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Word from the President: Back from our Winter Escape

It is always a sure sign that I've been in Switzerland when, on my return, I do the "head bumping" again – I say "Hi!" to friends trying to give them three kisses and they try to hug me at the same time – bump! At least my Swiss friends will know what's going on, whereas my kiwi friends usually just think, "She's gone nuts again..." It probably happened to all of you Swiss at some stage!

One of the most impressive memories I have of my recent holiday to Switzerland is the flowers! It's been over a decade since I last spent time there in summer and I was gob-smacked by the beauty and colourfulness of the geraniums.

Every house, every shed, every balcony, every small corner has beautiful red, pink, purple and white flowers! It's absolutely stunning! In my opinion that is one of the reasons why Switzerland stands out from other countries – it just makes it look and feel so special. Even the tram in Bern has geraniums painted on the side – most amusing...

I was thrilled to receive the "new-look" Helvetia when we met up with my husband in Florida. Apparently it was the only dry thing in the letter box that day. And didn't it look great?!

All the hard work paid off, congratulations to Susie and the Helvetia team!

Just a little taster of how it was to take over the publishing of the Helvetia: We started meeting up five months prior to the first issue (OK, not everyone is as organised as that, but we are Swiss after all...), had to find volunteers for articles, came up with fresh ideas for topics and stories, had to find printers, get quotes, organise postage accounts but most importantly we had to find an Editor!

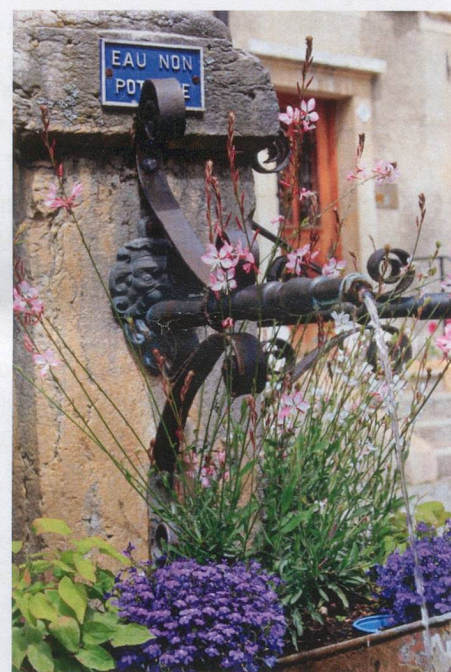
A huge weight came off our shoulders when Susie Wood volunteered to do the editing and publishing of the new Helvetia. She created an updated, contemporary look and we are all thrilled with the result! Thank you so much Susie and Helvetia team, you did an outstanding job!

I'm also excited to inform you that we are working on a new website for the Society and the clubs. It's time for an innovative, contemporary look to our on-line presence. The new website should be up and running towards the end of the year. In the meantime, enjoy the spring days and treasure the blossoms!

By Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg



Berner Tram



Wonderful Fountain

Chuderwaelsch (Swiss Dialect)

Bäägä –	to cry
Bibärä –	to tremble with fear
Biibäbbälä –	to spoil
Bittibätti mache –	to beg
Blochä –	to race
Bodigä –	to defeat
Blöffär –	a show off
Bröösmäli –	small crumbs
Bschiisä –	to cheat
Büschälä –	to arrange something



„Café Le Kiwi“ in Morges