



1 | **Collider  
inspires  
a generation**

5 | **Behind the  
scenes at  
Media City**

7 | **Mountain  
travel past  
and present**

Top Story

## SWISS SCIENTIST AT NOBEL CEREMONY

In October, Professors Peter Higgs and François Englert won the Nobel prize in physics for their work on the Higgs boson. Swiss scientist Franz Muheim who is an experimental particle physicist and is Head of the Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics at the University of Edinburgh has been a colleague of Professor Higgs for more than a decade. Many readers will also know Franz as one of the UK representatives to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. As Franz reports, he was delighted when Professor Higgs invited him as one of his guests to the awards ceremony in Stockholm.

Attending a Nobel Prize ceremony is a highlight in the career of any scientist. Although the prize can only be awarded to a maximum of three people, the thousands of scientists who have worked on the Higgs boson project felt proud that the prize went to these two renowned physicists, as it meant their work was also recognised.

The Nobel Prize Awards Ceremony took place in Stockholm's beautiful

Concert Hall and was attended by about 1250 guests. King Carl Gustav of Sweden presented Peter Higgs and François Englert with their medals.

Before the ceremony Professor Higgs met with all his guests for lunch. There was much excitement as we discussed the thrill of discovering the Higgs boson eighteen months earlier. We all agreed this was not only a massive



**It took scientists  
almost 50 years of  
diligent research**

step towards a better understanding of nature, but also towards what else we might discover at the Large Hadron Collider in the years ahead.

I have known Peter for more than ten years. He is a very modest person and has always shied away from the



limelight. His journey began in 1964 when he published the theoretical work that now bears his name. It then took scientists, including a team of particle physicists from the University of Edinburgh working on the ATLAS experiment at CERN, almost fifty years of diligent research to build an accelerator (the Large Hadron Collider) and detectors that would be powerful enough to discover the Higgs boson. It has been great for me to have

been involved with the Large Hadron Collider for the past fifteen years.

Speaking for all those who have been involved in this ground-breaking work, it is hard to think of a more deserving recipient of the Nobel prize in physics.

*Franz Muheim*

Science

### In the Eye of the Collider

The "Collider" exhibition at London's Science Museum is about CERN, the international research facility near Geneva that was used to discover the Higgs boson. As 16-year-old Caterina Berg reports, the exhibition offered a fascinating insight into the world's greatest experiment even for those with little knowledge of physics.

I have always found physics quite difficult at school. I wanted to visit the Collider exhibition to try to understand the science of this great discovery, as well as getting to see first-hand how the Large Hadron Collider actually worked.

The exhibition was excellent. An introductory film gave some key facts in an understandable and easy-to-follow way. The audience was drawn into the action by

actors who played the roles of CERN researchers. I think the simple use of language helped non-scientists understand the aim of the project and the use of animation brought the whole process of the discovery to life.

My favourite section was in the last room, where the thousands of names of researchers who helped in this discovery are listed. They came from all over the world, which gives the project even more significance.

I felt as if I was part of the Higgs discovery and I left the exhibition inspired. The 'Collider' experience has changed my perspective on science and I now see the world differently.

*Caterina Berg*

*The Collider Exhibition at  
London's Science Museum runs  
until 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014*



*Caterina Berg (16) gets to  
the heart of the matter*

Editorial

### Dear Readers,



2014 will certainly be an exciting year for one of the UK's oldest Swiss Clubs. Unione Ticinese celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February. One of the club's longest-serving members, Joe Broggin, recalls some of his favourite moments at a club that almost seemed like his second home.

The Swiss Review has previously reported on the intrepid adventures of Miss Jemima Morrell, the Victorian lady who kept a diary during what became the first package tour to Switzerland – in fact, the first package tour ever. Now 150 years later, acclaimed author Diccon Bewes follows in her footsteps.

And we discover how Christiane Greening-Knoepfli's search for Swiss in her area developed into a healthy and vibrant Swiss club with 40 members aged between 6 months and 92.

*Andrew Littlejohn*

Swiss clubs

# 140 YEARS UNIONE TICINESE

The Unione Ticinese celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Historically, it is the oldest of all local associations affiliated to the umbrella organisation of Pro Ticino in Switzerland. In the UK, the Society is the third oldest Swiss Club attached to FOSSUK. Joe Broggin has been part of Unione Ticinese's social and cultural scene since he arrived in London in the late 60s and served as president between 1991 and 1994. Here he reflects on the forty or so years he has spent with what has become his extended family.

I have served on our club's Committee since I joined Unione Ticinese. In those early days I was in my mid-thirties and clearly recall being its youngest and most inexperienced member. Of



**I vividly remember meeting members with illustrious Ticinese immigrant family names**

that era, I vividly remember meeting members with illustrious Ticinese immigrant family names: Eusebio, Brentini, Bonetti, De Maria, Bozzini, Diviani and Abate just to name a few.

The Society has always been more than just a friendly group of people regularly staging social events and cultural evenings. It has been an extension of my very English family. In



the 70s and 80s, our two daughters regularly mixed with children from other member families. I cherish those memorable times: getting together at the Society's summer BBQ in Hurstpierpoint; or autumn's chestnut events; or the 6<sup>th</sup> December San Nicolao festivities; or the spring outings centered around visiting stately homes.

As a Committee member, I had the privilege and pleasure to serve under two unforgettable Presidents: Virgilio (Virgil) Berti (1966–1968) and Pietro (Peter) Jacomelli (1954–1965, 1978–1981). Virgil's legal and punctilious mind as a professional banker was a great asset to the cause of the Society and indeed for years he was a leading light for the entire Swiss Community in London. Peter was a great laissez-faire President, he never turned up with written notes or agendas as his memory was almost infallible, and never produced timely claims of incurred expenses when staging fully packed events at the Valchera Restaurant in Richmond!

I was very fortunate to share a great deal of leisure time with both of them. When together the two were a blue print of Laurel and Hardy. For instance, Peter was an excellent car driver. Virgil

never owned a car, but as a co-driver he was utterly dependable, except when Virgil insisted on turning right and Peter, agreeing, actually turned left and invariably ended up in some obscure backstreet. Sheer comedy. For me, it was best just to keep quiet! However, much has changed. The ease of transport and communication with Ticino and a new economic reality has had an impact on the historic "raison d'être" of the Unione Ticinese.

Second and third generations with Ticinese ancestry seem to have a romantic and fading image of

The history of the Ticinese who came to the UK is beautifully described and illustrated in two books: "Vita Ticinese a Londra: 125 Years of the Unione Ticinese" and "Continental Taste: Ticinese emigrants and their Café-Restaurants in Britain 1847–1987" by Peter Jacomelli and Peter Barber

For further reading, go to:

<http://bit.ly/19Xbtsy>  
<http://bit.ly/1ekjDdv>

Southern Switzerland and are largely unaware of political, social and cultural changes in today's Ticino.

Looking ahead, the greatest challenge is to enthuse a younger group to join the Committee and take the Society forward, well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Giuseppe (Joe) Broggin*

To become a member and on matters concerning the Unione Ticinese, please email [joebroggin@aol.com](mailto:joebroggin@aol.com)





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Food & Drink

# CLUB 'FOODIES' SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

A few months ago the editorial team received the following tasty tale from John Williamson, a long-standing member of the Southern Area Swiss Club. It is a delightful story and illustrates just how useful the Swiss expat community can be.

Caterers to the airlines, Monty's Bakehouse, which is based at Gatwick Airport, contacted our committee last summer asking for help. They were looking to recruit a panel of intriguing Swiss to taste and comment on snacks they intended to put forward to Swiss Airlines at a presentation in Zurich. We didn't fancy going to Gatwick, so we invited them to my place complete with oven (type used on aircraft), chef, sales manager, questionnaires and a range of snacks. We sat in the garden tasting, commenting and filling out a survey, all in beautiful August sunshine.

The snacks were very tasty, but some needed refinement. Lucy Stowell, the sales manager, listened carefully and took note of our suggestions. We were also able to offer general advice about dealing with Swiss business people and recognising the different Swiss linguistic groups.

And the upshot? Well, you can read for yourself:

*Dear Heidi, John, Karin, Bernadette and Katrina,*

*Apologies for the delay in getting back to you – the tasting with Swiss went very well – much better than anticipated and they were very impressed that we had made contact with your society to try and gain a Swiss "insight" into our products.*

*Their favourites were the Sausage Pizza Sub and the Cheese Melt Toastie (following your feedback we only took one version).*

*They have decided to extend the business we currently do with them on the Indian and Middle East routes, and have formally invited us to join their main tender later this year – a big accolade in itself! This means we have the opportunity to start doing a lot more business with them, and without your feedback I don't think the tasting would have gone anywhere nearly as smoothly. They recognised and enjoyed the Casimir Toastie, and felt the colour was a good representation – so once again, thank you for your comments!*

Now that is a result!

*John Williamson  
Southern Area Swiss Club*



Club tasters with Lucy Stowell (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)

## Embassy news

### Are your records up to date?

The **Regional Consular Centre (RCC)** in London looks after Swiss nationals in the United Kingdom and Ireland, fulfilling many of the functions of a municipal administrative authority in Switzerland including assistance in various emergency situations. That is why it is important that your records with the RCC are up to date. Incorrect or out-of-date contact details result in unnecessary extra work, costs and delays. Please forward any changes by post or e-mail [rcclondon@eda.admin.ch](mailto:rcclondon@eda.admin.ch), or call the RCC direct (Tel. 020 7616 6000). Website: [eda.admin.ch/rcclondon](http://eda.admin.ch/rcclondon)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in the United Kingdom

### Changes at the Honorary Consulate in Gibraltar

The Embassy would like to thank **Dr Yves Guisan** for his loyal and long-standing services as Honorary Consul in Gibraltar. On 1 January 2014 **Ms Eleonora Gherardi** – appointed by the Federal Council – succeeded Dr Guisan as Honorary Consul in Gibraltar. Swiss-born Ms Gherardi has lived in Gibraltar since April 2010 and presently holds directorships of four Swiss-based companies.

## Embassy

# Ambassador presents his Credentials

**HE Ambassador Dominik Furgler presented his letters of credential to Her Majesty the Queen on Wednesday 13 November at Buckingham Palace.**

The ceremony at Buckingham Palace is the culmination of the accreditation process for new Ambassadors, and was followed by a vin d'honneur

reception at the Residence. Mr Furgler and his wife Hayam travelled to the Palace by horse-drawn carriage, accompanied by Mr Frank Grütter, Deputy Head of Mission; Mrs Margrit Ledermann, Consul General; Mr Nicholas Niggli, Head of the Economic Section; and Mr Denis Charrière, Head of the Cultural Section.

The occasion was memorable for its pomp and finery but also for the warm and sincere celebrations of the Swiss-UK friendship by all parties.



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# FOSSUK Federation Of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

## Dates for your diary

**The FOSSUK AGM 2014** will be hosted by **The Swiss Club Manchester** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June.

All the event details will be circulated nearer the time amongst the Member Clubs/Societies and can also be found on the FOSSUK website and [SwissCommunity.org](http://SwissCommunity.org)



## 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014

*Have you ever been tempted to further your Education in Switzerland in preparation for working in Switzerland?*

or  
*Do you have a son or a daughter who you think would benefit from Switzerland's Further Education System?*

The City Swiss Club, The New Helvetic Society and the Unione Ticinese under the auspices of FOSSUK are preparing an information evening for UK Swiss

Abroad on the possibilities of further education and how to go about finding a job in Switzerland. The guest speakers will be experts from various Swiss educational establishments, such as universities, Fachhochschulen and apprenticeship schemes.

The evening will be an information event only.

More details will be available on the websites of FOSSUK, the host clubs/societies and [SwissCommunity.org](http://SwissCommunity.org)

Swiss Clubs in the UK & Ireland

# CLUBS • CHRISTMAS • CLUBS • CHRISTMAS • CLUBS •

## Press Release 4 January 2014

On 30 November 2013, West Surrey Swiss Club met for their annual Advent lunch at Kinghams Restaurant in Shere. 45 members and guests filled this quaint 17<sup>th</sup> Century restaurant for the 6<sup>th</sup> time running and enjoyed a wonderful meal in atmospheric surroundings. The guest of honour was Consul General Margrit Ledermann who very

kindly consented to be with us this year and who was able to address the members during a suitable moment. Ruth Crozier, who has been President since the founding of the Club, reminded members that in 2014 the club will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and asked for some ideas from members on how they would like to mark this occasion.

*West Surrey Swiss Club*



## North Wales Club

We had a brilliant celebration in Penrallt Church, Bangor with a visit from Samichlaus and a Tombola where the main prize, a Sunday lunch at Treysgawen Hall, Llangeferni (owner: Mrs. Meier), was won by Ruth Johnson.



## Southern Area Swiss Club

The club's Christmas event was again a great success. Many thanks to all those involved. A healthy and happy 2014 to all club members. We look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.



## Swiss Club Edinburgh

Members of Swiss Club Edinburgh were very pleased with the turnout at their recent Christmas festivities. Thirteen youngsters were amongst the forty or so party-goers. The children played games and made Christmas decorations. They then entertained

the adults with music, songs and Christmas stories. Finally, Santa Claus arrived with his elf and distributed presents to all those present. The afternoon came to an end only after most of the delicious food prepared by the members was eaten and the traditional Gluehwein was drunk.



## Swiss Club Manchester

An afternoon of food, games and a visit from Father Christmas was enjoyed by all, especially the 15 children and 3 babies present, at Swiss Club Manchester's Santa Claus party. The games were organised by Julie who always finds something fun and creative to do with the children. While the youngsters were playing, the grown-ups were treated to Sonja's

home-made Christmas cake and a glass of sherry.

Then suddenly, a tinkling bell could be heard and the lights were turned down. Santa Claus had arrived. Each child then followed the tradition of doing 'a turn' for Father Christmas, which included reading to him, singing, playing an instrument or showing him a magic trick!



## The Swiss Church in London

December celebrations at the Swiss Church started with a strong performance of Christmas Carols by Dieci Voices at the Carol Service. At the Christmas Family Service this year, traditional Christingles, candles in oranges, were prepared for the children and lit during the service. The children were invited to play a part in the Christmas story and all members, young and old, were invited to write down their Christmas wishes on cards, which were then hung on the Christmas tree. For the first time Rev. Carla Maurer also held a Christmas Eve Service at the Swiss Church.

were invited to sit quietly and enjoy the silent atmosphere in the Church for an hour. 'Sit in Silence' was very well received during Advent and will continue on Thursdays from 5 – 6 p.m. until the end of February. This is followed by our 'Prayer&Pub' meeting, where we gather to share inspirational thoughts, meditate a little and sing before heading to the pub. We look forward to seeing you sometime in 2014!

### Dates for your diary

**Thursday 27 February, 6.30pm**  
**Opening of Visual Arts Exhibition**

**Thursday 30 March, 7.30pm**  
**Concert with Richard Burkhard, Baritone & Edward Rushton, Piano**

**Saturday 19/20 April, from 6pm-6am**  
**Easter Vigil**



Miscellaneous

# CLUBS AND CULTURE · CLUBS AND CULTURE · CLUBS

## Wine writers toast Christmas at Embassy

Swiss wines were the centre of attention on 2 December as the celebrated Circle of Wine Writers held its Christmas Party at the Ambassador's Residence. The Circle of Wine Writers is an association of authors, writers, journalists, bloggers, broadcasters, photographers and lecturers, and every year they focus on a particular wine-producing country for their festive party. This year, 11 different Swiss wine producers presented a wide variety of grapes and vineyards at the Ambassador's Residence, reflecting the rich diversity of Swiss viticulture including grapes such as Pinot Noir,

Chasselas, Petite Arvine and Merlot. Food for the evening was served by Swiss chef Anton Mosimann, making it a memorable event for all tastes.



## Southern Area Swiss Club

Club members and friends gather for their "Gschwelti und Käs" social in October.



## Torbay Swiss Club

A very Happy New Year to all club members. This photo was from a recent outing to Bicton Gardens.

## Swiss Club Midlands

What a lovely day in and around picturesque Elmley Castle, Worcs., complete with Anton and his trusty Alphorn!



## Manchester Swiss Club 2014

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
Raclette Party at the Brookdale

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
Maibummel in New Brighton

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**  
AGM in Prestbury

**The Weekend 6/7/8 June**  
FOSSUK AGM in Manchester

## CHUK Swiss Cultural Events in the UK

13 – 18 February 2014 **Showroom**

13 – 23 February 2014 **Exhibition**

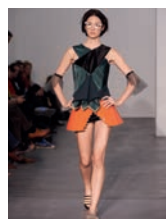
## CH TALENTS: MODE SUISSE

SWISS PRESENCE DURING LONDON FASHION WEEK 2014

The Embassy of Switzerland with Mode Suisse and DASH Magazine present some of the most talented young Swiss fashion designers during London Fashion Week. Many of the Swiss designers will be present.

*Venue:* 180 The Strand, London WC2R 1EA

*Supported by:* Presence Switzerland, Pro Helvetia, Victorinox



20 – 23 February 2014

## PETER RINDERKNECHT

PORTOFINO BALLAD

Puppets, music and storytelling combine imaginatively in Peter Rinderknecht's poignant half-term show about family ties. A magical treat, it also includes the most versatile double bass you're likely to see. Age guidance 7+

*Venue:* Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

*Supported by:* Pro Helvetia, Swiss Cultural Fund in Britain



21 February – 27 March 2014

## T42 DANCE PROJECTS

TOUR D'HORIZON

T42 has toured the world collecting numerous awards. The founders and choreographers/dancers Misato Inoue and Félix Duménil combine contemporary dance with physical theatre, creating work that is versatile, dynamic, humorous, original and unconventional.

*Venue:* Derby, Barnsley, Newcastle, Leeds, London, Bournemouth

*Supported by:* Pro Helvetia, Stanley Thomans Johnson Foundation, Migros Kulturprozent



I would like to thank all of our members for their support over the past year. Without them there would be little point in organising events. If you would like to join in the fun, please contact Geoff Rose on 01626 778469.



## Yorkshire Swiss Club

All members are heartily invited to Yorkshire Swiss Club's AGM, which will be held in Bradford on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**.

For more information please call Evy Wardill on 01347 848 473

## Manchester Swiss Club goes live in Media City

Have you ever wondered how TV and radio programmes are made? About twenty members of the Manchester Swiss Club are now much wiser following a recent tour of the new BBC studios at Media City UK, Salford. Our two guides gave us an informative and light-hearted tour around a variety of studios. In the radio drama studio we were impressed by the vast range of sound effects that the producers were able to create.

to simulate a galloping horse was still in evidence! Then we saw how the props and décor in studios can be cleverly manipulated to give a sense of depth or width, and how studios can be adapted to host different, well-known and some of our favourite programmes, such as Match of the Day. Finally we were ushered into the BBC Breakfast studio where amidst much hilarity some of our members were recorded presenting the news and weather. The result was very realistic, although we are still waiting for the promised foehn to reach Manchester!

Many of these were high-tech, although we were pleased to see that the use of two coconut shells



Wales

# THE SUCCESS OF TRADING WITH SWITZERLAND

On a recent visit to Wales, Thorsten Terweiden, Head of the Swiss Business Hub, gave an informative presentation to the South Wales Exporters Association in Swansea. The event was held in association with Georg Karabaczek, Trade Commissioner & Commercial Counsellor of Advantage Austria and was entitled 'Trading with Switzerland and Austria'. It was an excellent event, very well attended and included wine tasting of Swiss and Austrian wines

One of the highlights of the evening was hearing about Bob Clark's trading success with Switzerland. Bob who is Master Syrupeer in Newport, South Wales and already supplies to Asda, recently clinched a big business deal with Switzerland's biggest honey manufacturer to sell Clark's maple syrup to Swiss consumers. The export order is initially expected to be worth about £150,000.

Ruth Thomas,  
Honorary Consul in Wales

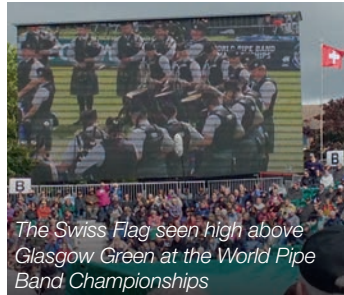


Steve Smith, Chair of West Wales Exporters Association (l) with Ruth Thomas and Thorsten Terweiden

Scotland

## Swiss pipers compete in Glasgow

The World Pipe Band Championships were held in Glasgow Green in 2013. Though the championship title was taken by a Band from Northern Ireland, the Pipes and Drums of Basel passed with "flying colours". In total, 225 pipe bands performed from over 17 nations including New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Switzerland.



The Swiss flag seen high above Glasgow Green at the World Pipe Band Championships

Peter Müller-McDougall,  
Honorary Consul General, Edinburgh

Scotland

## Switzerland presented as a place to work, study and live

Last autumn, under the title "Think German for Jobs", Glasgow's Goethe Institute along with the German Consulate General organised what has become a highly popular career fair for young people. This year's event was held at Bishopbriggs Academy in Glasgow and attended by more than 500 teenagers.

skills in a professional context. Many of the pupils wanted to find out more about engineering possibilities in Switzerland. One teenager saw the value in continuing to study German, while Lorna McMillan, a teacher at Greenfaulds High School in Cumbernauld was thrilled by the event, "This is exactly what we need to promote languages and encourage our pupils to get involved" she said. More than 20 organisations participated in this important event for Scottish students.

The aim was to illustrate how foreign language skills can be advantageous for training opportunities and career prospects alike. The young visitors could explore and experience first-hand the impact of language

Peter Müller-McDougall,  
Hon Consul General, Edinburgh



Peter Müller-McDougall at the Swiss stand with students



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Travel

# THE TOUR THAT CHANGED SWITZERLAND

She arrived in Geneva in June 1863 after two long days of travelling from London. She was part of Thomas Cook's first conducted tour of Switzerland. She was Miss Jemima Morrell from Yorkshire. It is thanks to this 31-year old lady's Swiss Journal that we know so much about that inaugural Swiss tour. It also gave author Diccon Bewes the inspiration to follow in her footsteps 150 years later.

Her tour was an adventure, especially for a woman in a big dress. While it wasn't rafting down the Amazon, it was an intrepid journey into the mountainous heart of Europe, with little pre-planned or booked. She got up at 4am, hiked through the Alps in impractical clothing, and snatched a few hours' sleep in basic hotels.

Neither was it particularly comfortable. She endured slow trains, bad food and beggars in the villages. Incomparable landscape aside, this was not the Switzerland we know today.

I had the comparative comfort of leisurely breakfasts, hotels with bathrooms and trains with toilets. Not



forgetting the added luxury of clean underwear every day. Miss Jemima described how she wore the same clothes for a whole week.

She came for the scenery and was not disappointed, whether walking over the Gemmi Pass in the Bernese Oberland or crossing the glaciers at Grindelwald. I was astounded by the

same grandeur; the glaciers have shrunk, but the Gemmi Pass is just as bleakly beautiful to hike through.

She was duly impressed by Lake Lucerne (me too!) but not with the baths at Leukerbad, where she refused to get into hot water. I did exactly that and enjoyed every minute of indulgence.



Her tour was an adventure, especially for a woman in a big dress

Watching the sunrise from on top of Rigi was the final highlight for both of us. Miss Jemima shared the experience with 200 people as it was the must-do of that era; we were just two. It was equally chilly for all of us.

Her trip saw the dawn of a new age, that of tourism, which helped re-create a country as the playground of Europe and sowed the seeds of Switzerland's economic success.

Miss Jemima went on a trip of a lifetime. I stepped back in time and saw Switzerland in a different light. Both of us came home after many Swiss magic moments.

Diccon Bewes

Est. **Burgers** 1942  
A Taste of Switzerland  
OF MARLOW

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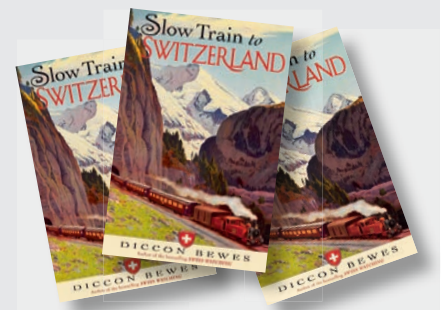
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Finance

## Swiss banker discusses tax treaty

Patrick Odier, Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association (SBA), addressed a business lunch at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London in October. The event was co-organised by the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Section of the Swiss Embassy. Odier gave an overview of the performance of the Swiss banking industry marked by developments around bank client secrecy versus tax transparency and increased regulation, particularly inside Europe. With regard to the Swiss-UK tax treaty, the SBA chairman said it was a pragmatic solution which has already generated considerable additional tax revenues for the UK since its entering into force in 2013.

Elaborating on the benefits of the financial sector to the real economy, he noted that Swiss banks have managed to maintain an excellent performance in supplying credit to small and medium-sized enterprises, and thus avoid the "credit crunch" scenario which has been observed in other European countries.

Odier attributed this success to the healthy state of competition within Switzerland's financial sector. Looking towards the future, the SBA is seeking to develop and strengthen new business areas for Swiss banks, such as Renminbi-denominated financial activities and asset management.

Meet the Presidents

# THE MAKING OF A SWISS CLUB

"Christiane's search for Swiss" read the headline in the Somerset County Gazette to mark Swiss National Day celebrations in Taunton last year. The article was about 73-year-old Swiss expat Christiane Greening-Knoepfli who after moving to Somerset set herself a personal challenge to track down other Swiss people in the area. Here, Christiane describes how her quest to be with other Swiss resulted in establishing what has now become a lively, 40-strong Swiss club.

My English husband, Derek, and I moved from Geneva to Plymouth more than fifty years ago, so that Derek could pursue his ambitions of practising law. Now a retired solicitor and in poor health, I decided a few years ago to move to Taunton in Somerset to be near our two daughters.

It has always been important for me to be with other Swiss. In Plymouth I was very much a part of the Torbay Swiss Club and am still in touch with some members today. Being part of a Swiss Club is the next best thing to being in Switzerland! I was hoping there would be a number of Swiss groups already established in Somerset.

I contacted the Swiss Embassy in London to obtain a list of Swiss expats living locally. They were unable to do this because of privacy laws, but did suggest I draft a letter explaining my interest in meeting other Swiss and

**“ Being part of a Swiss Club is the next best thing to being in Switzerland**

possibly setting up a club. I was told there had been a Swiss Club in Taunton before, but it sadly broke up when their president moved away. My letter was then forwarded to the relevant households. The Embassy was very helpful and seemed as excited as me at the prospect of a new Swiss club.

My initial request got a very positive response. The Taunton and Somerset Swiss Club was born. It has been surprising just how many Swiss are in

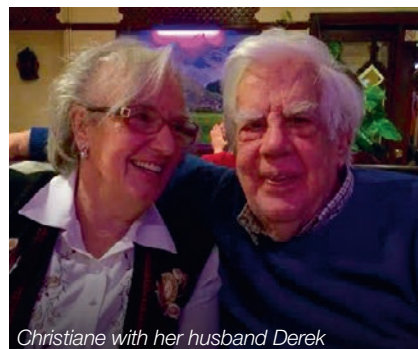


the area. On average, 35 of us meet 3 or 4 times a year. We are mostly German and French speakers and vary in age from 6 months to 92-years-old. We don't have a formal committee, as such. I was keen to keep everything informal and easy-going.

I would say that the success of our new Taunton and Somerset Swiss Club lies in our nationality. We are the Swiss abroad and feel a common bond! I like to think I bring enthusiasm and joie de vivre to the group and I am very grateful for all the support over the past year. We enjoy sharing

Swiss food, Swiss music and our Swiss stories. It is our Swiss-ness that holds us together and I hope that the success of our new group may continue for a very long time.

*Christiane Greening-Knoepfli*



*Christiane with her husband Derek*

## Arts New book reasserts Michael Buhler's place as innovative artist

'From There to Here': The Art of Michael Buhler is the first book to focus in depth on the varied and in some ways enigmatic art of Michael Buhler (1940-2009). It brings together images of Buhler's work in a range of media with introductory

essays by three noted art historians and the artist's own reflections on his practice.

A student at the Royal College of Art in the early 1960s alongside Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney, R. B. Kitaj

and Allen Jones, Buhler was doubtless one of the so-called 'New Generation' of British artist.

He never forgot his Swiss heritage and often travelled with his father Robert Buhler, himself an acclaimed painter and royal academician, to visit relatives living in Interlaken, and according to his family, to visit the Kunsthhaus in Zurich.

This new book offers a timely opportunity to rediscover the artist's place in the history of 20<sup>th</sup>-century British art.



We have one book to give away. Please contact the editor if you would like to be included in the draw, which will take place on **February 28<sup>th</sup>**.

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## Impressum

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