

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2012)
Heft: 111

Rubrik: And finally...

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 23.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

AND FINALLY...

Bryan Stone



Les Ponts-de-Martel - an unlikely refreshment stop at the end of the TRN line from La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Photo: Bremgarten

My local paper recently wrote that the classic 'Dorfbäiz', the Swiss village restaurant, is dying out. It has, for 150 years, served substantial hot meals, beer, wine and coffee, to local and passing trade, and you could read the local paper, rolled on a stick, with scandals and tractor adverts. Some delay the inevitable by becoming noble, often failing; others simply give up, or, more discreetly, when the elderly host couple retires or dies, no-one new comes. Two years later the spot in the village square may be occupied by a new concrete block with four apartments. Things may be better in the Romandie, where a tradition of eating (and drinking) out is still strong, but in the new agglomerations around Zürich and other northern cities, it shows. SRS members alighting around midday at the end of an inviting-looking branch line may look in vain for the

'Restaurant Terminus', or 'Bahnhof,' or 'Kreuz', or 'Bären'. Do we go back then to the junction and look for the Migros? Well, the local people may know where to go; walking up the main street may help; and sometimes we find places which still prosper, even indeed station cafés. Your Editor will recall finding with me in Les Ponts-de-Martel, at -20° C, a bowl of soup in a warm corner of the little station. Another old-fashioned station buffet is the one in Kandersteg that we highlighted on P13 in SE109. One lunchtime recently, I was at Arth-Goldau, that extraordinary 3-way station, with 35-min to train time. I found the self-service corner, with soup, pizza, coffee and a bowl of water for Bramble the Setter. The young woman insisted that I sat down while she brought everything, and it cost CHF15 (plus CHF1 for the staff fund). There were, however, no local papers. 

SWISS NATIONAL DAY 2012



London's hosting of the Olympic games encouraged several countries to set-up venues in the Capital, where their Nationals could meet and celebrate the event. The Swiss chose to take over Glazier's Hall, and the small adjacent Cathedral Square that lies between Southwark Cathedral and the Thames, and here they created 'The House of Switzerland'. The event was open to all-comers although the majority of attendees seemed to be ex-pat Swiss based in London and the UK. August 1st is Swiss National Day and this year it also marked the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Jungfraubahn (JB,) so there was a double cause for celebration. The JB had organised a series of presentations, talks, etc. that took place on the venue's riverside stage and at 6pm this culminated in a live video-link from the top of the Jungfrau. This involved the CEO of the JB addressing the London crowds on huge screens that had also shown live Olympic events where Swiss athletes were involved. The evening celebrations, over beer and bratwurst, were launched by the Swiss Ambassador and a Federal Councillor who gave patriotic speeches before mingling with the packed crowd. Switzerland had truly come to London SE1. 