

City Swiss Club

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There were fewer mental cases than in previous years. The Welfare Office helped eleven girls to return to Switzerland and one girl was accompanied by a social worker.

There were fewer pregnancies than last year and most of the girls were helped to return to Switzerland. Mrs. Ellis aided twenty-three girls who were refused permission to land, some because they were pregnant.

Two girls and one woman had to appear in Court for shoplifting, because of moral danger and for infringing the aliens police regulations and the woman because she was found to possess dangerous drugs. So far there is no evidence of drugs being a danger to Swiss girls.

Temporary financial assistance was given to thirty-five girls by the Welfare Office. Practical assistance was also given to Father Scherer, Pfarrer Dietler and the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Several journalists wrote articles about Swiss girls in Gt. Britain for newspapers and magazines in Switzerland. The Welfare Office arranged interviews for them with girls in London. Swiss Television sent a team to produce a film on "Au Pairs" in England.

None of the girls in serious difficulties contacted the Welfare Office. Co-operation with the Welfare Office by everyone who has to deal with Swiss girls is therefore most important. Cases were referred to the Welfare Office by the Swiss Embassy, by organisations in Switzerland, by English organisations and authorities, by the International Travellers' Aid, by the Swiss Churches in London and by employment agencies.

The Welfare Officer gratefully acknowledged assistance and co-operation received from the Swiss Embassy, the Wardens of the Swiss Hostel, the Ministers of the Swiss Churches in London, the Swiss Benevolent Society, British Vigilance Association, the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, Aliens Police Registration Office, etc., understanding employers and friendly families.

The Committee of the Welfare Office for 1967 consists of the following members: Mr. M. H. Ellis, M.B.E. President, Mrs. A. Zumstein (Vice-President, representing "Pro Filia"), Mr. J. Zimmermann (Vice-President, representing Swiss Benevolent Society), Mrs. R. Thomas (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. H. Knoll (Hon. Secretary), Mrs. A. Woods (representing *Amies de la Jeune Fille*), Mrs. E. Cottet, Mrs. O. Grob, Monsieur F. Ansermoz (Swiss Embassy), The Rev. Father J. Scherer (Swiss Catholic Mission), Pasteur A. Nicod (Swiss Church), Pfarrer M. Dietler (Swiss Church).

E.K.

NEWS OF THE DUNFERMLINE SWISS CLUB

Activities have been on usual lines. In April, members enjoyed a film evening. In May, the Club organised a skittle competition in conjunction with the Edinburgh Swiss Club. Also to the film evening, over a dozen members had travelled over from Edinburgh to Dunfermline.

On 14th June, the Club was honoured by a visit of Consul and Madame Brunner from Manchester. He kept the members up to date on political and other developments affecting the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. Everybody enjoyed a "home-made" meal with a very professional look, prepared by the Club's expert cook (Mr. Eisenegger) and rounded off with specialities provided by numerous Swiss *Hausfrauen*.

C.B.

CITY SWISS CLUB DINNER DANCE

On Friday, 30th June, our Club held the Annual Summer Dinner and Dance at the Monkey Island Hotel near Bray-on-Thames. And what a beautiful day it was! As the first guests were arriving in the lovely setting on the river, a beautiful summer day was drawing to its close; but we had enough time to enjoy to the full one of the first really pleasant evenings of this late summer. The Monkey Island Hotel is, of course, the ideal setting for such an event and we must surely congratulate the organisers for such a lucky choice. The members were enjoying themselves on the green lawns outside the well-attended bar from where we could watch the boats going up and down the river.

The response had been tremendous, and I am sure fully justified itself as the evening was a great success. With considerable difficulties our organiser, Mr. Lucien Jobin, managed to convince the Hotel Manager to accept about twenty people more than was originally planned, and I am sure that all those who were accepted at a late stage were grateful to Mr. Jobin for his efforts, not only to allow as many people as possible to enjoy our evening, but for conducting the whole party, which surely could not have been an easy task for anybody. Thank you Lucien, you did an excellent job!

Amongst the guests enjoying themselves we noticed our new President and Mrs. Nater and also our Immediate Past President Mr. Bonvin and his wife. It was with regret that we learned that H.E. the Swiss Ambassador was not able to attend due to pressing engagements and we can only hope that we may soon have the pleasure of welcoming him on a future occasion.

After about one hour of cocktail time outside, we all joined up in the River Room for dinner which was served with quiet skill and which everybody seemed to enjoy tremendously if you could judge from the exuberant atmosphere which prevailed. One of the nicest things of the evening must have been the informality and friendliness of the members, which made everybody feel tremendously welcome and at ease. After dinner, a three-piece band with a very attractive young lady singer provided dance music until 1 a.m. and it was nice to see that the dance floor was packed right up to the last tune which included some Swiss-flavoured waltzes. Not quite the *Ländler* some of us were expecting, but quite good. — We certainly had a lot to talk about. Amongst other things, we heard that the son of the Editor of the "Swiss Observer", had been married at the Registrar's Office that very afternoon, and the Church Wedding was to take place the following day. It is a great compliment that Peter chose his late father's old Club on the eve of his wedding. His mother and three sisters were all of the party, not to speak of his bride, Miss Sandra Hobro, and a most charming couple they were. Our heartiest congratulations to Peter and Sandra.

The evening was altogether a great success, and I think it is only right that we should say here how much we all enjoyed this summer dance, and how much the excellent work which was done by the committee and especially by Lucien Jobin is being appreciated by all of us. We know it was not easy, but we are very grateful. After such a good evening I am sure quite a few of us saw the bridge from Monkey Island to the mainland swing much more than it really did. But after all, what are the railings there for? I am sure we are all looking forward to another evening as delightful as this one was. R.M.