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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

FLIGHT FORWARD

To leave every day life behind, to go away from problems and people and noise, to find peace in a quiet spot is certainly a sort of flight, although a flight forward, at least for those who do it as a preparation in order to make themselves fit for every day life, to tackle problems and to deal with people in a noisy town.

Ashburnham Place, the old manor of the Ashburnham family near Battle (Sussex), now converted into a Christian study centre, has become a refuge of this kind for many members and friends of the Swiss Church.

The first flight forward was the camp when from 12th-19th July twenty people, men and women, mothers with children, *au-pair* girls and boys enjoyed quietness, fresh air, sunshine and rain. The time in the morning was devoted to Bible study and discussion on love. The book "Ich liebte ein Mädchen" was a real help and the presence of married people was highly appreciated by most of the girls. In the evenings, work for the First of August celebration and the Church Bazaar was done and a book on prayer was read. There were friendly talks with a group from Eastern Europe. It is very tragic indeed to remember that many of them were Czechs who spoke with enthusiasm about the process of liberalisation in their country.

The second flight forward was the visit to the camp by over a hundred members of the Swiss Church, who, on 14th July, had arrived in two coaches and several private cars in order to attend a special service of induction of four new members of the German speaking Church Parish Council: Mrs. E. Crack, Miss H. Siegrist, Mr. F. Adams and Mr. J. von Wartburg. Much work is awaiting them which they are willing to tackle in a Christian spirit and with joy.

The third flight forward was the "Evangelische Singemeinde", a well-known choir from Switzerland. Sixty-five singers "took over" the Christian study centre. The organiser of the choir was Pfr. U. Stefan, the conductor Prof. M. Flämig. After intensive rehearsals at Ashburnham Place, they started their tour through England and Scotland, beginning with a service for the Swiss Community, held at the "Eglise réformée de France" in Soho Square. In Coventry Cathedral, they received the praise of being the second best choir next to Coventry itself. After the concert in Edinburgh, the "Singemeinde" went on to Iceland to perform in Reykjavik, Akureyri and on the Icelandic radio.

Thus the sphere of interest of the church's summer programme in connection with Ashburnham Place is wide, ranging from theological and ethical questions to devotion to music, engagement in the leadership of the Church, and involving the hopes and fears of people from other countries.

Marcel Dietler, Pfr.

ALL-INCLUSIVE WINTER HOLIDAYS AND OTHER INFORMATION

may be had free of charge from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London W.1. (Telephone 01-734 1921.) There is a brochure available on "News from Swiss Winter Resorts" as well as various local prospectuses, also regional and national hotel guides. Coming events in various towns are also publicised.

OBITUARIES

We announce with deep regret the death of Dr. Pierre de Wolff, well known during his working life in London. He joined the Swiss Bank Corporation in London in 1913, rising to attain the post of Chief Manager by January 1946. He retired to Switzerland in 1950 and died in Lucerne on 29th August.

* * *

For over 50 years, Mr. S. G. Lewis was employed by the West End Branch of the Swiss Bank Corporation. He finished his career as *Fondé de Pouvoir* and Chief Cashier in March 1967. We deeply regret to have to inform his many Swiss friends of his death on 11th September.

* * *

We announce with deep regret the death of Mr. G. Ashley, of 104 Christchurch Road, S.W.2. He was Swiss by origin and known previously as Mr. Aschlimann. He was connected with a number of Swiss societies. At his death, he was very nearly 95.

We express sincere sympathy to the families of the departed friends.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers will be celebrating their birthdays within the next fortnight: Mr. John A. Reiner will be 82 on 1st and Mr. Walter Burren 61 on 4th October. Mr. H. Humbel will have his 63rd birthday on 5th and Mrs. Germaine Chapuis her 74th on 7th October. On the 9th of next month, Mrs. Helena Jenne (at Andeer, Grisons) will have her birthday, and on the same day, Mr. Paul Lehrian will be 71. To them and any other readers whose birthdays fall within the next couple of weeks, we wish many happy returns of the day.

Two wedding anniversaries: On 4th October, Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Gysin (Basle) will have been married for 55 years, and on 11th October, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Streit will have their 41st wedding anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes to both couples, as well as to any other of whose special anniversary we are not aware.

A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN GERMAN IN LONDON

The German Cultural Institute intends to arrange courses in German for German-speaking children during the scholastic year 1968/69. The courses should take place at its address at 51 Princes Gate, S.W.7. Two to three hours between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday mornings are planned. The instruction is based on the standard set by German Middle Schools, and children must be German-speaking and able to read and write, age approximately 7 to 14. The cost for one term would amount to £1 (£3 *per annum*). Applications should be sent as soon as possible to: Kulturreferat of the German Embassy, 23 Belgrave Square S.W.1.

SWISS GIFTS FOR LONDON CHARITIES

Over £630 (6,500 Swiss francs) has been received by three London charities from citizens of Zermatt, Switzerland. Of this, £485 (5,000 francs) was given by Dr. Josef Aufdenblatten, President of the famous village.

The three beneficiaries are the Church Music Trust, the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and the Royal Parish Church St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

The connection? Mr. Kurt Kettner, well-known in London for his "Music without Distraction" presentations at St. Martin's and St. Paul's Cathedral. Zermatt was the birthplace of Mr. Kettner's first experiments with stereophony in a blacked out church with only the altar floodlit, and on a recent visit there, after his successful presentation at St. Paul's in aid of the Church Music Trust, he took with his letters from Sir Gilbert Inglefield, Lord Mayor of London, Chairman of the Trust Appeal, and Patron of the Malcolm Sargent Fund, and also from Lord Trevelyan, Co-Chairman of the Fund, addressed to Dr. Aufdenblatten.

Mr. Kettner's first two concerts in this country were presented in St. Martin's with proceeds of the collections given to the church. Then followed the St. Paul's concert in aid of the Trust and it has now been decided that from 1969 onwards all London "Music Without Distraction" presentations here and in Zermatt will be in aid of all three charities; this also applies to any other contributions wherever they may come from.

Memorial Concert Sir Malcolm Sargent

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Sir Gilbert Inglefield, Chairman, Church Music Trust Appeal, is again, as he was at St. Paul's Cathedral, the distinguished Patron of the "Music Without Distraction" Concert which Mr. Kurt Kettner will present at the Royal Parish Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

The Lord Mayor has sent the following message for general publication:

"The forthcoming Memorial Concert Sir Malcolm Sargent at St. Martin-in-the-Fields to be presented by Mr. Kurt Kettner as a homage to this great and universally loved British Conductor on the first Anniversary of his death gives me the welcome opportunity to express my wholehearted support for this venture."

Through the medium of his London "Music Without Distraction" Presentations, Mr. Kettner is creating a new link between Church and Music. As to the various charities that benefit from these Concerts in one way or the other it has recently been decided that from 1969 onwards all contributions, from wherever they may come, will be equally divided between — The Church Music Trust (St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral), The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, The Royal Parish Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

I have great pleasure in associating myself with this splendid endeavour and I am sending on this occasion my very best wishes to St. Martin's for a great and continuous success."

The pleasure of your attendance is hereby requested for a performance of Verdi's Requiem Mass (first public presentation of the new Decca Stereophonic Recording), on Thursday, 3rd October, 8 p.m., with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna State Opera Chorus

and an outstanding international cast of Soloists conducted by Georg Solti.

As always admission is free. After the Concert a collection will be made for the benefit of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Programme 1/- (send stamped addressed envelope please) from St. Martin's, The Music Administrator and Record Stores. *Any additional contributions towards the Fund will be greatly appreciated. Kindly confirm your acceptance and state the number of reserved seats required.* (Closing date: September 30th). For more information, please ring Mr. Kettner 01-836 4544.

EXHIBITION BY SWISS ARTIST AT THE ARTS THEATRE

On Tuesday, 10th September, a week before his 31st birthday, Hugo Wandeler, a Swiss artist, had an Exhibition of his paintings opened in The Green Room of the Arts Theatre. The Exhibition will run until Sunday, 6th October and will be open daily, Mondays excepted, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Born in Zurich, Hugo Wandeler has been painting since he was sixteen years old. He studied architecture for four years and now works in an architect's office in his home town. He has just had his first Exhibition, with a group of other young artists, in Switzerland.

All the works in the Exhibition at The Arts Theatre, with one exception, are in oils and are colourful examples of what the artist calls "a search to create a new rich colour world for living in".

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for adding donations to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners:

Miss M. Cotti (Buehler, Appenzell), Miss K. Carden, Mrs. M. Pettavel, Mrs. L. H. Turner, Mrs. J. Weller, Mrs. M. Welsford, Lt.-Col. W. J. Pearce and Messrs. J. Brunner, A. M. Duc, D. C. Eyer, E. Gallizia, M. Homberger (Zollikon, Zurich), L. Jaeggi, K. P. Jaggi, P. Lehrian, L. Loursion, J. Moser, E. W. Porret (Erlenbach, Zurich), C. Pulfer, F. E. Rittmeyer, H. Schmid, P. A. Senn, J. Sieber, J. A. Steiner, W. Stettbacher, E. Ulmann, R. de Watteville, W. E. Weisflog.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 11th October. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 1st October. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 25th October. All contributions for that number should be to hand not later than Tuesday, 15th October.