

Local news : Great Britain

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Nick Miller COMMENT

Welcome

... to my first editorial and to the new-look **Local News - Great Britain**.

There are a few worried bodies out there who fear the worst. Who on earth saw fit to appoint this young tearaway to the auspicious post of editor of the British supplement of Switzerland's flagship publication for its geographically disparate countryfolk? Heads must roll! He must not be allowed to implement change. He must be made to see that 'it's always been this way'. Boats must not be rocked!

Au contrair. Whilst there is a danger that anything I might say by way of criticism of past editorial policy may be hurtfully received by its architect, my new friend Lisa Hall-Zeller (without whom I would not be writing this), this is far from the intention and I publicly applaud her selfless efforts over the past seven years. However, in the words of Paul Anka, I'll do it my way!

I run a bustling publishing and marketing company dependent, currently, upon my every breath, i.e. small but growing fast. I make decisions like others light up cigarettes. Many may be the wrong decisions but I stand or fall by them and I ask only that you, the reader, look objectively upon my 'revamp' of these green pages and reserve judgement. I am not, I can assure you, doing this for the financial rewards. There frankly are few and they are easily outweighed by the expense. By the time you read this two months will have passed. I will have flown, at my own expense, to the Glarnerland to meet fellow editors from all corners of the globe.

To make this magazine work and to ensure a broad and enthusiastic readership, I need and urge input from all sources. No subject is too abstract for consideration but no contribution is more equal than any other. I sincerely hope then that, even amongst the friends to whom I owe all for this appointment, no-one will be offended by my obligation to fulfil the true terms of the title I bear. Editor. That said, I may only offend contributors by 'editing' or even 'excluding' if they feel they have a divine right to this audience.

Quality of writing and/or content are the only arbiters. I'm sure our advertisers would agree.

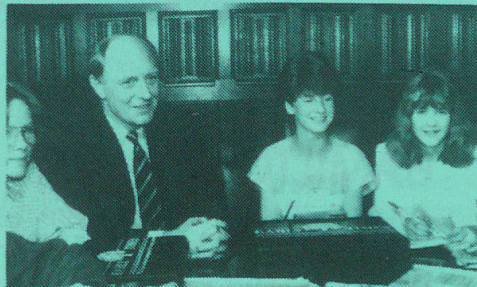
OUT goes the policy of giving space to local events chronicled months in arrears. There are now so many U.K. Swiss Clubs and Societies that there is not the space within these pages to offer a fair and full coverage. Moreover, by the time the Review is printed, most Swiss Club information is long out of date. We have a solution! The Swiss Club Magazine (published by us **FREE OF CHARGE**) is about to be launched.

Swiss Club Magazine

We appreciate wholeheartedly the efforts of everyone who sends us reports and reviews of events, forthcoming functions, births, deaths and marriages etc. The bulk of this correspondence comes from the many Swiss clubs and societies dotted around the country. These grass-roots organisations need to be encouraged and nurtured and currently there is not adequate space to give a fair crack of the whip to all. This in itself may discourage some contributions.

So, as a free service, MGB will now publish a monthly journal exclusively for these and any Young Swiss organisations who may wish to communicate with one another. Moreover, as it will be a MONTHLY magazine, no more will we have to read about April's rained-off barbecue in Bingley on a sunny day in September. A supply of copies will be sent to each Swiss organisation on our official list and free copies can be obtained from our office address at the cost of a stamped-addressed envelope (preferably A5 or A4 size) for anyone who may wish to join any of the Clubs listed. We will carry a full list of EVERY organisation with a contact name and telephone number PLUS features, news, reports, forthcoming events, pictures, gossip ... and anything else you care to contribute. A 'test' issue for September/October is already available featuring reports from London City (whose President Dr Duttweiler I must thank for a most enjoyable meal recently at Credit Suisse), The Midlands (whose chairman is another new friend, Eric Westacott - well done on the successful launch of your new club!), Yorkshire, Dunfermline, West of Scotland, Aberdeen, Southern area and from the Swiss Rifle Association, the Swiss Mothers Group and the Swiss Church. There is also extensive coverage of all the regional August 1st Celebrations.

IN comes a new and comprehensive range of features covering music, art, events, books, travel and business. One of our most revered, and prolific, contributors, **Mariann Meier**, becomes our first regular columnist. **Joseph Buehler**, newly appointed Director of the Swiss National Tourist Board in London, becomes our Travel Editor and, as of the next issue **Mauricette Scheurer** will attempt to unravel any legal problems you may have, but **PLEASE** send our questions to our editorial address below and not directly to Me Scheurer.



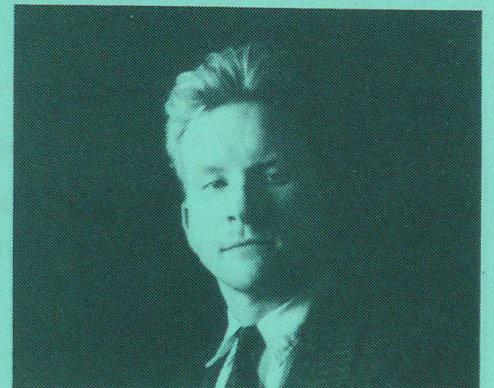
As part of my drive to encourage a keener interest in the affairs of Britain's Swiss community from its younger, newly nationalised, members, I welcome our youngest writer, **Aliah Blackmore**, aged 12, to the Green Pages. She already has an

impressive pedigree, chosen by **Early Times** to be one of four young journalists to interview the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition **Mr Neil Kinnock**. Pictured above, Aliah is seated far right and we think Mr Kinnock is the one with the tie and the nervous smile!

No doubt that other revered and prolific contributor **Heidi Miller** will also be evident, although I have to say she was unusually quiet when I told her that her articles would receive the same careful 'screening' as everyone else's. No favouritism even for my own mum! I must just mention that this job has had the unusual effect of bringing myself and my mother together at a public function for the first time in about twenty years. In this case it was for the address given by **Christian Faessler**, noted Swiss parliamentarian, to a recent meeting of **The New Helvetic Society** (see **Business Briefing**). I have been reluctant to socialise with my mother only for fear that she might try to straighten my tie or comb my hair!

On the subject of Mr Faessler's address, I wonder what your comments are regarding Switzerland's position within or without the European Community? As long ago as 1940, the OEEC discussed the abolition of trade barriers and liberalization of capital exchanges. 38 years later a Referendum unanimously rejected the option of Switzerland becoming a member of the U.N. While Mr Faessler's comments were informative they offered no solutions other than further discussions on a 'multilateral framework'. What this really means is more 'talks about talks'. Is another Referendum on the subject of membership of the EC not the most simple solution? Why is Switzerland more concerned about erosion of its individual democracy than, say, Britain?

Finally, and after this paragraph I'll shut up until the Christmas issue, let me say how grateful I was to all of you who so kindly wrote or telephoned to wish me success in this new role. I only hope that I can live up to your expectations as well as my own. I look forward to working with you.



Nick Miller is also Editor of The Woolwich Building Society 'Property Focus' and a regular contributor to LBC Radio's weekend arts programme 'The Night is Young'

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Joseph Buehler TRAVEL

Welcome to my new regular column which I hope will keep readers informed of the activities of the **Swiss National Tourist Office** and encourage you to take full advantage of the services and facilities we have to offer. Here are just a few of the many forthcoming attractions ...

The Daily Mail International Ski Show takes place at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre in London from 12th - 20th November. A visit to the show will provide an ideal opportunity for the skier, from novice to expert, to view and try out the largest range of clothing and equipment under one roof.

In addition to the shops and manufacturers displaying their products, there will be exhibitors catering for every aspect of the sport. Travel agents, Airlines and Tourist Offices from ski resorts the world over. Of particular interest to those planning to visit Switzerland for their ski-ing will be the stands from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swissair, Swiss Federal Railways and Tourist Offices from the many resorts and regions in the country.

'Walks in the Engadine' is an invaluable new pocket guide which has just been published. Written by Kev Reynolds it is the first in a series of 6 books planned to cover the major walking areas in Switzerland's mountains. 107 routes for walkers of all grades are described in detail, along with information about transport, accommodation, the likely weather conditions and the natural life and fauna that can be found in this most beautiful area.

This illustrated guide book is published by Cicerone Press at 7.95 and is available at most bookshops.

The **World Travel Market** takes place at the Olympia Exhibition Centre in London from 29th November to 3rd December.

The show is principally for trade visitors, although the public are admitted on the last day (3rd December). Switzerland is represented by 25 regional and local tourist offices, along with many hotel groups and incoming operators.

One Man's Meat ...

Members of the travelling public arriving or returning from abroad should take note of recent simplifications in the rules regarding meat and meat products allowed into Britain for personal consumption or as gifts.

Donald Thompson M.P., Parliamentary Sec. at the Ministry of Agriculture, tells us that meat and meat products can now only come into this country if they are cooked or in cans or other hermetically sealed containers. Each person is allowed to bring in 1kg and there is likewise a limit of 1kg per parcel if these products are sent by post from abroad. Other types of meat or meat in different kinds of containers are not permitted, and will be confiscated. We have been warned!



Joseph Buehler, new Director of the SNTO, pictured above right being congratulated on his appointment by his much respected predecessor Mr Albert Kunz

Swiss National Tourist Office: Enquiries 01-734 1921

Platz der Auslandschweizer Place des Suisses de l'Etranger

The next meeting of Swiss compatriots and their families will take place at **The Wellington Country Park** on the Hampshire/Berkshire border on **Saturday 24th of September 1988**.

Amongst the many attractions there will be *time and nature trails. A miniature steam railway. Boating and fishing. Windsurfing. A fitness course. Crazy golf. Childrens adventure playground and an animal farm. Plus excellent facilities for barbecues and picnics, for caravanners and campers, and for the disabled. The proceeds of the raffle on the day goes to C191, the Swiss Church restoration fund.*

Wellington Country Park is on the B3349 where it intersects with the A33. Turn off South from the M4 at Junction 11 or North from the M3 at Junction 5. Further information from **Consul Albert Mehr** at the Swiss Embassy on 01-723 0701 (Ext 227) or from Mrs Anne Dov on 0276-64208.

Help

The **Swiss Welfare Office** is a charitable organization that helps young Swiss people during their stay in Britain, and can offer help and advice regarding problems that can occur when working, studying and living in this country. They can be contacted at 31 Conway Street, London W1P 5HL. Tel: 01-387 3608.

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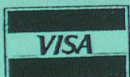
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Martin Norris ART

Real Art

Zurich born artist Jacqueline Real, married an Englishman in 1985 and now lives and paints in Hove on the South coast.

Her formal training began in 1975 when she was chosen to study under Gusti Guldener, the well known Swiss artist, whom she trained with for the following three years.

She is now respected as an artist for her bold collages which depict 'a balance between form and colour, static and dynamic forces which convey a strongly felt spiritual presence'. Her colourful abstractions have been exhibited at many galleries throughout Europe (including a recent display in Zurich's Commercio Gallery) and much of her work now hangs on the walls of homes and companies in many countries, principally in England and Zurich.

I would strongly recommend a visit to her next solo exhibition at the Loggia Gallery, 15 Buckingham Gate, London SW1, from October 11th to 28th with The Swiss Cultural Attache opening the event on October 10th.

An ancestral portrait

A reader from Purley, Surrey wrote to us recently with an interesting story about a remarkable ancestor. Whilst in the processing of registering his brother and sister with the Swiss authorities to achieve the benefits of dual-nationality, Stephen Conrad uncovered some interesting facts about some long lost cousins, and discovered that his great-great-uncle was the great society portrait painter Adolpho Muller-Lombardi.

Originally commissioned to travel to America to paint a portrait, he decided to settle there, circa 1888, and there he consolidated his reputation.

Among an extraordinary list of famous 'sitters' were American presidents Woodrow Wilson, U.S. Grant and McKinley, Kaiser Willhelm II and many Popes and cardinals in addition to his paintings of eminent members of society in America and Europe.

Much of his work remains undiscovered on the walls of great homes, galleries and museums which our correspondent, Mr Conrad is eager to bring to the public's attention. As Muller was such a common name at the time of his emigration he added to his name to become Muller-Ury which is what how he is listed in the art directories. If any of our readers have any information or know of any hidden paintings by this interesting artist, Stephen Conrad would be grateful for any details. He can be contacted at home on 01-660 2848.

Mariann MEIER

Anglo-Swiss Society - 40 years on

The idea of founding an Anglo-Swiss Society was first considered in the summer of 1946. Various meetings convened by Lt-Col H. Stuart Townend OBE, MA were held and in 1948 a meeting took place at the Dorchester Hotel, which approved the formation of the society, the composition of its committee and the rules. The inaugural dinner (in 1949) was attended by various notaries including the then President Philip Noel-Baker, M.P., Minister for Commonwealth Relations and the Swiss Minister (at that time an Ambassador had yet to be appointed) M. Henry de Torrenté.

With the encouragement of the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss community an office was established at Palace Chambers in Westminster, later moving to Hill House, Colonel Townend's residence, where it remained until the Swiss Embassy took over the secretariat in 1959.

Numbers grew rapidly and functions were numerous. Banquets and balls (notably the Coronation Ball at Londonderry House), receptions and parties, lectures, and dinners for new British Ambassadors to Switzerland and Swiss ones to Britain.

This year's Jubilee Dinner on **23rd November**, will be under the chairmanship of the President, the Right Honourable Earl of Limerick, K.B.E., and is largely organised by long-time Secretary and administrator Mrs. Ginette Cobb.

The ideals have remained the same over the four decades, to maintain and develop the existing friendship between the British and Swiss peoples, and to promote social and cultural relations between Great Britain and Switzerland. May the Anglo-Swiss Society prosper and move successfully to its Golden Jubilee.

All change at the SNTO

After almost 40 years, the head of the **Swiss National Tourist Office** in London, **Albert Kunz**, has retired. He was indefatigable in promoting Switzerland in the U.K. and was instrumental in many successful operations and public relations efforts. One of his important involvements was the creation of the Swiss Centre in Leicester Square, which was completed in 1965.

During this long period of devoted service, Albert Kuntz has been a helpful advisor to many journalists, travel writers, lecturers, agents and scores of groups, from schools and colleges to 'The Sherlock Holmes Society', from tour operators to organisers of exhibitions. He has also been involved in the Swiss community, sat on the councils of the 'Swiss Observer' and the New Helvetic Society and was Hon. Treasurer of the Federation of Swiss societies in the U.K.

His many friends and colleagues wish him and his wife Hanny an enjoyable retirement and many more years of good health and happiness.

Albert Kunz's successor is **Joseph E. Buehler**, citizen of Zurich and Menznau LU. He has great experience in the travel business. He was Regional Director for Asia from 1976 to 1984 and opened the Tokyo Office from where expansion took place in other Asian markets, i.e. Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Before being appointed to London, he was SNTO Director for Canada operating from Toronto.

We wish Mr. Buehler continued success in his career, and him and his wife Kazuko and daughter Evelyne a very happy stay in the U.K.

The Church of the Switzers ... 268 years on.

Originally created in 1720, **The Church of the Switzers in London** had troubled beginnings, and was reformed in 1762 by French speaking Swiss as 'Eglise Helvétique de Londres'. Some 700 - 800 Romands lived here: Bankers, military men, Calvinist ministers, tutors and teachers. The few German speaking Swiss at that time were mainly merchants and soldiers.

Initially the Church offered religious services only to the Swiss Protestants, but now all denominations and linguistic sections use it as a community centre. It has become the home for several Swiss organisations; mothers, ladies and youth groups, and serves as a small cultural centre. Social events, Christmas celebrations, and meetings such as those organised by the **Unione Ticinese** take place there, and 1st August Celebrations are held at the Church every year.

In 1854 the first church building, in London's Soho, had to be demolished and ministers and congregation moved to the present Church at 79 Endell Street London WC2. Despite some refurbishment to date, it stands to reason that a building of such age shows signs of disrepair. 'Patching up' is no longer sufficient. The only solution is complete renovation, including urgent repairs to the roof and some walls. The completely outmoded, and possibly dangerous, electrical and heating systems require immediate attention.

The Church Council, and the Commission for Swiss Churches Abroad, must raise an estimated £125,000. The Swiss Church Federation is appealing to the churches in Switzerland, and the Council has sent out appeals in this country.

Some of the readers of the 'Review' have already made generous contributions. May we ask others who are thinking of supporting the appeal, to send their donation, however small, to:

'The Swiss Church Restoration Appeal Fund':

Account No: 236756 001

Union Bank of Switzerland

117 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1AJ

or their new address:

122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4PT

Mariann Meier is a former Editor of Swiss Observer and author of 'The Young Traveller in Switzerland' published by Phoenix House

Martin Norris is a feature writer for MGB Publications and welcomes articles and information on art, photography, performing arts, and cinema at our editorial address



Business BRIEFING

1992

Christian Faessler's recent address to the New Helvetic Society examined the position of **Switzerland within the new European context**. Primarily this refers to 'The Single Market', or the opening of trade barriers between the twelve member nations of the European Community and how that will effect Switzerland in its isolation.

Switzerland has often been described as 'a coalition of resistances', fearing for its neutrality, direct democracy and loss of sovereignty if it joined the EC. Perhaps if the EC had purely fiscal considerations at heart it would be less of a dilemma but, as it has long-term political objectives that are somewhat at odds with the Swiss Federal Government and its policy strategy. A full transcript of Mr Faessler's address is available from this office for the cost of an SAE.

Incidentally, those in business in the U.K. may be interested to note that the DTI has published a superb comprehensive guide to the single market entitled 'Europe - Open for Business'. Available FREE by 'phoning 0800 1992.

swissBusiness

swissBusiness is a new bi-monthly magazine published by the SHZ (Handels-Zeitung) group, self-classified as 'The International Swiss Magazine for Trade and Investment', and acclaimed by one reader for "... filling a vacuum in the Swiss economic information media".

A recent edition tackled an impressive variety of topics. Helmut Maucher, CEO of Switzerland's biggest company, Nestle, discussed his company's face lift and prospects, just ahead of the Rowntree takeover (incidentally the 'Green Pages' would be interested in comments from any readers in the Yorkshire area, regarding benefits and draw-backs of this controversial acquisition).

Why has the worlds largest company, General Motors chosen the Zurich suburb of Glattbrugg as the headquarters for its European operations. Why does Switzerland spend so little on export promotion? Why is the Swiss Franc still top of the league? What were the findings of the employers organisation Vorort, on Switzerland's role within or without the European Community?

Written in an interesting and attractively readable style and presented in a format similar to Time magazine I found **swissBusiness** a concise, informative read. Highly recommended by this humble Editor! Subscriptions and back issues are available from the publishers ...

swissBusiness, SHZ Publications
See Strasse 37, 8027 Zurich, Switzerland.

The Swiss Abroad

The number of Swiss living in foreign countries has risen by 70% since 1950, and there are now over 400,000 non-residents. This is not due to any massive migration, but largely to the large increase in the number of Swiss who have retained their nationality when becoming citizens of another country, passing on this dual-nationality to their marriage partner or to their children.

France has by far the largest contingent, with over 100,000 Swiss. Next is the United States with 51,000 and Federal Germany with 48,000.

JOBFILE ...

The reputation of the Swiss as reliable, honest types (and good with figures) seems to have found its way to Primrose Hill. Blair Travel and Leisure in London NW1, is seeking a part-time book keeper to work for up to six months. A knowledge of double entry book-keeping systems is an advantage, as is a basic command of English. If you are interested in working in this friendly office, please telephone Mr Blair on 01-483-2297.

Can you type? Are you a good, compassionate listener, able to speak Swiss-German and, possibly French? The Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Welfare for Young People urgently seek the services of a Secretary/Audio Typist. You would be the 3rd member of a hard working team who provide an excellent service. Never a dull moment! Please contact Mrs A-R Sharp on 01-387 2173 or Mrs M. Lyster on 01-387 3608. Many thanks.

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