

# REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM | IRELAND

## Editorial

During the last three months, many events were organised within the Swiss community. This is an encouraging sign that life is resuming at full speed after the difficult last couple of years.

First of all, several events are planned for the celebration of the Swiss National Day on August 1. Noteworthy, a new committee has been set up to organise a big celebration day in London, which will involve almost all Swiss institutions and clubs present in the City. Back in May, FOSSUK held its Annual General Meeting, with a special programme featuring prominent Swiss authorities and young Swiss students

from the best-known British universities. This issue features an interview with the new FOSSUK's president following the AGM. At the diplomatic level, the Swiss Federal President and the British PM emphasized the will to deepen the partnership between the UK and Switzerland, by signing a new trade deal. This highlights once again the good relations between the two countries.

Some clubs are experiencing a phase of regeneration, while others need new members to move forward. Everyone interested is therefore warmly invited to participate and contribute to the life of our clubs, which are vital to the future of our community.



GIOIA PALMIERI,  
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

## Swiss National Day in London:

# One of the biggest 1<sup>st</sup> of August ever organised

Swiss National Day Celebration will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of July at the German School in London. We ask Andreas Feller-Ryf, chair of the organisation committee, what's on the programme.

**SR:** This is going to be one of the biggest National Day celebrations organised in London in years. Many Swiss clubs are involved in the organisation. What's their contribution?

**AF:** My vision from the very beginning was not only to bring the Swiss community together but also the Swiss clubs and organisations. They are all doing incredible work within different parts of the Swiss community. The New Helvetic Society is sponsoring most of the entertainment, Unione Ticinese is bringing a touch of Southern Switzerland to the event with a Ticinese stand, the Swiss Church is sponsoring the children's programme, the Swiss Benevolent



**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
**12:00 – 18:30**

**German School**  
**London, Richmond**  
**TW10 7AH**

Full Programme | FAQs | Buy Event & Raffle Tickets

**www.snd-london.com**

Society is organising a Pub Quiz with a Swiss twist, the Embassy is sponsoring Swiss sparkling wine and is sending the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Switzerland for a welcome speech. Swiss National Day is truly a great team effort!

**SR:** Who else is involved and to

what extent?

**AF:** Swiss National Day 2022 wouldn't be possible without all our volunteers and sponsors. We received generous raffle prizes worth over £10,000. If you are unable to attend the event, you can buy your raffle tickets online to get a chance to win!

Volunteers for the event are very welcomed. Please write to: [snd.volunteers@outlook.com](mailto:snd.volunteers@outlook.com)

We have a range of tasks available that allow volunteers to enjoy the day as well. Volunteers also get food and drink vouchers and a welcome package.

**FOSSUK: AGM 2022** Look to the future

Hosted by the Swiss Embassy London, the 57<sup>th</sup> AGM was held on Saturday afternoon, 21<sup>st</sup> May. The new FOSSUK President, Ané-Mari Peter, reports.

**SR:** The AGM was particularly well attended this year, especially by a young audience. What made this possible and what feedback have you received?

**AP:** With a record-breaking 80 attendees it was wonderful to see the engagement between familiar faces and a new generation of Swiss. As the first big event after the pandemic and with a new Ambassador to the UK, people were keen to meet in person and enjoy the full cultural programme and complimentary Apéro. The tireless work of the FOSSUK Committee's new members brought not only fresh outreach to the traditional Swiss clubs, but a whole new audience from universities including the LSE, Oxford and Cambridge. That was the 'big draw', the Panel Discussion – The Next Generation Swiss.

**SR:** What are FOSSUK's goals and how will the Committee achieve them?

**AP:** The engagement and energy in the room at the AGM is the embodiment of our 'look to the future' strategy. The Committee has changed the way we work, with the biggest impact being specific community liaison led by Andreas Feller-Ryf (also our new Vice President) and supported by Michelle Hufschmidt (our new Treasurer) and Lakshmi Sundaram focusing on Schools and Students. We have a social media team led by Loredana Guetg-Wyatt with assistance from Lakshmi and administration and event support from Joelle Nebbe-Mornod (our new Secretary). Franz Muheim, who sits on the OSA Executive Committee will continue to lead topical discussions at OSA meetings, supported by the CSA Delegates.

As a very ambitious Committee we are initiating and driving large events such as the upcoming Swiss National Day London and our 2023 AGM in Oxford, and working on a programme of 'community evenings' to discuss topics from pensions to 'how to live in the UK' for our new settlers. We are working with the Swiss Business Hub, Universities and UK-Swiss Businesses to set-up entrepreneur

meetups. Monthly Committee meetings will bring more ideas and we'd like to hear from you on things that interest (or worry) you too!

**SR:** With attendance and talks by H.E. Leitner, Ambassador to the UK; Johannes Matyassy, Director of the Consular Direction FDFA and Filippo Lombardi, President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), there seems to be keen interest from the Swiss authorities in the UK expatriates. What is driving this?

**AP:** The majority of the 38,000 Swiss living and working in the UK are over 65 years old requiring very different services to the many young Swiss studying and working in the UK. Settling and staying in the UK has also become much more complex post-Brexit, in particular eligibility for joining the voluntary AHV / AVS scheme, health insurance, foreign banking fees, recognition of educational qualifications and access to voting papers / e-voting. The talks communicated the significant progress on further digitisation and increased availability of services and information through the [SwissCommunity.org](https://www.swisscommunity.org) portal, the Swiss Review and the FDFA consular online helpdesk.

ANÉ-MARI PETER, FOSSUK PRESIDENT



H.E. Ambassador Markus Leitner, Mr Johannes Matyassy (FDFA), Mr Filippo Lombardi (OSA), the new FOSSUK committee and outgoing President, Nathalie Chuard.



Swiss students from Oxford University, Cambridge University and the L.S.E. discuss their opportunities and challenges (moderated by OSA delegate Lakshmi Sundaram).



Top: René Dee presents the Life & Works of Maurice André Kaspar.

Left: Live performance by Swiss singer Alessia

## London: A new trade deal to deepen the partnership between the two countries

On 28 April, President Ignazio Cassis met with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss in London. President Cassis was also invited to pay a courtesy visit to Queen Elizabeth II.

Switzerland and the United Kingdom signed a joint declaration on the further development of their bilateral partnership and agreed to deepen cooperation in the field of science. They confirmed the launch of exploratory talks to modernise the existing trade agreement. Key topics of discussion included Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and its consequences, as well as Switzerland's and the UK's relations with the European Union.

The declaration signed by President Ignazio Cassis and Prime Minister Boris Johnson sets out the direction in which bilateral relations between Switzerland and the United Kingdom are to be further deepened and expanded, particularly in the areas of trade, financial services, research and innovation, mobility and foreign policy cooperation. The Federal Council approved this move at its meeting on 13 April.

«This is a roadmap for strengthening cooperation between our countries – a process that is already in full swing»

Both sides praised the quality of bilateral relations based on shared values and leadership in research, education and innovation. The joint declaration continues a long tradition, they said. 'This is a roadmap for strengthening cooperation between our countries – a process that is already in full swing,' said President Cassis.

The UK is Switzerland's eighth most important trading partner (ex-



President Ignazio Cassis met with British PM Boris Johnson and was also invited to pay a courtesy visit to the Queen.

cluding precious metals). Exploratory talks are now to be held to examine whether and how the existing trade agreement can be modernised and broadened, for example in areas such as services, the protection of intellectual property, trade and sustainable development. A further important topic of discussion was the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the areas of research, innovation and technology. A Memorandum of Understanding covering specific areas of cooperation is being drawn up and it is hoped that it will be ready to sign in the next few months, as agreed by Federal Council-

lor Guy Parmelin and the UK Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, George Freeman, in February.

A key part of the discussions was devoted to the war in Ukraine and its consequences. In a joint statement, President Cassis and Prime Minister Johnson emphasised their dismay at attacks on civilian facilities and condemned the violations of international law and humanitarian law. They also addressed the implementation of the respective sanctions and how to ensure humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine. The Ukraine Conference set to take place in Lugano in July, which is being jointly organised by Switzerland and Ukraine, was also discussed. In addition, in view of the current energy crisis, they touched on the envisaged energy dialogue, which is due to take place between Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga and the UK Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, Greg Hands, in the near future.

### More information:

The joint statement on enhancing bilateral relations between Switzerland and the UK can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/SR0301>

The joint declaration by Switzerland and the UK on the situation in Ukraine can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/SR0302>

## Chelsea Flower Show 2022:

## The Swiss Sanctuary Garden, a jewel of nature

A primary theme at this year's Chelsea Flower Show was to reflect of one of the aspects of the Covid pandemic: that a garden, however small, is a sanctuary, a place to de-stress, to reflect, to enjoy the simple pleasures of being surrounded by nature.

Many people with no previous interest in a garden have been inspired by the enforced 'down time' to take an interest in growing things: pretty things and useful things, and watching the birds, bugs and butterflies that come to visit even the smallest patch of cultivated ground. This year the Chelsea Flower Show has showcased a number of small 'Sanctuary Gardens' created by many different organisations. There were gardens created by the RNLI, MIND, there was an Ice Garden, a Green Planet and a Bee garden, alongside glorious displays to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Swiss Sanctuary Garden was a jewel among the Sanctuary Gardens this year, designed for Switzerland Tourism London by award-winning landscape architect Lilly Gomm. She is a big fan of alpine plants, admiring their beauty and their resilience in what can be exposed, harsh conditions in their natural mountain habitats.

The front of the garden opened with low-growing saxifrages, gentians and edelweiss either side of a gravel path, reminiscent of a hiking trail, that led to a waterfall that plunged into a two-metre rock lined pool. Beyond was a paved area of irregular fossil-encrusted slabs with sedums sprouting in the crevices, which supported a metal bench designed to resemble the criss-crossing of railway tracks. Towards the back of the garden were ferns, rhododendrons and pine trees, and the back boundary fence was created from carved wooden boards reminiscent of the decorations on a Swiss chalet.



Alphorn player Frances Jones supplied gentle musical melodies to complete the timeless idyll of the Swiss Sanctuary Garden.

Lorena Rebsamen, from Switzerland Tourism London, graced the garden wearing her grandmother's traditional costume from Luzern, while the final piece of the jigsaw was provided by Frances Jones, our very own alpenhorn player, who supplied gentle musical melodies to complete the timeless idyll of the Swiss Sanctuary Garden.

## Watch it on SFR

Tagesschau vom 26.05.2022:

[srf.ch/play/tv/tagesschau/video/tagesschau](https://srf.ch/play/tv/tagesschau/video/tagesschau)

## News from the Embassy

**EU Settlement Scheme: one year on**

It has been a year since the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme passed for Swiss citizens who were resident in the UK before 31 December 2020. If you do not hold joint Swiss-UK or Swiss-Irish citizenship and have been living in the UK since before that date, but missed the deadline a year ago, you can still apply if you can show 'reasonable grounds' for not applying by 30 June 2021.

[gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](https://gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)  
[eda.admin.ch/london/brexit](https://eda.admin.ch/london/brexit)

**Which travel document should Swiss-UK citizens use to enter the UK?**

Swiss-UK dual nationals are advised to use a UK passport at the UK border, as proof of their residence rights in the UK after Brexit. Entering the country on another passport and without supporting evidence of UK citizenship may lead to delays at the border.

## Edinburgh: The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a club that never gets old

The Edinburgh Swiss Club held its annual dinner celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Scottish Arts Club on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022, exactly two years after it was first scheduled in 2020, but it had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

The event started with a reception on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the venue, where president Ruth Muheim welcomed almost 40 attendees. She especially welcomed Simona Regazzoni and Andrea Hauri from the Swiss Embassy in London. They had travelled up to Scotland with the mobile passport machine, which enabled about 200 local Swiss residents to renew their passports without having to travel to London or Switzerland. The president then welcomed Peter Müller-McDougall, Honorary Council General in Edinburgh and thanked him for providing Swiss champagne and wine for the event. The reception was musically accompanied by Nathaniel Cartier, a Swiss artist, studying in Edinburgh, who entertained us on the piano. Everyone participating enjoyed being able to meet in person after the pandemic of the last two years. For coffee, we moved again upstairs where Ursula Ross, a long-standing member of the Swiss Club, told us how it all began.

In November 1960, Otto Hartmann, the owner of the Royal Mile Boutique in the Canongate put an advert in the personal columns of The Scotsman Newspaper, inviting local Swiss residents, who were interested in meeting other compatriots, to get in touch with him. A few Swiss replied and the Swiss Club Edinburgh was founded.

Helen Reid, the first president of the club is now 94 years old. She had planned to attend this anniversary event, but she had to cancel for health reasons. In the beginning, club members would meet every last Thursday of the month at the Boutique. Early celebrations featured

singing and dancing accompanied by Otto Hartmann on the accordion. Over the years the club's membership included permanent residents, au pair girls and students. At some point, the Swiss national day celebrations were carried out jointly with the Swiss clubs of Dunfermline and West of Scotland. For many years this took place on the first Saturday of August in Pittenweem, joining in their East Neuk torchlight parade, with the children carrying their lampions. There were many memorable Swiss club events over the years. A fundraiser took place in 1988 for the 'Place for the Swiss Abroad' in Brunnen, which featured Fahnschwinger and an alphorn blowing competition, organised by Miggi Meier of the Alphorn Restaurant. The celebration of 700 years of Switzerland Celebration at Hopetoun House in 1991 was organized by all Scottish Swiss clubs and attended by the Swiss Ambassador. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club was celebrated at Denzler's Restaurant with excellent food. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party at the Caledonian hotel was an elegant affair with alphorn blowers and a Swiss duet, organized by Freddie Wyser and the Committee.

Ursula Ross finished by inviting us to browse the red book of minutes. Afterwards, everyone said their goodbyes. Let's hope that we will have another anniversary celebration of the Club in 2030.

Nathaniel Cartier, Swiss singer and songwriter, entertained the guests with piano and sax.



Ruth Muheim, president of the club with her husband, Franz Muheim, member of OSA.



A special evening for the many guests presents during the club's 60<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration.



### The Swiss Artist dedicated to Edinburgh's Creative scene

Nathaniel Cartier, an active musician and artist from Zug currently studying Edinburgh, has co-founded – with fellow student, composer, and Scotsman Fraser Macdonald – a community interest company called: 'The Edinburgh Collective'. The Edinburgh Collective is an open network of artists around the Scottish Capital to bring new momentum and energy to the city's creative scene.

More info:

[nathanielcartier@hotmail.com](mailto:nathanielcartier@hotmail.com)  
[linktr.ee/n.cartier](https://linktr.ee/n.cartier)

The club met in May for the first time after the pandemic.



### Southern Area Swiss club: Skittles evening and First of August

Our club met on Tuesday 24.5.22 for our skittles evening, which was the first one after Covid outbreak. We enjoyed a fryer basket supper. We had a super turnout and everyone had a good time.

Our next events are:

Saturday 02.7.22: 2.30pm *Swiss Cake Fest*

Saturday 30.7.22: 5pm *1<sup>st</sup> August Celebration*

Both are at the Darby Green Hall, Blackwater, Camberley. For more information please contact Bernadette Curtress [berni@nbtsc.plus.com](mailto:berni@nbtsc.plus.com)

BERNADETTE CURTRESS

To get informed about the latest from the Swiss clubs and community living in the UK and to get in touch with the UK OSA delegates, please visit the website [swiss-societies.co.uk/](http://swiss-societies.co.uk/) and FOSSUK's social media:

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## Swiss books in translation

for more information, please contact:  
Iris Hunter, [ih10004@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ih10004@cam.ac.uk)



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## Unione Ticinese: The club's AGM, a successful 'hybrid event'

On Saturday 26 March, the general assembly of the UT marked a new turning point in our history. For the first time, we have had the ability to participate on Zoom and in person, thanks to the technical support of Andreas Arthofer.

This allowed our president, Emilie Martinoni Hogenboom to attend, despite the fact that she was affected by Covid. The formalities were followed by the screening of a film about the life of one of our great members and supporters, Pietro Jacomelli (JACKO). Born in London to a Ticino

family that had a restaurant. At the beginning of the war he enlisted in the English army. He ended up in a prison of a war camp, from where he managed to escape and return to England. He took over the family restaurant. This film, presented by Peter himself, all in Ticinese dialect (with subtitles) is an anti-war anthem. It was a moment of reflection for everyone and of memories for those who had known Peter. As always, our cooks Christiane Barber and Karin Lanini Arthofer have been very busy preparing a delicious buffet, which allowed us to reconnect with old members and meet new ones.

RITA DAY-GIOLLO



A walk discovering Ticinese history in London: fully booked with 20 participants from all generations! Descendants of older Ticinese immigrants and more recent ones! Peter Barber, historian extraordinaire, guided a wonderful tour.

## West Wales: Swiss National Day with a rich BBQ

Swiss (Inter-) National Day Celebration will be held on Monday, 1 August 2022 at the Garden Party at Fronhaul, Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire.

We are partying again. Please join us from 13.00 onwards and meet up with old and new friends for a good old chinwag and a meal from

my new BBQ (still an old oil barrel). Looking forward to welcoming you. The participation will set you back £15 pp. The charity we support this year is GTBAL: it is a non-for-profit organisation that provides the people of West Wales with a free, award winning, mental health support service funded by coffee, clothing and community.

BEAT & ELISABETH WEHREN  
BWEHREN@BTINTERNET.COM

## London: Homeless outreach and arts programme

The Swiss Church in London focuses its outreach and community work in three main areas: the Swiss community, the local homeless community, and the arts. In recent months, our homeless outreach and arts programme have seen an exciting post-pandemic comeback.



The relaunch of breakfast was made possible by the huge commitment of volunteer Andreas Feller-Ryf (OSA delegate).

Our weekly breakfast for the local community, launched eight years ago and shut down during the pandemic, is back at full speed once a week. We are now serving breakfast every Tuesday from 7:30–9:30am. The relaunch of breakfast was made possible by the huge commitment of volunteer Andreas Feller-Ryf (OSA delegate) and his newly recruited volunteer team. The offer is completed with monthly haircuts by Jake Fox, and a cooked full-English breakfast prepared by Robert Kaufeler and John Burley. Would you like to volunteer or sponsor the breakfast? Please reach out to [andreas.feller@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:andreas.feller@swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

After over 10 years of building up its Arts Programme, the Swiss Church has for the first time invited art alumni to a networking evening on 28 May. Over 25 artists came together. Co-chairs Mary Branson and Julie Hoyle gave speeches about their own artwork and the church's upcoming arts programme. Swiss artist Carol Wyss will be showing her exhibition 'The Mind has Mountains' from 25–28 August. Reach out to Diane if you would like to get involved: [art@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:art@swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

**Manchester:** Swiss club looking for new committee members

You may already be aware that the Swiss Club Manchester has been in existence since 1850.

Our Swiss Club has changed in many ways over the last 20 years. The Committee would like to make sure that the proud history and heritage of our Club is preserved for many years to come. This is not an easy task to achieve, as the number of Club Members has been decreasing over the years. We therefore appeal to all members to actively encourage

(extended) family and friends to join our Club. As you know, it isn't necessary to be a Swiss National to join. The number of Committee Members is now critically low. We really need new Committee Members as 2 members may retire in the near future after many years of dedication to the Club. Why don't you step forward? We may otherwise have to reduce our social programme or, in the worst case scenario, liquidate the Club in the not too distant future, which would be a crying shame. Let us all hope it won't come to that.

JUERG BENTELE, PRESIDENT

**CLUB'S NEXT EVENTS:**

**July, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Swiss National Day**

Brookdale Club Bridge Lane, Stockport SK7 3AB

**October, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Coffee morning 11am to 1 pm**

Wilmslow Garden Centre, Manchester Rd, Wilmslow SK9 2JN

**December Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Samichlaus**

Brookdale Club Bridge Lane, Stockport SK7 3AB

Club Info: [ftblum@gmail.com](mailto:ftblum@gmail.com)



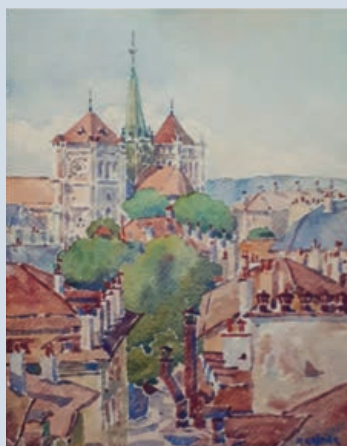
Raclette Party on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Brookdale Club.

**Swiss in Swansea:** Next appointments

**Sunday 31 July** Celebrate the Swiss National Day in Swansea Open Garden from 2pm at Ruth & John Thomas, Swansea.

**Sunday 4 December** 'Samichlaus in the woods' at Pentlegaer Woods, Swansea SA4 9GS. More info on [www.swissinwales.org](http://www.swissinwales.org) and on FB Swiss in Wales.

For Swiss Events in North Wales, contact Beatrice Schlegel [www.beatservices.co.uk](http://www.beatservices.co.uk)



This is a never-before-seen exhibition of Maurice André Kaspar.

**12–17 July:** Swiss artist's watercolour paintings

The long-awaited exhibition revealing the never-before seen water colour paintings of Maurice André Kaspar (almost 200 of them) will take place at the Royal Watercolour Society's Bankside Gallery, London on 12–17 July, supported by New Helvetic Society, Geneva Tourism and Congress Foundation, Carouge Museum, Notre Histoire and La Palette Carougeoise. The exhibition is personally endorsed by its Patron, Leila el-Wakil from Geneva and formally opened by Alexandre Kaspar, Maurice Kaspar's Great-Grandson.

NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE

**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: GIOIA PALMIERI  
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L4 0TE, Liverpool mail: [editor@swissreview.co.uk](mailto:editor@swissreview.co.uk)

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**Next Issues**

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