

### Other Tramway Society Meetings

Two other tramway societies to which we have ties hold meetings over the winter period and you will be made welcome if you attend.

#### Scottish Tramway and Transport Society

Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month in the Kirk Lounge of St. Stephen's Church Centre 260 Bath St Glasgow. Meetings start at 7-30.

13<sup>th</sup> October--Tramway Exotica

10<sup>th</sup> November -- British Trams in colour

8<sup>th</sup> December -- Public transport in Belgium

12<sup>th</sup> January-- Members slide night

9<sup>th</sup> February-- Paris Metro & R.E.R

9<sup>th</sup> March-- The Auchenshuggle Highlander on the Home Front

13<sup>th</sup> April-- European Trams in the 1970's

#### L.R.T.A (Edinburgh Area)

Meets on the Last Friday of the month at Quaker Meeting House 7 Victoria Terr. Edinburgh. Meetings start at 7-30

27<sup>th</sup> October-- Light Rail and Rapid Transit in N. America

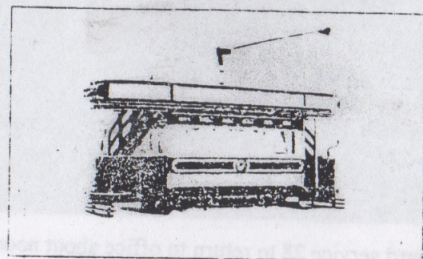
24<sup>th</sup> November-- Edinburgh Trams --Looking back to 1956 and forward to the future.

26<sup>th</sup> January-- Tramways of Portugal--Over the Last 20 Years .

23<sup>rd</sup> February--Members' Slides

30<sup>th</sup> March-- Vienna, Then and Now.

Many STG members are involved in these societies so you will find a friendly face. Brian Longworth is this years Chairman of the STTS and George Murray is Area Officer of the LRTA.



**ST.G**

# TROLLEY

October 2006

The Magazine of Summerlee Transport Group



*The Chairman at Work*

## THE SCRIBE

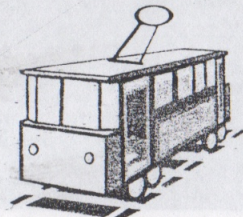
Summerlee Heritage Park will close to the public from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2006 --so its last day of opening will be on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and this will also be the last day of a Public Tram service . At present the main hall is being emptied prior to the builders coming in to start the £9.8 million upgrade. There is still a shortfall of between £340k and £1million in the funding to match the lottery grant of £4.78 million but there is every confidence that this gap will be filled. Real building work is expected to start after new year. The park office and manual staff will remain on site during the closure period and other members of staff will be temp. redeployed in other areas of the council dept.

Two carriages of the blue train have been moved to a new siding at the Sunnyside end of the track whilst the other carriage was taken by VSOE . The workshop will move to a temp position in the sawmill

STG will still have access to the tram depot each Thursday evening during the closure to enable restoration and other work to continue. It is hoped that power to the tram overhead will be kept on for as long as possible to keep the trams running for training and their motors in good order, but there will be periods of no power --as yet unspecified. It is also the intention during the closure period to replace some of the overhead poles and we already have these at the side of the depot awaiting installation . Some of the cobble sets and track work will also receive attention.

The park management are considering some way to mark the park closure but this as yet has not been decided.

WE all look forward to a New Look Summerlee in April 2008 when the gates are re-opened to the public again and Scotland's as yet only Working Tramway comes back better than ever.



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

THE SUMMER MONTHS ARE NOW A FADING MEMORY, HOWEVER WE CAN LOOK BACK ON THE WONDERFUL WEATHER WE HAD ALLOWING EXTENSIVE USE OF 53.

WE HAVE RECRUITED ADDITIONAL CREW OVER THE YEAR AND WITH JOHN TRAYNOR AND CHARLIE MORRISON UNDERTAKING THE CONVERSION COURSE THIS ALLOWED THEM TO OPERATE 53.

THE GREATER USE OF 53 ALWAYS DELIGHTS THE PARK VISITORS, HOPEFULLY REFLECTING IN INCREASED TICKET SALES, ALSO IN SOME WAY COMPENSATING FOR VISITORS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT OTHER ATTRACTIONS ON SITE ARE CLOSED.

THE GROUP'S CORE RESPONSIBILITY IS CREWING THE TRAMS; THE GROUP IS COMMITTED TO COVERING 5 DAYS IN THE WEEK, WHICH WE ARE MOSTLY ACHIEVING. WE NOW HAVE FOUR MEMBERS WHO REGULARLY MAN THE CARS 1 DAY EACH WEEK, BOB SUTHERLAND, BOB CONNOR, JOHN TRAYNOR AND CHARLIE MORRISON. THE ADDITIONAL DAY/CONDUCTOR DUTY COVERED BY THE REST OF THE TEAM WHO CREW THE CARS MOST OF THEM TRAVELING QUITE A DISTANCE TO COVER A DUTY. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CREW MEMBERS NOT ONLY FOR THEIR COMMITMENT BUT ALSO THEIR PROFESSIONALISM WHEN DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC.

GOOD WEATHER AND ADDITIONAL CREW WERE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE AND GRAZ 225 HAS TAKEN ITS FAIR SHARE OF THE WORKLOAD.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OFF YOU WHO MANAGED TO ATTEND OUR OPEN NIGHT IN THE EARLY SUMMER. AS ALWAYS IT WAS A VERY ENJOYABLE EVENING WHERE EVERYONE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE ONE OF OUR CARS AND INSPECT PROGRESS IN THE WORKSHOPS. DAVID SLOAN KINDLY ALLOWED THE EVENING TO RUN LATE INTO THE NIGHT ALLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO CATCH UP OVER SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS.

OPERATING THIS SUMMER HAS BEEN A BONUS TO THE GROUP AS THE PARK REFUBISHMENT WAS MEANT TO COMMENCE DURING THIS PERIOD.

WORK IN EARNEST REMOVING LARGE EXHIBITS HAS NOW COMMENCED THE GIBB & HOGG STEAM LOCOMOTIVE HAS BEEN SANDBLASTED AND GIVEN A COAT OF RED LEAD PAINT. IT HAS NOW BEEN MOVED INTO THE MAIN EXHIBITION AREA WHERE IT WILL RECEIVE A COSMETIC RESTORATION. ONE END OF THE BLUE TRAIN HAS BEEN REMOVED BY THE RAILWAY COMPANY VSOE WHO INTEND TO MAKE USE OF ITS BOGIES AND THE TWO REMAINING SECTIONS TRANSFERRED TO NEW TRACK LAYED ADJACENT TO THE AIRDRIE-HELENSBURGH RAILWAY LINE AT SUNNYSIDE. ALL THIS WORK HAS, BY NECESSITY, CAUSED DISRUPTION TO THE TRAMWAY SERVICE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AS ITEMS ARE SHIFTED UNTIL FINAL CLOSURE ON SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER.

THURSDAY WORKNIGHTS HAVE BEEN REGULARLY ATTENDED DURING THIS

