Study Options in Switzerland

The Swiss Embassy in London was transformed into a hub of learning excellence in May as educational experts from Switzerland met with more than 90 people, the majority of whom were parents and their teenage children from the expat community, to discuss the opportunities for young people continuing their education in Switzerland.

Dr Lutz Berg, head of Science, Technology and Higher Education at the Embassy, chaired the session. He began by setting out the main difference between the education systems in the UK and Switzerland. “There is no vocational ‘gold standard’ in the UK,” he said, “Two-thirds of young people receive a vocational training in Switzerland compared to one-third in the UK, but only 30% of those students do apprenticeships.”

With what appeared to be a reference to the high cost of some courses outside of Switzerland, Dr Berg closed his introduction by reassuring the audience that Swiss courses were good value for money. “International students are not a business,” he said, “We don’t sell expensive courses.”

Education in Switzerland

Tuition fees in Switzerland are relatively low and there are opportunities for international students to receive cantonal grants. Although as Fiona Scheidegger, co-director of ‘educationsuisse’ explained, accessing the money could be difficult and time-consuming. “We have 26 Cantons with 26 different policies. Imagine you want to study in Lausanne, but your canton of origin is Zurich.”

We don’t sell expensive courses

Educationuisse helps international students fill out the necessary forms and, in general, integrate smoothly into this new system.

Philip Gutzwiller represented the “business world” and had an obvious passion for vocational training. “Thousands of Swiss companies offer apprenticeships,” he told his attentive audience, “and there are 400 well-paid careers to choose from.”

However, Gutzwiller warned this route was “not a walk in the park”. “You are thrown into a professional life at 15,” he said, “There are no lie-ins or late nights with friends. You are 3-and-a-half days at work and one day in the classroom.”

Anders Hagstroem, Director of Global Educational Affairs of ETH Zurich was the final member on the panel and described the necessary requirements to study in Switzerland. It soon became clear that as there were only a small number of degree courses in English, students would have to be fluent in a 2nd language.

The bilingual element, especially the level of language ability required, sparked a lively Q&A session following the speeches. Further informal discussions continued late into the evening over canapés and Swiss wine.

All presentations can be viewed on the FOSSUK website

www.swiss-societies.co.uk

Education Swiss students get a taste of working life in Belfast

In our previous issue, readers were introduced to a new and innovative vocational training programme between Switzerland and Northern Ireland (NI). Clélio Kaufmann and João Rodrigues were two of this first group of young Swiss learners from the Canton of Vaud to take advantage of this scheme in Belfast. Here they described their experiences and first impressions.

Joao Rodrigues: I think they were quite surprised by our ability level. If you want to succeed in your professional life in the UK you have to go to university. For us in Switzerland the apprenticeship and the professional education are more important.

Clélio Kaufmann: It was very different, because in Switzerland I was in a technical school and in NI it was only for work. In the beginning, it was very difficult because the company didn’t have the software I needed. But I knew not to give up and finished my placement with success.

What was your greatest learning experience?

JR: The English of course! Working is a great way to learn fast, because talking is a must, not a want when you are in an office. I don’t think that would have happened if I had chosen to go to a British school.

CK: I increased my skills, am more independent and have learned to solve problems in a different country and language. I am able to speak confidently with people and work constructively in a team.

What have you enjoyed most about living in Ireland?

JR: The pubs! You don’t know Belfast until you’ve been to Kelly’s for the Irish music. And I love the Ulster fry up! I will make my own potato bread in Switzerland thinking about the good moments I had in Northern Ireland.

CK: The landscape. Giant’s Causeway for example was very interesting and beautiful. And of course, the people. Everybody I met was warm and friendly.
Readers of this journal may have left Switzerland some time ago. Whether or not you plan to return there at some point, or indeed move on to another country, you are likely to have one thing in common: you want to be sure your government offers a coherent and coordinated policy approach regarding the rights of all Swiss citizens.

The discourse on migration continues. Should someone who has decided to move abroad still receive support? Recent bilateral agreements have done much to scaffold our international mobility needs, which includes education and work prospects.

However, there are still disparities in the treatment of binational Swiss families regarding their rights in Switzerland: challenges facing returners in need of social benefits; problems with recognition of foreign diplomas; hurdles with new tax laws faced by Swiss bank customers living abroad. What is more, with ongoing consulate closures around the world it will become more difficult for some to obtain the support they need.

There is a continuing need for information and exchange. In August, ASO delegates for the UK will attend the 92nd Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Baden. The Swiss Review will report on proceedings in the next Regional Issue in October. In the meantime, if you would like a question to be raised at this year’s international gathering, please contact your UK-based representatives.

Celebration takes centre stage this year with a Swiss-themed day to be held in London. This event will take place at University College London on Saturday 19 July 2014 from 4 pm till late.

For further information visit www.swissnationalday.co.uk
“There are even a number of joint flypasts planned”

SWISS SHOW OFF THEIR AIR FLEET

The Red Arrows won’t be the only aerobatic display team celebrating an aviation landmark at this summer’s Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford. The Patrouille Suisse, in their 50th anniversary year, along with an F-18 Hornet and Super Puma helicopter, will also be there to delight spectators.

The team fly six F-5E Tiger IIs painted in a bright colour scheme that incorporates the red and white of the Swiss national flag. The pilots, who are all volunteers from various frontline squadrons, are famed for performing precise formations at high speed.

The pilots are famed worldwide

The clock will be the same as the one seen at railway stations across Switzerland and will be a permanent reminder of the co-operation and friendship between Switzerland and Southwark that was so evident during the Olympic Games.

The ceremony will be attended by HE Ambassador Dominik Furgler and the Worshipful Mayor of Southwark, and will also feature a performance by young Swiss musician Heidi Happy. To accompany the clock, a special poster design “dialogue” has been organised between students of Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London and Zurich University of the Arts. These posters will be displayed in Borough Market and other sites in Southwark after the launch event.

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City Swiss Club, the Swiss Church and St. Moritz restaurant warmly invite readers to come together to watch the Swiss games during the World Cup and have a bite to eat.

The event is free to attend, but spaces are limited. For more information about availability contact Sabrina at City Swiss Club sabrina.cityswissclub@gmail.com

“Switzerland in the UK & Ireland”

**WORLD CUP FEVER GRIPS LONDON**

**Sunday, 15 June 2014**
Switzerland vs. Ecuador
16:00 for 17:00 (kick-off)
Venue: St. Moritz Restaurant
161 Wardour Street, W1F 8WJ

**Friday, 20 June 2014**
19:00 for 20:00 (kick-off)
Switzerland vs. France
Venue: Swiss Church London
79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY

**Wednesday, 25 June 2014**
20:00 for 21:00 (kick-off)
Switzerland vs. Honduras
Venue: St. Moritz Restaurant
161 Wardour Street, W1F 8WJ

Hopp Schwiiz! Allez la Suisse! Forza Svizzera! Hopp Svizra!

**Ticino Town to screen in London**

Over the past year I have acted as consultant and co-ordinator in London for Michelangelo Gandolfi who created and produced a documentary, Ticino Town, which is about the history of the Ticinese community in London, for Radio-televisione della Svizzera Italiana (RSI). It features interviews with several members of our club, Unione Ticinese.

As the production of the documentary progressed, Michelangelo’s superiors got increasingly enthusiastic about it. As a result, it was allowed to grow in length and, in addition, an English-language version was authorised.

The Italian version had its premiere in the cinema in Acquarossa the day before our 140th anniversary celebrations in February.

We plan to screen the English version at the Embassy on Saturday, 27th September. I do hope as many of you as possible will come to see this revealing story of how many of your ancestors first arrived in this country, and, not least, what has happened since.

Peter Barber
Presidente dell’ Unione Ticinese

**An invitation from**: NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

The New Helvetic Society is a Swiss cultural club based in London that organizes a wide range of events with a Swiss connection.

Apart from jazz and classical concerts, film shows, visits to museums and social gatherings, we provide a forum for discussing issues concerning Swiss nationals resident in the UK.

We offer an opportunity for people to exchange views on social, political and cultural developments taking place in Switzerland.

Whether you are a Swiss national or have a special interest in the social and political culture of Switzerland, the New Helvetic Society will give you a unique opportunity to meet with like-minded people.

Our Autumn/Winter programme will feature a guided tour of Kenwood House in Hampstead, a Jazz Concert, an event on IT security and we will celebrate the Escalade in December. Most of our events are held at the Embassy of Switzerland.

Have a look at our website www.newhelveticsociety.org.uk and join us at one or more of our events. Just download the flyer and return it to us with your details by the stated deadline. Or better still become a member.

Daniel Pedroletti
President of the New Helvetic Society

**Swiss Benevolent Society**

**Founded in 1703**

Because charity begins at home.

You can help us in helping them.
Donations welcome!

Contact:
Mrs Petra Kehr Cocks (Welfare Officer)
Swiss Benevolent Society
79 Endell Street
London WC2H 9DY

+44 (0)20 7836 9119
info@swissbenevolent.org.uk
www.swissbenevolent.org.uk

© Daniel Pedroletti
Southern Area Swiss Club
Club members were pleased to share the company of the outgoing consul, Margrit Ledermann, at this year’s AGM. After the formal business was over, one of our members Heidi Cameron demonstrated the art of ‘Scherenschnitte’.

Our traditional January lunch, which was held this year at the Frensham Pond Hotel.

Swiss National Day in Ireland
As every year all Swiss compatriots will be invited to participate at the National Day Reception which this year will be hosted by Ambassador Marie-Claude Meylan on Thursday, 31st July 2014, at 6.00 pm and will take place in the garden of the Swiss residence at 8 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Invitations will be sent out closer to the date.

An invitation from:

Unione Ticinese always welcomes new members interested in Ticino culture, history, way of life, politics and gastronomy. For more information call Vice-president, Joe Broggini on 020 8741 4224. Our application form can be found at: www.utl.org.uk

Edinburgh Swiss Club
The Swiss Club Edinburgh met at the South Queensferry Boat Club recently for their annual Fondue evening.

With stunning views of the Forth Road Bridge on one side, the Forth Rail Bridge on the other and the small, but quaint, South Queensferry harbour in the foreground, the twenty five members who gathered to enjoy a very ‘gemuetlich’ evening of fondue, Swiss music and conversation couldn’t have asked for a more pleasing venue.

Freddie Wyser

In Memoriam

Ernst Schwaller passed away earlier this year at the age of 90 in his beloved Yorkshire home. Switzerland was written through Ernst and he never forgot his happy days in Solothurn.

In a long and illustrious career in catering, Ernst worked at the elegant Savoy Hotel in London and the strikingly beautiful Palais in St Moritz. He later established the pioneering Swiss restaurant, The Old Manor House, in Knaresborough, Yorkshire in 1986. Ernst received an honorary MCMI catering award, which enabled him to complete his career as lecturer in catering at Bradford College.

He was predeceased by his wife Pat and is survived by his children, Peter, Martin and Dawn and by his grandchildren Fred and Rosie.

What’s On

Yorkshire Swiss Club
Various activities are planned for the future and we look forward to welcoming members and non-members to our Fondue and Entertainment event to celebrate Swiss National Day on the afternoon of the 2nd August at Newton-on-Ouse. For more information please tel. 01347 848 473.

Midlands Swiss Society
Friday 13th June: Visit to the National Memorium Arboretum at Akrewas with a walk for those who wish and an evening meal on return.

Please feel free to contact the Chairman, Graham Baker on 02476 411 736, or e-mail bakerperrin@gmail.com. Members and non-members welcome.

Southern Area Swiss Club
2nd August: Swiss National Day Celebration,
Time: 5pm for 5.30pm
Location: Darby Green Centre, Yateley

Unione Ticinese
19th August: National Swiss Day Celebrations
30th August: Outing to Brighton
27th September: English screening of ‘Ticino Town’
25th October: Castagnata

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Every two years EVA International, Ireland’s Biennial of Contemporary Art, works with guest curators to create a twelve-week programme of exhibitions and events that animate Limerick City. Pro Helvetia is supporting the inclusion of Swiss artists Ingo Giezendanner “GRRRR” and Uriel Orlow.

This year’s project, AGITATIONISM, will showcase works by Irish and international artists selected from more than 2,000 proposals from artists in no less than 96 countries. The artists chosen for Eva International 2014 will show in a variety of different media including video, sculpture, painting, installation and performance at Limerick City Gallery of Art, as well as various other locations in the city centre. A series of public events has been arranged together with outreach/education projects to help complete the 2014 City of Culture celebrations.

Eva International: Limerick City until 6 July

Exhibition

War from the Victims’ Perspective

To mark the 150th anniversary of the signing of the First Geneva Convention and the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Switzerland, the Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland organised a tour in May of “War from the Victims’ Perspective – Photographs by Jean Mohr” at the Gallery of Photography Ireland in Dublin. This important and thought-provoking exhibition was produced by the Musée de l’Elysée, Lausanne and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Jean Mohr (1925) was a committed defender of human rights and is one of the best representatives of humanist photography. His images are known for their graphic qualities and, just as importantly, for their great sensitivity.

The display of this Swiss documentary photographer’s work, including a series of events on Humanitarian Action, can also be viewed in Galway (expected in June) and in Cork (expected in the autumn).

Further information will be posted on the Embassy website www.eda.admin.ch/dublin closer to the date.

Horticulture

Pfyn forest design wins at Chelsea Flower Show

Newly qualified garden designers Daniel Auderset from Berne and Nicole Fischer from Munich bravely took on the world’s horticultural elite recently and won a silver gilt medal for their first ever show garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London.

Nicole and Daniel created “The Extending Space” conceptual garden design, which was inspired by the diverse and beautiful landscapes of the protected Pfyn Forest region in the Swiss Valais.

“The garden highlights how, by playing with dimensions, the spirit of a large and varied landscape can be captured effectively within a contemporary and minimalist design,” said the Swiss-born designer.

Although the distinct microclimates within the Pfyn Forest region offer a diverse range of plant species, the main message was to demonstrate the splendour of pines.

“Within the garden the pines are a focus as we want to highlight their beauty to gardeners in the UK and show how they can be used effectively in a garden. We also want people to be aware that pine species are in decline in warmer areas of Europe.”

Daniel Auderset and Nicole Fischer met while studying Garden Design at the esteemed Inchbald School of Design in London. The two graduated in 2013, and now run their own garden design businesses.
“Swiss soldiers fought for the British Empire”

Switzerland in the UK & Ireland

THE BRUTAL AND BOLD SWITZERS

“Where are my Switzers?” (Hamlet IV, v). As the literary world celebrates the 450th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s birth, the Bibliothek am Giusanplatz (formerly the Swiss Military Library) in Berne quotes the Bard in an exhibition highlighting a lesser-known aspect of Swiss-UK relations: Swiss soldiers who served in the British Army from 1700–1900.

The Swiss were reportedly among the most sought-after mercenary forces for half a millennium. Documents show that Swiss soldiers fought under the English flag already in the royal succession wars of the 15th century, known as the War of the Roses. These were not officially recognised regiments, but rogue mercenaries (Reisläufer). It is estimated that well over a million Swiss mercenary soldiers fought on the battlefields of Europe.

The last Swiss mercenary unit to be founded was the British-Swiss Legion which served the British in Crimea in 1855. The soldiers were dismissed in 1856 without having fought.

Swiss soldiers fought for the British Empire in almost every part of the world – whether as officers in Egypt, military doctor in Crimea or governor of Ceylon. However, the highest military decoration was not given to a high rank officer but to an orphan from Burgdorf, Christian Ferdinand Schiess (1856–1884). At the age of 15, the teenager fought with the French in the Franco-Prussian War and then joined British soldiers in South Africa against the Zulus. This was the orphan from Burgdorf who received the famous Victoria Cross at the age of 22.

Colonial Infantry Helmet & Weapons (1871–1889)

Officer’s uniform (British Swiss Legion, 1855)

Homage to Swiss winter sports

At the end of the 19th century, Switzerland witnessed the flourishing of two movements that seemed, at first glance, diametrically opposed: winter sports and artistic posters. The country’s geography and climate were highly propitious to the development of winter sports; and its talented artists, with their energy and drive, gave rise to a highly creative environment in which artistic posters thrived.

Confronted with the needs of trade and advertising, the two movements combined their forces and produced, for more than a century, thousands of posters – many of which, on account of their high quality, pay homage not only to winter sports but to the beauty of the mountains and the artistic genius of their creators.

In order to make these exceptional art works better known, the Geneva-based publisher Patrick Cramer in collaboration with Jean Charles Giroud (curator of the poster collection at the Bibliothèque Publique et Universitaire de Genève) has brought out a book, A Century of Swiss Winter Sports Posters, packed with more than 150 colour illustrations entirely devoted to this genre. For the first time, the reader is not only able to enjoy these posters, but also to appreciate their great variety and understand their fascinating evolution.

A Century of Swiss Winter Sports Posters
Price: £40
(postage included)

For more information, Email: pcramer@cramer.ch
Tel: +41 22 732 54 32

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tel 020 7498 5019 | info@haaginteriors.co.uk
In order to find out about the history of the Swiss Club Manchester one has to go back to the Industrial Revolution (18th and 19th centuries) in the North of England.

The birth of the Swiss Textile Industry at the beginning of the 19th century was mainly achieved by British-made machinery. Steel and engineering played an important role in its expansion. The name of the Schaffhausen steel and engineering company, Georg Fischer, springs to mind. Swiss engineers and industrialists came to the UK, some to study, others to stay.

The second half of the 19th Century saw the establishment of several Swiss-owned factories in the Manchester region, including the chemical works of Brunner Mond & Co in Cheshire (later to become part of ICI) and the chain maker Hans Renold Ltd in Salford.

The Swiss Club Manchester was formed on the 6 November 1850. Sadly, there is little information about these early years. However, there appears to have been a second Club in existence under the name Schweizerverein “Alpenrösi” Manchester and indeed we have a guest book proving its existence covering the period from 1887 to 1890.

Some of the most interesting and revealing entries were written during the Great War. The Annual Report of the Swiss Club Manchester of 1915 describes a drop in membership numbers due to members having to return to Switzerland the previous year for military duty. The report also records that activities such as ‘balls’ and ‘excursions’ had to be missed because of the war. Instead a number of social entertainment functions were held including musical evenings.

Clearly in the times before rapid communications and TV, the Club performed a very important role in keeping the Swiss community together by providing good entertainment. There were concerts and several other spin-off clubs, such as a Gymnasts Club (Turnverein), Tennis Club and a Rifle Club, and of course the Swiss Relief Society. A library was kept at the Grand Hotel in Manchester. Switzerland’s national card game, Jass, played a very important part in club activities. The Midlands Hotel in Manchester, which was run for many years by a Swiss, Mr Cottet, was the regular venue for many of the events. Indeed the club’s centenary was celebrated there on the 11th November 1950. Dieter Senn’s cousin, Gustav Senn, founder of Selectus Ltd., was the President at the time.

Today the Club is just as important as it was in its early years and its 117 members continue the tradition with many activities, including such annual favourites as the Raclette Party, Bowling and BBQ, the National Day celebrations, cultural events and Christmas gatherings for our younger family members.

Whilst the requirements for club activities may change in future, there is clearly a continued role for a ‘club’ as a central focus for the still quite large Swiss community in this corner of North West England.

Juerg Bentele, President, Manchester Swiss Club

Meet the Presidents

**JUERG BENTELE, MANCHESTER SWISS CLUB**

Activities such as ‘balls’ and ‘excursions’ had to be missed because of the war.

**In what ways did the Swiss Club Manchester contribute to the Swiss community during World War I?**

The annual report of the Swiss Club Manchester in 1915 describes a drop in membership numbers due to members having to return to Switzerland the previous year for military duty. Despite this, activities such as ‘balls’ and ‘excursions’ had to be missed because of the war. Instead, the club held several social entertainment functions including musical evenings.

**What role did the Swiss Club Manchester play in keeping the Swiss community together?**

The club played a very important role in keeping the Swiss community together by providing good entertainment. There were concerts and several other spin-off clubs, such as a Gymnasts Club (Turnverein), Tennis Club and a Rifle Club, and of course the Swiss Relief Society. A library was kept at the Grand Hotel in Manchester.

**What are some of the club’s most memorable events?**

Some of the most interesting and revealing entries were written during the Great War. The club’s centenary was celebrated on the 11th November 1950, with Dieter Senn’s cousin, Gustav Senn, founder of Selectus Ltd., serving as the President at the time.

**What are some of the current club activities?**

Today, the club is just as important as it was in its early years and its 117 members continue the tradition with many activities, including annual favourites like the Raclette Party, Bowling and BBQ, the National Day celebrations, cultural events, and Christmas gatherings for younger family members.

**How has the club evolved since its formation in 1850?**

The club has evolved to meet the changing needs of the Swiss community in Manchester. Despite evolving requirements, there is clearly a continued role for a ‘club’ as a central focus for the still quite large Swiss community in this corner of North West England.