

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: - (1972)
Heft: 1630

Rubrik: Swiss Club Dunfermine

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 16.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Residence block

The ground floor of the residence block is entered from Bryanston Square. It has a large hall, a morning room and lecture theatre. These rooms can be opened up by the use of sliding doors to form a room of about nine metres in width by 31 metres in length.

On the first floor is a large dining room and three salons and at the rear a kitchen servery.

The Ambassador's private rooms are on the second floor, together with accommodation for guests.

On the top floor of the residence is a staff canteen, a kitchen and maids' rooms.

THE SWISS OF DUNFERMLINE

Feeling that far too little was said in these columns about the Swiss of Scotland, we asked Mrs. F. Adams-Keller, Honorary Secretary of the Swiss Club of Dunfermline, to tell us how the Swiss were faring in that northerly town. The following is her reply.

You would like to know how we, of the Swiss Club, are here in Dunfermline. Alas, we don't escape the fate of everyone else, we are getting old, we and the Club with us. Past are the days when we could boast over 75 members. Our dramatists don't produce plays anymore—some lasted over three hours!—and our male choir with its lovely voices has become quiet.

The first of our compatriots came over here in the winter of 1925 and the Swiss Club was founded in the 30's. Of the three factories which they established as the centre of the silk industry in Dunfermline two have been closed. When, at the last closure (of the Winterthur Silks), several of our male members lost their jobs we felt very much for them, especially for Mr. Tanner who was approaching retiring age. He was our treasurer, both he and his wife were active members, much liked by everybody and a great loss to the club. When he and a younger man found good jobs in Switzerland we were

glad, yet it was mingled with some envy and "Heimweh".

We had always met in the canteen of the "Winterthur Silks". Finally we found a room in a Co-op building where we could brew ourselves a cup of tea. Lovely, we thought—but had not realised that after all those years we have not become acclimatised to one aspect of British life: Those who sat near the fire got roasted and those in the corner of the room shivered, wrapped in their coat. Still, it accounted for more volunteers than dishes for washing up!

When, a day before a meeting we were told that we could not have the room this time because of a wedding party, we took refuge in an inn. The room was so cosy, the publican so friendly . . . Some of our ladies found the friendliness a bit overwhelming, especially when the friendly backslapping tended to go a bit low down. At the second meeting the gentlemen were themselves overwhelmed by the complication of the bill for the drinks and the demands made on them to pay a second time for the food!

Meanwhile one of our members moved to a house with a large lounge and dining room and this is where we now meet. So that's one problem solved satisfactorily.

What do we do in our sedate way? We have film evenings, play jazz and dominoes, meet occasionally with the Edinburgh Club for a skittles contest, visit a play, pantomime or opera together, have an outing for the 1st of August, and a lovely pre-Christmas meeting in Advent's time. We used to invite the Edinburgh Swiss to an evening with all sorts of entertainment. The last one took place just in time before the "Winterthur Silks" closed.

Nowadays we have only ordinary members and a few honorary ones, 37 in all. In the old days we had a great number of passive members, which was a misnomer really as they were the most active ones of all. We rectified their status some years ago, even before it was done in Switzerland: Their passivity referred to the vote only—

they were women.

We are a very cheerful little group, happy to meet regularly. Any Swiss visiting us can be sure of a warm-hearted welcome and agreeable memories of this friendly old town.

LIFE OF A LEADING SWISS IN SCOTLAND

Mr. Walter O. Bosshardt, who died suddenly at Edinburgh at the age of 71, was a great promoter of Swiss life in Scotland. The following is a short biography sent to us by Mr. M. O. Hartmann, Swiss Vice-Consul for Scotland and President of the Edinburgh Swiss Club.

Walter O. Bosshardt
Late of Dunfermline and Edinburgh,
Scotland

It is my sad duty to say goodbye to a prominent and influential member of the Swiss Community in Scotland—Walter O. Bosshardt. How can this short message do credit to the achievements of such a great man?

Let me talk about him:

Walter Otto Bosshardt was the son of Jakob Heinrich and Lina Bosshardt-Ehrensberger, and was born in Höngg, Kanton Zurich, on 28th April, 1900.

At an early age he went on climbing expeditions with his father, who was a Webermeister in a silk factory in Wädenswil, where he learned the beginnings of the trade. He also attended Technical College and his training in mechanics was done in Rüti Machinery Works.

His first venture to instal a factory to weave silk was in Rovereto in Northern Italy, and from there he went to Milan and Lyons to gain further experience.

Then came the depression in industry and a Swiss manufacturer was looking for a suitable factory in Britain to weave, silk and he and his father were appointed to advise in this matter. Dunfermline was chosen, and he

THESE VEHICLES



TRAVEL TWICE MONTHLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
with vans specially equipped to carry

- Household Removals.
- Exhibition Goods.
- Works of Art.
- Machinery.

For full information contact

In Switzerland

Kehrli + Oeler,
3001 Berne,
Nachf. A. Oeler,
Bubenberplatz 9.

In England

Neale & Wilkinson Ltd.,
1 and 2 Rangoon Street,
London, E.C.3.

Tel. 031 22 00 22. Tel. 01-480 6351. Ext. 54 or 58