

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Editorial

Swiss National Day is the one day of the year when the expat community comes out in force. As you will see, hundreds celebrated across the UK and Ireland.

■ For generations the banking, accountancy and legal professions have provided the main employment in Edinburgh. Seeing a potential for growth, a Zurich-based banking software pro-

vider has confirmed its ambition for a stronger presence in Scotland, potentially doubling its current workforce in the Scottish capital.

■ There are interesting times ahead for two of the Swiss community's most prestigious associations both of which have seen changes in leadership in the past couple of months.



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

News: Federation ripe for change

'Change is in the air' was the theme of this year's FOSSUK AGM in London. President Margrit Lyster opened the meeting by delving back into the history of the federation.

It transpired that this year was FOSSUK's 50th anniversary, although according to records members had been meeting for 67 years. In 1948, the umbrella organisation was founded as the 'Assembly of Presidents of Swiss Societies in the UK'. It became a 'Federation' in October 1965.

Just as changes and adjustments were thought to be necessary all these years ago, the time was again considered ripe for some noted changes. As a first step, Margrit Lyster stepped aside as President in order to make room for her younger successor, Loredana



Guetg-Wyatt, who together with some newly-elected Committee members plans to modernise the organisation. Margrit Lyster was duly acknowledged for her achievements during her four years as president.

After the statutory part of the meeting it was time for the guest speakers to take to the podium. (Their presentations are available on the FOSSUK website). Robert Engeler, Treasurer of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, described plans to restore the Area for the Swiss Abroad in Brunnen. Those attending the afternoon session donated a generous SFR 500 towards the renovation work.

The successful meeting closed with an invitation from Swiss Club Edinburgh to meet in Scotland for the AGM in 2016.

Clubs: FOSSUK president plans ahead

I often hear from Swiss (especially the younger generation) that they have not come to the UK to become members of Swiss societies.

I personally believe that, whatever the reason you come to the UK, you can benefit from the knowledge of others, with a common background, already living in the country. It is obviously easier nowadays to move from one country to another, but there are often hidden challenges that a Swiss should be aware of when making critical decisions on private matters such as pensions, health insurance, education

and family. These matters are discussed at length by our Swiss societies and open, regional forums are often organised for the most important topics.

Sadly, the UK has seen a number of Swiss associations close in the past year. It is a shame to see long-established associations disappearing. It is our aim at FOSSUK to ensure adequate support is available to all Swiss associations in the UK. However, we also need your help. FOSSUK maintains a database, but it often needs updating. For this reason, I would ask all clubs and societies to provide us with up-to-date infor-

mation to ensure that Swiss in the UK have a complete and accurate overview of Swiss societies and associations.

2015 represents a year of change for FOSSUK. To improve communications, we are looking to make better use of social media. With this in mind, a new Facebook page and twitter account will be launched this coming September. We are also planning a quarterly newsletter. Please do visit and subscribe to our new social media sites.

LOREDANA GUETG-WYATT
PRESIDENT, FOSSUK

Retirement & Estate Planning

What are the Assets? **Where** are the Assets? **Who** owns the Assets?

Who Cares: The Family and Taxman!

When: 10th September; 6:30pm

Where: Swiss Embassy London

Entrance: Free, but registration is essential

Forum: Insuring the Future

Nowadays it is vital to plan for retirement. As businesses become more global, it is not unusual to have a career that involves more than one country and employer. This means accumulating 'assets', private and public pensions, bank accounts and possibly homes, which may also be located in different countries. All this has an important bearing on our families and, of course, the various tax authorities.

In an effort to help you with this complex challenge, FOSSUK, with the support of the Swiss Embassy in London, City Swiss Club, the New

Helvetic Society and Unione Ticinese will be holding a special information event on this topic on Thursday, 10th September.

A panel of experts will discuss UK Tax issues for those retiring overseas, Swiss Tax and Pension Developments, the UK Pension Act and HMRC approved trusts, amongst other topics.

The event will be chaired by Nicholas Niggli, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires a.i.. The other distinguished panel members are Christopher Coleridge Cole who has over 36 years experience in the UK financial planning industry and supporting UK-based expatriates. Andrew Goodman specialises in personal tax and estate planning, while David Wallace Wilson is the chairman of STEP Geneva, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, which assists professionals in maintaining the highest standards in serving their clients.

FOSSUK TEAM



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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:

1 – 3 December 2015

(deadline for appointments: 20 November 2015)

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.**

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1: Manchester's Mai Bummel

20 hikers and a dog met at the Ring O'Bells pub, Marple (at the edge of the Peak District), for a leisurely walk mainly along the Peak Forest Canal, one of Britain's most scenic waterways. It was quite surprising that nobody cried off, as the weather had a 'November-ish' feel to it, despite it being the end of May. But as we say up north: when the going gets tough, the tough get going!

What really kept us going was the knowledge that we would have a hearty lunch and one or two thirst-quenching pints after a few miles of walking in the hilly countryside. To our delight the famous Northwich-based 'Roberts Bakery Brass Band' played outside the pub in the afternoon, which rounded off a delightful day very nicely.

JUERG BENTELE, SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER



2: Snowdonia national park at its best

A wonderful day was had by all 35 Swiss living in Wales and its border region who met for the first summer outing organised by North Wales Swiss Club to the Snowdonia National Park. The delightful Ffestiniog Railway carried the guests through picturesque countryside from Porthmadoc to Tan-y-Bwlch. Andrew Oughton from the Snowdonia National Park Environmental Studies Centre and garden consultant Tony Russell met us off the train and described the history of the woods, gardens and stately home (Plas Brondanw) during the walk to the park.

The star attraction of the day was naturally the Swiss Embassy's Consul General Hermann Aebischer, his wife Priska and little Luna, their chihuahua, who attracted the attention of the young and



young-at-heart! It was a great opportunity to chat informally with the consul general. The outing was considered a big success and ended with speeches from the honorary consul in Cardiff, Ruth Thomas-Lehmann and Mr. Aebischer.

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL, NORTH WALES SWISS CLUB

3: A busy year in West Surrey

For some reason we went a bit mad this year and planned 8 events! Our year began in April with a visit to GLive in Guildford to listen to the Bern Symphony Orchestra. Since then we have enjoyed a pub lunch by the River Wey followed by a short walk to Dunsborough Park Tulip Festival, there was a sumptuous Sunday buffet at the Runnymede Hotel to celebrate Swiss Mother's Day and in June we had a lovely day at Cliveden. 49 of us including some new members recently celebrated National Day in traditional style at a new cosy venue in Ripley Village Hall with a firework finale. Plans for the remainder of the year include lunch with skittles in Ewhurst, lunch and a matinee at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond and finally, Advent lunch at Kinghams restaurant in Shere. It seems that this year six out of eight events have included lunch at some point. There was a time when we used to simply hike and picnic. How times change!

PETER CROZIER, WEST SURREY SWISS CLUB

4: Southern Region Swiss Club

Our members enjoyed a fabulous skittles and curry evening in May. The overall winners were presented with a bottle of wine.

BERNI CURTRESS, SOUTHERN AREA SWISS CLUB

Obituary: Marthe H el ene Anderson 1926-2015

The Swiss Club Edinburgh is sad to announce the passing of one of its founding members;

Marthe H el ene Anderson, 28 February 1926 - 4 May 2015.

In the Autumn of 1960 Otto Hartmann (Murdoch) posted an advert in the Scotsman newspaper, asking if there were any Swiss persons in Edinburgh interested in meeting other compatriots

with a view to possibly forming a Swiss Club. H el ene as she was known to us, was one of five Swiss, who answered that advert, met up in the Royal Mile Boutique then consequently founded the Swiss Club Edinburgh.

For many years H el ene, with her vivacious personality, was a very active member of the Club and a valued friend, especially to

the other founder members of which three are still with us. Sadly in the latter years her health was failing and she could no longer take part in Club activities.

We did, however, keep in touch and she always enjoyed a visit. She is missed by all who knew her.

URSULA ROSS

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH WELFARE



1: Swiss Club Edinburgh

This year's celebration was particularly special, not only for the idyllic setting of the home of club member Irene Woerz in North Berwick, but also because we had the Swiss Gospel Choir as our invited guests. The choir had been touring and performing in five different locations in Scotland. Some 64 people enjoyed the hospitality of Irene and the traditional BBQ fare of cervelats, bratwurst and salads.

FREDDIE WYSER

2: Manchester Swiss Club

A few hours' break in the wet weather saw over 60 members and friends enjoying the now traditional and fabulous celebrations of our National Day in Manchester. A festive hall, delicious food and, of course, the address of our Bundespraesidentin, which stressed the importance of the Swiss Abroad's contributions and votes, culminated in our singing (perhaps for the last time?) our National Anthem. Then the truly amazing fireworks display and songs, in three of our languages, around the blazing fire ended this happiest of evenings. Once again, huge thanks to our tireless committee for the many hours of work put in to make it all possible!

ERIKA WOOD

3: North Wales Swiss Club

A super day was had by all at Martin and Ghislaine's home and we even managed to soak up some sun and fit in a few sporty games after our hearty BBQ!! Many thanks to Helen – our new honorary Swiss member – for her amazing baking skills. Best wishes to all for making such a great effort.

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL

4: Midlands Swiss Society

A damp evening brightened up by our young guests who had lots of fun with the Alpenhorn.

GRAHAM BAKER



5: West Surrey Swiss Club

49 of us including some new members celebrated National Day in traditional style at a new cosy venue in Ripley Village Hall with a firework finale.

PETER CROZIER

6: London clubs and societies

The Swiss community and friends of Switzerland from the London area gathered at University College London to celebrate Swiss National Day. Some 300 revellers, including many children, enjoyed a sunny day eating raclette, veal sausages and cervelas. The Giggle Doctors and a team from the Swiss Church entertained the little ones with face painting, a treasure hunt and a dance workshop culminating in a procession with lanterns the children had created earlier. Dana Gillespie, Nicolas Meier and Mornington Lockett with their musicians gave a fabulous concert of jazz and blues to end a thoroughly enjoyable day.

DANIEL PEDROLETTI

7: Ireland

Ireland's Swiss National Day celebrations were held in the beautiful gardens of the Ambassador's residence in Dublin. The much-anticipated, annual event was attended by the diplomatic corps, Irish dignitaries and members of the Swiss Club Ireland and the Swiss community in Ireland. Approximately 450 guests enjoyed a range of Swiss delicacies – Swiss sausages and cheese, raclette and Swiss wine. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

Yorkshire Swiss Club

We spent an enjoyable time on top of Ilkley Moor on August 1st. A pleasant lunch, with lots of good 'natter', was enjoyed in the Cow & Calf Hotel. The area always reminds us of the beautiful hills in Switzerland.

EVY WARDILL



Feature: SBS Tea Party grows in stature

The Swiss Benevolent Society's annual Senior Citizen's Tea Party is more popular than ever.

Over 50 guests celebrating their 80th, 85th and 90th (and onwards) birthdays in 2015 were welcomed by Ambassador H.E. Domink Fugler at the Embassy who also introduced the charity's new chairman, Suzanne Egloff. Suzanne takes over from Alan Martin who retired earlier this year following 12 years of service with the SBS. In his opening speech, the Ambassador made a special point of thanking Alan for his tremendous commitment to the charity.

Suzanne went on to explain the work of the Society. The principal aim is to enhance the quality of life of fellow Swiss, old and young, from all walks of life, who are experiencing difficulties. It also supports and informs its compatriots about issues of concern and interest through its welfare officer and public seminars.

After a toast to the birthday guests with sparkling Swiss wine everyone tucked into sandwiches and scones. This was followed by a quiz and a session of bingo. The party closed with a wonderful sing-along of popular Swiss songs.

SUZANNE EGLOFF
CHAIRMAN OF THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



For further information please visit:
www.swissbenevolent.org.uk

Music: Swiss violinist at Drogheda

The opening concert of the Drogheda International Classical Music Series will feature the Irish pianist, Finghin Collins and Swiss/Russian violinist and composer Ilya Gringolts.

The concert will take place in St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda on Friday 11th September at 7:30pm. Ilya will also give masterclasses to the young musicians in the Julianstown Youth Orchestra.



Music: Folkloristic twist to Award Concerts

Exciting new duo Viviane Chassot (accordion) and David Pia (cello) are the winners of this year's Swiss Ambassador's Award. Their unusual combination of instruments represents a new venture for this concert series, which gets under way in October. The prize-winning pair, who both graduated in Switzerland, currently work with eminent conductors and are frequent guests at international festivals. An exclusive programme has been put together for this tour, including the world première of several pieces written for the duo by Swiss composer Helena Winkelman.



Arts: Basel Orchestra in Dublin

On Tuesday, 29th September the Basel Symphony Orchestra, under its distinguished American Musical Director Dennis Russell Davies and with pianist Alice Sarah Ott, will perform at the National Concert Hall Dublin. After an intriguing opening work by five of the group of French composers known as Les Six (originally a ballet created by Jean Cocteau), Ravel's G major Piano Concerto shares an Anglo-French (and celestial) billing with Holst's Planets.

www.nch.ie/online

UK Tour dates

- 22 October 2015
London, Wigmore Hall
- 23 October 2015
Cardiff, Wales Millennium Centre
- 26 October 2015
Belfast, Queen's University
- 27 October 2015
Edinburgh, The Balmoral

Golf: A matter of luck?

There was a lot of good will at the Swiss Golf Day at Batchworth Park Golf Club in June. Joe Mascarenhas ended the 18-hole course with the top score, but as Joe is a member at Batchworth and felt he had an unfair advantage he generously handed his prize to the runner-up, John Piggot. But it was David Cole, who should receive the greatest accolade. David picks up the story:

'The 4th hole was the par three, it was slightly downhill about 120 yards, not long, but surrounded by bunkers. As many golfers know you have to have some luck when teeing off and things were not going my way. I'd already struggled out of a water hazard. I took a pitching wedge and made a good connection, the ball flew high and landed on the green, it rolled forward about 3 meters straight into the hole! There were high fives all round. Back in the clubhouse, I offered everyone champagne. Luckily there were not many people in the competition, so it only cost me about £65!'

Our next trophy day will be held on Monday 21st September at Silvermere Golf Club. All are welcome.

Contact: Jeffrey Long MBE for further details:
01274 560 780 or jeffreymbef@hotmail.co.uk



Hole-in-one David



Rugby 7s: Swiss rugby comes to London

Swiss rugby club 7 SIRS took on some of the world's best rugby sevens teams in London this summer at the Sevens and the City tournament, which was held at Allianz Park – home of the premiership champions Saracens.

This was the team's first appearance at a UK tournament and finding themselves in a particularly strong group the 7 professional and non-professional rugby players, mainly from Switzerland and Italy, were sadly unable to make it through to the semi-finals. However, they did make a big impact against England who went on to win the tournament. Buoyed up following the tournament, the team are already making preparations to return to England next year to show that a Swiss rugby club can compete at the highest level of rugby sevens.

ALBERTO STIVAL, PRESIDENT AS SIRS

For more information:
www.7sirs.ch or alberto.stival@bluewin.ch

Business: Scottish expansion of Swiss software provider

The Zurich-based banking software provider, Avaloq group, confirmed its ambition for a stronger presence in Scotland at a recent event held at its Research and Development (R&D) centre in Edinburgh.

The investment in the facility will provide Avaloq with the potential to more than double its current workforce in Scotland. Chris Zwicker (left), managing director of Avaloq Innovation, which was founded in 2011, said, 'The launch is an important milestone in the evolution of Avaloq's R&D centre in Edinburgh.'

The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, The Rt Hon Donald Wilson and Peter Mueller, Honorary Consul General of Switzerland in Scotland acknowledged the economic importance of skills-driven investment and praised the excellent working relationship between all stakeholders involved.

PETER MUELLER-MCDOUGALL

HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND – EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND



Letters to the editor

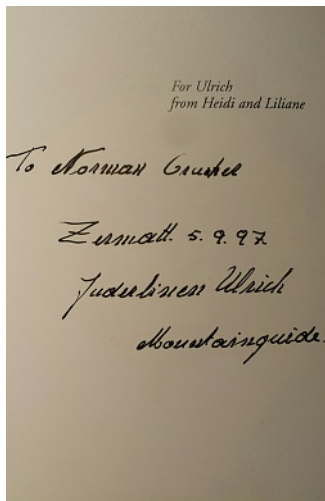
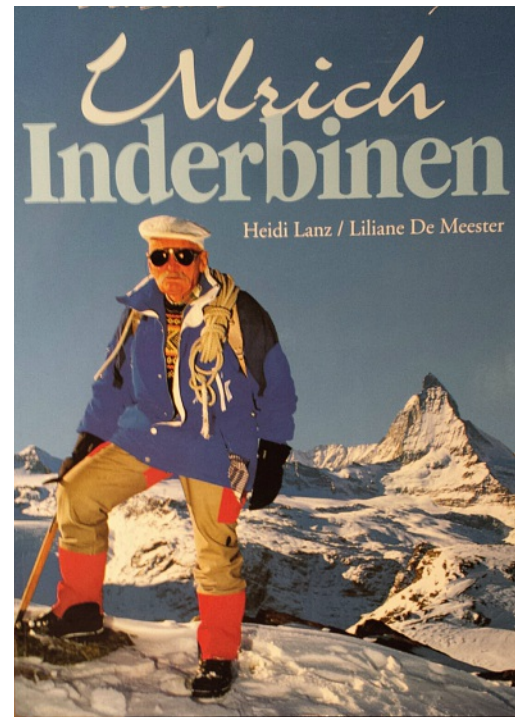
Dear Editor,

Glancing through the newspaper recently my eye was immediately drawn to a beautiful photograph of the Matterhorn – that majestic Swiss icon pointing its finger to the blue Alpine sky. The article marked the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of the mountain in July 1865 by Edward Whymper and his group of seven mountaineers.

The article reminded me of a book I had come across some ten years earlier while browsing along the bookshelves of Oxfam in Stratford-upon-Avon; ‘As old as the century – Ulrich Inderbinen’. What a find! Born in 1900, he was 90 when he last climbed the Matterhorn, which was on the 125th anniversary of the first ascent. As I turned the pages, photograph after photograph charted his life entwined with a social history of Zermatt. Of course the book came home with me.

In addition, Ulrich Inderbinen had signed the book to Norman Croucher in 1997, its year of publication. I had always been aware of the inscription on the front page, but had not thought too much about it until now. A quick look on Google led me to double leg amputee mountaineer, Norman Croucher. Could my book celebrate the coming together of two renowned men of the mountains?

PAMELA FREY, CHICHESTER WEST SUSSEX



Dear Pamela,

Norman Croucher, author of *Legless but Smiling*, had in fact been in Zermatt around the time of publication, but he never met the renowned mountain guide Ulrich Inderbinen. Norman had been asked to accompany two students from Burgess Hill School for Girls in Sussex during their ascent of the Matterhorn as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. They were also joined on that trip in 1997 by John Cullinan, whose grandfather Sir Fred Cullinan had climbed the mountain in 1877. However, poor weather conditions had closed the ‘Mountain of Mountains’ for several weeks that summer, so the group climbed Monte Rosa instead. The girls’ head teacher, Rosemary Lewis, had noticed ‘a very old man’ signing books in Zermatt and without realising who he was had asked him to sign the book to Norman Croucher as a thank you gift. Many years later Norman had passed the book on to the Devon Air Ambulance charity shop in Exeter and somehow it found its way onto the bookshelves of Oxfam in Stratford-upon-Avon. And there possibly lies another story!

THE EDITOR



Event: The Matterhorn sparkles in the night

50 lamps along the Hörnli-grat are illuminated each evening until the end of September to mark the route of the first ascenders from 1865. The illumination can be seen from Zermatt three times each night for 11 minutes at 9.15pm, 10pm and 10.30pm.

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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