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FROM THE ARCHIVES - David Baker

Whilst archiving old copies of Manchester Branch Notes issued between 1990 and 1993 I found the following snippets:

REALLY CHEESED OFF

Emmental cheese-makers have been hit by a slump in sales because the holes are too big! The change in the diet of the local cows is producing too much gas, leading to outsize holes and complaints from shoppers.

A spokesman said, "these holes are causing us a whole lot of trouble".

GROSS BRUDER WACHT ÜBER SIE

In 1988 the Swiss Minister of Justice was accused of breaching the Official Secrets Act by telephoning her husband to suggest he disinvest from a firm being investigated for laundering funds. Her subsequent resignation started shock-waves, which still continue to rebound. It has now been revealed that the Political Police hold files on 900,000 Swiss citizens (Pop. 6.5m) considered to be possible subversives. Examples of information held include: feminist; married to a Yugoslavian; likes drinking beer at night. Swiss artists and writers are threatening to boycott the 700th anniversary celebrations unless they are allowed access to the files and signatures are being collected in a petition to abolish the Political Police.

What would they make of a Yorkshireman who travels monthly into Lancashire for clandestine meetings discussing trains; drinks wine with evening meals and turns on a bright light every night in his garden to catch moths. I dread to think! However, I don't eat much cheese, hol(e)y or not.

I am transferring as many of the magazines onto disc as I can get hold of, but whether they would eventually be suitable for sale to members is as yet debatable. Watch this space!



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