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whilst there I intend to try to arrange to meet the Society's contacts at the Verkehrshaus with a view to furthering the informal arrangements that have so recently been established between us.

Many members will no doubt have noticed that "Scotland" was missing from the "Society Diary" in the last edition of *Swiss Express*: it is included in this issue. There is nothing sinister in this - just simply a shortage of space in circumstances where the new Hampshire branch had been formed and space was needed to include details of their forthcoming meetings. I informed Willie McKnight, organiser of the Scotland branch, of the situation and during our discussion, he and I agreed that we would try to arrange a lunchtime meeting, with a meal and possibly a speaker or slide show, for the Scotland branch during the forthcoming summer, probably on a Saturday, in September. Will any member who may be interested in attending such a meeting let me, or Willie, know as soon as possible please. Our phone numbers are on P. 53. However, where to hold such a meeting is the question that is taxing our brains at present. The Central Lowlands appears to be the obvious answer and already Linlithgow and Stirling have been mentioned to me. However I would like more suggestions and if any member thinks that they know of a suitable venue then please forward the details as soon as possible. Ideally, the place chosen will have good rail and bus services. I look forward to hearing from members resident in Scotland with their ideas.

JUST A SEC

David Stevenson

I did prepare a small *Just a Sec* for the last issue but it didn't make it in so, although I did wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year, you didn't know about it. I hope all went well and will this year.

The catastrophic fall in the value of sterling has made travelling to and staying in Switzerland very much more expensive than it was only a year ago and currently there seems little prospect that this will change much. To help assuage one's thirst for Switzerland though there are ways of cutting costs, using the Budget Hotel Website (www.rooms.ch), using the Bed & Breakfast website (www.bnb.ch), self-catering and even more imaginatively staying in parts of Switzerland not on the normal tourist network like Erstfeld, Apples and Herisau for example. Don't forget also our advertisers who all offer the best possible value, something I can personally vouch for.

Finally, 21st March 2009 - please try and make the AGM if you can, it's your meeting after all and the one time we can all get together and have a jolly good moan about the state of everything, knowing that it can only get better as soon as we mention Switzerland and its wonderful railways, scenery and transport system. See you there. The West Midlands Branch would also like to see members of other branches joining them on their day-trip to Geneva in June. Details on the Society News page.

Old and new on the Centovalli, 17/09/08.

See article P.19

PHOTO: John Bennett

SRS TREASURER

John Stokes has indicated that he is considering relinquishing his role at the forthcoming AGM. If any member considers that they may be prepared to take on this important task please get in touch with Ian Athey by Email, or on 01835 862 015.

