

Society news

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Cyril Freezer 1924 - 2009

As many members will be aware the well known writer on railway modelling issues Cyril Freezer sadly died in May. The Society was represented at his funeral by Geoffrey Higham and a floral tribute in the form of the Swiss national emblem was sent on behalf of the SRS. Along with editing *Railway Modeller*, then *Model Railways*, Cyril also edited *Swiss Express* for some years in the 1990s and was a long-serving member of the London Branch. A number of obituaries have appeared in various journals (including the *Daily Telegraph*) so rather than repeat similar words here I have asked Nick, one of his children and a regular contributor to *Swiss Express*, to put together some appropriate words about his late father. Nick's thoughts appear elsewhere in the magazine.

SRS 2010 Calendar

As noted in the June magazine (and in the Editorial) the Society is producing a slightly smaller calendar for 2010. This has been put together by Tony Bagwell our photo editor and thanks are due to him for all his hard work. Details of how to get your copy of the calendar are in the magazine.

2010 AGM – It's at Derby!

Members will see from the announcement in this magazine that next year the AGM will return to the Hallmark hotel in Derby. There was an indication at the 2009 meeting that members preferred this location, but the Committee would have liked to see a return to the "movable feast" concept in order that those living in different parts of the UK could have an easier journey to the event.

On behalf of the SRS, and the Bristol and Bath Branch, Roger Ellis valiantly tried to organise the 2010 meeting in Bristol, but the hotel that offered the best facilities saw fit to impose a car parking charge to guests, something the Society was not prepared to accept. Additionally, the deposit they wanted

from the Society (12-months in advance) was far too high. Therefore we are returning to Derby for 2010 and Bristol & Bath, the organising Branch, would like to encourage members to stay for the whole weekend hence the special split rate room rate we have been able to negotiate. If you stay for at least two nights the cost is a minimal increase over that for 2009.

Layouts for Derby 2010

You will have seen from the June magazine that we will have a small fund to partly reimburse members who incur additional costs when bringing their layouts to the AGM. In addition to our "normal" rooms at the Hallmark Hotel we have reserved the Darleydale Room in anticipation of the deluge of offers! (For those bringing layouts the Hotel is providing a storage room for our use on both the Friday and Saturday nights). Potential exhibitors should contact Roger Ellis who awaits your emails, phone calls and letters.

"Roger, would you like to go and powder your nose!"

Roger Ellis writes:- "With the help of Glyn Jones, I have made a few alterations to the Society Stand that we take to exhibitions. Thanks to WINCO we now have a TV on which we can show the DVDs we sell, Tony Bagwell has made colourful backing screens, the company of "Roger Ellis Chippendale" has made a DVD display counter. Together with a red tablecloth and Swiss flags it all looks very – Swiss!"

"If you attend any of the exhibitions where we the SRS is present please come and see us, but better still introduce yourself to us and maybe look after the stand for a few minutes. At exhibitions there are no natural tea or comfort breaks, in addition to which how can I make Yvonne and Peter of WINCO richer if I can't go and buy anything from them? Seriously, it would be lovely to see you - and that comes from my bladder as well!"

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