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Please apply in writing with CV to: Mrs Margrit Lyster, Swiss Benevolent Society, 79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY or by email: info@swissbenevolent.org.uk.

Bigger voice for Swiss abroad hailed by OSA

Four representatives of Swiss in the UK attended the final meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad before it is reconstituted following this summer's OSA elections.

Travelling to Berne for the event were the three UK delegates, Rose-Marie Breitenstein, Joe Broggin and Margrit Lyster, and deputy delegate Freddie Wyser, who is also secretary of FOSSUK.

In a report to UK clubs on achievements during the four years of the council's mandate, they singled out the setting up last September of the parliamentary lobby of 85 members of all parties in the two chambers of the Swiss Parliament, who now have responsibility for the affairs of the Swiss Abroad.

The voice of Swiss overseas was also being strengthened by the steady increase in the number of registered voters who were now able to play an active part in federal elections and referendums.

The Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of Switzerland saying 'Yes' to the federal ballot on June 5 supporting the 'open borders' Schengen/Dublin treaty.

There were 56 votes for and only six against.

But they rejected a proposal from the right wing Swiss People's Party to prevent Swiss citizens having dual nationality. They said this

would be against Switzerland generally and particularly Swiss nationals living abroad, 71 per cent of whom had dual nationality.

Other subjects discussed included facilitating the naturalisation for descendants of Swiss citizens abroad, freedom of movement between Switzerland and countries in the European Union, and maintaining the federal subsidy for Swiss schools overseas.

On the question of aid for Swiss in need, they discussed the difficulties faced by Swiss living in Argentina, cooperation with the *Glückskette/Chaîne du Bonheur*, and they heard about the care given to Swiss citizens caught up in the Asian tsunami. Reference was made to the Schnyder von Wartensee Foundation which is administered by the OSA to provide relief to Swiss living abroad who are victims of natural disasters.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Interlaken in September during the 2005 Congress of the Swiss Abroad.

The names of the UK delegates are being decided at an election during the annual general meeting of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK being held at Broadstairs in Kent.

Details will be given in the next issue of the *Swiss Review*.

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To learn more about the Club and/or receive a membership form, please contact: Julie Streader, City Swiss Club, c/o Secure Trust Banking Group PLC, Arbuthnot House, 20 Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AR.

Telephone: 020 7012 2400 www.cityswissclub.org info@cityswissclub.org

Swiss turn to Brits to make Heidi into a musical

Heidiland in Eastern Switzerland, will be filled with the sound of music this summer when Johanna Spyri's classic children's story is staged on the shores of Lake Walen as a West End style musical. The idea of the Heidiland Tourist Office, they called in the British team of Stephen Keeling and

Shaun McKenna to turn it into reality.

To get them in the mood they spent three days visiting the region, then wrote the book and lyrics in English before they were translated into German. Heidi – The Musical opens in late July, and there is already talk of later bringing it to London.

Parish weekend away was a joy

A weekend in the country in beautiful surroundings with stimulating discussions and good company – that's what 20 members of London's Swiss Church enjoyed.

Writes Chris Dyke: The main topic was the bible. Most of us have dipped into it.

but how often do we question who wrote it and why. By the end of our discussions it was the first time I could understand why some people have rather unbending views on the bible. Also why there should be so much disagreement and discussion on what the bible

means for all of us. Being Swiss in England can sometimes be a lonely experience.

A chance to meet others who appreciate the value of *Basler Leckerli* and the taste of real Swiss cakes is a welcome from the daily Englishness of our surroundings. Having said that Ashburnham Place is the very epitome of rural England.

A huge stately home set in rolling Sussex countryside near the site of the clash between Harold and William the Conqueror, it is a lovely place to be with friends.

So if you are sitting there thinking I never have time to stop and think keep your eye open for next spring's event.

A stimulating and enjoyable weekend is assured.



■ Swiss Church members on their weekend away at Ashburnham in Sussex

Gruyère is voted the world's top cheese

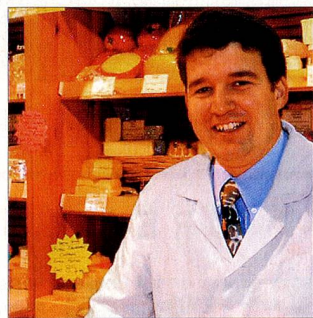
There was considerable jubilation among the cheesemakers in Fribourg when word came through from London that their Gruyère AOC Premier Cru had been crowned World Champion by a team of international experts.

The award winning cheese came from the family firm of Von Mühlengen in Düdingen, made from pure new milk from dozens of dairies throughout Gruyère.

There were entries from just about every cheesemaking country in the world – a record number of 1,662 different cheeses. Sampling them were 120 judges working in 30 different teams.

They made 128 gold awards, 124 silver and 134 bronze. The gold award winning cheeses were judged a second time by a different jury, who selected 12 cheeses to go into the grand final.

Then, as camera rolled, the World Championship jury sat



in a line and passed judgement on each cheese in turn. And for the first time in the 18 years' history of the awards, they were unanimous in their decision: Gruyère Premier Cru had been given 116 points out of a maximum of 120, making it the clear winner.

At the award ceremony that followed was the company's head, Roger von Mühlengen, his son Walo, the CEO, and one of the first retailers in Britain to stock the top prize winner, John Axon of Cheese Hamlet in Manchester (pictured above).



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:

Creative House,
Snape Road,
Macclesfield
SK10 2NZ.



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 October, is August 17.

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Choir exchange opens new link between Ealing Abbey and the 1,000 year old cathedral of Lugano

Glorious choral music will be heard in British and Swiss churches this summer when Ealing Abbey Choir and the Lugano Cathedral Scuola Corale visit each other's countries for a series of concerts.

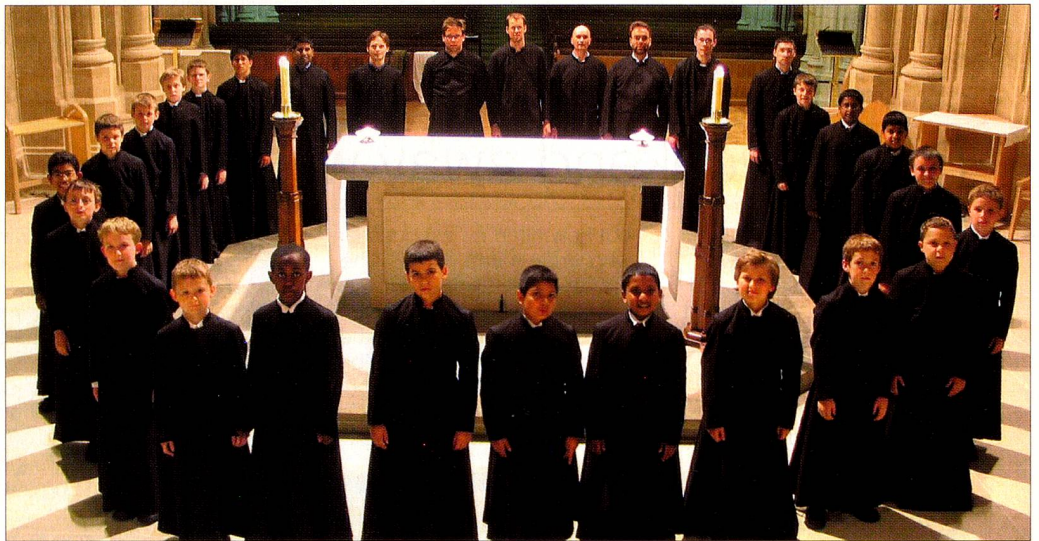
The Lugano Cathedral Scuola Corale is giving concerts in St Mary's Streteley, Oxford University Church of St Mary, Exeter Cathedral, Wimborne Minster and Ealing Abbey.

The boys from Ealing Abbey Choir, one of the finest Catholic choirs in the UK, are to sing at the magnificent Benedictine Abbey of Disentis in the Grisons as well as at Lugano Cathedral – believed to be well over a thousand years old – and the city's Santa Maria degli Angeli Church, whose own history goes back to 1499.

The Lugano Cathedral Scuola Corale, also one of the finest choirs of its kind in Switzerland, is conducted by Robert Michaels who is British, and will be accompanied on their tour by the renowned organist Massimo Nosetti, formerly of Turin Cathedral, who is known for his recitals world wide.

The choir is celebrating its 20th anniversary and involves girls and boys aged nine to 18 who between them have at least six mother tongues and many nationalities.

They regularly perform abroad and were chosen to



■ Ealing Abbey choirboys preparing for this summer's historic visit to Disentis and Lugano

sing at the Vatican in 2002 for the swearing-in of the new Swiss Guards.

Ealing Abbey Choir was

founded in 1908, and comprises a choir of 26 boys and six professional layclerks. Following their CD release 'Love

Divine' the choir recently recorded for BBC1's Songs of Praise, performing two pieces by director and composer Timothy Blinks.

In May, the choristers will sing in London's Queen Elizabeth Hall in a performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion, and have also performed recently a commission for the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

Robert Michaels, the director of the Lugano choir, co-represented Switzerland at a private audience with Pope John-Paul II last September in his capacity as vice-president of the Swiss Pueri Cantores Federation.



■ The mixed choir of Lugano Cathedral are now veterans of overseas tours

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The 'Voice of Switzerland Abroad' faces more cuts

Cutbacks decreed by Berne will result in the breaking of another important link between the Swiss Abroad and the homeland.

The imminent axing of up to 80 jobs by the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation will mean the closing down of eight language services at its Internet arm, swissinfo, leaving a much reduced English output.

The government's decision to end funding will result in an annual saving of Sfr.16 million (more than £7 million). This follows more savings that were ordered last year when 26 jobs were lost at Swiss Radio International.

Last October radio broadcasts were ended, and swissinfo concentrated exclusively on its Internet services.

The latest cuts have been loudly condemned by Swiss communities around the globe, and the employees' union, SSM, has vowed to vigorously fight the decision.

Swiss Radio International was formed in 1934. For 70 years it has been broadcasting all round the world, first on shortwave and more recently by satellite.

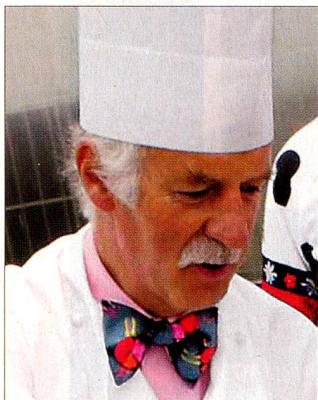
Six years ago it launched its Internet arm, swissinfo, which has been available in nine languages – English, French,

German, Italian, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese.

Now, only a cut down English service will remain.

The Council for the Swiss Abroad has described the cuts as "unacceptable."

But the director general of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, Armin Walpen, said: "We think the situation for Swiss expatriates today is quite different to what it was 20 years ago. They now have access to all kinds of information. It's important to note that many Swiss organisations and institutions have their own websites. If you look at it that way, this decision is justified."



How the taste of the Ticino influenced Anton Mosimann

As the short extract below shows, celebrity chef Anton Mosimann (pictured left) waxes eloquently about the Ticino in the pages of Alberto Dell'Acqua's gastronomic masterpiece, *Foody*. And no wonder: The book is a remarkable

record of the long and happy relationship between the Ticinese and the British, alive with history, anecdotes and curiosities.

But the emphasis is on food glorious food, with recipes collected from members of the Anglican community in the Ticino and their friends.

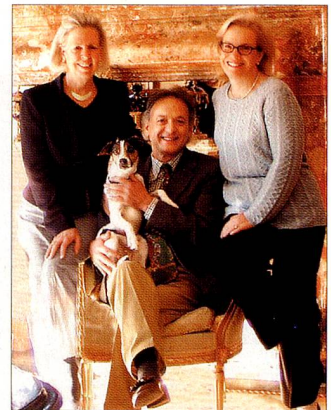
There are 60 different recipes, ranging from Artichoke Dip (*Dip di Carciofi*) through Toad in the Hole (*Salsiccie in Camicia*) and Impossible Pie (*Morsetti al Cioccolato*) to Carrot Tea Bread (*Pane Dolce alle Carote*) and Rosy Nell Plum Jam (*Marmellata di Prugne*).

Their contributors are people like Amelia Smithers, Margaret Mallory, Jeremy Daynes, Jennifer Debney and Jane Wood – names that are more redolent of dainty garden parties on the vicarage lawn than sun scorched patios in the Ticino. But they are all well worth trying.

As Anton Mosimann writes in the book: "Alberto Dell'Acqua has succeeded admirably in

uniting two grand cultures by means of the gastronomic and historical tales told in this savoury volume."

• *The book is not yet available in England but can be obtained for Frs. 72 from Fontana Edizioni SA, CP 231, CH-6963 Pregassona-Lugano.*



■ The author, Alberto Dell'Acqua, with translator Cindy Korfmann, recipe collector Lulu Cerny, and Smokey

Why I feel somewhat Ticinese

I define myself an Anglo-Swiss, but, when I think of Switzerland and my happiest, most poignant holidays I also feel somewhat Ticinese.

Serendipity led to my "Cuisine Naturelle" being baptized in Lugano, and I had the chance to prepare one of my special picnics at the Locarno Film Festival.

I also had the honour of playing the role of a Ticinese chef for the Swiss Embassy at the London Museum on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation.

And how could I forget the polenta e brasato of my friend Lucia, the risotto ai funghi that only Dario Ranza has mastered so perfectly, and the pesce in carpione of dear Angelo Conti Rossini!... It was Angelo who remembered with admiration and recognition our ancestors who emigrated to Great Britain seeking their fortunes. Over a glass of good merlot del Ticino, we thought about the incredible evolution of restaurants since the times of Trabattoni, Gatti, Pagani, Meschini.

Because of this memory I wanted my sons Mark and Philipp to start their careers in Ticino, where the gastronomic culture is so felicitously united with the land.

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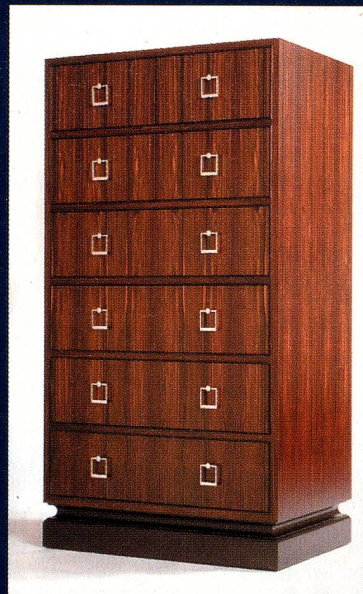
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Mini fondue kit a wow at London food show

One of the sensations at the UK's premier food and drinks event, the International Food Show, was the unveiling of a Swiss made miniature fondue kit.

Visitors crowded round the stand to see how easy it was to prepare – and found the taste irresistible.

It was part of the first ever Swiss pavilion at the London event, organised by the Embassy-based Swiss Business Hub UK and hosted by such well known Swiss firms as Emmi, Alp Senn and von Mühlenen.

The compact Le Superbe kit, presented by cheese specialist Lustenberger-Dürst of Zug, comes in a 17cm square box.

It consists of a white ceramic heater in which sits a black ceramic pot.

You also need a 400gm packet of easily obtainable prepared fondue, which goes into the inner container.

This is heated in a microwave oven for four minutes, then transferred to

the fondue pot where a single candle is all that's needed to keep the mixture bubbling.

The kit also contains two candles and four fondue forks.

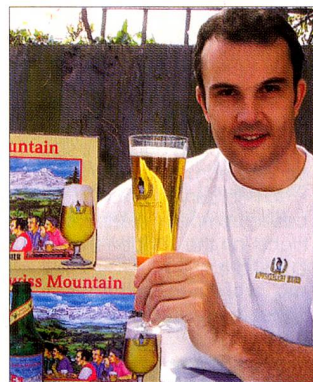
The idea is so simple that the whole preparation takes less than five minutes.

When the kit becomes available in the UK it is expected to sell for less than £10.



■ Ryan and Sophie try out the new easy to use fondue kit launched in London

Appenzeller Bier gets a boost



One of Switzerland's oldest beers, the 300 year old Appenzeller Bier, is about to make a big splash in the UK. And its launch pad will be the even more historic Tower of London.

It's the brainchild of a young Swiss living in London, René Seidl (pictured left), and it will be the first venture of his newly formed importing company, Swiss Connection (tel: 0208 348 5584).

It will be introduced in July at the two week Tower of London Festival of Music, which will feature five nights of grand opera and six nights of classic jazz.

Why choose such an event for the launch? Because, says René, "the festival is being put on by my girlfriend, Hannah Francis."

In fact Hannah, formerly principal soprano with the English National Opera, will be singing the title role in Donizetti's great tragic opera, Anna Bolena.

Later, René hopes to start importing Swiss wines as well.

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Surrey Swiss enjoy canal tour by narrow boat

Fifty seven adults, five children and one baby of three months from West Surrey Swiss Club boarded a horse drawn narrow boat for a memorable canal cruise that included a two hour lunch, passing through one of Britain's oldest barge locks.



British TV finds gold in Lucerne

TV programmes from Britain scooped the awards at this year's prestigious Golden Rose of Lucerne festival.

The BBC's Little Britain scored a double success, with Matt Lucas and David Walliams collecting their own Golden Roses for best comedy and best male comedy performances.

Strictly Come Dancing won the best variety prize and Nighty Night was judged best sitcom. The prize for best music went to BBC3's Flashmob - The Opera.

Zoe Wanamaker was voted best female performer, and comic Peter Kay best male performer, while Test the

Nation: The Great British Test won the top award in the game show category.

Head of BBC3 Stuart Murphy said he was delighted his channel "came up smelling of roses". And Jane Lush, BBC Entertainment Chief added: "This was a fantastic night - our best result in years with an incredible range of shows from both entertainment and comedy."



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Contest winner

Swiss Review reader C Locher of Wimbledon has received two free tickets for a return flight from London to Berne - the prize in a competition in our last issue sponsored by Darwin Airline.

In February the Ticino based company started direct flights on the London-Berne-Lugano route.

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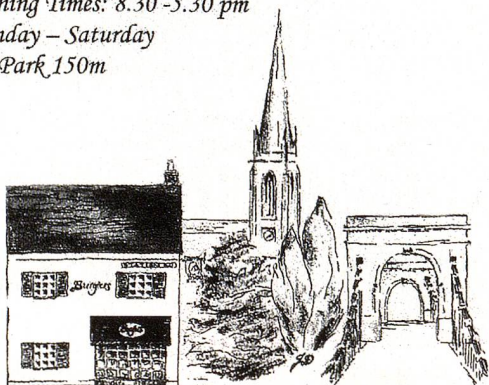
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