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REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Editorial

The majestic Scottish capital features strongly in our spring issue. Swiss club members from around the country will witness just how dynamic and diverse Edinburgh is when they arrive for FOSSUK's AGM in May and be entertained by published authors, top scientists and entrepreneurs. We also hear about the trials and tribulations of Sandra and Daniel Wenk who arrived in Edinburgh just over a year ago from Hägendorf, in the foothills of the Jura mountains, to start a new life in Scotland.

■ *The influence on the composer of the hunting horn or the military bugle is familiar in composed repertoire. The alphorn*

as a source of inspiration has until now been dismissed. Classical musician Frances Jones, who has been championing the Alphorn for the past ten years, sets out to discover how Switzerland's national instrument has influenced classical composers and the Arts.

■ And Swiss Artists UK is looking to increase its membership numbers. Some may be pleased to learn that to become a member, 'an artist's work will be judged solely on merit' – a relief possibly for those who never followed the conventional route in art and design studies.



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»



Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard addresses Swiss-UK delegates

News: Swiss green industries impress at Cleantech

In February, Britain's 'self-styled' greenest building, the Crystal, in London's Royal Victoria Docks was the perfect 'warm-up' venue for delegates attending Cleantech Innovate 2016, a one-day conference at the Royal Institution in Mayfair, which showcases the best innovators in the Green Industry.

For the first time Switzerland sent a 25-strong delegation, and the Crystal offered the perfect 'green' environment for initial talks between some of Switzerland's most advanced low carbon innovators and their UK counterparts. The highlight of the afternoon was the 'elevator pitches' where Swiss and UK-based companies were given 3-minute slots to sell their business ideas to a discerning audience of green specialists. Participating companies were from a variety of low carbon sectors, including renewable, energy storage, biofuels, manufacturing, transport and water treatment. By the end of the day, it was clear Switzerland had developed a thriving clean technologies sector.

News: Bluetector detects the winning recipe

165 companies applied to participate at Cleantech Innovate 2016. This showcase event, which was attended by Lord Bourne, Under Secretary of State for Energy and Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, connects individuals and companies working in the low carbon sector with possible investors, buyers, industry specialists and business support agencies.

36 finalists, 6 of which were Swiss companies, had been selected to present their clean technology business ideas at the one-day conference. The successful Swiss finalists were ABB Secheron,



David Din CEO of Bluetector AG wins in the category, 'Resource Efficiency'

Bluetector, InnovaRadio, Airlight Energy, Design-ergy and Climeworks.

Bluetector, wastewater specialists based in Lucern, went on to win in the category 'Resource Efficiency'. Bluetector focuses on difficult to treat wastewater, such as from portable toilet cabins or liquid waste collection companies. The small team in Lucern's Technopark has developed a BlueBox, a mobile waste water treatment system, which allows the client to treat his own waste on site. The cost to rent the BlueBox is considerably cheaper than having the wastewater hauled away by truck to a treatment plant.

For more information about the Alphorn and Frances' work go to:
www.AmazingAlphorn.com

Feature: The Alphorn and the Arts

Her work has been hailed as ‘a distinguished contribution to musicology’, with comments that ‘the music history books must now treat the alphorn as a significant contributor to the composer’s musical language.’ Frances Jones, the UK’s only professional alphorn player has been presented with the award of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Hull for her thesis ‘The Alphorn in Western Art Music’. The influence on the composer of the hunting horn or the military bugle is familiar in composed repertoire. The alphorn as a source of inspiration has until now been dismissed. As a classical musician who has been championing the alphorn for the past ten years, Frances set out to discover how Switzerland’s national instrument has influenced classical composers and the Arts over the centuries.

Many composers heard the alphorn for the first time on their travels to Switzerland, either being played to cows in the mountains or to tourists at the top of funicular railways. The impression left, as recorded by a number of composers and other visitors, was described as ‘haunting’ and ‘unforgettable’.

Johannes Brahms, for example, was fond of taking walking holidays in the Bernese Oberland with his father. On 12 September 1868 he jotted down an alphorn melody that he heard at the foot of the Jungfrau. He sent the music to Clara Schumann, with the text: ‘Also blut das Alphorn Heut: Hoch auf’m Berg, Tief in Tal, guess ich dich viel Tausandmal!’ (Thus the alphorn played today: from high in the mountains and deep in the valley, I send you many thousand greetings.) Twelve years later, he used the melody as the main theme of the final movement of his Symphony No 1.

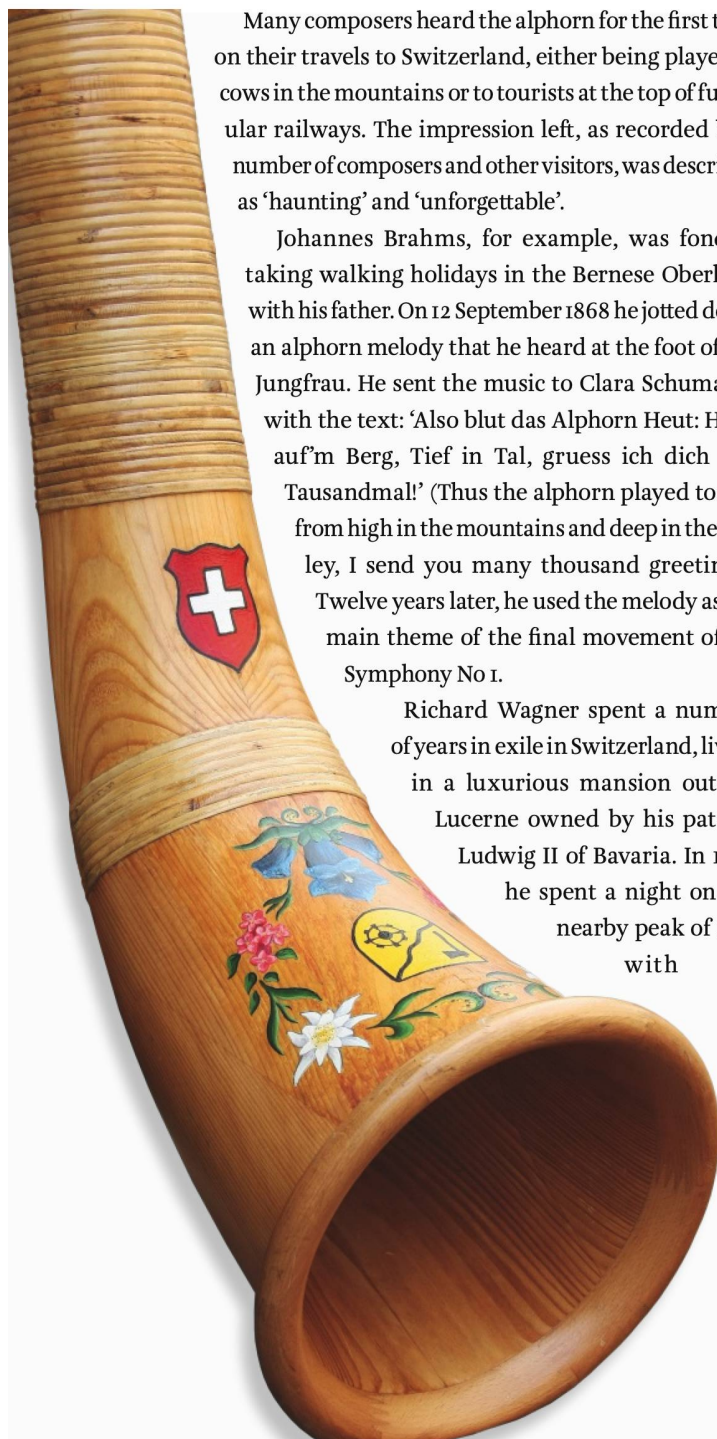
Richard Wagner spent a number of years in exile in Switzerland, living in a luxurious mansion outside Lucerne owned by his patron, Ludwig II of Bavaria. In 1858 he spent a night on the nearby peak of Rigi with the

intention of witnessing the magnificent sunrise over the surrounding peaks the following morning. The guests were roused early by a call on an alphorn, however on this occasion it was raining, so Wagner stayed in bed. He wrote later that the alphorn call went round and round in his head and developed into the extensive shepherd’s horn call that opens Act III of his opera Tristan und Isolde.

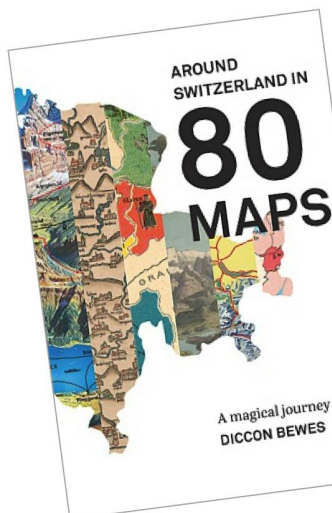
Other composers who quoted alphorn music in their compositions include Beethoven, Strauss, Mahler, Liszt and Mendelssohn.

It was not only composers, but also poets and painters who fell under the spell of the alphorn, a response that Swiss tourism encouraged – and it worked. References to the alphorn can be found in the poetry of Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats, and there are dozens of nineteenth-century paintings that show an alphorn in the midst of a picturesque mountain landscape. Swiss postcards have featured the alphorn since the end of the nineteenth century.

FRANCES JONES



Brahms score
Symphony No. 1 & the
alphorn on Rigi



And the winner is...

Thank you to all those who took part in our competition to win a copy of Diccon Bewes' latest book 'Around Switzerland in 80 Maps'. This was possibly our most popular competition to date with entries coming by post, email and by phone from places like Bristol, Leeds and Rochester to name just a few.

Congratulations to **Hannes Gysin** whose name was the first out of the bag.

Please check Diccon's website for details to purchase his latest book.
www.dicconbewes.com

Feature: Making the break!

Edinburgh is a dynamic and diverse capital. We recently reported in these pages about Zurich-based software provider, Avaloq group, expanding into the Scottish market, more than doubling their employee numbers in Edinburgh. Another positive business story linking Switzerland and Scotland involves Sandra and Daniel Wenk who arrived in Edinburgh from Hägendorf, in the foothills of the Jura mountains, just over twelve months ago to start a new life in the Scottish capital. This is their story:

Our adventure began a few years ago after we fell in love with Scotland, its landscape, the peace and also the people and their hospitality. We returned every year thereafter for a few weeks or for short trips. In Switzerland, we joined a Pipe Band. Because of the music we could stay in contact with Scotland (emotionally), and at a Swiss Tattoo in Avenches we met a Pipe Band from Edinburgh and made friends. In 2012, we got married in Peebles. Daniel's job situation in Switzerland was the determining factor to change direction. After one and a half years of planning and research, we sold our house in Hägendorf, terminated our jobs, packed everything in boxes and headed north to Scotland. Edinburgh is dynamic, diverse and a lot of different people live here... a lot of people who love good bread!

Getting started

We had been searching for a property for more than a year, hoping to set up a café and a bakery in the same building. Not easy: a lot of listed buildings in the city centre, huge lists of dos and don'ts concerning the refurbishment and so on. One day

Lifestyle: Finding your inner dog!

Most dog owners are probably content with the daily stroll round the outer perimeter of the park with their canine pal.

Now it seems a growing band of health conscious dog owners are finding an alternative form of exercise to achieve what they call 'a greater harmony' with their dogs: Doga! Doga, or Dog Yoga was discovered by Swiss-born yoga expert, Mahny Djahanguiri. The now London-based yoga instructor was intrigued when her Maltese Terrier, Robbie, immediately licked her

face as she began her breathing exercises. Noticing his sudden change in attitude, Mahny explored the interconnectedness she felt between herself and Robbie. That initial discovery has now been developed into a book *Doga: Yoga for you and your Dog*, packed with exercises for you and your furry friend.

For more information go to www.dogamahny.co.uk

Daniel's 'Vogelheu'

This is a very quick dish to use leftover (stale) bread. It's called 'Vogelheu' (Birdstraw) and resembles french toast. It's really easy to prepare and tastes delicious:

- 250g old brown bread cut in small slices
- 25g butter
- 2 apples cut in small pieces
- 1 tablespoon sugar

For the topping:

- 6 eggs
- 200ml full-fat milk
- 1-2 tablespoons of sugar
- Some cinnamon to sprinkle on top

1) Roast the bread in the butter until it turns light brown. Add the apples and continue roasting. Stir in the sugar.

2) Mix the eggs, milk and sugar. Pour them over the bread. Continue roasting on a small flame until the eggs solidify.

Serve the resulting 'Vogelheu' with apple puree (as side dish) and sprinkle cinnamon on top.



© swissmilk.ch



the size would be wrong, the next it would be the price. Finally, we had viewings at a few industrial estates and the conditions in North Leith Sands were reasonable. Daniel refurbished the place and built a small shop and a flour storage area himself. We ordered the oven and some machines – we had already brought three Swiss-made machines with us – and then spent hours searching for the right suppliers.

Swiss support

The team of Vögeli Bakery in our former village in Hägendorf is supporting us in every way possible. They even helped Daniel refresh his baker skills. After training as a baker when he was 20 years old he worked in other fields for many years. When he decided to go 'back to the roots' he was looking for a way to refresh his knowledge. The bakery in our village has a good reputation and we knew a few of the employees. So we asked if there was a way for Daniel to work part time to refresh his skills. They loved the idea of a Swiss Bakery in Scotland and we were happy to have their help. Daniel is allowed to use a few of their recipes and we are proud that we can reproduce the local Hausbrot – because it's the secret recipe of the Voegeli Bakery and they call it 'Hägendorfer' (means bread of the village Hägendorf).

SANDRA (AND DANIEL) WENK

Daniel putting the finishing touches to his morning rolls



Culture: Ireland ARTS

1 16 April – 17 July:

EVA International, Limerick

EVA International is Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art, creating 112 programmes of exhibitions and events that engage with the people of Limerick.

EVA International has worked with some of the world's leading artists and curators, bringing outstanding exhibitions to audiences in the west of Ireland. The Swiss Arts Council, Pro Helvetia, is supporting the participation of Swiss artist Uriel Orlow at this year's festival.

www.eva.ie



Uriel Orlow



pourChoeur Vokalensemble



Cie Ioannis

2 30 April – 01 May:

International Choral Festival, Cork

pourChoeur Vokalensemble is a young Swiss choir that perform a mixture of traditional classical and contemporary music. Founded in 2012 by the two conductors Marco Beltrani and Samuel Strub, the choir has already attracted much attention and has found a unique place within the Swiss choral world.

The ensemble specialises in rarely sung a-Capella repertoire of the 20th Century and demonstrates an extraordinary balanced choral sound and vocal and rhythmic flexibility. They have released 5 projects so far in a relatively short period and premiered more than 10 commissioned works.

www.corkchoral.ie/portfolio/2016-festival-5



Erik Truffaz Quartet



Golf winner Noriko MacIntyre and Jeffrey Long

Please contact:
 Jeffrey Long MBE
 ☎ 01274 560 780
 ✉ Jeffreymbel@hotmail.co.uk

3 25 – 28 May:

Dublin Dance Festival

Dublin Dance Festival is the leading dance event on the Irish arts calendar. Each year in May, the Festival brings together dance artists and choreographers from across the world to share vibrant contemporary dance with audiences in Ireland.

The participation of Geneva-based Cie Ioannis Mandafounis in the festival is being supported by the Swiss Arts Council, Pro Helvetia.

www.dublindancefestival.ie

Sport: A near wash out for the Swiss Golf Group


Our 11th annual Trophy Day was held at Silvermere Golf Club and was a Stableford competition.

Since we had enjoyed good weather for all our previous 21 golf days it seemed reasonable to hope our good luck would continue, however it was not to be. By the afternoon we had a real downpour and were very glad to get back to the Club House at the end of our round. Downpour or not, it did not dampen our spirits, as we sat down to enjoy an excellent meal and had some fun before the prize presentation. It was another closely fought contest, but our winners were Fidelis D'Mello, Elisabeth Breitschmid, Norika MacIntyre and Maria Hobbs. Our next get-together will be in May in the Greater London Area. All are welcome regardless of ability.

Music: Erik Truffaz returns to the recording studio

Earlier this year, groundbreaking Swiss-born French jazz trumpeter Erik Truffaz, who has sold over 600,000 records worldwide, released 'Doni Doni', his first album in three years. Still standing at the frontier of jazz and instrumental pop, the Erik Truffaz Quartet is one of the leading groups of contemporary music.

For their latest album the musicians have collaborated with the revered Malian singer Rokia Traoré and French hip-hop giant and longtime friend, Oxmo Puccino, who featured on the 'Paris Tour' DVD. Two diametrically opposed sounds that the music of Erik Truffaz Quartet will merge and fuse into their compositions.

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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:

9 to 13 May 2016

10 to 14 October 2016

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



Film: Screen Academy Scotland welcomes Swiss students

Swiss students of the École Cantonal d'art de Lausanne (ECAL) recently joined screenwriting classes in Edinburgh, where they were given the chance to develop and pitch ideas for scripted web videos and adaptations. The visit to the Scottish capital's Napier University was hosted by James Mavor, Programme Leader MA Screenwriting and Arts and Features journalist Richard Mowe. Swiss Film-maker and ECAL director Lionel Baier, coordinator Rachel Noel and Swiss Honorary Consul General Peter Müller-McDougall were present for a public screening of graduation films by ECAL students. I hope this exchange is the first of many more to come in future!

PETER MÜLLER-MCDOUGALL



Club News: FOSSUK AGM 2016

This year's FOSSUK AGM will be held on Saturday the 21st May in Edinburgh at the historic Balmoral Hotel.

The Edinburgh Swiss Club has organised an activity-filled weekend:

Friday evening 20 May

Edinburgh – an Imaginative Introduction.

An evening with Ron Butlin, former Edinburgh Poet Laureate and Swiss/Scottish writer Regi Claire at the **Scottish Poetry Library**. During the evening we will have the opportunity to taste exclusive wines of Switzerland, some of which, we have been assured, are enjoyed by members of the British Royal Family.

Saturday 21 May

Saturday morning

A visit to the **Scottish Parliament** with our own personal guide, or a walking tour with Freddie Wyser of Edinburgh City.

Saturday afternoon

AGM begins at 2pm with guest speakers from Switzerland and the UK, as well as the opening address from Ambassador Dominik Furgler. This will be followed by a presentation of Switzerland & Scotland at CERN by Professor Franz Muheim. The evening will continue with reception drinks offered by the Ambassador.

Saturday evening

Delicious 3-course dinner in the Balmoral Hotel's Beaulieu Room.

Sunday morning 22 May

The weekend will continue on Sunday with a historical boat ride on the **Maid of the Forth**, topped with a visit to the famous **Rosslyn Chapel**, featured in the acclaimed bestseller 'The Da Vinci Code'. Departure for Sunday's tour is at 9:30am from the Balmoral hotel by coach.

Whether you are able to join us for the entire weekend or only a part of it, this event will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to meet other club members living in the UK.

LOREDANA GUETG-WYATT, FOSSUK PRESIDENT

FOSSUK
AGM & Social Weekend
21 May 2016
Edinburgh

For more information go to the **AGM** section of swiss-societies.co.uk

1: Manchester Swiss Club

64 members gathered at the end of January for our New Year's lunch at the Pinewood Hotel in Handforth. It was the right day to be sitting indoors having a lovely meal with lots of friends, as it rained non-stop!

This year we presented our Honorary Consul, Arthur Broadhurst, with a silver frame in recognition of his retirement after 10 years as our outgoing Honorary Consul.

We also welcomed our new Honorary Consul, Hans Scheiwiller, who is well-known in Manchester's Swiss community, as both Hans' father and mother were, in their time, Presidents of the Club. It was a friendly occasion with time to catch up with friends.

SANDRA GLAUSER



2: Southern Area Swiss Club

Our annual January lunch was held at the Frensham Pond Hotel. It was wonderful to see so many members turning up, despite this cold and seemingly never-ending month, for a post-Christmas chat and a delicious meal.

KARIN PRIER




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Culture: An open door for Swiss design

At the beginning of the year Swiss designers were invited to submit their project ideas for a new Arts initiative in London. Known as 'Ambit', the project is a close collaboration between the Swiss Cultural Fund UK (SCF) and Blattler Ltd, an independent creative agency, to give emerging and established design talent with a strong Swiss link a platform in the East End of London. Blattler Ltd has made its exhibition space on Fashion Street, off Brick Lane, at the SCF's disposal for a series of design projects for one year.

In addition, the Swiss Cultural Fund will contribute £500 towards every project to cover some of the expenses of the venture. The first exhibition of the series will open to the public on the 6th May 2016. The Swiss Review spoke with David Kilian Beck, Deputy Head of Culture at the Swiss Embassy in London about the aims of this collaboration.

David Kilian Beck: The project's aim is to promote Swiss design by placing it at the centre of the British design scene. We are thrilled to be able to create a 'physical' Swiss presence in London's thriving East End. With our own project space for a whole year, the winning individuals will have the opportunity to demonstrate the strength of Swiss design talents bridging the gap between the Swiss 'Gestaltung' tradition, the 'Swiss Made' label and current approaches. In creating a space for 'Swiss-making' outside of Switzerland, we open pathways to design cultures beyond the 'Swiss' horizon. Initiating a dialogue between designers, curators and the broader public, we will also contribute to the current contemporary debate about the object, making and consumerism.

am[]bit

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Swiss Review: Who are you hoping to attract to this latest arts initiative from the SCF?

DKB: The project's target audience is design specialists and students, journalists, interior designers, entrepreneurs, trend forecasters and of course, the general public.

SR: The Arts are often the first sector to face financial cuts. In light of this, are such collaborations with the private sector the way forward for the SCF?

DKB: This is an initiative, which came solely to fruition due to Blattler Ltd's generous offer to leave their gallery space at the SCF's disposal for 12 months. It is not foreseen as a SCF strategy for future arts projects. Blattler Ltd will also not be showcasing their own projects in the Fashion Street venue during this period.

For more information go to:
www.ambit.design

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■ **HELVETIC**
SOCIETY
100 YEARS 1916 – 2016

Save the date

Saturday 24 September 2016

The Centenary Celebration Dinner will be held at One Whitehall Place
www.newhelveticssociety.org.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:

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Next Issues

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