

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 50 (2023)
Heft: 3

Anhang: Regional edition : United Kingdom, Ireland

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REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM | IRELAND

Editorial

Dear readers, this is the last Regional edition before the summer holidays. The next one will be published just before the Federal Elections on the 22nd of October. For this occasion, we meet Franz Muheim, UK Delegate and member of the Executive Board of the Council of the Swiss Abroad. Franz reminds us how important the vote of the Fifth Switzerland's citizens is and the procedures necessary for casting your preference.

Please, [SAVE THE DATE](#) for the [FOSSUK Annual General Meeting](#), which will take place on the 17th of June at the

London Embassy. The event will give us the chance to meet all UK Delegates of OSA and representatives of the FDFA. The program also includes various cultural activities, including a concert by May Roze, a London-based promising Swiss singer. Thanks to the generous help from the UK Delegates of OSA and many volunteers, it was once again possible to organise our National Day in London. There is still the opportunity to register to give your help and be a protagonist during this important occasion!



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

Music:

A chat with the Swiss-born singer and songwriter May Roze



Raised in Geneva and now based in London, the singer May Roze (mayroze.com) has constantly reinvented herself as an artist throughout her journey from a 3-year-old singer and stage performer to a songwriter at 16. She has gigged all over Switzerland and worked on multiple recordings at studios in London, New York and Paris. She also took part in the semi-finals of the Swiss Eurovision before moving to London to write her forthcoming project. In 2018 the song 'Again' was released, which reached #23 in the UK's Commercial Pop Charts, and #1 at Kings of Spins. In 2022, May published her debut EP 'Heal,' and her single 'Mad', which was featured on Love Island. She will perform at the Swiss Embassy on the 17th of June thanks to an eventful cultural programme organised for the Congress of the Swiss in the UK

Swiss Review: May, tell us about you! You've been performing on stage since you were 3 years old. How did your passion for music grow when you were

in Switzerland? And why did you move to London, then?

Yes, the first time I performed was in Switzerland. I joined a well-known Swiss children's music artist on stage during one of his shows. Already a fan of musicals, I promised myself that 'stage' would become my new home. From that day, I never stopped. Later I started working in London, though still living in Switzerland. This choice shaped my love for this city and I move here in 2015 to follow my dreams and experience the artistry of such a creative city.

SR: You write and produce your songs. How do you describe your music and lyrics production?

MR: My music is a mix of dark pop, alternative, and trip-hop, influenced by jazz and Latin music too. For my lyrics, I like abstract, visual lyrics but sometimes simple and relatable is good too. My own experiences – what happens around me in the world – are good sources of inspiration.

SR: Your track 'Heal' was released followed

by an original music video of you being under some plastic dust sheets. Can you tell us what this song and the related video represent?

MR: It was me letting go of all the things that had happened in the past few years, in my relationships, and deciding that the past was not worth being stuck in. The video represents a rebirth, coming out of a cocoon and moving towards a new life. There is no feeling stuck anymore. The future is bright, you can start over at any time. I drew my vision on paper and made it come to life with the filmmaker. I then edited it to stay true to the initial idea.

SR: And what about your aspirations for the future?

MR: My dream is to tour the world, to release music and albums that will be listened to and appreciated by people who can take the time to understand it. Hopefully many people. I would probably prefer to live in a warmer country because I LOVE London but damn this weather! [she laughs] And, last but not least: just to be happy and to be fulfilled.

GIOIA PALMIERI

Save the date: FOSSUK's AGM and Congress on Saturday 17th of June

The 2023 FOSSUK AGM and cultural afternoon will take place on the 17th June 2023. Save the date!

The AGM will take place from 2 to 3pm followed by speeches from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad representatives. We will then have a Swiss student panel discussion about life in the UK.

The program will continue with an eventful cultural programme – in collaboration with The New Helvetic Society – which will form part of the Congress of the Swiss in the UK.

The cultural programme will formally start at 4.30 pm with a presentation from each artist, but paintings by Carine Hayoz and sculptures by Maritta Winter will be displayed at the Swiss Embassy from the start of the Congress.

Following the presentation of Carine and Maritta, guests will have the opportunity to listen to the very talented Swiss singer Marie Roze (see PI). The Congress closes with an apéro provided by Ambassador Markus Leitner.

www.swiss-societies.co.uk

Carine Hayoz is an architect and painter from Bern, Switzerland. She creates her paintings by artistically abstracting compositions of surface, colour, and light using the formal vocabulary of landscape and architecture. The buildings and landscapes are portrayed on the square canvases by an emerging array of human shapes. Her art is centred on the interaction between human figures and their surroundings.



Carine Hayoz, *Lady Rose Bright Shining*, 2022. Acrylic on Canvas.

Maritta Winter. One of her sculpture on the right: Zen Bronze.



Sculptor Maritta Winter is an architect and painter from Bern, Switzerland. She creates her paintings by artistically abstracting compositions of surface, colour, and light using the formal vocabulary of landscape and architecture.

The buildings and landscapes are portrayed on the square canvases by an emerging array of human shapes. Her art is centred on the interaction between human figures and their surroundings.



The cultural programme was made possible thanks to the generous support of Gabriel Fine Arts.
www.gabrielfinearts.com

Gabriel Fine Arts
Connectivity in Diversity

Federal Election 2023: Voting and electoral rights of the Fifth Switzerland



In view of the Federal Elections next October, we have reached out to Franz Muheim, UK delegate for the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (since 2013) and member of the Executive Board of OSA since 2017.

The Fifth Switzerland – which recently earned even a place in the new passport – and its constituents can be major contributors to the federal and cantonal political scene. In this regard, there are important points to know or be reminded about.

Swiss Review: Swiss citizens with dual nationality might think that Swiss politics doesn't concern them anymore, especially after the UK left the EU. What are, instead, the main reasons why it is still good and important to be part of the political life in Switzerland?

Franz Muheim: As Swiss living abroad we have the right to vote on national votes and elections, in several Cantons also in cantonal votes. From my experience, approximately one third of the voting subjects is either on about social security matters or the relation of Switzerland with Europe and the European Union, which affects all of us directly. Hence, we want to take part in votes and elections, otherwise, we do not have a say on what will be decided. While the UK has left the European Union, the relevance of decisions made in Switzerland does not really change for those living in the UK. In my view, it is now very important that the Swiss in the UK continue to take part in the political process in Switzerland. For illustration, we need to let our Swiss family members and friends

know about the significant consequences of leaving the common market and we want to make sure that our rights in the UK will not be eroded.



5th Switzerland is represented in the new passport.

SR: There are about 800,000 Swiss people living abroad, 200,000 are registered to vote but only 25% of these electors do actually exercise their voting rights. What can we all do to raise awareness of the importance of being registered and of voting eventually?

FM: The number of Swiss abroad worldwide who are registered to vote has increased by over 60% during the last decade, which shows that an increasing number of us want to participate in the political process. Of the 39'400 Swiss residing in the UK, about 11'700 are registered to vote. This corresponds to 36% of the eligible Swiss that are 18 years or older, but there are still many Swiss living in the UK who might be interested but do not know how to exercise their political rights.

To participate in votes and elections you have to register in your community of origin or where you had lived last before emigrating. Fortunately, for those who are not registered yet, this process has become very easy. All you need to do is to download the registration form from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA's webpage dedicated

to the Fifth Switzerland voting and electoral rights; then you need to fill it in, sign it and send it to the Swiss Embassy, 16–18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ. At every vote, we are given the typical explanation booklet and there is also a lot of information available online. Thus, it is possible to follow the discussions on the voting topics of interest and reach a well-informed opinion.

SR: Do you think we will be able to vote online before the next federal election? How is the e-voting trial going?

FM: There is good news on e-voting. In March 2023, the federal council approved trials of the new e-voting system in the cantons of Basel-Stadt, St Gallen and Thurgau, which will be used for the next popular vote in June 2023. Thus, Swiss Abroad voting in these three cantons will be allowed to cast their vote online on the important new climate law, tax laws for large companies and a change to the Covid laws. I encourage all the Swiss abroad who can vote online to do so. Enhanced participation of the registered citizens would make this a successful trial, which is required to make progress on e-voting. This would be an incentive for other cantons to join the trials, possibly already at the Swiss national elections in October.

GIOIA PALMIERI

SWISS ABROAD
Concerns?
Questions?

FREE VIRTUAL INFO EVENT
Wednesday, 24 May 2023
7-8pm (UK time)
Zoom Link:
<https://rb.gy/sqion>

Swiss Community
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

Meet:
Andreas Feller-Ryf
Loredana Guetg-Wyatt
UK Delegates of the Council of the Swiss Abroad

Guests:
Ariane Rustichelli
Director of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Thomas Wagner
Consul General, Embassy of Switzerland in the UK

Swiss Embassy in the United Kingdom
NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY
THE SWISS CONNECTION
UNION OF SWISS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Federal Election are set for the 22nd of October 2023. At its meeting in March 2023 the Council of the Swiss Abroad has agreed on an election manifesto, for more information please visit:

www.swisscommunity.org/en/politics-voting/federal-elections-2023

For further information: www.ch.ch

Swiss Community in Scotland: In memory of Dr Ursula Ditchburn

Dr Ursula Ditchburn passed away last year. As announced in the local edition of the Swiss Review on September 2022, we publish the full contribution that was sent to us to commemorate her memory.

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.

Ursula was born in Zollikon, on 30.3.1929. She initially studied English, archaeology and art history in Zürich, eventually gaining her PhD in the early 1950s. She first came to Scotland as an exchange student to Glasgow University, studying history of art, before taking on another exchange at the Courtauld Institute in London. There she studied with the famous Professor Anthony Blunt, who is now known to have been a spy. Music being her great love, she continued to take organ lessons with the organist at St Paul's Cathedral.

It was in London that she met her future husband, John, who worked there in the British Geological Survey. John and Ursula married in August 1956 in Zollikon, before setting up home in Edinburgh. They moved to Prestonpans, before settling in Dunfermline, Fife, in 1959. The couple had three children, Stuart (who died young), David and Janine. Ursula

continued to study to qualify as a secondary teacher. She started her teaching career in 1968, first at the Rudolf Steiner School, then at the Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh, where she taught music and German. In 1975 she became Assistant Principal Teacher of German at Queen Anne High School in Dunfermline.

After her retirement she opened 'The Little Gallery' in Pittenweem, dealing in art, antiques and rustica, including Swiss folk art. Being an artist and musician herself, she was involved in the running of the Pittenweem arts festival. In 2005, Ursula designed two beautiful stained-glass windows for the side chapel in St John's Episcopal Church, Pittenweem.

Dunfermline had a vibrant Swiss community, mainly because of the location of the Winterthur Swiss silk mills from 1926 to 1970. Ursula became actively involved with the Dunfermline Swiss Club, serving as its President for fifteen years. She was involved with the Swiss Benevolent Fund Scotland and FOSSUK. She served as the Scottish representative on the Council of the Swiss Abroad. For the 1997 Congress of OSA in Lugano, she curated an exhibition showing work by Swiss artists worldwide.

Ursula was also very keen on working with the Presidents of the other Scottish clubs, helping to organise combined



Ursula was a secondary school teacher, an artist and a musician.

National Day celebrations in various localities. Later it became a tradition to celebrate in Pittenweem where the festival culminated in a torchlight parade, with the Swiss children taking part, carrying their Swiss lampions.

Ursula was involved in organising a fundraising event for the place of the Swiss Abroad in Brunnen. For the FOSUK AGM 1991, the 700th anniversary, at Hopetoun House, South Queensferry, she curated an exhibition for Swiss artist in the UK. She persuaded an Engadiner chamber quartet to entertain us. There were many more combined occasions where Ursula contributed greatly to their success. Often, she brought her accordion and later on her keyboard to lead us in the singing of Swiss folk songs. She was a most generous lady, who played a most active part in all things Swiss in Scotland. She will be remembered with fondness and gratitude.

DAVID DITCHBURN

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, TRINITY COLLEGE

Congratulations: To Tildy Marshall, who celebrated her 100th anniversary

The Swiss Club Edinburgh would like to congratulate their most senior member, Tildy Marshall, who celebrates her 100th Birthday on May the 7th 2023.

Tildy was born in 1923 in Jonschwil, St.Gallen as one of twelve children. In 1947, she took on a position in Edinburgh to work as an au pair for Lord and Lady Grant.

After an initial year in Scotland, Tildy went back to Switzerland, but she was then persuaded by her future husband Bill to return to work as a nanny for the Grant family. The couple married in 1951. They had a long and happy marriage, with two daughters and four adult grandsons.



Swiss Church London:

The month of May heralds change at the Swiss Church in London. We say farewell to our Interim Minister Harry Ching, who will be taking up a new post in Macau. We wish him well, and thank him for his tremendous hard work and enthusiasm. At the same time, we welcome back Reverend Carla Maurer back from her maternity leave.

Spring and Summer promises to be very busy. The façade of our beautiful church in Endell Street will be repainted. Please bear with



us whilst the scaffolding is in place. All the normal activities will continue, including our Sunday Services, Breakfast on the Steps, community activities, and our full Arts Programme.

From 11 to 14 May we host an exhibition of the Swiss artist Fabienne Hess. From 17 to 23 July we host a Sound Art Exhibition by MA students from the London College of Communication. Please note that Swiss National Day celebrations will take place at the German School in London, as in 2022, and not in Endell Street. For up to date details of our Arts programme check out our webpage- where you can sign up for our e-newsletters. We are on Facebook and Instagram too.

We very much continue to need the financial support of everyone in the Swiss community. It only takes a couple of minutes to donate online. We even have a QR code to enable donations via Smartphone. (See above).

From the very beginning in 1762, we've always been much more than just another church for an expatriate community. Please help us in our 261st year, and beyond.

COLIN MCINTYRE – SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON.

swisschurchlondon.org.uk/church/donate



Unione Ticinese London:

Big organisation and celebration for the upcoming 150th anniversary

The Unione Ticinese held its AGM on 25 March at the Swiss Embassy. Our President Emilie Martinoni Hooogenboom presented

an optimistic report on our activities over the past year.

No less than 20 people had become members! She also gave a presentation outlining current proposals for the celebration next year of the Society's 150th anniversary. The usual donations were agreed, to the Swiss Benevolent Society and to the Swiss Church. The existing officers and committee were then re-elected with the exception of Yannick Valenti stood down as a committee member, Alexis Bernini who was confirmed as a member and Lore-dana Guetg-Wyatt was elected as a member.

It was also agreed to introduce a new, family, category of membership. The meeting was followed by an apéro accompanied by a showing of the RSI documentary on the Ticinese community in the UK that had been broadcasted as this year's "Riuniti per Natale" on Swiss Italian television over the Christmas period. Finally, there was a delicious risottata prepared by Karin and Andrea Arthofer.



Swiss in Wales

connecting the Swiss in Wales

Check out our events
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swissinwales>

 Swiss National Day
End of July 2023

 1st Advent & Samichlaus
3 Dec 2023


Swiss in the UK
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swissintheuk>

Connecting Swiss people in the UK & Ireland
Sharing tips, experiences, news & events.



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Save the date: Swiss National Day London on the 23rd July

Save the date: the Swiss National Day London will be back on the 23rd of July 2023 at the German School in Richmond. An event from the Swiss for the Swiss (and friends!).

Ticket sales start on May 15, 2023 via our website: www.snd-london.com. Join us for an enjoyable summer day celebrating Swiss traditions, delicious food, activities for all ages, meeting old and new friends, and a speech by H.E. the Ambassador of Switzerland to the UK. We will once again have a raffle with amazing prizes waiting for you.

We have a limited number of free stands available for artists, authors or anyone promoting Swiss culture – with a link to Switzerland.



SWISS NATIONAL DAY LONDON 2023

SUNDAY, 23 JULY 2023
12.30PM - 4.30PM

GERMAN SCHOOL LONDON,
RICHMOND, TW10 7AH

Join us for an afternoon of traditional food, Swiss music, and activities for all ages!

Guest of honour: H.E. Markus Leitner
Ambassador of Switzerland to the UK

TICKET RELEASE:
15 MAY 2023
www.snd-london.com



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/ and FOSSUK's social media:

 **@dukswiss**
 **@FOSSUK**

Swiss Club Manchester: President's Report for 2022, news and challenges

Dear Swiss Club Members, in last year's report I wrote that 2022 could surely not be worse than 2021 when we were in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, this past year we have had to face even more devastating challenges, which are unfortunately doomed to continue for the unforeseeable future: the ailing NHS, the Ukraine war, the cost of living crisis, fake politics (not just in Britain), etc. Yet, I am still a pragmatic optimist and believe that some good can arise from evil. Let me just remind you of a few highlights we have enjoyed.

The New Year's Lunch, which was cancelled in the previous year because of Covid, was lovely, although there were only 28 guests. I think some members were understandably still in a Covid mode.

The popular Raclette party was really a great success. Around 70 members attended and it was fabulous to see so many relaxed and happy people enjoying the event.

We celebrated the Swiss National Day at the Brookdale Club. It was brilliant! All 68 participants, including 14 children, enjoyed the evening. We had a lovely meal, a bonfire, a singsong of traditional Swiss songs accompanied by John Plumb's accordion. The highlight of the evening was the presence of the Holcombe Alphorn Duo, who entertained us with the beautiful sound of their Alphorns.

We met three times this year at Wilmslow Garden Centre, where we gathered informally to have a good old chat and refreshments.

Like the year before, Father Christmas did not see many children this year. Had it not been for Franz Blum's plus friends and my own

grandchildren coming to the event, we would have had to cancel it. Yet, it was still a nice get-together and the children loved every minute of it.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce and welcome two new members to the Swiss Club Manchester: Andreas Baertschand and Beat Mueller, who joined us on May 2022 and August 2022, respectively.

Elections for 2023: President: Mr Juerg Bentele. Treasurer: Mrs Julie Baker. Committee Member: Mrs Lola Cheetham; Mrs Laure Pasteiner; Mrs Margrith Easter. Auditors: Mr Jan-Christof Telford; Mr Ron Telford.

Annual Subscription for 2023: The Committee Members have proposed to keep the annual subscription unchanged from last year: £25.00 for couples and £15.00 for single members.

I wish to express a big 'thank you' to our members for their continued loyalty to the Club. We are desperate for more people to join our Committee and it really does not involve a lot of work or meetings. Just to share the planning and setting up for our very few events now. If anybody would like more information, please email me.

JUERG BENTELE, PRESIDENT – BJBENTELE@NTLWORLD.COM

Condolence: Swiss citizens recently passed away

Dear Members, it is with great sadness that we have to inform you that two of our long-term members have recently passed away:

Our good friend *Franz Blum* passed away peacefully on 18th March 2023 with his family around him after a long illness. Our sincere condolences go to his family and friends. Franz and his wife *Tricia* joined the Swiss Club in 2014. He became a very committed committee member in 2016 and Hon Secretary in 2018. Franz will be greatly missed.

We are also very sorry to inform you of the sad news that *Dieter Salden* passed away on the 1st of March after a long illness. Our deepest and sincere condolences go to Sheila and his family. He joined the Swiss Club in 1976, was President for three years and also treasurer of the club and participated at many functions with his wife Sheila over many years. He will be very much missed. A Church Service of celebration of his life took place on Friday, 31st March 2023.

Other Club Members have passed away in 2022: *Jean-Jacques Meyer*. Jean-Jacques was a loyal member of our club since 1995. *Marianne Reutter*, Vice President in 1991 and 1992 and then President (the first female President) from 1993 to 1995. *Simone Evans* – suddenly on 23rd December 2022 she was a member since 2001. On behalf of the Swiss Club I extend my heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

THE COMMITTEE, SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER



The Club's President.

Bramhall: Last raclette meeting with 63 members



Club had a well attended Raclette dinner at The Brookdale Club some weeks ago. The event was joined by 62 adults, 2 students and 4 kids.

Next club's appointments:

Thursday, 25.5.2023, Coffee Morning: 11 am – 1 pm
Wilmslow Garden Centre, Manchester Road, Wilmslow SK9 2JN.

Saturday, 29.7.2023, Swiss National Day Party
Brookdale Club, Bridge Lane, Stockport SK7 3AB

Thursday, 5.10.2023, Coffee Morning: 11 am – 1 pm
Wilmslow Garden Centre, Manchester Road, Wilmslow SK9 2JN.

Swiss Golf Day: Appeal to help organise the event

In 2005 I organised our first Swiss Golf Day at Batchworth Park where 40 golfers enjoyed the excellent course and the meal which followed. Events were held at various courses within the Greater London Area. We had perfect weather except on two occasions, one with torrential rain and the other with extreme heat when several had to call it a day at the 9th hole.

Sadly over the years our numbers have become depleted but fortunately Elisabeth Breitschmid for the last few years has encouraged some friends to play and make our days viable. Unfortunately, I cannot organise any more events. We now need someone or a Swiss Club to organise these golf days which can be held anywhere in the UK

Please come forward don't let this tradition die!

Jeffrey Long MBE email to:
Jeffreymbref@hotmail.co.uk or call: 0791 356 9914



Royal British Legion 100-mile walking challenge of Jeffrey Long and Civic send-off by Lord Mayor.

Southern Area Swiss Club: Cake Fest and next appointments

We had just 14 members attending our Cake Fest as quite a few were on holiday. Our next event is the Skittles on the 6th June. For more info, please write to Berni Curtress:

berni@nbtsc.plus.com



The club's members prepared wonderful cakes and delicacies to enjoy their gathering.

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

108 Anfield Road Tel: 077 10837735
 L4 0TE, Liverpool mail: editor@swissreview.co.uk

DESIGN

Implemented by Marc Peter – on-IDLE Ltd
www.on-idle.com

The deadline for the next UK issue is: 15th of September
 Date of publication: 20th of October

Next Issues

The Swiss Review is published six times a year. Its 'Switzerland in the UK & Ireland' supplement is out four times a year: January, March, May and October