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# REGIONAL EDITION

## UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

### EDITORIAL

I have received much news from our Swiss community in the UK during the last weeks. This is always a sign of an enduring vitality that really should motivate us to keep maintaining our culture.

■ *Allow me to give you some examples: thanks to Nathalie Chuard, one of our five really active delegates to the CSA, the Embassy will hold a Jungbürgerfeiern at the end of June for all the young people now old enough to vote. This would have not been possible without the dedication of many people committed to making this happen.*

■ There are also many artists based in the UK who are using their skills as a means to share our culture's beauty with the locals, such as Iris Hunter who translated a famous Swiss book into English in order for it to be experienced by her British friends. Or the writer Alexandra Lavizzari, the photographer Fiona Bunn, the cartoonist Viki Metzler and many other people who are committed to our community everywhere!



GIOIA PALMIERI,  
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

### SWISS EMBASSY: JUNGBÜRGERFEIERN, SOON AN OFFICIAL CEREMONY FOR SWISS YOUNG CITIZENS AGED TO VOTE



Nathalie Chuard, UK delegates of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), recently proposed to the Embassy in London to hold a Jungbürgerfeiern. This event is a traditional celebration in Switzerland where young citizens who have reached voting age are invited to take part in a special occasion in their city or town halls. The Swiss Embassy's response was really positive and before the summer holiday Swiss young citizens living in the UK will receive an official invitation..

*Swiss Review: Ms Chuard could you please explain us how this initiative came about and why?*

**Nathalie Chuard:** The idea has been buzzing around my head for quite a while now, but positive feedback from fellow delegates of the CSA that have already launched Jungbürgerfeiern in other countries and the huge support from the Embassy were in the end the reasons why we kicked this pilot project off.

*SR: Why do you personally think it is important to offer this to the next Swiss generations?*

NC: I am very passionate about this topic! First of all, growing up in a political system with instruments of direct democracy is a rare privilege for Swiss citizens. Furthermore, to ensure its long-term success, we need to educate the next generation right at the very moment, they are entitled to make use of their political rights. In addition to this, I feel that it's our responsibility to invest into the youth, educate and help to use their democratic rights wisely. Even more so when they live abroad!

I remember when I celebrated my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and the Gemeinde of Zollikon (canton of Zürich) organised a Jungbürgerfeier to mark this milestone.

We had the right mix of educational content as part of a festive ceremony but also enough time to catch up with the ones you grew

up with and to cement friendships. Something we want to replicate here in London.

Although I now live over 700km away from Switzerland, I am still in contact with my friends from that time. My childhood neighbour and I actually took our new rights so seriously that we always met up, read the voting documents very carefully and discussed the topics. Where we had no idea, we asked our parents for advice or started conversations with friends. I actually still do this now, 15 years later.

*SR: What have you done in order to realise this project and how has the Swiss Embassy reacted?*

NC: The Embassy and I work very closely together to come up with an exciting agenda to ensure that as many 18 y/o as possible will join this event – we will actually extend the invite to the 19 y/o that didn't have the opportunity for a ceremony last year.

It will take place at the Embassy before the big summer holidays. Of course, there will be a crash course on our political system, but also enough time for fun with some Swiss food and drinks and we are also planning some surprises. Stay tuned! I hope it turns to be a successful project that can be repeated in the future.



## INSPIRATIONAL ISLAND: A LITTLE GARDEN TALK

Flowers and gardens had never meant much to me before I settled in England.

I loved them, yes, but flowers mostly caught my eye when nicely arranged in a vase and gardens, well, I think they were just 'green lungs' in the various cities I lived in. But worth walking around admiring each and every shrub, each lily and delphinium? Honestly, it would never have occurred to me.

England changed my attitude to flowers and gardens completely. I arrived on the island in the month of June, at a time when people start to open their gardens to the public and this was a concept I had never heard of before. One day I let myself be persuaded to spend a day visiting gardens in my village with the promise of a full immersion in essential Englishness. Fine, I said, why not?

Why not indeed. I don't remember what I expected but it certainly wasn't this breathtaking revelation which turned me into a flower and garden

lover overnight. There I was, walking open mouthed from one paradise to the next, each different in its layout, harmony of colours and features. A pond here, an alley of roses there, then again a rockery leading to a lawn ablaze with fiery red poppies; what an unforgettable bombardment of the senses, and yet, at the same time, what a soothing experience. It wasn't only the beauty of these gardens which overwhelmed me, but also the idea of what makes a garden so pleasant, namely this creative tension between formal structure and nature's wild proliferation, which now I know is so typical for English gardens.

Of course I came home with the wish to create my own garden. So I went to the next garden center and bought whatever took my fancy; peonies and dahlias, the brighter the colours the better. I tried hard. But somehow my garden never managed to look like other people's gardens, inspite of nice tulips in April and nice irises in June, there always were ugly

patches because one flower was wilting and the next not yet flowering. Not to talk of weeds!

But working in my garden has at least taught me to appreciate flowers which, as a keen photographer, I try to capture in images – between one weeding session and the next.

More info about Alexandra Lavizzari:  
[alexandra1108.wixsite.com/alexazari](http://alexandra1108.wixsite.com/alexazari)



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### FOSSUK WEBSITE

You can find all the information in one place: Club info, events, ASO news, Brexit info, etc. with one click of the mouse! Go to: [www.swiss-societies.co.uk](http://www.swiss-societies.co.uk)



Can't find the articles & pictures you submitted to the SR? Look no further! Go to:

**WWW.SWISS-SOCIETIES.CO.UK**

## THE GREEN SILK SHAWL: THE MOVING CHRONICLE OF THE HARSH LIVES OF ENGADIN'S WOMEN

'The Green Silk Shawl' is a translation of the Swiss author Marcella Maier's 'Das grüne Seidentuch', which was first published in German in 2008 and has been reprinted many times. 'The Green Silk Shawl' is the first translation into English, brilliantly made thanks to the personal initiative and effort of Iris Hunter, who lives in Cambridge.

'The book is often described as a 'Swiss family saga'. It is the moving chronicle of the harsh lives the women of Marcella's family experienced in the Val Bregaglia and the Engadin over a period of roughly 200 years' the translator explained to the Swiss Review. 'We follow these strong women as they manage to raise their children with a lot of love and warmth under the most difficult circumstances'.

*Swiss Review: What made you make the decision to translate the book on your own?*

*Iris Hunter:* The book was recommended to me with the words 'your daughter would love it' because she is a midwife and the author's grandmother was one of the first trained midwives in the Engadin. Other topics raised in the book also fascinated me – history, poverty, tourism, industrialisation. I was confident that my friends would enjoy the book, too, and was given permission to translate it by return of email.

*SR: What impressed you most about the author?*

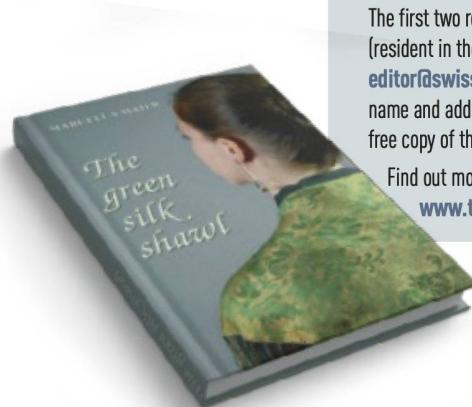
*IH:* It seemed wonderful that the author, the first woman politician elected to local and regional councils, wrote about her strong female ancestors at a time when people wondered why Swiss women had only just been given the right to vote. I know the Engadin well and as I was regularly in touch with Max Weiss, the original publisher, I felt as if I

knew Marcella, her ancestors and her daughters personally. Sadly, I never met Marcella herself, but was delighted to have tea with her family and Max after the book's publication.

*SR: What were your highlights and what moved you most about the story you translated?*

*IH:* I liked the unshowy style with which Marcella describes the lives of those remarkable women: the author's deep affection for her ancestors is evident throughout, without any need for fuss and sentimentality. They simply 'got on with it' and dealt with anything that life threw at them in a practical way.

Of the many scenes I found moving, the following come to mind at once: Alma's shock on discovering that her infant had disappeared from her bed and, even more dramatic, Lisabetta's children fighting through a fierce blizzard to buy oil for their mother so that she could work through the night.



The first two readers of the Swiss Review (resident in the UK) who write an email to [editor@swissreview.uk.co](mailto:editor@swissreview.uk.co) giving their name and address will receive as a gift a free copy of the book by mail!

Find out more:  
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## LONDON: THE CONGRESS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE UK

FOSSUK and the London based Swiss clubs 'New Helvetic Society' and 'Unione Ticinese' hosted the 54<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK 2019) in London from 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2019.

The FOSSUK Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Swiss Embassy on

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019. A key focus of the meeting was Brexit and the rights of Swiss citizens residing in the UK thanks to the presence of His Excellency Ambassador Alexandre Fasel alongside representatives of the Swiss Embassy and from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The congress also welcomed

the director of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad (OSA), Ariane Rustichelli and UK Delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. Further information and a full and detailed report of the Congress will be published in September's Issue of the Swiss Review.



## EMBASSY NEWS: POST-BREXIT SETTLEMENT

The post-Brexit Settlement Scheme for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens is now fully open. Swiss citizens and their family members resident in the UK can now apply although there is no rush to do so; in an orderly Brexit scenario you have until 30 June 2021 or in a no-deal Brexit scenario until 31 December 2020. Comprehensive information regarding the process, eligibility, and evidencing your identity and residence as well as answers to many other frequently asked questions can be found on the Embassy of Switzerland's website – [www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit](http://www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit) – and social media channels, all of which are regularly updated.

# CULTURAL NEWS



## EDINBURGH: SWISS FILM DIRECTOR MILO RAU AT THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the appointment for the cinema lovers is with the Edinburgh International Festival. Swiss film director Milo Rau will present 'La Reprise Histoire(s) du théâtre (I)' which is a theatrical documentary about a savage killing that shocked Belgium.

More info:

[eif.co.uk/whats-on/2019/reprise](http://eif.co.uk/whats-on/2019/reprise)



## SCHWYZ (CH): 'OFF TO A NEW WORLD – SWITZERLAND ELSEWHERE'

The exhibition in Schwyz presents an array of fascinating stories of Swiss migrants from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Extraordinary exhibits, photographs, and film clips document some of the narratives, for example, the story of 'Müller the Turk' who left Lucerne in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and made a career for himself in Istanbul as director of the Oriental Railway. A rich accompanying programme invites the participants to reflect on the subject – how about exploring your own family's ancestry? On selected Sundays, the Office for Migration Histories invites visitors to share their family's migration stories and have them written down. This exhibition is entirely dedicated to the Swiss immigrant and it will stay open to the public from 14<sup>th</sup> of April until the 29<sup>th</sup> of July.



## BELFAST: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON SWISS PHOTOGRAPHY

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July the Belfast Photo Festival will host the artworks of four Swiss photographers: Matthieu Gafsou (CEPV); Jojakim Cortis & Adrian Sonderegger (ZHDK) and Marc Lee (FHNW). The title of the exhibition is 'Science, Innovation and Illusion – New perspectives on Swiss Photography'.

More info:

[lovebelfast.co.uk/festival-of-fools-2019](http://lovebelfast.co.uk/festival-of-fools-2019)

## LONDON: FÉLIX VALLOTTON AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

The first comprehensive survey of Vallotton's career will be held in the UK and hosted at the Royal Academy of Arts from the 30<sup>th</sup> June until the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

More info:

[royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/felix-vallotton](http://royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/felix-vallotton)

## THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON: A PLACE AT THE TABLE

In early March visitors to the Swiss Church in Covent Garden saw a long table dominating the Church Hall. Places had been set, with specially designed crockery and attractive floral arrangements.

You might have thought that the Church was hosting a rather unique lunch, celebrating a Church, or a Swiss community event perhaps. After all, sharing food is a key part of our identity. We always sit down together to eat and talk after our Sunday Church services, and through our community outreach programme we provide breakfast for our homeless neighbours every Tuesday.

In fact, the table formed the centre-piece of the winning entry of the 2019 Goldsmiths' University-Swiss Church London Art Exhibition, a competition for students of Goldsmiths' Master of Fine Arts programme. Winner Mariana Lemos titled her winning entry The Table, challenging

us to examine what hospitality, friendship and exclusion means to us all.

Music also has a special place at the Swiss Church. At the end of March, we were delighted to have the United Strings of Europe, led by Julian Azkoul, play at the Swiss Church, together with renowned violinist Itamar Zorman. It was an unforgettable evening. We are very grateful to Arts Council England for making their visit possible.

We have a range of Church, arts, music, and community events scheduled over the coming months. Check our website for more details, or sign up to our newsletter.

The Swiss Church in London is a unique institution. It weaves together Church, Community and Culture. Everyone is welcome and has a place at the table. We rely heavily on volunteers to stage events. Our next scheduled big event is the 1<sup>st</sup> August celebrations. That's not far away, so please sign up now to help. The Church

also needs more trustees, especially those with Company Secretarial, Facilities Management and legal knowledge. If you could help please get in touch.

COLIN MCINTYRE  
TRUSTEE OF THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

Further information:  
 telephone 0207 836 1418  
 info@swisschurchlondon.org  
 SwissChurchLondon.org.uk



## LONDON: UNIONE TICINESE WELCOMED A NEW PRESIDENT

We held our AGM on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April followed by what we now think is a must, Christiane's famous and inimitable risotto and a chance to purchase some Ticinese wine to accompany it.

As you know, this is normally a nice, friendly occasion, when we can see old friends and catch up with their news, and also when we can meet new members.

On Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, there will be an outing to Waddesdon Manor in the Chilterns. It was built for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the 1870s to display his collection; we will be guided by our secretary, historian and friend, Peter Barber. At the end of the visit, we will enjoy a cup of tea and patisserie in the Manor. On 27 and 28 July the London Canal Museum will celebrate Carlo Gatti's life and story. This is not a Unione Ticinese event but Peter Barber has been providing historic background.

Info at [www.lcm.me.uk/ihw](http://www.lcm.me.uk/ihw).

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September Peter Barber will give us a talk on the history of the Unione Ticinese, following in the footsteps of the presentation he has given to the Anglo-Swiss club in Locarno this April. Of course, we will hold our Castagnata on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, as usual at the Embassy. Times and details will be sent nearer the time.

I welcome Emilie Martinoni Hogenboom, our Vice President, who has agreed to take over as President at the AGM, subject to your approval. She has three young children and is a full-time anaesthetist at the UCL hospital. She is highly capable and will bring lots of energy and drive to our Unione. Finally, my thanks to you, members of the committee, members and supporters. You made me feel that what we do in the Unione Ticinese is good and worthwhile.

RITA DAY-GIOLLO, PRESIDENT



## 27-28 JULY: AN EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO GATTI FAMILY

The London Canal Museum is celebrating the contributions made by the Gatti family to the business and social life of London on 27 & 28 July 2019. Carlo Gatti was a Swiss entrepreneur whose enterprises in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century included restaurants, theatres and ice importation. Various events are planned during the week-end. There will be extensive displays showing Gatti's activities; on Saturday they serve Adelphi Afternoon Tea and in the evening they host a Gatti Music Hall presented by the Players' Theatre Co.

More info: [lcm.me.uk/ihw](http://lcm.me.uk/ihw)

## NEWS FROM SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: THE AGM

The Swiss Club Manchester and the Swiss Relief Society Manchester have held their AGMs. Both events were held at the Brookdale Club in Bramhall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

There was a total of 29 members present and a wonderful buffet was prepared by the committee. We had to say a very sad Goodbye to two of our dedicated loyal committee members.

Dieter Senn who has done a great job as Vice President this year, will sadly leave us for personal reasons. Erica Wood who has been a committee member for many years is leaving due to moving home in the near future. Both have travelled many miles from their homes in order to attend and help organise our Manchester events and everybody unanimously thanked them for their dedication. We hope this year to encourage more members and their young families to attend our club events. We are working hard to achieve this aim.

JUERG BENTELE, PRESIDENT SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER



1: Juerg Bentele (newly elected President of the Swiss Club Manchester) presenting flowers and a silver photo frame to Erica Wood who left the committee after many years. Goodbye Erica and thanks for your help!



2: In the picture the committee of the Swiss Relief Society Manchester left to right Sheila Salden – Julie Baker and Vreni Worth.



## HISTORICAL NOTES: SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER CLOSE TO ITS 170<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Swiss Club Manchester has been formed on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1850 and is currently in its 169<sup>th</sup> year and will celebrate its 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. It held its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2000 in the presence of the Ambassador, His Excellency the late Mr. Bruno Spinner as well as a host of regional Lord Mayors and Mayors.

**CONGRATULATION TO SQUK SUPPORTERS HOLFORDCURADEN!**

They have been selected by the The Houses of Parliament as best practice and sector leader! Well done Dr. Andy Hawkesford and Swiss Dr. Louis Guenin and his son Dr. Christian Guenin.

**VOTED BEST DENTAL PRACTICE IN THE UK 2019**

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## RACLETTE PARTY AT THE BROOKDALE CLUB

This event appears by the attendance to be one of the Clubs' most popular functions and it was organised to take place on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.

We thank the Brookdale Social Club for allowing us to host this event and to the Committee members for organising the room before the afternoon's proceedings and for tidying up afterwards. Our thanks also goes to Margrit Easter who purchased the lovely cheese from Glossop Market! Again this event would not be the success it is without our experienced Caterers, Posh Nosh, who provided us with the potatoes and lovely

salad, and not forgetting the excellent choice of desserts. They always go down a treat! The ovens were kindly managed by experts Ian Baker and Sandra Glauser and were ably assisted by Anthony Lowe, Phillip Pasteiner, Franz Blum and Callum Dempsey. Our thanks go to you all. Our stand in President for the day Dieter Senn thanked everybody for attending and making the afternoon so enjoyable and reminded them of the forthcoming AGM on Friday 5 April. Total Attendance 62 – 57 Adults and 5 Children.

JULIE BAKER

## 1: SWISS IN WALES

The Pembrokeshire Swiss celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> of August

All Swiss Club Members or not and friends are invited on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August from 2 pm (until late), for the traditional Swiss 'Inter' national Day garden-party. It will take place at Fronhaul, Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire. This year we will collect for the Starlight Children Foundation. Starlight brightens the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting wishes-of-a-lifetime and providing fun, laughter and entertainment to children. Invited are Swiss and friends from far and wide.

For a snip at only £15 per person, (all which goes to Starlight) you can enjoy an excellent Garden Party in a unique setting. Once again, I was able to hire the internationally renowned musician Mr James Mc Donald, alias Mac, to entertain us with his extensive repertoire. He sings and plays multiple instruments, but has also a few Huddigägeler somewhere in his toolbox. Please remember, the price reflects the good cause and this is how it works: We pay for all the food and do the work.

For more info write to  
[bwehren@btinternet.com](mailto:bwehren@btinternet.com)

BEAT AND ELISABETH WEHREN

## 2: ABERDEEN SWISS CLUB

Members of the Aberdeen Swiss Club met to play a curling bonspiel as well as to watch on big screens the professionals playing the world championship in Canada at the same time.

After an introduction for the non-curlers, four teams were formed and the winner was rewarded with a fine bottle of wine. After the prize giving there was plenty of time during a meal at the ice rink to have a nice conversation. Everybody enjoyed the afternoon! The next event will be the BBQ on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June in Huntly and the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. If you are interested to learn more about the Aberdeen Swiss Club please contact our Secretary Erika Gill on [jimbomoggiev@gmail.com](mailto:jimbomoggiev@gmail.com)

PETER LUEDI

Last year First of August's celebration in the Pembrokeshire.



1

Aberdeen Swiss Club's curling team.



2

The club's popular annual cheese fondue evening.



3

West Surrey's Swiss enjoyed an excellent talk of Roger Beck.



4

Southern Area Swiss club during its January lunch.



5a

The event is usually well attended.



5b

## 3: SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH

At the end of March we gathered together in the same location as usual for our annual cheese fondue evening. Not only the wonderfully prepared cheese fondue but also the home made desserts helped to fill everyone's bellies. Happy after the successful consumption of a lot of cheese and bread.

July/August

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Swiss National Day, Saughtonhall Community Centre, more information will be sent out nearer the time.

September

A day out in the country: with different walks, combined with a get-together for all (walkers and non-walkers).

## 4: WEST SURREY SWISS CLUB

At our first function this year, 20 of us played skittles in the Bulls Head in Ewhurst with a good lunch in the interval. On 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 30 people enjoyed an excellent talk by Roger Beck with slideshow near Ripley, with another very good lunch at the Seven Stars nearby.

In April we look forward to a visiting Greys Court, a National Trust property and the former home of Norman Barons, Tudor notables and latterly, the Swiss connected Brunner family. In May there is a river cruise on the Thames between Pangbourne and Goring with Sunday roast halfway and in June we will enjoy a matinee at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond to see Terence Rattigan's 'When the sun shines'. The 27<sup>th</sup> of July is when we all celebrate National Day in Ripley with more events to follow.

## 5: SOUTHERN AREA SWISS CLUB

We enjoyed our January lunch at Lismoyne Hotel in Fleet this year. Our next dates are:

07.05.19 Skittles and supper at Jolly Farmer, Blacknest near Farnham.

27.07.19 1<sup>st</sup> August celebration at Darby Green Centre, Yateley.

19.10.19 Potatoes and Cheese at Darby Green Centre, Yateley.

**VIKI: A CARTOON FOR THE SWISS IN THE UK**



**SWISS SAYINGS: LOST IN TRANSLATIONS**

*'Züri füfzg'*

This saying is said to have originated in the 1940s in Zürich Oerlikon, when the post office received the designation Zürich 50. Its proximity to the station made it possible for post to be delivered much quicker than from other post offices making it a popular choice with clients at the time. It appears that this was the reason why *'Züri füfzg'* was used as a synonym for *'sofort/unverzüglich'*, for example in *'Abfara, aber Züri füfzg'*, or in English *'immediately/at once'*.

French: *'immédiatement'*

Italian: *'immediatamente'*

BEATRICE SCHEGEL, TRANSLATOR

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[www.vikicartoons.com](http://www.vikicartoons.com)

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**FIONA: THE VIEW FROM THE TOP**

For more of her work, visit:

[www.fiphotos.org](http://www.fiphotos.org)

f @FiAlpinePhotos

t @alpineclick

o @FiAlpinePhotos

From the 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of May Fiona's artworks will be displayed at Victorinox and coincides with the Helvetia evening on Friday 17 May, as part of the Swiss Quality Design art exhibitions.

Fi's next exhibition will be at St Mary's

Church & Heritage Centre, Quarry St, Guildford, Surrey from mid-August. If you would like to receive updates on new work or exhibitions, please contact

[fialpinephotos@gmail.com](mailto:fialpinephotos@gmail.com)



**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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**Next Issues**

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