

London gains an SBB Clock

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Glarus Freight

Keith Scotland reports that the pick-up goods is alive and well in Switzerland



The once common pick up goods train is now missing from many railway systems, but although Switzerland has seen some reduction in the freight services offered by SBB Cargo a recent visit to Linthal showed that there is still a place on a modern railway for this type of train. Travelling from Ziegelbrücke to Linthal, we passed Re 6/6 No.11656 waiting at Glarus station attached to one cement tank. Later, at the terminus at Linthal, our RBDDe unit waited its return path, and the Re6/6 arrived with 5 tank wagons, ran round and waited for the next RBDDe unit to arrive, which then allowed it to set off back down the valley where it was later seen at Ziegelbrücke. 

TOP. Re 6/6 No.11656 at Linthal.
RIGHT. Re6/6 No.11656 at Glarus.



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During the London Olympics in 2012 the Swiss opened a 'House of Switzerland' adjacent to Southwark Cathedral and the Borough Market in the London Borough of Southwark, near London Bridge Station. As a thank you to the co-operation they received from the Council, the Market, and the Cathedral, the Swiss Embassy, with sponsorship from Mondaine – the manufacturers of SBB clock and watch design timepieces, on the 25th June presented a full-size SBB Clock to Borough Market. The market, once one of the centres of the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade in the capital, is now famous as 'the' gourmet food centre in the city and is visited by thousands of discerning customers daily. Along with the Swiss Ambassador, the Managing Director of the Market, Southwark's Mayor and the Dean of Southwark, who dedicated the clock, there were



The Swiss Ambassador introducing Diccon Bewes.

a number of guests invited along to take part in the dedication ceremony, with *Swiss Express* receiving a media invitation from our friends at the Embassy. Should you visit the market the SBB Clock is mounted high in one of the main halls and a plaque to commemorate the occasion is set into the floor below it. After the formal business along with the traditional Swiss 'Apero', author Diccon Bewes was present to entertain with one of his inimitable short talks on being Swiss, there was music from a Swiss singer/musician and an art exhibition mounted by students from art schools in both London and Zürich. Although not on a station the clock has a constant procession of trains passing over it, as the market is located beneath the viaduct that carries the lines from London Bridge station to Cannon Street and Charing Cross. 