

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

EDITORIAL

Dear all, 2020 did not wait to put us all to the test. A few weeks after Brexit became official, the world is now facing the threat of Covid-19. It is really important to follow the advice and measures put in place by the governments and local authorities.

■ *This second issue of the Swiss Review features prof. Franz Muheim's (Member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad) reflections after Britain's exit from the EU. We are publishing again the official provisions of the Swiss Embassy on Settled Status. At*

this stage, it is very important to ensure that everyone applies and is put in the condition to do so, especially the most vulnerable people.

■ *Looking towards the Easter season, we asked Andie Pilot for advice on a traditional Swiss recipe. Andie is a very popular food blogger and, starting from this issue, she will offer us tips and ideas on the best of the 'Helvetic Kitchen'.*



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

BREXIT: 'THE CONCERNS OF THE SWISS IN THE UK ARE KNOWN BY OUR GOVERNMENT'



On the 1st of February Brexit became a reality. United Kingdom has now left the EU and embarked on a new course. For the time being, however, the departure of the UK will not change anything for citizens or companies. But it's a temporary state of affairs.

While London and Brussels have 10 months – until December 31 – to negotiate a new trade deal, it will indeed be business as usual for the about 35k Swiss in Britain and the 43k Brits in Switzerland. When the transition period expires, the citizens' rights agreement signed by the two countries will safeguard the existing rights of their respective citizens. But this can not completely swipe up the preoccupations and feelings of a large part of foreign residents, Swiss citizens' concerns included.

We asked Franz Muheim – President of Fossuk and member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) – for his opinion straight after the UK's official departure from the EU.

Swiss Review: As a professor, family man and Swiss citizen living here, how have you personally lived all the Brexit process since the referendum?

Franz Muheim: When I woke up on 24 June 2016 I was not surprised that the UK voted to leave, but I knew that the world had gotten colder. I have lived in the UK for over 20 years and the very open society where everyone was welcome to contribute has been hijacked by this government. My family is settled here and we will now need to apply for Settled Status. As this system will invariably cause problems down the line, we will then apply for UK citizenship. This should be a happy occasion, but it feels more like a chore.

Professionally, the uncertainty for what will happen is difficult to deal with. The UK has some of the best universities in the world. It has

profited tremendously from being open and attracted large numbers of excellent scientists in the last two decades.

At the University of Edinburgh I have been able to build up a large research group working at particle physics laboratories world-wide, including CERN. This shows that world class research does not stop at borders. For the UK to play in the Champions League of research, it needs to be able to continue to participate in the European research framework (Horizon 2020). This is all up in the air now. In addition, to attract the best people, they need to be convinced that the UK is a good place to live, feel welcome and to raise a family. We already had fewer applications for research positions and this is not a coincidence.

SR: What kind of worries and concerns have you collected from the Swiss citizens so far?

FM: As a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad I have been involved in making sure that the concerns of the Swiss living in the UK are known by the Swiss government. Thankfully Switzerland was proactive and signed a treaty with the UK already a year ago, which at least clarified the situation. While professionals like me should be fine, as there is no registration in the UK, people who raise children or care for elderly relatives and do not have salaried positions might have difficulties to prove that they have lived in the UK. Several retired Swiss people have told me that they feel offended for having to apply to stay in the country where they have lived, worked, raised families and paid taxes for many decades. Young people often work with minimum wage salaries and will be in trouble if salary thresholds would get implemented. What is also sad, is that when studying in the UK they will not be able to participate anymore in ERASMUS, the university exchange programme which opens up so many opportunities for the young. However the current legislation could be changed on a whim by a government trying to please its extremist wing.

CSA: MARCH MEETING CANCELLED, NEXT TO BE IN LUGANO

To mitigate against the risk of coronavirus, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) cancelled the meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) due to take place in Bern on 14 March at short notice. 'The foreign ministry (EDA) has made it clear to us that the current trend is to cancel events. It has drawn our attention to the international component of the Council of the Swiss Abroad and the relatively

high average age of the delegates,' says OSA's management. 'This represents two risk factors, and finally there is also the potential risk of quarantine'. Our dedicated UK Delegates will keep working to defend the Swiss abroad community and look forward to the next CSA meeting in August in Lugano.



Photo by Wolfgang Hasselmann.

LONDON: THE PROGRAMME FOR THE UPCOMING 55TH FOSSUK CONGRESS & CULTURAL WEEKEND

It is with great excitement that we are announcing the programme for the upcoming 55th Congress and Cultural Weekend of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK) which will take place in London from the 5th to the 7th of June 2020.

The FOSSUK AGM will be held at the Swiss Embassy London on Saturday, 6th June 2020. The meeting itself will commence at 2pm, with registration opening at 1.30pm.

We are honoured to announce the presence of *His Excellency Ambassador Fasel* alongside representatives from the Swiss Embassy and from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA), and delighted to welcome the President of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad (OSA) – *Remo Gysin* – and the UK Delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA).

After the AGM, the cultural programme will commence. An introduction to *'The Life & Works*

of Maurice André Kaspar 1892–1946 – A Swiss Watercolour Artist and Architect Revealed' will be presented by his grandson *René Dee*, followed by a drinks reception kindly offered by *HE Ambassador Fasel* at the Embassy.

On the evening of Friday 5th, June participants are invited to gather in the iconic flagship Victorinox store on New Bond Street.

Franz Muheim – Professor of Particle Physics at the University of Edinburgh – will present an overview of his research with a focus on the LHCb experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research. He will highlight the importance of international collaboration, in particular one led by UK and Swiss physicists, to enable experimentation of high-energy physics research.

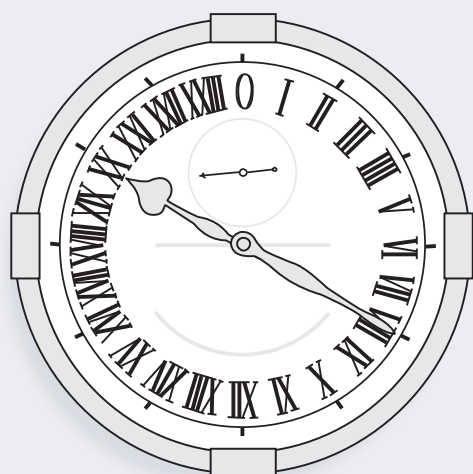
Throughout the evening participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine

and Swiss specialties. The evening is being hosted by the 'New Helvetic Society' and 'Unione Ticinese London'.

The cultural programme resumes on the morning of Sunday 7th June when participants will be guided through a special tour of Greenwich, a popular London Borough on the banks of the River Thames.

Known for its maritime history, it's home to the Cutty Sark, a restored 19th-century tea clipper, the impressive National Maritime Museum, and the classical buildings of the Old Royal Naval College. The modern O2 arena sits on a peninsula to the north. Overlooking peaceful Greenwich Park, the Royal Observatory is the site of the Greenwich meridian line.

All event details and booking information can be found on the FOSSUK website: www.swiss-societies.co.uk



ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES UK FOSSUK 2020

FRIDAY 5TH JUNE – Scientific Talk at Victorinox

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE – AGM & Reception at the Embassy

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE – Greenwich Walking Tour

EMBASSY NEWS

SETTLED STATUS: SWISS CITIZENS MUST APPLY TO STAY IN THE UK AFTER 2020

Swiss citizens (and their non-UK family members) wishing to remain in the UK must apply for a new residence status under the EU Settlement Scheme, called settled or pre-settled status.

Acquiring settled or pre-settled status will allow Swiss citizens to continue to live, study and work in the UK, to have access to public funds and services and to go on to apply for British citizenship if they wish to do so. Applications are free of charge. The deadline to apply is 30 June 2021.

➤ You...

- ... do need to apply if you are married to a British citizen but do not have British citizenship.
- ... do need to apply for your children who have Swiss or Swiss-EU dual citizenship, but do not have British citizenship.
- ... do not need to apply if you have Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) and have the necessary documents to prove ILR status; but we recommend that you do, as you will have additional benefits with settled status.
- ... cannot apply if you have Swiss-UK dual nationality, as you already have full residence rights.

For further information on how to start your application and other frequently asked questions, visit the UK government website www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

and our Brexit FAQ page www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit which is regularly updated.

IMPORTANT NOTE: SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

To support the Swiss Community in the UK, the Swiss Benevolent Society (www.swissbenevolent.org.uk) has been approved and registered as Advisor by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) 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** (Tuesdays and Wednesdays only).

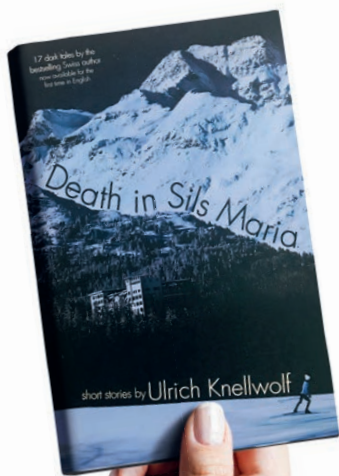
USEFUL LINKS: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The situation with regard to Coronavirus (COVID-19) keeps evolving. For information and advice related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) please consult the up-to-date information provided by the UK and Swiss authorities, and the World Health Organization (WHO):

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.bag.admin.ch

www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus



BOOK REVIEW: 'DEATH IN SILS MARIA' NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ENGLISH

Death in Sils Maria is a great collection of ruthlessly gripping crime stories.

The charming mountain village of Sils Maria in the Engadin with its castle-like luxury hotel in the forest hides many horrible secrets. This is the first English translation – made by Iris Hunter – of Ulrich Knellwolf's well-known 'Tod in Sils Maria – 17 üble Geschichten', which was published in German in 2009.

That version had grown out of the original publication of 1993 that had just 13 stories.

The tales are evocative of beautiful sunlit slopes, elegant candle-lit dinners, drinks in exclusive bars, strenuous hikes over the frozen lakes in blizzard conditions and invigorating off-piste runs through the deep soft snow.

To order the book or get more information, please visit the website: deathinsilsmaria.co.uk

HOLOCAUST: THE STORY OF MRS MARTHE BADER-WEIL

This year, Holocaust Memorial Day (27th of January) coincided with the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Survivors and international leaders have honoured the victims with memorial events and services held all over the world. We publish here the contribution of a Swiss Review's reader from Worcester, who kindly sent us this article and historic documents to pay tribute to his great-aunt.

My father's aunt Marthe was born in 1890 in Basel, the daughter of middle-class parents. The family could trace its roots in neighbouring Alsace to the time of Louis IV (The Sun King) from synagogue records collated before the second world war. Swiss Jews were restricted to living in two ghetto villages, Oberendingen and Lengnau, but when Jewish emancipation finally came in 1874, in response to pressure from France, many people from Alsace emigrated to Switzerland.

Marthe went to school in Basel and married a Jew, but the marriage ended in divorce. She moved to Paris, where she met and married Marcel Bader, a gentile. When the Nazi invasion



Photo by Beat Mumenthaler, Swiss portrait photographer.

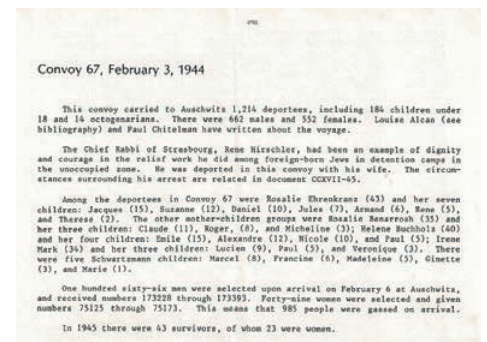
threatened to engulf Paris, they fled to Normandy. With a gentile surname, and not being known locally, they believed themselves safe. However, she was sufficiently concerned about her safety to take advantage of El Salvador's ambassador's offer to all Jews to receive Salvadorian nationality. Unfortunately, this could not save her. Marthe was outed, either by a collaborator or the French police doing the Nazis' bidding. She was arrested and deported from Drancy on Convoy 67 by train in early February 1944. On arrival at Auschwitz, as a middle class, middle aged woman, she was selected as unfit for labour and immediately sent to the gas chambers.

In the period 1933–38, the Swiss government became progressively restrictive towards the increasing number of German Jews wanting to escape persecution. After the Anschluss of Austria this attitude extended to that country as well. Switzerland was implicated in promoting the measure for Germany to mark the German passports of Jews with a red J (for Jude) stamp, as a result of which many would-be Jewish refugees were turned away at the border.

When word of Marthe's fate reached her family, they feared that this news would completely devastate her grandmother who lived in the same household and they resolved to never reveal the truth. As many people lost contact with their families in the maelstrom of war, this fiction was more readily credible. My great

grandmother lived to the age of 99, never doubting this version. She herself was born in Mulhouse as a French woman but became German after the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, becoming French again at the end of the First World War. Luckily, she then emigrated to Switzerland otherwise she would have shared Marthe's fate.

DR THOMAS BLOCH



EXHIBITION: THE LAST SWISS SURVIVORS

Estimates put the number of Holocaust survivors living in Switzerland at around 400. In 2016, some of them were photographed by Beat Mumenthaler, film-makers and other multimedia journalists. The portraits have been gathered into an exhibition, entitled *The Last Swiss Holocaust Survivors*, on the initiative of the Zurich-based Gamaraal Foundation. More info: last-swiss-holocaust-survivors.ch

NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

A SWISS CULTURAL CLUB IN LONDON:
NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT
THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

We are looking for volunteers to help support our vibrant Swiss Club in London with event organisation, administration and online tasks.

Please contact us via social media or email at info@newhelveticosociety.org.uk

MANCHESTER: THE SWISS CLUB 2020 EVENTS PROGRAMME

- April *17th Friday – Annual General Meeting*
Swiss Relief Society Manchester &
Swiss Club Manchester at Brookdale Club
- June *11th Thursday – Caffee Morning*
11 am to 1 pm at Wilmslow Garden Centre
- July *25th Saturday – Swiss National Day*
Brookdale Club, Bridge Lane, Stockport
- October *8th Thursday – Caffee Morning*
11 am to 1 pm at Wilmslow Garden Centre
- December *6th Sunday – Samichlaus*
Brookdale Club, Bridge Lane, Stockport

SWISS CHURCH: EMERGING DESIGNERS EXHIBITIONS DURING THE LONDON FASHION WEEKS

As I write this column a vibrant yellow bunch of daffodils reminds me that spring is almost here.

March is a busy time at the Swiss Church in London. The first week is dominated by the tenth anniversary of The Swiss Church London- Goldsmiths University Curators’ Exhibition. This year’s exhibition is entitled *In Nihilum*, Latin for ‘into Nothing’. It takes the story of creation of the world, out of nothing or ‘ex nihilio’, as told in Genesis. The story is retold backwards, over six days, starting with a completed world and the church full of exhibits, and ending on the final day with a completely empty space, or nothingness. We were

delighted to have a full house on the opening night, and large audiences during the rest of the week.

Income from commercial events is essential to the continued financial viability of the Swiss Church London. Over the last decade we have established ourselves as a venue for emerging, young designers to exhibit during the quarterly London Fashion Weeks. This February we hosted something rather different. Andy Palfreyman, known to many of you from his street photography exhibitions, staged *Andy’s Catwalk* together with Goldie Magazine. The clothes were sourced from charity shops and modelled by people of all different ages and sizes. Proceeds from the show went to supporting outreach work for the homeless. Another example of reversing the common order of things, and creating something out of nothing.

To deliver Sunday Services, pastoral care and outreach work; to run the Church and stage cultural and commercial activities, we have a dedicated Minister, office team and volunteers. Legally, we are a company limited by guarantee and charity, with a board of trustee directors. We were founded in 1762 as a French-speaking Church, and by tradition still refer to the trustees as being members of the Consistoire. Peter Stäuber, President of the Consistoire, stepped down in January. His wife expecting a baby in late spring, and with a heavy workload as a freelance correspondent for Die Zeit, he no longer felt able to dedicate sufficient enough time to the role. We thank him for his tireless dedication, and wish Peter and Sheena well. So, I would like to appeal to you all for your help. The Swiss Church London needs more trustees. We currently have only seven. Whatever your age or background, you could help. Fund raising, social media and business skills would be particularly appreciated. If you would like to know more, please contact me by email to colin.mcintyre@swisschurchlondon.org.uk

Have a look at our webpage www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk and our Facebook and web pages for more information about forthcoming events. We have a particularly fine series of organ recitals scheduled, with the chance to hear some of Europe’s finest young organists.

COLIN MCINTYRE; TRUSTEE, THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON





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EDINBURGH: EVERYONE CRAZY FOR THE SWISS FONDUE

The Fondue evening of the Swiss club Edinburgh was a great success.

Almost 30 people, including a few new faces, participated. They did not let the dismal weather get in the way of enjoying a fondue prepared by a fantastic team of helpers led by the president of the

club Ruth Muheim. There was ample wine and Williams and Kirsch. After the fondue, we enjoyed a dessert buffet. It was a very pleasant evening, which will be remembered for long. Thanks to Sepp Jans and So Fie for the pictures.



Almost 30 people, including a few new faces, participated.



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www.swiss-societies.co.uk

BINGO AND MERLOT: THE CELEBRATION OF UNIONE TICINESE'S CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the Unione Ticinese – perhaps uniquely among Swiss societies in the UK – obliges it to celebrate the anniversary of its foundation on 8 February 1874.

And that is precisely what we did this 8th of February. About 52 members of all ages gathered in the Swiss Embassy, by kind permission of the Ambassador. Though the décor and surroundings were, it must be admitted, just a little different, it was not difficult, with the food, drink and company, to imagine that we were in a grottino in Ticino.

The meal started with a delicious and abundant minestrone with affettato (cold meats), cheese and bread accompanied by Ticinese merlot, for those who wanted it, followed by generous portions of home-made torta di pane and rounded off with coffee.

Finally, after several years of absence, there was a tombola (better known in the UK as bingo) with generous prizes for the winners. At the end a presentation was made to our long-serving Hon. Vice-President and former membership recruiter-in-chief, Joe Brogginì on the occasion of his recent 80th birthday.

Our thanks go to our president, Emiliè Martinon Hoogenboom, Karin Lanini Arthofer and their families and other helpers.

PETER BARBER



- 1: Karin Lanini Arthofer preparing the minestrone.
- 2: Traditional menu: Minestrone, affettato and Ticinese's Merlot.
- 3: 52 members and friends gathered at the Embassy.
- 4: Joe Brogginì celebrated his 80th birthday. Congratulations!
- 5: After several years of absence, there was a 'tombola' (bingo).

WILHELM TELL GROUP: THE NEW YEAR GATHERINGS CALENDAR

Friday 22nd of May 7pm onwards

Würstli abend at the home of Silvia & Tony

Thank you Silvie and Tony for inviting us to your beautiful home again. Various sausages will be served, please can you bring a salad or cake for the buffet and your own drinks and glasses. Looking forward to a fun evening and hope you are as well.

If anyone interested, please write to silviachappels@gmail.com

Saturday 20th of June at 10.45am

Guided walk in Lymington or just lunch at the Ship Inn

The walk starts at the War Memorial by St. Thomas Church and finishes at The Ship Inn on the Quay and lasts 90 minutes. The guide will tell us lots of interesting tales of murder, mayhem, fire marks and Lymington's history. The private tour costs £5 per person.

Sunday 2nd of August at 11 am onwards

Swiss National Day Barbeque at Linford Bottom

We always have a wonderful day there, whatever the weather! Last Year we were around 54 people and if you get the Swiss Review our group picture is in there!

Bring your own meat or whatever to grill plus a salad or cake for the buffet please and your own drinks/glasses etc, coffee/tea available but it would be helpful if you brought your own mug.

To get more information, please write to Trudy Bryant:
trudybryant44@gmail.com

HELVETIC KITCHEN: OSTERFLADEN—A SWISS EASTER TART

Along with rows of chocolate bunnies and eggs, you'll probably find Osterfladen, or Gâteau de Pâques, in most Swiss bakeries in the weeks leading up to Easter. It's most common form today is a pastry shell filled with a rice or semolina pudding and decorated with powdered sugar.

According to the Culinary Heritage of Switzerland, some form of Osterfladen may date back to as early as 962, though sources are hazy. A potentially similar cake was blessed by a priest in Basel in the 1300s, and other religious texts mention similar Easter offerings, though it is unclear how similar these early Easter cakes are to the ones of today.

ANDIE PILOT

If you'd like to try for yourself, recipes for this and other Swiss Easter specialties can be found at www.helvetickitchen.com

**For the pastry:**

Mix together 200 g flour, 1 tsp salt, 2 tbsp sugar, 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, line a 26 cm (10 inch) round tart pan and spread thinly with apricot jam. Keep the tart shell in the freezer until you have the filling ready.

For the filling:

In a medium sized pot, bring 400 ml milk, 3 tbsp sugar, and 1 tbsp vanilla paste or extract to a boil. Add 4 tbsp semolina

and stir well. Reduce the heat to low and cook for about 10-15 minutes, stirring until the mixture thickens. Take off the heat and stir in the zest and juice of half a lemon, 60 g ground nuts, and 100 g raisins. Let cool.

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

Separate 3 eggs. Once the semolina mixture has cooled, mix in the yolks, then whip the whites to glossy and gently fold in. Spread the filling over the pastry base.

Bake for about 40 minutes, or until the top is lightly browned and the bottom is baked through. Decorate with powdered sugar.

SWISS SAYINGS: LOST IN TRANSLATION

“Mit dem isch
nid guet
Chriesi essa!”

The earliest record of this neutral saying can be traced back to the 14th century Bernese Dominican Ulrich Boner, whose compilation of fables states: *‘und ist nicht guot Mit herren kriesin essen... Sie werfen I der kriesin stil. In diu ougen...’*. However, the saying has already

lost its socially critical edge a century later because Martin Luther writes: *‘mit ihm ist nicht gut Kirschen essen’*, and has remained in this form until now i.e. *‘he’s not one to mess with’*.

This saying apparently goes back to bishop Withego von

Meißen (+1293), who arranged for margrave Friedrich Tuta to be offered poisoned cherries.

In Italian: *‘meglio tenersi lontane da certe persone’*

In French: *‘il vaut mieux ne rien à voir avec ces personnes’*

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL

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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