

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 27 (2000)
Heft: 2

Anhang: Switzerland in the UK

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Switzerland in the UK

A piece of card measuring 15x11cm is part of a UK-wide initiative to boost funds for the restoration of the Swiss Church in London.

The postcard showing the 19th century church in Endell Street is the work of Anglo-Swiss artist Laurent Loursion.

When he was elected to the Consistoire of the Swiss Church two years ago and made a member of its building committee he wondered what kind of practical help he could give.

The postcard is the result. Already it has raised more than £1,000 to go towards the much-needed restoration.

Now Swiss clubs all over the UK are being asked to sell copies at 50p each.

50p postcards help boost Swiss Church renovation

There are also double blank greeting card notelets for £1 each.

Orders, for a minimum value of £5, plus 50 p&p, should go directly to Mr Loursion at 15 Smith Terrace, London SW3 4DL.

Born in Neuchâtel, Mr Loursion has lived in London

since 1957 and has taken British citizenship. He has specialised in calligrams, in which letters forming words are used to create a picture, and has exhibited in many parts of the world.

Of his work for the Swiss Church he says: "It is only by rolling up our sleeves

and doing things together that we will manage to present a brighter image of our native country, and tighten our bonds."

He adds that his cards also help to show our English friends that the Swiss have other buildings besides banks.

Now it's official – the two royal princesses WILL go to Aiglon

First mooted in the Swiss Review last year, it has now been confirmed that Duke and Duchess of York's two children, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, are to move to Switzerland to continue their education.

In a complete break with tradition they will become the first royal princesses for over a century to attend school outside the UK.

First to go will be 11 year old Princess Beatrice. She has already passed the entrance examination for Aiglon College in the village of Chesières-Villars.

It has also been decided that her younger sister Eugenie, who was ten last month, will follow her. In

accordance with royal protocol, the Queen had to give her personal approval for her grandchildren to be educated abroad.

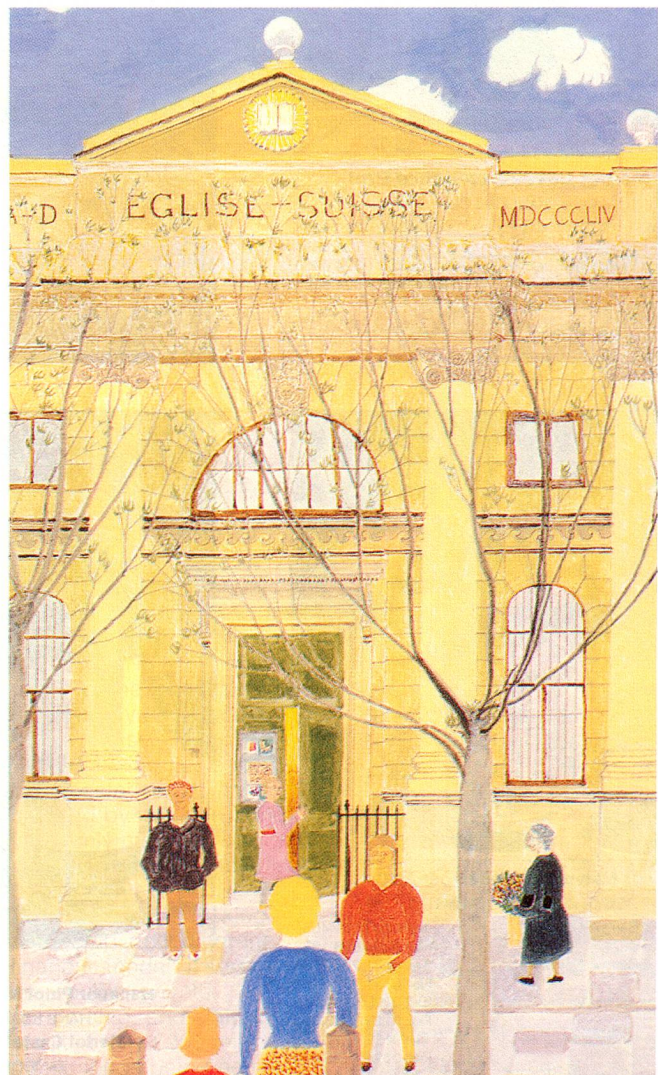
The decision was revealed by the Duke of York in an Internet interview.

"We have done exhaustive research into which school to send them to," he said. "In the end we feel that the opportunities offered by Aiglon and the teaching and community philosophy are exceptional."

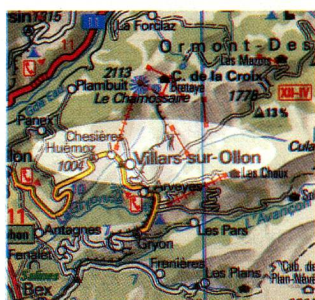
The Duchess herself is so keen on the idea she is planning to spend much of her time in Switzerland to be near her children. She is now said to be looking for accommodation in the Chesières region, which lies between Les Diablerets and the Rhone valley.

The fees at Aiglon come to £19,500 a year, but money is no problem for parent of children attending the school – many high powered businessmen, politicians and international entertainment and sporting celebrities

Past pupils have included children of Roger Moore and Sophia Loren.



■ The Swiss Church, as seen by Laurent Loursion





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FOSSUK weekend in Cheshire

One of the oldest and most celebrated hotels in Cheshire is to be the venue for this year's FOSSUK weekend.

The location has been chosen so that the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK can join together to help Manchester Swiss Club, one of the oldest in the world, mark its 150th anniversary.

As part of the weekend's events FOSSUK will be holding its 35th annual general meeting on Saturday, June 3, chaired by its president for the last 11 years, Jeffrey Long.

An attractive social programme has been drawn up with the help of the committee of the Manchester Swiss Club under president Huldi Broadhurst.

It includes a reception given by the Swiss Consul-General in Manchester, Max Inhelder and his wife Sylvia.

One highspot will be a tour

of the old world city of Chester (*shown right*) with its quaint black and white buildings which bring back memories of a bygone age.

The Royal George itself also evokes the atmosphere of the past, with its impressive Georgian architecture and four poster beds for its pampered guests.

The building dates back to the 14th century, and its visitors have included Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill and General George Patton. An ideal base for exploring the Cheshire countryside.

All members of the Swiss community in the UK are welcome to take part in the weekend and meet officials from the Embassy, Consulates and the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.

Full details can be obtained from FOSSUK secretary Rose-Marie Breitenstein (tel: 020 7727 4113).



Manchester v Zurich: Are the city fathers now on the right lines?

From time immemorial Mancunians have boasted that "what Manchester does today the rest of the world does tomorrow."

But that certainly doesn't apply to public transport.

The capital of the North West is trying valiantly – but not very successfully – to make its much vaunted rapid transit system keep up with world beating Zurich.

What both cities are determined to do is keep cars off the roads. On average, a citizen of Zurich uses public transport 560 times a year – compared to 147 times for the average Mancunian.

Zurich's network of trams, trains and buses is considered one of the best examples of people-moving anywhere in the world.

Manchester's city fathers admit they have a lot of catching up to do – but they

have set their minds on achieving what seems at first to be an impossibility.

The Manchester Metro-link has only two lines, stretching a total of 19 miles. Zurich has 14 different lines, covering 67 miles.

But a new extension to



■ The battle of the tramways: Manchester (left) Zurich (right)

Metrolink will add another four and a half miles early next year, and by 2004 a web of new lines will take the total length to 65 miles.

In other areas, too,

Manchester transport chiefs will copy what they have seen in Zurich.

They like the idea of people being able to use a single ticket to travel on trams, trains and buses. And they are proud of the fact that their trams run every six minutes, not much more than Zurich's five minutes.

But in one respect the two transport systems couldn't be more dissimilar.

The running costs in Manchester are completely covered by fares. In Zurich fares only meet half the costs. The rest is subsidised by taxpayers.

Manchester is looking at a completely different financial model. It's setting up a public-private partnership, and claim it will result in only £250 million of public funds being needed to complete £500 million of new lines.

How to 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 Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. Tel: 01625 855 000; fax: 01625 855 111.

His email address is: dmeakin@europress.co.uk.

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 June, is April 21.



Of the many ways in which Italian-speaking members of the Swiss community marked the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Unione Ticinese, none will have such a lasting impact as the production of a completely revised and updated version of the history of the society.

This handsome publication – 125 Years of the Unione Ticinese – has been beautifully and graphically updated by two designers of the Banca della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano, and was printed there at the expense of the bank's London branch.

While the text is based on previous histories which appeared in 1934 and 1974, it has been extensively revised by Peter Barber in the light of new information, and has also been expanded to cover the events of the last 25 years.

In addition it includes many

Unione Ticinese story brought up to date

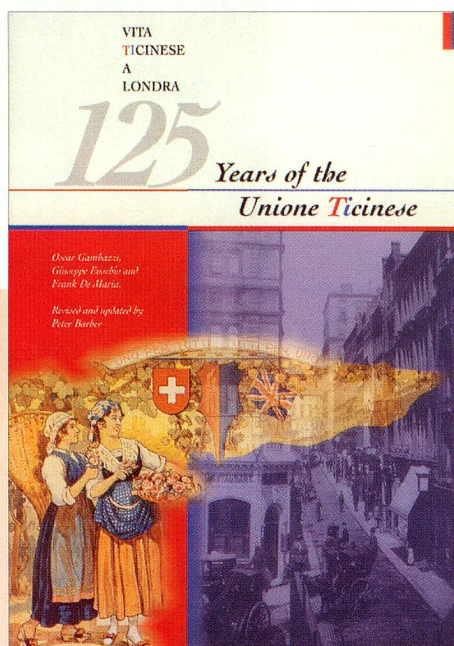
facts about little known aspects of the society and life in the Ticinese colony in the UK, such as the benefit fund and the role of the principal

trustee – matters that were taken for granted in the past but unfamiliar to most members today.

The bank has donated 500

copies of the book to the society, on condition that all proceeds go towards the Vittorio Abate fund for the maintenance and restoration of Ticinese graves in the Kensal Green and St Pancras & Islington cemeteries.

• Copies cost £7.50 (including p&p), and can be obtained from Mrs Christiane Barber, 16 Tivoli Road, London W8 8RE.



In his review of the society's last 25 years Peter Barber emphasises the adaptability of the Unione Ticinese behind a veneer of continuity. *He writes:*

Modern technology offers possibilities that were previously unknown.

Because, thanks to cheap air fares and motorways, it is now so easy to get to the Ticino in person or to keep in touch by fax, phone or via the Internet, many members are as attached to their home canton as their predecessors ever were.

Moreover British members of Ticinese descent frequently still have homes in the Ticino and so they and their children continue to cherish its language and

some want to do so.

The newer members in search of their roots have much to contribute in skills and enthusiasm. The society offers them the chance to learn more about their ancestral homes, and sometimes even the chance to meet distant relatives.

Recently there have been signs that more young Ticinese are again coming to work in London.

For as long as these people want to retain their links with their compatriots, to speak in dialect and to eat familiar food in good company, the society will continue to provide a uniquely warm and friendly framework for them to do so.

Maintaining links with home

customs. The society offers these people the chance to continue to do so while in Great Britain.

Modern technology now enables those who have

returned to the Ticino and the descendants of those who worked here to continue to take quite an active part in the society's affairs and there are signs that

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Dear Fellow Citizens

As you know, Switzerland concluded seven pacts with the European Union at the end of 1998. These agreements were approved by the National and State Councils in Autumn 1999. Now that the referendum has finally come about, we are being called to vote on the bilaterals on 21 May.



On 7 August 1999, at the 77th Congress of the Swiss Abroad on "Switzerland and Europe in the wake of the bilateral agreements", the Council for the Swiss Abroad unanimously voted in favour of the ratification and rapid bilateral application of these pacts. We acknowledge that the bilateral agreements offer significant advantages for the 60% of Swiss Abroad who live in the EU – i.e. more than 350,000 persons.

The debate on Switzerland's relationship with the EU provides us with an opportunity for open discussion on the future of our compatriots who have decided or may perhaps decide at a later stage to work, study or simply live in the European Union. It is important for them as Swiss Abroad to also take an active part in these lively discussions. The OSA has published special articles on this topic on our internet site (www.aso.ch), presenting our arguments in favour of the bilaterals and the concrete implications of this rapprochement with the EU.

The OSA is convinced that the bilaterals will be advantageous for us all. For this reason we resolutely support the agreements. Moreover, the ratio of referendum votes in favour of the bilaterals will also be of major impact on future Swiss-European relations. On behalf of the OSA I therefore invite you to take full advantage of your voting rights on this occasion.

Georg Stucky

President of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad



Free movement of **from the Fifth S**



A solution tailor-made for Switzerland's needs

The sectoral agreements between Switzerland and the EU, scheduled to come into force in 2001, heralds a mutual opening of the job market for EU and Swiss citizens alike. Following a two-year transition period, the agreement on personal freedom of movement envisages full freedom of movement for Swiss citizens within EU territory, as currently enjoyed by citizens of the 15 member states through the EU's collective rules and standards (acquis communautaire).



New horizons for Swiss citizens

De facto, Swiss citizens will be entitled to personal freedom of movement within the EU just two years after the agreement has come into force, providing them with access to the European job market and to the possibility of self-employment in an EU country. As with EU citizens, Swiss nationals will be free to take up jobs and professions throughout the European Union.



Equality with EU citizens

Swiss nationals living in a member state of the EU will enjoy the same status as citizens of that state, irrespective of the length of their permit. This entitles them to equal treatment with EU employees with respect to conditions of employment and pay, social benefits and tax concessions. Swiss who take up residence in an EU country can also acquire property there at any time.



people Switzerland's viewpoint

Swiss without employment (e.g. pensioners and students) are also entitled to reside in an EU member country provided they have sufficient funds and are members of a health insurance scheme. However, the agreement on freedom of movement does not govern equal access to a European university. Educational institutions are still permitted to demand different entrance qualifications from Swiss students than from EU students.



Families may follow at any time

Residence permits are normally valid for five years and automatically extendable. Persons employed in an EU member state may be joined at any time by their spouse and children below 21 years of age in the descending line. Other relatives in the ascending and descending line may only accompany persons working in the EU if their maintenance is guaranteed. Spouses and children also have free access to the job market in the country of residence.

Further information on the bilateral agreements is available under www.aso.ch, the web site of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, or under www.europa.admin.ch, the web site of the Integration Office. Documentation can be ordered (enclosing a self-addressed label) from the Service for the Swiss Abroad FDFA, Bundesgasse 32, CH-3003 Berne (if resident in Switzerland), or, if resident abroad, from your local Swiss representative.

Resolution by the Council for the Swiss Abroad Switzerland-Europe: Position statement on the bilateral agreements

The Council for the Swiss Abroad welcomes the conclusion of the bilateral negotiations between Switzerland and the European Union and advocates the rapid bilateral ratification and implementation of the seven sectoral agreements. The Council believes the bilateral agreements represent an important stage in relations between Switzerland and the EU.

In its St. Gallen resolution of 1992, the Council for the Swiss Abroad declared itself resolutely in favour of Switzerland's participation in the European Economic Area. In view of the Swiss electorate's rejection of the EEA, the Council regards the agreement concluded on free movement of people as absolutely essential. With its strong international links, our country needs its citizens to be assured of free movement in the economic, political and cultural spheres. Almost two thirds of the approximately 570,000 Swiss currently living abroad are resident in Europe. Even more so than today's Swiss Abroad, Swiss citizens who move abroad in the future must be guaranteed the same concessions granted to other Europeans.

The Council for the Swiss Abroad believes that the sectoral agreements neither comprehensively nor conclusively regulate our country's position within the European unification process. Further integration steps are required to guarantee rights of co-determination and preserve our country's vital interests. The debate on these issues should be taken up on conclusion of the approval procedure for the bilateral agreements at the latest.

On the other hand, the Council for the Swiss Abroad is decidedly against the renewed attempt to do away with voluntary AHV/IV under the pretext of Europe. It warns that acceptance of the bilateral agreements may be endangered by incorporating, in the course of related internal legal adjustments, revision proposals which do not necessarily arise from the agreements. Rapprochement with Europe in no way forces our country to exclude Swiss Abroad from entitlement to voluntary insurance. The Council therefore demands that the voluntary AHV/IV issue be excluded from the package of accompanying measures and be carefully and comprehensively examined within the course of the normal decision-making process.

Lausanne, 6 August 1999





One of the most moving programmes ever to appear on British TV has told how a Swiss charity worker rescued a badly disfigured baby abandoned in the Amazonian jungle – and how a Scottish surgeon rebuilt his features and then adopted him as his own son.

It was on BBC1 that producer Desmond Wilcox, who has been following the progress of the young man he still calls "The Boy David" for the last 20 years, revealed the final chapter in this epic story.

David, now 25 and a successful artist, wanted to return to Peru and find his heritage. But what he found when he arrived there with the camera team shattered his illusions.

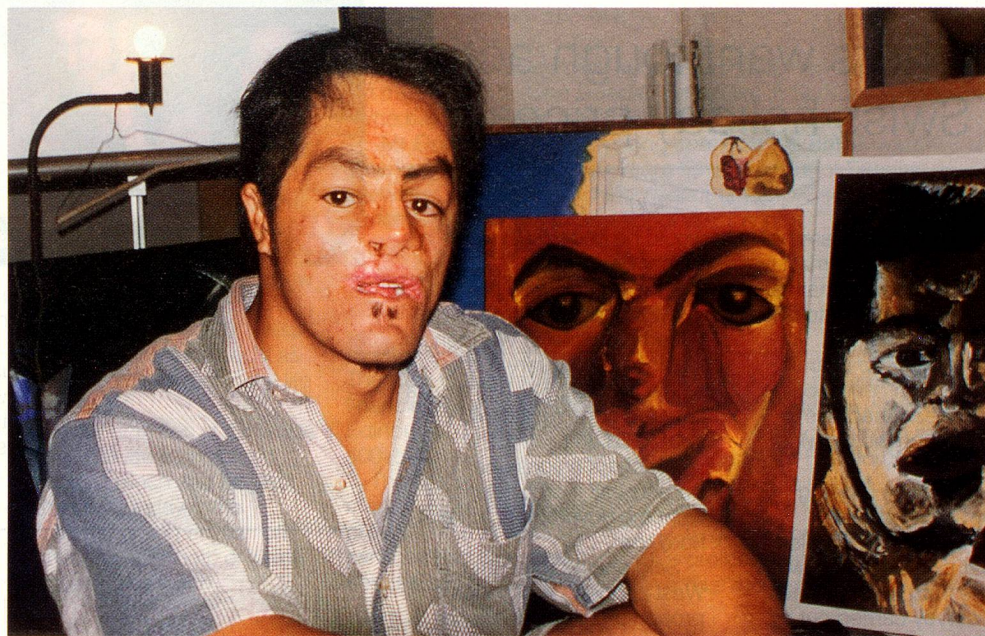
David was once known as the boy without a face. Most of it had been destroyed by a terrible disease that rotted the flesh, caused by an insect bite.

His tribal father, unable to save him, had taken him from his village by canoe and abandoned him on a jungle path leading to a Roman Catholic mission.

Nuns found him and took him to a run down paupers' hospital in the capital, Lima.

Desmond Wilcox recalls: "There he was effectively abandoned again, left alone in a small cot in the corner of the ward, with no toys or even a teddy bear."

That would have been the end of the story but for the arrival of Swiss charity worker Martine Schopfer. She found out that a famous Scottish



■ The Boy David as he is today: self assured and master of his own destiny

Boy David meets the woman who saved him

plastic surgeon, Ian Jackson, was on a short working visit to Lima, and took baby David to see him. For two agonising days she waited. And then was told that nothing could be done in Peru for this boy without a face.

Now desperate to save the baby at all costs, she virtually kidnapped him and smuggled him to Scotland, arriving

unannounced at the Jackson's home in Glasgow.

Martine's courage and determination paid off. David was not turned away a second time. And so started the relentless series of operations to rebuild his face – more than 100 to date and still more to come. And all the time Martine and David had never met since she left had him with the

Jacksons, who were to legally adopt him. So it was a magical moment when, 4,000 miles from home, the two finally met at the same hospital where he had been taken – and abandoned.

There was a moment's hesitation. And then a long embrace. Both were crying.

And many viewers at home must have shed a quiet tear themselves.



The City Swiss Club

Founded in 1856, the City Swiss Club offers a wide-ranging programme of business and social events throughout the year. It provides an excellent forum at which to meet people drawn from a wide variety of occupations and including a cross-section of staff and management of many of the Swiss companies operating in the UK. The next event will be our Dinner and Annual General Meeting to be held at Mosimanns on Tuesday 9th May 2000. This is always a very popular event and, due to limited space, is open to members only.

On 29th March, the City Swiss Club, in association with the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce, is hosting a dinner at Mosimanns at which Mrs Antoinette Hunziker-Ebneter, Chief Executive Officer of SWX Swiss Exchange, will give an after dinner speech entitled "How many Exchanges does Europe need?"

If you would like to learn more about the Club and/or receive a membership form, please contact Gill Egdell c/o Swissca Securities Limited, Camomile Court, 23 Camomile Street, London EC3A 7LL

Telephone: 0207 863 1903



Teachers want tough action on Swiss holiday prices

British tour operators are being severely criticised for massive increase in prices for half term holidays – particularly to Swiss ski resorts.

Teachers are up in arms, and the government is being urged by head teachers to crack down on the growing practice.

But all the flak is being directed at the holiday companies, not the hotels who say their own prices show no increase from week to week.

In a survey carried out by The Sunday Times, the worst example was a holiday booked by Inghams to the Sunstar Hotel, Grindelwald for two adults and two children under 12.

For the week beginning February 19, at the start of the half term holiday, the cost would be £3,804. But if the family waited until March 18 it

would be down to £1,438 – a 62 per cent saving.

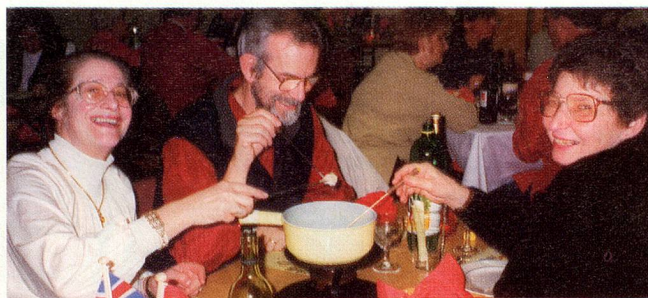
If the same family booked through Inghams for the Silberhorn Hotel in Wengen, leaving on February 5, they would pay £2,352. Two weeks later the price rockets 40 per cent to £3,304.

Teachers unions and parents call it profiteering, and want the government to take a hard line.

Said one headteacher in West London: "A significant proportion of unauthorised absence now comes from parents taking their children out of school in term time."

But Ingham's head of sales, Lawrence Hicks, said: "Any company will price their product according to demand."

"The ski season runs in peaks and troughs, and often the peaks subsidise the troughs."



Midlands club toasts the new Millennium in sparkling style

The largest ever number of members attended the first of the Midlands Swiss Society's annual fondue evenings of the new millennium, with ages spanning from seven to 80-something.

Edinburgh fields new team

There have been major changes at the top of the very active Swiss Club Edinburgh.

Trudi Bott has been elected president of the club, with Simona Stirling vice president.

Suzanne Henderson takes over as treasurer, and keeps her role in charge of welfare. Usula Ross has been reelected club secretary.

Marie Florence MacDonald has relinquished the vice presidency but remains a committee member, along with Elizabeth Davies and Ursula Lamb.

A top priority with the new committee is deciding how the club should celebrate its 40th anniversary, which will take place towards the end of the year.

Preliminary plans have already been discussed, and while no details have been given members have been asked to reserve the date of November 24 in their diaries.

The Swiss Review will give more news about this important milestone in the club in future issues.

Meanwhile members have been asked to search out any photographs, letters or funny stories which will help in compiling a history of the club over the last four decades.

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New minister of the Swiss Church inducted

The arrival of the new minister of the Swiss Church marks a return to Britain for the Rev André Feuz, who studied here in his youth.

Born in Zurich in 1962, he attended school and university in both Zurich and Birmingham, and in 1984 started teaching religious education at different schools.

In 1992 he became school chaplain at the Kantonsschule Freudenberg in Zurich, later becoming a part-time minister at Enge church. He later wrote

a book on religious education and also spent a period as a prison chaplain.

He was inducted into his new post in London by the Rt Rev Wipf of the Federation of Swiss Churches, who described it as a very important event in the life of the parish.

Regular activities at the Swiss Church include a combined service in French and English on the first Sunday in the month, and one in English on the third Sunday, both of which are followed by lunch.

Swiss watches' new man in UK

The Swiss Watchmakers' Federation has a new representative in the UK. He is John Goodall, who lives in St Albans, and who has taken over from the late Frank Edwards.

Mr Goodall has spent a long career in the British watch market. For more than 20 years he was editor of Retailer Jeweller magazine, and then editor of the UK edition of another magazine, International Wrist Watch.

USB brings jobs to Scotland

The USB is to establish a financial services centre in Edinburgh creating more than 400 jobs.

The site will serve the UK market as the bank aims to provide internet customer services and investment centres across Europe.

Bill Johnson, Business Area Head for this new initiative said: "A major reason UBS was attracted to Edinburgh was because as the UK's second largest financial centre it has a large pool of educated, trained professionals working in financial services".



Church leader: John Bader

Former president of Conistore dies at 85

John Bader, a stalwart of the Swiss community in the UK for many years, has died at the age of 85.

Born in 1914, he came to England with the professor of his Swiss technical school to start a technical school of precision engineering in

Cricklewood. Precision engineering was his life, and he became a director of Cam Profiles in St Albans, where he worked for many years.

But he gave a lot of his spare time to supporting the Swiss community. He took an active part in the life of the

Swiss Church, where he met his wife Yvonne, who died in 1971.

He became vice-president and then president of the Consistoire, and played a large part in organising activities such as the Swiss Sports and Church Bazaar.

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COMING EVENTS

Edinburgh Swiss Club:

Ghosts & Ghouls Tour in the Royal Mile (May 8); Walk along the Water of Leigh (June 19); National Day celebrations – combined barbecue with other Scottish clubs (July 28 or 29). Details from Ursula Ross on 0131 539 2543.

Fife Swiss Club:

No information supplied. Details from Heidi McGhie on 01383 412 635.

Manchester Swiss Club:

AGM plus party, Wilmslow Parish Hall (April 13); FOSSUK weekend, with AGM, dinner and excursion (June 3-4); Swiss National Day (July 29); Bowling & barbecue (September); Antiques Roadshow, Wilmslow Parish Hall (October 7). Details from Sandra Glauser on 0161 456 9262.

Midlands Swiss Society:

No information supplied. Details from Glynne Roberts on 01543 250 737.

Southern Area Swiss Club:

Family walk, Moor Green lakes to Bluebell woods (May 7); Coach trip to Marwell Zoo (June 18); First of August celebrations, Seale (July 29); Barn dance (September 8). Details from Vreni Rudkin on 01252 547 948.

Swiss Club East Kent:

Pub lunches and country walks every four weeks. Details from Agi Smith on 01843 601 314.

Swiss Club Tyne Tees:

Club meeting, Three Tuns Hotel, Durham (April 29); AGM & lunch, Redhill Hotel, Crossgated Moor, Durham (May 14). Details from Nelly Scott-Niederberger on 0191 519 0956.

Torbay Swiss Club:

Skittles evening (April 19); Coffee morning (May 4); Slide show (May 17). All events at Oddfellows Hall, Paignton. Details from Max Singer on 01803 842 355.

Unione Ticinese:

No information supplied. Details from Christiane Barber on 0181 348 3751.

West of Scotland Swiss Club:

Easter Egg Hunt, Emanuel House (April 23); Annual general meeting, 7 Hughenden Terrace (June 17). Details from Shula Spain-Gayer on 0141 339 5828.

Yorkshire Swiss Club:

Tea and Fête des Vignerons video, Rawdon (April 30). Bluebell time at Hardcastle Craggs (May 14). Details from Carolina Brook on 0113 294 5929.

Promote YOUR society!

All club secretaries are asked to write to the editor before April 21 with details of events planned to take place after June 16.

small ads

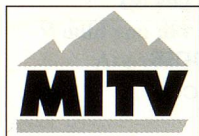
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