

# Regional edition : United Kingdom & Ireland

Objektyp: **Appendix**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad**

Band (Jahr): **44 (2017)**

Heft 2

PDF erstellt am: **31.05.2024**

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# REGIONAL EDITION

## UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

### Editorial

It's time to vote! Campaigning has started to find five delegates to represent Swiss in the UK at the Council of Swiss Abroad in Bern. 16 Swiss nationals have put their names forward for the vote, each with a commitment to contribute actively in improving the situation of the Swiss diaspora. A shortened version of all candidate profiles can be found in these pages. Your ballot slip is on page 6. All you have to do is choose your three top candidates and send the

slip to the Swiss Embassy before the 28<sup>th</sup> April. A great opportunity to make your vote count!

■ *Much of this issue focuses on the election, but there's also news about cheese and to be more precise research, which reveals how Swiss alpine cheese dates back 3,000 years. Staying on the cheese theme, there are also a few cheesy facts that will impress at your next dinner party!*



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,  
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

### News: Swiss community prepares for election



Bilateral tax agreements, electronic voting, national service, emigration, immigration, pensions, Swiss bank accounts, and, of course Brexit... We live in interesting and trying times. The political landscape is currently shifting right under our feet.

Consequently, the choice of UK representatives to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) is more crucial than ever. Voted every four years, the appointment of 5 new delegates takes place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May during FOSSUK's (Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK) AGM in the Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, just minutes away from London's bustling and culturally eclectic South Bank.

The first part of this annual FOSSUK event, which will be attended by representatives of the Swiss Embassy, as well as from FEDA

(Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) and OSA (Organisation of Swiss Abroad) in Bern, focuses on the usual AGM business and the much-anticipated UK Delegates' appointment.

Following this, two UK-based Swiss artists, painter Sandra Roduit and film director Francesco Bernasconi, will present their latest works. The full programme of activities continues into the evening with a drinks reception and entertainment from folk singer Silvi Vignola.

The following day the programme resumes with either a guided tour of London's unique and ever-changing street art or an exciting visit to Tate Modern's new extension designed by the world-renowned Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron. John O'Mara, who project managed the construction of the Tate's extension, will give an introductory talk.

Save the date! FOSSUK AGM:  
**20<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Please go to the FOSSUK website  
for more information:  
[www.swiss-societies.co.uk](http://www.swiss-societies.co.uk)

### Media: Social media connects Swiss in remotest parts of UK

Facebook groups allow people to come together with a common cause, they act as a platform to express opinions, post photos and share related stories.

I set up the UK's first Facebook group for Swiss in Wales in 2010, because the rural landscape of the country did not allow local-based Swiss nationals to meet up and interact on a regular basis.

More recently I created the 'Swiss in the UK' group and we have just hit the 200 members mark and are still growing steadily. Members live in all areas of the UK, including more remote areas e.g. the Isle of Wight, the Outer Hebrides and the Isle of Arran. The common language is of course English. However, in the spirit of Switzerland's linguistic diversity, 'Swiss in the UK' also aims to keep our linguistic heritage alive by sharing information and interacting in our Swiss languages. Why not join us and meet fellow compatriots from all corners of the UK.

RUTH THOMAS



Tea Room ■ Craft Bakery ■ Chocolatier



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### Editor's Job - Could you be the new editor of the Swiss Review UK & Ireland pages?

The Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK) is looking for a part-time editor for the Swiss Review's UK & Ireland regional magazine. The 8-page supplement is produced within the official pages of the Swiss Review. The regional section appears four times a year and contains news reports, articles, interviews and advertisements focusing on the Swiss community living in the UK & Ireland.

You will be expected to commission, write and edit articles relevant to the more than 32,000 Swiss living in both these countries. The new editor should have a journalistic/

writing background, be interested in the activities of the Swiss community and its many clubs and societies, be confident in written English and be drawn to creating an informative and exciting journal.

Should such a challenge tempt you please do not hesitate to find out more by contacting the FOSSUK team: [enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk), as well as the current editor, [andrewlittlejohn81@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlittlejohn81@gmail.com)

UK: 0118 926 8598



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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 with the mobile biometric station during the following dates:

**8 to 12 May 2017    2 to 6 October 2017**

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 **Dublin**.

**Please contact the RCC** to book an appointment, tel. +44 (0)20 7616 6000 (option 2), or [rcclondon@eda.admin.ch](mailto:rcclondon@eda.admin.ch)



# Elections 2017–2021: CSA Elections

## ELECTION RULES & REGULATION

This year the Swiss expat community has the unique opportunity to elect 5 new delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA).

All Swiss Nationals, over the age of 18, and registered at the Swiss Embassy in the UK, ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

You can vote by completing the Voting Slip, which you will find at the bottom of page 6 of these regional pages, or you can access it by going to the FOSSUK webpage: [www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections](http://www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections)

There are 16 candidates to choose from. Due to the limited space available in the regional pages you can also find full profiles of each candidate on the FOSSUK website.

According to FOSSUK Bye Laws, out of the 5 delegates representing the Swiss Community in the UK:

**2 delegates** will be nominated by Swiss Clubs (Corporate Members of FOSSUK). In case there are more than 2 candidates nominated, the FOSSUK AGM on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 will decide and the candidates with the highest number of votes will be duly elected.

**3 delegates** will be elected by the Swiss Community at large, by postal vote, using the enclosed voting slip.

As you will see, there are 16 candidates to choose from. Please exercise your democratic right and vote for the 3 candidates you wish to represent the UK in Switzerland.

It is important that you carefully consider your choice from amongst candidates deemed to have first-hand knowledge of Switzerland's political landscape and of Swiss nationals' concerns living in the UK. These delegates are elected for a four year term from 2017–2021 and are tasked with representing your interests vis-à-vis the authorities and the public in Switzerland.

Please cut out/ print off your voting slip with your three preferred candidates and post it to the embassy by **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.



### SALOME BUCHER

**Place of Residence:** Derby

**Languages Spoken:** German, English, French and Farsi

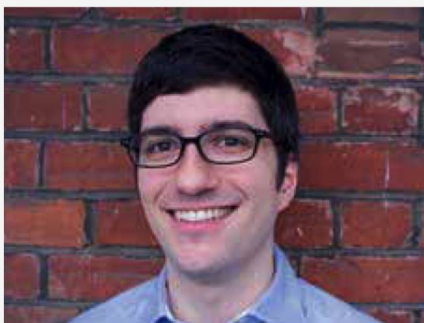
**Profession:** Commercial Account Manager at Rolls-Royce plc

**Interests:** Long-distance running, volunteering at Childline and reading

**Member of:** n/a

#### Summary:

I have been an 'Auslandsschweizer' since I was one year old and I firmly believe that I have the passion and dedication to strengthen the contribution of Swiss nationals in the UK to our country's political discourse and I hope that you will let me be the echo of your voice back at home.



### SIMON BURGHERR

**Place of Residence:** London

**Languages Spoken:** Swiss German, German, English, Japanese

**Profession:** Sales, Marketing, Logistics

**Interests:** Photography, travelling, Modern History

**Member of:** University of Zurich Alumni Organization

#### Summary:

Modern, diplomatic and open, I stand and act by the essential Swiss values. As your representative, I will make sure that Bern tackles the challenges ahead in a proactive and innovative manner.



### NATHALIE CHUARD

**Place of Residence:** London

**Languages Spoken:** German, English, French, Spanish

**Profession:** Brand Manager for Cadbury

**Interests:** Travelling, London life, reading

**Member of:** n/a

#### Summary:

As a proud, dynamic and politically-interested Swiss citizen with a strong network, solid expertise in branding and the drive to make a difference, I would highly value being an active member of the CSA and strengthen ties with our home country.



### VINCENT CROSET

**Place of Residence:** Oxford

**Languages Spoken:** French, English, (German)

**Profession:** Research Scientist in Neuroscience/Genetics

**Interests:** Politics since an early age – I am a member of the Swiss Socialist Party. Other interests include: science, literature, travels and sports

**Member of:** Oxford Swiss Society

#### Summary:

As your OSA delegate I would urge our government to: preserve Swiss rights to live & work in the UK; facilitate business & collaboration between the UK and CH; increase representation of Swiss abroad in Swiss institutions; and provide safe and secure online voting for all Swiss abroad.



### NOELLE DOWD LEITCH

**Place of Residence:** London

**Languages Spoken:** English, German, Swiss-German, some French and Spanish

**Profession:** Consultant

**Interests:** Jogging, pilates, travelling, cooking, study of Theology and Philosophy, Corporate Social Responsibility, art, health, being a Mum

**Member of:** British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC), City Swiss Club, FOSSUK Committee

#### Summary:

I am passionate about Switzerland, its culture and people. I feel very honoured to be Swiss and would like to contribute in supporting Swiss abroad and representing them & their interests.



### FABIAN GMUENDER

**Place of Residence:** London

**Languages Spoken:** English, German, French, Italian

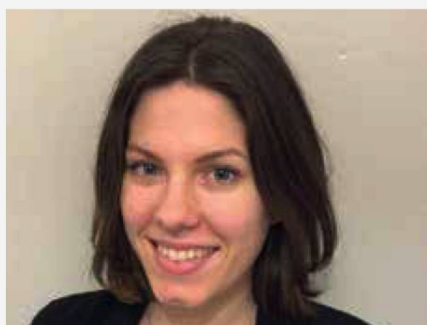
**Profession:** Communications Consultant

**Interests:** Skiing, running, tennis, travelling and the arts; particularly literature and modern painting. I am also a founding member and vice-president of an amateur football club in Zurich

**Member of:** British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC)

#### Summary:

As a Swiss communications expert in London, I care deeply about the dialogue between our communities. We need a strong voice to address any issues affecting the Swiss abroad. I believe my professional experience can strengthen this dialogue and contribute to its success.



### SARAH GRAND-CLÉMENT

**Place of Residence:** Cambridge

**Languages Spoken:** English, French

**Profession:** Policy researcher

**Interests:** Travelling, current affairs, politics, reading, baking

**Member of:** n/a

#### Summary:

I want to be a passionate advocate for Switzerland in the UK with a particular focus on younger Swiss nationals living here. I am very interested in Swiss political and legal developments, and want to highlight contributions Swiss people make in the UK.



Supported by New Helvetic Society

### LOREDANA GUETG-WYATT

**Place of Residence:** Poole

**Languages Spoken:** Italian, English and French

**Profession:** Business Risk Consultant and non-Executive Board Member

**Interests:** Organising charitable fundraising events, hiking, horse-riding, skiing, concerts, musicals and meeting friends

**Member of:** Unione Ticinese, New Helvetic Society, FOSSUK President

**Summary:** It is important for the Swiss living in the UK to be supported and appropriately represented at the Council of the Swiss Abroad. All facets of the Swiss population in the UK should be heard and acknowledged; from long standing ex-patriates to newly arrived students or workers to second or third generations of 'Brit-Swiss'. They all have different challenges and priorities but all have in common their connection to Switzerland.





### JEAN LEHMANN

**Place of Residence:** Weybridge

**Languages Spoken:** French, English, German, Portuguese

**Profession:** Entrepreneur

**Interests:** Politics, geopolitics, finance and economics, social issues, international investments, private equity and venture capital, technology and cyber security, music composition and piano playing

**Member of:** New Helvetic Society, City Swiss Club

#### Summary:

Increasingly concerned about the impact of policies in the EU and other countries on Switzerland and Swiss citizens, I feel that being a delegate will allow me to actively contribute to our community.



### CHRISTOPHER MORILLON

**Place of Residence:** London

**Languages Spoken:** English, French and German

**Profession:** Management Consultant

**Interests:** Swiss politics, culture and food, as well as Roger Federer! Sports: tennis, football, triathlons and Entrepreneurship: I have founded my own company

**Member of:** City Swiss Club

#### Summary:

I am proud of my Swiss heritage with family based across Switzerland. As a 28-year-old delegate I would focus on communication with young people, eVoting and the implications of Brexit.



Supported by Swiss Club Edinburgh

### FRANZ MUHEIM

**Place of Residence:** Edinburgh

**Languages Spoken:** German, English, French

**Profession:** Professor of Particle Physics at Edinburgh University

**Interests:** Politics, science, traveling, hiking, bicycling, skiing, visiting family who live near St.Gallen, Switzerland

**Member of:** Swiss Club Edinburgh, Swisscommunity.org, Facebook groups (Swiss in the UK, Auslandschweizer),

FOSSUK Committee, OSA Delegate since 2012

#### Summary:

I am a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) and active on Swiss Abroad Social Media groups. In these uncertain times, the CSA will play an even more important role for the increasing number of Swiss Abroad. Using my experience and knowledge of politics in Switzerland and in the UK, I would very much like to continue to represent the 34,000 Swiss citizens living in the UK.



Supported by Unione Ticinese

### GIOIA PALMIERI

**Place of Residence:** Liverpool

**Languages Spoken:** Italian, English, French

**Profession:** Journalist

**Interests:** Literature, art, cinema, politics (regional, national and international), the Alps, nature (I'm a tireless hiker) and folk music

**Member of:** Unione Ticinese, Swiss Club Manchester, FOSSUK Committee

#### Summary:

Keen to report on Swiss culture and life, my desire is to voice Swiss people abroad. A Ticinese now at home in Liverpool, I will be committed to help our linguistic and cultural minorities be represented at OSA.



### JEAN PIERRE PAYAT

**Place of Residence:** London

**Languages Spoken:** German, English, French, Italian, Spanish

**Profession:** Business mentor

**Interests:** Business building, multicultural activities, travel, sport (cycling, skiing etc.)

**Member of:** New Helvetic Society

#### Summary:

I have experience with Swiss expat and Swiss clubs involvement in different continents and countries. I can support the Swiss in the UK and make the case in Bern for Swiss abroad.



### THADSHAGINI THAYALALINGAM

**Place of Residence:** London, UK

**Languages Spoken:** German, English and Tamil (my mother tongue)

**Profession:** IT consultant (audit)

**Interests:** Sport, music, culture, tradition, religion, photography, reading, cooking, exploring, networking

**Member of:** n/a

#### Summary:

Working for an international company, Brexit has become an important topic. Through exchanging thoughts with people I understand their concerns/hopes. I would like to share my experience & know-how.



### ALEXANDRE TISSOT

**Place of Residence:** Berkshire

**Languages Spoken:** English and French

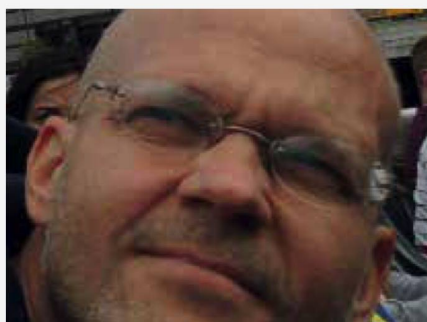
**Profession:** Oracle Senior Director – Europe, Middle East & Africa

**Interests:** Swiss political, cultural, and business affairs. My interests are both local and international

**Member of:** City Swiss Club, Unione Ticinese, Swiss Church in London, FOSSUK Vice-President

#### Summary:

I am pursuing re-election as a serving CSA Delegate to continue bringing my political, business, cultural and philanthropic experience to engage and build the voice of the UK Swiss Community. Successful at raising sponsorship for events, clubs and communities, your vote will allow me to continue community building at all levels.



### DOMINIK WEISS

**Place of Residence:** London

**Languages Spoken:** German, French, Italian, Spanish, English

**Profession:** Professor

**Interests:** Environmental issues, science, sport, music, family, international development

**Member of:** I served on the board of the Swiss Church between 2000 and 2003

#### Summary:

I have been living in the UK for more than 17 years, working at Imperial College London. I am very engaged and passionate about Science and Education. I would love to bring this expertise to the CSA and help form a bridge between Switzerland and the UK in this sector.

## VOTING SLIP

### UK DELEGATES TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD (CSA)

Candidate 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate 3 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Declaration:

I, Firstname \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ (Capital Letters)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ am registered at the Swiss Embassy London and aged 18+

To be received no later than Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 by post to:

**The Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK)**  
**16–18 Montagu Place**  
**London W1H 2BQ**

Note that Copies/Printouts of this Voting Slip are acceptable, as long as they are completed and signed by hand! The voter's name on the voting slips should be the same as the registration name at the Embassy and consequently the same as on the Swiss Review address.



## 1: Southern Area Swiss Club

The Southern Area Swiss Club enjoyed a fabulous lunch at the Frensham Pond Hotel at the end of January superbly organised by our treasurer John Williamson. We also welcomed Camilla Ghislanzoni from Fossuk.

BERNI CURTRESS

Camilla and John sit at the top of the table



## 2: Swiss Club Manchester

New year, new beginnings! The Swiss Club Manchester started 2017 with a fantastic social dinner that took place in January at The Cottons Hotel in Knutsford.

The candlelit event was attended by more than 70 guests, who also enjoyed special entertainment organised by club president Juerg Bentele and his

Happy faces at the Manchester social



committee. John Plumb, a long-time member, played the accordion and everyone had the chance to sing-a-long thanks to the Swiss song booklets handed out to all those attending.

The entertainment concluded with some club members reading excerpts from Denis de Rougemont's 'The Federalist Attitude' in four languages. The well-known Swiss writer's text emphasizes the double responsibility of citizens within society: 'on the one hand as concerns his own unique vocation, on the other hand as concerns in the community in which he carries out his vocation'.

GIOIA PALMIERI

## Report: Swiss alpine cheese dates back 3,000 years

A study led by the University of York and Newcastle University has uncovered the richness of Swiss alpine cheese heritage.

Residue found on ancient ceramic pots discovered in the Upper Engadine region of Switzerland showed traces of dairy lipids, revealing the earliest evidence of cheese making in the high Alps. This ancient cheese heritage, now confirmed as dating back to the Iron Age, is still in use today, but under threat by the increasing dominance of globalised food production. Gerhard Reinecke, founder of Alpages of Switzerland (UK) Ltd. is committed to preserving the Swiss alpine cheese tradition.

'My selection criteria takes into account fullness of taste as well as the use of traditional cheese making methods, often produced in copper vats on open fires' he told the Swiss Review. To ensure the highest quality cheese is presented to clients, Reinecke scours the Alps and ultimately curates a selection of only ten artisan cheeses. Discover the selection of rare Swiss alpine cheeses at [www.alpages.co.uk](http://www.alpages.co.uk).



### LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT SWISS ALPINE CHEESE

- According to strict Swiss laws, cheese is only designated 'Alpine cheese' when it is produced in the summer months, in small artisan Alpine dairies located next to the meadows (alpages) where the cows are grazing at altitudes above 1000m (3000ft).
- Only 2% of the entire Swiss cheese production is Alpine cheese. Although often referred as such, Emmental, Appenzeller and most of Gruyère cheeses are not alpine cheeses in the sense of the Swiss legislation.
- The distinct taste of Alpine cheese is, in part, due to the variety of flora at such high altitudes. Cows whose milk is used for the cheese making, can consume up to 100 different varieties of herbs and grass – while their conspecifics in the industrialised agricultural environment of the lowlands are restricted to as little as five to ten varieties.



## Interview: Swiss woman heading to Royal Garden Party

This issue of the regional pages has focused primarily on the upcoming delegates' election. From the 16 profiles of those participating it is clear that each individual wants to make a difference, whether it is politically, socially or in education. They all stated their commitment to working with the Swiss diaspora in the UK. But of course, there are a variety of ways in which we can make a difference in our communities.

Lucia Hildegard Watson, who was born in the Canton of Thurgau and has lived in the UK since the mid-60s, has spent most of her life helping those less fortunate and in need in the Ipswich area. At the end of last year Lucia was recognised for her outstanding charity work and was awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List. In the following interview, Lucia describes why the voluntary sector became so important in her life.



# ALPHORN CONCERT

Presented by Frances Jones (Alphorn)  
Accompanied by Martin Jones (Piano)

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm  
at The Outbuildings  
Llangaffo, Anglesey  
LL60 6NH

£20 per person to include  
Canapes and Supper

Join us at The Outbuildings, Llangaffo, LL60 6NH for a magical evening of music with Frances and Martin.

A varied programme of both Traditional Swiss Melodies and Favourite Classical Music Pieces. Proceeds in support of the National Eisteddfod taking place on Anglesey 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Supported by Menai Holiday Cottages and The Outbuildings.

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Web www.gov.uk/honours

21st November 2016

IN CONFIDENCE

Dear Madam,

The Prime Minister has asked me to inform you, in strict confidence, that having accepted the advice of the Head of the Civil Service and the Main Honours Committee, she proposes to submit your name to the Queen. She is recommending that Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to approve that you be awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year 2017 Honours List.

Lucia receives an  
award for her  
community service  
in Ipswich



**Lucia Hildegard Watson (LHW):** My interest in assisting others, particularly the aged, but also the young, most likely stemmed from my losing both parents at an early age. The interest in volunteering possibly stemmed from the situation when my husband's cousin emigrated to the USA. She had been visiting and checking on an elderly lady in a nursing home in our local area. She asked me to take over when she returned to the US, as the lady had no known family to look after her. This led to me visiting other residents in the nursing home and then as our children were growing up and my husband was travelling on business a lot, I volunteered to do Meals on Wheels.

I have always been interested in the work of UNICEF. In 1985, I, together with another two couples, was asked to open an Ipswich branch of the children's charity. During my 30-year association with UNICEF we raised more than £100,000.

When our local church groups got together to provide a soup kitchen for the homeless and needy of Ipswich, I joined my own church group on Tuesday evenings to distribute soup and food. This lasted nearly twenty years. Joining Age Concern and visiting specific elderly people seemed a natural progression for me.

**Swiss Review:** What have been some of the highlights of your work as a volunteer?

**LHW:** I would like to think many of my activities have made a difference to people, certainly fundraising does that. However, nothing quite compares with the response of elderly, lonely people when you visit them, particularly when they haven't seen anybody for days. This more than anything moves me. However, possibly most satisfying, apart from the joy in assisting people in need, has been the response from my family and friends in assisting and supporting me in the projects and fundraising events. I would like to think their involvement has led them to become more aware of others' needs and subsequently get involved with their own chosen charities.

## 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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mail: editor@swissreview.co.uk

## DESIGN:

Implemented by Marc Peter – on-IDLE Ltd  
www.on-idle.com

The deadline for the next UK issue is: **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
Date of publication: **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

## Next Issues

The Swiss Review, with its 'Switzerland in the UK & Ireland' supplement, is published six times a year (four with the UK supplement) in February, April, June, August, October, December.