

# REGIONAL EDITION

## UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

### EDITORIAL

Dear readers, I hope you all had a good summer despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic. This period of the year is normally the occasion for returning to Switzerland to visit our loved ones and the ideal time to propose community gatherings with other compatriots.

■ Unfortunately, many of us were not able to spend some holidays in Switzerland, nor even to organise traditional celebrations of the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

■ During this long period of limitations, the online community

of Swiss expatriates became a virtual place where many had the chance to share questions, concerns and also happy moments with other members. This has brought relief and support for many people during the lockdown. For this reason, we will publish some highlights from the Facebook community group 'Swiss in the UK'. Some members engaged in a photographic online competition. Read the next pages to find out who the talented winners are!



GIOIA PALMIERI,  
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

### JOB OPPORTUNITY: TEACHING ENGLISH IN SWITZERLAND, 'A DREAM COME TRUE'



'I had always dreamed about living in Switzerland ever since I was a child collecting Globi books and counting down the days until the next visit to Basler Fasnacht', tells Swiss Review Ben Tite 30 years old, born and raised in the UK but with a Swiss mother from Basel. He is now a Sprachassistent (language teaching assistant) in Zurich. He studied in the UK to become a secondary English teacher and a teacher of English as a Foreign Language. For this reason, he decided to move to Zurich after applying to the exchange programme offered by Movetia, the Swiss national agency for the promotion of exchanges and mobility in the education system.

Movetia runs a popular project which gives young students and graduates from abroad the opportunity to work as language teaching assistants in Swiss grammar schools. The programme is also for Swiss living abroad who were either born in a country where English, German, French, Spanish or Italian is the official national language or have lived there from the age of four. The paid position begins after the summer holidays and usually last for a whole school year. But Ben has been employed at KV School in Zurich since 2018 and he is still working there. 'I applied not knowing where in German speaking Switzer-

land I would end up, but I am very glad that KV Zurich decided to go for me because it has been a dream to work there'.

'Although I understood some Swiss German, had travelled the length and breadth of the country and knew that I preferred a mature Gruyeres on the dinner table, I didn't feel like I had truly earned my Swiss passport. So when I discovered the Movetia programme, it was like a dream come true'.

In his first year, he started off with a standard Sprachassistent timetable. 'I taught 16 lessons per week focusing on speaking activities. As a teacher used to trying to keep 32 British teens in line, it was like I had died and gone to teacher heaven! In the second year I took on a secondary contract, acting as one of the three regular teachers of a new concept class focused on gaining the Berufsmatura. Both personally and professionally, my experience has exceeded my wildest expectations'. Originally he was only supposed to stay in Zurich one year before heading back to the UK.

But the experience has been so positive for Ben that he decided to confirm his position at KV School. 'Two years of living in this area has allowed my Swiss-German to improve to the extent that I get to know the Swiss side of my family in a

completely different light and we are much closer for it. My colleagues have all been incredibly kind and supportive. Their constant optimism has really given me the confidence to try out new things in my lessons as well as embark on a professional journey that I thought would be impossible for someone who hadn't grown up in Switzerland'. Ben is now in the process of applying for the Swiss Lehrdiplom in order to continue working as a fully recognised and permanent teacher of English.

'I think the Movetia programme would be perfect for any Swiss abroad who, like me, would love to live and work in Switzerland but don't feel confident enough in their language abilities or foreign qualifications to simply go out there looking for jobs. Particularly for students or those on gap years, the 16 lessons working week gives you plenty of time to travel around, make friends, learn a language and gain some work experience and qualifications. It basically gives you the time and flexibility to decide what you want to do with your life and makes the option of settling permanently in Switzerland much more achievable as you build relationships and connections'.

GIOIA PALMIERI

For more info:  
[www.movetia.ch/en/](http://www.movetia.ch/en/)

### Secure your citizens' rights after Brexit

Swiss citizens and their family members who intend to remain in the UK beyond 2020 have to apply before June 2021 for a new residence status under the UK's EU Settlement Scheme, called settled or pre-settled status. Swiss citizens with a British spouse and who already have a 'document certifying permanent residence' are also affected by this new residence scheme and therefore need to apply. Furthermore we strongly encourage those with 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' to also apply for the new scheme. However, Swiss citizens who have acquired British citizenship are exempt from this requirement and do not need to apply. For detailed information on the scheme, please visit:

[www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit](http://www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit)  
[www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](http://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)



Don't be late - remember the date!

**June 2021**

### SETTLEMENT SCHEME: SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

To support the Swiss Community in the UK, the Swiss Benevolent Society has been approved and registered as an advisor by the UK government to help Swiss citizens through the Settlement Scheme application process. If you know of a Swiss citizen unable to complete the application and not able to rely on family members, please contact the Swiss Benevolent Society on 020 7836 9119 (available Tuesdays and Wednesdays only).



More info: [www.swissbenevolent.org.uk](http://www.swissbenevolent.org.uk)

### LONDON: CHANGES AT THE EMBASSY

**François Voeffray**, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, is leaving London after four years. He has been appointed by the Federal Council as Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kingdom of Sweden. He will take up his new role in Stockholm in October.

His successor **Chantal Moser** is arriving from Switzerland. For the past four years she has worked at the Directorate for European Affairs in Berne, as Head of the Sectoral Policies Section.

### ENQUIRIES: THE REGIONAL CONSULAR CENTRE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESSES

The Regional Consular Centre (RCC) has adapted its activities to ensure the safety of customers and staff. Whenever possible, consular matters are being dealt with by email and post. Where personal presence is required, an appointment must be arranged and the use of face masks is compulsory for our visitors.

The walk in service is no longer available and in order to comply with social distancing guidelines, only a limited number of appointments can be offered per day. Visitors without a confirmed appointment with the RCC will not be allowed to enter the Embassy's premises.

The RCC is working hard to deal with the substantial backlog of passport and identity card applications due to COVID-19. We are also facing an unusually high volume of consular inquiries such as civil status affairs, registrations etc. Our consular team appreciates your understanding that it may take longer than usual to renew your Swiss identity documents or to deal with your enquiries.

### SCOTLAND: 'THAT'S THE SPIRIT', 10 MILES RUN THROUGH EDINBURGH

Exactly on the day the Grand Prix of Berne – a famous 10 miles run through the old Swiss Capital – would have taken place, a Scottish couple paid a surprise 'running' visit to the Consulate General in Edinburgh on their, instead, 10 miles run through the City of Edinburgh. They have rescheduled their participation in the Bernese run and already look forward to next year's edition.

PETER MULLER-MCDOUGALL, HON. CONSUL GENERAL IN SCOTLAND



A Scottish couple paid a surprise 'running' visit to the Consulate General.

## LONDON SWISS CHURCH: COMMITTED TO STAY CONNECTED IN WORSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP

The past months have left no stone unturned for the Swiss Church, its members and staff. Our main challenge was to find ways to stay connected in worship and friendship and to look after the most vulnerable in our congregation. At the same time, we had to keep the church financially afloat as we faced a huge income gap due to the sudden ending of commercial hirings, our main source of income.

Here are some of the developments we would like to share with the Swiss community:

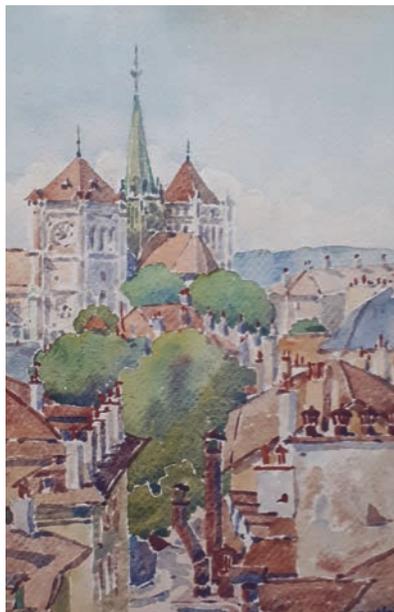
- You can listen to our [Audio church services](#) every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month on [www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk/downloads](http://www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk/downloads). The Swiss Church will resume monthly services from September.
- The Consistoire have called a [Steering Committee](#) consisting of four trustees who lead the church through these unusual times. The Steering Committee is chaired by Barbara Wachter. We also welcome Hassan Mohanna as a new trustee.
- We are delighted to welcome [Artists in Residence Neena Percy and Lizzy Drury](#) ([www.hotdesque.xyz](http://www.hotdesque.xyz)) who will be working at the Swiss Church until October.
- The Swiss Church is now [open for events](#) for up to 28 people. Email [venue@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:venue@swisschurchlondon.org.uk) for enquiries.

## NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY: THE FIRST UK ESIBITION OF MAURICE KASPAR

The New Helvetic Society in London has been keeping its members busy by holding two webinars and its first online Annual General Meeting.

During the first webinar Iris Hunter from Cambridge has shared her experience of translating from German the book called *‘Das grüne Seidentuch’* by Marcella Maier. The second webinar introduced the work of *Maurice André Kaspar* (1892–1946), architect and watercolour artist from Geneva in anticipation of the first UK exhibition at the Royal Watercolour Society’s Bankside Gallery which will take place on 26–31 January 2021.

Lastly the Council would like to thank all members for their participation in the first ever online AGM and for the encouraging feed-backs they have received in the last months. It is a pleasure to entertain the Swiss Community through these hard times.



Should you want to contact the Council with feedback, ideas or requests please do not hesitate to do so by email at: [info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk)



- Although we were unable to organise Swiss National Day, we hope to welcome back [Samichlaus and Schmutzli](#) in December.

Sadly, the following members and friends of the Swiss Church have passed away: Albert Bertin (1925–2020), Eric Escoffey (1926–2020), Elsie Constable (1923–2020), Jean-Jacques Zwicky (1925–2020). They have been hugely committed to the Swiss Church throughout their lives and will be fondly remembered.

REVEREND CARLA MAURER

If you would like to support the work of the Swiss Church, please find the donation options on [www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk/donate](http://www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk/donate)

### Quest for Paintings by my mother: Selma Vaz Dias

My mother, Selma, was Swiss by her marriage to my father, Dr Hans Werner Egli, a Foreign Correspondent for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. She was an actress of stage and screen under her maiden name, Selma Vaz Dias.

In the early 1960s she began painting which brought her a whole new lease of life and she became totally absorbed by it until her death in 1977.

I am trying to locate paintings and drawings by Selma that may have been sold or given to members of the Swiss Community during the 60s and 70s, with a view to holding an exhibition of her work.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who may own or know the whereabouts of any works by Selma, perhaps handed down by parents or friends.

She had a very distinctive signature of which you can see an example of here:



SUZANNAH STACK EGLI

If you have anything to share please contact me on: [selmavazdiaspaintings@outlook.com](mailto:selmavazdiaspaintings@outlook.com)

**ONLINE COMMUNITY: FACEBOOK GROUP 'SWISS IN THE UK' PHOTO COMPETITION**

**COMPETITION 1: GREETINGS FROM SWITZERLAND 2020**

**WINNER**



**COMPETITION 2: STAYCATION IN THE UK 2020**

**WINNER**

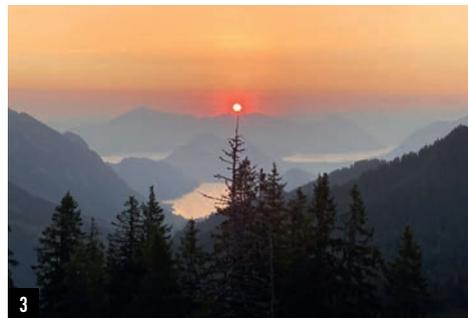


1: Photographed by **Laura Ogi**  
Photo location: Zermatt, CH; 7.8.20

2: Photographed by: **Andrea Allio**  
Photo location: near Larschi, 1583m, Wallis, CH, 7.8.20

3: Photographed by: **Maria Buse**  
Photo location: Jänzi Obwalden, CH, 1.8.20

**RUNNERS-UP**



**RUNNERS-UP**



4: Photographed by: **Angela Heeb**  
Photo location: Loch Muidhe in Rogart, Scotland, 16.8.20

5: Photographed by: **Jasmin Lüchinger**  
Photo location: Sennen Cove, Cornwall, 9.8.20

6: Photographed by: **Christian Henning**  
Photo location: Kirkby Lonsdale, 9.8.20

**1<sup>ST</sup> OF AUGUST WISHES FROM 'SWISS IN THE UK' FB PAGE**

Greetings from the community of the Facebook group 'Swiss in the UK' for the 1<sup>st</sup> of August celebration:



**Franziska** (Gillingham, Kent, southeast UK)

A small fabric decorative heart I made for the 1<sup>st</sup> August for the daughter of a dear Swiss friend who lived nearby but sadly died in May. They both spent the 1<sup>st</sup> August last year with us, so it's in memory of Franziska Beeler-Camenzind. She died aged 56.



**Brigitte Hyam-Ammann** (St. Austell, Cornwall)

We are a small family, my dad Peter Szekely, and me. My dad lives in extra care housing so I can only visit with PPE this year. Times are difficult, but it was so nice to be able to celebrated this day with my father.



**Joe & Alison Broggini**, (London)

The London Brogginis' celebrated the occasion with a tasty barbecue and trimmings. During the late summery evening with a glass or two of prosecco under the lit Swiss lamps. Best wishes to all and keep safe.



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**MANCHESTER: A MESSAGE FOR CLUB'S MEMBERS**

No news is good news. I wish I could say this at the present time. We have had lots of news in recent months, but, sadly, most of it has been bad. Who would have thought early this year that Covid-19 would have had such a devastating effect in the world. We are being bombarded with facts and figures on how successful or unsuccessful our government and NHS are in trying to combat this terrible pandemic. Most of us feel frustrated and helpless with this situation.

I've been asking myself, what can I do to spread a little happiness. I know there are many people who live on their own and have very little contact with family, neighbours and friends, as they follow the tough government guidelines of the lockdown in the Greater Manchester Area. Why don't we telephone friends and neighbours every now and again to see how they are getting on? I did this and was pleasantly surprised of how receptive people were. They were so grateful that somebody was thinking of them. It takes so little effort at times to make somebody happy.

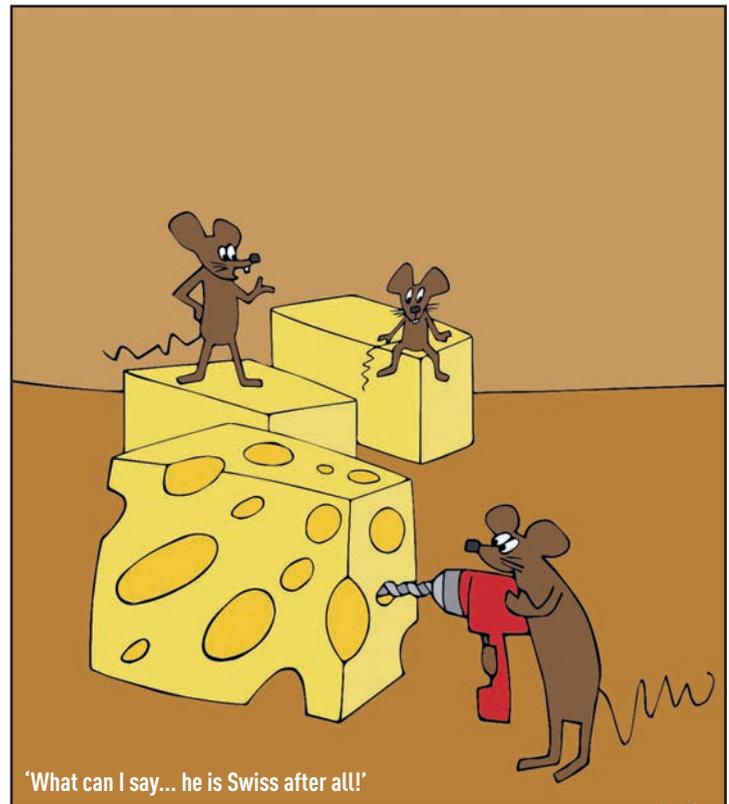
We must never lose hope and try and stay positive in our daily lives. On behalf of the Swiss Club Committee I wish you much strength, courage and optimism with the belief that we can beat this pandemic.

I also hope that we can resume our club activities again in the near future. Our Committee will keep in touch with you.

JUERG BENTELE

PRESIDENT SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

**VIKI: A CARTOON FOR THE SWISS IN THE UK**



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**Christine Towndrow  
 Designer and Illustrator**

No14 Graphic Design is a design and illustration business set up by Christine Towndrow, an artist based in Chester, UK. As well as creating logos, leaflets and newsletters for clients she designs her own range of artwork to sell online. It's available in her Etsy shop:

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[christinetowndrow@icloud.com](mailto:christinetowndrow@icloud.com)  
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**CORRECTION**

In the last SR issue published on June, on page 3, it has been wrongly reported that '400 Swiss Settled Status applications have been granted'.

The real figure was actually above 400,000 applications at that time.

### 1: UNIONE TICINESE LONDON

During the pandemic – when our President, Emilie, was on the front-line as a doctor at a leading London hospital – we held our first Zoom quiz on Ticino, about its geography, history and culture. We had participants from as far away as Switzerland and I think everyone enjoyed it.

The Unione Ticinese’s five oldest graves, in Kensal Green Cemetery, go back to the 1870s. Using resources from the Vittorio Abate Graves Fund, we have had them restored. The most spectacular result was our very oldest. Not only was it restored, but we have added the names of three members, who died in the 1890s but had previously been unrecorded!

We took photos of before and when it was being worked on at the stonemasons. We have also discovered that there is a Unione Ticinese grave covering deaths between about 1898 and 1914 and intend to locate it – if it still survives!

Lastly three photographs of a Unione Ticinese outing, probably of June 1893 to Richmond Great Park, have come to light. They show carriages proceeding to the location and committee and members proudly grouped around our banner, the predecessor of our current one which dates back to 1924.

PETER BARBER

### 2: WEST SURREY SWISS CLUB

Regretfully West Surrey Swiss Club was unable to celebrate together this year. All we could do in our family was to have lunch with a few members who lived nearby and enjoy the sunshine and create a good atmosphere with some Swiss music and a few decorations in the garden. We hope to make up for it next year!

RUTH CROZIER

### 3: WORLDS END SWISS CLUB

1<sup>st</sup> August celebrations on our own this year. We opted for a Fondue in the summer. We are located in Wendover, Bucks and we only have 5 couples in our community. Our clubs was founded 18

The Unione Ticinese's five oldest graves, in Kensal Green Cemetery, go back to the 1870s.



1a



1b

The grave restored with the added names of three members previously unrecorded.



2

Swiss music and a few decorations in the garden.



3

A proper Swiss Fondue during summer time.



4

A picnic instead of a BBQ for the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

years ago on 27 May 2002. We use to meet three times a year before the pandemic, usually for a Raclette, a traditional Bratwurst on 1st August and for a Christmas Feast.

For more info please contact: [erikastride@icloud.com](mailto:erikastride@icloud.com)

ERIKA STRIDE

### 4: WILHELM TELL GROUP BOURNEMOUTH

The Wilhelm Tell Group Bournemouth celebrated the first of August on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> not with a BBQ and extensive buffet as in all the previous years but with a picnic everyone brought their own, socially distanced in the New Forest. It was wonderful to meet up after such a long time and it felt almost normal for a few hours, we were 24 of us (normally around 50).

A provisional date for skittles is 30. Oct and Raclette Evening on 5. Dec. but nothing is certain at this time.

TRUDY BRYAN

### 5: SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH

Like all over, events of the Swiss Club Edinburgh had to be cancelled. Sadly there was no annual dinner and no 1. August celebration.

Some peoples stayed in contact over the phone. When the country finally started to open up, friends went together for walks or did garden visits, while of course keeping the distance. The ‘Stammtisch’ decided to continue over Zoom. While this is not the same as meeting in person in the restaurant, but on the other hand, this was the chance to joining the group online for those who live too far away to come for a couple of hours.

Probably part of the Swiss club is about making friends and being connected in these difficult times.

I am very much looking forward to resume meeting in person as a Swiss Club again.

RUTH MUHEIM

**HELVETIC KITCHEN: RAMEQUINS AU FROMAGE / CHÄSCHÜECHLI**

If you'd like to try it for yourself, recipes for this and other Swiss specialties can be found at [www.helvetickitchen.com](http://www.helvetickitchen.com)

**For the pastry:**

Mix together 200 g flour and 1 tsp salt, then rub in 80 g cold butter with your hands or a pastry blender. Add 125 ml cold water, mixing gently until it all comes together. Gather the dough into a disc, wrap in plastic, and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.

Roll out your dough, cut large rounds, and line a standard 12 cup muffin tin.

Preheat oven to 200° C / 400° F / gas mark 6.

**For the filling:**

Whisk together 150 ml milk, 125 ml cream, 3 eggs, a pinch of nutmeg, salt and pepper. Add 300 g grated cheese (any hard cheese – Gruyère, Appenzeller, Vacherin etc, or a mix of a few kinds, will work), and mix well.

Place your muffin tin on a baking sheet, then scoop the cheese mixture into each cup.

Bake for about 25 minutes, or until the top is slightly browned and the filling has set.

**OBITUARIES: SWISS CITIZENS LIVING IN THE UK RECENTLY PASSED AWAY****SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH**

**Christa Ellis**, 21 February 1935 to 7 February 2020. Christa was a trained Nurse when she came to live with her Swiss mother and her British step father in London. It was in the early seventies when she met her future husband Donald. The couple married in 1973 and had two children. A daughter and a son. Five years ago, a grandson arrived. Christa was a member of the Swiss Club Edinburgh for many years. This winter, after a short illness, Christa passed away peacefully. She will be missed by all who knew her.

**Erna Webber**, 1 January 1928 to 7 April 2020.

She came to Scotland in 1950, after completing her training as a pharmacist, with the aim of learning the English language. Like many of her generation, she took on a position as au pair with a Scottish family where she met her husband. The couple married in 1957 and had 2 daughters, several grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was an active member of the Swiss Club Edinburgh. Sadly James passed away in 2014. Erna remained in the family home, where she passed away peacefully at the age of 92.

**SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER**

**Jacqueline Lowe**, former committee member of the Manchester Swiss Club died peacefully on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 awaiting the BBC Queen's broadcast and the arrival of her son to watch with her. She was 94. Jacqui from Erlenbach /Zh first came to the UK in May '48 to the household of her future husband Ken, on the Bosley Cloud near Congleton. They married in March 1951 and had 2 sons. She continued to host the popular Swiss Club annual bowling event on the lawn in front of her home in Prestbury until 2016 and then moved to Wellington. Jacqui derived enormous pleasure from her Swiss Club's activities. She is survived by her son Anthony, her 2 daughters-in-law and her 5 grandchildren of whom she was enormously proud.

**UNIONE TICINESE**

It is with deep regret that we announce the death, on 7 July 2020, at the age of 96 of **Desmond Clements**, the husband of Lydia née de Maria.

We also remember the passing of our members and friends **Annetta Diviani** and **Ron Ratcliffe**.

**Erna Webber****Jacqueline Lowe**

Obituaries of Swiss citizens living in the UK recently passed away can be published in the September issue of the Swiss Review. Please send an email to: [editor@swissreview.co.uk](mailto:editor@swissreview.co.uk)

**IMPRESSUM**

HOW TO CONTACT THE EDITOR: Reports of Swiss society activities, news, coming events, correspondence, articles and advertising for the 'Switzerland in the UK & Ireland' section of the Swiss Review, should go to the editor:

GIOIA PALMIERI  
108 Anfield Road  
L4 0TE, Liverpool

Tel: 077 10837735  
mail: [editor@swissreview.co.uk](mailto:editor@swissreview.co.uk)

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[www.on-idle.com](http://www.on-idle.com)

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**Next Issues**

The Swiss Review is published six times a year. Its 'Switzerland in the UK & Ireland' supplement is out four times a year: January, April, June and September.