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Top story

ROYAL AWARD FOR SWISS ARCHITECT

The enigmatic Swiss architect Peter Zumthor is in London this month to receive one of the most prestigious prizes in the world for architecture, the Royal Gold Medal.

Given in recognition of a lifetime's work, the Royal Gold Medal is approved personally by Her Majesty the Queen and is given to those who have had a significant influence "either directly or indirectly on the advancement of architecture".

Zumthor came to international attention with the exquisite thermal baths he designed in Vals, a village in Switzerland's Graubünden canton. At once ancient and modern, the atmospheric baths, completed in 1996, form a gently haunting part of the natural landscape, crafted from layers of local quartzite. Some of his most celebrated projects include the Kunsthaus Bregenz in Austria and the Kolumba Art Museum in Cologne.

RIBA President Angela Brady, who chaired the Honours Committee, which

“

The Royal Gold Medal is approved personally by the Queen

selected the Royal Gold medal winner, said, "Peter Zumthor's work renews the link with a tradition of modern architecture that emphasises place, community and material practice. His writings dwell upon the experience of designing, building and inhabitation, while his buildings are engaged in a rich dialogue with architectural history."

Zumthor was born in Basel in 1943 and trained as a cabinet-maker at



Peter Zumthor's Serpentine Pavillion in 2011

his father's shop before training as an architect. The sixty-nine-year-old made his architectural debut in Britain in 2011, when he designed the Serpentine Gallery's summer pavilion in London's Hyde Park. His black box building, which concealed a magical "secret garden" within its walls,

became one of the quirkiest designs in the gallery's history of commissioning temporary summer structures. The enigmatic Swiss architect is currently designing a house in south-west England for philosopher Alain de Botton's Living Architecture architect-designed holiday scheme.

Awards

Top Swiss banker recognised for service to Jewish community

Dr Josef Ackermann, one of Europe's most prominent and influential bankers, has been awarded the Leo Baeck Medal of Recognition for his devoted support of Jewish cultural and academic institutions.

The Swiss banker and former CEO of Deutsche Bank is the second person to receive this distinguished award, which was presented to him by the Leo Baeck Institute London. A festive ceremony was held at the Swiss Ambassador's residence in London. The London-branch of the Institute praised Ackermann for the invaluable amount of goodwill and generosity he had brought to the causes at the heart of the Leo Baeck Institute, as well as the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt.

Despite courting much controversy during his banking career, Ackermann is considered by many to be one of the most successful business leaders in recent history. As well as heading up the Schweiz-



Josef Ackermann and his wife celebrate with Ambassador Thalmann and his wife

erische Kreditanstalt (SKA), Deutsche Bank and since 2012 the Zurich Insurance Group, he is also on the boards of Siemens AG and Royal Dutch Shell Plc. He holds honorary positions at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt and the London Business School.

The influential and highly-respected Leo Baeck Institute London was founded in 1955. It was named after the last public representative of the Jewish community in Nazi Germany and its mission is to document and research the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry.

Editorial

Dear Readers,



First of all, I would like to wish all our readers a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

2013 marks the start of canvassing for 4 new UK delegates to represent the Swiss expat community on the Council of the Swiss Abroad. We plan to cover the election process extensively during the coming months.

A Swiss documentary-maker contributes to the reconciliation process in Rwanda bringing together a young national football player and his father, a genocide convict serving a 28-year sentence for atrocities committed during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

And on a lighter note, have you ever thought your Times New Roman or Calibri (Body) font might exude charm and warmth? An award-winning Swiss typographer describes how a font can convey more than just words.

Andrew Littlejohn

Politics

DELEGATES WANTED TO SERVE EXPATS

Election time is upon us once again and the Swiss community in the UK and Ireland is looking for 4 delegates to serve on the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the period 2013 – 2017.

Joe Broggin, a London-Ticinese, has spent the past three decades working assiduously as a UK-delegate to the OSA in Bern. Here he describes the power of the collective voice and the many friendships made over the years, but equally how the decision to put oneself forward as a potential candidate should not be taken lightly.

In a sense, delegates acting in a voluntary capacity are Ambassadors who meet twice a year in Switzerland to discuss matters concerning Swiss abroad and to voice opinions on current affairs on behalf of Fifth Switzerland. An OSA-delegate is not there for the glory or to pursue personal or party political interests but simply, to the best of his or her knowledge, to serve the Swiss Community he or she is deemed to represent.

This in essence has been my personal

brief since 1981. Little did I know then, when at the age of 41, I was elected by the Assembly of the Federation

“

Much has been achieved by the collective voice of delegates

of Swiss Societies in the UK as a delegate, that my involvement on the Council of the OSA was going to last for 28 years as one of the rare breed of Ticino-born representatives.

Much has since been achieved by the collective voice of delegates, vis-à-vis our Federal Authorities: the granting to Swiss abroad of the right to vote by correspondence; the voluntary old-age and invalidity insurance (AVS/Al) [although of late only for Swiss outside EU countries]; the inclusion of Swiss living abroad endorse-



Joe Broggin with students from Ticino

ment in the Federal Constitution (Art 40); several civil rights revisions; the worldwide free distribution of information through the "Swiss Review"; and the promotion of training and access to education for young Swiss abroad. After nearly three decades and following the OSA-Congress in Luzern

in 2009, I called it a day. I now treasure thirty years of innumerable memories with friends and acquaintances from all parts of Switzerland and the five continents and enjoy a familiarity with Swiss congress-cities and towns, with their history, traditions, folklore and gastronomic peculiarities.

Background information

The CSA is the representative body for Swiss people living in other countries. It represents and defends the interests of all Swiss expats in political circles within Switzerland. It is also the supreme body of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad (OSA).

The CSA plays a key role in safeguarding the interests of the Swiss expat community through the representation of elected delegates. This is why an international call is being made to all Swiss citizens living outside of Switzerland who wish to attend as a delegate at the CSA.



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Politics

ELECTION OF UK DELEGATES

Candidates sought to represent UK Swiss in the "Parliament" of the Swiss Abroad in Bern

ELECTION OF UK DELEGATES TO THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD

If you are interested in all matters concerning Swiss Nationals Abroad then you could be ideally suited to become one of the four Delegates representing the UK Swiss Community in the "Parliament" of the Swiss Abroad in Bern for the 2013-2017 mandate!

A UK Delegate is:

- A Swiss National living in Great Britain

- Fluent in one of the two languages used in Council meetings of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, i.e. French and German (with simultaneous translation).

- Willing to attend Council Meetings in Switzerland in March/April, August and become an ex officio committee member of FOSSUK

For detailed information please refer to enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk or president@swiss-societies.co.uk

The profile of shortlisted applicants will be published on the FOSSUK web-pages www.swiss-societies.co.uk for the election by Swiss Nationals residing in the UK.



Application Form

Please complete and return your application by 25 March 2013 to:

President
Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK)
16 - 18 Montagu Place, London
W1H 2BQ

If interested please provide your brief profile

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Date of Birth

Place of Origin

Occupation

Languages

Interests and skills



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Swiss Church

FOND FAREWELLS AT LONDON'S SWISS CHURCH

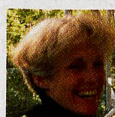
Friends and parishioners of London's Swiss Church recently said farewell to their popular and warm-hearted minister, Reverend Nathalie Duermueller, who successfully led the church through a period of change during its massive renovation project in 2010 and spearheaded preparations for last year's successful 250th anniversary celebrations.

Nathalie made a big impression on me. She was always straightforward when she wanted to say something, but also very balanced in the way she judged people and situations.



Dominique Thalmann,
Ambassador
Thalmann's wife &
Trustee of the Swiss
Benevolent Society

Nathalie is a great communicator and was very good at networking and introducing new forms of social media, like Facebook, to publicise the church.



Ursula Jost
former President of
the Consistoire

When Nathalie arrived there wasn't a church, as such, for her to go to, - she knew we were in the middle of rebuilding, but it went on and on and on. She was almost like an orphan. She didn't complain and took it all in her stride. It was very impressive.

The ladies from La Causerie were always very pleased that Nathalie found the time to join us at our meetings. She also made a point of speaking French, which may seem like a small matter, but was very important to our members. The ladies really appreciated that.

Nathalie's biggest achievement was finding the right balance between maintaining the religious traditions, ceremonies and rituals expected by some of the congregation, while successfully bringing younger people through the door. She also led on expanding our visual arts programme.



Emel Rochat
Historian of the
Swiss Church



Lisa Hall
President of
La Causerie



Nicole Jakubowitz
Youth and Parish
worker



*Nathalie Duermueller
says her farewells*

Charity

Swiss Benevolent Society throws its annual party

Following the huge success of the inaugural Senior Swiss Citizens' Tea Party in 2011, the Swiss Benevolent Society London invited all local Swiss compatriots celebrating their 80th, 85th and 90th birthdays in 2012 to a similar event at the Swiss Embassy in October.

that very day and he received a very special welcome and much applause! Most satisfyingly, some of the birthday guests were reunited with friends they had known in younger years and with whom they had lost contact many decades ago.



Thirty birthday guests attended and brief welcomes were given by the Swiss Ambassador H.E. Anton Thalmann and the President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, Alan Martin. In his speech, the Ambassador included his thanks to the Society for its valuable work and all the support it gives to the Swiss community here in the UK.

During afternoon tea the trustees and two staff members of the Consular

If you know Swiss citizens in the UK who could benefit in any way from the services the Swiss Benevolent Society can offer, please encourage them to contact us.

Tel. 020 7836 9119
Mail: info@swissbenevolent.org.uk
Info on what the SBS offers:
www.swissbenevolent.org.uk

Section informed guests about the work of the Society and opportunities to receive financial support. The party-goers were also introduced to Petra Kehr Cocks, the Society's welfare officer. The group of expats seemed to be particularly interested in the Society's visiting service to compatriots in their homes.

By coincidence, one gentleman was actually celebrating his 85th birthday

As in the previous year, this event was a huge success and is intended to be repeated in a similar form in 2013.
Alan Martin

Dr. Louis Guenin

B.D.S., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

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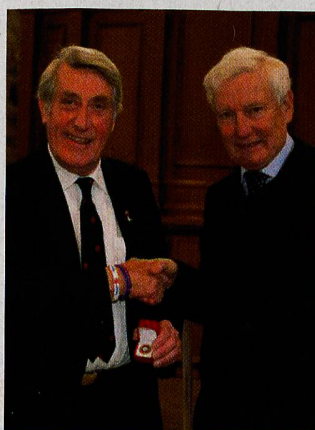
Committed to Excellence

Awards

Making a difference

Lord Craythorne presenting Jeffrey Long MBE with a diamond champions badge at the Guild Hall, York on Tuesday, 16th October, 2012.

The badge is awarded to "Volunteers who make an extraordinary difference to their community by giving up their own time to help others". The badge was commissioned by H.R.H. Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall.



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Swiss Clubs in the UK & Ireland

CLUB NEWS · CLUB NEWS · CLUB NEWS · CLUB NEWS

Manchester Swiss Club

12 children attended this year's SAMICHLAUS visit to the Brookdale Club at Bramhall. As usual, tables and hall were festively decorated and the committee members provided a splendid buffet of seasonal delicacies as well as cups of tea, coffee and fruit juices. Julie Baker organised fun party games



for the children, while parents and friends chatted and enjoyed Sonja's delicious Christmas cake and a glass of Sherry. The tinkling of the "Gloeggli" then heralded the arrival of Santa. It was lovely to see the shining and expectant young faces beside the pretty tree.

Erika Wood



Southern Area Swiss Club

Christmas is always a magical time, but it was especially so for The Southern Area Swiss Club at their Xmas Party when they were entertained by a local magician, who delighted everybody with his sleight of hand and truly amazing tricks.

The Christmas fare was varied and very tasty as each member brought along a contribution. It was a very happy evening.

John Williamson



Manchester's Hog Roast

Club members having fun at an autumn Hog-Roast and Dance. Excellent food and live music made the evening truly novel and enjoyable. Some took to the dance floor, the rest of us spent the evening "rocking" and clapping to the tunes of the past four decades.

Erika Wood



Programme 2013

MARCH

Saturday 9th March, Raclette Party at the Brookdale Club

APRIL

Friday 5th April, AGM at Prestbury Village Hall

MAY

Sunday 19th May, Maibummel in Vale of Clwyd, North Wales.

Wednesday 22nd May, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Bridgewater Hall

Swiss Club Edinburgh

11 children and some 20 parents and members celebrated this year's Santa Claus party at the Swiss Club Edinburgh.

A wonderful afternoon was had by all as party-goers munched their way through a magnificent selection of Gutzli, cakes and other items that no doubt did nothing for their diet!

Santa Claus was heralded in by the sound of a bell and his entrance brought great joy to the children, and possibly to some of the more senior members present.

Freddie Wyser



Maja, the youngest in attendance

Diary dates

8 February 2013

Annual Dinner at the Caledonian Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

22 March 2013

Fondue Evening at the South Queensferry Boat Club

Torbay Swiss Club

The first photo is the Torbay Swiss Club enjoying a carvery lunch at the Two Bridges Hotel on Dartmoor after a visit to the interesting Princetown Prison Museum in September.

The other photos is of the club enjoying the traditional raclette evening, a regular and very popular November fixture. We are proud of the fact we do something different every month.

I would like to personally thank all of the members for their support and to wish them all a prosperous New Year in 2013.

Geoff Rose



Interested?

To join us or find out what we have planned in Torbay during the coming months phone Geoff on 01626 778469 or see our website torbay-swiss-club.webs.com



Swiss in Wales

Swiss record label rocks into Cardiff

Over the last couple of years, Cardiff-based Peski Records has collaborated with Swiss music label Poor Records, which is based in Geneva.

To celebrate this special relationship, Peski and Poor teamed up with Wales' premier music festival, Swn (pronounced 'soon' - which is the Welsh word for 'sound') in October to create a very special Swiss day in Cardiff. Four acts from both labels performed at Cardiff's Gwdihw Café Bar.

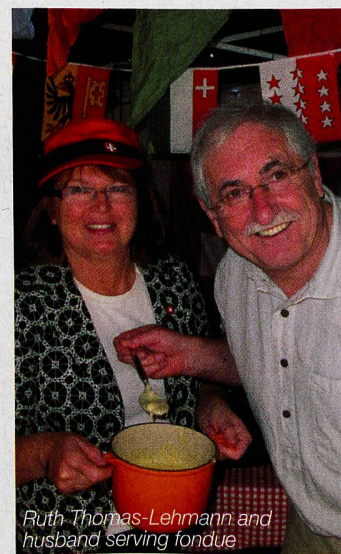
My husband John Thomas, Rainer Arnold, the President of the Cardiff Club, and Treasurer of the South Wales Swiss Society, Rolf Brown and his daughter Rosa all helped decorate the venue with Swiss flags and cowbells.

The event celebrated the successful cooperation between these two international and independent music labels, bringing both cultures and

languages together through the medium of alternative new music.

Ruth Thomas-Lehmann

Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Wales



Ruth Thomas-Lehmann and husband serving fondue

A Day in the Life of...

CLAUDIO VON PLANTA, SWISS FILMMAKER

Claudio von Planta is a Swiss documentary filmmaker based in the UK. Last year he filmed an inspirational story about the journey of Rwanda's Under-17 football team who were on their way to compete at the 2011 Under-17 World Cup in Mexico. All of these rising football stars were born after the 1994 genocide that killed more than 800,000 Tutsis and Hutus. More than half of them had been orphaned by the war.

As Claudio von Planta reports, the filming of **RWANDA-17** offered a great opportunity to learn more about Rwanda's progress and find out whether their success in football also accurately reflected reconciliation between Hutus and Tutsis. We join the story shortly after the narrative starts to take a bizarre but uplifting turn.

Toward the end of filming the World Cup games in Mexico, my good friend Sorious Samura, a reporter from Sierra Leone, and I learned that the father of Kabes, one of the three Rwanda-17 goalkeepers, was in prison serving a 28-year sentence for participating in the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

It is the longest sentence after life imprisonment, which means he must have committed very serious crimes. This discovery offered us a rare insight into the complex reality of Rwanda's reconciliation process. I felt it was incredible to discover that the son of a genocide perpetrator could be part of Rwanda's elite national football team. It also added a truly personal touch about a nation recovering from a crisis.

A few weeks later, and after much negotiation with the prison authorities, we were given permission to film Kabes visiting his father in Gisenyi prison, which had been specially setup for over 2,700 genocide convicts. We had arranged to show an open-air screening of Rwanda's U-17 World Cup match against Canada. It was

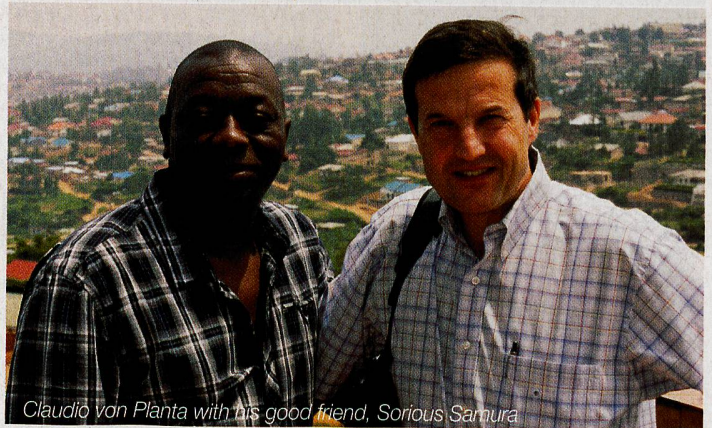
the perfect setting to gauge the meaning of reconciliation promoted by Rwanda's U-17 footballers.

Shortly after sunset over two thousand inmates gathered in the prison courtyard. It seemed extraordinary to be surrounded by so many prisoners who were most likely mass murderers. Surprisingly, it didn't feel threatening. The men sat very disciplined on hard wooden benches and then cheered when the prison director congratulated Kabes for rebuilding the international image of Rwanda. The first sixty minutes of the screening went very well, but suddenly a power cut interrupted the projection and the prison courtyard turned pitch-black. Instantly, I thought about the possibility of a prison riot. I knew there

“
**Shortly after sunset
over 2,000 inmates
gathered in the
prison courtyard**

were only about ten guards around us and in the darkness they couldn't have done anything against a mass mutiny. But, strangely enough, nothing happened. The prisoners accepted the abrupt end of the screening quietly and walked back to their barracks.

We still had enough battery power to film a final interview. We knew that Kabes never asked his father why he ended up in prison or for how long. He only had heard rumors from other people. Of course, he wanted his father to tell him exactly what had happened but, so far, he never dared to ask. But Sorious encouraged Kabes to overcome the deep-rooted African inhibition of confronting parents.



Claudio von Planta with his good friend, Sorious Samura

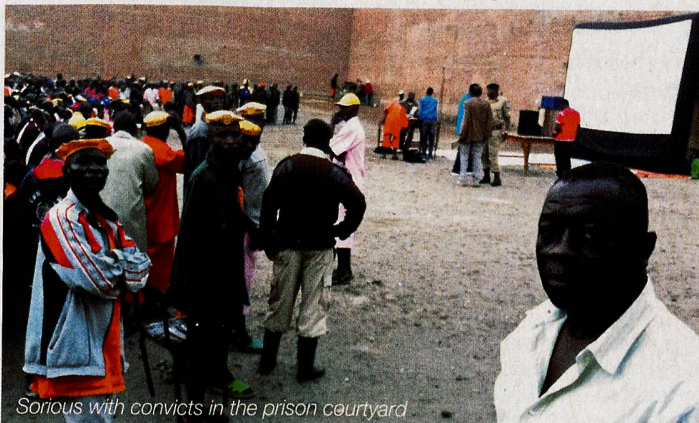
Kabes overcame his hesitancy and asked the really difficult question. It began as a visibly awkward conversation between father and son and then became liberating. Kabes' dad confirmed that he was convicted to a 28-year sentence for participating in genocide, but did not want to describe the details of his crimes. However, he urged Kabes not to worry about having a father in prison, but to concentrate on his own life, to make the best out of his career and to contribute as much as possible to the progress of Rwanda.

I was relieved about the message of Kabes' father because it contained, not only paternal wisdom, but also revealed an important element of reconciliation. He allowed his son to leave the past behind and focus on a future without feelings of hatred and revenge. The enthusiasm of the prisoners watching the World Cup

game and their cheering for Kabes and his father felt also very promising. They clearly enjoyed seeing young Rwandans promoting a positive image.

As a veteran filmmaker of over two decades, it still feels astonishing to me to have witnessed such a rich display of national pride even amongst prisoners. I'm now convinced that the Rwanda Under-17 footballers truly are great role models who can effectively promote genuine reconciliation. These young athletes don't even discriminate against the son of a genocide perpetrator. They simply show how unity, team spirit and dedication can lead to success and ultimately a better future.

More information and links to iTunes and DVDs can be found on the official website:
www.Rwanda17.tv



Sorious with convicts in the prison courtyard



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Feature

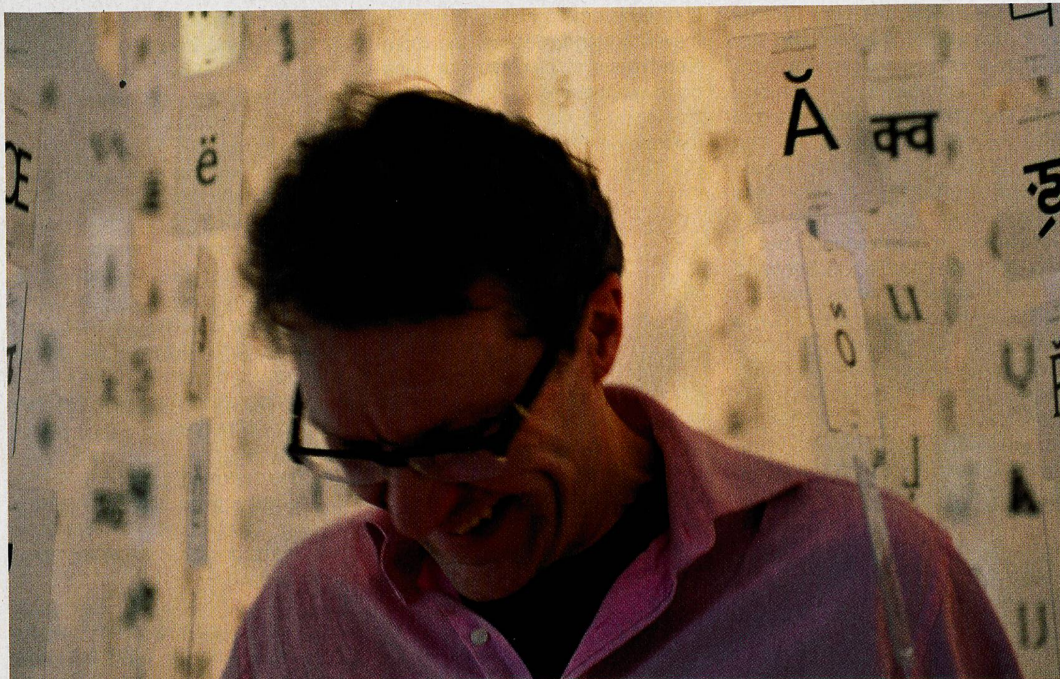
FONTS AND THE STORIES THEY TELL

Thanks to the growth of personal computing, fonts like Times New Roman, Arial and Comic Sans are now household names. Bruno Maag, Swiss typographer and founder of international typeface designers Dalton Maag Ltd, talks about how a font can convey more than just words.

Text is everywhere. There is hardly a waking moment when we are not absorbing letters in one way or another. We don't even register the font we are using at the time when it is done well, it's only when the font is inappropriate, or the setting done poorly that we actually notice what we have done.

“
A corporate font has to work hard: it must convey the company message

Dalton Maag works with corporate clients developing fonts for use in their business communication. It is difficult to capture and express emotion in letterforms, but an experienced font designer can draw upon 500 years of printing history to infuse shapes with the appropriate expression.



A corporate font has to work hard: it must convey the company message, but it must also evoke the emotional values of the brand. The Swiss Co-op font is a good example (see below, left); it can be classified as an antique grotesque Sans Serif. Although its character shapes are closed, they do not look unforgiving or machine tooled, instead they exude a charm and warmth. It expresses solidity, trustworthiness, industry and fairness. A grotesque Sans Serif is also used by

BMW, but here the letterforms are all about precision engineering, reliability, and functionality.

Large amounts of text are better set in a Serif font, like our King's Caslon (see below, right), which is specifically designed for high legibility, and has different designs depending on the size of font used. The Display version is elegant, with strong contrast between thick and thin strokes, and rounded off serifs. The text version is

designed to be functional and robust even at the smallest sizes.

With globalisation and digital media becoming increasingly relevant, today's font designers also have to consider how to design the letterforms of cultures such as China, India, and the Middle East. The new challenge is to find a way to combine the visual expression of one culture with another, but retain the font's design feel.

Bruno Maag



Music

Swiss Ambassador's Award 2012

The annual Swiss Ambassador's Award Concert series, now in its fourteenth year, was once again an excellent opportunity for talented young Swiss musicians to play before audiences across the UK.

The Medea Trio, a promising piano trio founded in Basel in 2005 when the musicians were studying there, performed at London's Wigmore Hall, the Martin Harris Centre in Manchester and Edinburgh's City Chambers to great acclaim, despite having to cope

with the last-minute absence of cellist Mirjana Reinhard due to injury. Fortunately, Benjamin Nyffenegger from Zurich's Tonhalle orchestra was able to step into the breach and played seamlessly alongside Yuka Oechslein (piano) and Erika Achermann (violin).

The concert featured Debussy's Piano Trio in G Major, Dvořák's Piano Trio No. 4 "Dumky," and, in keeping with the aim of showcasing contemporary Swiss music, Trio No. 2 by young composer Philipp Hefti.



SWISS PSYCHOTHERAPIST

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Five minutes with...

SWISS-BORN AUTHOR, REGI CLAIRE

Regi Claire is a Swiss author who has lived in Scotland for almost twenty years. In that time, she has published four books: two collections of short stories (*Inside-Outside, Fighting It*) and two novels (*The Beauty Room* and *The Waiting*). Claire was born and brought up near Lake Constance in Switzerland, but it was only after settling in Scotland that she began to write. Her first published story won the *Edinburgh Review* Tenth Anniversary Short Story Competition. Claire's fourth book, *The Waiting*, which was recently launched in Edinburgh, is an unflinching portrait of female empowerment from the 1930s to the present day.

Swiss Review: Your two main characters, Lizzie and Marlene, sound typically Scottish. How easy was it as a Swiss writer to place these two strong-minded women accurately in their Edinburgh surroundings?

Regi Claire: Having lived in Scotland for nineteen years now, I think I've become partly Scottish myself! The more I was writing about Lizzie

(the first-person narrator) and her maverick friend Marlene, the more I found myself slipping into their skins: I could see them as young country girls pretending to be city-savvy, dodging the trams in Princes Street in war-time Edinburgh; I could feel Lizzie's frus-

“ Dealing with darkness and sorrow imaginatively can truly lighten the burden in real life.

tration at Marlene's cavalier attitude towards her children; could smell Marlene's sour breath after yet another night in the police cells.

SR: Reading about their childhood antics was very amusing. What were your reference points to find out about Scotland in the 1930s?

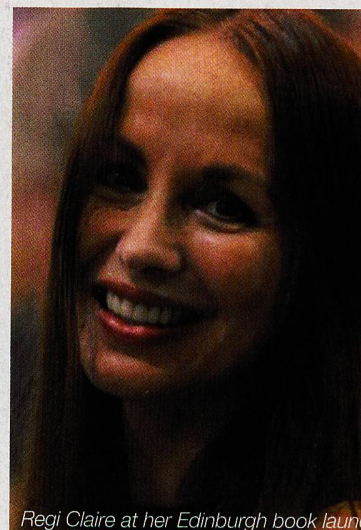
RC: Dorothy Harrower, the elderly lady who inspired the novel and who sadly died before I had written more than the first few chapters (which she never saw), had regaled me with some of her memories, including memories of her childhood in Kelso. By telling me about herself and her past, Dorothy gave me a sense of the two characters. Then my imagination did the rest. And, of course, there are my own recollections – emotional recollections like the intensity and indolence of childhood, the friendships and betrayals, the potent mix of innocence, curiosity and ignorance, the guilty pleasures.

SR: There are many uplifting moments, but equally there are moments of despair. Which of these two emotional spectrums do you enjoy writing about most and why?

RC: As a writer, I find it more intriguing to plumb the depths than coast along on waves of happiness. Somehow, descriptions of joy and positiveness tend to be rather 'samey'. Just like Tolstoy says at the beginning of *Anna Karenina*: 'Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.' To a certain degree, this also applies to writing, I believe. There's also the therapeutic effect: dealing with darkness and sorrow imaginatively can truly lighten the burden in real life.

SR: The book is drenched in local colour. How has life in Edinburgh and Scotland influenced your writing?

RC: Edinburgh and Scotland – or rather, my Scottish husband, the writer and Poet Laureate of Edinburgh, Ron Butlin – have really provided the spark I needed. I hadn't done any creative writing before (apart from several pages of a story about Red Indians when I was about eleven), just essays at school and academic work at university. While still living in Switzerland, I had always been keenly



Regi Claire at her Edinburgh book launch

aware of the difference between the language I spoke in (Swiss German) and the language I wrote in (High German). Coming to Britain meant finally being able to speak and write in one and the same language – no more split between feelings and thoughts. And having a writer for a husband allowed me to take my own imagination seriously at last.

Signed (or unsigned) copies of *The Waiting* (£7.99) can be ordered direct from the publishers, Word Power Books:
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And finally...

Regi Claire has very kindly arranged for the *Swiss Review* to give away two copies of her latest book, *The Waiting*. To enter the draw (20th February) to receive one of these copies, please contact: editor@swissreview.co.uk, or phone: 020 7372 3519

**Impressum**

How to contact the editor
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