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# REGIONAL EDITION

## UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

### Editorial

Switzerland displays its excellence in sport, design and military precision in this edition. Some of the world's best sailors, including the experienced Swiss team Alinghi, battled it out amid challenging wind and intermittent rain during the third stage of the Extreme Sailing in Cardiff Bay during the summer.

■ *Swiss designers topped the awards list, alongside Russia and Lebanon, at the first London Design Biennale and a team of highly skilled PC-7 pilots from the Swiss Air Force displayed*

*their dynamic and elegant flying abilities for the first time in Scotland. Swissness at it best!*

■ And how much do you really know about Switzerland? We have three books to give away, each of which gives an insight into the most fascinating moments in Switzerland's rich and colourful history. And while we are talking about winning, get your skis on as one lucky reader will have the chance to win a ski pass at the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead.



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,  
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»



The Snow Centre with its Alpine backdrop

Swiss mood, the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead recently had an alpine makeover with the walls of the indoor ski slope now depicting panoramic Alpine views of the Valais.

This has all come about thanks to a three-way, three year partnership between Switzerland Tourism, the Valais and the Snow Centre. Whether beginner, main slope ready, expert or anything in between, Switzerland wanted to be present at that first shot on the dry slopes after the summer break. To guarantee the full snow sports journey, there are also plans for ski instructors at the Snow Centre to accompany ski fans to the Valais to experience the real winter in the Alps.

### Sport: Indoor ski centre gets a Swiss makeover

Autumn is the perfect time for skiers and snowboarders to get ready for the slopes of Klosters, St Moritz and Verbier with a pre-season warm up on one of the UK's many dry slopes. To help users get into the

Switzerland Tourism and the Snow Centre are very kindly offering **one free ski pass** to the lucky reader who knows the name of the highest mountain in the Valais. Entries should be in by **15<sup>th</sup> November**. For contact details go to the back page of this issue.

### Forum: Engaging youth in Swiss politics

The Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK) would like to invite all expats, young and old, to our forthcoming Forum on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: Engaging young adults in the Swiss political process.

We are delighted that Anja Wyden Guelpa, Chancelière d'Etat du Canton de Genève, has agreed to participate as our principle guest. Youth absenteeism at the polls has worried the Chancellor of State in Geneva for many years.

The second guest on the panel understands the importance of peer group support. Davide Wuehtrich is the recently-appointed President of the Parliament for Young Swiss Abroad (YPSA), which was founded in August 2015.

The third panel member, Nick Couldry, who is Professor of Media, Communications and Social Theory at London School of Economics and Political Science, has looked at the use of media to empower people to engage with the democratic process.

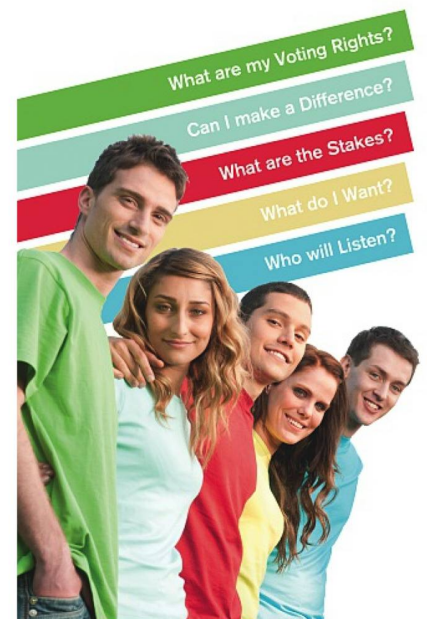
Entry is free and we look forward to welcoming you for this much-anticipated FOSSUK event.

ALEXANDRE TISSOT

**Where:** Naim Dangoor Auditorium, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London

**When:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 6.30pm – 8.30pm

For more details and to register please go to the FOSSUK website: [www.swiss-societies.co.uk](http://www.swiss-societies.co.uk)



**Sport:** Swiss team, Alinghi, jostle for position in the Extreme Sailing Series

Cardiff Bay played host over the summer to some of the world's best sailors as the Extreme Sailing Series, which has been dubbed 'Formula One on water', returned to the Welsh capital for a third consecutive year. Nine teams, including the experienced Swiss crew, Alinghi, battled it out amid challenging wind and intermittent rain. Cardiff's flagship waterfront development was the backdrop for this four-day regatta and despite two race victories on the final day, Alinghi just missed out on a podium spot.

However, in the meantime, the 7-man Swiss team has had much to celebrate. After Cardiff the Series moved on to Hamburg, which saw the winning team, Oman Air, snatch victory from the hands of Alinghi by just one point. And at the beginning of September the Alinghi 7 got their own back, closing the gap further on Oman Air, now the overall leaders, with what has been described as a 'thrilling and electrifying race showdown' in St Petersburg during the fifth stage of the competition. Australia will host the spectacular Grande Finale of the 2016 Extreme Sailing Series in December.

Switzerland won the Series in 2008 and 2014 and the Alinghi team, which has one of the most experienced crews, is still a strong contender to pick up the trophy in December.

Now in its tenth season, the Series, which takes place in eight iconic venues across the world – from Muscat to Sydney – moved in 2016 to the super fast hydro-foiling GC32 catamarans to deliver the uniquely exciting brand of all-action sailing to the tour.



**Military:** Swiss Air Force take to Scottish Skies

It has been described as a 'dynamic, elegant, precise aerial ballet' and for the first time in aviation history, the Swiss Air Force's nine-aircraft PC-7 Team performed its 'aerial ballet' at the Scottish National Air Show 2016 near Edinburgh.

A record number of 16,000 enthusiastic spectators from all over Scotland witnessed the outstanding acrobatic capabilities performed by the team of highly skilled Swiss Air Force pilots. The PC-7 team was officially founded in 1989 and as its spokesperson, Major Andreas Hebeisen, said in a recent blog for the National Museums Scotland, nothing much has changed since then, 'the basic format has remained the same: nine aircraft PC-7 and their pilots have 20 minutes to demonstrate the ability of the Swiss Air Force with a specific performance in a particular location at a precise time – Swiss-ness at its best.'

The truly brilliant performance was directed by Commander Lt Col Daniel Stämpfli (STAMPA) in the presence of Swiss Defence Attaché Lt Col Martin Lerch and his wife Armida Lerch. Given the overwhelming response, it is hoped that the team will be back in Scotland in the very near future!

**TOP LEVEL FORMATION FLYING AS A SIDE JOB**

Despite the professional performance of the PC-7 TEAM, all team members fly these displays as a side job. As their full time job, all PC-7 TEAM members are pilots in one of the Swiss Air Force's three F/A-18 squadrons based in Payerne and Meiringen, and fly some 110 flight hours per year with the Hornet. In this function they carry out the missions of the Swiss Air Force, which include maintaining air sovereignty and air policing over Swiss territory.

In other air forces, it is rare for all the pilots in an aerobatics team like the PC-7 TEAM to be all full-time professional fighter jet pilots who perform flight displays only as a side job: a fact that underlines the high performance capability of the Swiss Air Force.

LT COL DANIEL STÄMPFLI

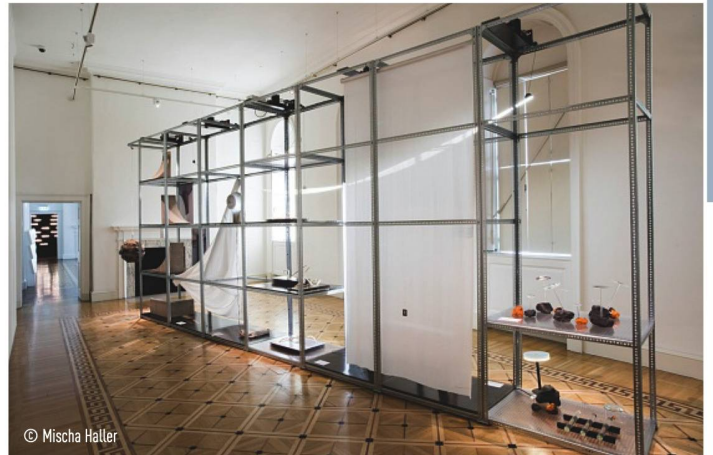
HON CONSUL GENERAL IN SCOTLAND,  
PETER MÜLLER-MCDOUGALL

## Design: Swiss lead the way at Design Biennale

The Embassy of Switzerland and The Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia are delighted to announce that, out of 37 countries and territories, Switzerland was awarded the Jaguar Innovation Medal, reflecting innovation's vital importance in design, at the opening ceremony of the first London Design Biennale at Somerset House in September.

Alongside the other 2 recipients of medals, Russia and Lebanon, Switzerland was selected by the London Design Biennale International Jury, a group of thirteen of the world's leading creative experts including Sir John Sorrell, Richard Rogers, and Martin Roth, to name but a few.

Seven Swiss design studios partnered with seven specialist industrial manufacturers, each with niche knowledge of a particular field, for the group installation – a project that reflects upon cultural identity, design tradition and exchange of knowledge.



© Mischa Haller



### SWISS CHURCH SEEKS NEW FUNDING

The Swiss Church in London was founded in 1762 and has served the Swiss community in the UK ever since. More than just a place of worship, we are also a Swiss community centre and social and cultural platform promoting contemporary art and reaching out to the homeless and people in need in our local community.

For many decades, the Swiss Church in London was partly funded by the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches in Switzerland. For financial reasons, the Federation has to withdraw its funding by 2018 and we will have to raise an extra £100,000 to continue the history of the Swiss Church. If you know of any funding opportunities, please contact Carla on [carla.maurer@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:carla.maurer@swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

A typical day at the Fair

## Events: Keeping Swiss Christmas traditions alive

Christmas traditions from back home can easily get lost when moving to another country. The Swiss Church in London invites you to keep our most cherished Advent and Christmas traditions alive and get in the mood for Christmas.

Join us for the following events:

**Saturday, 5 November, 3–6pm**  
Räbeliechtliumzug (traditional Swiss turnip parade)

Children and their parents will have the opportunity to carve their own 'Räbeliecht' lanterns, hear a story and learn Advent songs. When night falls, we will parade through Soho with our hand-crafted lanterns and sing carols. Refreshments will be served.

**Saturday, 26 November, 11am–4pm**  
Swiss Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair takes place every other year and is an important meeting place for the Swiss community. There will be a selection of hot traditional Swiss food and Swiss products that are hard to find in the UK. Children and adults will have the opportunity to craft their own Christmas presents and cards. On top of this, amazing raffle prizes can be won! The Christmas Fair is a main fundraiser for the Swiss Church and your presence will be a great support.

**Sunday, 4 December, 3pm**  
Samichlaus

The Samichlaus (Father Christmas) and his Schmutzli will visit the Swiss Church! Children will be able to recite the verse they have learnt (in English or

one of the Swiss languages) and hear from the Samichlaus what they have done well, and what they could improve. The Samichlaus will have a big goodie bag with nuts and sweets for the children to take home. Refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, 18 December, 5pm**  
Christmas Carol Service with  
Dieci Voices Choir  
Mince pies and mulled wine served.

As we are expecting a large turnout, it is necessary to sign up for the Raebeliechtliumzug and the Samichlaus. For more information email Lili: [lilian.jost@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:lilian.jost@swisschurchlondon.org.uk).

All events are free of charge. Donations are most welcome.



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Embassy of Switzerland in the United Kingdom

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### BREXIT: INFORMATION FOR SWISS CITIZENS IN THE UK

On 23 June 2016 the UK electorate voted to leave the European Union. This decision has prompted many questions from the Swiss community in the UK.

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne has compiled a list of frequently asked questions and answers in cooperation with the Embassy. The Home Office has also published a statement regarding the status of EU/EEA and Swiss nationals following the referendum. You can access both the FAQs and the Home Office statement via our website:

[www.eda.admin.ch/london](http://www.eda.admin.ch/london).

If you have further questions relating to the referendum you can call the Embassy in London on **020 7616 6000**, or e-mail:

[lon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:lon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch).



Photos: Marc Peter

### FOSSUK AGM: Education, culture and a fun weekend packed with activities in Edinburgh

Members of the Federation of Swiss Societies UK (FOSSUK) gathered in Edinburgh in May for their AGM weekend. The opening event on the Friday evening started with a full house of 40 people at the Scottish Poetry Library, where Edinburgh's former Poet Laureate, Ron Butlin, and Swiss-Scottish novelist and short story writer Regi Claire gave us all a rousing welcome with their amusing 'Imaginative Introduction to Edinburgh'.

On Saturday morning we split into two groups. Many of us went to visit the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood, where we were given a guided tour, organised by Honorary Consul Peter Mueller-MacDougall, while the others went on a city bus tour, guided by the President of the Swiss Club Edinburgh, Freddie Wyser.

In the afternoon we regrouped at the very elegant Balmoral Hotel at the top of Prince's Street for our AGM. President Loredana Guetg-Wyatt led the meeting efficiently and formal business was concluded after an hour. The AGM was followed by speeches from the Swiss Ambassador to the UK, Dominik Furgler, and two guests from Switzerland, the president of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Remo Gysin and Peter Zimmerli from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Franz Muheim, Professor of Physics at Edinburgh University and a UK delegate at the Council of the Swiss Abroad concluded the afternoon with a fascinating talk, 'Scotland and Switzerland at CERN'. The evening got underway with a reception in the Balmoral Hotel at the invitation of the Ambassador. Almost 50 people attended and as a surprise we were treated to a performance by the young pipers and drummers from the Davidson's Mains & District Pipe Band. The reception was followed by a delicious dinner.

On Sunday morning the group hopped on a coach to South Queensferry harbour. En route, Swiss engineer Florian Dieterle described his role as part of a team responsible for the construction of the new replacement bridge across the River Forth, the Queensferry Crossing. The group then boarded the Maid of the Forth for a very enjoyable boat ride on the Firth of Forth to Inchcolm Island and its Abbey.

After a sandwich lunch from Daniel's Swiss Bakery, with a 'Nussgipfel' as dessert, we continued our coach trip to the medieval Rosslyn chapel to see the legendary 'Apprentice' Pillar. Now exhausted, but very contented, we said our farewells, ending what had turned out to be a fascinating and most enjoyable weekend.

FRANZ MUHEIM

### 1: Dublin

On Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Ambassador Marie-Claude Meylan hosted the Swiss National Day celebration in the garden of her residence. The event was a great success for the almost 500 guests who attended. The Swiss community and representatives from Swiss companies in Ireland were joined by guests from the diplomatic, political, business and public administration world in Ireland. Given that it was a beautiful sunny evening, with excellent Swiss food specialties and Swiss wine being served, a good time was had by all. The Swiss Embassy in Ireland would like to thank all those who attended the event.

DEIRDRE SWEENEY

Dublin celebrates in style



### 2: North Wales

Our warmest wishes and thanks go to Martin and Ghislaine Pike who very kindly opened their house to friends, family and possible new club members as about 20 of us gathered for a delicious BBQ and to celebrate Swiss National Day.

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL

Family and friends in N Wales



### 3: South-west Wales

Despite a very wet day, dozens of people (approx 45) with a Swiss connection from all over south-west Wales, as well as local friends, met at the home of Beat and Elisabeth Wehren, outside Little Newcastle on Monday, 1 August, to celebrate Swiss National Day. The guest of honour was the Honorary Swiss Consul from Swansea, Ruth Thomas who joined the many present in sampling the delicious barbecue prepared by the hosts. A special message from the Swiss president to Swiss ex-pats across the world was read by Norman Waldron of Torbay, before the Swiss National Anthem.

Entertainment was provided by James McDonald (Mac). To honour the day, the Swiss flag was flown at the Old School in Little Newcastle.

CURATE REVD RICHARD DAVIES

Photo (l to r) Elizabeth Wehren, Ruth Thomas, Beat Wehren



Friends gather in Surrey



A rare gathering for SC Tyne Tees



### 4: Southern Area Swiss Club

Our 1<sup>st</sup> August buffet was a big success again this year with the most fabulous choices of food on the menu all beautifully prepared by our members.

BERNI CURTRESS

### 5: Swiss Club Tyne Tees


Members of the Swiss Club Tyne Tees enjoyed a lovely BBQ at the president's house in Middleton St. George. It was lovely to see so many from all over the North East and Cumbria and even the weather was kind to us.

URSULA QUICK

### Swiss Club Yorkshire


The Yorkshire Swiss Club celebrated National Day with a lunch at the Cow and Calf pub on Ilkley Moor. From the venue we are always reminded a little of our homeland, sitting high above the town with fine views over the Yorkshire Dales. The event was well attended by members who enjoyed a super meal and fellowship throughout the afternoon. This autumn a group of us are hoping to visit London, including perhaps the Swiss church. Our Christmas lunch and celebration will take place this year in the Novotel in York on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, and our next AGM will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017. We look forward to welcoming existing members, and of course, any prospective new members. Anyone interested please ring our secretary Jennie Dransfield on 01924 495929, or president Evy Wardill on 01347848473.

EVY WARDILL & JENNIE DRANSFIELD



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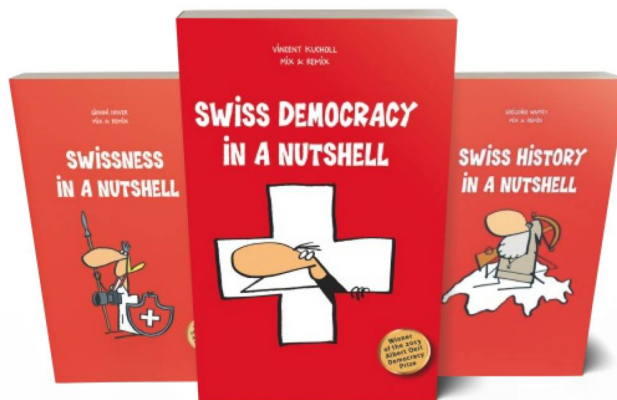
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## Quiz: Switzerland in a Nutshell

Knowing about Swiss history, learning about Switzerland's electoral system and finding out about the military origins of the Swiss army knife, for example, are all ways for Swiss expats to stay connected with their origins and their home.

But how much do you really know about Switzerland? How did the white cross on the national flag come to be the official symbol of Switzerland? How do Swiss Guards at the Vatican swear the oath of allegiance? To find the answers, you need go no further than flick through one of the three volumes of the 'In a Nutshell' series: *Swissness...*, *Swiss History...* and *Swiss Democracy...* in a Nutshell, published by Bergli books a



### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR SWISS FACTS?

1. What is another name for 'pied-de-lion'?
2. Which only other state in the world has a square flag?
3. How many departments is the Federal Administration divided into?
4. What is CH the abbreviation for?
5. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 Switzerland had 2,352 communes. Which is the largest commune and where do you think the smallest might be?
6. Name the 3 mountain communities that teamed up to fight the Habsburgs in 1291 and went on to form the Swiss Confederation

You can find the answers and how to win one of these three 'In a Nutshell' books on the back page of this Regional Issue.

couple of years ago, and which recently landed on the editor's desk.

An easy read, each book gives an insight into the most fascinating moments in Switzerland's rich and colourful history. They are packed with delightful cartoons by famed Swiss cartoonist Mix & Remix and are an excellent source of entertaining and illuminating facts about Swiss culture, politics and society. The three volumes are designed for both those new to Switzerland, as well as anyone seeking to get to grips with their Swiss identity.

## Music: VEIN Trio bring their jokey performance to Ireland

A jazz trio with a difference, Swiss trio VEIN, made up of twins Michael and Florian Arbinez (piano and drums respectively) and bassist Thomas Laehn create exciting, dynamic and innovative music with a nod to deeply held traditional values. In Letterkenny, the group is joined by New York saxophonist Greg Osby, a figure who has made an indelible mark on contemporary jazz.



**Where:** Regional Cultural Centre  
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  
**When:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Vein trio have fun rehearsing

## Embassy: Swiss Ambassador's Award 2016

This year's award goes to the NEXUS Reed Quintet, an exciting and innovative woodwind ensemble from Switzerland. NEXUS brings together five reed instruments: oboe, bassoon, saxophone, clarinet and bass clarinet. The quintet's unique programming, fresh and in-depth interpretation, precise interaction and youthful enthusiasm fascinate audiences and open up new dimensions in chamber music. NEXUS Reed Quintet has won awards in Switzerland and across Europe.

NEXUS Reed Quintet



**UK TOUR**  
18.10.: London, Wigmore Hall  
19.10.: Edinburgh, The Balmoral  
20.10.: Belfast Internat. Festival  
21.10.: Cardiff, RWCMD



**ANSWERS TO 'SWITZERLAND IN A NUTSHELL' QUIZ:**

1. Edelweiss
2. The Vatican
3. Seven
4. Confederatio Helvetica
5. Zurich, with approx. 380,000 inhabitants;
6. Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden

To win one of these 'In a Nutshell' books, simply send an email or letter to the Editor by **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. Send your entries to: [andrewlittlejohn81@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlittlejohn81@gmail.com) or write to Andrew Littlejohn, 81 Brondesbury Rd, London, NW6 6BB

Ruth Davis-Schedler enjoying afternoon tea at the Embassy



**Feature: Five Generations in the Swiss Colony**

Earlier this summer the Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS) held its Annual Senior Citizens Party at the Swiss Embassy in London. The event, which is now in its fifth year, welcomed expats celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup>, 85<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> (and onwards) birthdays in 2016. The conversation on such occasions is always lively and engaging. This year was particularly interesting as one guest, Ruth Davis-Schedler, who turned 80 earlier this year, revealed to SBS volunteers that her family represented five generations of Swiss in the UK.

It all began in 1916, when my paternal grandfather from Basel was asked to take over the management of a chemical firm in Manchester. Once here, he and his family were very involved in Swiss Affairs, and he became Hon. Swiss Consul and President of the City Swiss Club.

After my father's schooling he returned to Switzerland for his training, then came to London with his new wife Vera, and worked for the Swiss Bank for 40 years. My parents were both staunch members of many Swiss organisations. I remember well my mother and her Swiss friends knitting industriously for the Frauenverein and distributing the items to the poor and lonely Swiss, especially in the war years.

During these years, the Swiss Church was held in a room in Kingsway Hall, Holborn. There was no piano or organ, but an old harmonium, which a dear elderly lady would play, after first pumping it up with its squeaky, creaky pedals before the Minister had finished his sermon or his prayers. My sister and I would have the giggles.

As soon as the war was over our holidays were spent in Switzerland, travelling by train to Basel and arriving early in the morning. We would have breakfast in the station buffet, with fresh rolls and black cherry jam: a real treat for us. At other times we would travel in a pre-war Morris, never exceeding 60 kilometres per hour. It took ages!

The fourth generation, my children, have fond memories of the Swiss children's Christmas parties, held for a while in the YMCA. They used to help their 'Oma' days before the event, filling the party bags with a present, donated Swiss chocolates and an orange. Their children now enjoy their Swiss holidays, and are very proud of their Swiss roots. This is all due to the united Swiss Community in the UK and long may it continue.

RUTH DAVIS-SCHEDLER

**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY** FOUNDED IN 1703

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To donate or find out how else you can help, please visit our website [www.swissbenevolent.org.uk](http://www.swissbenevolent.org.uk) or contact:

Mrs Petra Kehr Cocks (Welfare Officer)

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**IMPRESSUM**

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**Next Issues**

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