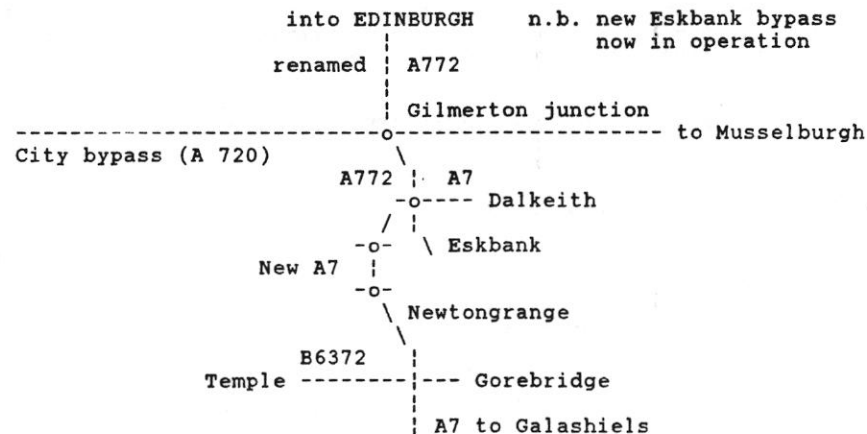


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GETTING TO TEMPLE (not to scale!)



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Scottish QL Users Group

SQLUG NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 32, APRIL 1992

As most of you will also be QUANTA members, you will have noticed the recent plug for the group in the QUANTA magazine. Disappointingly, I have received no response from this at all, despite the "carrot" of the library. Perhaps we have already got the message across to everyone who would be interested in joining. Although this might be taken as evidence that interest in the QL is waning, it is obvious from our own meetings that the enthusiasm of those attending is just as strong as ever, if not stronger. Long may it be so!

There have been no replies in favour of joining the British Association of Computer Clubs, and in view of what it would have cost us, I must say I agree that we should stay out.

LAST MEETING: COWANE CENTRE, STIRLING, 15th MARCH

There was quite a reasonable turnout at this meeting, with 11 members attending. We had expected to see some changes at the centre, since it was closed due to some major work last month, but nothing obvious could be seen.

One of the first things to come up was John Skelton's trouble with Taskmaster. He wanted to multitask the CL digitiser program with Dilwyn Jones' Page Designer 2 and Image Processor, but was having no luck. These programs differ from the Psion suite in that they require extensions to be loaded before they can work. Therefore, we needed to transfer the required extensions to the Taskmaster working disk and alter the boot to initialise them. This worked well, so that John now has a very powerful system for capturing images, retouching them, then importing them in into a document - all with just a few keypresses.

While this was going on, I managed to miss Alan Wilson's demonstrations with no chance of a rerun, as he had to leave early. However, a brief recap informed me that the programs under scrutiny included QLC, a download font program for 24-pin printers. This system allows you to use a number of download fonts in your printer, selectable by using certain control codes in a document.

In case you don't know, a download font is a character set which you can prepare on your computer. The data for the character shapes is sent to the printer in a special way, so that the characters subsequently produced by the printer are the ones you defined. In this way, special symbols as used in mathematics and science can be defined. The great thing about download fonts is that they print just as quickly as normal fonts, so the slow alternative of desktop publishing can be avoided.

Alan also demonstrated QDesign, and brought along some printouts to show what the program can achieve. The quality of the output on just one pass was pretty good - more passes would make it excellent. On Alan's machine the program worked perfectly, so last month's glitches