

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Editorial

This issue does not stop short of suggestions about how you can while away the long summer days.

■ *If you are in North Wales there is the chance to spend a leisurely day with the Consul General and his wife while journeying on the world's oldest narrow gauge railway in the heart of Snowdonia. It is the first time a representative from the Embassy of Switzerland in London has visited the Swiss community in North Wales.*

■ *There's a first in Ireland as well when the Patrouille Suisse, the Swiss Air Force's aerobatics demonstration team, show off their breathtaking skills at Bray Air Show in County Wicklow to mark 75 years of Swiss-Irish diplomatic relations.*

■ *And to round it all off, one of London's most accomplished portrait photographers offers some helpful hints to ensure you take the best photos possible this summer.*



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

Health: Ageing Well – How prepared are you?

The Swiss Benevolent Society London recently organised and hosted a seminar at the Swiss Church titled, 'Ageing Well – Are You Prepared?'

Gordon Deuchars, Policy and Campaigns Manager of Age UK London, opened the event, attended by some 50

guests, by outlining the many positive aspects of an ageing society and how the elderly actively contribute to it. Countering ageism and false stereotyping is however a constant challenge. The principal thrust of this presentation focussed on leading a healthy lifestyle, financial security, community inclusion and safety at home.

In their presentations, Zahid Choudry and Brian Coulter of Alexander Shaw Solicitors emphasised how essential it is to have an up-to-date Will in order for your estate to be passed on in line with your wishes.

Some valuable information was also given on Probate procedure and the importance of Inheritance Tax planning. The audience was particularly interested in the topic of Lasting Powers of Attorney, an increasingly important instrument at a time when we are living longer, but are not necessarily capable of acting independently.

The presentations were rounded off with an engaging Q&A session. Further informal discussions then continued over tasty refreshments.



Guests at
SBS event

ALAN MARTIN, PRESIDENT
SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY LONDON

Following the success of this seminar, the SBS is open to suggestions for further discussion topics – Contact: Mrs Petra Kehr-Cocks (Welfare Officer) info@swissbenevolent.org.uk +44 (0)20 7836 9119

Feature: Rare Swiss arrival on the farm

A farming family in Yorkshire believes it is the first in the north of England to produce a new-born rare breed lamb not commonly found outside its native Switzerland.

Described as docile and good natured, the Valais Blacknose flock on a farm near Ripon welcomed a new addition recently, which has become a huge attraction in the local area.

Becky and Richard Burniston, who are well-known for keeping reindeer and alpacas, have

found their 35-strong flock of the Swiss breed – which is one of the largest in the UK – are ideal additions to their mobile educational farm which they take to schools across the region to teach children about agriculture.

'We first noticed (the Valais Blacknose sheep) when watching a countryside TV programme and we completely fell in love with them,' said Becky Burniston, 'Their main quality for us is their general good nature, which is fabulous in schools with children getting to really interact with them.'



FOSSUK Federation Of Swiss Societies
in the United Kingdom



Dear Corporate Members, dear friends,
it is our pleasure to invite you to our

Annual General Meeting 2015

which will be held on Saturday 6th June 2015, 11 am at the

Royal Society of Medicine

1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE

Hosted by the Royal Society of Medicine, the AGM will be organised in two parts:

The morning session is set aside for the statutory part of the meeting. It addresses the Federation's past activities and it sets the course for the year ahead 'with announcements of changes in the air'. Whilst the meeting is an open event, only Member Clubs and Societies are eligible to vote.

A 'Working Lunch' will be available at the venue.

In addition, we will have guest speakers. We will be fortunate

to have with us Ambassador Furgler, the Society's Hon. President, and a representative from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Bern (OSA).

The AGM is scheduled to end around 5pm.

Relevant information about AGM proceedings will be published on the FOSSUK website after the 1st May 2015. Please note that for security reasons, all participants must register with name and full address at the Royal Society of Medicine.

On behalf of FOSSUK Committee,
Margrit Lyster

www.swiss-societies.co.uk



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SWISS NATIONAL DAY LONDON

An event for and by the Swiss community

Come and celebrate Swiss National Day

Saturday 18 July 2015

UCL, Main Gate, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

Doors open at 3 pm

Switzerland Active

Special evening concert with
**Nicolas Meier, Mornington Lockett &
Dana Gillepsie and their musicians**

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FOSSUK Federation Of Swiss Societies
in the United Kingdom

Upcoming Event at the Swiss Embassy in London: **Retirement and Estate Planning for the Swiss Community in the UK**

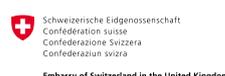
Living in the UK with links to Switzerland (e.g. real estate, pension, other assets) can be complicated when it comes to retirement. Regular adjustments to pension rules and inheritance tax can make it difficult to stay on top of the numerous changes.

In an effort to bring some clarity to this complex matter, address potential pitfalls and to obtain tips on how to best prepare, the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK), in co-operation with the City Swiss Club, the New Helvetic Society, the Unione Ticinese and the Swiss Embassy in London have teamed up for an event entitled '**Retirement and Estate Planning**'. The panel discussion will take place at the Embassy of Switzerland on **Thursday, 10 September 2015** from 18.30 to 20.30.

FOSSUK is delighted that Mr Nicholas Niggli, Head of the Economic, Finance, Science and Innovation Section at the Swiss Embassy in London, has agreed to chair the event. Panel members will include experts from the financial planning industry.

The invitation for this event will be sent out nearer to the date. For non-FOSSUK members: if you are interested in this upcoming event and wish to be added to our invitation distribution list, please send an email to secretary@swiss-societies.co.uk.

In co-operation with:



UNIONE TICINESE
FONDATA IL 1803

Save the date: North Wales Swiss Society

Saturday 4th July 2015 – Swiss Summer Event

All Swiss in North Wales and the Welsh border are cordially invited to a summer outing:

Planned is a **Ffestiniog Railway train ride** from Porthmadoc to Tan-y-Bwlch followed by a garden talk/tour and afternoon tea. Our special guests at this event are Hermann Aebischer, Consul General at the Swiss Embassy in London and his wife Priska who will be on holiday in North Wales at the time and are looking forward to joining us on our outing.

It is the first time a representative of the Embassy of Switzerland in London has visited the Swiss Community in North Wales and we hope that you are able to save the date and attend this event. It will be a good opportunity to chat informally to the Swiss Embassy's Consul General.

Our group has been offered a special package price of **£13.20 for adults** and **£6.60 for children**, which would

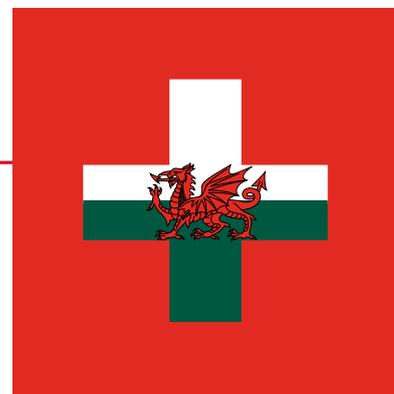
normally just cover the cost of the train journey. We will also have our own designated carriage on the train.

For more information, please contact Beatrice Schlegel (preferably before the end of May)

Tel: 07766 216 162, Email: eiretrix@hotmail.com



Ffestiniog
Railway



Music: Swansea concert success

The Mansion House concert is now a well-established musical fixture in the Welsh capital, taking place annually in Cardiff since 2008. However, it was the first time the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Cardiff, Ruth Thomas-Lehmann, who organises these yearly concerts, took the Mansion House events to Swansea.

The aim of these concerts is to provide a platform for talented young Swiss, German or Austrian musicians.

This year Ruth was pleased to have been able to find musicians from all three German-speaking countries. They were: the British/Swiss profes-

sional violinist, Naomi Burrell; the Austrian Soprano, Jacqueline Pischorn; and the German pianist, Immanuel Voigt, who is completing his Master studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. They performed together in Cardiff's Mansion House in February and in April for the first time in Swansea.

The three musicians put together an interesting and varied programme to the delight of the audience, which included the Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of Swansea, Councillor Ceinwen Thomas and the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, Mr R Redfern and his wife Julie.



Performers
and dignitaries
in Swansea



Photo: Keith Hunter
(Courtesy of the
Artist and The
Modern Institute/
Toby Webster Ltd,
Glasgow)

Arts: Swiss artist brightens up Botanic Garden

Inverleith House in Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden is delighted to present Nicolas Party, *Boys and Pastel*, the first major solo exhibition in a UK public gallery by the Swiss artist. Party has transformed the formal Georgian interior of this 18th century house into a contemporary 'gesamtkunstwerk' with the most expansive installation of his decorative wall paintings to date spanning all seven gallery spaces.

When: 2nd May – 21st June

Where: Inverleith House, Royal
Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Politics: Council meeting ends on a positive note

UK delegate Franz Muheim, who is a member of Edinburgh Swiss Club, attended the meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) in Bern in March. He also reported directly from the meeting to the forum of Swiss-Community.org, the online platform for the Swiss Abroad, where his comments became a talking point and attracted approximately one hundred entries. As Franz reports, the meeting was on the whole a positive experience.

CSA president, Jacques-Simon Eggly, reported that in 2015 Swiss Abroad registered to vote in Glarus and Zurich would be able to use e-voting. In total, two thirds of the 135,000 Swiss Abroad who are registered can benefit from e-voting. Since the last meeting in August last year, the law for the Swiss Abroad has passed both chambers. The new law maintains the necessity for Swiss Abroad to immatriculate with the embassy of their host country. This is a major success for the CSA, as the

Federal Council had the intention of removing this requirement.

A major discussion point was the election modus for the CSA. Currently most CSA members are elected by the Swiss Clubs, as these are affiliated with the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA). However, there is a strong push from many to have a direct election for the CSA by all Swiss Abroad, which would base the CSA more broadly. The election could also combine both methods, as is already in use in the UK, where two members are elected by the Swiss clubs and two members by all Swiss in the UK.

Another long-standing topic was the treatment of expats by the Swiss banks. National Councillor Roland Buechel had, what he called, 'good news' to report. In addition to Postfinance, there are now three banks: Neue Helvetische Bank, Migros Bank and Valiant Bank, which will take Swiss expats as customers, but these people will have to travel to Switzerland to open their account.

FRANZ MUHEIM, UK DELEGATE FOR OSA



Council meeting in Bern

Franz would be interested to hear your opinions about the election process for expats. Send your thoughts to: enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk



Jeffrey Long outside the Swiss Church

Charity: 84 years – 84 miles

Jeffrey Long MBE will be 84 this year, and those who have met the former Editor of the Swiss Review and President of FOSSUK know that he is still up for a challenge. The man from Yorkshire, whose grandfather was a Swiss citizen from Schaffhausen, has always been a very committed supporter of the Swiss community in the UK. To mark his 84th year, Jeffrey and three friends have decided to walk the whole length of Hadrian's Wall – 84 miles, one mile for each year of his life – to raise funds for the Swiss Church in London

'There is only one Swiss Church in the UK', Jeffrey said, 'and whether one is a regular visitor or not, it is our church. Everyone should do what they can to help support this wonderful place.'

The Swiss Church was founded by Swiss migrants over 250 years ago and is a vibrant meeting space for the Swiss in London and for the community in Covent Garden.

For many years, the church has been supported by the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches, but this is due to end in the near future. The challenge is now to become financially sustainable largely depending on the generous support of donors and grants. It was this new situation that prompted Jeffrey to take on his 84/84 sponsored hike along Hadrian's Wall.

'With my walk, I want to make people aware of the church and encourage others to help secure the future of the Swiss Church in London.'

Support Jeffrey on his walk along the Roman fortification wall and help to raise £5000 for the Swiss Church! Every contribution is greatly appreciated. Please send your donations to the Swiss Church account, earmarked '84 miles':

HSBC, 117 Great Portland Street, London W1W 6QJ
Sortcode: 40-03-15 Account number: 61410512
IBAN: GB58MIDL40031561410512
BIC: MIDLGB2106M

1: Swiss Club Edinburgh

The Swiss Club Edinburgh invited its members to a Fondue Evening in March. The response was as per usual very good. Some 35 adults and 3 children attended the event. It has to be said the children had something different to eat, while the grown-ups tucked into their fondue with much gusto. It certainly was very nice to have the young ones present as it is hoped they will continue to participate in our club activities in future.

Everybody said how much they enjoyed the evening and the amount consumed was testament not only to a delicious fondue (we even had the chance to incorporate Vacherin, generously brought back from Switzerland the day before by one of our members) but also to the fine wines, cherry brandy and breads that were served up. Orange salad was on the menu for dessert, a club tradition that dates back more years than I care to remember.

FREDDIE WYSER

Fondue in Edinburgh



AGM in Surrey



2: Southern Area Swiss Club

We were delighted to have the Consul General Herr Hermann Aebischer accept our invitation to our AGM and Social recently. He had described himself as an amateur thespian, so when the opportunity arose – and it did! – he ‘took over’ our raffle to everyone’s great amusement. Our new Consul General has a real sense of fun, just what is needed at an AGM.

JOHN WILLIAMSON

3: Unione Ticinese

This year our AGM will be combined with a talk on *Ticino and Switzerland: Ticino and its Place in Swiss History* by Professor Jonathan Steinberg, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of Modern European History at the University of Pennsylvania. The theme is particularly appropriate this year which marks the 500th anniversary of the Swiss defeat at the Battle of Marignano, which ultimately led to the evolution of Ticino. Professor Steinberg is one of the world’s greatest experts on Switzerland and author of the acclaimed book *Why Switzerland?* of which the third, revised edition is about to appear. He also has close links to Ticino as a member of the advisory board of Franklin University Switzerland, which is based in Lugano.

Date: **Saturday, 30th May**
 Time: **6.00pm**
 Price: **£18**
 Place: **Swiss Embassy, 16-18 Montagu Place, W1H**

Obituaries

Maria Rose Bruni 1913–2015

We are sorry to announce the death, on 15 February 2015, at the age of 101, of Maria Rose Bruni. She was for many years an active member of the Unione Ticinese and was the wife of Louis Bruni, a long-serving committee member and the *maestro* of the Corale from 1953.

At that time it formed the hub of the society, meeting every Thursday evening in or near Fitzroy Square. Older members will remember Maria’s laughter and love of singing and dancing.

PETER BARBER
 PRESIDENT, UNIONE TICINESE



Ken Keer 1929–2015

We are sad to announce the death, on 20 March 2015, of Ken Keer after a prolonged period of illness. An architect and planner by profession, he got to know of us at Unione Ticinese through Joe Brogini, a friend of his since the late 1960s.

Ken regularly travelled up to the Swiss Embassy, or to Hurstpierpoint or latterly to Canterbury for our various festivities. He represented a more recent phenomenon in our history: the English friend of Ticino and of the Ticinesi.

PETER BARBER
 PRESIDENT, UNIONE TICINESE

Peter Dransfield 1939–2015

Sadly the Yorkshire Swiss Club has lost its treasurer and long-standing member, Peter Dransfield MBE who died suddenly on the 29th March. He was also treasurer to FOSSUK.

Peter was a very busy man with wide interests and a love of Switzerland. He received his MBE for services to the community. Peter’s activities touched many people and he will be much missed. Our heartfelt condolences go to Jennie, Peter’s widow, who is also the secretary of the Yorkshire Swiss Club.

EVY WARDILL
 PRESIDENT, YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB



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Embassy of Switzerland in the United Kingdom

Regional Consular Centre London

PASSPORTS AND IDENTITY CARDS

Information for Swiss nationals resident in IRELAND and NORTHERN IRELAND

The Regional Consular Centre in London (RCC) wishes to inform you that a staff member will visit Dublin (Swiss Embassy) with the mobile biometric station on the following dates:

14 – 16 July 2015

(deadline for appointments: 1 July 15)

1 – 3 December 2015

(deadline for appointments: 20 November 15)

Since the introduction of the biometric passport it has been necessary for applicants to attend in person. The mobile biometric passport station permits biometric data to be recorded for the issuing of identity documents (passports and/or identity cards) in the Swiss Embassy in **Dublin**.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, **please contact the RCC** to book an appointment, tel. +44 (0)20 7616 6000 (option 2), or rcclondon@eda.admin.ch **before the above-mentioned deadlines.**

Music: Musical trio bring attitude to Dublin

Schnellertollermeier, a young trio from Luzern, play music ranging between free improvisation, hardcore jazz and brute rock music; their style has been described as defying genre boundaries. The group formed in 2006 when they were all in their early 20s.

When: **Thursday, 18th June**

Where: **The Twisted Pepper,
Middle Abbey Street, Dublin**



When: **19th – 21st June**

Where: **Ballinlough Castle, Co. Westmeath**

Tickets: **from 139€**

More: bodyandsoul.ie

Culture: Electronica in ancient Irish castle

Body & Soul is an arts & music festival where like-minded people come together for three days on the grounds of Ballinlough Castle in Co. Westmeath to explore and discover new music, interact with visual and performance art outside a traditional setting and celebrate life in all its shapes and colours.

This Irish festival, which is just one hour from Dublin, is an entire experience. Placed in an amazing setting within a 17th century walled garden, Body & Soul showcases a brilliant line up of artists and musicians.

This year two Swiss groups will be performing:

The band OY, aka Swiss-Ghanaian vocalist/ musician Joy Fermont and drummer/ producer Lleluja-Ha, enthuse audiences with their collection of colourful songs weaving OY's own strains of electronica with distinctly African musical and lyrical elements.

The music of Verveine, a young artist from Vevey, has been loosely described as 'Folktronica'.

Leisure: Patrouille Suisse fly into Ireland

Bray Air Show is the highlight of the summer season in County Wicklow. This year there is a distinctive Swiss flavour to the display. Last year Swiss Military Aviation celebrated its centenary with a huge show at the Payerne Air Base. Patrouille Suisse, the Swiss Air Force's aerobatics demonstration team, also celebrated its 50th anniversary. And 2014 marked 75 years of Swiss-Irish diplomatic relations. This confluence of anniversaries deserves to be feted in style and that is why the Swiss Embassy in Ireland is delighted to be able to present, for the first time ever in Ireland, Patrouille Suisse! The aerobatic team is unusual in that it is one of the few teams currently on the Airshow Circuit that fly in supersonic jet aircraft.

Ireland

Bray Air Show, 19 July 2015 www.brayairdisplay.com

As is tradition, Swiss Air Force National Display Teams are also expected to delight spectators and enthusiasts at a number of Air Tattoos across the UK this summer.

United Kingdom:

RAF Cosford Air Show, 14 June 2015, with one F/A-18 <http://bit.ly/1DXH6dC>

RAF Fairford Royal International Air Tattoo, 18 and 19 July 2015, with the PC-7 Aerobatic and one Super Puma <http://bit.ly/VLgqyl>

RNAS Culdrose International Air Day, 30 July 2015 <http://bit.ly/1DL085Y>



Photo: © Tokunaga Katsuhiko

1st person singular: Michele Martinoli – Photographer

Photography has been my abiding passion since childhood, hand-printing in a makeshift darkroom aged 14, taking black and white pictures of close friends with a 35mm Voigtlander rangefinder camera. My wish was to capture the beauty of my subjects, perhaps even to possess them; it was an unconscious part of my sexual development. Only several years later, leaving Switzerland, my birthplace, at age 19, I headed for London. The impact was immediate;



the stark contrast of London, a city literally bursting with culture, music and colour ignited my creativity. In those embryonic heady days of the late 60s, early 70s, London was the antithesis of my constrained childhood and the catalyst for all that was to come.

In terms of creating an image, my fascination is with the micro-expression, a moment of beauty that can be captured in a fraction of a second, a frozen window into a sitter's inner world, an honest inescapable exposé of mood, emotion and atmosphere.

Michele Martinoli
www.michelemartinoli.com



Capturing that moment of beauty: In The Ring With Lisa

The photograph was created as part of a series for the London Olympics 2012. For the first time in the history of Olympic Games, women competed in boxing. (Nicola Adams won the flyweight tournament.) The model, Lisa, had been boxing training for 5 years when I took this shot. I rented the All Stars Boxing Gym, a London club that has produced several local and national champions, to recreate the exact feel of the ring. I wanted the model to choose her outfit in the colours of the Union Jack to complement the socks. We had one hour to get the shot; the place was icy cold, it's an old converted church. We tried to have a Union Jack flag on the ropes behind, then draped her with it but finally dropped the flag idea and concentrated on a strong pose, a real statement, a woman ready to fight. Success, we got the shot! I enhanced the colours to make the image more powerful. This work was exhibited at La Galerie de l'ARTsenal in Delemont, Jura.

Tips for improving your photographic skills

1. Your camera has different settings referring to the size of your final image. Set the resolution to 'high', you don't want to shoot your best friend's wedding, come home and find out all your scans are tiny and you can't have them printed.
2. Framing your image is crucial to a good photo. The Rule of Thirds is an important concept in photographic composition. Divide your image into 9 parts with 2 horizontal and 2 vertical lines equally spaced. The important components of your pictures should lie on one of those lines.
3. Avoid taking photos in the midday sun as this can lead to shadows and sharp angles on the face. Too much direct sun will also give your photos a washed-out look.

IMPRESSUM

HOW TO CONTACT THE EDITOR: Reports of Swiss society activities, news, coming events, correspondence, articles and advertising for the 'Switzerland in the UK & Ireland' section of the Swiss Review, should go to the editor:

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