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hoped that being on Facebook will promote the Society and will be a vehicle where we can put announcements at short notice. We also have a Facebook Group page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/swissrailwaysociety/>. Members can join, ask questions, post photos and videos. Please 'like' our Facebook page and join this closed group and make use of it.

TRAINSMANIA is coming!

This, promoted as the biggest model railway exhibition in France, will take place at the Grand Palais in Lille from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th April 2017. It is scheduled to host more than 60 layouts of different types and different European countries: UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Poland and, of course, France, alongside craftsmen, societies, and many model train manufacturers. Lille is a pleasant city with a wide range of accommodation and many other attractions, and is only just over one hour from London on Eurostar, or about the same time on the Autoroute from Calais. The location has some 6,000 parking spaces and is just a 10-minute walk from the main stations and the historic center. Admission is €12 with three-day passes and family tickets available. This could be a different destination for a weekend excursion, or even a day trip. See <http://www.trainsmania.com/>

Members' Letters

From: Phil Emond – By Email

I was interested to read the comment in Swiss News, on P31 of *Swiss Express No. 128*, under the title 'Coffee Out – Beer In.' As a member of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) I totally agree with the sentiment that the SBB showed a 'lack of potential initiative' regarding the promotion of the excellent craft beers now produced in Switzerland. I decided to contact the SBB about this and I attach a slightly edited version of their response.

"Thank you for your e-mail. I'm glad that you're asking this. I agree with you, and because of this I asked the responsible person. Apparently due to the national operation of the dining car, it is very difficult to handle it with only one partner. We have to restock the coaches on several stops of the train. With only one partner this would be quite hard - we should have to build storage service at several points to cover this. Moreover the acceptance of the brand throughout Switzerland plays a central role. These are apparently the reasons". Raymond Glutz – SBB Customer Relations.

Members' Advertisements

Wanted: Collection of weighing machine cards (at least 40 different ones). Contact - jprak58@hotmail.com 

BOOK REVIEW

Swiss Mountain Climbing – the easy way

Author: Martin Fisher.

Published by: Swiss Express Publications.

ISBN: 978-0-9926812 -6-5.

English. Softback. 120 pages,

Approx. 400 colour photographs.

298mm x 210mm.

Price £16.00 – including postage – from SRS Sales

I am sometimes asked, "Why Switzerland?" and in reply, I certainly have no shortage of examples of scenic delights to be explored and enjoyed when travelling on terra firma using railways, trams or PostBus services. That said, this latest addition to the range of Swiss Express Publications adds a further dimension to the travel options to be considered by illustrating how the Swiss have made it so easy to reach and explore many of its superb mountains. Published in A4 format, the 120 pages are packed with information supported by a splendid set of colour illustrations, many of which have been sourced from the on-line Wikimedia library. Following a brief introduction and a setting of the scene, the author provides well-informed background information in turn on rack-and pinion railways, funiculars, cable cars, chairlifts, lifts and gondelbahns with each topic supported by a comprehensive table presented in a regional format. The regional structure used is in line with the format employed in the earlier publication dealing with the Swiss PostBus network and is intended to assist the reader in reviewing wider travel options when planning a visit to a particular part of Switzerland. The author reminds us repeatedly that planning is indeed essential as not all services are timetabled, some operate on demand and a good number are seasonal. That said, the 370 routes described provide ample scope for visits to higher and generally more remote locations be it for winter sports, summer walks or to simply enjoy the vista of a pastoral landscape or alpine view. Within this excellent book you will find the shortest public funicular, the highest cable station in Europe and the means to maybe spot a dragon on Mount Pilatus. This book is highly recommended. **DCG** 

