

The paper chase

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CONCLUSION

Some of the above points may sound somewhat negative, but the moral of the story remains plan well. If you do this you can have just as much fun as your trips before the children came along. Check out kids' facilities

where you are staying, and how close you will be to the stations and bus routes, and whether the walk is a vertical, pushchair unfriendly one. A call to the local tourist office before you go can ensure you have an enjoyable trip.

Happy Travelling!

David Adams

THE PAPER CHASE

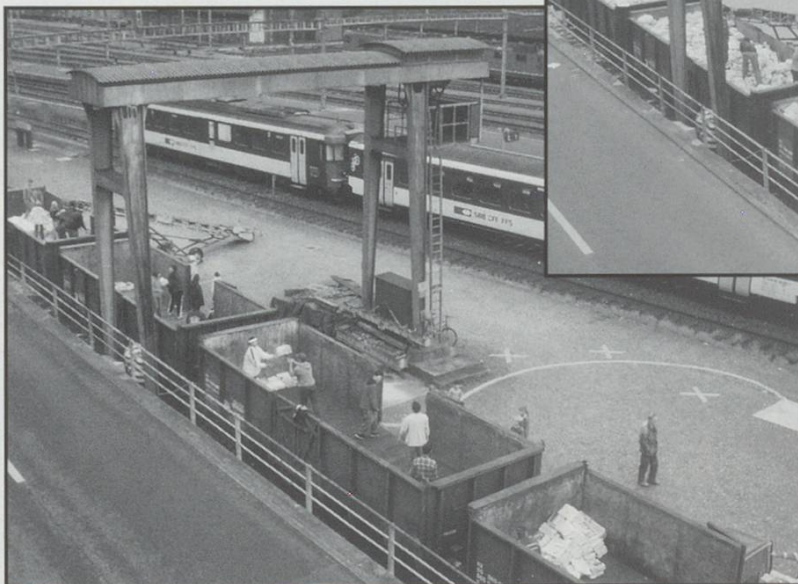
I was staying in Erstfeld in September 2001 and was intrigued by a local initiative that took place on Wednesday 12th September.

After about 07.30 increasing numbers of school children appeared in the streets, some pulling empty two-wheeled hand carts. Half an hour later they started to reappear from all directions, the handcarts now loaded with bundled newspapers. In the station goods yard five open wagons had been positioned and the children, with adult supervision, started loading the newspapers into the wagons. There was only one conveyor belt available so much of the work was done manually, chain gang style.

I left Erstfeld at 08.30 and returned about 14.00 to find four of the five wagons already well filled but loading was still going on and the children certainly appeared to be enjoying themselves. When I returned again in the evening four wagons had been sheeted over and they had been moved down the yard a little way to free the turning area used by the Erstfeld - Flüelen bus.

Apparently this operation takes place twice a year when the children collect bundled newspapers from all over the village for onward transport by rail. The phrase "work experience" obviously has a more realistic meaning to the Swiss and I did ponder on just how much "red tape" would have to be cut to allow a similar exercise to take place in the UK. Four wagons full at least would be my guess!

BELOW: Taken from the Hotel Frohsinn at 08.00, 12/09/2001 as the paper chase was starting.



ABOVE: Taken once again from the Frohsinn but this time at 14.00 as the paper chase was well under way.



Four pictures from Geoff Dunster who begins a new series based on his extensive collection in this issue.
ABOVE: SBB Ae6/6 11470 leaving Spiez with a service Brig to Bern on the 2nd February 1993.

BELOW: SBB Re4/4 10102 leaving Spiez station, with a Brig to Germany train on the 1st February 1993.

NEXT PAGE- ABOVE: BLS Ae6/8 206 standing in Interlaken West station. 3rd June 1988

NEXT PAGE-BELOW: S.B.B. Eb3/5 standing in Interlaken West with a special to Zweisimmen. 21st August 1988.



