

The Swiss ambassador in Leeds

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SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

Looking back on our programme for 1965, we think it can be said that we had quite a successful year.

In January and May Film Shows were very well attended. Swiss National Tourist Office and Swissair films are always a great attraction, particularly for our British friends.

The Musical Evening in February was much enjoyed. Annette Weisbrod, pianist, had not been heard in the Club for some years. On this occasion she gave a recital together with Walter Grimmer, cellist.

The traditional Easter Outing in April was to Alstonfield, Staffs.

The seventeenth Landsgemeinde on 20th June again brought together members and friends from the Manchester and Yorkshire Clubs, at Hardcastle Crags. Monsieur Heimo, First Counsellor, represented the Swiss Ambassador, and Professor J. P. Inébnit conducted the official part of the gathering. The Chairmen of the local Councils and their wives joined us for High Tea in the Civic Hall, Hebden Bridge.

1st August, our National Day, was once again celebrated at Cottons Hotel, Knutsford, Cheshire. The evening was an outstanding success. We counted over 160 participants, including about 20 members from the Yorkshire Swiss Club. The *Schüblig* were presented and specially flown over by Swissair. After addresses by our President and the Swiss Consul the evening ended with fireworks and a bonfire in the grounds of the Hotel.

On 1st October, a Social was arranged for the Young and Not-So-Young. It was gratifying to see a large number of the young Swiss on that evening.

The annual Banquet and Ball took place on Saturday, 13th November, at the Midland Hotel and was attended by 120 members and friends. Guests of honour were our Ambassador, Monsieur B. de Fischer and Madame de Fischer; our Consul, Monsieur G. Brunner and Madame Brunner; Mrs. Mariann Meier, editor of the "Swiss Observer" and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ewart, representing the Manchester Rifle Club. A Tombola was held during the evening, with very successful results.

Our last big event of the year was our Christmas Party. This was on Saturday, 18th December, and was attended by 52 children and more than 60 adults. Each child received a present. Father Christmas (Mr. H. Mettler) put in an appearance and distributed sweets and chocolate to the children.

The monthly meetings, held on the last Thursday of the month, have been livened up. Early in the year, we decided to dispense, as far as possible, with the business side and try and concentrate on social activities. At the May and October meetings we had a *Jass* Competition, both of which were highly successful. Each player brought a prize, each took home a prize. At the September meeting we showed a colour film "The Swiss National Exhibition 1964" and Mr. Mettler, Manager of Swissair brought with him two excellent new Swissair films. We had a particularly large attendance on that evening.

T.M.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 25th March. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Wednesday, 16th March. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN LEEDS

On 7th February, 1966, the local Swiss community was honoured with a visit by the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Béat de Fischer. After being met at Leeds Central Station by Monsieur Brunner, Swiss Consul in Manchester, the Ambassador paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor of Leeds at the City's magnificent Civic Hall.

Lunch was offered by the Management of SANDOZ PRODUCTS LTD., the U.K. subsidiary of the well-known Basle Chemical and Pharmaceutical company, SANDOZ AG. The Ambassador spent the afternoon visiting the administration and selling headquarters, laboratories and the modern plant at the company's factory site situated in extremely pleasant semi-rural surroundings at Horsforth.

In the evening, a dinner party was held in honour of the distinguished visitor at the Hotel Metropole in Leeds, where some thirty Swiss nationals living in the Leeds and Bradford area, gathered for the occasion. During the cocktail party, all the guests were introduced to the Ambassador.

After the splendid dinner, obviously much enjoyed by all, Mr. J. P. Christen, Joint Managing Director of SANDOZ PRODUCTS LTD., welcomed the Ambassador on behalf of the local Swiss Colony, on his first visit to Leeds. In reply, Monsieur de Fischer thanked Mr. Christen and the Colony for the warm and friendly reception and he emphasized the very favourable impressions he had gained during his short stay in the industrial centre of the West Riding.

The Ambassador went on to give a survey of the Embassy's activities during the past year and also recalled some very interesting facts on the structure and activities of the Swiss Community resident in all parts of the U.K. He stressed that the recently created "Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K." was a step in the right direction for even closer co-operation between the numerous Swiss Clubs and Associations with widely different purposes in this country. Monsieur de Fischer also mentioned the trading association between the two countries and he expressed the hope for further mutual development of the long-standing Anglo-Swiss trade relationship. The Ambassador then referred to the new Swiss enterprise ideal to enhance the image of Switzerland and to foster Swiss exports to the U.K. The project also includes the creation of a cultural and social centre which will be made available to Swiss Clubs for their events and sessions. Monsieur de Fischer went on to mention the many cultural exchanges between the two countries and pointed out the great interest shown in Swiss artists such as Ansermet, Giacometti and Dürrenmatt.

Before returning to London on Tuesday, the Ambassador visited the Leeds City Art Gallery and Temple Newsam House, a country estate a few miles to the east of Leeds splendidly preserved by the City and now used as a museum for the display of pictures and decorative arts.

S.

PERSONAL

Mrs. A. C. Stahelin and sons of 4 Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, wish to thank the many friends for their warm sympathy during her husband's illness and following his death. They are most grateful for all the kindness shown them in their sad bereavement.

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We have just heard of the death of Mr. Jacques Dubs of 24d Maresfield Gardens, N.W.3. An obituary will follow in the next issue.