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Switzerland in the UK



Klosters gets the prince's stamp of approval

Prince William's annual visits to the ski slopes of Klosters have been immortalised in a set of stamps produced to mark his 18th birthday on June 21.

The stamps, issued by Jersey Post, can only be used on the island of Jersey. But they will also be available from many post offices throughout the world.

Others in the set show the prince playing polo, outside Caernarvon Castle in Wales, and against the backdrop of a dazzling firework display.

Prince Williams' latest visit to Klosters, together with his father, Prince Charles, and brother Harry, was at the beginning of April.

Heavy snowfalls just before the party arrived meant near perfect skiing conditions.

All three princes took to the slopes with new Dynamique 'carvers', which are wider than traditional skis.

New ambassador off to the palace to meet the Queen



"Your Excellency, your carriage awaits..." This was the scene in Bryanston Square, in the West End of London, as the new Swiss Ambassador to the Court of St James, Bruno Spinner, prepares to leave his Residence to

drive in state through the streets of the capital for the time honoured ceremony of presenting his credentials to the Queen. Accompanying him on the horse drawn ride to Buckingham Palace is his wife Madelon.

Crossair launches new flights – and a new look

Crossair goes into the summer with more flights between the UK, Ireland and Switzerland than any other airline.

Its 29 daily flights include a number that have been rescheduled to be more convenient for passengers.

New early morning services from Birmingham and London City mean business travellers can get to the heart of Zurich by just after 9.30am. And three flights leave London before 9am for Geneva and Basle.



Both Birmingham and Manchester departures are now with sleek Brazilian built Embraer 145s, which cut flying time by 10 to 15 minutes.

Flights from Edinburgh to

Zurich are now operated with the Avro RJ Jumbolino, capable of carrying 50 per cent more passengers as well as scheduling an earlier departure time of 12.20pm.

Celebrating the airline's 25th anniversary, Crossair is also introducing a new look, with its fleet repainted to show a white fuselage with elegant dark blue lettering. The chrome-silver tail will feature a new logo, with the white cross sitting on a vibrant red field. This, according to the company, "depicts Crossair's readiness to venture on to new shores in Europe."

It will, however, be several years before the entire fleet gets this beauty treatment.

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*Quality you
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By Consul General Robert Müller

Birmingham honours a Swiss citizen

From his home town in Davos he came to England at the age of 17, shortly before the end of the 19th century, to train as a pastry chef and to learn the confectionery trade.

After working for a year at an establishment owned by his uncle in Oxford, he took up a post on the kitchen staff of the House of Commons and cooked for well known peers and members of Parliament for the handsome wage of nine shillings (45p) a week.

Later he realised his dreams by setting up his own business. He became a wealthy businessman and the owner of a chocolate and cake factory in Birmingham, known throughout the country, with more than 1,300 employees. In some respects his CV is similar to those of so-called 'dishwashers' who became millionaires in the USA.

His name was Christian Künzle (1879-1954), who was honoured in March by Birmingham Civic Society at a ceremony to unveil a blue plaque outside the Abbey National bank in Broad Street, Five Ways, Birmingham, the former site of Künzle's factory, Messrs C. Künzle Ltd.

How did this compatriot of ours come to receive such a rare honour?

Christian Künzle was more than an excellent cake maker and successful businessman. He cared about the poor and the sick. He was a philanthropist through and through.

By acquiring the Château de Bruxelles near Davos and converting it into a sanatorium, Christian Künzle



■ Pictured at the unveiling ceremony: Bruce Tanner, Robert Müller, Lord Tugendhat, George Künzle and Leslie Noble

made it possible, over several decades, for countless children and young people from the Birmingham area suffering from TB and other lung diseases to convalesce in the favourable climatic conditions of the Davos mountains.

The therapeutic effects were dramatic. A doctor, after seeing the Christian Künzle Alpine Home at work, wrote: "I am left with no doubt in my mind about the fundamental soundness of the idea.

"Swiss sunshine at that altitude and in that climate does provide something which cannot be provided in England."

In this way Christian Künzle was determined, and able, to return much of his wealth to

the children and young adults of Birmingham. Although it is almost 50 years since his death, his great deeds and his humanitarianism have obviously not been forgotten.

Guests at the unveiling ceremony included Christian Künzle's grandson, George Künzle and his wife from Portsmouth, Abbey National chairman Lord Tugendhat, chairman of the Diana, Princess of Wales Children's Hospital and the Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust Mrs Justice Hindley and Birmingham Civic Society chairman Bruce Tanner, as well as representatives from education, medicine and the Swiss community.

St Gall treasures go on show

A unique exhibition devoted to the cultural treasures of the Abbey of St Gall opens in the library of York Minister on August 7. It includes photos, models and copies of some of

the Abbey's priceless documents, many of which date back more than 1,000 years. The exhibition, which is on a world tour, will remain in York until September 15.

How to contact the editor

Reports of Swiss society activities and coming events, 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: 01538 306 114.

His email address is: dmeakin@swissinfo.org.

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 October, is August 25.

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Check out the details, fill in the questionnaire and enrol for the event at the site of The Association of Young Swiss Abroad - www.youngswiss.ch - or order the AYSA NEWS 1999/2000 from: Association of Young Swiss Abroad AYSA • Postfach 4024 • CH-8021 Zürich • Phone +45 40 36 20 10 (President of AYSA) • Fax +41 1 732 64 80 • PCC N. 25-208726-7 •



If you simply wish to get in touch with many other Young Swiss Abroad and receive important news, join the AYSA mailing list by sending an email to: youngswiss-subscribe@egroups.com



Win a free place at this unique Training Experience Workshop

FOSSUK – the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK – is organising a competition to enable three young Swiss to travel to Zug in August to take part in the Training Experience Workshop of the Congress of the Swiss Abroad.

This event, arranged by the Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, will be held from August 14 to 18, and is open to anyone between the ages of 15 and 35.

Included in the programme are visits to companies, preparation of topics for debate and active participation in the Congress, whose topic this year will be "learning and knowledge of the future, offerings, development and strength of Switzerland as a centre of training." Full details can be found on the Internet at www.aso.ch.

The winners will stay with a host family in Zug, organised by Swiss Pong (Stapferhaus Lenzburg).

Total cost of the workshop, congress and stay is Sfr.420, which, together with travel, is being offered by the 'Switzerland in the UK' section of the Swiss Review.

How to enter: Answer the five questions on the form below, complete the other details and post it before July 12.

The three lucky winners, whose name will be drawn from those with correct answers and who fulfil conditions laid down by the Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, will be notified by July 15.

Training Experience Workshop Competition

1. Who organises the stay with host families?
2. What is the web site for details of the Youth Service offers?
3. What is the theme of the Congress of the Swiss Abroad 2000 in Zug?
4. What is included in the Sfr.450 cost of the Workshop?
5. What is the full name of FOSSUK?

My answers to the questions in the Swiss Review are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

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POST to: FOSSUK Contest, Swiss Review, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP **before July 12.**

Ogi spells out n

The growing contribution of Switzerland to bringing peace to war torn parts of the world has been graphically described by the Swiss President, Adolf Ogi, in a speech at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

He told his audience, which included the Duke of York and chiefs of the armed services, that Switzerland, with its long standing humanitarian tradition and commitment, was engaged in peace support, not peace enforcement.

"Switzerland is not an island," he said. "We feel the effects of events outside Switzerland quickly within our borders. At the

peak of the Kosovo crisis about ten per cent of all Kosovars were living in Switzerland. We have a national and humanitarian interest in a democratic, stable and peaceful world.

This is part of what the President had to say:

Switzerland is not a major power in Europe. The last time the old Swiss made a move in this direction was almost half a millennium ago. The Swiss learned their lesson with the defeat of Marignano.

Switzerland received its final shape at the Vienna Congress of 1815. At the same time its neutrality was recognised by the

Invest in Switzerland, urges Ambssador

Switzerland is the fourth largest overseas investor in the UK. Now moves are under way to convince British firms that Switzerland itself is highly attractive as an investment location.

As part of this campaign, one of the first public functions of the new Swiss Ambassador, Bruno Spinner, was to promote the opportunities at a Swiss Microsystems Forum in London, attended by Britain's Minister for Science Lord Sainsbury.

He said that Switzerland was now seeking foreign investment in cutting edge high technology, helped by changes in legislation such as competition law and a lowering

of technical barriers to trade. The bilateral agreements with the EU, due to come into force next January, would also help facilitate trade between Switzerland and the rest of Europe.

The Ambassador said that while Switzerland was not a member of the Single Market, its network of agreements with the EU formed a valid basis for doing business with each other.

Currently, two thirds of all Swiss exports go to the EU, and 80 per cent of Swiss imports come from the EU.

Added the Ambassador: "Great Britain is our fifth most important trade partner worldwide, with an annual trade volume of around £6 billion."

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN LONDON - SATURDAY, 15th JULY 2000

The First of August Committee is once again inviting all the Swiss Abroad, their families and friends to join in the celebrations to mark the Swiss National Day. As in previous years the festivities will take place in the grounds of the King Alfred School in North End Road, Golders Green, North London. In traditional Swiss style the event will feature a huge marquee, live music and dance as well as authentic Swiss food, prepared by the famous Armin Löttscher from the St. Moritz Restaurant.

The First of August Celebrations have a long tradition although the size of the event until 1991 was rather less grand. The success of Battersea Park led to the event being held in Golders Green and the size and location of this site has proved a great success.

This year a very special guest will deliver a personal message from the Swiss Council. Mr. Adolf Ogi, President of the Federal Council, will be visiting London and will, no doubt, give us his views on the impact for Switzerland and the UK after the momentous decision the Swiss voters have taken in May.

Mr. Ogi last visited the event in 1991 when it was held in Battersea Park for the 700th birthday of the Swiss Nation. It is, therefore, a great honour for the Swiss Community to be able to welcome Mr. Ogi again after nine years.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the readers of the Swiss Review to join the First of August Committee in helping to stage next year's celebrations. Any contribution would be extremely welcome.

For further information contact us at: firstaug@which.net Susanne Brzozowski, President of the First of August Committee

New Swiss role in peace-keeping

European powers. Switzerland concentrated on keeping together a country of two religious confessions, of four languages and cultural groups.

No wars were started by Switzerland. No colonies were won or lost. There were revolutionaries in Switzerland, but they plotted the revolution in Russia, having given up on the Swiss.

Lenin said it all: 'You cannot make a revolution in a country where the number of bank accounts is larger than the number of citizens'.

Switzerland has a certain image. A neutral country. A country with no standing army, but at the same time with strong armed forces. A country with a strong will to independence. A country keeping to itself, avoiding both tragedies and the need for heroism. A rich country. And the seat of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This is all true. But Switzerland is also more. A working model of federalism. A living example of four language and cultural groups living together, not just side by side.

A country wide open to the world. With little resources beyond water and mountains, we have to be open to the world. With our demographic situation, we have to be open to our neighbours.

Our security policy has been shaped between these two lines: being open and keeping apart. The Cold War reinforced the tendency to keep to ourselves. We were part of the West with regard to our values, our economic, political and social system. But we were neutral with respect to political-

military issues. And we had the support of Winston Churchill, who said: 'It does not matter whether you are neutral. The important question is, on what side you are neutral!'

With the end of the Cold War many things changed, and for Switzerland too.

Threats and dangers, risks and challenges do no longer respect national borders. We

see a globalisation in security affairs, not just in the economy. To meet the challenges countries must cooperate.

At the same time it has become easier for Switzerland to cooperate. The opportunities have multiplied. It has become possible to work together with NATO without becoming a member. The end of the great East-West confrontation in

Europe has also increased our freedom of action, our flexibility.

In short, cooperation in security policy has become both more necessary and easier for Switzerland. Strategic necessity and strategic opportunity came together at the same time. This is the basis of the new Swiss security policy: security through cooperation.

The President meets the Prince



President Ogi, pictured here with Prince Andrew, told his distinguished guests of his close personal ties with Britain. As a native of the Bernese Oberland, he was well aware that mountaineering and skiing were introduced to Switzerland by the British. Then, almost 40 years ago, he came to London to study at the Swiss Mercantile School. "This was when I met the English language," he said. "I started liking

the British so much that I can almost forgive you for having such a difficult language." Back in Switzerland he became director of tourism at Meiringen, a region well known to British visitors and where Professor Moriarty almost killed Sherlock Holmes. Said the President: "Speaking as an alpinist, I am confident that the Swiss-British relationship will move from peak to peak."



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.

City Swiss Club

In addition to several informal evenings held throughout the year, we have also arranged joint events with other Swiss Clubs and societies. Our social programme culminates in a formal annual Banquet and Ball in November at Claridges.

We also hold our AGM and dinner at Mosimann's Club which always proves to be very popular with our members.

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

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Pensions worries: The Embassy explains all

In response to P. Murphy's letter published in the 6/1999 issue of the Swiss Review concerning the voluntary OASI/DI scheme, the Swiss Compensation Office – OASI/DI Office at the Embassy of Switzerland in London would like to make the following comments.

It must be stressed that no benefits of current or past members have been or will be cancelled.

A bill is currently going through the Swiss Parliament to alter the membership rules of the voluntary Old Age Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance (OASI/DI) for Swiss

citizens resident abroad.

This basically means that Swiss people moving from Switzerland to most countries with which we have an agreement on social security will not be in a position to join the scheme.

During the transitory period, members above the age of 50 will be entitled to remain insured. It would be too costly for this group to subscribe to a private scheme.

Those younger will have to find alternative arrangements within a period of six years. This is because anyone of any

nationality – provided they have been insured for five years prior to departure – leaving Switzerland for a country other than those mentioned in the proposed law will not be allowed to remain insured after the six-year period.

The reason for these modifications has to be viewed in the context of the bilateral agreement between the European Union and Switzerland. The new measures fall in line with the other EU countries.

Should the scheme be allowed to carry on in its present

form, it would mean that anyone living in the EU, Swiss or not, could join the scheme. It is argued that millions would become members with disastrous financial consequences for the Swiss economy.

This proposed law has already been modified as it goes through Parliament and might be altered further or indeed may not be passed.

For further information please contact the SCO – OASI/DI Office at the Swiss Embassy or the Consulate General of Switzerland in Manchester.



Manchester Swiss Club is to make a new push to attract younger members with the election to the club committee of Julie Baker, daughter of one of the best known figures in the Swiss community in the UK, Bernie Simon. She is pictured here with her parents at the club's recent AGM.

New presidents elected

Two of the leading Swiss societies in the UK elected new presidents at their AGMs.

FOSSUK president Jeffrey Long stepped down from the presidency of the Yorkshire Swiss Club after 17 years' service and handed the post over to Anne Vanal.

At the same time the club elected a new secretary, Jenny Dransfield, to replace Carolina Brook.

At the Unione Ticinese, Christiane Barber-Zamboni,

who joined the club when she first arrived in London more than 20 years ago and has been secretary for the last five years, becomes the new president, taking over from Valeria Ossola. The new secretary – the society's youngest ever – is Paul Allegranza, whose father, the late Frank Allegranza, held the same position from 1975 to 1980.

Both Jeffrey Long and Valeria Ossola received tokens of appreciation from their clubs.

OSA votes against use of English in official documents

Nelly Scott-Niederberger has failed in her bid to persuade the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad to issue all official forms and documents in English in addition to the four official languages.

Mrs Scott-Niederberger, who is president of Tyne Tees Swiss Club, argued at the last Council of the OSA that many people in the UK had difficulty in translating the documents.

But her plea fell on deaf ears, and Council delegates decided such a move was not desirable, feasible or necessary.

The Council also ruled that with 24,741 Swiss registered, the UK was only entitled to send three delegates and two deputies – one fewer than previously. But they did agree that the Swiss Gibraltar Association, which joins FOSSUK at the June AGM, should also be accepted as a member of the OSA.

It was reported that 70,000 Swiss Abroad are now registered to vote. The OSA would like to

see the number increased to 100,000, and plan a campaign to encourage more to register and to actively take part in federal ballots.

In addition to Mrs Scott-Niederberger, the UK was represented at the Council by Rose-Marie Breitenstein and Margrit Lyster.



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COMING EVENTS

Edinburgh Swiss Club: Walk along the Water of Leigh (June 19); National Day celebrations – combined barbecue with other Scottish clubs at Beecraig Country Park (July 29). Details from Ursula Ross on 0131 539 2543.

Fife Swiss Club: National Day celebrations – combined barbecue with other Scottish clubs at Beecraig Country Park (July 29). Details from Heidi McGhie on 01383 412 635.

Manchester Swiss Club: Swiss National Day (July 29); Bowling & barbecue at Prestbury (September 10); Antiques Roadshow, Wilmslow

Parish Hall (October 7). Details from Sandra Glauser on 0161 456 9262.

Midlands Swiss Society: Medieval tour of Coventry (June 17); Canal trip to King's Norton (July 9); Federal Day barbecue, Warwick/Leamington August 1); Wine tasting quiz, Sutton Coldfield (September 8); Raclette evening, Sutton Coldfield (October 7). Details from Glynne Roberts on 01543 250 737.

Southern Area Swiss Club: Coach trip to Marwell Zoo (June 18); First of August celebrations, Seale (July 29); Barn dance (September 8); Skittles, North Warnborough (October 12). 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: Pennine boat trip from

Skipton, with Yorkshire Swiss Club (June 25). Details from Nelly Scott-Niederberger on 0191 519 0956.

Torbay Swiss Club: Outing to Paignton Zoo (June 21); Coffee morning (July 6); Tour to Old Way Mansion (July 19); Swiss National Day at Lupton Park (August 1). Details from Max Singer on 01803 842 355.

Unione Ticinese: Annual barbecue at Hurstpierpoint (June 25); Castagnata (October 28). Details from Paul Allegranza on 01372 462 986; email: paul@allegranza.freeserve.co.uk.

West of Scotland Swiss Club: German speaking kindergarten every second Saturday 10am-12noon; German and Swiss German classes every Tuesday 4.30pm – all at 7 Hughenden Terrace; National Day celebrations – combined

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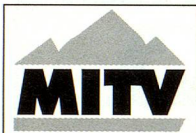
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barbecue with other Scottish clubs at Beecraig Country Park (July 29). Details from Shula Spain-Gayer on 0141 339 5828; email: chclub@citydemon.co.uk.

Yorkshire Swiss Club: Pennine boat trip from Skipton, with Tyne Tees Swiss Club (June 25); Swiss National Day, York (June 29). Details from Jenny Dransfield on 01924 495 929.

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