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Congress of Swiss Abroad

EMBASSY CUTS STILL CAUSE CONCERN

Talks at the delegates' meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), which took place at the Palais de Rumine in Lausanne recently, focused on the continuing cutbacks facing Switzerland's diplomatic network and a revision of the law concerning Swiss schools abroad.

The remapping of the consular network continues to cause great concern and opposition. In what was described as "the final round of cuts", Gerhard Brügger, a senior official in the foreign ministry, told the 92 delegates that Chicago and Toronto would be closing their consulates general in the coming months. The office in Los Angeles is to be downgraded and New York will merge its two separate consular units by the end of 2014.

12 regional consular representations have been closed since the cost-cutting programme began in 2011. Jean-Jacques Eggly, President of

the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), voiced strong concern and dismay not only regarding the consequential effect on the Swiss diaspora, but also about the potential perception of Switzerland as a whole.

Mobility and Innovation

Following the delegates meeting, around 400 Swiss expats gathered at the Congress Centre, Palais du Beaulieu in Lausanne for the 90th Congress of the Swiss Abroad. The theme this year was "Mobility and Innovation: Switzerland in times of international challenges".

Elmar Mock, one of the inventors of Swatch, captivated the audience with an invigorating address, where he emphasized the importance of innovation and the image of Switzerland. Nobel prize winner for chemistry, Kurt Wüthrich, stressed the need for more scientific and cultural dialogue. He also hailed the solid education values in Switzerland.



Palais de Rumine, seat of the Grand Conseil, Canton Vaud

Continuing the theme of mobility and innovation, Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter closed the two-day congress by telling delegates that the capacity of innovation, its open-mindedness and its sense of responsibility was key for Switzerland to retain its role in science and research.

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Margrit Lyster and Freddie Wyser

Media

War time news bulletins published online at swissinfo.ch

During the Second World War, short wave radio was Switzerland's preferred means for communicating with its expatriated citizens and to present its positions to the rest of the world. swissinfo.ch, the successor to Swiss Radio International (SRI), now has access to the manuscripts of programmes broadcast by the Short Wave Service (SWS) between 1939 and 1945.

The manuscripts of news bulletins from this dark time in Europe reveal Swiss thinking on events both out of its control and right on its doorstep as the country desperately held on to its beloved neutrality.

In Switzerland's national languages (German, French, Italian) as well as English, Spanish and Portuguese, SWS broadcast news and analysis of military events on both sides.

At times, particularly in the early days of the war, Switzerland came in for sharp criticism from the

British for maintaining economic ties with Germany, and the archives show SWS was key in defending the Swiss position on this and other issues.

The SWS justified the maintenance of ties with Germany in a broadcast that argued that Switzerland was not taking sides, but wanted to maintain a "balanced and respectable" trade to ensure the provision of necessary supplies for her people.

In another broadcast on May 18, 1940, the English service issued a sharp rebuke of reports on the BBC that a "great quantity of war materials (sic)" were being accumulated in Switzerland's western cantons.

The archives are particularly interesting for historians because the historiography of international radio services has not yet been developed, particularly in Switzerland.

by Olivier Pauchard, swissinfo.ch
Adapted for Swiss Review by Andrew Littlejohn



For the full article and further links to the war time archives: <http://bit.ly/SbK0qR>

Editorial

Dear Readers,



Let me start by welcoming the Swiss expat community in Ireland who will now be receiving the UK pages of the Swiss Review, following the transfer of consular services from Dublin to London. We look forward to hearing more from the Emerald Isle in the coming months.

As expected, Swiss National Day was celebrated across the country. Cervelats were grilled on the barbeque and candle lanterns gave the party a romantic feel.

Readers are also invited to discover London's early Swiss community, which Charles Dickens described as "a curious colony of mountaineers".

And recently released radio manuscripts from WW2 reveal how Switzerland strived to broadcast fair and balanced news and analysis of military events across Europe.

Andrew Littlejohn

Swiss history

LONDON’S SWISS INFLUENCE

The well-known historian, Peter Barber (author of the book “A Curious Colony – Leicester Square and the Swiss”) is organizing a walking tour of central London at 2pm on Saturday 27th October. The aim of the walk is to discover the different places in central London, which, as Peter explains, have historical significance for the Swiss in the capital.

What is the Swiss Church doing perched on the fringes of Covent Garden? Surely the City or Belgravia would be more appropriate? And what on earth is Swiss about Piccadilly? Well, actually, quite a lot. But you have to look for it.

Looking out for all things Swiss is exactly what we shall be doing in the course of our walk on the 27th October. Walking resolutely past tourist must-sees, we’ll go through the heart of what was once such a large and thriving Swiss colony that Charles Dickens himself wrote of “a curious colony of mountaineers [that] has long been enclosed within that small flat London district of Soho.” A Swiss group of expats began to emerge from the wider

French Huguenot community in around 1700. German-speaking Swiss were there from the first, though they lived in the shadow of their French-speaking compatriots. There were even Ticinesi who initially made their distinct contribution in a sphere far removed from risotto and chestnuts.

“
Where there was
a colony, there was
a church.”

Where there was a colony, there was a church. And then there were pubs to provide a different sort of spiritual succour after the rigours of a long service. And there were the artists and the craftsmen. And, of course, the restaurants and theatres. There were influential compatriots to help you in your career, and benevolent societies you went to for companionship and for help in sickness.



A Ticinese restaurant c 1880



The Royal Adelaide Gallery 1907

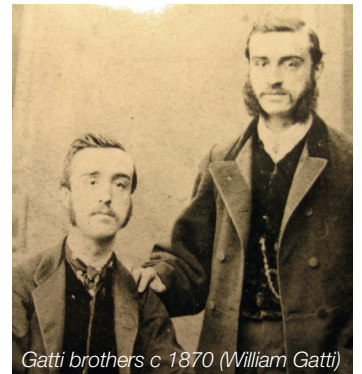
As we walk around we shall at times be using our imaginations in places that have been totally transformed. But there are surprising survivals.

If you are interested in joining Peter on this fascinating tour, please meet at the Swiss Church in Endell Street at 2pm on Saturday, 27th October. The London walk costs £15 and all proceeds go to the Swiss Church.

A Curious Colony: Leicester Square and the Swiss

The Swiss Embassy has very generously given us three copies of Peter Barber’s book to give away. To receive a copy please contact the editor: editor@swissreview.co.uk, or call 02073723519

There are also copies of Peter’s book available at the Swiss Embassy. A donation of £10 to the Swiss Cultural Fund for Great Britain would be welcome.



Gatti brothers c 1870 (William Gatti)



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A (Swiss National) Day in the Life of...

SAMUEL, SYLVIE AND SPENCER

In our previous issue, young readers were encouraged to take part in a competition to win a small disposable camera. The three winners (Samuel, Sylvie and Spencer) were then asked to use the camera to capture the atmosphere of how they spent Swiss National Day. They were encouraged to have as much fun and be as creative with the camera as they wanted to be. All three winners appeared to have great fun on August 1st, so much so that one mother felt compelled to share the experience with readers.

I write on behalf of Samuel, my son who is five. He certainly did have a lot of fun today! So too did his two-year old sister, Marie-Therese.



We began the day with breakfast as usual – only the background decorations had been prepared the night before. Incidentally, some of the Swiss chocolate intended for August 1st never quite made it having been nibbled during the creative, preparation stages. Some, however, was rescued for the 'big day' when we made a Swiss flag out of marshmal-



lows and strawberries to be dipped into warm, dark chocolate. Samuel was very excited about the arrival of his friends to help in its preparation and consumption.



The boys also engaged in a number of crafts following the Swiss theme of the day. They were particularly delighted since many of the tasks involved food and even the firing of arrows – the latter being inspired by a reading from the life of William Tell.



Later activities included a visit to our local museum. We live in an old mining area so the boys got a chance to get in role. They swapped their Tell capes for mining helmets.

I think Samuel's friends saw another side to him – the Swiss side! And today's fun will almost certainly become a family tradition in our home. The day concluded with an evening meal of Bratwurst and a fine bedtime story about Heidi, naturally!

Janine Green

Competition

And the other winners were...

8-year-old Sylvie Tyler spent the 1st of August with her parents and two younger brothers, Elijah (5) and Vincent (1), on a farm in the Italian village of Garlasco, south of Milan.

Spencer Chapman (9) looks as though he had fun speeding about on his bicycle, and is that the beginnings of an Art House film director we see before us?



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Swiss Clubs in the UK

SWISS NATIONAL DAY · SWISS NATIONAL DAY · SWISS

Manchester Swiss Club

Manchester Swiss Club's National Day celebrations continued well into the night. It certainly was a good party. So much so, the children were allowed to stay up after dark to light their lamps and enjoy the spectacular fireworks display.

The weather held out for the revellers and everyone was, as always, in very good spirits.



Southern Area Swiss Club

Southern Area Swiss Club's "1st August" celebrations got off to a ropey start. Club members had booked a small sports pavilion with a patio area for the occasion, but were shocked to find the keys given to them didn't work. And of course, there was no caretaker around to sort out the problem. A Plan B was spontaneously put in place and the group moved hastily to the nearby garden of club members Karin and Jonny Prier to whom the club is of course very grateful.



Members enjoying National Day celebrations in the garden of Karin and Jonny Prier.



Torbay Swiss Club

The Torbay Swiss Club celebrated Swiss National Day in the grounds of the Cliffden Hotel in Teignmouth. 19 members enjoyed grilled bratwurst and a buffet of salads followed by traditional Swiss fruit "Kuchen". We were protected from the weather in the beautiful chalet type summer house set in a glorious garden setting. The Swiss President's speech was followed by the national anthem, and a short address by the club President Geoff Rose. The four and a half hours flew by.



Get Involved:

If you want to be involved in any future events contact Geoff Rose 01626 778469 or see our website www.torbay-swiss-club.webs.com

Taunton and Somerset Swiss Club

Taunton and Somerset Swiss Club, which only held its first meeting in May, celebrated the 1st August in style when its 40 new members arrived laden with homemade salads and freshly made desserts. Christiane Greening-Knoepfli (founder of this new Swiss club) brought cervelats all the way from Geneva. It was a real feast and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The club plans to meet 4 times a year.

In November, a Taunton member of the Swiss Railway Society will hold a talk and slide show. All the new members are very excited to be making so many new Swiss friends in the Taunton and Somerset area.

For any further information, please call Christiane on 01823 327308



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Swiss Clubs in the UK

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Southern Area Swiss Club

Vreni Rudkin has stepped down after 18 years as president of the Southern Area Swiss Club. Vreni was a founder member of the club, which was formed in 1978, and Secretary from the beginning until 1994 when she became President. Her pride in her heritage shows clearly in the strong thread of "Swissness" she maintained in our events from the National Days and Stubehöcks to the personalised programmes she created for us each year. Her good



Vreni Rudkin (middle) receives "Lovely Lady" roses at retirement party

influence on us all and our activities has been clear and inspirational. Besides running the club so well, she has become a really good friend and supporter to so many of us.

John Williamson

Right: As one member departs, new member Aria Newman, daughter of Nicola and Jamie enjoys all the attention.



Swiss Club Ireland

The Swiss Review welcomes Swiss Clubs in Ireland into the fold

A few months ago, Dublin became the latest victim of embassy cutbacks, when consular services at its Swiss embassy were transferred to London. This latest phase of restructuring measures of the Swiss diplomatic network also means Ireland's Swiss expat community will now receive the UK pages of the Swiss Review. Here, Swiss Club Ireland's president, Chantal Nash, introduces readers to the club's activities.



jazz performances etc. We also enjoy hiking day trips into the beautiful surrounding countryside.

Next October we celebrate the 1400th anniversary of the foundation of the monastery of St Gall by St Gallus, an Irish monk. The Embassy together with the club have organised a conference on the subject, which should be of particular interest to both the Swiss and Irish communities.

Chantal Nash, President

For more information:
www.swissclubireland.ie

Election

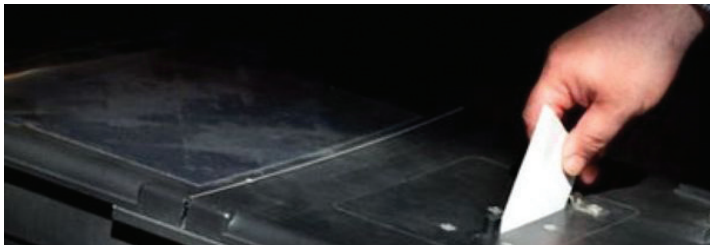
Elections of UK Delegates 2013

In 2013 it will be time once more to elect 4 UK Delegates to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.

Whilst two of the nominations should be proposed through the Federation for Swiss Societies in the UK (Fossuk), a further two positions should come from the Swiss

community at large. The elections will be part of the Federation's AGM 2013 in London.

The Swiss Review and Fossuk's web pages will keep the Swiss community and potential applicants informed about the election process in the coming months.



Alice Phillips

The Midlands Swiss Society would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to Alice Phillips, who died peacefully on Friday 27th July, just as she was writing a birthday card to her grand-daughter Mary.

Alice was born in Biel/ Biene in 1924, but she spent most of her life in Birmingham after marrying her husband, Julius, in 1952. Alice

was a well-known figure in the Swiss community and will be sorely missed by all her friends at the Midlands Swiss Society.



Graham Baker, Chairman, Midlands Swiss Society

Consular news

The Embassy's Consular Section becomes a Regional Consular Centre

You may already be aware that on 1 May 2012 the Embassy's consular section became a Regional Consular Centre (RCC), now also providing services to Swiss nationals in Ireland

Does this change affect Swiss nationals in the UK? No, it does not! The RCC remains your competent partner for all matters concerning registration, providing identity documents, registration of data concerning civil status (marriage, birth etc), questions about the Swiss pension system and the exercise of civil rights from abroad.

Regional Consular Centre London

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For visa enquiries: (new)
Mail: rcclondonvisa@eda.admin.ch

Recipe

MUM'S SWISS POTATO SALAD

Christmas is fast approaching and as ever there will be plenty of leftovers to enjoy between Boxing Day and the New Year. The Swiss Review asked Kim Willis, who has brought My Swiss Seasoning – a blend of herbs and salt made in Switzerland – onto our tables here in the UK, to share a favourite family recipe for the Christmas period.

My Swiss Seasoning is an old recipe that has been handed down from one generation to the next. The original inspiration for it came from Joseph Baeriswyl who was a chef and came up with the idea of mixing various herbs and salt together as a base to add to dishes to save time. It became so popular he began to make it in larger and larger quantities.

We, as a family here in the UK, have used the seasoning for many years having been introduced to it by a cousin in Switzerland (my father is Swiss). My mum's Swiss Potato Salad, which is always served with leftovers on Boxing Day is one of our family's favourite Christmas dishes and the seasoning gives the dish just that little bit extra flavouring.

Mum's Swiss Potato Salad

*Approx 3lbs Potatoes
1 Chicken or vegetable stock cube dissolved in 150ml boiling water
Half Red onion, finely chopped (optional)
Salad dressing, as below, but made with vegetable oil as less heavy and no balsamic vinegar
Chives, finely chopped (optional)*

Dressing:

*1 cup of sunflower oil
Half cup white balsamic vinegar or white wine vinegar
2 tsp Dijon mustard
Dash of Worcester sauce
1-2 tsp Swiss Seasoning*

Cook potatoes in skins until tender, drain and peel once cool enough to handle. Slice potatoes into a large bowl whilst warm and pour in the stock, mix in with your hands and leave for one hour, if there is too much stock drain off potatoes. When cold add enough salad dressing to coat potatoes, adding the onions and chives too. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed.

Keep refrigerated.



For more information and suggested recipes: www.myswissseasoning.co.uk

Business

Century old Swiss recipes enjoy a renaissance in the Scottish borders

Scotland may boast a surfeit of coffee shops, but none can claim to be Alpine inspired – until now.

Yummleys is the brainchild of former City high-flyer Oli Hofer who has realised a long held dream to introduce the Scottish public to his family's century-old recipe book.

Basle-born Oli's great-grandmother committed to paper around 60 cake and 30 savoury recipes between 1914 and 1920.

Now the tried and tested confections are being served up to a new audience more than 900 miles from Switzerland in the small village of Reston near Berwick-upon-Tweed.



Oli Hofer flies the flag for Swiss confections

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“The focus was on encouraging more dialogue”

Fossuk AGM

FOSSUK GETS A REVAMP

“Communication” was the motto of Fossuk’s AGM this year with the focus on encouraging more dialogue between the UK’s 28 Swiss clubs.

Ariane Rustichelli, OSA’s Head of Communication and Media, opened the day’s programme with an introduction to the ever-popular Swiss-Community.org website, a social network platform designed specifically for the Swiss expat community. Particular emphasis was put on the potential usefulness of such a social network site for clubs and societies.

The meeting also coincided with the launch of Fossuk’s newly designed website, which aims to be inclusive, lively and bring “a breath of fresh air” to its users, explained web designer Ané-Mari Peter.

“For years, clubs have appeared as individual dots on a map, where each organisation has done its own thing with little cohesion between them,” she said. “The purpose of the website really is to have one space, where the Swiss community can come and see who is doing what and where.”



Photo © Marc Peter

These new developments have been tenaciously followed through by Fossuk president Margrit Lyster.

“The overall aim has been to bring a bit more life and dialogue to Fossuk,” she explained.

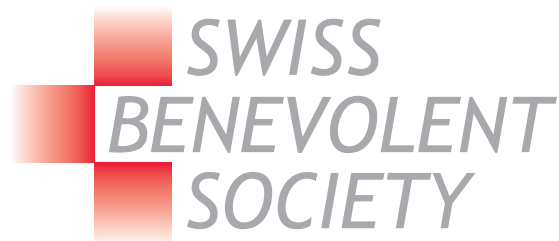
Manchester was originally going to be the venue for next year’s AGM. However, due to the unforeseen timing of Ambassador Thalmann’s retirement, a decision was made to hold the event in London in 2013. Manchester will host the Fossuk AGM the following year.

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Five minutes with...

URSULA JOST AT THE CONSISTOIRE

During the summer, Ursula Jost stepped down as President of the Consistoire (Parish Council) at London's Swiss Church after 12 years of service. During those years, Ursula became one of the main protagonists to secure the successful, if controversial, completion of the church's million pound renovation project. She also co-initiated many arts events and concerts as the church broadened its appeal as a cultural centre. Colleagues have described Ursula as hard-working, open-minded and always with an open ear for everyone.

Swiss Review: You are perhaps best known in the Swiss community for your commitment and dedication to renovate the Swiss Church. How do you look back on that time?

Ursula Jost: Accompanying the renovation project over a 13-year period from developing a vision to achieving a renovated church building was an extraordinary journey. It was enriching to work very closely with a varying number of people at different phases of the project, all bringing unique and timely talents to the effort.

SR: Was there ever a fear the renovation work would never be completed?

“**We were unable to reach the £3m needed**”

UJ: A frightful situation developed in 2005 when it became obvious that we were unable to reach the £3m needed and the architects Herzog & de Meuron were not in a position to complete the project for £2m. Subsequently, we were able to engage Christ & Gantenbein from Basel and thanks to their reputation and proposal were able to retain the £1.6m donated to that point. All the money for the project had to be fundraised and being a church makes it harder, as many trusts and companies have a policy not to give to churches; still 25% of the money was contributed by Swiss companies. We set our budget at £2.3 million and made a point to

raise this amount before building could begin. In hindsight we were very fortunate to have achieved that before the recession set in.

SR: Were there many dark days during this period?

UJ: The two years following the re-opening festivities were actually the most difficult. For various reasons it took a long time to fit the air conditioning units in the church, resulting in the offices not being available for occupancy, as well as the kitchen stove only being sanctioned for use from September 2011 onwards. Fortunately, our dedicated staff managed to cope well, displaying much energy and commitment from a small office in the Bloomsbury church.

SR: What were some of the highlights of managing this project?

UJ: There have been many highlights over the years, such as the Consistoire deciding in 2001 to take the plunge and invest £42,300 to engage Herzog & De Meuron to do a feasibility study, or our main donor André Hoffmann telling us in a meeting at the Church in



2004 that he would donate £1million to the building project. Then there were the months and years observing progress on the building site and finally to experience the re-opening festivities in 2009 and hear from established Parishioners that they enjoyed the renovated building was truly exhilarating. Having the 250th Anniversary celebrations of the Church this past year in the renovated building was also gratifying.

SR: What will you miss most about your work at the Consistoire?

UJ: I will miss being fully engaged in the Swiss Church and working with many different people towards attracting more people to our services and events.

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