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REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

EDITORIAL

We are privileged to have five UK delegates in the OSA parliament representing us in Berne. Our five delegates are committed to publishing a detailed report for us covering all the important issues for our community which have been touched upon during the last main sessions. Their report is available on the FOSSUK website and I encourage you all to read it and send in any questions you may have.

■ *Special thanks go to Daniel Pedroletti, his wife Ester-Lou and to the entire outgoing committee for their effort and commitment over many years to the New Helvetic Society and*

the Swiss community in London. I know too that many of you do the same in other parts of the country.

■ I invite you all to keep writing to me and continue sending your news and ideas. Your contributions help us to keep alive the highly valued «Continuity Dialogue» – recently underlined by Ambassador Fasel – between our culture and the British. In this issue, you will find many examples of this active collaboration and I very much hope they inspire and encourage everyone!



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

SWISS MUSIC AWARDS: Big emotions at 'Slow Motion', a Swiss-British production.



In February, at the 11th edition of the annual Music Industry Awards, (the Swiss music equivalent of the Grammy's), the famous Swiss singer-songwriter and pianist, Eliane Müller, was crowned Best Female Solo Act for her last album, 'Slow motion'.

Eliane's joy was huge – after three nominations and four albums she has finally made it! The 27-year-old singer composed 'Slow Motion' with songwriters from all over the world. Whilst writing the songs, Eliane explored many new avenues and this has resulted in an incredibly complex album. In the fall of 2015, she spent half a year visiting Nashville, New York, Berlin, and London, where she met several

composers with whom she wrote ad hoc songs. One of the artists she met was Julian Simmons, a music producer, engineer, mixer and writer, who runs the London-based company dinsound.com. Mr Simmons (JP) has special connections with Switzerland and so Swiss Review met both artists to find out how this winning Swiss-British collaboration came up with the songs that gained them the prestigious award.

GP: Is it the first time that you have worked with a British producer? What were the most positive vibes that you felt whilst working with Julian?

ELIANE: Yes, it was the first time with a British producer. I co-wrote with several songwriters in Germany and also the United States but Julian Simmons is the only British producer I've worked with so far. I'm really happy with our collaboration, which worked well from the very first moment we met. I appreciate that he is truly interested in where I wanna head to and what my thoughts and ideas are and tries to combine them with his own style, current vibes and trends, so that the outcome is something 'Eliane-like', but more modern and with more courage. For me this was definitely more than satisfying!

GP: How did you feel when two of the songs became Swiss national hits and you won at the Swiss Music Awards?

ELIANE: Naturally I felt surprised on the one hand, but proud and grateful on the other. It's a privilege for me to work with Julian Simmons and to benefit from his know-how and experience in the UK.

GP: How do you manage to combine your Swiss origins with singing in another language, that is, in English?

ELIANE: It's hard to say. Maybe it is a kind of space I create between myself (and my songs or lyrics) and the audience. Songwriting is

Eliane and Julian Simmons.



something very personal and sensitive, so it might sometimes be easier if the listener doesn't understand every single word directly. But then I also think that English just sounds smoother and prettier than German with all its consonants and so on. And I love languages. I also sing in Italian sometimes, the most beautiful language when it comes to music, I think. And lastly, you wouldn't want to miss out on the chance of giving concerts outside of Switzerland just because of a language nobody would understand

GP: *What are your future projects? Are you going to organise a concert in the UK?*

ELIANE: My current projects are concentrated within Switzerland with a lot of private gigs and public concerts, which is ok for now. At the moment, I'm planning a new winter tour for November/December 2018. But honestly, I consistently dream of giving concerts in other places, other countries and travelling around with a band and a piano. I think I'd love it!



Eliane at Swiss Music Awards.

MORE INFO:

At the Swiss Music Awards three artists are nominated for each of the ten categories at the annual ceremony. Decisions are based on music sales and by jury and public vote.

British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran won the Best Solo Act International award and Best International Hit for his single 'Shape of you'. Imagine Dragons received the Best Group International trophy and the Best Breaking Act International award went to the British band Rag'n'Bone Man.

Eliane Müller: elianemusic.com

Julian Simmons: dinsound.com

Julian Simmons



GP: *How did you meet Eliane and how did you start your music projects?*

JS: Actually Eliane and I met through a family connection. My wife, Carla Maurer, is the minister at the Swiss Church in London's Covent Garden, where I've met lots of interesting Swiss folk from various backgrounds. Carla has a cousin who is Eliane's musical director and violinist/keyboard player (Michel Gsell, from Luzerne). Thanks to this special connection, I met Eliane in Zurich at the train station for a coffee, whilst on one of my regular trips to Switzerland, and made a plan for Eliane to come to my then studio in east London for three days of writing songs and visiting London pubs in July 2016.

GP: *How did you make up the two songs? What inspired you and why?*

JS: The first song that we wrote together is called 'Slow Motion' and became the title track for the recently released album. The initial idea was something I'd been thinking about. As Eliane is a piano led pop singer-

songwriter, I was thinking along the lines of the greats of this genre such as Ray Charles, Billy Joel and Elton John. I wanted to make a song that was timeless and classic, and I hoped that by drawing on some of those influences we could in some way achieve that. Then Eliane came up with the idea of savouring the moment, something that these days is so hard to do with the plethora of digital distractions at our fingertips. This seemed to fit really well with the feel of the music, and we expanded it from there – the concept being that it would be amazing if we could see life in slow motion and really enjoy every second.

GP: *You also wrote another of Eliane's famous songs together, 'Bittersweet'. How did you get started on writing it?*

JS: The second song we wrote was with Mitsch Gsell too, about 9 months later. Eliane and Mitsch came over for a few days to my new studio in north London's Crouch End and we wrote 'Bittersweet'. This is a song harking back to Eliane's childhood, growing up in Switzerland. For this track we were aiming to write something upbeat that could

become a single (in fact SRF1 chose the song themselves to play on the radio without it being released as a single). Mitsch came up with the initial piano idea, and we built the track and arrangement around that. Again, this is quite a nostalgic song, with Eliane describing her time at school staring out the window when she should have been focusing on the lesson. It doesn't look like being a dreamer has done her too much harm!

GP: *What kind of projects are ongoing at the moment?*

Luzia. Next week I'll be putting my writing hat on again, as I try and finish a few songs that I began in Zurich and Vienna last month. Whilst in Zurich I began a track with an artist called Klain Karoo, who had a single out last year and is doing well. He's also playing at M4 Music and looks to be on a good trajectory, so we are hoping we will be able to work on more stuff together. I also work regularly over at the new Warner Music Group studio in High Street Kensington, where recently I've been working with Liam Gallagher and Geri Halliwell amongst many others.

NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY: The men, the couple and the committee who have made the club great again



The London-based association New Helvetic Society (NHS), will renew its committee members in September.

Daniel Pedroletti has been one of its hard-working presidents, and, along with his wife Esther-Lou, has presided over an upsurge in the popularity of the club.

Daniel Pedroletti was working at the Embassy in London as a specialist in Swiss social security for the Swiss Foreign Office and for Swiss people living abroad. He started getting involved in the clubs by becoming a member of the Unione Ticinese in the late '80s. The committee of the Unione Ticinese felt that with his last name, being a member was a must! As the cherry on the cake, the members of the UT had many questions about the AVS but did not like to go to the Embassy, so Mr Pedroletti as a member of the UT was able to easily answer their questions on the matter.

Members of staff at the Embassy were encouraged to attend and support events by the Swiss clubs. The AGM of the New Helvetic Society was coming up and the Cultural Counsellor, who was on the committee of the Society, invited Daniel to attend. In the blink of an eye, Daniel found himself elected to the committee. That was in the early '90s and was just the start of things! Around 2010 he found himself on four different committees: the New Helvetic Society, the Unione Ticinese, FOSSUK and SNDL (Swiss National Day London, which was an initiative of the Ambassador at the time, and on which Daniel and Marc, along with others, were asked to work).

A fully committed couple

At that time Esther-Lou was working full time and looking after the family, so she could not attend Society events. People even began to think that Daniel had made her up! Then some years later, the Cercle Genevois asked Esther-Lou to prepare a menu and cook for the Escalade. Since then she has grown to love cooking and the members have enjoyed tasting her delicious dishes.

This marked the start of this fantastic couple's dedication, which has continued since with the additional help of committee members, friends, family and various members of the community. Along the road, the New Helvetic Society started working on what they called 'The Way Forward'. A decision was made to have a new website, modern and up to date. The UT and the NSH joined forces and to save costs they decided to share a platform.

Someone recommended a Swiss online design company, headed by Marc and Ané-Mari Peter. Marc agreed to do the website, and has then, like Daniel, found himself on the New Helvetic Society Committee!!! He has said many times: 'Don't look Daniel in the eyes, you'll land up on a committee!'. Since then, Marc has been the digital mind of the New Helvetic Society, creating beautiful modes of communication with the members.

Biggest contributions

Daniel has introduced a number of new events to the New Helvetic Society which have been very successful:

A series of free events offering an educational and informative platform concerning matters relevant to the Swiss in general and

more specifically to the Swiss in the UK, such as the FORUMS and the January talk by a Swiss diplomat.

Jazz concerts, the first of which was by Dana Gillespie who had met Daniel at a conference about AVS.

Swiss Film Nights, which prompted rumours that Daniel was showing risqué movies at the Embassy after an elderly lady asked him what he was showing and he replied, 'The minimum age is 16, but there is no upper limit!'

Among the many successful events was the celebration of the Escalade. One of the central traditions is to break the MARMITE. As it was quite difficult and costly at the time to fly to Switzerland specially to collect the Marmite, Esther-Lou decided to try to make it. As she was concerned that it would be too thin and too fragile, she made it very thick, to the point that the Ambassador could not even break it with his hands, so they had to fetch a hammer! She has not made once since, but there are rumours that she might want to give it another try! One of the most successful events Daniel has organised was a presentation of Diccon Bewes with his 'Swiss Watching', which then became quite a hit. The challenge has always been, and still is, to maintain a stable Society whilst being innovative and continuing to provide quality events that interest the Swiss community.

During these many years Daniel and Esther-Lou have been invaluable drivers of a fantastic team effort creating wonderful cultural and social events, where one can mingle, have a glass of Swiss wine and taste some delicious canapés.

Now it is time for them to enjoy the events themselves as guests! On behalf of the Swiss community in London and the UK, we would like to thank them for the great work they have done, and we look forward to seeing them enjoying the future New Helvetic Society events! But more on that in the next issue.

CAMILLA GHISLANZONI

MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE AND TREASURER OF NHS



NHS committee celebrating the Centenary of the club in London.

More information:
newhelveticsociety.org.uk



Franz Muheim, Nathalie Chuard and Vincent Croset during the Spring OSA meeting in Bern.

OSA: Spring meeting 2018 – UK Delegates' Report now published

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) had its Spring 2018 meeting at Bern Town Hall (Rathaus) on Saturday, March 10th, 2018.

Four of the five UK delegates were present: Nathalie Chuard, Franz Muheim (also a member of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad [OSA] committee), Alexandre Tissot and Vincent Croset. The main themes discussed were E-voting, bank accounts for Swiss people abroad and cuts to supplementary benefits.

Franz Muheim presented a brief report from the commission in charge of improving representation in the CSA. The goal is for more and more countries to elect their CSA delegates democratically in the future. The Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK) has been a pioneer in this domain, as the UK was one of the first few countries where all Swiss citizens were able to stand for the last 2017 CSA election, and to vote. Vincent Croset's proposal to have representatives of the Swiss abroad in the National Council is moving forward, and the CSA delegates will debate this topic at the next meeting.

The next CSA meeting, held together with the 96th Congress of the Swiss Abroad, takes place from August 10th–12th in Visp/Viège. Registration is now open on this link:

www.aso-kongress.ch

Download the UK OSA delegates report at:
swiss-societies.co.uk/osa

CARDIFF: Swiss writer Alexandra Lavizzari presented her latest book

UK-based Swiss writer Alexandra Lavizzari recently presented her latest book 'Und Harry?' in Cardiff at two events.

The first was a reading and translation workshop for students in the German Department at Cardiff University, and the second was a reading for the Cardiff-Stuttgart Association and members of the public at Cardiff City Hall. Both were arranged by the Consulate of Switzerland in Cardiff and supported by the South Wales Swiss Society. Presenting her novel in Wales was especially significant to Alexandra since it was at the National Museum in Cardiff that she first learnt about the old Welsh New Year's custom of 'Y Fari Lwyd', which during the course of the story becomes the key to solving a crime committed in the Ticino.

RUTH THOMAS
SWISS HONORARY CONSULATE IN CARDIFF

BOOK: 'Und Harry?': A seven-year-old witnesses her father being shot. Startled by the shot itself – it is hunting season in the Ticino – and then by the ensuing silence, she runs into

the garden of the holiday house where he lies dead by the bushes he has just cut. In his hand he holds a peculiar wooden horse, which she picks up instinctively and keeps from the police. The murder remains unexplained and the trauma of the girl's childhood remains with her. Long after she has grown up, she picks up the thread of the investigation into her father's murder in Basel. The wooden figure and an

old photograph showing her father at a young age with an unknown man entitled 'With Harry, Penttyrch/Cardiff 1949', finally points to Wales. Is the key to the crime there? Who is Harry? Does he know something and where is he to be found?

Further info:
swissinwales.org



Cardiff City Hall. The lady next to Mrs Lavizzari (in the middle) is Frau Christa Campigli, President of the Cardiff-Stuttgart Association. The gentleman on the right is Rainer Arnold, the President of the South Wales Swiss Society.

CINEMA: 'Finding Camille' a film of the Anglo-Swiss director Bindu de Stoppani

The Swiss film 'Finding Camille' has recently been screened in cinemas all over the country. This witty comedy-drama is the second feature film of Anglo-Swiss writer and director, Bindu de Stoppani and was first screened at the 12th Rome Film Fest and continues to be shown at film festivals all round the world.

Bindu de Stoppani trained as an actress at the acclaimed Drama Centre London. In 2001 she founded a theatre company before writing and directing short films herself.

Her experience as an actress and then as a theatre and short film director, led her to write and direct her first feature film called 'Jump' which went on to win five awards at the British Independent Film Festival in London in 2012, including Best

Director and Best Feature Film. 'Finding Camille' is her second feature film: 'When dutiful and loyal Camille decides to go on a road trip down memory lane with her father suffering from Alzheimer's, she must learn to let her father go or risk losing her own chance of a life of happiness.' The film tells the moving and at times heart-breakingly humorous story of a father and his daughter's journey to get to know each other and the opportunities that life gives us to live for the moment, embracing love, adventure and happiness.

'Finding Camille'

(Cercando Camille) will be screened at KINO, HAWKHURST (Kent) on Monday 21st May 2018 at 2pm and will be followed by a Q&A with the writer/director. Places are limited so pre-booking is recommended: kinodigital.co.uk



The picture of
Claire Parkes-Bärfuss,
Mara Truog.



The Müller's latest book is still available on Amazon. If you would like to purchase the book, but cannot buy it online, please contact Simone Müller: simmu@bluewin.ch

PHOTOGRAPHY: Mara Truog nominated for the Swiss Design Journal Award

Thanks to the availability of the Swiss Church in London and the commitment of the Reverend Carla Maurer, Simone Müller's latest book, 'Alljährlich im Frühjahr schwärmen unsere jungen Mädchen nach England', was presented to an audience last February (see SR Issue 2/2018).

Mara Truog – the Swiss photographer who took the portraits of the ladies in the book – was nominated in the Photography category of the prestigious Swiss Design Journal Award.

She has become well known in Switzerland for various portraits of elderly Swiss in the UK.

She also won 1st prize in the Portrait category for the Swiss press photo awards thanks to her picture of Claire Parkes-Bärfuss, whose biography has been included in Simone Müller's first book, 'Über London und Neuseeland nach Eggwil'. More information can be found at: maratruog.com

EMBASSY NEWS: Opportunities for Swiss professionals in international organisations

International organisations offer a wide variety of jobs for mid and senior level professionals. The Swiss government works with the Centre for Information, Counselling and Training for Professions relating to International Cooperation in Bienne to raise awareness of career opportunities for Swiss citizens in an international environment.

The next information event will be held in London on 9 July 2018, in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). For further details, updates and registration for this prestigious evening event visit:

www.cinfo.ch/ebird

BELFAST: A Swiss artist as special guest for FOSSUK's AGM audience

Francesco Bernasconi was one of the artists invited to present his artworks during the FOSSUK AGM, which took place in Belfast from the 18th–20th of May. In the next issue of the SR we will fully report the event as well as all the news concerning the meeting between the Swiss societies, the UK delegates of OSA and the Swiss authorities (see SR issue 1/2 2018).

Francesco Bernasconi was born in 1988 in Fribourg, Switzerland and has Sicilian, Greek and German roots. At the age of three he moved with his family to Lugano, Switzerland. When he was eighteen, he moved to Milan to study advertising, and, after a period of work experience in Paris, he went back to one of his oldest interests: cinema. With his Bachelor's degree completed, he moved from Milan to London,

where he shot a micro budget short film entitled 'Rolpens', (2013). He followed this up with an MA in Directing at the MetFilm School, from which he graduated in 2015 with a short film entitled 'Severing'.

In London, Francesco broadened his creative vision and started exploring with stills and moving images. In 2014, these experiments gave birth to a collage project called 'Sir Taki'. This project allowed him to break those hard to avoid boundaries in narrative films. At the end of 2016, Francesco spent two months in Berlin, where he wrote a new short film, 'Flesh and Blood' TBA. In 2017 as Sir Taki, he participated in a collective art exhibition in Chalais (CH) with his interactive installation, 'Roberto'.

In 2018, Sir Taki had his first solo exhibition in Zürich where his installation 'Lucia' was on



Sir Taki – Lucia (installation, 2018).

view for one month at the gallery Die Diele. At the end of April 2018, Lucia was also exhibited at Parco Ciani in Lugano during the Giardino dei Giusti inauguration in the presence of Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis. Eight of Sir Taki's collages are featured in Issue 1 of the limited edition Edicola photo book, out in April 2018.

Find out more:

@sir_taki_

www.sir-taki.com

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www.swiss-societies.co.uk



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1: Unione Ticinese

Recently, we met on 8th of February for our Anniversary event, organised in collaboration with the New Helvetic Society and commemorating the foundation of the Unione Ticinese on 8th February, 1874.

We used to call it 'Carnevale', but we now prefer to emphasise that we are an old but still thriving association, hence the change of name to our Anniversary Evening. We were very lucky that a special Ticinese guest, Elisabeth Tomamichel, came from Zurich for the occasion. An artist herself, she took us through the life and works of her father Hans Tomamichel. We all knew one of his works, the Knorrli dwarf, which to this day continues to be printed on most Knorr products in Switzerland. She brought her father's art to life with an interesting and witty presentation, illustrated with a wealth of images, from paintings to sculptures, from graffiti to designs for wood-inlay. According to the audience, remarkably numerous despite the bleak London winter, it was one of the best talks we had had in many years – perhaps even the very best.

Elisabeth Tomamichel at the Swiss Embassy.



FIFA World Cup on Swiss at the Swiss Church.



Last year's 1st August garden party at Fronhaul.



The Senior Executive Bar Manager Norman getting ready for the crowd.



2: SWISS CHURCH

We are going to show the Swiss games of the FIFA World Cup on our big screen! The Swiss team will play on 17th June (Brasil), 22nd June (Serbia) and 27th June (Costa Rica) at 7pm GMT. Doors open at 6:30pm. Swiss beer and snacks will be on sale.

Sign up on Eventbrite <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/live-screening-fifa-worldcup-swiss-games-tickets-44457623950> or just come along!

In addition, we are delighted to invite the Swiss community once more to celebrate the Swiss National Day at the Swiss Church on 1st August from 4–9pm. There will be activities for children, and Swiss food and drinks will be on sale. The Swiss Ambassador, Alexandre Fasel, will speak at 6:30pm.

Please note: We are expecting a high number of people and cannot guarantee immediate access to the

event, even for those who have signed up on Eventbrite, so we advise you to come early – first come, first served! More information will follow nearer the time of the event on our webpage www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk and on the FOSSUK webpage.

For both the football games and the Swiss National Day we are looking for volunteers who can help us out with the planning and running of the events! Please contact Carla (carla.maurer@swisschurchlondon.org.uk) if you have a little time at hand that you can dedicate to making a contribution to our lively Swiss community in London and the UK. We would love to hear from you!

3: Swiss Club Edinburgh

On the 29th of July, the Swiss Club will organise grilled sausages, bread and drinks at the Saughtonhall Community Centre, Edinburgh. With participants contributing either salad or dessert we can look forward to an afternoon of delicious food, being together and celebrating Switzerland! Weather permitting, we can enjoy the huge green space outside Saughton Hall where all kinds of activities will be laid

on, and where children will have plenty of space to explore. This is a great event to meet members of the Swiss Club and see what the Swiss Club is about. More info: swissclubedinburgh.co.uk

4: Swiss in Wales

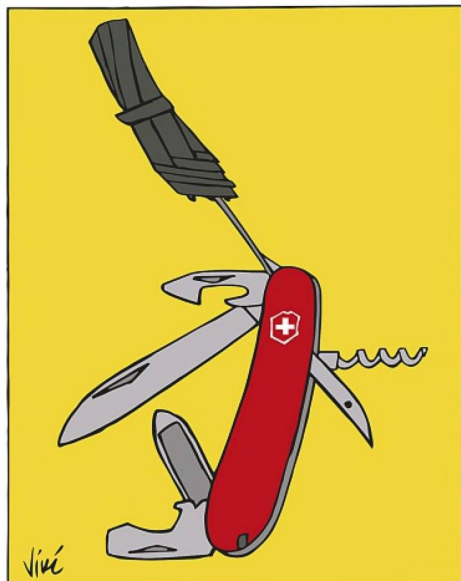
All Swiss Club members, non-members and friends are invited to our traditional Swiss International Day garden party on 1st August from 2 pm until late. The party will take place at Fronhaul, Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire, where there are also enough covered areas if the weather doesn't play along. The celebration will start with a welcome drink followed by the traditional Celebration Menu, prepared and grilled on the old original 'Oil Barrel Barby' and served from 3pm to 5pm. Any beverages and puddings brought along to share amongst the guests will be greatly appreciated. Children are very welcome too and wurst and brot are free for the under 6's. The event will be also enlivened with entertainment by the world-renowned house musician, Mr. James McDonald, alias Mac and the Abba. For more information: swissinwales.org

On Saturday, 2nd June 2018, at 7 pm a Charity Candlelit Dinner will be held in support of the Starlight Charity. It will take place in The Clipper Cabin at Fronhaul in Little Newcastle. The money raised will go towards a Starlight Fun Centre for the local hospital or hospice which grants wishes to seriously and terminally ill children and entertains over half a million children every year in hospitals and hospices throughout the UK. For more info write to bwehren@btinternet.com

5: Swiss Club Manchester

Great food, great company and fun for all the family at our Sunday raclette lunch in March. Every month the club invites its members and interested participants to join the Stammtisch, which usually takes place at The Old Monkey Pub in Manchester. For more info about club events and news visit FB page [@swissclubmanchester](https://www.facebook.com/swissclubmanchester)

VIKI: A cartoon for the Swiss in the UK



Did you know that the British edition of the Swiss Army Knife comes equipped with an umbrella?

FIONA: The view from the top

For more of her work, visit:

www.fiphotos.org

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t @alpineclick

i @FiAlpinePhotos



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SWISS SAYINGS: Lost in translations

Jedem Topf syn Teggel

Jeder Topf findet seinen Deckel

In English, you could say something along the lines of: *A soulmate exists for everybody*, meaning that there is a perfect partner for every person. *Every Jack will find his Gill* may also be understood as a shorter alternative to the above.

In French it is: *Chaque personne a son âme sœur* or *à chacun sa chacune, chaque pot a son couvercle*.

In Italian it is: *Ognuno ha la sua anima gemella*.

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IMPRESSUM

HOW TO CONTACT THE EDITOR: Reports of Swiss society activities, news, coming events, correspondence, articles and advertising for the 'Switzerland in the UK & Ireland' section of the Swiss Review, should go to the editor:

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