

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Editorial

This issue is full of mysteries, masterclasses and music.

- *Road names can commemorate the great or good, many are given the name of the town to which they lead or the commerce and industry found along them. Biddulph in North Staffordshire lies in an area best known for coal mining, steel production and the potteries. So why did the town come to name two of its streets after Swiss cities?*
- *A group of charming but cheeky, beer-swilling lads (this is how they describe themselves) from Basel, dressed in*

breeches and braces, are about to sing their way into your hearts. They have already wooed audiences in America, France, Latvia and of course, Switzerland. Their UK concert tour should be no different.

- *And staying with the Arts, a young Swiss actress who recently joined the Embassy's Facebook campaign – ch-creatives - to introduce its friends and followers to Swiss artists living and working in the UK, offers readers a quick Master class in the art of acting.*



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

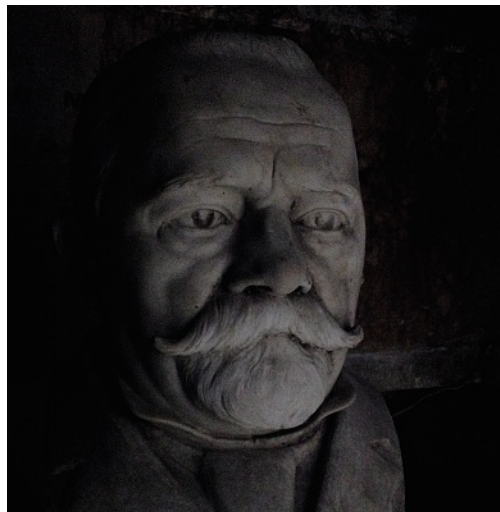
History: The mysterious bust of Pietro Pazzi

Pietro Pazzi (1848–1914) was a great-uncle of Peter and Louis Jacomelli, who will be remembered by many readers as leading members of the *Unione Ticinese* in London.

Pazzi was involved in dramatic incidents at the time of the liberal Ticinese revolution of 11 September 1891. Not only did this north London restaurateur, who was a political radical, take part in the Revolution itself, he was also rumoured to have been responsible for smuggling Angelo Castioni, a stone carver and fellow-revolutionary, accused of murdering a conservative politician, back to England.

The failure of Swiss attempts to secure Castioni's extradition established the principle of immunity for political crimes in English law.

Until now, the only known image of



Bust of Pietro Pazzi

Pietro was a photograph of him. Now, by pure chance, a fine but unsigned portrait bust has come to light in the family vault. The bust is amazingly – almost spookily – life-like.

One cannot be certain because virtually no signed work by him has sur-

vived, but the bust is almost certainly the work of Angelo Castioni himself. Castioni was employed to finish the sculptures of other sculptors. A bust would have been the obvious way in which Castioni could have thanked his rescuer. But why was the bust consigned to a vault where it would only ever have been seen by a handful of family members?

We know that Pazzi turned his back on Ticino and became determined to lead the life of an English gentleman following the failure of the September 1891 Revolution. He would have been embarrassed if news of his assistance to Castioni had become public knowledge. It is at least possible that he decided that his own vault was a suitable resting place, after his own death, for a somewhat embarrassing thank-you gift from Castioni.

PETER BARBER, PRESIDENT, UNIONE TICINESE


Culture: Welsh musicians link up with Swiss choir

A new cultural exchange is being formed between a North Wales chamber orchestra and a Swiss choir. Ensemble Cymru will jointly commission a new choral work that will be sung in Welsh and Romansch with the Vokalensemble Incantanti choir.

The exchange programme was unveiled at a special fundraising gala evening staged at Tre-Ysgawen Hall Country House Hotel near Llangefni in February. Vokalensemble Incantanti was chosen as the ensemble is particularly interested in forming close friendships with other minority language communities


ERYL CRUMP, DAILY POST





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Music: The passionate choristers of Basel Knickerbockers, a pair of braces and corduroy jackets...this antiquated look of the Männerstimmen Basel choristers is in stark contrast to the youthfulness of these young men and the freshness of their performances.

Aged between 18 and 32, this energetic choir combines passion and ease both on and off stage. Having a laugh together is just as important as rehearsing and performing. Thanks to a sponsorship deal with a local brewery in their hometown Basel, the choristers' supply of amber nectar is ever-flowing.

In concert, however, everyone is focused and attentive, so much so that they have impressed audiences and juries across the world winning Gold at the World Choir Games – the Olympics of choral singing – in Latvia (2014) and in the USA (2012). That same year they were awarded best

Swiss choir and best male choir at the Montreux Choral Festival.

The choir performs a large repertoire of sacred and secular music from all epochs, along with folk songs and contemporary classical literature, with ardour and style. In 2011, Männerstimmen Basel was recognized with the "Fleischmann International Trophy" for the best interpretation of a contemporary piece.

Although Männerstimmen Basel was officially established only 7 years ago, the choir's musical roots reach far beyond that as the group was founded by former choristers of the Knabenkantorei Basel (Basel Boys Choir).

As well as London, Oxford and Cambridge dates the choir will also be performing at the Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival between 30.04 and 04.05. For details: www.cimvcf.org.uk

Special thanks go to the highly accomplished conductor **Suzi Digby OBE** whose generous support has made this tour possible.



Männerstimmen Basel performing



Männerstimmen Basel *in concert*

SUNDAY 26th APRIL – CAMBRIDGE

2PM / St. Botolph's church - free admission

5:30PM / Queens' College chapel [evensong with Queens' College Choir]

TUESDAY 28th APRIL – LONDON

7.30PM / Swiss Church 79 Endell St, WC2H 9DY

WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL – OXFORD

7.30PM / Merton College Chapel - free admission

Arts: Swiss at top dance event in Dublin

The Dublin Dance Festival in May is the leading dance event on the Irish arts calendar and this year two of Switzerland's leading contemporary dancers and choreographers will be performing at the 10-day event.

Thomas Hauert founded his company ZOO in Brussels in 1998. That same year the dance group created the award-winning 'Cows in Space', which picked up a prize at the renowned Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis and became an immediate hit at venues in Belgium and abroad. Since then Hauert has created over 15 performances with ZOO. His latest solo work, (sweet) (bitter), can be seen at the Dublin Festival. This dance interacts with the baroque madrigal *Si dolce è'l tormento* composed by Claudio Monteverdi on a text by Carlo Milanuzzi. Hauert interprets this musical poem of impossible love as the expression of a conflict between the bliss of pursuing an ideal and the torment of knowing that this ideal will stay unreachable.

Tabea Martin studied Modern Theatre Dance at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in Amsterdam. She is active as a choreographer and performer and is based between Amsterdam, Basel and Zürich. In her choreography, Tabea focuses more on the creative process than the actual end result:



Zoo dance company



Performing FIELD

losing one's way, confronting the unknown, leaping hurdles, dealing with the emotions that arise, or discovering the unexpected. The performance titled FIELD was premiered in Basel in 2014 and sees three dancers longing for something to happen, for some explosion. They fight fiercely for love, for affection, for recognition.

When: 19th – 30th May



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Embassy of Switzerland in the United Kingdom

Regional Consular Centre London

PASSPORTS AND IDENTITY CARDS

Information for Swiss nationals resident in IRELAND and NORTHERN IRELAND

The Regional Consular Centre in London (RCC) wishes to inform you that a staff member will visit Dublin (Swiss Embassy) with the mobile biometric station on the following dates:

14 – 16 July 2015

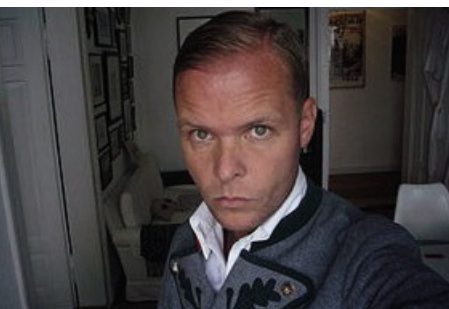
(deadline for appointments: 1 July 15)

1 – 3 December 2015

(deadline for appointments: 20 November 15)

Since the introduction of the biometric passport it has been necessary for applicants to attend in person. The mobile biometric passport station permits biometric data to be recorded for the issuing of identity documents (passports and/or identity cards) in the Swiss Embassy in **Dublin**.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, **please contact the RCC** to book an appointment, tel. +44 (0)20 7616 6000 (option 2), or rcclondon@eda.admin.ch **before the above-mentioned deadlines.**



Christian Kracht, the man of irony

When: Sunday 17th May

Books: The Swiss master of 'tongue in cheek'

Novelist and travel writer Christian Kracht represents Switzerland at this year's Dublin International Literature Festival. Kracht is considered to be one of the most important contemporary writers in German. He had his first success with 'Faserland', his debut novel, in 1995. Among the authors who write in German he is considered a master of 'tongue in cheek': his writing is ironic, full of innuendo, occasionally ambiguous. Kracht's style is seen as a result of his dealings with English-speaking pop culture and the fact that he has spent most of his life on different continents, far away from the German literature scene with its language rules and orderly codes. The Swiss author also received the Wilhelm-Raabe Prize for his novel 'Imperium', one of the highest Awards for German literature.

Opera: King Size – Liederabend re-imagined

A couple are trying to sleep in an unfamiliar room, but they feel lost in the huge bed. As their dreams take over they console themselves through songs from Purcell to the Jackson Five via Schumann and Michel Polnareff.

Swiss director and composer, Christoph Marthaler, has long been at the forefront of European theatre. In King Size, first performed in Basel in 2013, he presents a hugely original take on the Liederabend at the Royal Opera House's Linbury Studio Theatre. In Marthaler's hands this traditional 'evening of song' becomes a witty, charming and profound meditation on love and the seduction of dreams.



Sung in English

Image by Simon Hallström

When: 14th – 18th April @ 7.45pm

Where: Linbury Studio Theatre
Royal Opera House

1: City Swiss Club

The City Swiss Club enjoyed another lovely evening with Armin at the St Moritz. There were 21 members and friends who tucked into a delicious array of meats and other accompaniments to the traditional Raclette. This time, we were all seated in the basement, which gave a real atmosphere of 'après-ski' in the Alps. The wine and the congeniality flowed, thus encouraging another great evening of networking.

LOUISE BLACK

2: Swiss Club Manchester

A frosty winter evening didn't deter 56 members and friends of Switzerland from attending our well-loved Raclette evening. Dieter Senn stood in for our president and welcomed everyone, including some new members, to a festive Hall. Six volunteers worked ably and hard on the three "ovens" and caterers provided the traditional potatoes and salads, as well as delicious desserts and coffee - giving us the chance to chat and circulate. Many helping hands then returned the room to its former English look!

ERIKA WOOD

3: Unione Ticinese

This year Carnevale – and the celebration of the 141st anniversary of the Unione Ticinese's foundation – coincided with Valentine's Day. So naturally the celebrations had an amorous theme. There were red hearts on the tables and red balloons decorated with hearts. The atmosphere too was warm. And in the course of the meal participants read quotations relating to love in Google English (an experience in itself) and



Armin behind the bar



Serving up a delicious dish



Love is in the air



Sandra and Daniel Wenk



Carole and Yasser Ammane

Italian, provided by Joe Brogini. There was risotto ai funghi with bresaola and salame, followed by home-made, heart-shaped brownies and coffee – all accompanied by wine and followed by coffee. Our thanks go to Christiane Barber, Rosalina Rigamonti and to the numerous helpers without whose hard work it could not have happened.

PETER BARBER

4/5: Swiss Club Edinburgh

In January Swiss Club Edinburgh celebrated its Annual Dinner at the Balmoral Hotel. Some 30 members came together in wonderful settings for cocktails and dinner. The views over Princes Street with Edinburgh Castle in the background were spectacular and one could not miss the newest attraction "the trams" which started running, following much controversy, in the spring last year.

We were very happy to introduce four new members, Sandra and Daniel Wenk and Carole and Yasser Ammane to all those present. Daniel and Sandra arrived in Edinburgh early January with a view to open a Swiss Bakery in Edinburgh. I am sure they will have us as first customers once up and running. Carole and Yasser and their three daughters arrived in September and have also settled well into life in Edinburgh. The girls are at school feverishly learning English, as is Carole. Yasser is still commuting between Switzerland and Scotland. The evening finished with long drawn-out goodbyes.

FREDDIE WYSER

To contact all Swiss clubs in the UK visit:
www.swiss-societies.co.uk

Diary: Calendar of Club Events

Manchester Swiss Club

Friday 27th March: AGM in Prestbury Village Hall.

Sunday 31st May: Mai Bummel.

Thursday 25th June: Guided Tour at the Plaza in Stockport.

Swiss Club Edinburgh

Tuesday 28th April: Trip to Abbotsford.

Sunday 21st June: Trip to see the Kelpies.

Midlands Swiss Society

Saturday 24th April: Fondue and AGM at the Trinity Centre, Sutton Coldfield.

For more details, contact Graham Baker: 02476 411736

Swiss Club Ireland

Sunday 19th April: Visit to National Garden Exhibition Centre.

Sunday, 24th May: Visit to the Rock of Cashel and the Swiss Cottage in Tipperary.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOUNDED IN 1703



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AGEING WELL – ARE YOU PREPARED?



A seminar for Swiss citizens and their family/friends living in the UK, explaining the legal necessities to make sure that wishes and needs are addressed before it's too late and explaining opportunities and facilities available in the UK.

2.45pm	Registration
3.00pm	Welcome by Alan Martin, Chairman of the Swiss Benevolent Society
3.05pm	Ageing Well – Speaker: Gordon Deuchars, Age UK London
3.35pm	Q & A
3.50pm	Legal Necessities Explained – Speaker: Brian Coulter, Alexander Shaw Solicitors LLP
4.20pm	Q & A
4.35pm	Light refreshments
5.15pm	End

Date: **Thursday, 23 April 2015**

Location: **Swiss Church in London, 79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY**

Time: **2.45pm – 5.15pm**

Seminar Fee: **£5.00 per person** (to cover refreshments)

Booking is essential as places are limited – first come first served

Contact: J. Crosier, Trustee SBS, c/o Swiss Embassy, 16–18 Montagu Place London W1H 2BQ – E: jeannette.crosier@swissbenevolent.org.uk

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FOSSUK Federation Of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom



Dear Corporate Members, dear friends,
it is our pleasure to invite you to our

Annual General Meeting 2015

which will be held on Saturday 6th June 2015, 11 am at the

Royal Society of Medicine

1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE

Hosted by the Royal Society of Medicine, the AGM will be organised in two parts:

The morning session is set aside for the statutory part of the meeting. It addresses the Federation's past activities and it sets the course for the year ahead 'with announcements of changes in the air'. Whilst the meeting is an open event, only Member Clubs and Societies are eligible to vote.

A 'Working Lunch' will be available at the venue.

In addition, we will have guest speakers. We will be fortunate

to have with us Ambassador Furgler, the Society's Hon. President, and a representative from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Bern (OSA).

The AGM is scheduled to end around 5pm.

Relevant information about AGM proceedings will be published on the FOSSUK website after the 1st May 2015. Please note that for security reasons, all participants must register with name and full address at the Royal Society of Medicine.

On behalf of FOSSUK Committee,
Margrit Lyster

www.swiss-societies.co.uk

FOSSUK Federation Of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Upcoming Event at the Swiss Embassy in London: Retirement and Estate Planning for the Swiss Community in the UK

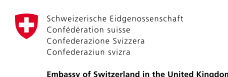
Living in the UK with links to Switzerland (e.g. real estate, pension, other assets) can be complicated when it comes to retirement. Regular adjustments to pension rules and inheritance tax can make it difficult to stay on top of the numerous changes.

In an effort to bring some clarity to this complex matter, address potential pitfalls and to obtain tips on how to best prepare, the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK), in co-operation with the City Swiss Club, the New Helvetic Society, the Unione Ticinese and the Swiss Embassy in London have teamed up for an event entitled '**Retirement and Estate Planning**'. The panel discussion will take place at the Embassy of Switzerland on **Thursday, 10 September 2015** from 18.30 to 20.30.

FOSSUK is delighted that Mr Nicholas Niggli, Head of the Economic, Finance, Science and Innovation Section at the Swiss Embassy in London, has agreed to chair the event. Panel members will include experts from the financial planning industry.

The invitation for this event will be sent out nearer to the date. For non-FOSSUK members: if you are interested in this upcoming event and wish to be added to our invitation distribution list, please send an email to secretary@swiss-societies.co.uk.

In co-operation with:



UNIONE TICINESE
FONDATA IL 18 MARZO 1845

Culture: How to prepare for the theatre

In our continuing series of ch-creatives, in conjunction with the Swiss Embassy and its Facebook page promoting young Swiss artists in the UK, we focus on Nadia Cavelle, a London-based Swiss-Franco actress who recently completed a successful short run as Gloria Gilbert in an adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's "Beautiful Damned" at the Leicester Square Theatre in London.

Here Nadia takes readers through the rigorous process to develop a real-life character for the stage.



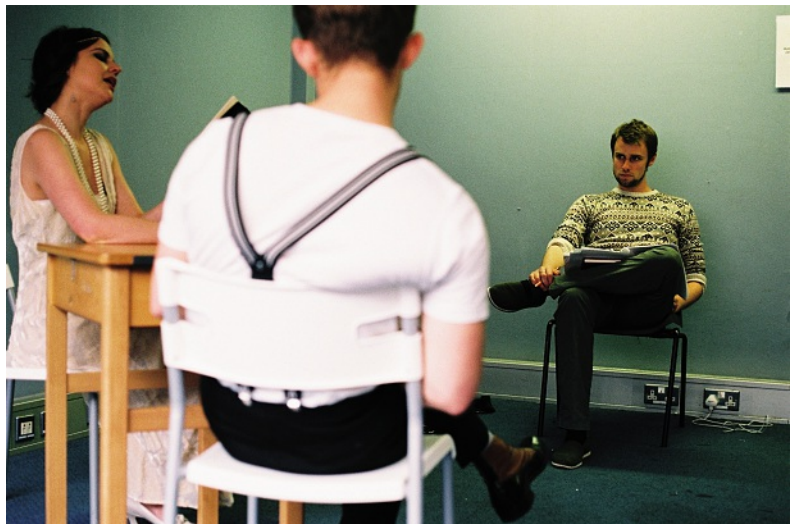
Finding a character is a long process. Week one of rehearsals can be quite painful as you try out lots of things, most of which don't work! Gloria's most obvious trait is her vanity, her disdain for anything that doesn't concern her. I am not vain, but like everyone I have some vanity, which I not only drew on – I let it run wild!

Directors are like compasses; actors would be completely lost at sea without them. They work towards achieving an organic whole and although they are very close to the material, they still stand outside, which allows them to have a more objective approach to the work than the actor. I was lucky in that my director (Ben Weaver-Hincks) also wrote the adaptation, so he was eager to discuss the novel, its main characters and the era in depth before we got up on our feet.



Every performance is different – you can discover new things night after night and figure out how to make things work better for the audience. Strangely enough, your character settles while continuing to evolve – the firmer the grasp you have on it, the freer you'll be to experiment with it within the boundaries of the staging.

Photos by Ben Weaver-Hincks



Social history: Switzerland remembered in a street name

Road names can commemorate the great or good (Victoria Road, Kingsway). Many are given the name of the town to which they lead (London Road, Oxford Street) and some streets are named after the type of commerce or industry that could be found along them. (Smith Street, Haymarket)

Biddulph is described as the 'garden town' of North Staffordshire and its road names seem perfectly fitting to the area. Congleton Road refers to the town of the same name 5 miles to the north. Pennine Way refers to the long stretch of mountains, often described as the backbone of England, that reach as far south as Staffordshire. So how did a town in an area best known for coal mining, steel production and the potteries come to name two of its streets after Swiss cities.



Gustav Senn

The story begins around 1860 in Switzerland when Senn & Co., a ribbon manufacturer from Basel, was a major exporter into the UK enjoying, in common with other companies around the world, the benefits of free trade.



On the factory floor

However, the imposition of import duties on goods brought into Britain starting in 1931 led to a rethink and the logical step for Senn & Co was to move to the UK.

In 1934 a decision was taken by Gustav Senn, the great grandson of the founders, to build a UK factory devoted to the weaving of ribbon. After considering various locations, Biddulph in North Staffordshire was chosen; a town on the fringe of an established textile area. A year later work got underway to build the Selectus factory on a 16-acre green field site on the town's outskirts.

When production started at the Uplands in 1936, 10 Swiss employees were brought over to train local labour in warping, quill winding, weaving, blocking and administration. Some of these 'come-overs' stayed less than a year, but half of them remained and were still on site when war broke out.

Following the end of hostilities in 1945, Gustav and two friends decided to finance the building of homes adjacent to the factory. On completion most

of the 76 houses were sold to the local authority. It is thought this was one of the first housing estates built in the UK after the war. Gustav would refer to it as his war effort!

Business continued to grow during the next 50 years and Selectus employed over 400 workers in its heyday. But jobs were lost from the early 90s due to ongoing restructuring.

In 1999 the company sold its UK Velcro trademark. This had a drastic effect on the retained ribbon business and employment levels. Despite a move to China in 2006 to be nearer the new, emerging markets, Selectus closed four years later. The 16-acre Uplands site at Biddulph was bought by a well-known property developer.

As a reminder and thank you to the Senn family for their contribution to the local economy for more than seventy years two street names in the new housing development were named after Swiss cities, hence Geneva Way and Lucerne Road.

THANKS TO DIETER SENN FROM MANCHESTER SWISS CLUB FOR SHARING THIS STORY.

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:

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DESIGN:

Implemented by Marc Peter – on-IDLE Ltd
www.on-idle.com

The deadline for the next UK issue is **24th April**
Date of publication: **27th May**

Next Issues

The Swiss Review, with its 'Switzerland in the UK' supplement, is published six times a year (four with the UK supplement) in February, April, June, August, October, December.