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# REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM | IRELAND

## Editorial

We joined our British friends' mourning and sorrow for the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, a sovereign who has been the protagonist of the history of the United Kingdom and its people for the past seven decades. We pay tribute and respect for her loss by featuring the statement of the Embassy and our Ambassador on this front page. We wish of course to the United Kingdom a future of prosperity and stability as King Charles III takes over from his beloved mother.

The celebrations for our Swiss National Day throughout the Country have been numerous and well attended this

year. This is because it is now possible to get together without any concerns and restraints. Therefore, the very first pages of the issue are completely dedicated to celebrating the joy and cheerfulness of the people who joined the events proposed for the First of August with the unprecedented will to socialise and meet again with friends and compatriots. The other pages continue to testify to the lively activity of our community, including the one of the Swiss Irish Club in Dublin which had its first eventful year after the struggles of the last two ones.



GIOIA PALMIERI,  
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

## Statements from the London Embassy:

### HR Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

The Embassy of Switzerland wishes to express its deepest condolences on the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Our thoughts are with the members of the Royal Family and the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Switzerland's Ambassador to the UK Markus Leitner stated, "I am truly saddened by this distressing news. Her Majesty The Queen's steadfast devotion to duty throughout the longest reign in British history was greatly admired in Switzerland, and her death will be mourned right around the world."



The Queen passed away on  
the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.



## First of August: A great Swiss National Day in London

It was a warm day with a beautiful weather. We welcomed about 350 people visiting who enjoyed the many entertainments on the program: music, art, food, culture. We received very positive feedback. People did really appreciate the opportunity to meet up with friends they haven't seen since the pandemic breakout. So, it was a very social event for many persons.

We now need to recruit volunteers for the next year: any position is good for us. We need people who help with social media or sponsorship, or just volunteers available to welcome people. Please, if anybody interested or just have some questions, write to [snd.volunteers@outlook.com](mailto:snd.volunteers@outlook.com)

ANDREAS FELLER-RYF



## First of August: Southern Area Swiss Club

Some impressions from our 1<sup>st</sup> August get together in Heidi and John's garden on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. It was a small gathering this year just 18 of us.

BERNI CUTRESS  
[BERNI@NBTSCLPLUS.COM](mailto:BERNI@NBTSCLPLUS.COM)

## Swiss National Day: West Surrey Swiss Club

West Surrey Swiss Club enjoyed 3 functions in 2021 and have continued this year with an excellent illustrated talk on the Fauna of the Pyrenees which mainly concentrated on birds, followed by a visit to the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park in May.

There followed a meeting at the cottage of one of our members, Hannes Gysin, to listen to a recorded talk first given in 1988 by his uncle Emil Weitnauer, a well-known character from Oltingen/ BL on the subject of the decline in population of birds in the area.

The talk was delivered in local and distinctive 'Baselbiet Mundart' which members outside the canton found interesting and was followed by tasty snacks and a drink.

Swiss National Day was celebrated in our usual style in Cobham Village Hall with red and white decor and dress code. A great time was had by all. Sadly, no fireworks of course. Many of us are taking delayed holidays this year so we will not meet again until our Advent Lunch in late November.

RUTH CROZIER



Club's info: [westsurreyswiss@aol.com](mailto:westsurreyswiss@aol.com)



## Swiss National Day: Swiss Club Manchester

The Swiss Club Manchester celebrated the Swiss National Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> July at the Brookdale Club. It was a great success, and all 68 participants (including 14 children) enjoyed the evening. We had a lovely meal, a lampion procession when it was dark, which the children enjoyed, a bonfire, a singsong of traditional Swiss songs accompanied by John Plumb's accordion.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the presence of the Holcombe Alphorn Duo who entertained us with the beautiful sound of their Alphorns. Wishing you all the best.

Club's info: [bjbentele@ntlworld.com](mailto:bjbentele@ntlworld.com)

JUERG BENTELE



Holcombe Alphorn Duo entertained the club's members with the beautiful sound of their Alphorns.

## First of August: Swiss in Wales

### 1. Pembrokeshire

We did celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> August Swiss National Day on Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2022. We all enjoyed a great garden party with plenty to talk about, reconnect with friends not seen for a long time. Our afternoon together included live music performance by Will Scott in a pleasant environment at the pond side. The guests we welcomed this year represented again an eclectic mix of the world's population, including the revered British painter & sculptor Denis Curry (aged 103+) and his wife Jenny who very generously donated a watercolour painting and a print for auction. For our US friends who joined us, we hoisted a rather special flag that was flown over the United States Capitol Building in Washington D.C. signed by Senator, Judd Gregg. We thank Norman for this opportunity. Fortunately, the purse strings were not too tight either, as we collected the princely amount of £670.50 with the 35 participants, all for the local Charity 'GTBAL' in Haverfordwest. See you next year, on Tuesday, 1 August 2023. Info: [bwehren@btinternet.com](mailto:bwehren@btinternet.com)

BEAT & ELISABETH WEHREN

### 2. Swansea, South Wales

The Swiss National Day was celebrated with a BBQ in the garden of Ruth and John Thomas in Swansea on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. It was the first time that members of the South Wales Swiss came together again to celebrate the Swiss National Day since 2019. It looked as if many were eager to meet each other and celebrate again after the Pandemic. Never before did we have so many Swiss and their families present at a National Day BBQ in Swansea. It was great to meet on this occasion a number of new Swiss in Wales families, share food and drink and news and also welcome Marlies Hoecherl, who took over the post of Honorary Consul from Ruth in March 2020 and to introduce her to the Swiss Community in South Wales. Swansea Club info: [www.swissinwales.org](http://www.swissinwales.org)

RUTH & JOHN THOMAS

1: A BBQ in the garden of Ruth and John Thomas.

2: A great garden party with plenty of friends.





At the Swiss Embassy:

# An evening with the award-winning director Simone Giampaolo



Simone Giampaolo is a young (33 years old) award-winning director of animated films. Born in Switzerland, Ticino, but based in

London, he works for one of the biggest animation studios in the UK and he's currently working on Netflix's show 'Bad Dinosaurus'. One of Simone's short movies, *Only a Child*, was shortlisted for the Oscar Awards this year. The New Helvetic Society and Unione Ticinese London have organised an evening with him to watch his movie at the Embassy. For more details about the date and the time of the event, please visit the website: [newhelveticsociety.org.uk](http://newhelveticsociety.org.uk).

SR: *Only a Child* won many awards because of its powerful message regarding intergenerational justice and climate justice, inspired by Severn Suzuki's speech at the Earth Summit in '92. What was the biggest and most interesting challenge in choosing this topic for your movie?

SG: Since my university years, I've always tried to inject positive moral messages into my films, in particular about nature and protecting the environment. I stumbled onto Severn Cullis-Suzuki's speech around three years ago – before the climate strike movement and Greta Thunberg became a global phenomenon – and I immediately felt the urge to adapt it into an animated film.

This was, hands down, the most challenging project I've ever supervised in my career, considering also it was all done in my spare time! I was lucky enough to find a group of artists and directors I could trust and who truly believed in this omnibus project and poured their hearts and souls into their animated segments. However, it is tricky indeed to handle multiple creative directors' minds with different visions and who work using different media.

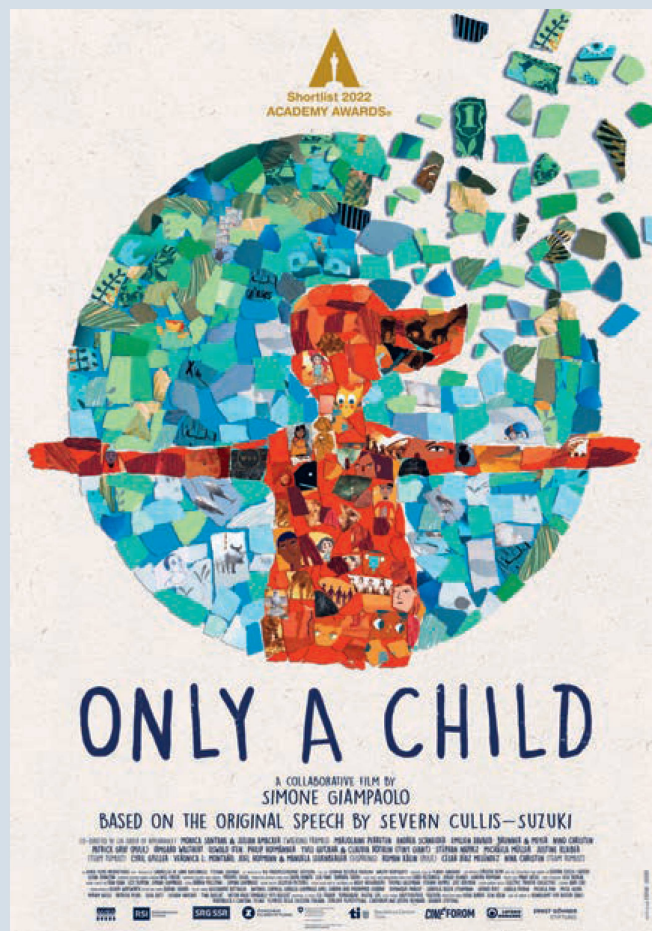
Production-wise, the biggest challenge was certainly managing the budget by

splitting it into 20 different sub-budgets (each different per every 'segment' of the film), keeping in mind the different pipelines and workflows that each animation technique requires: sand, paint-on-glass, stop-motion, puppet, CGI, 2D, etc. Working with so many different independent artists forced us to become flexible and quite open to experimentation. As a director, my main challenge was to provide each creative mind involved with enough artistic freedom while maintaining a 'fil rouge' throughout the visual narrative.

SR: *The movie uses different animation techniques: why this choice and how did you make this possible?*

SG: This isn't a project close to my heart only because of the theme and content though. Since I started making animation, I had always dreamed of crafting an ambitious film that could combine every animation technique in existence and, when *Only a Child*'s pre-production started in 2019, I immediately saw an opportunity to make this finally happen.

While watching our film, you'll soon realise that *Only a Child* is an incredibly eclectic visual project that displays almost every animation technique in the book: stop-frame, traditional 2D, CGI, clay, puppets, paint-on-glass, sand... You name it! Since day one, I've insisted on portraying as many styles as possible for one simple reason: I see each animation technique as a 'tribe' (or 'nation'), and really wanted *Only a Child* to metaphorically symbolize different nations – and therefore different human beings – coming together to share a common, crucial message.



An Oscar-shortlisted animated movie.

When assembling OAC's 'dream team', I tried my best to give enough weight and importance to each animation technique: artists were selected for their skills, of course, but also for their unique visual style and the techniques they could make use of.

SR: *Any special projects for the future?*

SG: I'm currently directing in London a new animated show for Netflix called 'Bad Dinosaurus', about a family of silly dinosaurs! I'd love to start putting together new personal ideas for short films or series in my spare time, maybe collaborating again with Swiss artists and producers.

Info: [simone-giampaolo.com](http://simone-giampaolo.com)



## London: The Life and Works of Swiss Artist Maurice André Kaspar presented to the British public

Maurice André Kaspar was an Architect who worked for the City of Geneva. In his spare time he mainly painted in watercolour. He is known for his choice of subject, location and for his architectural talent. He actively painted between 1900–1946 and produced over 300 original watercolour paintings.

On 12 July 2022, the New Helvetic Society organised an event in London to showcase and celebrate the works of Maurice André Kaspar, the little known watercolour artist. The exhibition presented over 200 paintings which have never been shown in the UK and it took place at the Bankside Gallery, Royal Watercolour Society. Maurice André Kaspar's grand-son René Dee has travelled around the world to bring together these paintings. René also managed to put together a series of architectural drawings which completed a wonderful collection of exceptional artworks. Around 60 people who mainly came from Europe attended the vernissage. They were able to appreciate the artist's intention, which was to show a different perspective on buildings in urban or countryside surroundings. The exhibition enabled visitors to discover an accomplished artist that truly revealed his passion for art through his paintings. René Dee's desire to have his grand-father's legacy recognized has succeeded. The diplomatic world in the UK, the New Helvetic Society and the academic world participated in putting together the exhibition of Maurice André Kaspar.

The event began with the patron of the exhibition Leïla El Wakil, an Associate Professor at the University of Geneva, art historian and architect, followed by Chantal Moser, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK.

The above is a summary based on an article by David Glaser, reporter for FONSART and [notrehistoire.ch](https://notrehistoire.ch)

Maurice André Kaspar's grand-son René Dee with Chantal Moser, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy.



## Dublin: An intense year of events and gatherings for the Swiss Club Ireland

The first event of the year took place on 27<sup>th</sup> February. We attended the screening of the Swiss film 'Olga' which was shown as part of the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival. Afterwards, we enjoyed a drink at the Light House Cinema.

On 24<sup>th</sup> March, we went to see another movie, 'Skies of Lebanon', this time as part of the Francophonie Film Festival 2022. The screening was followed by an international buffet provided by the Francophonie Embassies in Dublin.

In April and May, we had two Alberto Giacometti events. First, we attended a lecture on Alberto Giacometti's life and work, and later, we visited the exhibition 'Giacometti: From Life', both at the National Gallery of Ireland. On 10<sup>th</sup> June, the members of the Swiss Club were invited to a coffee morning at the residence of the Swiss Ambassador, hosted by the new Ambassador Dr Benedict Gubler and his wife Clethe. Two days later, we went to the 'Van Gough: Immersive Experience' show in the Royal Dublin Society (RDS).

On 7<sup>th</sup> July, the members of the Swiss Club Ireland were invited to the Herbert Park Hotel by Ambassador Gubler and his wife to celebrate Swiss National Day. We were delighted to welcome some new Swiss Club members.

For our next event we plan to visit the 'Avondale Treetop Walk' in County Wicklow. This event should take place at the end of September. For more information about the Swiss Club Ireland, please visit [www.swissclubireland.ie](https://www.swissclubireland.ie)





## London: Changes at the Embassy and the Regional Consular Centre

Thomas Wagner has succeeded Manuela Ferrari as Head of Operations at the Embassy. Laurent Vuillemez has succeeded Simona Regazzoni as Head of the Regional Consular Centre and Paola Giacometti has succeeded Andrea Hauri as Deputy Head of the Regional Consular Centre. They arrived from Tel Aviv, Pristina and Colombo respectively.



From left: Laurent Vuillemez, Paola Giacometti and Thomas Wagner © FDFA



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## #WeAreSwitzerland

#WeAreCreative is an ongoing initiative by the Embassy of Switzerland promoting artists from Switzerland, creative industries and Swiss culture in the UK. Discover, take part, engage. More information on the Embassy of Switzerland website:

[www.eda.admin.ch/london/culture](http://www.eda.admin.ch/london/culture)

### Female Future/Ongoing podcast series

A podcast series about female icons, trendsetters and pioneers. Listen to learn more about: FemTech, LGBTQ+ Activism, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Black Feminism and Food Waste and Sustainability. More information: [www.weareswitzerland.uk/posts/female-future-podcast](http://www.weareswitzerland.uk/posts/female-future-podcast)

### UEFA League: FC Zurich fans in Edinburgh

The prestigious UEFA Europa League Qualifier between Edinburgh's Hearts and FC Zurich took place at Tynecastle Park on 25 August. About 800 FC Zurich fans cheered/witnessed the attractive game, some travelled by coach all the way from Zurich (and back!). Result: 1:0 for the guests.

P. MÜLLER-MCDOUGALL, HONORARY CONSUL EDINBURGH



To get informed about the latest from the Swiss clubs and community living in the UK and to get in touch with the UK OSA delegates, please visit the website [swiss-societies.co.uk/](http://swiss-societies.co.uk/) and FOSSUK's social media:

Facebook: @ukswiss  
 Twitter: @FOSSUK



## Rugby: The Swiss national team is looking for players in the UK

The Swiss National rugby coaches are looking for Swiss national players who are playing rugby at a good level in the UK. If they would be interested in potentially being selected for the Swiss national team, can get in touch with

[xv.men@suisserugby.com](mailto:xv.men@suisserugby.com)

To get how this would work we had a chat with the Swiss rugby team player Donovan O'Grady, age 29, born in South Africa to a Swiss mother and a South African/Irish father. Donovan is currently living and working in London for The Rugby Players Association (Part of England Rugby) and the Swiss National team.

*SR: What's your Experience in the Swiss rugby team?*

DO'G: In 2017 I was contacted by the Swiss Rugby Federation and invited to play for the national team in Rugby Europes Trophy competition. My first international game for the Swiss National Men's team was against Moldova in Moldova, 2017. Following that I have made 14 appearances for the Men's National team. I have also represented and captained the Swiss National Men's 7's team in two international tournaments.

*SR: What the Swiss Nationals would do if joining the team?*



DO'G: If selected a player would be expected to join the team on a Thursday before a game on a Saturday. We would train 3 times before the game and the match would take place on a Saturday. For the upcoming season the Switzerland Men's team will be playing the following teams:

- 05.11.2022: Sweden vs Switzerland
- 12.11.2022: Switzerland vs Lithuania
- 18.11.2022: Switzerland vs Ukraine
- 01.04.2023: Croatia vs Switzerland

*SR: How this process would work?*

DO'G: If selected players would be invited to take part in an open training day in Switzerland. Players who meet the re-

quirements will be invited back to train with the national side and will have the chance to play for the national team. Additionally, Switzerland has a developing and competitive local league. If a player is interested in moving over to Switzerland, they can reach out to me social media profiles, and I will be able to put them in contact with the local club team in their area.

LinkedIn Donovan O'Grady:

[www.linkedin.com/in/donovan-o-grady-348aab1aa](https://www.linkedin.com/in/donovan-o-grady-348aab1aa)

Instagram: [ad9ogradey](https://www.instagram.com/ad9ogradey)

Swiss rugby website: [www.suisserugby.com](http://www.suisserugby.com)

## Swiss Abroad Conference: The UK OSA delegates in Lugano



It was a pleasure for the participants to meet Ignazio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation, who took the necessary time to talk to delegates of the YPSA, UGS and FOSSUK.

Delegates representing the Swiss in the UK and meeting delegates from all over the world at the Conference of the Swiss Abroad 2022 in Lugano: Michelle Hufschmid, Lakshmi Sundaram, Franz Muheim, Adreas Feller-Ryf and Loredana Guetg Wyatt.





**Changes:** Society's Trustees Board

# SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1703

The Board of Trustees wish to inform you that the Welfare Officer and Company Secretary *Petra Kehr Cocks* departed from this role this summer for new family endeavours that took her further away from the London Office. We are ever so grateful for her many years of dedication and service in aid of the wellbeing of our Swiss Community in the UK.

*Heidi Holenweg* joined the SBS as the Ad Interim Welfare Officer and Company Secretary in September. You may already have met her at our SBS events and conversed in her native language Swiss German, French or English. Her background working in Switzerland, Zambia and

the UK lends itself well to the Ad Interim role with the SBS, as she is an empathetic and dependable Qualified Swiss Social Worker with over 15 years' experience in providing advice and support to vulnerable people or people experiencing problems in their lives, of all walks of life and cultures.

The SBS Office is open each Tuesday and Wednesday and Heidi is available on the same telephone number **020 7836 9119** and email [info@swissbenevolent.org.uk](mailto:info@swissbenevolent.org.uk)  
Please visit [www.swissbenevolent.org.uk](http://www.swissbenevolent.org.uk) for more information.

**Obituaries:** Swiss Citizens recently passed away



## Dr Ursula Ditchburn

The Swiss Community in Scotland is sad to announce the passing of *Dr Ursula Ditchburn*, aged 93. She was a well loved and respected member who is missed by all who knew her. She will be remembered with fondness and gratitude. **An extensive tribute to Dr Ditchburn will be featured in the next issue of the Swiss Review (February 2023).**

## Marianne Reutter

It is with great sadness that we have to inform of the passing of *Marianne Reutter*. Our sincere condolences go to her family and friends. Marianne joined the Swiss Club Manchester in 1970. She was Vice President in 1991 and 1992 and was then President (the first female President) from 1993 to 1995. She served the Club as Hon. Secretary in 1996 and 1997. The funeral service took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Marianne will be sadly missed.

**Appeal:** For the Swiss in Liverpool/Wirral areas

We are setting up a group of Swiss friends to meet up with families and other people interested on a regular basis. We've already spent a morning together on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September and planned further meetings (to be confirmed) before Christmas. If you are interested in joining, please get in touch with Karin at

[karin.mary.evans@gmail.com](mailto:karin.mary.evans@gmail.com)

**Swiss in Wales:** Samichlaus in the Woods 2022

Last year, due to Covid restrictions, the Swiss in Swansea had to choose another venue for their traditional 'Samichlaus' and this event was held outdoors in the woods. Since everyone enjoyed meeting Samichlaus in Penllegare Woods, we are choosing the same venue for 2022. Save the date and come along on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> Advent, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm to the outdoor Cafe at Penllegare Woods, located just off the M4 Junction 47. Dogs welcome too. Plenty of parking available at [www.penllegare.org](http://www.penllegare.org).

More info nearer the date on Facebook 'Swiss in Wales' or write to Ruth Thomas via Facebook or [www.swissinwales.org](http://www.swissinwales.org)

**Worlds End Swiss Club:** Wendover Buckinghamshire

We are based in Wendover Buckinghamshire and have 14 members now within a circle of 10 miles. We meet about 4 times a year at a different member's houses each time. We gained a new younger member after reading a post on Facebook in 'Swiss in the UK'. We got together for the First of August. Everyone had a good time enjoying the food and the hot weather. Erika Stride. Club's info: [erikastride@icloud.com](mailto:erikastride@icloud.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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[www.on-idle.com](http://www.on-idle.com)

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## Next Issues

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