



### A Bridge too Far?

We thought our latest book *By Whing to Port Soderick*, would be of niche interest. After all it's about a tramway which closed more than seventy years ago. Shows how much we know...

#### It's official...

...*By Whing to Port Soderick* is our fastest-selling title!

The picture on the right – which we *didn't* use in the book – shows the line the tramway took along the side of the cliff. In fact, on the left, above the lighter brown earth slide, you can just see the buttress which supported the middle of the tramway as it crossed the sea cove. The ruins of the girder bridge are still just visible on the beach below. Such a pity it's not still there.

After the tramway's closure the cliff was cut back further to make a road. It didn't last long as the cliff is unstable and in danger of further collapse –

which was why the tramway had crossed the sea cove in the first place. Those Victorian engineers knew a thing or two.

Fairly obviously, the photograph is taken from a boat. The *M.V. Karina* is the last of the Manx pleasure boats and still carries sightseers in the summer months. Skipper Stephen Carter's commentary is well worth listening to.



#### The stamp of quality

Not surprisingly we post quite a lot of parcels, and Manx stamps seem to be in demand; they are very pretty and several customers have commented on how much they like them. One customer, with a repeat order, asked that we use as many different stamps as we could so that her son could have them. Always happy to help if we can, I think we managed to squeeze twenty-three stamps of various denominations onto the package. Goodness knows what the postman thought!

With email, mobile phones, Twitter, Skype, Facebook and the rest, we have so many ways of keeping in touch. It was rather different in WW2 when Kay wrote: *I've had to destroy some of the letters I've had from you - I hated doing it but I can't carry them now there's no room in the new kit bag and I've had to cut down as much as possible. All I have with me now is my army issue kit - no odd bits and pieces at all.* (page 99, *Dear Ray*) As well as providing wartime news, the letters in *Dear Ray* are punctuated by anxious enquiries about whether they are getting through.

#### What's in a name?

Still on the theme of correspondence, we've had various attempts at our business name and address arrive through the mail, so we've collected what we think are the wackiest:

Loaghtan (pronounced, roughly, 'Lochtun') has become Loan, Loon, Loughton, Locked In. Then there's Caardee ('Care-dee') which appears as Cardy, Car Dye, Card Eye, Car Die. Dreemskerry doesn't seem so much of a problem, although we do get Dreams Curry quite a lot. Then there's Maughold ('Mack-old') which turns up as Mold, McOld, Muffled and even (once) Mow Gold. Even 'Isle of Man' was not immune. That became Isle of Wight... Best wishes, Sara

#### Quote of the day

'The three-legged symbol is displayed as an heraldic device on a shield carried by Achilles and is described in Homer's *Iliad* as having "the earth upon it, and the sky, and the sea's water, and the tireless sun, and the moon waxing into her fullness, and on it all the constellations that festoon the heavens..." Could the three-legged symbol he used somehow represent the whole of the known universe?'