

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1970)

Heft: 1592

Rubrik: Forthcoming events

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and invited him to open the new premises officially by cutting the ribbon.

The Lord Mayor made a joke about the superiority of the cutlass to the hammer and the sickle, weighed his lethal implement, reflected for a moment on how he would accomplish his task and finally slashed the ribbon entwined in a mighty upward sweep that glittered under the flash of cameras.

We entered in the reception hall at the end of which a velvet curtain was hiding the commemorative plaque. After some gracious words by Mr. Noyes, the Lord Mayor pulled the curtain and unveiled the plaque commemorating the inauguration of the present building this very day, Thursday, 23rd April, 1970.

After this short ceremony we moved up to the seventh floor for a reception. There were many interesting and distinguished persons present. I had the opportunity of having a conversation with Sir Ronald Howe, Chairman of the City Wall Proprietaries, the firm which built and let the £1m. building to the Zurich Insurance Company. Sir Alec Rose, the Portsmouth grocer who circumnavigated the world single-handed without any outside backing in his 28 feet yacht, also honoured the reception by his presence. He is a very kind and unassuming man who willingly gave me an autograph. Another interesting guest was Mr. J. Emery-Wallace and his wife, former Lord and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth. They told that the job involved some 360 dinners and 280 receptions in a year and that the customary one-year term of office was enough for the health of any man.

An hour later Mr. Noyes presented the cutlass used at the opening ceremony to the Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor made a short address reminiscing of his experience in the Navy, praised sports and good health, and suggested that the Zurich tower block should with its 17 storeys be the venue of a climbing race among Portsmouth civil servants just as the Post Office tower in London was annually used as a climbing track by students.

The more distinguished guests and the higher hierarchy of the company left for dinner at the Guildhall while the rest of us were offered a delicious and generous snack lunch on the sixth floor.

I left the animated attendance as it was still making inroads in the trifle and the fruit salad for a quick visit of the "Victory" before taking the return train to London after what was a particularly enjoyable trip.

(PMB)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank the following readers for generously adding donations to their subscriptions:

F. C. Adam, A. Aeschimann, M. Affentranger, Armin Baenziger, E. P. Banderet, E. Von Bergen, F. Blaser, R. Born, O. L. Bosca, O. J. Brunner, Paul Buchler, A. E. Burkhardt, R. Chappuis, A. Corbat, J. A. Compagnoni, F. L. Daley, H. W. Egli, P. Eichenberger, A. Englebert, B. Frick, M. Gedet, E. Gledhill, A. J. Gomiero, O. Grob, E. P. J. Gruhn, B. H. Harper, L. S. Haussauer, M. Hochuli, R. M. Homberger, F. Horsfall, O. Jobin, R. Kaiser, G. Keller, J. Keller, E. Kern, O. Long, A. G. T. Luminati, J. Manzoni, J. Margot, R. Mathey, M. Merian, A. M. Messmer, A. Mengeu, J. Milli, I. G. Monney, O. H. Morton, J. Muller, E. A. Muller, M. Rosselet, M. A. Rothlisberger, P. Savoie, J. Steiger, Thiebaud, W. Wagner, G. Wasem, H. Weber, C. E. Weber.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday from 6 to 7.30 p.m. Discussion Circle in English. Young men especially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Room, YMCA, Gt. Russell St., W.C.1.

Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres. Monthly Meetings every first Wednesday of the month at 35 Fitzroy Sq., W.1., 7 p.m.

MAY

Sunday 10th. Swiss Rifle Association, shooting at the Siberia range at Bisley from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday 11th. AGM of the Swiss Benevolent Society. 35 Fitzroy Sq., 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th. Monthly meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

Wednesday 13th. Annual Meeting of Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres. 35 Fitzroy Sq., 7 p.m.

Friday 22nd. 7.30 for 8 p.m. at the Orpheus Luncheon Club (1st floor) Dumville House St. Mary-at-Hill off Eastcheap, London E.C.3. (nearest tube station: Monument) social Dinner of the Schweizerbund.

Sunday 24th. Landsgemeinde for all the Swiss of Scotland and their families. 1 p.m. at Cochrane Park Hall, Alva, Clackmannanshire.

Tuesday 26th. City Swiss Club card evening.

Thursday 28th. 7.45 p.m. Swiss Hostel for Girls. OPEN MEETING of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Talk in German "Ist die Schweiz überfremdet?" by Dr. Franz Birrer, first Secretary of Embassy, in charge of cultural affairs.

Sunday 31st. Annual Church Assembly of the Swiss Church at Endell St., W.C.2.

CONCERTS: Wigmore Hall, Sunday 17th May at 3 p.m., four hands recital by the distinguished Swiss duo Isabel and Jürg Von Vintschger. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thursday 21st May, 7.45 p.m., recital by Jürg Von Vintschger. Schumann, Debussy and Schubert.

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD: Zofingen, 28th-30th August.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager"

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2^e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

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SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. at 7.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Gemeindebote".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 1st Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1. Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SATURDAYS: Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. (in English).

At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German)

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2. on Suns. at 9, 10, 11 a.m. 12.15, 6, 7 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-222 2895.