



### The More the Merrier

Last year we only published two new books as we had to revise and/or reprint a couple of our most popular titles. This year we have a busy publication schedule of new books lined up.

#### Advance warning

As is obvious from some of our other publications, the senior partner is very interested in the Manx heritage transport. Not only is he an enthusiast, being a retired professional engineer he is also very knowledgeable.

We thought it would be a good idea to encourage the next generation of enthusiasts and so are planning a series of children's stories set around the Manx Electric Railway. The first of these should be out in March with a couple more following during the year.

#### Books are for FUN!

Talking about the MER; it's lovely to see people really enjoying our publications. Towards the end of last season we were coming home by tram and a little lad and his father were sitting in front of us on the trailer. They had a copy of *Stops Along the Manx Electric Railway*, and *Manx Electric Railway; Past & Present*. The lad, who was probably about eight, had *Stops* and his dad had the other one. The boy was excitedly turning over the pages and pointing out all the things he could see which were in the book. His father was doing much the same, but marvelling how things had changed (or not).

OK, both books were getting rather battered, but seeing them bring so much pleasure to their owners, particularly the lad, was very special.



#### Meeting REAL readers

Before Christmas (doesn't it seem like a long time ago?) we went to one of our periodic book fairs, and it's always very humbling to talk with the readers who buy our books, whether from us or through the book shops. Most of them say that they like our books, which is lovely to hear, but occasionally people pass on uncomfortable truths.

'That's a silly title' was a comment made about the *Manx A-B-C-Dery*. Oh dear; but memorable we hope. 'This is about fishing, yeah?' (*Two Fish for the Summit*) Er... no, it's about life on Snaefell. 'Why is "wars" plural?' (*Tim's Wars*) Because Tim's diaries cover both the First and Second World Wars. 'There's a spelling mistake on the cover.' (*By Whing to Port Soderick*) Whing, with an H, is a bay which the tram track used to pass. 'Do you sell hats?' Um, no, we're publishers. 'Are you sure you don't sell hats?' Yes, quite sure. 'Wasn't this author related to the Stanley family, who ruled Mann? Even though she's writing about refugees in Austria?' (*A Cog in the Wheel*) Er, yes, she was. (Gosh!) Clever people, readers...

Happy New Year  
Sara

#### Quote of the day

'The film industry on the Isle of Man is growing fast, and parts of the island have doubled for various places including South West Ireland (*Waking Ned*), Cornwall in England (*Stormbreaker*), a fictional Scottish island (*The Decoy Bride*) and Yorkshire in England (*Lassie*).'