

How to join a Swiss society

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As in previous years special services for the Swiss Catholics were held at St. Ann's — at Easter, for the Swiss National Day in August, for the Swiss National Day of Prayer in September and at Christmas.

During 1963 Father Scherer was able to visit a greater number of Swiss families permanently resident in this country, but he pointed out that the work is almost too much for one priest to cope with adequately.

As mentioned in last year's report the Youth Club had to leave last July their meeting place at the School at 48 Great Peter Street, but thanks to Mr. Charles MacGuigan they now enjoy much better accommodation in his Westminster Ball Room, 30 Stratton Ground, S.W.1, where every Sunday after the Evening Service the members meet. These social evenings with a varied programme of film shows, talks, dances and sing-songs are regularly attended by between 100 – 180 young compatriots. On special occasions, such as "Kilbi" and St. Nicolas Day celebrations, about 240 people were present. Each quarter a programme is issued of the Youth Club activities, which is printed by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office and Swiss Federal Railways, W.C.2. We are always pleased to send a copy of this programme on request.

As the meeting place of the Youth Club is in close proximity to St. Ann's Church and their regular Sunday evening programme begins only after our Evening Service, it gives Father Scherer the opportunity to make close contact with our young people which has proved itself on many occasions to be of great spiritual and social value.

During the summer months the Club organised excursions to the Isle of Wight (130 people), Cambridge and Ely (80) and Windsor Castle (80). Further several visits were made to the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and twice to the Houses of Parliament in session (70 and 90).

The usual Christmas Service was followed by the traditional Christmas and New Year's teaparty for children at the gaily decorated Westminster Ball Room, S.W.1.

We are still making strenuous efforts to find a suitable room in the West End of London where our Swiss youth, especially the girls, can meet in their free time in a little homely corner away from our beloved Switzerland. Twice we had hoped that we had found a suitable place, but in both cases we had to abandon our plans for one reason or another.

Father Scherer expressed his sincere thanks to the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, in particular to His Grace, Archbishop Heenan, for their great support, and also to Their Excellencies, the Swiss Bishops, especially to their Dean, Monsignor Angelo Jelmini, Apostolic Administrator of the Canton Tessin, and Monsignor Franciskus von Streng, D.D., Bishop of Basle and Lugano, his Finance Director Mgr. Joseph Bannwart, D.D., and the "Sekretariat für Ausland-Seelsorge" under the direction of Mgr. K. Boxler.

The Chaplain associated himself with the Chairman's remarks on the retirement of His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador at the end of 1963, and expressed to him and Madame Daeniker his personal thanks and good wishes for the future. He also thanked the Members of the Embassy for their constant valuable help.

Finally he thanked the Committee, headed by its untiring Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, for their friendship and assistance, and all who have helped during the past year.

A special word of praise and thanks must be given to the energetic young leaders of the Club.

He expressed his gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. E. Bonvin, Mr. E. Kaeufeler, Mr. G. Bartholdi and Miss L. Huber for their most generous support of the Youth Club.

The Chairman and the Chaplain were thanked for their reports.

The Chairman then gave the Finance Report (in the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Frey). The Christmas Draw, 1963, thanks to the generosity of all our friends, produced an income of £355.1.11. With this amount, the contributions from 66 Donors, Income Tax recovered on Covenants and the Church collections, we had a total income of £851.16.6 against our expenditure of £818.18.3, leaving a surplus for the year of £32.18.3.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr. Stalder, seconded by Mrs. Clarke and unanimously passed by the Meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked the Chaplain, the Officers and the Members of the Committee for their loyal support during the past year. He especially mentioned the good work rendered by our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Frey, who acted as the Promoter of our very successful Christmas Draw.

All the retiring Members of the Committee offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected.

The composition of the Committee for 1964 is as follows:

Chaplain: The Reverend Father Joseph Scherer;
Chairman: Mr. O. Grob; *Vice-Chairman:* Mr. E. Bonvin;
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. Frey; *Hon. Secretary:* Mr. E. P. Siegfried; *Members:* Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. F. McKenna, Messrs. G. Bartholdi, J. J. Boos, K.S.G., E. R. Cottet, F. De Maria, E. Eha, C. Gallo, R. E. Gut, M. Heimo, P. Jacomelli, E. Kaeufeler, L. W. Krucker, R. Schweizer, K.C.S.S., and R. Voegtli.

The Ladies Committee consists of Mrs. E. Bonvin, *Chairman;* Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. G. Gallo, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. H. Heimo, Mrs. E. Kaeufeler and Mrs. F. McKenna.

It was decided to hold again a Christmas Draw in 1964, instead of a Bazaar.

Finally the Chaplain thanked Mr. Grob for conducting the meeting, which was followed by the Easter Service at St. Ann's Church and a social gathering afterwards in the Westminster Ball Room.

E.S.

HOW TO JOIN A SWISS SOCIETY

The Editor is occasionally asked by newcomers to the Swiss Community in Great Britain why the "Swiss Observer" does not carry a list of all the Swiss Societies and their activities. Seeing that there are two score and more, it is not possible to include such a list in the limited space available. Anybody interested should apply to the Editor who will be happy to give the necessary information.

**MAKE SURE YOU JOIN
THE SOLIDARITY FUND
OF THE SWISS ABROAD.**

Better Safe than Sorry