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AND FINALLY... WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

Boyd Misstear

The Swiss take recycling seriously. Comprehensive facilities exist for recycling common household waste materials including: aluminium; food/drink containers: old batteries; light bulbs; glass, paper; textiles; electrical and electronic equipment; etc. Swiss railway stations and transport interchanges all have clearly labelled bins for recycling cans, bottles, fast food wrappings, etc. Even humble tram and bus stops often have their small recycling bins. But across the country school children are actively encouraged to participate. For example in Erstfeld, Canton Uri, four times a year empty container wagons are shunted into place on a siding at the station on the busy Gotthard Tunnel line. On a given day the local school children collect bundles of newspapers from households and local business, walking through the town

pulling carts or wheeling bikes and trailers to the wagons. A scene reminiscent of a modern day "Pied Piper of Hamelin" ensues, only this time with happier purpose! At the station a relay of young adults, standing on strategically positioned wooden pallets to form steps and a platform, pass, nay chuck, the bundles in a relay, finally throwing the recycling into the air to drop it into the well of the wagons with a suitable thud! In return for their physical labour and its beneficial exercising, plus the delight of being out of class for a morning, the collected paper recycling contributes financially to offset the cost for school trips during the year. Also by transporting the heavily loaded wagons by rail (using mostly hydro-generated electric traction) rather than by road, the community and the environment-at-large benefits through this undertaking. ☑

Ivan Rodrigues - News from Switzerland Travel Centre

I would like to begin by thanking SRS members for choosing STC to organize their travel arrangements during 2012. It is great to see members taking advantage of the various offers including 2for1 Regional passes, 4day Swiss Pass/Flexi 2for1 promotion, Stanfords 15%-off-books as well as using the 5% discount on STS products and STC packages. To show our support and appreciation of the SRS we are pleased to inform members that we will continue to offer the 5% discount again on the STS products and packages for 2013. The new year will be an important and exciting one for TGV Lyria. Trains will offer more comfort with power sockets in 1st class. Lyria will still use double decker TGVs on some services where demand is very high, but these trains will not have the "Lyria look". The new fleet will be progressively introduced from the 9th December when Lyria will be extending their service to Interlaken Ost. This will run as follows: Paris-Interlaken Train 9287. Operates daily, Paris 17:57 – Interlaken 23:43. Interlaken-Paris Train 9284. Operates Saturdays and Sundays only, Interlaken 06:09 – Paris 12:11.

Together with Eurostar, Lyria will be operating a new "Swiss Alps Ski Service" between Lille and Brig operating once a week in each direction on Saturdays from 22nd December 2012 to 13th April 2013. Return fares will start from £189 in standard class to £299 in Standard Premier. These new services to Interlaken and Valais region can be booked through STC so call our specialists for more details. For members who enjoy using the regional pass in the Bernese Oberland between May - October we are expecting a major change in terms of number of days usage and the area of validity - more details to be announced next year. In the meantime we would like to take this opportunity to wish all SRS members a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. We look forward to assisting you with your travel plans for 2013. ☑

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