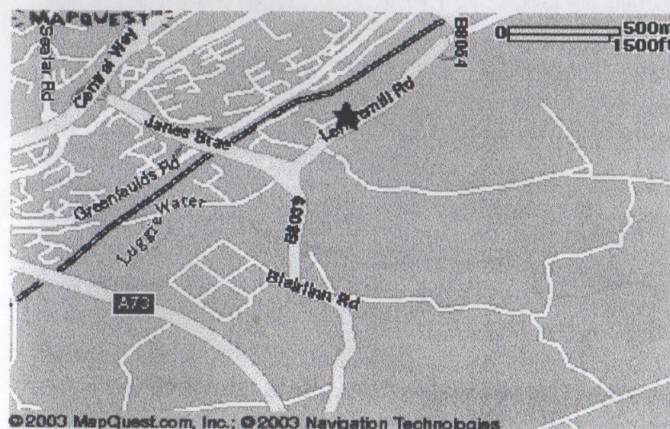
The Council's Archivist, John Mackenzie would be happy to meet members of the Group (and others) at the centre. John will take groups around the centre and show the range of material that is kept there and give demonstrations of the Scottish Archive Network's web-linked computer and its SCAN database. There will also be a selection of old photographs and postcards from throughout North Lanarkshire on display, together with a quiz based on the items on view.

Claire Leonard, the Council's newly-appointed Education and Life-long Learning Officer based at Lenziemill, will talk about opportunities available for life-long learning via the Museums and Heritage service.

Should you wish to attend with a group, please contact the centre on (01236) 737114 so that we can plan the numbers visiting over the day. Teas and coffees will be available.

The centre is on the south side of Cumbernauld, just off the B8054 Lenziemill Road. Turn into Lenziemill Industrial Estate at Telford Road, which is almost opposite the foot of Palacerigg Road. Go down Telford Road about 50 yards and then take first right into Kelvin Road. The Archive Centre is the last of the units on the right-hand side.

For a full diary of all North Lanarkshire Museum Month events see local press, call 0141 304 1975 or e-mail camerond@northlan.gov.uk.





SPOTLIGHT ON... ..BLACKPOOL

The tramway at Blackpool always has an interesting variety of vehicles and even more interesting locations at which they can be photographed. From the well known Balloon cars, to Centenary cars, Railcoaches, Jubilee cars, Twin cars, Boats and not to forget the heritage cars there's something for everyone. The line between Thornton Gate and Fleetwood re-opened on 12 April after being closed for 3 months for track relaying.

If you are interested in the tramway at Blackpool you may wish to join the Fylde Tramway Society which produces an excellent monthly newsletter, *Fylde Tramway News*. For more information why not visit www.fts-blackpool.org.uk or write to Membership Secretary, James Blyth at 15 Launceston Close, Oldham, OL8 2XE.

The Lancastrian Transport Trust is the guardian of a unique collection of buses and trams spanning fifty years of public transport history in Blackpool and the Fylde, and other parts of Lancashire. For more details visit: <http://www.ltt.org.uk/index.htm>.

The official Blackpool Transport website can be found at <http://www.blackpooltransport.com>.

NEW EDINBURGH TRAMWAY (NETCo) – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The tram project is being implemented by Transport Initiatives Edinburgh, an arm's length Council-owned company. It will deliver a number of major public transport schemes in and around Edinburgh in the next 10 – 15 years, including the tram network, the West Edinburgh Guided Busway and a heavy rail link to Edinburgh airport.

Plans for Edinburgh's new Tramway are now available for public consultation. For more details visit www.tramtime.com or telephone 0800 328 3934. www.edinburgh-tram.co.uk also has information on the project.

The Light Rail Transit Association is an organisation dedicated to providing information and campaigning about better public transport through trams, tramways, streetcars and light rail transit systems. Their website can be found at www.lrta.org.

For those not able to access these web sites, this project will be featured in a future edition of *Trolley* this year.



The two views above allow you to compare the new livery on twin-car set 672/682 at Pleasure Beach against the previous livery on set 673/683, taken at Bispham on 24 April after the unit experienced a motor failure. Photo – Bill Thompson



The view to the left shows Coronation Vambac car 304 at Manchester Square on 6 Jan during the filming of the Channel 4 television programme "Salvage Squad". The programme featured the restoration of this car for the LTT. Photo – Bill Thomson