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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As of the past, the SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES IN LONDON are trying again this year to provide some extras to those compatriots who, for many reasons, cannot get themselves the special cheer which we associate with the Christmas season.

Without the generous help from our many friends in the Swiss Colony, we shall not be able to realise this aim and we are sure that we can count on you as in past years. We shall be most grateful to receive donations or gifts of new clothing, processed cheese, chocolates, biscuits, tinned goods and the like.

Please send your gifts in kind to the Swiss Benevolent Society, if possible not later than the 25th November, 1974. Cash donations or cheques and postal

orders will be gratefully received by the following:

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, 31 Conway Street, London W1P 5HL.
The Rev. M. LANGUILLAT, 7 Park View Road, London N3 2TB.
The Rev. U. STEFAN, 1 Womersley Road, London N8 9AE.
The Rev. P. BOSSARD, John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Alas! Another year has almost gone by already! Christmas and the New Year are only two months away and so are the traditional greetings of the season. True to our (Swiss) tradition, we shall be publishing the Christmas Greetings of all those who should like to send their own through our December double-issue. We shall shortly be sending reminders to those who had Greetings in our Christmas issue last year. But we shall also be delighted to print the Greetings of new readers and would ask them to supply us with their name and address before 18th November. The cost of having one's Greetings published is £2.

THE WALDMANN YOUTH CHOIR IN LONDON

Concert at the Swiss Church

The concert given by the Waldmann Youth Choir from Zurich was a special treat. It was arranged by the Nouvelle

Société Helvétique in London, in conjunction with the International Liszt Centre for 19th Century Music. It took place at the Swiss Church in Endell Street on Thursday, 17th October, and it was gratifying to see the Church full. Amongst those present were the Swiss Consul-General and Mrs Adams and the wife of the Cultural Counsellor, Dr. Birrer. As usual, a number of members of the Embassy attended. The President of the NSH, Obis Mariann Meier, welcomed the audience and the Choir.

The Choir consisted of some fifty young people between 11 and 18, and they had set out to London and Paris as a celebration of the school's centenary, the "Freie Evangelische Schule". It was under the direction of its headmaster, Dr. Peter Zutter, a musician of feeling and the ability of passing on his enthusiasm to the youngsters. They sang the whole demanding programme without notes, quite an achievement, for it included songs in several languages. Right to the end it was obvious that they sang with real joy, completely free from inhibition, and although towards the end, a little fatigue became noticeable in their voices, they gave a most creditable performance, ably assisted by two violins and a cello, and above all by a competent pianist, Brigitte Schnyder, and the solo singers Rosetta Zutter and Beatrice Lienert. Brigitte Schnyder also showed her musical skill as a soloist. The young flautist Barbara Jetzer gave an excellent and very sensitive performance on the recorder, having had bad luck in



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damaging her flute shortly before the concert.

The programme was most varied, beginning with church music by Hammerschmidt ("Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, Herr") and Staden's *Cantate Domino* Motette. Then followed De Fesch's Sonata in B flat major for flute and piano.

Michael Haydn's Kyrie gave the young singers much scope to show their skill, and it was performed most impressively. Two compositions by Mozart (*Sub tuum praesidium* and his Andante in C major for flute and piano) followed. Dvorak's "Trost" made great demands on the Choir, but they gave of their best living up to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. Three songs, Werner's "Heidenröslein", Brahms' "In stiller Nacht" and Mendelssohn's "Maiglöckchen und die Blümelein" ended the first part of the concert.

The second half was devoted to Swiss composers. To a London audience, this meant hearing works rarely, if ever, performed in Britain, whilst to Swiss nationals present it also brought greetings from their homeland, tinged with a touch of nostalgia.

Bachofen's "Viele verachten die edele Musik" and three songs by Schoeck came first. The latter proved at times rather difficult for the young singers, but they sustained a reasonably high standard throughout. Mueller's "Four Miniatures for Piano" followed. Next came Klug's "Zuspruch" (1974), a small Cantata for choir and instruments.

The last part of the programme was given over to songs in Swiss, German, Italian, Romanch and French, and here the young voices sang with spirited abandon and joy.

On the whole it was a splendid evening, and the Choir and soloists, accompanists and conductor well deserved the eager applause the audience accorded them.

M.G.

City Swiss Club

The cost of tickets to the City Swiss Club 109th Annual Dinner and Ball was inadvertently advertised as £6.00 in our last issue whereas it was in fact £6.50. We wish to apologize to the organisers and to those readers who were misled by that incorrect announcement.

Our next issue

Our next issue is scheduled to be the 4th Special Issue of 1974 to go out to all the resident Swiss of this country. As these issues take longer to produce because of the longer run, we shall be postponing our date of publication by one week. The next issue will thus be dated 29th November and reach its readers in early December. The following issue will be our double-Christmas issue and will be the only one published in December.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Open Meeting on Thursday, 21st November at 7 p.m. at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. Prof. W. J. Hollenweger will give a talk in English on *Co-decision in industry*.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY, Stationers' Hall, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4. Wednesday, 11th December at 6 p.m. Mr. W. A. de Vigier, Chairman of Acrow (Engineers) Ltd. will give a lecture entitled *Experiences in Modern Management*. There will be an opportunity for discussion followed by a buffet supper. Members may bring guests. Charge inclusive of wine is £4.50 a head.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Annual Dinner to be held on Friday, 29th November at 6.30 for 7.30 p.m. at the Glendower Hotel, Kensington. Dress informal. Charge £3.50.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: Saturday, 14th December, Christmas Party at Ciba Geigy (UK) Ltd. Heald Green. Thursday, 30th January, 1975, Raclette Party at the Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Wednesday, 27th November, Swiss House. Monthly meeting and display.

CITY SWISS CLUB: Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, 17th December, 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester.

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH. AGM on Tuesday, 26th November, 8 p.m. at 64 Polwarth Gardens. Samichlaus Abig on Friday, 6th December, 8 p.m. at 112 Hanover Street.

CERCLE GENEVOIS: Escalade Meeting at Watford on Friday, 13th December. Numbers limited. Will all those desiring details on transport (or who can offer transport) please write to Michael Metford-Sewell, 386 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5TH. Tel (evenings) 01-948 2425.

SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB) 31st December, 20.30 for 21.00. Dinner at Bertorelli's Restaurant, 19 Charlotte Street (1st floor) London W.1.

CHURCHES-NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Wednesday, 4th December, Swiss Church 7.30 p.m. An evening of *Advent music* organised and performed by young members of the Youth Group in conjunction with the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. The concert will be in aid of the Swiss Churches in London. Some light refreshments will be available from 6 o'clock onward. Please advise 624 5360 in order to facilitate arrangements.

CHURCHES CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME: *French-speaking Parish*. Souper des Doyens on Saturday, 7th December from 5 p.m. Sunday, 15th December: *Fête de Noel*. Christmas Day: Service at 11.15 a.m. *German-speaking Protestant and Catholic parishes*: Sunday, 22nd December, 4 p.m.: Ecumenical Family Christmas Gathering at the Eglise Suisse. Tuesday, 24th December, 18.30 p.m.: Ecumenical Christmas Celebration at the John Southworth Centre. Midnight Mass with English local residents. Possibility to stay in premises overnight. 31st December, 18.30: Ecumenical Service at the John Southworth Centre. New Year's Eve vigil.

COLONY CHILDREN FETE: Saturday, 4th January, 1975. 2 p.m. at St. Mary Hall. YMCA Central Club. 16-22 Gt. Russell Street, London WC1. All children in the Colony welcome. Parents who are not on the mailing list please contact the organiser, Miss Elizabeth Hoffmann de Visme. Tel: 01-348 1156.

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