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# REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM | IRELAND

## Editorial

Happy New Year to all of you! The first issue of 2023 opens with a big 'thank you' to Lisa Hall-Zeller who recently came back to Switzerland. During her 50 years in London she gave a huge contribution to our community, advocating for the rights of the Swiss living abroad.

This issue also features the story of Aia Lu the daughter and granddaughter of famous Swiss artists. From her home in Kenmar, Ireland, she paints a world of moving landscapes and secret tarot cards. The active presence of the Swiss community in Scotland in music and sport is covered in two pages. We meet the singer and club's

vice-president Nathaniel Cartier and host the latest news coming from the club's committee. The second appointment with "Samichlaus in the wood" returns to Wales: an opportunity of friendship for families and children that continues to enjoy great success.

The New Helvetic Society and Unione Ticinese organised a series of joint events that made all the participants very enthusiastic, in particular the widely attended masterclass delivered by Oscar-shortlisted director Simone Giampaolo. The issue concludes with photos and memories dedicated to the Christmas events organised by the various Swiss clubs.



GIOIA PALMIERI,  
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

## London:

# Thanks to Lisa Hall-Zeller for her contribution to the Swiss community

The Swiss Community owes to Lisa Hall-Zeller a lot. She has lived in the UK for more than 50 years and has recently returned to Switzerland. Lisa has been strongly involved with the Muttergruppe at the Swiss Church London for 18 years, alongside becoming more and more politically engaged in Switzerland to advocate for Swiss mothers' rights. She was always present at the annual Swiss Abroad Congress. There, in the 1970s, the citizenship of children of Swiss-foreign couples was hotly debated.

«Lisa was also one of the main organisers of the Swiss community autumn bazaar that used to be held at the Swiss Church London to raise funds for the church. I recall Lisa telling me how she would drive to Switzerland, visit many Swiss companies for donations for the bazaar, and return with a fully loaded car»

**Mr Colin McIntyre,**  
Member of Consistoire of Swiss Church in London.

From 1978, such children received citizenship in Switzerland, but not abroad. Because

of this and because the law did not provide for equality between women and men, Hall-Zeller 'raised the barricades'. 'We were very busy, we wrote to all the media and organised a charter flight to Zurich', she recently explained to the Swiss media tagblatt.ch. 'At that time the Swiss abroad still had to vote in person. In Zurich we were well received, even radio and television were there. I then had to go to Appenzell to catch votes and was with a very nice Landammann, who took me to absolutely every pub, advocating for my request'. Their commitment was rewarded on December 4, 1983, when 60.8 per cent of those who voted approved the amendment. As a delegate to the Organisation of Swiss Abroad – and after her successful campaign for the passport of Swiss mothers' children – she also stood and ran for the National Council. She made history when, in 1995, she was the first Swiss abroad to attempt to move into the Federal Palace. The slightly more than 2000 votes she received were not enough, but the media interest was nevertheless great.

She was also appointed as secretary of the New Helvetic Society for a long time and of



La Causerie, the French-speaking women's group at the Swiss Church London, which is still very active and meets regularly.

'Lisa was also one of the main organisers of the Swiss community autumn bazaar that used to be held at the Swiss Church London to raise funds for the church. I recall Lisa telling me how she would drive to Switzerland, visit many Swiss companies for donations, and return with a fully loaded car' tells us Mr Colin McIntyre, Member of Consistoire of Swiss Church in London.

Although she returned to her homeland, Lisa has remained fully committed to volunteering on both sides of the English Channel. The Swiss community thanks her a lot, wishing all the best for her new life in Switzerland.



## Ireland: The Swiss artist Aia Lu and her moving landscapes from Kenmare



Aia Lu is a Swiss artist. She works from her studio in Kenmare (Ireland), where she moved in 1989. She studied figure sketching in Vevey, Switzerland as a teenager. She came from a family of famous artists: her paternal grandmother is the Swiss artist Eva Aeppli. Aia's work draws directly from her multicultural and bohemian upbringing. Her art is particularly influenced by both her years spent as a child in India, and the richness of the Irish landscape. Her artwork was on exhibit as a part of 'Leu Family Art' at the Museum Tinguely Basel in Switzerland in 2021.

*SR: how and to what extent have your childhood and family influenced your art?*

AIA LU: I was surrounded by art as a child and was encouraged by my parents to be creative. Although when I paint, I have my own style and subjects, I feel I am undoubtedly influenced by my artistic family especially the women: my paternal grandmother Eva Aeppli, her life-like sculptures of the planets and human emotions especially interest me. But I also love my aunt Miriam Tinguely's beautiful little miniature watercolor paintings.

*SR: your paintings have mainly landscapes as subjects, but there are usually some artefacts left on it. What kind of communication takes place between you and the nature where you paint?*

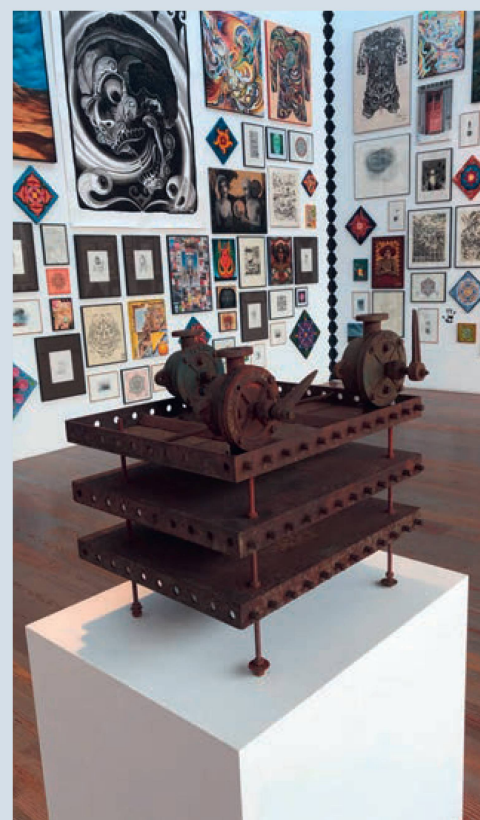
AIA LU: I love nature, archaeology, and mythology with symbolism. My paintings are intuitive. My art is not always personal, so it is not like 'I'm painting my dreams' – it is more a storytelling. I don't always know the story myself until it starts to emerge when I paint. Sometimes there are simple landscapes and sometimes they are filled with symbols and objects. I like to call this personal process: 'a moving landscape'. My paintings are a fusion, influenced by the surroundings I am immersed in.

*SR: you've been recently involved in an important tarot project. How much challenging has this been for you and how has it influenced your art?*

AIA LU: The project was a collaboration with astrologer Joanna-Kate Grant who wrote the book. The tarot deck I painted over 80 paintings, each painting unique which is inspired by Jo's writing of each card. Sometimes it was very challenging but it has been an amazing

journey. I had complete freedom to paint what inspired me from the story of each card: they are not really illustrations but paintings. In the end I painted more than was needed for the book and deck which is called: 'Thoth Journey: The oracle of Change' which includes over 80 paintings. About a third of them are large paintings for the Major Arcana and the Minor are of smaller size. It took about five years, and I finally finished the project in 2020. I found that, after painting the tarot project, my art has become freer.

GIOIA PALMIERI



The golden lunula and the rockpool on the shoreline", oil painting on linen – 50 x 60cm. Leu Art Family's exhibition, Museum Tinguely, CH.

Website: [www.aialeu.com](http://www.aialeu.com)  
Instagram: [@atheoracleofchange](https://www.instagram.com/atheoracleofchange)  
Exhibition: <https://tinyurl.com/art-leu-family>



## The Swissclub Edinburgh:

## News in the club's committee and the latest events

## A new president and vice-president for the club

The Swissclub Edinburgh held its AGM on Saturday 19th November 2022 at the Saughtonhall Community Centre. After six years as President, Ruth Muheim decided to step down. Ruth has led the club very successfully during this time, with many memorable events.

In particular the classics, such as Fondue evenings, Swiss National Days, Christmas parties and two annual dinners at the Edinburgh Arts club attracted a large participation and several new members have joined the club. Ruth was thanked for her huge dedication and large amount of work. She will be a hard act to follow. At the AGM, it was decided to expand the committee and three new members were elected for a two-year term: Euan Cameron, Catherine Huber and Jacqueline McPartlin. Franz Muheim was elected as the new President, Sepp Jans was re-elected in his role as Secretary and Ruth agreed to continue to serve on the committee for another term.

Nathaniel Cartier, a Swiss musician studying at Edinburgh, was appointed as the new Vice-president. Popular activities of the Swissclub also include the Swiss Stammtisch, we meet each first Wednesday of the month at Le-Divin wine bar in the west end. The Stammtisch was started in Feb 2016, so has been going for almost seven years. Everyone with a connection to Switzerland is invited to join. Sepp Jans continues to organise Sunday walks, where we get to know more about Edinburgh and the surrounding area. These walks were started during the pandemic, when allowed by the regulations, and continue to be very much enjoyed by the attendees.

## A memorable Christmas Party

On the afternoon of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the traditional Christmas party of the Swissclub Edinburgh took at the Saughtonhall Community Centre and was attended by about 20 people.

Members brought along many delicious dishes, often typical of the Swiss background of their creators: 'Grittibänze', 'Lebkuchen', potato salad 'Swiss style', apple pies and more. These samples were enjoyed by all present. Ursula Ross brought some rare (at least here in the UK) candleholders to put wax candles on a Christmas tree to give away to brave club members who dare to use these. Our Vice-president and musician Nathaniel Cartier brought some Christmas mood to the event by playing a few tunes on his saxophone. The gathering was an enjoyable event in an amicable atmosphere with good food, lively discussions and true Christmas spirit.



The new committee of the Swissclub Edinburgh.

## Supporting the Swiss women's tennis team in Glasgow

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the Switzerland women's tennis team won, for the first time, the Billie Jean King World Cup of tennis, which this year took place in Glasgow, Scotland.

Swissclub Edinburgh members Euan Cameron and Jacqueline McPartlin, who is a tennis player herself, travelled for three consecutive days to Glasgow to support the Swiss women's team by cheering and waving the club's Swiss flag. Euan and Jacqueline very much enjoyed watching the Swiss women's team win all their matches and they received complimentary tickets for the final from Tennis Switzerland. After Switzerland beat Australia in the final, they joined the celebrations with other Swiss supporters who had travelled to Scotland. Many congratulations to the Swiss women's tennis team for their historic victory.

Delicious 'Grittibänze', 'Lebkuchen' and more at the buffet of the Christmas party.



Euan Cameron and Jackie McPartlin with Swiss Supporters celebrating the win of the Billie Jean King Cup by Switzerland women tennis team.



## Music: A new English album inspired by Nath Cartier's time in Scotland



Nathaniel Cartier – from Zug – is studying music in Edinburgh. Since he moved to Scotland, he hasn't stopped producing music and organising many events (see SR issue 1/2022). He recently founded the 'Edinburgh Collective' with other artists to revive the local music scene. He recently got elected as the vice-president of the Swiss Club Edinburgh and he founded the first ever Edinburgh University Swiss Society.

*SR: How is the Edinburgh Collective doing? Any special event for this season?*

NC: The Edinburgh Collective is gaining momentum, and we are now running monthly events dedicated to active artists in the creative scene. Our last events were large-scale collaborative events, including a market, a culture panel, and concerts in the evenings – all supporting Edinburgh artists. We will soon be launching some exciting new projects to help showcase more Edinburgh artists throughout the city!

*SR: Where is possible to listen to your music?*

NC: My latest release was with Edinburgh Artist Bee Asha, and I can only recommend having a listen – a mellow and cool track about being true to yourself – with all the music played, produced, and mixed by me! You can find my music online on all streaming platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, etc...), with videos on YouTube as well. I am regularly playing around Edinburgh and recently also played at the Fife Arms in Scotland near Aberdeen, owned by two Swiss Art dealers. This June I will be releasing a new album 'Neo' and be going on my first ever tour around Scotland – the 'Neo Tour'. It is going to start an exciting new chapter in my life and career. The first song on the album will be released early in March 31<sup>st</sup>.

*SR: Any special projects for the future?*

SG: I recently got elected as the vice-president of the Swiss Club Edinburgh, which is very exciting, and even bigger separate piece of news is we recently formed a student committee and successfully founded the first ever Edinburgh University Swiss Society!



Nath Cartier and Cyrano, his fellow of Edinburgh Collective.

We are all looking forward to getting events up and running and creating a new platform to connect Swiss students and anyone else who is interested in Switzerland.



I am giving away five free signed CDs of my first Swiss German album 'Zuger Träumer' on a first-come first-served basis!

All you need to do is send me an email at [nathanielcartier@hotmail.com](mailto:nathanielcartier@hotmail.com) with the subject title – 'Swiss Review CD'.

I'm super motivated to connect with anyone who is interested in my music and am always looking for opportunities to perform live!

NATHANIEL CARTIER



Nathaniel plays many instruments including sax.

Info:

Instagram: [@n.cartier](https://www.instagram.com/n.cartier)

[linktr.ee/n.cartier](https://linktr.ee/n.cartier)

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



## London: The New Helvetic Society and Unione Ticinese joint events

On 18 October 2022, the New Helvetic Society hosted a Zoom session with Dr. Nicole Töpferwien from Soliswiss, who provided members with an informative session on the latest key developments regarding pensions, healthcare and other benefits which had been impacted by the Brexit agreements. This zoom session was recorded and is available on YouTube.

Due to time constraints there were many unanswered queries. Therefore, the New Helvetic Society would like to organise another session with Soliswiss. If there is anything in particular anyone would like addressed, please send your suggestions and questions to [info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk).

On 6 December 2022, the Unione Ticinese and the New Helvetic Society hosted a masterclass delivered by Oscar®-shortlisted and BAFTA-nominated director Simone Giampaolo. Originally from Ticino, Simone now lives in London where he has been working on a multitude of commissioned projects (see Swiss Review UK October issue 2022).

Simone led a family-friendly interactive session and took us 'behind the scenes'.

He showed us some of his fantastic creations, including 'Only a Child' and other movies with a festive theme. The masterclass was followed by a traditional Swiss Christmas celebration with music and panettone, kindly provided by the bakery 'Al Porto' in Locarno. Pianist Penny Stansfield entertained the guests with her beautiful music. There was even a visit by San Nicolao who gifted a small surprise to the children. Attendees had the opportunity to stock up on Christmas gifts created by talented artists Sandra Liscio and Valentina D'Annunzio. Finally, there was a discussion with guest Tom Alemanno about his recently published book 'Pancia mia fatti capanna' on the discovery of delicious products and recipes of the Swiss Italian territories.

SUZANNE ROSARIO

### SAVE THE DATES FOR 2023:

16 March 2023

New Helvetic Society AGM, Swiss Embassy, London

25 April 2023

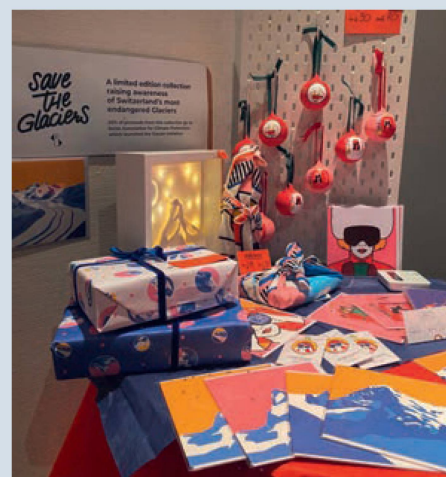
An evening with Swiss author Helen Wallimann, Swiss Embassy, London

17 June 2023

FOSSUK AGM with Ambassador Markus Leitner, Oxford



Simone Giampaolo engaging with a young member of the audience.



Christmas gifts created by talented artists Sandra Liscio and Valentina D'Annunzio.



Families, children and club's members who enjoyed the event.



## Wales: 'Samichlaus in the Woods' 2022

How Covid changed the format of the Samichlaus event for the South Wales Swiss.

Covid changed the format of how the Swiss in South Wales now celebrate their annual Samichlaus event. Since 1997, the Swansea Swiss met for their yearly Samichlaus event at a local Community Centre in town. Covid restrictions in 2021 meant that any gathering had to take place outdoors. Some members and their children decided to meet up at a local Woodland outside the city for the children to see Samichlaus in the woods. This year, on the 1st Advent Sunday 2022, the South Wales Swiss Samichlaus event took place at Penllegare Woods once more. The new format, a walk in the woods, decorating a tree, meeting Samichlaus 'by chance' and, socializing in the open air, seems to appeal to many. Next year's 'Samichlaus in the woods' is already booked. Same date, same place.

RUTH THOMAS



## Glasgow: Huge success for Swiss Tennis at Billie Jean King Cup

The Billie Jean King Cup Finals is the highest level of the Billie Jean King Cup competition in 2022. This year, the competition took place in Glasgow from 8 to 13 November.

The finals featured 12 teams with runners-up Switzerland securing the title for the first time in history. A good number from the Swiss community in Scotland chanted 'Hop Schwiiz' which obviously made all the difference.

HONORARY SWISS CONSUL GENERAL PETER MÜLLER-MCDOUGALL



Belinda Bencic "holding the trophy high" together with her colleagues and support team.



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### Citizen Advice for grants and benefits

to help you pay your energy bills. More information:

[tinyurl.com/Citizen-Advice](https://tinyurl.com/Citizen-Advice)

### UK Government cost of living support

Help for households. More information:

[tinyurl.com/UK-Government-Support](https://tinyurl.com/UK-Government-Support)

If you are feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to go for support, please contact:

[tinyurl.com/SBS-General-Enquiries](https://tinyurl.com/SBS-General-Enquiries)

If you feel that you have exhausted your efforts in claiming benefits you are entitled to and Citizens' Advice; that you may require further financial support then please ask us at the SBS to see if you qualify for SBS financial aid.

We are here to help you and those you care about.

If you are able to help others, please go here:

[tinyurl.com/SBS-I-want-to-help](https://tinyurl.com/SBS-I-want-to-help)

More info: [www.swissbenevolent.org.uk](https://www.swissbenevolent.org.uk)



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/](https://swiss-societies.co.uk/) and FOSSUK's social media:

Facebook: @dukswiss  
 Twitter: @FOSSUK



## 1: West Surrey Swiss Club

Advent Lunch was held at Carlo's Trattoria near Newlands Corner, Surrey on Saturday 26 November 2022.

There were 37 of us enjoyed a fabulous lunch served perfectly by the restaurant team! In mid January 2023 we plan to start with a Matinée at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond preceded by lunch at the Orange Tree pub/ restaurant next door. In mid March we plan to have an afternoon talk locally followed by tea and homemade cakes and on Swiss Mother's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, we have booked a Spring garden visit with tea in the garden. The first half of the year will finish with our National Day celebration in Cobham on 29 July. There will be more events to follow to be advised.

PETER CROZIER, HON SEC



## 2: Southern Area Swiss Club

We had our Christmas Party in December 2022. We had a fabulous food buffet and our famous raffle. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon. Our first new year's event is the January lunch at Cote Restaurant in Farnham on Sunday 29.1.2023.

BERNI CURTRESS

## 3: North Wales Swiss Club

1<sup>st</sup> North Wales Swiss club meeting in Rhos-on-Sea, courtesy of your hosts Graham and Karen in the beautiful St.David's apartments followed by Doris Jones, our latest new member.

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL

## 4: Swiss in Liverpool/Wirral group

The group already met in Liverpool in October and in Chester in December for a coffee. They are planning other monthly gatherings in the Wirral and Liverpool areas for the months ahead. If anyone is interested to join please write to [karinmaryevans@gmail.com](mailto:karinmaryevans@gmail.com)





## Barbican Artist Spotlight: Patricia Kopatchinskaja

The Barbican in London will present an *Artist Spotlight* series with Moldovan-Austrian-Swiss violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja from February to April 2023, including a masterclass and two concerts.



More info about Kopatchinskaja's performances: [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk) © Eric Melzer



## Birmingham: Swiss Railways Society

Here is a photo of our stand at the National Model Railway Exhibition held at the NEC Birmingham in November 2022. We were celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022, our 42<sup>nd</sup> Year, but that is because this exhibition was cancelled in both 2020 and 2021 due to Covid.

HYWEL REES, COMPANY SECRETARY

[SWISSRAILSOC.ORG.UK](http://SWISSRAILSOC.ORG.UK)

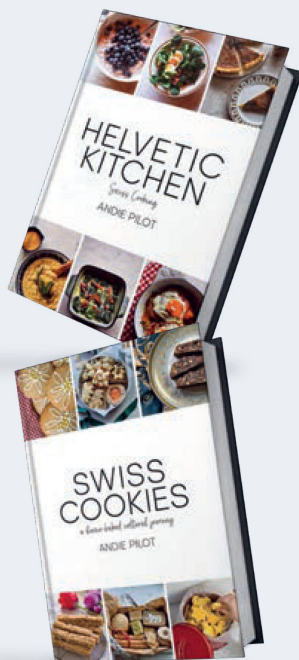
## BOOKS BY



### INFO

Web: [helvetic-kitchen.com](http://helvetic-kitchen.com)

Instagram: [@helvetic-kitchen](https://www.instagram.com/helvetic-kitchen)



## Helvetic Kitchen 2022 by Andie Pilot

The Swiss-Canadian food blogger and pastry chef Andie Pilot takes readers on a photographic tour of her favourite recipes – some just like her grandmother made and some modern takes on Swiss classics. Along the way she illuminates many of Swiss cuisine's curiosities. This new edition of the classic Helvetic Kitchen is the best introduction to Swiss cooking available in English. (Also available in German)

ISBN: 9783038691280

## Swiss Cookies by Andie Pilot

The essential guide to the art of Swiss cookie baking. With more than 40+ yummy cookie recipes and 100+ mouthwatering photos, this cookbook is sure to please expert chefs as well as eager families. Swiss-Canadian chef sought out Swiss classics and modern favourites, from Zurich's Tirggel (first mentioned in 1461) to her own grandmother's Mailänderli, to Basel's famous Lächerli. Supplemented with history, fun facts and many secrets, this is a gorgeous must-have for home bakers in the holiday season or any time of year. (Also available in German)

ISBN: 9783038691112

### 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: GIOIA PALMIERI  
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