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SOCIETY NEWS

Swiss Express – Portfolio

It has been an ambition of the magazine's editorial team to produce a photo album showcasing some of the 1000s of digital images that are held in our photo archive. Although each edition of the magazine normally has well over 80 photographs mostly these are there to illustrate specific articles. We have many images that have been supplied on a more general basis and even though we have introduced a Photo Gallery section many of these may not get used. We have considered that this was a waste of the interesting images and the photographer's talent. To get these pictures into more general circulation the Management Committee has authorised the publication of a 44-page book that will be available in the autumn. This full colour publication, "Portfolio", will showcase several hundred images of both the major companies and a selection of the smaller operators. The book has been painstakingly put together by our Photo Editor Tony Bagwell who has worked with the contributors of the photographs to ensure that informative captions accompany each illustration. Details of how to obtain your copy of this book appear in the magazine.

Membership

Martin Fisher, our hard working Membership Secretary, reports that at the end of June membership of the Society was 1255 (including 53 new members), slightly down on the figure at the same time last year of 1269. The overall position is encouraging, being little more than 1% down on the same point last year, despite subscription rates; with the country in the middle of a recession; and with the very poor exchange rate for overseas members. This probably means that we are doing something right. This continuing high level of membership allows us to produce *Swiss Express* to the high standard you have come to expect, so if you know of friends, relatives work colleagues, etc who are as interested in Switzerland and its transport system as we are why not encourage them to

join. The Society has a prospectus leaflet that is available from either Martin, or David our Secretary.

Member's Layout

Dave Howsam's excellent Perrapswil layout will be appearing at the Merseyside Model Railway Society 2009 Exhibition at Pacific Road Arts Centre, Birkenhead on Friday 30th Oct (6-9pm), Sat 31st Oct (10am-6pm) & Sunday 1st Nov (10am-5pm). The Perrapswil Standseilbahn will be incorporated on the layout for the first time.

SOCIETY DIARY - Branches & Meetings

Birmingham

Branch organiser: Steve Buck

Tel: 0121 382 5649.

Email: gsdbuck@tiscali.co.uk

Venue: Stockland Green Methodist Church, Slade Rd, Erdington, B23 7JH.

Meetings commence at 20.00 on the third Friday of the month from January to May & September to November.

Sep.18th: To be advised

Oct.16th: John Jesson

Nov.20th: Ken Taylor "USA & Japan"

Jan.15th: Members' Evening

Bristol and Bath

Branch Organiser: Roger Ellis

"Alf-N-Alf" Cottage, Kingsbury Episcopi, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6AZ.

Tel: 01935 824428

Venue: At the time of writing exact Block and room to be confirmed.

Details will be in the Branch Newsletter. Meetings will start at 19.30.

Oct. 9th: "The varied forms of transport in Switzerland" Martin Fisher

Nov.13th: "Gotthard, the southern approach"

John Jesson

Dec.4th: "Christmas Meal"

East Midlands

Branch Organiser: Glyn Jones

18, Robin Road, Botts Hollow, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 4LB.

Tel: 01530 837939

Email: glyn.jones@btinternet.com

SOCIETY DIARY - Branches & Meetings

Venue: Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby. (almost opposite Derby Station) at 19:30.
Sep.24th: Steve Buck - "Days out from Lugano"
Oct.29th: Alan Pike OBE - Subject to be advised.
Nov.26th: Members slides and digital images (on SD card please).

Hampshire Branch

Branch Organiser: Glyn Smith
Tel: 02380 849105
Email: glyn-di.smith@tesco.net
Venue: Seminar Room, Southampton Central Library, Commercial Road, Southampton SO14 7LW. Meetings 12:00 -15:00 Saturday afternoons.
Sep.12th: "Southern Steam in the Sixties" - Ralph Hanley
Oct.10th: "Varied Forms of Transport in Switzerland" - Martin Fisher.
Nov.14th: "The European Tram Phenomenon" - David Stevenson.

London

Branch Organiser: Ron Dawes
79, Partridge Knoll, Purley, Surrey, CR8 1BT.
Tel: 0208 660 3532.
Email: dawesronald@aol.com Meetings start 19:00 on 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Model Railway Club, Keen House, Calshot Street, London N1 (Near Kings Cross Station).
Sep.9th: George Howe.
Oct.14th: "Historical Slides of the Jura and Solothun from the LRTA Collection" - Roger Jones.
Nov.11th: "To Switzerland by Boat" - Alan Snowdon.
Dec.9th: Annual Quiz.

Manchester

Branch organiser: Dave Howsam
3, Balmain Road, Davyhulme, Manchester, M41 5TR
Tel: 0161 748 7850
Venue: Friends' Meeting House, 6, Mount Street, Manchester. [Behind Central Library.] (Metro - St.Peter's Square.) Please note that meetings now open at 19:00 for chat etc. Presentation starts at 19:30 and meetings close at 21:15.
Sep.2nd: 20 Favourite Pictures - Members.
Oct.7th: "Taurenbahn Revisited" - Colin Mills.
Nov.4th: "The Gotthard from John Jesson's Perspective" - Guest Presenter.
Dec.2nd: Christmas Quiz.

Scotland

Branch organiser: Willie McKnight
4D Scott House, Hume Road, Seafar, Cumbernauld, G67 1AR.
Tel: 01236 729 499.
Venue: Buchanan House, 58, Portdundas Road, Glasgow - 19:30 Please contact Organiser for details of meetings and read Ian Athey on page 5.

West Midlands

Branch organiser: Geoff Turner
Manor Lodge, 5 Penelope Close, Wickhamford, Evesham WR1 6SG.
Tel: 01386 832770
Email: geoff.j.turner@btinternet.com.
The Group meets on the last Wednesday of each month. We meet in members' homes to view videos, books, do some modelling, chat and run locos on a metre gauge layout.
Sep.30th: At the Kidderminster Railway Museum - "Steam in Switzerland" - Brian Hatton*
Oct.28th: TBA.
Nov.25th: At the Kidderminster Railway Museum - "Days out from Lugano - Steve Buck.

West of England

Branch organisers: Rupert Dove Medows or Maurice Criddle c/o 2 Hillside Close, Teignmouth Devon. TQ14 9XE
Tel: 01626 770797
Email: mauricecriddle@btinternet.com
Branch normally meets at noon on the second Saturday of the month from October to May.
Venue: The Railway Inn, Station Forecourt, Newton Abbot, except for the January meeting when the annual lunch is held at a local hotel.
The first meeting of the 2009-10 season will be on Saturday 10th October and members are requested to bring slides or videos of their recent holidays, and the programme for the rest of the season will be planned.
Ideas and offers will be most welcome.

Yorkshire

Branch organiser Philip Lockwood.
Tel: 0113 2532176 Email: philipwengen@aol.com All meetings at the Middleton Railway, Engine House, Moor Road, Leeds LS10 2JQ
Nov.14th: "The Railways of the Jungfrau Region" - Paul Russenberger.