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COVER PICTURE:

Ge4/4 No.21 "La Morges" of the Bière Apples Morges at Vufflens-le-Château on 12/09/09 whilst working a railtour. The normal duties for this locomotive, and its sister No. 22 "La Venoge", is the haulage of trains associated with the Swiss Army Casernes near Bière.

PHOTO: Mark Barber.

EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

We have lots of interesting items to bring to you in this edition of your magazine and many more are coming in as I write this in advance of our planned editorial meeting in January. I say planned as both Tony and I are currently homebound due to the exceptional snowfall that has come in with the New Year. My main task in this editorial is, though, a series of 'thank-yous'. Firstly I must thank all those members who have sent in potential articles and other information for *Swiss Express* and I hope that you will continue to do so for, as we keep saying, it is your magazine and we need your input. As you will see from the *Out & About* column in this edition short pieces are as welcome as full articles. Secondly, thanks must also go to the large number of you who took the trouble to email or write letters regarding Edition 100. Since I have edited the magazine we have not had such a large amount of positive comment about any issue. You seemed to like the format, the size, the content and the overall production of this special issue. We would love to be able to bring you a bigger magazine each quarter but costs are a key issue – however we have some ideas as to how we may be able to go forward and these will be discussed at the AGM. Lastly I also have another heartfelt 'thank you' to make. This is to Michael and Pauline Farr who have been proof reading the magazine for a number of years but who feel that due to time and other constraints they now wish to relinquish this role. As you can read in Michael's article on P20 about how *Swiss Express* gets to you this is an essential role, and the high quality product you are now reading is in part down to their hard work. Having read what they have been doing, is there any one out there who has some knowledge of the proof reader's role and thinks they would like to join the editorial team? Please get in touch with me if you feel you are able to help the Society in this manner and would like to discuss the role. A background in printing or publishing is obviously not essential, but could be helpful.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Ian Athey

It feels as though it is only a short while since the Society's last AGM yet here we are within a few weeks of the next! I do hope that you will be able to get to Derby on 20th March and I am looking forward to renewing acquaintances, and hopefully making some new ones, then. If you can make a week-end of it so much the better! It is usually most enjoyable.

During 2009 we held five Committee meetings and dealt with a wide range of subjects, plus the occasional problem! Committee members have also been in regular contact through the wonders (?) of the e-mail system, not to mention the telephone. This, of course, all means a substantial commitment in time given freely by all of them for the benefit of the Society as a whole. On your behalf I sincerely thank them, and all of the others involved in the Society's affairs, for the work that they have done in the last twelve months.

One subject which took up some of our time at one meeting