Switzerland in the UK

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After being hidden in a storeroom for 14 years...

London's giant Appenzell painting goes back home

For 27 years it had pride of place in one of London's most popular restaurants. It was a gigantic oil painting, 7.5 metres long and 2 metres deep in the distinctive style of the farmerpainters of Appenzell.

It typified the unmistakable Appenzeller landscape, with cows, goats, houses, flags and country people in their traditional costumes.

Its home was the wall of one of the four restaurants that occupied the basement of the towering Swiss Centre in London's Leicester Square.

It had been commissioned by the designer of the Swiss Centre, Justus Dahinden, a leading Lucerne architect, but there is now no record of the name of the artist.

By 1992 major changes were under way at the Swiss Centre. Mövenpick, who owned the four restaurants, decided to close them down and replace them with a London version of their flagship Mövenpick Marché.

And that meant disposing of all the fittings and decorations, including the celebrated painting.

The contract to carry out the work was given to a second generation London Swiss, Max Ott.

He had started a cabinet making business in Tufnell Park, London in 1954, specialising in interior carpentry, and in partnership with another Swiss carried out small building projects.

He and his team soon moved out all the unwanted material in the four restaurants, but when they came to take down the painting they faced an awkward problem.

Being a true Swiss, Max Ott hadn't the heart to destroy the

painting, which he admired as a real work of art. But, given its dimensions, he couldn't think of another use for it.

Reluctantly he rolled it up and put it in one of his



Max Ott: The man who saved the 'lost' painting from being destroyed

storerooms, hoping that one day he would be able to find a new home for it. And there it remained, completely ignored, until last year when Max, now approaching his 80th birthday, decided he needed more storage space and set about clearing out his storerooms.

Re-discovering the forgotten painting, he realised he had a moral obligation to find a suitable home for it. He turned for advice to Albert Kunz, the former director of Switzerland Tourism in London, and on whose initiative the Swiss Centre had been built by a consortium of his then employers, the Swiss Bank Corporation and Swissair.

He talked to Urs Eberhard, deputy director of Switzerland Tourism and himself a former head of the London office. And he in turn sought the

help of Appenzell Tourism, who

came up with an ideal location – the summit station of Mount Säntis, which is visited by half a million people every year.

SR/5/06

So the decision was taken. But first the ravages of time had made their mark. Roland Inauen, curator of the Appenzell Museum, was asked to give his advice, and professional restorers were called in.

A place of honour has been found for it at the top of Mount Säntis, and the icing on the cake is that the Lord Mayor of Westminster, has agreed to officially unveil the spruced up painting that was such a familiar sight in its former home in the heart of London, now back in the land that gave it its inspiration.

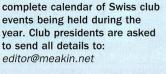
Want to find out more For the full story go to: www.swissreview.co.uk/story/197

The Swiss Review web site,

updated daily, includes a

Switzerland in the UK has its own Internet site, continually bringing you up to the minute news of the latest events as well as major stories from the most recent issues and links to other interesting sites in both the UK and Switzerland. To access it go to: *www.swissreview.co.uk*







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How a school trip turned into a love affair with Switzerland

It was a school trip to the Bernese Oberland that was to change 12 year old Arthur Broadhurst's life.

The Manchester schoolboy, travelling by mountain railway and cable car, was amazed by the dramatic landscape, the peaks and glaciers, and equally impressed by the people he met.

A few years later, on holiday in Cornwall, he met a girl from Sumiswald in the Emmental called Huldi Reist. It was love at first sight.

They married in Berne, and for the next five years Arthur immersed himself in learning German and becoming absorbed in Swiss life and customs before returning to Manchester and carving out a career as the city's leading valuation surveyor.

Now he finds himself in a new role, and one that ties him even more closely to Switzerland. He has been appointed Honorary Swiss Consul for the North of England. The latest in a long line of honorary consuls, consuls and consuls general who for almost a century have been dedicated to furthering relations between Switzerland and a vast area stretching from the North Midlands to Scotland.

Of his new role Arthur said:

"It is a huge honour that

Switzerland has conferred on me. "Both Huldi and I are looking forward to the challenge it presents and will try hard to

justify the confidence placed in us. "I now want to do all I can to support the Swiss community in the North of England and to develop friendships and help wherever I can.

"The other part of my role will be to develop and establish Switzerland's interests in economic, scientific and cultural fields, which will benefit from the experience I have had for more than 30 years with the business community in Manchester and elsewhere in the North. I am also looking forward to maintaining links with civic authorities and local institutions."

The address of the new honorary consulate is 5th floor, Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M2 2GP. The phone number is 0161 833 0033, and the email address is arthurbroadhurst@thorburnvaluers.co.uk.





Arthur Broadhurst: 'After my visit I was smitten by anything Swiss'

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Celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2006

The Committee of the City Swiss Club invites all members, fellow Swiss and friends of Switzerland to:

A Gala Banquet & Ball to celebrate the City Swiss Club's 150th Anniversary

at Claridge's on Saturday, 25 November 2006

Featuring some special Gala entertainment at one of London's most prestigious hotels.

If you would like to receive further information and/or an invitation, please contact Julie Streader as soon as possible by phone or e-mail (please see below)

Please also contact: Julie to learn more about the Club and/or receive a membership form.

City Swiss Club, c/o Arbuthnot House, 20 Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AR. Telephone: 020 7012 2400 www.cityswissclub.org info@cityswissclub.org

Building a reputation for Swiss quality in the UK

There is a little corner of London that is turning into a mini Switzerland. Here a group of Swiss workers have set up home, from where they travel each day to use Swiss materials and Swiss expertise in a variety of different building projects.

It all began five years ago



Martin Lipp: 'More and more people are insisting on high quality

when Martin Lipp decided there were excellent opportunities in the UK for expanding his general contracting and interior decorating business.

Since then this small but dynamic company has gone from strength to strength as its reputation has soared. particularly in the London area.

One exceptional project currently under way is the complete renovation of a two level penthouse near Hyde Park, but enquiries are now coming in from all parts of the country.

While the head office is in Lucerne, Martin Lipp himself is now spending more and more time in London. There is also a project leader who stays in London three days every week, and a group of foremen who are here permanently.

To mark the fifth anniversary the entire team has been for a sailing holiday off the coast of Maiorca.

Said Martin Lipp: "It was our way of saying thank you to our staff for the way they have really helped us establish ourselves in the UK."

Asked for the reason for his company's success he said: "Our slogan is 'Swiss quality on time - always" and that is just what a typical Lipp client expects. We find that more and more people are insisting on high quality when it comes to home renovation.

"And that quality comes from qualified Swiss craftsmen who have all served a lengthy Swiss apprenticeship.

"All manufacturing takes place in Switzerland, and all fitting and finishing work is carried out by expert tradesmen under Swiss management."

However, his experience is that good craftsmen are not easy to find in London, and that he can get work done in half the time taken by British builders.

And the future? "To build on past successes - and to work on even more interesting, extravagant and luxurious projects."



contact the editor

Reports of Swiss society activities and coming events, and articles and correspondence for the 'Switzerland in the UK' section of the Swiss Review, should go to the editor, Derek Meakin, at: Charter House, 1-3 Charter Way,

Macclesfield SK10 2NG. Tel: 01625 442 707.

His email address is: editor@meakin.net.

Enquiries regarding advertising should go to Jeffrey Long, 30 Finsbury Drive, Bradford BD2 1QA. Tel/fax: 01274 588 189. The 'Switzerland in the **UK' supplement appears** four times a year. The deadline for the next issue containing UK news, to be distributed in January, is December 21.



Swiss Church London

Come and join us to see three recent and successful Swiss films at the Swiss Church in London. – Entrance is free, drinks are available.



:30pm Mein Name ist Eugen (2005) Adventurous for everybody! anguage: Swiss German From 6 years old

ursday, 23 November 2006



Thursday, 11 January 2007 7:30pm Grounding – die letzten Tage der Swissair (2006) A moving documentary drama nguage: Swiss Ger



7:30pm Snowwhite (2005) "Party, sex, drugs and two lakes." Language: German, English subtitles From 15 years old.

Thursday, 8 February 2007

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www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk

Spiritual home for the Swiss in the UK since 1762

Will the Eiger be our greatest explorer's toughest challenge



ded North Face of the Eiger has claimed many lives. Now its formle on is to be tested by a man who admits he has a fear of height

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MordWandt, the Death with " unk over we years has teamed as many lives. And what is even stranger, he admits that he is "terrified of heights." The epic climb planned for next March has two atmixs to prove he can do Li and to raise at least £1 million for Mare Carle Cancer Care. President of the Apine Cub, says in the Sunday Transe's that being president of the Apine Cub, says in the Sunday Transe's that being hough a superiod surversid landscape... But new ou approach with respect. Get caught up in a sform halfway up that mile high concerve shell and you could be fighting for your life". As so many did before him – and lost. To support Ranuph Fiennes in this epic climb you can donate at: www.mariecute.org.uk/EigerChallenge.

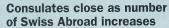


21% of UK Swiss row have the vote

clear that our nation has a lot to gain from allowing its citizens abroad to share their experiences and take part in debates and elections." Bit, he said, the OSA had no intention of resting on its laurels, and the campaign for solution

The AGM speeches by Dr Wyder and Beat Kaser can be found in full at: www.swissreview.co.uk/story/193 and www.swissreview.co.uk/story/195





switzerland in the uk

One subject of particular concert to Swiss living north of Bimnigham has been this year's closure of the Swiss Consulate General in Manchester. And this is far from being the only one to shut down. Dr Wyder revealed that while the number of Swiss moving abroad between 1990 and the end of 2005 increased by a

ind of 2005 increase assive 180,000, the consulates fell by ment level of 44. So within just 15 actically every fourth as disanneared " he

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No wonder the Queen wonden the OBE 'for uman endeavour'. No wonder those Sharles said of him: Wy admiration for Ran is kxists. The world would be a luft place without him.⁴ And now, at the age of 62, he is determined to do the near mossible - to limb the North Face of the Eiger. The so called fordWand, the Death Wall - that over the years has claimed so nany lives.

"On the other hand it is also Swiss Abroad get a new Ambassador

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said a temporary goodbye to or Peter Sutter, for the last

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Mums and toddlers have fun at the Swiss church

The Swiss church in London is broadening its activities for the benefit of Swiss families living in the capital.

It all began two years ago with the launching of a toddlers' group, to which 15 families now belong. There are lots of toys for children to play with, and once a month there is a special animated session which includes songs, stories, arts and crafts and games.

Said Valérie Lehmann: "It's an opportunity for parents to make friends and exchange information, and for children to meet others of similar age with the same mother tongue."

Now these efforts are being extended to older children, with a new series of family activities including picnics and get togethers in playgrounds, parks and museums.

Forthcoming events are: Saturday, November 11 –

- Saturday, November 11 -Visit to the Science Museum.
 Sunday, December 3 -
- Preparation of Christmas decorations.
- Sunday, December 17 –



Christmas family service.

 January (date yet to be announced) – Visit to the Museum of Childhood. Last year the church

introduced a creche during all Sunday services, which is now held on the first and third Sunday of each month. It encourages children of all ages to discover for themselves different arts and crafts activities.

The church's family programme is available by email, flyer and in the Swiss Church News.

For further details look at www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk, or contact Valérie Lehmann direct at: lehmann@fsmail.net.

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90 years in the service of the community

The London group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique was founded on June 8, 1916. A year later the work of the society was considered important enough to warrant a full-time paid secretary.

How times have changed! The work is nowadays entirely voluntary and much appreciated. It should be noted that the early predecessors of our present honorary officers were looking after a society with 600 members and there were no computers.

In those early years the New Helvetic Society was heavily involved in finding Swiss correspondents for English newspapers and in the formation

By REGULA MARSH-HILFIKER President of the New Helvetic Society

of a study group examining economic and commercial issues.

This led to the conclusion that a Swiss Chamber of Commerce in London would be desirable and resulted in the first appointment of a commercial attaché at the Swiss Legation – now the Swiss Embassy – in 1918.

The society was also instrumental in creating the Organisation of Swiss Abroad in Switzerland.

In 1919 a few influential members of the society and the City Swiss Club got together and launched the Swiss Observer which, for many years afterwards, was a magazine for the whole Swiss community in the United Kingdom.

The society has been active ever since, organising talks, meetings, musical soirées and much more. Here are just a few lesser known activities:

• 1926: The society was asked to sell 1st of August badges for the first time – and we still do so in 2006.

• June 1946: The society assisted in presenting 100 sets of furniture to help British families after the war, a task undertaken by the Women's Voluntary Service.

• 1966: The society actively participated in the celebration of the 675th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation at Wimbledon Town Hall on August 1st and at the same time

celebrated its own Golden Jubilee. • In the seventies, the society continued to be the official forum for discussing problems affecting Swiss abroad.

• Since 1984 the format of having an informal reception following meetings was

established and still continues to this day. Then in 1985 the publication of the Swiss Observer came to an end.

• 1991: 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation, 75th anniversary of the New Helvetic Society in London. Both still going strong.

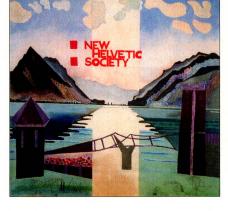
• In the last 15 years, the society has carried on in the spirit of earlier members by organising talks, round table discussions, concerts, films and outings.

Today, our lively committee is very happy to develop the society further through its tradition of informing members about Swiss matters of interest to Swiss Abroad.

A highlight this year has been the celebration of the society's 90th anniversary with a meal at the Tate Modern in London, an institution with strong Swiss links.

No names have been mentioned in this article as the list would be too long, but our thanks go to all former and current members, council members, presidents, supporters, lecturers, consuls, ambassadors and some federal councillors.

Without them the London group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique would not be what it is today.



The New Helvetic Society banner: part of the collection of UK Swiss society banners which has been on display at the Museum of the Swiss Abroad in Geneva



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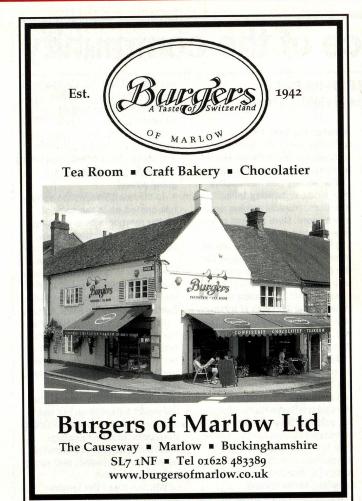
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At last – a Swiss tartan!

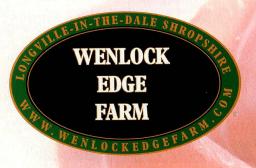
With the Swiss Embassy's growing interest in what's going on north of the border; cultivating Scottish ministers and encouraging new cultural links, it is not surprising that an enterprising Scot has finally come up with the idea of a Swiss tartan.

It has now become a commercial reality, with Edinburgh baselt Geoffrey Tailor sponsoring the cost of designing, weaving and officially registering a new Swiss inspired tartan called, not surprisingly, Swiss Red.

The cloth is woven at the firm's own five storey tartan weaving mill next to Edinburgh Castle, and is then made into kilts, plaids, trougers, trews and waistcoats.

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