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REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

EDITORIAL

The past year has been full of challenges and uncertainties. However, we have also seen the emergence of an incredible solidarity among people. In this issue you can find many examples of generosity and benevolence.

■ *2021 is the year in when Brexit becomes effective and the terms of application for Settled Status expire. The Ambassador sent a long message to remind us not to miss this year's deadlines and to encourage us to look at the present with optimism.*

■ This is also the year in which Swiss citizens in the UK

are called upon to elect their representatives to the Council of Swiss Abroad. In the first pages, you can find the call for candidates and voters. We need everyone's participation.

■ *In this issue a reader pays homage to his grandmother, 94 years old Margot Anker. She is a woman who for the sake of her loved ones has faced many obstacles. May her determination inspire us with courage and confidence!*



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

OSA DELEGATES: THE CHANCE TO ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE UK AND SWITZERLAND



Every four years the Swiss community in the UK is invited to elect its five representatives to the Parliament of the Organisations of Swiss Abroad (OSA). Any Swiss citizen residing in the country and registered to vote at the London Embassy has the right to apply. Nathalie Chuard, OSA representative and recently newly appointed president of FOSSUK, tells us how her life has changed since she stood for the last elections.

Reflecting over the last four years, I must say that it was an honour to serve as a delegate of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). I enjoyed acting as bridge between the UK and Switzerland, met interesting people and learnt

more about Swiss politics.

What excites me the most is to make a difference locally and bring fellow Swiss nationals close together. My main highlight was to organise the first "Jungbürgerfeier" in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy. An event, where we celebrated the legal age and therewith the responsibility of exercising our democratic right of voting.

There is still a lot to do in the Parliament and especially the progress on e-voting is slow. We continuously need to push for it, to ensure every Swiss citizen has the opportunity to cast their vote (in time and securely from all over the world).

NATHALIE CHUARD,

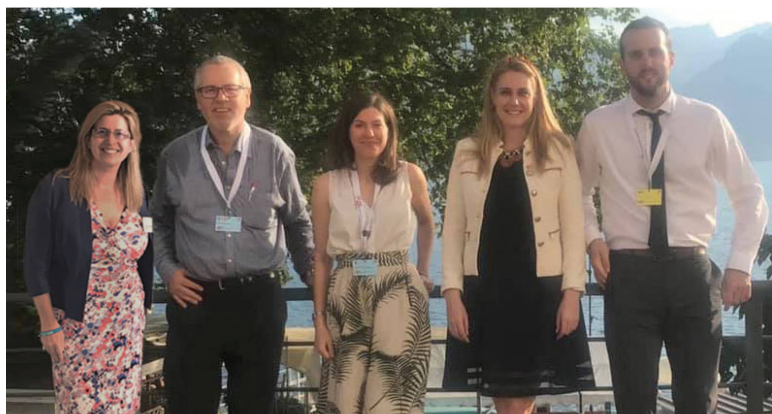
OSA DELEGATE AND FOSSUK PRESIDENT



Left: Incumbent UK CSA Delegates.

Right: First "Jungbürgerfeier" at the Swiss Embassy London 2019.

Call for candidates to stand as a UK delegate see page 2.



ELECTION OF UK DELEGATES TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD (CSA) FOR THE 2021–2025 TERM

Have you ever wondered how the Swiss who live abroad participate in and find out about which laws and policies will affect them? Do you have what it takes to represent the Swiss nationals who live and work in the UK? Stand to be a Delegate of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA).

The Council of the Swiss Abroad represents the interests of all Swiss citizens abroad vis-à-vis the authorities and public in Switzerland. It is also often referred to as the "Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland".

How does it work?

- The UK has five representative delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. Eligible* candidates from all parts of the UK are encouraged to stand for the 2021–2025 term. The candidate application form is available on the FOSSUK website www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections. The submission deadline for candidates to submit their application is midnight, the 28th February 2021.
- Two delegates are nominated by and voted for by Swiss Clubs and Societies at the annual FOSSUK AGM which will take place on the 19th June 2021. If you are a member of a Swiss Club, you can approach your president to discuss the possibility of being endorsed by that Club.
- Three Delegates are voted for by the Swiss community in the UK between the 20th April and the 20th May 2021. The voting slips will be available online on the FOSSUK website and on the Swiss Review regional pages in the April 2021 issue.
- Candidates will need to 'campaign' for votes from their Swiss networks and colleagues as it is a democratic election – candidates with the most votes will be the representative Delegates. You should encourage Swiss colleagues, family and friends to vote for you once your candidacy has been confirmed and published in the Swiss Review UK pages in April 2021.

*Are you eligible to stand as a candidate?

You must be a Swiss citizen living in the UK, registered with the Swiss Embassy London, as well as to vote in Swiss elections and referenda. You must be fluent in either German or French, which are the languages at the OSA Council meetings, and be willing to participate in two yearly meetings of the OSA Council in Switzerland. The elections are supported and monitored by the Swiss Embassy London who independently confirm candidates' eligibility.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT SWISS IN THE UK



How do you put yourself forward?

If you want to stand as a candidate, you must submit the application form either by downloading and posting it to FOSSUK, or by filling in the online form on the FOSSUK website by midnight, on the 28th February 2021 from www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections. The dedicated elections web page outlines eligibility, OSA activities, Delegates' duties and further information.

For any queries on the process, difficulty in accessing or downloading the candidate application form, please email elections@swiss-societies.co.uk and a member of the OSA Elections representatives will assist in confidence.

Don't delay! Submit your application form today and stand to make a difference to the Swiss community in the UK.



CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Application deadline 28th February 2021

www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections

FOSSUK

SWISS EMBASSY IN LONDON: MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRE FASEL



*Dear compatriots and friends,
May I first begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a good start to the year following the challenges that 2020 brought, as we dealt with the consequences of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that we have all had to endure as a result. As 2021 begins with renewed optimism, I myself also remain optimistic about the year ahead, but I am also conscious of the challenges still to come, as we will continue to face the impact of the coronavirus. You can find the latest information regarding the situation on the Embassy's dedicated webpage (www.eda.admin.ch/london/coronavirus).*

This new year also brings other changes, with the Transition Period between the UK and the EU having come to an end on 31 December 2020. Brexit does mean some changes that Swiss citizens in the UK will have to be aware of. Please do take note of the section later in this update regarding your residence status after Brexit and ensure that you have taken the necessary steps by the deadline of 30 June 2021. You can find further Brexit-related information in the front page section on the Embassy's website (www.eda.admin.ch/london), as well as in our dedicated Brexit FAQ (www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit).

Despite these Brexit-related changes the strong bilateral relationship between Switzerland and the UK will continue. Within the framework of its Mind the Gap strategy, Switzerland has concluded a total of seven continuity agreements with the UK, among others an agreement on service mobility and on police co-operation in December. Of particular importance is the trade agreement, which replicates the vast majority of the trade-related rights and obligations that applied under the bilateral

agreements between Switzerland and the EU. It came into effect on 1 January 2021, covering mutual rights and obligations, trade in goods, rules of origin, customs procedure and intellectual property, amongst other areas. A full FAQ on the new trade relationship between Switzerland and the UK can be found on the website of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO (www.seco.admin.ch).

Even though this new year will bring changes and challenges that we will have to adapt to, as an Embassy we will continue to support our citizens when our assistance is needed, through our dedicated helpline, via email or in person with an appointment. The Embassy website is also regularly updated with useful, reliable and up-to-date information on a number of topics (www.eda.admin.ch/united-kingdom).

I sincerely hope that before too long the Embassy will be thriving with a regular programme of events once more. You can stay in touch with future activities at the Embassy by following us on social media. In addition to Twitter and Facebook, our Culture Section has a dedicated Instagram account and you can follow the work of our Business Hub on LinkedIn.

As we enter the spring with renewed hope and optimism, I think this feeling is more appropriate than ever this year. I hope we can soon look forward to gathering with friends and that I will be able to welcome many of you back to the Embassy once it is safe to do so. Until then, please do take care and I hope to see many of you soon.

*With my best wishes,
Alexandre Fasel*

Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Kingdom

Your residence status after Brexit: what you need to know

Swiss citizens and their non-British family members who have not yet secured their residence rights after Brexit by applying for settled or pre-settled status under the UK's EU Settlement Scheme should do so as soon as possible, but prior to the application deadline on 30 June 2021. Swiss citizens married to British citizens are also required to apply. However, Swiss citizens with British or Irish dual citizenship cannot and need not apply. We recommend that those who obtained 'Indefinite leave to enter or remain' (ILR) before 2002 should also consider applying to the EU Settlement Scheme. For further information on the Scheme, how to apply, and where to get help, please visit the Brexit FAQ on the Embassy's website: www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit.

The Swiss Benevolent Society has been approved and registered as Advisor by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to provide assistance to Swiss citizens who are in need, at risk or vulnerable, and cannot rely on family members with regard to the EU Settlement Scheme application process.

If you need support, please call them on 020 7836 9119 (available Tuesdays and Wednesdays only). www.swissbenevolent.org.uk



Don't be late -
remember the date!

June 2021

SBS: A ZOOM EVENT WITH THE EMBASSADOR TO CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY

There was a sparkling turnout at the Winter Holiday Journey – our uplifting virtual event on Saturday 12th December.

Approximately 60 guests of all ages were formally welcomed by our special guest and SBS Patron, Ambassador Fasel. Followed by our host Chairman Suzanne Egloff, who guided the guests through the journey.



IMMIGRATION STORY: A SWISS CITIZEN AHEAD OF HER TIME DURING THE POSTWAR BRITAIN

My Oma, Margot Anker, now 94, was born in Mannheim and grew up in Nazi Germany. Owing to her father's line, she was Swiss and singled out in class for being of "inferior" heritage. She gained the spirit of an outsider and wasn't afraid to go against the grain. As a child she received a gift, a black doll from her maternal grandfather, a German soldier stationed in Cameroon. She cherished the doll with a loving embrace being able to see its beauty where others couldn't – this would be prophetic.

Growing up, she questioned why her Jewish neighbours were abused or disappearing from the community. She fled war-torn Germany on foot and freight train, oftentimes hiding to avoid fire from American fighter planes before eventually finding refuge with relatives in Rothrist, Aargau. Her teenage boyfriend died in war, killed by the Allied Forces. Yet, in her twenties she would enthusiastically move to England, and while looking

out over the Thames she could join in with the Windrush generation calypso artist Lord Kitchener and proclaim, "London is the place for me!"

She joyfully married (or miscegenation as it was referred to) a Nigerian man. Her family disowned her. They later reconciled but kept a distance. Unfortunately, the marriage didn't survive and she became a single Swiss-German woman in postwar Britain left to raise five black children on her own with no financial support. Working multiple jobs to the point of fainting from exhaustion she sacrificed everything for her children, religiously noting down each penny spent. The Swiss Benevolent Society and Swiss Church became important lifelines for welfare and provided memorable moments of joy through Christmas gift handouts. Today, one of the highlights of her year is socialising at the Society's annual celebratory tea for senior citizens held at the Swiss Embassy.

While expecting her first child she recalls working in a small factory in South East London in the late fifties. "Happy to be pregnant I shared the news. A male colleague responded hatefully, 'What's a nice girl like you doing with a darkie?' I was so angry and without thinking hit the man and it ended up in a fight. I thought I would be fired but I just wanted to protect the dignity of my partner and future child." She tells another story. "One day, a white English woman excitedly came up to look into my pram. The woman, upon seeing black children, exclaimed, 'Oh heavens, they are coloured!' I will never forget the haunting look of disappointment and horror on that woman's face." My Oma has mixed black children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all of different skin tones. She always affirms our beauty, intelligence and humanity. We are extremely proud of her and our own Swiss heritage.

WARREN A. STANISLAUS,
PHD CANDIDATE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Mrs Margot Anker and her grandchild Warren in the biggest picture. Margot received a black doll when was a child. Nobody could imagine she would have been a proud mother of five wonderful black children!

TERRE DES HOMMES: THE LEADING SWISS CHILD-RELIEF AGENCY IS NOW IN THE UK



Terre des hommes – the leading Swiss child-relief agency that provides critical assistance to more than four million vulnerable children worldwide – is now in the UK. Our presence in the UK is relatively new but timely in the face of a proliferation of challenges. Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic,

notably, threaten the past two decades of progress in international development, with the latter disproportionately impacting children – especially those from the most vulnerable communities.

In 1960, outraged by the tragedy of child victims of the Algerian war, Edmond Kaiser founded Tdh with a promise: “As long as one child remains hungry, sick, abandoned, in misery or in pain, whoever and wherever they may be, the Terre des hommes movement, created for this purpose, will pledge itself to the child’s immediate and complete rescue.”

Sixty years on the work we’re doing to protect children and to defend their rights across more than 40 humanitarian and development contexts is more important than ever. Some of our current successes include:

- Our *#COVIDUnder19 initiative*, which creates spaces for children to be meaningfully involved in shaping the post-Covid-19 world;
- Our *innovative and award-winning mother and child health programmes*, which are transforming health systems in low-income countries, including Burkina Faso and Afghanistan;
- Our work *protecting children most vulnerable to being exploited in the worst forms of child labour*, for example, in the leather trade in Bangladesh, fisheries in Myanmar or adult entertainment sector in Nepal.

Building on this legacy in the UK, we are:

- In the early stages of an exciting initiative to amplify the voices of unaccompanied youth who migrate. Developing this in collaboration with Lord Alf Dubs, a Kindertransport refugee, who tirelessly campaigns on behalf of our partners Safe Passage and of children who migrate unaccompanied and/or separated from their families, this builds on a project we carried out last year in collaboration with primary school children and London-based spoken word artist and activist documentarians: *If it’s not rights, it’s wrong.*



Terre des hommes

Helping children worldwide.

- Partnering with Comic Relief to use *Kabaddi, a traditional male-dominated sport, to empower adolescent girls and young women from 60 migrant communities in West Bengal;*
- Building our relationship with key UK stakeholders, including the new Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which replaced the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swiss Embassy in London, working to identify future areas collaboration and opportunities for engagement.

We’d love to keep our Swiss friends here informed of our work. Please visit our website for more information, follow us on social media, or send me an email with any ideas or comments now or in the future. We welcome involvement and feedback from our Swiss compatriots in the UK.

TRICIA YOUNG
CEO TERRE DES HOMMES UK



For more info:
patricia.young@tdh.ch
www.tdh.uk

NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY: A NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL TO CATCH UP WITH GREAT SPEAKERS

The New Helvetic Society has been busy organising online events over the past months and we have published the recordings on our brand new YouTube Channel for you to catch up with our great speakers.

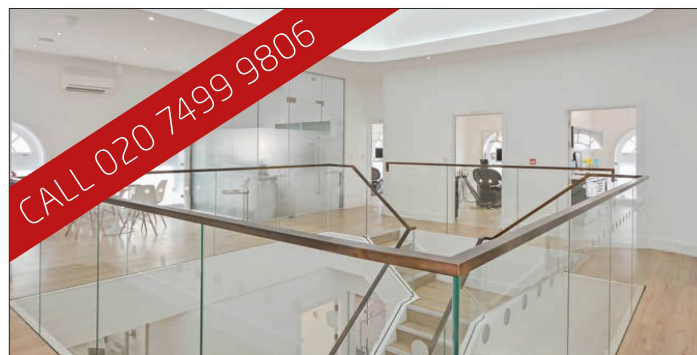
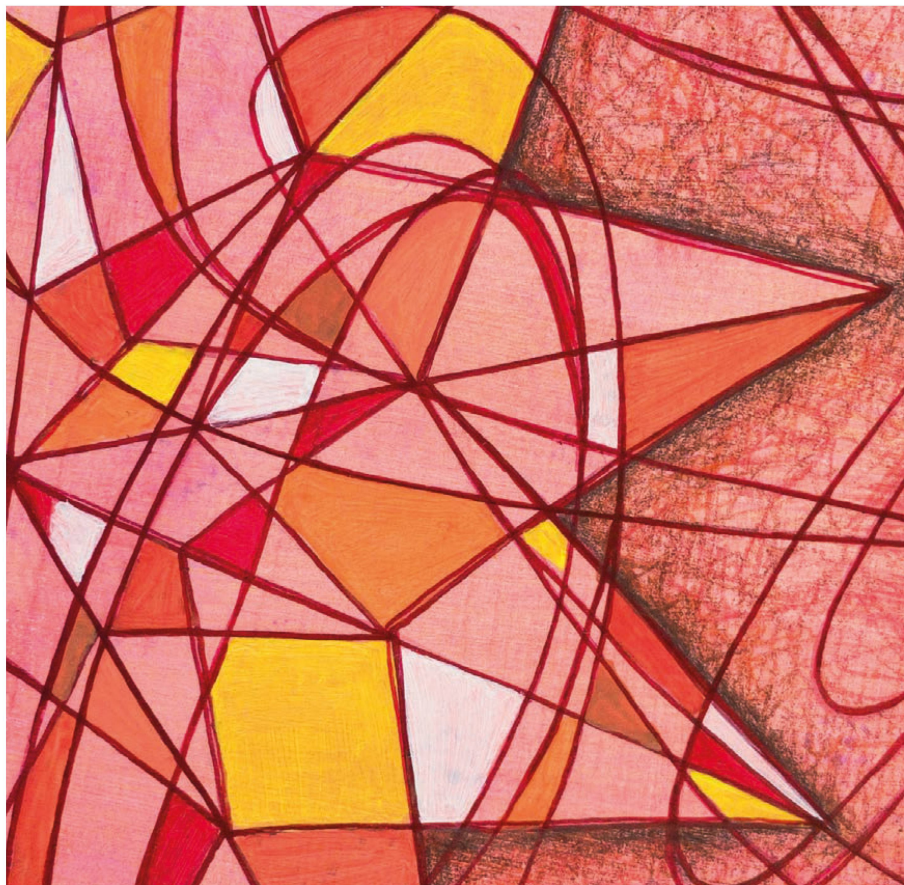
In September we have been introduced to Vreni Reggli – whose Christmas design you can see here. For the first time in many years we have not been able to host the Celebration of the Escalade as per the tradition of Geneva, but families have been able to enjoy the virtual festivities of San Nicolao with our Friends of the Unione Ticinese.

We are looking forward to next year's elections of the Delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad and we have been delighted to host the first online Annual General Meeting of FOSSUK.

Many ideas are already been considered for events this year, we hope to be able to see you in person very soon!

We wish everyone a great 2021!

If you don't receive our newsletter yet and would like to be kept informed please email us at info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk



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🌐 www.HolfordCuraden.com

LONDON SWISS CHURCH: A Hopeful Year 2021!

London Swiss Church has been able to achieve a relevant number of projects in 2020 despite of the challenging circumstances.

This new year starts on many hopeful notes. Please visit the Church's website swisschurchlondon.org.uk to get the latest information. Or write to Reverend Carla Maurer for any request at:

carla.maurer@swisschurchlondon.org.uk
[@swisschurchlondon](https://www.instagram.com/swisschurchlondon)



INFORMATION

Obituaries of Swiss citizens living in the UK recently passed away will be regularly published in the last issue of the Swiss Review. Please send an email to editor@swissreview.co.uk with all the information.

1: UNIONE TICINESE LONDON

News from the club

Thanks to modern technology, the UT committee has nonetheless been quietly busy behind the scenes over the last few months. I am delighted to present you our new website and logo which can be visited at the this link: <https://utlondon.org>

But first of all, please join me and the committee in saying a huge thank you to Stella Eusebio, who stands down from the committee and her role as membership secretary. Stella was elected onto the committee in 2011 and became Membership Secretary in 2012. Stella leaves big shoes to fill, and Karin Lanini Arthofer has ably taken handover as membership secretary.

Visit to the graves

A delegation visited some of the UT graves in the Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley on the 1st of November 2020. We are grateful to Mr Ian Giuliani who, following the restoration of the UT graves, has updated a document capturing names and location of deceased UT members.

EMILIE MARTINONI HOOGENBOOM
UT PRESIDENT

2: EDINBURGH

Corona Walks

Because of restrictions we are not able to meet indoors. So Sepp Jans our secretary, very kindly organises walks every second Sunday. Up to 15 people can join. If you are interested to come along, write an email and we will send the details.

Stammtisch Zoom meetings

Because of the restrictions we cannot have the monthly Stammtisch in the restaurant, but we can do it over zoom. It is different, but this is a possibility to join from your own home. Every first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. If you are not on our mailing list and you are interested, drop us a message and we get the link to you.

www.swissclubedinburgh.co.uk
swissclubedinburgh@gmx.co.uk

A special thanks to Stella Eusebio who has been the UTL secretary for long time! And thanks to Karin Lanini Arthofer who has taken the role for the club.

the captions are way to long please shorten



1a

A UTL delegation visited the ticinesi graves in the Islington and St Pancras Cemetery.



1b

The club has organised several beautiful walks around Edinburgh landscapes.



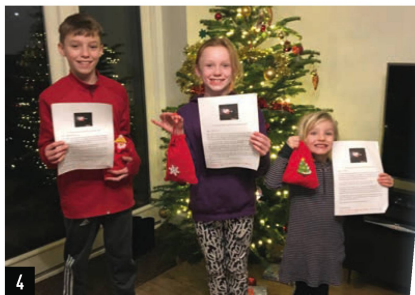
2a

Club's December walk took place instead of organising the traditional Christmas Party.



2b

Father Christmas sent a letter of apology to all the children with a bag of goodies.



4

3: SWISS CLUB IRELAND

The last event we had was in early February 2020 when we celebrated our annual Fondue night. It was a great success with over 40 people attending. The embassy held two virtual events (e.g. for the Swiss National Day) and there were also some cultural virtual meetings with Swiss connections. The Swiss Club hasn't organised any virtual events additionally. We recently had a Committee meeting and we really hope that our club can only resume with new activities. For those interested to get in touch with us, please write to: swissclubireland@hotmail.com

NICOLE MICHEL, PRESIDENT
SWISSCLUBIRELAND.IE

4: SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

Sadly Father Christmas was unable to visit the children of the Swiss Club Manchester this year due to the pandemic. In order to spread a little happiness, he sent them all a letter of apology from the North Pole with a bag of goodies.

JUERG BENTELE
PRESIDENT SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER



YORKSHIRE: A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DELIVERY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

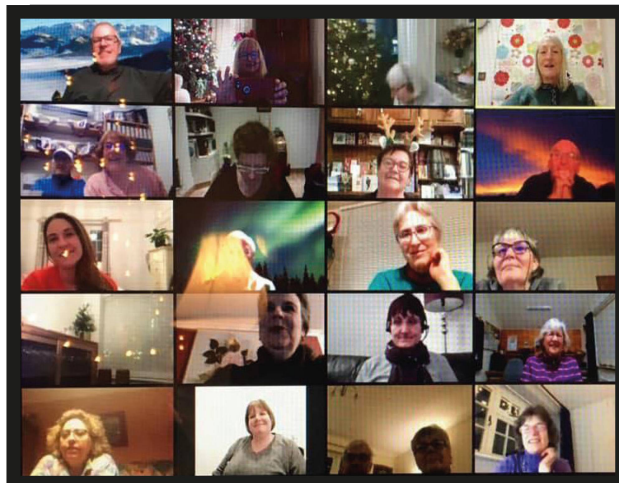
Jeffrey Long from Bingley, Yorkshire, has collected special Christmas gifts for the poor and disadvantaged children: 250 pairs of new socks and 19 'tins' of sweets. Well done Jeffrey!



FACEBOOK: FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING FOR THE SWISS IN THE UK MEMBERS

Very enjoyable evening tonight, meeting so many face-to-face for the first time and chat. Thanks to everyone who participated. Big thank you goes to Anna De Wit for booking the meeting, making her Zoom subscription available for the group and looking after the technology behind the scene. We will definitely repeat these Zoom events from time to time in the future.

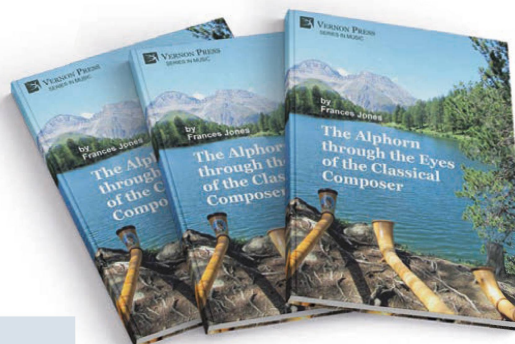
SWISS IN THE UK FB ADM



BOOK REVIEW: THE ALPHORN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CLASSICAL COMPOSER

'The Alphorn through the Eyes of the Classical Composer' is the first and definitive book to be written about the alphorn in English. The book, which will be of interest to researchers in Swiss cultural studies and ethnomusicology, builds on Dr Frances Jones's research and PhD thesis. The six chapters deal with a variety of topics, including a basic introduction to the alphorn and

an exploration of the promotion of the instrument as the symbol of Switzerland, as well as the reasons behind symbolic references to alphorn motifs by European and British composers in concert repertoire, jazz and film.



vernonpress.com/book/1109
ISBN: 9781648890444
www.amazingalphorn.co.uk

APPEAL: In search of lost paintings by Selma Vaz Dias

Selma Vaz Dias (Mrs Egli) already had a successful career as an actress, when, in the early 1960's she started to paint. She was married to Dr. Hans Werner Egli, a prominent member of the Swiss community in the UK who worked for many years as foreign correspondent for the Neue Zürcher Zeitung.

He served as president of the New Helvetic Society (1947-57 and 1962-69), and was president of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (1949-58). I am their daughter, and now acting on behalf of the family to try to locate paintings by Selma which may have been sold or given away by her, during the 1960's and '70's. We are hoping to stage a retrospective exhibition of her work in November 2021. If you have any information or know the whereabouts of any paintings by Selma please do get in touch at the email address below.

Suzannah Stack (Egli)
SVDpaintings@outlook.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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