

BOSHAM WI held its first meeting of 2025 on 8th January in Bosham Village Hall. The speaker – Michael Curtis – took members on a journey by train through the white winter wonderland of the Swiss Alps, using slides and video-clips.



Different gauge railway lines are used in different terrains – some narrow gauge, some wider – depending on the lie of the land. When proceeding up steep climbs, the rack and pinion type line is used to provide a better grip on the line for the train. Some trains have snow ploughs attached at the front, so lines can be cleared as the train progresses. The Glacier Express travels from St. Moritz to Chur, which is a particularly pretty Alpine city in eastern Switzerland lying in the Rhine Valley in the canton of Grisons. It has winding streets where no cars are permitted, so the only way to get around is by buggy, horsedrawn

carriages or Shanks' Pony. There is an aerial cableway ascending to a plateau with trails, panoramic views and, of course, winter ski slopes. It is from here that the Bernina Express crosses the Alps into Italy. This express train is often referred to as the 'Slowest Express in the World'.

Near to Zermatt, which is the gateway to the Gornergrat at a height of approximately 8000 ft, some people might experience high altitude sickness or mountain sickness. Other places mentioned were Interlaken onto Murren, from where you can travel by cable car to the summit of the highest mountain in the Bernese Alps called the Schilthorn at nearly 3000 metres. Further on towards Mount Jungfrau, there is a glacier saddle which is named the Jungfrauoch which is 3,454 metres above sea level. This saddle connects the Jungfrau and the Monch mountains of the Bernese Alps. Carved through Mount Jungfrau is the Jungfrauoch Railway Station, completely enclosed within the mountain and the highest railway station in Switzerland and Europe. This was opened on 1st August 1912.

The February meeting will be on Wednesday 5th at 2.30pm when the WI Resolutions will be discussed and Peter Parker from Strides will be valuing some interesting items brought in by members. All newcomers welcome. Please visit the website for more information at boshamwi.co.uk

Jennifer Fidler