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Chocolates that are works of Swiss art

BROWN bunnies, white bunnies. Tall, serious bunnies and fat, smiling bunnies.

No, it's not Watership Down – just the Easter preparations at the Swiss Centre in London where row after row of these lovable (and edible) animals are created.

This year there is a new man in charge of their preparation – executive chef André Pernet who joined the Swiss Centre at the beginning of the year.

Basle-born André, who began his catering life in the zoological



The man in charge, executive chef, André Pernet.

gardens restaurant in his home town, has had an impressive career so far. He has worked in many notable hotels around the world – from the Lausanne Palace in Lausanne to the Queen's Hotel in Brighton.

He has delighted diners in St. Lucia, Bahrain, California and South Africa with exotic and imaginative dishes, though his personal preference is for a simple cheese fondue!

Central London is a long way from the sunny spots where he has worked before, but perhaps the cooler English climate will be more suitable for one of André's specialities – chocolate sculpting.

Moulded bunnies are very cute, but for real impact it must be hard to beat a two-foot high royal coach, complete with horses and created entirely from chocolate.

That was what André Pernet prepared on two occasions as a centre piece for the table. It was, however, strictly for decoration and the guests weren't allowed to nibble a wheel or hoof!

Perhaps Andrea Tucker, who is making this year's Easter bunnies at the Swiss Centre, hopes to achieve this very special skill. She certainly couldn't have a better teacher.

READER'S LETTER

I am a French-Swiss citizen, married to an Englishman, who has been living in Britain for the past 45 years and I now like to go back to Switzerland at least once each year.

I should be glad to hear from any French-Swiss residents in Britain who have friends or relatives who might be willing to let accommodation in the region of Vevey.

It would be for my husband and myself (no children) on a self-catering basis for two to three weeks in late August or September this year.

An exchange with our four room bungalow between Exeter and the sea might also be possible. – **Mrs Odette Haggis-Barbier, Windfall Cottage, Exton, Exeter EX3 0PW, Devon.**



● Andrea Tucker displays some of the chocolate bunnies which are being sold at the Swiss Centre as Easter gifts

Federation petitions Berne over married women's insurance

SWISS citizens who work abroad for an employer domiciled in Switzerland, and who are paid by that employer, are insured compulsorily for old age and invalidity in accordance with Article 1, Paragraph 1c, of the AHV Law.

In two judgments in 1980 and 1981, the Federal Insurance Tribunal refused to extend, in such cases, the insurance cover of the husband to the wife. Until then, the interpretation of the law, and the information issued by the responsible bodies, in particular the Swiss embassies and consulates, had always been based on the opposite view. Wives were advised not to join the voluntary AHV/IV scheme.

Enrolment in the voluntary AHV/IV scheme is permitted only up to the age of 51. Late entry,

even where it is still possible, has in any case further adverse consequences on the level of benefits.

A great many members of the Swiss societies in Britain and Northern Ireland are affected by this situation through no fault of their own.

As their umbrella association, the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom have sent to the Federal Assembly the following petition:

"May the Federal Assembly take urgent steps to ensure that the wives of Swiss citizens abroad, who are compulsorily insured under the AHV/IV scheme, enjoy the same insurance protection as the wives of citizens resident in Switzerland."

London, 8th February 1983.