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# Andy Nelson = 1946-2006 +

We were very shocked to hear on 5th April that Andy Nelson had died suddenly that evening just five weeks after his retirement from British Airways at the age of 60. His funeral, which took place at Slough Crematorium, was attended by a great many of his colleagues from BA as well as friends from the Swiss Railways Society. A floral tribute in the Swiss colours, red and white, was sent on behalf of all our members.

Andy was an active member of the Society, joining the Committee in 1995 as Exhibitions Officer until standing down in 2002. During this time he worked hard to maintain a Society presence at the main continental exhibitions and always managed to organise his shift working to the benefit of the Society. His main disappointment was the frequent lack of volunteers to assist with manning the stand.

He had a lifetime interest in transport with Switzerland (mainly the RhB) and the Great Western Railway being his particular favourites. Both were well represented in his fine collection of proprietary models. Andy was a kit builder *par excellence* and his keen eye to detail was always apparent. To visit his home and see on display some of the models of military vehicles and cars he had built over the years was always a pleasure, as well as to be shown with great pride his latest creation of (sometimes imaginary) RhB stock produced from oddments bought at swap meets. He will always be remembered for his "Wrong Kind of Snow" station diorama which was on display on the Society stand at many exhibitions. Both this and his collection of Swiss railway books and pictures were generously gifted to the Society in his will.

Andy was a West Country man, being born in Bristol and spending his youth in Weston super Mare where his father was warden of the Youth Hostel at Hutton. On his retirement he planned to move back to the West Country and was actively looking at properties in the Torbay area. He wanted sufficient space to be able to build his first working model railway and welcome his many friends. Sadly this was not to be. He was a true and loyal friend whose presence will be sorely missed.

Brian Hemming

## **SOME EXHIBITIONS TO WATCH OUT FOR:**

**Dave Howsam's wonderful Perrapswil will be at the Southport Model Railway Exhibition 23rd & 24th September 2006 at Meols Cop School 10.00 to 17.00 each day.**

**Woodmansterne World Model Railway Exhibition.**

**10.00-17.00 Saturday 2nd September at St Peters Church Hall, Chipstead Way, Woodmansterne, Surrey. Nothing specifically Swiss at the time of notification but lots of continental and other overseas layouts.**

**The German Railway Society Exhibition will be at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall on Saturday 16th September. This well known event receives widespread trade support and there are always many Continental layouts present. Very easy to access by Public Transport using the Birmingham Cross-City Line.**