



### Protecting data? Protecting people!

I've always thought 'Data Protection Act' a misnomer. The law is not to preserve data, but to protect people. Those receiving this newsletter have all told us that they want it. Thank you, all of you. This is great for us as we don't want to bother people who are not interested.



#### Delivery difficulties

One of our suppliers was trying to deliver to us, but was having trouble as the road he wanted to use was closed. When he asked what the problem was I sent him these two photographs.

The road is part of the famous TT course, which really is a circuit made up of ordinary roads (closed for the duration naturally). As the lap record now means that bikes travel at an **average** speed of over 135 mph, even the fastest delivery truck would be somewhat overshadowed.

And, yes, it is both as dangerous and as surreal as it looks.



#### Take two!

*Stick to Safety*, the second in our series 'Tram Tales of the Manx Electric Railway' was published during April. Pam the Paddlebox (number 16) used to be green, but had been repainted in red, just like most of the other trams. She thinks red is rubbish, and the book describes her efforts to be different – with disastrous results.

The third in the series, *The Really Big Surprise*, will be out at the end of July.

#### The value of information

The recent shenanigans about data protection has made me think about how accurate information is important, for all sorts of reasons, from selling things to tracking down terrorists.

It's particularly important in wartime, as Adelaide Lubbock says in *A Cog in the Wheel*: 'Popski operated with heavily-armed jeeps in small patrols, which disappeared entirely for long periods behind enemy lines, and reappeared in unexpected places, bringing in a mass of information. Monty gave him permission to put up a flash with 'PPA' (Popski's Private Army), and to choose his own volunteers, which at no time exceeded more than 125 men...

'Whenever Montgomery wanted an almost hopeless task undertaken Popski would volunteer. He invariably completed the task successfully, and returned unscathed. Once Popski undertook to rescue some allied prisoners in a prison camp in Derna. He walked calmly into the town and stayed for about two hours, found out what he wanted and then raided the camp with a patrol and rescued the prisoners, blowing up an ammunition dump for good measure. He said that the Germans thought he was Italian and the Italians thought he was German, so no one stopped him or asked him his business.'

Makes our problems with data collection seem rather paltry.

Best wishes

Sara

#### Quote of the day

'Wesley the Wire Car lived in Laxey shed. He might be only a Trailer, but he was very important. He and his team of people looked after the wires which ran above the rails and which the trams needed to go along. People called it the Overhead, but Wesley always called it the Overpole.'