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REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Editorial

2017 is an important year for the Swiss community in the UK. It's election time and on the 20th May five delegates will be chosen to represent the expat community at the Council of the Swiss Abroad. More than 760,000 Swiss citizens live outside the country's borders, making up ten per cent of the total population. Why not make a difference in 2017 and stand up for the Swiss Abroad, stand to be a delegate on the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

■ Many readers will be aware that the *Swiss Observer* preceded the *Swiss Review*. But you may not have known that copies of

all the magazines from the 1920s until the final issue in 1984 had been carefully stored in the Embassy library in London. Well, now Bern's National Library has taken on the massive task of digitizing all *Swiss Observers*. This means more than 60 years of political, social, historical and cultural reporting between Switzerland and the UK will be made available to the general public.

■ And having successfully celebrated 100 years of the New Helvetic Society in 2016, the club's President looks ahead with a thought-provoking article reassessing the club's *raison d'être*.



ANDREW LITTLEJOHN,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»



Media: The Swiss Observer gets a new lease of life

As many readers will know, the *Swiss Observer* preceded the *Swiss Review*. It had been the official newspaper of the Swiss colony in the UK for well over 60 years until the final edition went to the printers at the end of 1984.

Copies of all the magazines from the 1920s until the final edition in 1984 have been carefully stored in the Embassy library in London. Now due to the tireless efforts of former FOSSUK president Margrit Lyster and City Swiss Club Vice-chair Walter Isler, the *Swiss Observer* will soon be available to the general public. Bern's National Library has taken on the massive task of digitizing all *Swiss Observers* that had been stored at the Embassy. Florian Steffen who heads up the digitization department at the National Library describes the process to transform these decades-old magazines to a digital format.

Florian Steffen (FS): There are three general phases in our projects: The preparation phase, the digitization phase and the publishing phase. During the preparation phase, we define a certain theme, look for publications which represent that theme and speak with those who

hold the rights to get permission to publish the material online. During this phase we also make detailed inventories of the paper copies. At the end of the preparation phase, rights must be clear, the budget must have been approved by the head of our library and the collections must be complete.

We outsource the actual digitization process to contractors who specialize in this field. In the end, the digitized collections are prepared for online-publishing. In journal digitization projects (as for the *Swiss Observer*), this step is extremely time-consuming. There is 'structuring' (capturing metadata about the journal's structure), which is where we are currently at with the *Swiss Observer*. When this work is finished, the journal will be 'OCR'd' (Optical Character Recognition), sent to our host-partner and set online (www.e-periodica.ch). We hope this will be in the spring.

Swiss Review: How important do you consider the digitization of historical documents to be?

FS: Digitization is crucial as it gives users full access to all our collections at any time and from anywhere. It also improves search possibilities as the majority of documents are full-text-indexed. The originals can then be preserved in our archives. The *Swiss Observer* has been digitized in a project called 5th Switzerland. Other titles digitized in this project are: Bulletin de la ligue suisse de défense des indigènes; Swiss express; the Swiss Railways Society journal and; Helvetia: monthly publication of the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand. They should all be available on the servers of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ).





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Politics: Election of UK Delegates to serve on the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA)

Bilateral tax agreements, electronic voting, national service, emigration, immigration, pensions, Swiss bank accounts, Brexit... We live in interesting and trying times. The political landscape is currently shifting right under our feet.

UK DELEGATES FOR THE 2017–2021 TERM
Submission deadline for candidate applications

Friday, 10th February 2017

CALL FOR CANDIDATES: YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT THE UK SWISS

Have you ever wondered how the Swiss who live abroad participate in and find out about which laws and policies will affect them? Do you have what it takes to represent the Swiss nationals who live and work in the UK? Then stand up for the Swiss abroad, stand up for you and your family, and *stand to be a Delegate of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA)* for the 2017–2021 term.

The application form and further information about eligibility, the activities of OSA and Delegate duties can be found here: www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections.

The Council of the Swiss Abroad represents the interests of all Swiss citizens abroad vis-à-vis the authorities and public in Switzerland. It is also often referred to as the ‘Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland’.

If you want to stand as a candidate, you must submit the application form either by downloading and posting it to FOSSUK, or by filling in the online form on the FOSSUK website by midnight, on the 10th February 2017.

HOW DO YOU PUT YOURSELF FORWARD? HOW DOES IT WORK?

- The UK has five representative delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad for the 2017–2021 term. Eligible* candidates from all parts of the UK are encouraged to stand. You must apply by posting your application to the Swiss Embassy or by filling in the application form** on www.swiss-societies.co.uk/candidate-form
- Two delegates are voted for by Swiss Clubs and Societies at the annual FOSSUK AGM, taking place

on 20th May 2017. If you are a member of a Swiss Club, you can approach your president to discuss the possibility of being endorsed by that Club.

- Three Delegates are voted for by the Swiss community in the UK between the 22nd March and the 28th April 2017. The voting slips will be available online on www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections and on the Swiss Review regional pages in the 22nd March issue.

- Candidates will need to ‘campaign’ as it is a democratic election. Candidates with the most votes will be the representative Delegates. You should encourage Swiss colleagues, family and friends to vote for you once your candidacy has been confirmed and published in the next Swiss Review issue.

Are you a Republic of Ireland resident and wish to participate in the CSA elections? Please visit aso.ch/en/politics/csa-elections-2017 for guidance.



* Are you eligible to stand as a candidate? You must be a Swiss citizen living in the UK, registered with the Regional Consular Centre London, as well as to vote in Swiss elections and referenda. You must be fluent in either German or French, which are the languages at the OSA Council meet-

ings, and be willing to participate in two yearly meetings of the OSA Council in Switzerland. Follow the elections on www.swisscommunity.org. More information about the voting process and the duties of Delegates is available on www.swiss-societies.co.uk/elections.

** For any queries on how to apply, candidate eligibility or difficulty in accessing or downloading the forms, please email enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk and a member of the FOSSUK Committee will assist.

Wales: Hey Big Spenders, spend a little time with me!

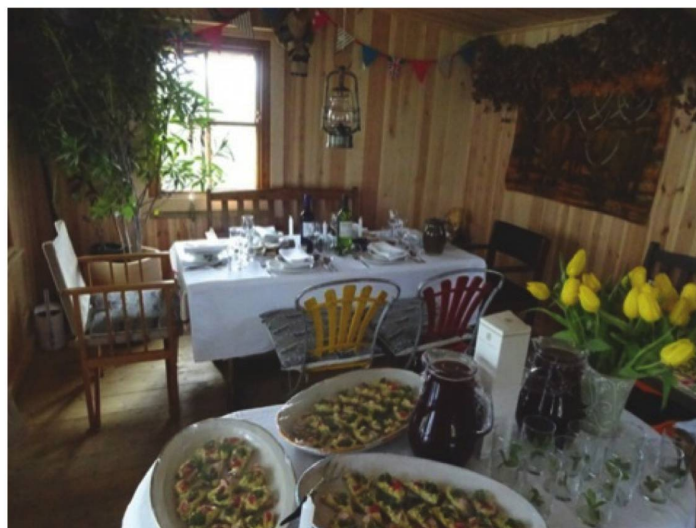
I am planning a charity, candle-lit dinner in our log cabin by the water's edge in Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire.

Every year I choose a different charity to support and this year all proceedings will go to Starlight, an organisation that grants wishes to seriously and terminally ill children. The aim is to raise as much as possible for this worthy charity, so the plan this year is to prepare a 3-course dinner with aperitif and glass of wine for 16 guests at £60 per head. Every penny donated will go to a Starlight project. Last year we catered for 14 guests and raised an impressive £1240 for Christian Aid for Refugees.

If you are interested in attending this exclusive dinner party on Saturday 25th February, or simply donating to this excellent cause, please contact me at bwehren@btinternet.com.

To find out more about my chosen charity, please go to www.starlight.org.uk.

BEAT R WEHREN



Elizabeth Breitschmid winner of the Marchesi Cup

Golf: Swiss Golf Trophy Day

Everyone enjoyed a competitive round in the sunshine at Silvermere Golf Club in October. What could be better than good company, a golf course in excellent condition and, once again, wonderful weather like we've enjoyed for so many years.

After an excellent dinner and much banter, it was time for the presentation of trophies. Congratulations to Elizabeth Breitschmid, top Swiss scorer, who

won the Marchesi Cup, David Cole who walked away with the Vollmond Cup and top lady, Helen Oberg, who was awarded the Appenzeller Beer Trophy. We welcome all golfers regardless of nationality or experience. Our next golf event will take place in the spring.

Contact Jeffrey Long MBE for details:
01274 560 780; or email:
Jeffreymbe@hotmail.co.uk



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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 during the following dates:

8 to 12 May 2017 2 to 6 October 2017

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**.

Please contact the RCC to book an appointment, tel. +44 (0)20 7616 6000 (option 2), or rcclondon@eda.admin.ch

Editor's Job

Could you be the new editor of the Swiss Review UK pages?

The Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK) is looking for a part-time editor for the Swiss Review's UK regional pages.

The 8-page supplement is produced within the official pages of the Swiss Review. The regional section appears four times a year and contains news reports, articles, interviews and advertisements relevant to the Swiss community living in the UK.

We envisage the new editor will have a journalistic background, be interested in the activities of the Swiss Community and its many Clubs and Societies, be very confident in written English and be drawn to creating an informative and exciting journal. Should such a challenge tempt you please do not hesitate to find out more by contacting the FOSSUK team:

enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk

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1: Edinburgh Swiss Club

It was a smaller attendance than in past years, but we all enjoyed 'einen gemuetlichen' afternoon in good company with mulled wine and tasty food. The children were busy with the competition to make Christmas decorations. And there was, as usual, a warm welcome for Santa who brought presents for the children and a lucky dip for the adults.

RUTH MUHEIM

2: North Wales Swiss Club

Club members and their friends enjoyed a splendid fondue recently in Penrallt Upper Bangor Church. Everybody melted their own cheese and we had a little raffle to raise money, so that we can rent the hall again next year. This year Verena Schriber-Davies paid for the hall, for which we are very grateful. The raffle was a success, so please save the date for next year's fondue on the 9th December 2017.

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL

3: Southern Area Swiss Club

We had another good turnout for our Christmas Party this year. As is tradition, everybody brought a dish for the buffet and there were plenty of home-made delights to choose from.

BERNI CUTRESS

4: Swiss Church Christmas Fair

The traditional Swiss Christmas Fair at the Swiss Church in London was once more a great success and enjoyed by young and old. The model railway was a highlight of the fair, and not just for the children! The kids were busy crafting their own presents whilst the grown-ups joined in with carol singing. The homemade Christmas cookies were almost sold out. We would like to thank again all the sponsors, volunteers and helpers for their time and effort to make the fair such a huge success. We raised an impressive £8854.06

REVEREND CARLA MAURER

Santa visits
Edinburgh



Friends
and family
in North
Wales



An
impressive
spread



Model railway
at church fair



The ever-
popular
Castagnata



Hand-
picked
chestnuts



5: Unione Ticinese

On the 19 November, thanks to a small team led by Christiane Barber, Unione Ticinese held a very enjoyable Castagnata at the Swiss Embassy by kind permission of the Ambassador. Among the 50-odd participants there were some old friends and several new faces, including children who picked the raffle tickets at the end of the proceedings.

PETER BARBER

6: Unione Ticinese

The Unione Ticinese paid a visit to Basildon Park in October. Though numbers were low we were blessed with beautiful weather and were permitted to visit the special exhibition of Grand Tour paintings from the collection of Sir Brinsley Ford, though it was closed to visitors on that day. While at Basildon we had a chance to pick a rich harvest of sweet chestnuts that fell from the tree while we were there, so could hardly have been fresher!

PETER BARBER

Military: Swiss Special Forces

In October, Swiss Special Forces participated in Cambrian Patrol, an annual British military exercise consisting of over 120 teams including 19 international patrols.

The exercise, based in Wales, is split into eight phases with soldiers marching 62km carrying full personal kit and equipment weighing in at 60lb on the two-day patrolling mission. Navigating by day and night, the patrols faced many testing and specialist challenges, including cold river crossings in full kit, a first-aid test, an enemy attack and exercises in CBRN equipment. The Swiss team was awarded a silver medal for their performance in the exercise.



Ambassador Dominik Furgler meets the Swiss Special Forces team



Manchester Stammtisch:

The Old Monkey
90 Portland Street
M1 4GX

Edinburgh Stammtisch:

Whigham's Wine Cellars
13 Hope Street
EH2 4EL

Club News: Manchester and Edinburgh Swiss catch up at local Stammtisch

Members of Swiss Club Manchester have set up their first Swiss 'Stammtisch' in an inner city pub. The monthly event, which will take place every 1st Thursday of the month, was launched on the 2nd February.

The chosen pub, The Old Monkey, is conveniently situated in Central Manchester to allow Swiss people who work and study in the city centre to meet socially. First orders will be taken at around 6.30. Anyone interested should feel free to turn up then for a drink and a chat.

The Old Monkey is a popular, traditional pub that serves a full range of Joseph Holt cask ales.

The venue also doubles up as a comedy club once a month with acts from shows like Never Mind the Buzzcocks and Mock the Week.

Edinburgh Swiss Club set up their Stammtisch a year ago. According to Club president Ruth Muheim, as many as 18 Swiss, and those with an interest in Switzerland, have sat around their regulars' table at any one time.

Club member numbers have even slightly increased due to the Stamm. Anyone interested in meeting fellow Swiss in Edinburgh should turn up at Whigham's Wine Cellars every first Wednesday of the month.

Youth: The barriers preventing young Swiss abroad from voting

In November a large group of students and young professionals gathered in a prestigious lecture hall in Central London to discuss how to engage the younger Swiss generation in Switzerland's political system. One of those young people who attended the event was Swiss-American Simone Tissot who offered an insightful personal account of why she as a young Swiss woman living abroad struggles to connect with her Swiss political heritage.

Simone Tissot (ST): I am unfortunately very ignorant when it comes to Swiss politics although I take an active role in both UK and US politics. I follow these countries closely, although this could be due to the more active press coverage and how accessible it is.

Swiss Review (SR): Why were you interested in attending the youth forum on Swiss politics?

ST: As a Swiss voter I feel that it is in my power to be part of the future of Switzerland, but I feel I am a very risky voter as I have to rely on my father's translation of the voting forms. Also, I have very little knowledge of the systems and what it is like to actually live in Switzerland, so therefore I am unaware of how my decisions affect other people.

SR: Why do you feel it is important for young people to engage in politics and the electoral system?

ST: We are voters. At the end of the day our vote counts so we must use it. The important part is to use it wisely. To not use it is such a waste. We need to encourage everyone to vote otherwise the result will be skewed towards a certain generation's opinion. For society to work, we need to establish a clear political picture across all age groups.



Quiz: Take a turn at the Swiss Roll

The Swiss Roll was a popular quiz, which featured in the Swiss Observer in the 1980s. It had been devised by Norman Firth. We thought readers might enjoy taking a turn at this particular Swiss Roll which appeared in the January issue of the Swiss Observer exactly 35 years ago.

ANSWERS to the clues should be entered with the first letter in the numbered space indicated by the clue number and then proceeding outwards.

Words overlap by one or more letters so that the final letter or letters of one word is the beginning of the next word.

Hidden in the REVERSE reading are the names of a Swiss lake, river and mountain.

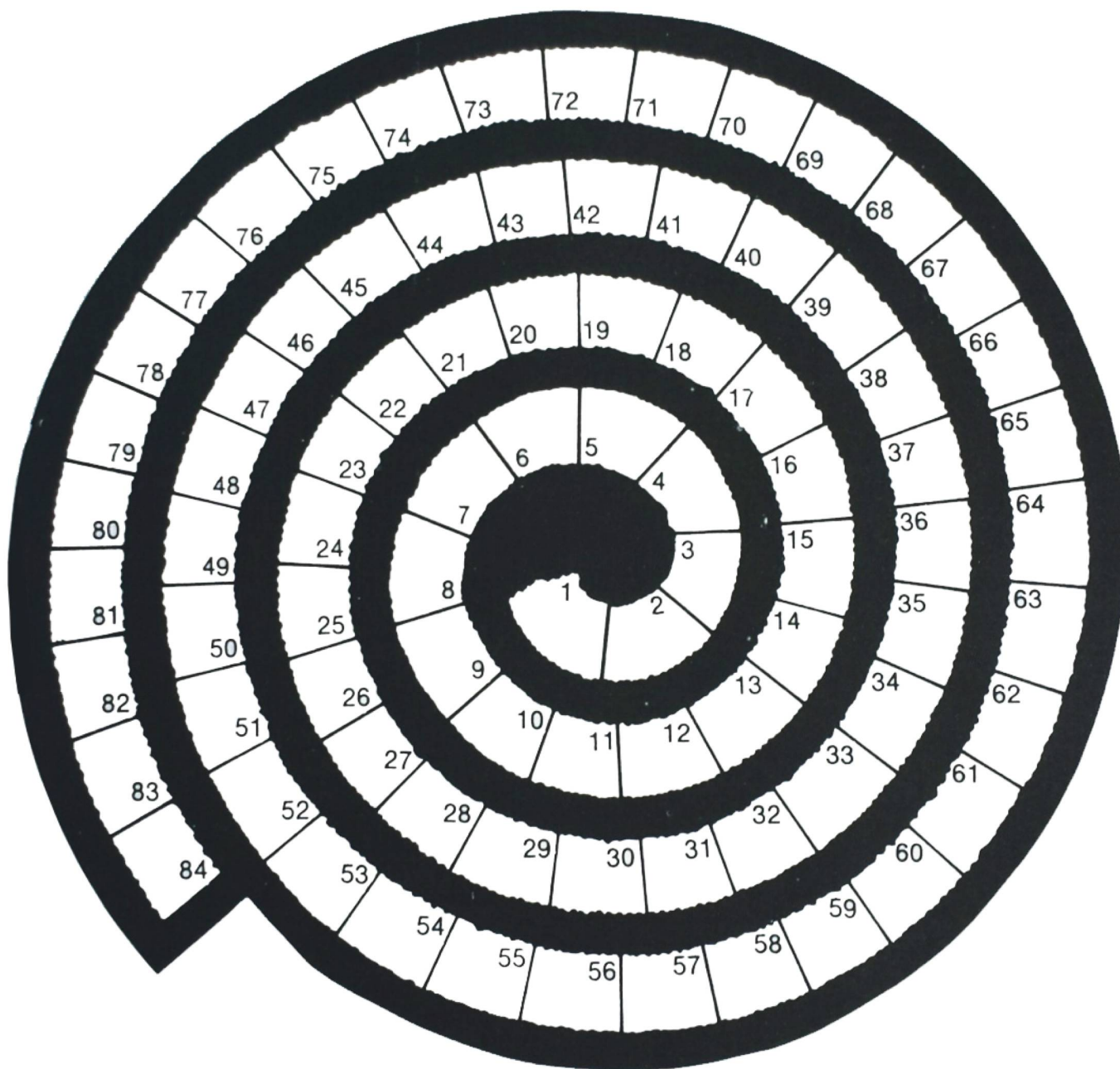
(Turn the page to find the ANSWERS)

CLUES

- 1 Composer of the opera William Tell
- 5 Hostile, unfriendly
- 10 Apple based liqueur made in Normandy
- 16 The greatest of the Egyptian gods, son of Seb and Nut
- 19 Fried ball or cake of minced food
- 22 Any absurdity or incongruity
- 28 Defamed

- 33 Girl's name
- 35 Nude
- 37 Dish made from rice and fish, etc
- 44 Kingdom
- 48 System of government monopoly, especially in tobacco
- 52 Small, mischievous and charming
- 55 One of the front teeth

- 59 Plant – or reddish-brown colour – or horse
- 64 Great German philosopher and mathematician (1646–1716)
- 68 Turkish soldier – or title of a certain Indian prince
- 70 One of the great rivers of Africa
- 75 A bluish-white metallic element
- 76 Under an assumed name





ANSWERS TO SWISS ROLL QUIZ'

The hidden words in the reverse were
KANDER from 37 back to 32
EIGER from 52 back to 48
BIELE from 67 back to 62



Club News: New Helvetic Society – The Way Forward

2016 was the centenary year of the New Helvetic Society. In September, we marked this important milestone in our history by selecting a venue befit for a centenary celebration: One Whitehall Place, famous for being commissioned by the National Liberal Club for the exclusive use of its members. We dined in the Gladstone Library where William Gladstone was known to have spent many hours reading during his time as Prime Minister.

Our VIP guests included: H.E. Mr Dominik Furgler, Ambassador of Switzerland and Honorary President of our Society and his wife Mrs Hayam Furgler; Dr Gerold Brändli, a member of the committee of Rencontres Suisses – Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland; Ms Ariane Rustichelli, Co-Director of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad in Berne; Ms Susannah Stack, daughter of past President Dr Hans Egli; and Praveen Richard from UBS in Zurich, our Official Partner for this event. In their speeches, our distinguished guests spoke highly of what we do and gave us their best wishes for our future. Four members of the Orion Orchestra played beautifully during the reception and Sliding Vinyl provided the music for the after dinner dance. Our celebration, not too formal, not too casual, was a great success judging by the feedback we received.

It is now the perfect time to pause and reassess our *raison d'être* and look to the future. We must ask ourselves if there is still a need for

a society like ours and if so, how can we adapt it to our current way of life. During the past hundred years, the world has moved on and so have the way of life and the concerns of the Swiss community in the United Kingdom. The world has gone global. Travel is more accessible and faster than ever before. We interact instantly through social media, mobile phone, Skype or other means. We live in a virtual world.

We grow older and the generations move at different paces, hence our interests and worries are not always the same. What keep us together though are our cultural heritage and how the political decisions taken in Berne affect us. The aim of the New Helvetic Society is to inform and keep our link with Switzerland alive. We provide a varied programme of events, often joining forces with other Swiss clubs and societies. But equally, we need input and feedback from our members and friends. What sort of club would you like to be part of as we begin our next 100 years? We took stock successfully in 1995 with our study entitled *The Way Forward*. Now is the time for *The Way Forward 2*. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and friends who joined us on 24th September 2016. We are also grateful to all those who offer us their continuous support allowing us to achieve our goals.

DANIEL PEDROLETTI, NSH PRESIDENT

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: ANDREW LITTLEJOHN
81 Brondesbury Road
London, NW6 6BB
Tel: 020 7372 3519
mail: editor@swissreview.co.uk

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