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The Society's website at <http://www.srs.uk.btinternet.co.uk> continues to be regularly updated and is creating much interest. As these notes are written (mid October) we have had over 800 visits to the site. We know some members are worried that the website will supersede Swiss Express as the voice of the Society. This is not the case as it is intended that the site shall only be a means of publicity for the Society, whilst at the same time providing some information on meetings and exhibitions for members.

It is always my pleasure at the end of the year to thank you all, on behalf of the Committee, for your support during the year. We take this opportunity to send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We look forward to receiving your membership renewals and seeing you outside the VHS in Luzern at 12:00 on Wednesday 22nd August 2001.

A WORD ABOUT RENEWALS 2001 FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY DAVE HOWSAM



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE RENEWAL FORM INCLUDED
HAS INADVERTENTLY BEEN PRINTED WITH YEAR 2000
AT THE TOP OF THE FORM. THIS FORM IS THE RIGHT ONE AND SHOULD
BE RETURNED WHEN YOU RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.**

THANK YOU!

The renewal form for all members for 2001 subscriptions is included with this issue. All completed renewals should be forwarded directly to the membership secretary. Subscriptions for 2001 have all been held at last year's level. Following the trial period of allowing overseas members to pay by credit card this facility is now extended to all members. This scheme is operated for us by the German Railway Society and no cost is borne at all by the Swiss Railways Society but it does carry a 5% surcharge with a minimum of £1 for members. This means that UK members paying by credit card would be charged £12. All members should note that it is possible to pay for two years' subscription and this would save postage for you and slightly reduce any credit card surcharge. Members would also make a saving if subs were increased in the following year! USA members may still forward a US dollar cheque but payment for all other overseas members must now be in sterling, whether by credit card or by cheque or draft drawn on a UK bank and payable in the UK. The Australian and New Zealand bank accounts have now been closed, as reported elsewhere in this issue. Each renewal form has the appropriate subscription rate on it.

The following members have prepaid for 2001: K3, K48, OH117, OJ105, OQ42, OV46, OV62, OV68, OV74 & V70

All members receive a renewal form with Swiss Express. If you have pre-paid please ignore it.

Please note that a small stamped, unaddressed envelope would be appreciated from UK members only for the return of membership cards. All correspondence included with your renewal form, relating to the AGM and/or Dinner should be on a separate sheet from renewals and any Dinner payments must be on a separate cheque.

For your convenience a credit card payment slip for AGM Dinner payments has been included on the insert sheet. The aim is to give a speedy and efficient service and members should know their renewal has been received and processed by the return of their membership card and the encashment of their cheque. The number of renewals for 2000 is 1037 (Mid October), very slightly up on last year. I shall be present at the Mirfield exhibition on December 9th 2000 where members may renew and receive their new membership card.

Swiss Express has just received a copy of the LRTA book, Tramways and Light Railways of Switzerland and Austria, written by Richard Buckley and published by LRTA. A full review will appear in the next issue but it does look good. It costs £12.50 and is available from the LRTA at PO Box 302, Gloucester, GL4 4ZD. Postage should be added. For surfers it can be ordered direct on a secure server. <www.lrta.org>.