

# West Midlands Rundschreiben

## January 2019

### Group News.

Last month's Christmas event seems some time ago now!

Now we have the fun and games of Brexit!

I am not going to be at the next meeting as I will be in Pest (As in Budapest) or at least heading towards it from Lake Balaton, so as I haven't been able to book the TARDIS I will not be able to join you. The Projector, screen and box of cables will be at the museum for you. I was hoping to provide an older laptop for you to use but having 'found' it I now find it has a duff (and I don't mean class 47!) transformer so could I ask could someone provide a laptop to run the presentation.

I hope as many as possible will try and attend as I know a few will be missing, we don't want to start the year by making a loss.

### SBB and other News

A quick look at the SBB web site:

([http://fahrplan.sbb.ch/bin/help.exe/en?tpl=showmap\\_external&tracking-marketingurl=166](http://fahrplan.sbb.ch/bin/help.exe/en?tpl=showmap_external&tracking-marketingurl=166) )

Shows few long term closures however Andermatt to Goeschenen is closed 14/1/19 to 15/2/19

<http://www.swissitalianpaddlesteamers.com>

This has the usual great selection of paddle boat photographs. The news page also details some of the recent events (and failures!) of various paddle steamers.

[www.cgn02.ch](http://www.cgn02.ch)

Again there is a great selection of photographs of Lake Geneva. There is also a railway page at:

<http://www.cgn02.ch/ferphoto>

Suppose it is also worth mentioning that Flybe are about to be sold to a consortium of Virgin and Stobart Air who have put in £10m so they remain solvent. Just hope they are still going for my trip tomorrow! They have also stopped their Flybe credit cards, so no more £52 returns to STR /TXL with lounge access from October! I note even the mighty Ryanair have posted a profits warning.

A useful email from Wizz Air (Via Rupert)

After 29 March 2019:

1. You should have 6 months left on your UK passport from your date of arrival. This applies to adult and child passports.

2. If you renewed a passport before it expired, extra months may have been added to your new passport's expiry date. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the 6 months that should be remaining for travel to most countries in Europe. The new rules will apply to passports issued by the UK, Gibraltar, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Jersey.

Currently, UK passport holders can travel to all EU countries as long as they have enough remaining validity to cover the length of their stay, so it's important to be aware of the above changes in a 'no deal' Brexit.

So, please check your passport and if you are affected, you should consider renewing your passport earlier than planned.

The affected (Schengen area) countries are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Several emails from Rupert (from various forums) which may be of interest:

After reading earlier today about a tour in Germany I had a look for any tours in Switzerland and I came across the following site which has some information. It can be found here:

<http://www.bahnonline.ch/bo/bahnkalender-events/kalender>

Due to the need to completely renovate both the Giarsun Tunnel and the Magnacun Tunnel on Rhaetian Railway's Lower Engadin line, the track must be closed for six months. From 11 March to 7 September 2019, therefore, the section between Susch and Scuol-Tarasp will be closed to rail traffic. During the six-month closure of the line, a rail replacement bus service will be in operation in the Lower Engadin. Direct connections currently running between Landquart and St. Moritz and the Vereina car transporter are not affected.

Sent out in the <https://www.verbanoexpress.it/> newsletter today

Sunday March 3 Rabadan Express Luino - Bellinzona steam

Saturday 27 April Ticino Express Luino - Steam Air \*

Sunday June 16th Nature Express Luino - Arth Goldau electric

Saturday August 24 Legio Express Luino - Electric Keisaugst

9-13 October Luino-wheels-rails-steam Steam event \*\*

30.11-1.12 Christmas Tour Luino - Constance -Stein am Rhein \*\*\*

Saturday December 14 Nikolaus Express Luino - Einsiedeln electric

Train in collaboration with Eurovapor and Verein1020. Meeting at Airolo

and parallels in the descent to Bodio, followed by the fusion of trains.

Term common journey to Luino. (Details will follow).

\*\* Great event in Luino with steam trains from Switzerland and Italy,

exhibitions, exhibitions and much more (Details will follow).

\*\*\* Two-day tour to the Christmas markets of Konstanz and Stein am Rhein (In

the studio)

### **11411**

11411 will be working an Erstfeld-Göschenen return trip on July 6

<https://www.sbbhistoric.ch/veranstaltungen-fahrten/kalender/sbb-historic-events/2019-07-06-erlebnis-nordrampe.html>

### **Booking**

<https://www.sbbhistoric.ch/veranstaltungen-fahrten/kalender/sbb-historic-events/2019-07-06-erlebnis-nordrampe.html>

14253 be operating two return trips, 1015 and 1330, from Bern to Thun on July 7 2019. This is to commemorate the official opening of the electrification from Bern to the former Thun Scherzlingen station on July 7 1919 (Though in fact the first revenue earning electric train ran on 29.04.1919.)

### **Details**

<https://www.sbbhistoric.ch/veranstaltungen-fahrten/kalender/sbb-historic-events/2019-07-07-100-jahre-unter-strom---vormittag.html>

Online booking (One coach already sold out on the 1330 train)

<https://www.ticketcorner.ch/sbb-historic-fahrten.html?affiliate=TCS&doc=artistPages/overview&fun=artist&action=overview&kuid=515131>

[The SBB publicity claims 14253 is 100 years old this year but it was only accepted into traffic on January 15 1920]

### **Gotthard Panorama Express**

0922 Lugano-Flüelen 1149 (3092)

1440 Flüelen-Lugano 1638 (3093)

This will run Tuesday to Sunday 19.04.2019 to 20.10.2019. It will now be Compulsory reservation FIRST CLASS ONLY plus a supplement of SFR 16

### **Gotthard Weekender**

Will only run Saturday and Sunday 20.04.2019 to 08.06.2019 (also 19/22.04 and 30.05). From 09.06 a different Gotthard timetable will apply due to the engineering closure of Zug to Arth Goldau

0757 Zürich-Bellinzona 1120 (3091)

1618 Bellinzona-Zürich 1942 (3094)

Direct link to zip file containing the entire SBB 2019 timetable in pdf documents

[http://www.fahrplanfelder.ch/fileadmin/fap\\_daten\\_real/felder\\_pdfs.zip](http://www.fahrplanfelder.ch/fileadmin/fap_daten_real/felder_pdfs.zip)

**2019 Presentations- Offers of presentations are welcome!**

Many thanks for the offers of presentations, not quite a full house but getting there!

January 30<sup>th</sup> – ‘North American Miscellany’ by Malcolm Job.

February 27<sup>th</sup> - ‘Dutch Transport Scenes’ by Sholto Thomas.

March 27<sup>th</sup> - ‘Inter-railing’ in Jan / Feb 2019. Plus Wolsztyn Steam Jan 2019

April 24<sup>th</sup> - ‘The S’s in Switzerland’ Martin Fisher’s talk presented by David Stevenson

June /July – Obbo trip at Severn Valley Railway date tbc.

August 28<sup>th</sup> – ?

September 25<sup>th</sup> – ‘T-Z in Switzerland’ Marin Fishers talk presented by David Stevenson

October 30<sup>th</sup> – ?

November 27<sup>th</sup>- ?

December Christmas event – date tbc

Finally reminders for Rupert and Martin/ Kate don’t forget the waterproofs and Umbrellas for next weekend! BBC forecast is spot on for the GWR (Great Wet Railtourer).

Regards, Richard Shaw ( [shawrichard@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:shawrichard@pobroadband.co.uk) )