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REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

EDITORIAL

Dear readers, a petition for electronic voting was launched during the last OSA meeting. You will find further information and many articles about this in the main edition of the Swiss Review; I invite you to read them! The UK OSA delegates fully support it and encourage all the Swiss in the UK and in the homeland to sign it before the end of November. I remind you that every person can put his name online, irrespective of his age or nationality. Spread the word! We all hope that at least 10,000 people will sign the petition

over the next three months to put more pressure on parliament and the government.

■ *This issue is particularly rich in news and events from the various Swiss Clubs present in Great Britain. They testify to the social and cultural vitality of our compatriots living in the Country and represent a valuable resource not only for us Swiss, but also for the British. I encourage you all, therefore, to participate and promote the initiatives of our community.*



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

VISP: The contribution of the UK delegates to the last OSA meeting

The Organisation of The Swiss Abroad (OSA) held its 96th congress from the 18th to 20th August in Visp (CH-VS). The UK delegates were represented by Franz Muheim – also a member of the OSA committee – Loredana Guetg-Wyatt, Nathalie Chuard and Vincent Croset. We have asked our UK delegates to comment on the main themes of the conference.

E-Voting and Launch of the Petition

Nathalie Chuard: It is important that all the Swiss citizens living in the UK sign the petition. E-voting would help us to vote in a simpler and faster way and consequently to encourage people's participation in exercising their democratic rights. Citizens living abroad are constantly moving and the Swiss, in particular, are called to vote several times a year. Above all, in the UK everything is done online. Electronic voting would also allow new generations to be reached. Critics warn of security flaws and parliamentary initiatives have been submitted that might block the progress on E-voting. Whilst there is never a 100% security (true also for postal voting!), the technology is already advanced enough to identify any corrupted votes that have been placed into the voting ballot. I would like to stress that e-voting is not a question that only concerns citizens living abroad but all the Swiss. It is an opportunity to modernise democracy and encourage everyone to participate, both in and out of the country.



E-VOTING

Your UK delegates fully support this initiative and encourage all Swiss in the UK to sign the petition by clicking here: www.evoting2021.ch

The UK OSA delegates' report about the last meeting in Visp is now available on FOSSUK's website: www.swissocieties.co.uk

UK OSA delegates
in Visp: Franz;
Nathalie; Loredana
and Vincent.

INTERNET: Virtual social media groups at OSA

The proposal of Franz Muheim to integrate virtual groups into OSA has been approved. This is a great achievement and another step forward in modernising the OSA by reaching more Swiss Abroad groups through social media.

Franz Muheim: Two years ago, when this issue arose, everyone believed that ‘this will never happen’ because OSA is linked to Swiss clubs abroad through the rules of its constitution. But nowadays, multitudes of virtual groups of Swiss Abroad exist and continue to be created, and this independently of a link with the OSA. At the same time, the maintenance of contact with Switzerland is easier than in the past and this makes the need to join Swiss Clubs less urgent if the aim is to meet compatriots. Moreover, in many countries, the distances are too great to allow Swiss Abroad to gather on a regular basis. Since then, in recent years, many virtual groups with a clear link to Switzerland have been created. They offer an opportunity to Swiss people abroad to exchange with each other and maintain contact with their homeland. Therefore it is vital to open a channel of communication with the online groups and OSA. In doing so, the OSA can better understand the concerns of the whole Swiss community abroad and be more widely known. At the moment we are still carrying out a formal procedure to collaborate with these kinds of groups.

BERN: Representation of Swiss Abroad in the National Council

During last year’s meeting, Vincent Croiset presented his proposal of a permanent representation of Swiss Abroad in the National Council (see Issue 1/2018). This project continues to be discussed by OSA.

Vincent Croiset: There has been a lively debate around this interesting idea and the Council agreed to create an official working group. We have a mandate from the OSA to work on this topic. The members who took this on at the beginning are still committed today. The next steps will be to study how feasible this project is; to talk with some politicians to see if and how they would support us and to think about how to raise public awareness.

The Council of the Swiss Abroad.



Orion on Tour

- 15 Oct The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh
- 16 Oct Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Cardiff
- 17 Oct Wigmore Hall, London
- 18 Oct School of Music, Queen’s University, Belfast
- 19 Oct Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester

More information: swissculturalfund.org.uk

OCTOBER: The Swiss Ambassador’s Award Concert goes to Orion String Trio

The Award goes to the Switzerland-based Orion String Trio, with South Korean violinist Soyoung Yoon, German violist Veit Hertenstein and British cellist Benjamin Gregor-Smith. Their friendship inspired them to form the ‘Trio’ in Basel.

EMBASSY NEWS: Brexit update on Citizens’ Rights

The Embassy is closely following developments around Brexit. By working continuously with the UK authorities, it aims to safeguard the existing mutual rights and obligations between Switzerland and the UK after the UK’s withdrawal from the EU across all common areas of interest. Most importantly for you, these discussions also encompass the question of citizens’ rights: the Swiss government has engaged in a close dialogue with the British authorities to ensure continuity and the protection of acquired rights of Swiss nationals living in the UK (and vice versa) under the bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.

On 19 March 2018, the UK government and the EU reached an agreement on EU citizens’ rights after Brexit. According to this agreement, people

who, by 31 December 2020, have been continuously and lawfully living in the UK for five years will be able to apply to stay indefinitely by getting ‘settled status’. That means these citizens will be free to live in the UK, have access to public funds and services, and go on to apply for British citizenship, if they wish to do so. People who arrive by 31 December 2020, but won’t have been living in the UK lawfully for five years, will be able to apply to stay until they have reached the five-year threshold. They can then also apply for settled status.

The British and Swiss authorities are currently working out a similar arrangement between the UK and Switzerland. Those talks are progressing well and pending final agreement being reached

on the details of the arrangement, we fully expect that the settlement scheme will be open to Swiss citizens (and their family members) as well. Hence, every Swiss citizen looking to remain in the UK will also have to apply for this new ‘settled status’.

Please note that you do not need to do anything immediately: there will be no change to your current rights (based on the bilateral Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons) until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. The settlement scheme itself will not be open fully before the end of March 2019.

Please regularly visit the FAQ Brexit on our website for the latest updates:

www.eda.admin.ch/london/brexit

FOSSUK AGM: The Swiss Community gathered in the special landscapes of the Northern Ireland

Every two years the FOSSUK AGM is organised outside London with the aim of involving and meeting the Swiss communities residing outside the capital. Northern Ireland was chosen this year (see issue 2/2018). Ambassador Alexandre Fasel and his wife Nicole accepted the invitation and spent the entire weekend with the Swiss expat community that gathered in Belfast from the 18th to 20th of May.

Among the participants there were present François Voeffray, Deputy Head of the Swiss Embassy in the UK, Hermann Aebischer General Consul and many representatives of the various Swiss clubs. OSA director Sarah Mastantuoni joined the AGM for the second year. Exceptionally, all the Swiss honorary consuls in Great Britain were able to take part in the meeting: Ruth Thomas-Lehmann from Wales, Peter Muller-Mc Dougall from Scotland, Hans Scheiwiller from Manchester and Eleonora Gherardi from Gibraltar.

The Honorary Consul of Northern Ireland Franziska Hewitt and her husband Michael has represented two exceptional guides to discovering the city and its cultural and natural treasures.

On Friday, guests had the opportunity to meet Swiss writer Barbara Kastelin at the iconic pub The Duke of York while enjoying a typical Irish stew and beer in the historic Cathedral Quarter area of Belfast.

On Saturday participants had to face the tough decision of choosing between two equally inspiring proposals: an historical tour of the main murals of West Belfast and the ‘Peace Wall’ (the high wall between the nationalist and the loyalist areas of West Belfast) and a group visit to the winner of the World’s leading attraction, the Titanic Museum and SS Nomadic.

FOSSUK’s AGM took place in the afternoon at the award-winning venue Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC). FOSSUK accepted the resignation of the president Loredana Guetg-Wyatt – the organiser of this special weekend – who for two years has managed the association brilliantly by making important changes, launching new challenges and involving new

Writer Barbara Kastelin presents her book at the iconic pub The Duke of York.



Our delegates with the Ambassador Mr Fasel and OSA director Sarah Mastantuoni.



Carrick-a-Rede Island: Ane and Marc, a couple which, ignoring all danger, always lead the Swiss community everywhere!



Eleonora Gherardi, Honorary Consul in Gibraltar, is a big fan of our Swiss Review.



Film director Francesco Bernasconi presents his latest short movie ‘Ciccillo’.



Honorary Consul Franziska Hewitt and Loredana Guetg-Wyatt.



members. The new FOSSUK’s president Franz Muheim, OSA delegate and member of the OSA Committee, was welcomed with equal enthusiasm.

The UK OSA delegates Nathalie Chuard and Vincent Croset respectively presented the report of the OSA Congress in August 2017 in Basel, the communication strategy adopted by FOSSUK and the project launched by Mr Croset (see issue 2/2018). Sarah Mastrauntoni especially thanked the delegates and all those present with a reminder that the expat community in the UK is one of the most active and proactive among those abroad. The director took stock of the organisation’s challenges, illustrating the progress made in the field of banking, health insurance and e-voting.

The ambassador’s speech further reassured citizens by strongly confirming that ‘Swiss citizens abroad are a strategic partner and priority of our official mission’. Together with Mr. Voeffray they responded to the questions raised by those present regarding Brexit and the strategy adopted by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs called ‘Mind the gap’ (Issue 1/2018).

The second part of the AGM has included an introduction to Swiss film director Francesco Bernasconi followed by the premiere of his amazing latest work, ‘Ciccillo’.

The full programme of activities has continued into the evening with a drinks reception kindly offered by the Ambassador, followed by a private dinner at the restaurant James Street South.

On Sunday guests went to venture into the North of the country to admire the beautiful coastline and the Giant’s Causeway. The tour also included a stop at the scenic Carrick-a-Rede and Larrybane, where participants got the opportunity to visit Carrick-a-Rede Island.

Next FOSSUK’s AGM will be held in London in May 2019. Everyone is invited!

More information:
www.swiss-societies.co.uk

MANCHESTER: In 1948 hundreds of children were sent to the Swiss Alps

On the 22nd March 1948, 238 'delicate' children from Manchester and Salford set off for Switzerland.

Invited by the Swiss Government to spend three months living with host families in Switzerland, these lucky youngsters were to enjoy the plentiful fresh air and good food to build them up after their wartime deprivations. Aged between 5 and 10 years, the excited party left Manchester's London Road station with an escort of 12 adults, including teachers, nurses and a doctor.

Returning three months later on 24th June, their arrival on the ferry at Folkestone, was filmed and this unique record of the journey and family reunions at Manchester's Mayfield Station is preserved in the North West Film Archive. The Archive showed the film on the

24th June to mark the 70th anniversary of the children's return. Some have discovered the film for themselves over the years, and much has been learned from their accounts.

The Swiss Honorary Consul in Manchester, Mr Hans Scheiwiller, was invited for the occasion and attended the showing: 'It was an extremely interesting event' – he explained to the Swiss Review – not to mention that it was pretty emotional for some of the 'children' who had been tracked down after all this time. The comment that I remember most was by one lady who said it was 'like going into colour from a world of black and white'. Marion Hewitt, service manager for the North West Film Archive, reminded the audience that the project is not finished and that the research would be continuing.



Children from Manchester and Salford returning from trip to Switzerland (Image: North West Film Archive)

They are still looking for some of these children. If you know any please get in touch with: n.w.filmarchive@mmu.ac.uk

More details:
'Returning home 1948'
www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk



Sandra Glauser (second from left) and her husband Hans moved back to CH.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: Farewell to Hans and Sandra Glauser

Sandra and Hans Glauser have both been members of the Swiss Club Manchester since 1972. At one time Sandra was president of the club and for many years hon. secretary. She always put her heart

and soul into everything for the club. Hans was president of the Swiss Relief Society for many years and loyally supported Sandra in all her duties as an active member of the Swiss Club Committee.



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FOSSUK WEBSITE

You can find all the information in one place: Club info, events, ASO news, Brexit info, etc. with one click of the mouse! Go to: www.swiss-societies.co.uk



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NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY: An injection of news and new members at the last club's AGM

This year the AGM took place on the 24th of April at the Spaghetti House in London. The members who attended voted unanimously for the proposed reduction of the membership fee which was proposed by the Committee.

As a result, the membership fee for a single adult is £20, for concession members £15. Should you be interested in joining the Society or in receiving our newsletter, please email us at the address below. The aim of this reduction is to encourage younger Swiss nationals to become members and at the same time to reflect lower forecasted costs for events. The committee aims to maintain the quality and relevance of the events, drawing on connections with partners and sponsors to manage costs.

We are very happy to announce that Marine Paclet and Jonas Schembri joined our committee.

Marine was born and educated in Lausanne. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. She moved to London in 2017 to pursue her career in policy and public affairs. Jonas was born in Switzerland and educated in Malta. He served in the Maltese police force



Loredana Guetg-Wyatt Camilla Ghislanzoni Christina Brandao Marine Paclet Jonas Schembri

for 5 years as a Crime Scene Investigator and is currently Director of ODINN Consultancy Ltd in London.

The team is still looking for enthusiastic volunteers that are willing to join the committee in order to support the New Helvetic Society in London. If you are interested please email us at the address below.

We would like to take this opportunity

to invite you to our next event, a concert with Lucy Layton held in partnership with Victorinox and Swiss on the 27th of September in London. Please also save the date for the celebration of the Escalade at the St Moritz Restaurant in London on the 12th of December 2018. We hope to see many of you at our events.

THE COMMITTEE

INFO@NEWHELVETICSOCIETY.ORG.UK

Lucy Layton is a songwriter and a model.

SWISS CHURCH: The celebration of the Swiss National Day and the World Football Cup

The Swiss Church has been busy this summer hosting a number of events for all the community. In June, the first round World Cup matches were shown live on the big screen from Swiss television, drawing a large audience to cheer the team onto the second stage.

On 1st August we held Swiss National day celebrations once again. There were children's events in the afternoon, face painting and games. For the adults, a busy main church hall, decked in all the cantonal flags, was a hive of activity. Traditional raclette was on sale, together with delicious modern dishes made with top quality Swiss ingredients. Excellent Swiss beer and wine was available too. Visitors could enjoy traditional home-baked Swiss cakes with coffee over a chat with friends,

old and new. There was also an opportunity to sample and buy wonderful Swiss cheese and chocolate.

In his welcome speech, Ambassador Fasel emphasised Switzerland's contribution to world affairs, affirming that Switzerland is a small country with different linguistic and cultural traditions, which has had a proud tradition of achieving in a fractious world. After watching President Alain Berset's speech live via satellite TV on our big screen, and signing the National Anthem accompanied by the Church's Spaeth Organ, there was a surprise in store. Two alpine horns, expertly played, filled the Church with the sound of the mountains.

In the autumn we will be organising more community events. Full details will be available shortly on our website, Facebook and Eventbrite. A date for your diaries is Saturday 9 December when we will be holding a Family Events Day with Samichlaus. Sign up to our monthly email newsletter to be kept informed of everything happening at the Swiss Church.



Traditional raclette and excellent Swiss beer.

Newsletter

www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk/newsletter

We rely on volunteers to successfully run a wide range of events. If you could help, please send an email to info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk or telephone the office on 020 7836 1418

Remember, we are here for all the Swiss community in London, and are not only a Church.

1: Swiss in Wales

Up Snowdon with Swiss locomotive

This September a 'Brienz Rothorn' Railways steam locomotive currently operating in Switzerland travelled all the way to North Wales to be united with its sister locomotive at the Snowdon Mountain Railway in Llanberis.

Both the 'Brienz Rothorn' and Snowdon coal-fired steam locomotives were made by Dr. Roman Abt, a Swiss engineer, in the same factory in Winterthur – in the late 19th century. This September was the first and only time in 125 years that they were back together again, working side by side.

The 'Brienz Rothorn' train took passengers up Snowdon to Waterfall station, 182m above sea level. At weekends, they were greeted by our friends from the Gruyère region and sampled some delicious Swiss Gruyère cheese.

More info: swissinwales.org and switzerlandtravelcentre.co.uk/offer/snowdon

Cheese Melting / Samichlaus

The 8th of December the clubs will organise a midday meeting that will finish about at 4–5 pm. There will be cheese melting offered to everyone but we ask to the participants to bring their own food/drink and cheese/melting equipment, please. Raffle will be organised to raise money for paying for the room. Samichlaus will join the crew if we can find one to volunteer! New members welcome.

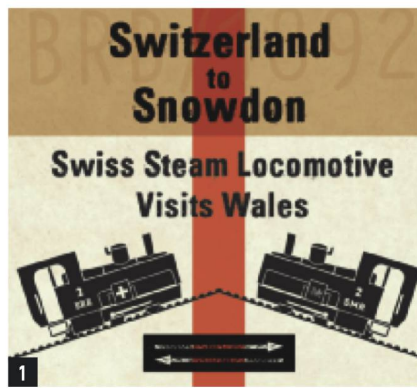
For further information: beaschlegel@outlook.com or swissinwales.org

2: Swiss Club Yorkshire

Weybridge: Swiss and Yorkshire National Day

Good friends of the Yorkshire Swiss Club – Mr Denis Clark and his wife Dorothy – who live in Weybridge fly national flags on important days for those countries. The National days of Switzerland and Yorkshire coincide. Mr Clark did not have a Swiss one to expose on the First of August. Mr

The 22nd of September many Swiss gathered for this special occasion!



The Swiss flag exposed at Clark's house.



'York Column' in Weybridge.



1st of August in Yorkshire.



Jeffrey is raising money to help The Royal British Legion.



Yorkshire Swiss Club's Stammtisch.



Jeffrey Long lent him one for the occasion to have it showed on 'The Green', the open grassed area upon which stands the York Column monument. The Clarks' house where the flag was flying is on the edge of this important area, a few yards away from the monument. Thanks to the kind couple who honoured our National Day!

Swiss National day

The Yorkshire Swiss Club was made most welcome by the landlady of the picturesque 16th Century Crown Inn of Roecliffe, Boroughbridge for their Swiss National Day celebrations.

The great food and good company were enjoyed in the lovely setting of the private dining

Support our Friend Jeffrey

Our Swiss-British friend Jeffrey Long (86-year-old) is a former paratrooper from Yorkshire. He recently celebrated his birthday by walking a mile for every year he's been alive – 86 miles, unaided and in army camouflage.

He wanted to raise money for The Royal British Legion, a charity of which he has been a long term supporter. He raised over £120,000 in just a few days after his story went viral. Jeffrey was awarded an MBE in 2009 for his voluntary work, as he also walked 84 and 85 miles to celebrate his previous birthdays too.

Further details: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jeffrey-long1

Stammtisch

The Swiss Stammtisch in Harrogate's West Park hotel continues to be a successful meeting point for Swiss Nationals to enjoy the company of and conversation with compatriots.

Hans Imhof travels from Dover to join us and returns home the same day! The Stammtisch takes place on the second Friday of every month from 2 pm at the above venue, everyone Swiss or with Swiss connections is welcome.

More information: [FB @yorkshireswiss](https://www.facebook.com/yorkshireswiss)

Swiss Golf Trophy Day

The next Swiss Golf Trophy Day will take place at Hoebrifge Golf Centre October the 3rd. Teeing-off times from 11am. Day fee is £50, which includes coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, green fees and a two course dinner. Trophies and prizes to be won.

Further details:
Jeffreyembe@hotmail.co.uk

3: SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

1st August

The Swiss National day was held in Brookdale, Saturday 29th of July. What a turnout! Over 80 people, including 14 children attended the event.

The youngest participant was 2 years old and the most senior were two ladies of 90! It was such a joy to see a room full of people enjoying themselves. The room was decorated with Swiss flags and those of the cantons.

Juerg welcomed everyone, and as always Posh Nosh was there to provide the food, not to forget the famous deserts. As all good Swiss do, we listened to the speech of the President, and sang the National Anthem. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to have a bonfire and fireworks, due to the dry weather. However, all the children had lampions thanks to the organisation of Julie and Ian.

We all had a sing song, Juerg was the conductor and it was lovely, even without the fire. On a sadder note, we all said good bye to Hans and Sandra Glauser, who will shortly move back to Switzerland, to Dietikon. Two of their granddaughters, Melissa and Noelle were visiting for one last time. We will miss them all.

MARGRITH EASTER

Future clubs events:

November 29th:

COFFEE MORNING: 11am to 1pm

December 2nd:

SAMICHLAUS, Brookdale Club, Bridge Lane, Stockport SK7 3AB.

Further information:
margrith@btconnect.com

FB: [@swissclubmanchester](https://www.facebook.com/swissclubmanchester)

Thanks to Julie and Ian all the children had their lampions.



3a

Swiss Club Manchester's guests in Brookdale.



3b

A 'Swiss train' travelling in West Surrey for the National Day!



4a

West Surrey Swiss Club met in Ripley Village Hall.



4b

One of the youngest members of Southern Area Swiss Club celebrating our National Day.



5a

The skittles group of the Southern Area Swiss Club.



5b

4: WEST SURREY SWISS CLUB

West Surrey has had a very good year so far! Skittles with lunch in February; Guided visit to the revamped Watts Gallery in Compton, Guildford; Swiss Mothers' day celebration with lunch at High Beeches Gardens, Handcross and National Day celebration in Ripley Village Hall with BBQ with imported Swiss sausages and magnificent salad and dessert buffets with music and fun!

We visited Eagle Heights near Eynsford in September and finished with our ever popular Advent Lunch at King-hams Restaurant in Shere where we take over the whole restaurant! Then we start planning again!

More information:
westsurreyswiss@aol.com

5: SOUTHERN AREA SWISS CLUB

1st August

Our Swiss club celebrated the 1st August on Saturday 28th of July at the Darby Green Hall in Blackwater. Thirty six adults and eight children attended. We had a delicious buffet, our famous raffle and good company. Everyone brought some food and we ended up with a fabulous savoury and sweet buffet. Some people made some delicious traditional Swiss food. The club was pleased to offer everyone Swiss-German sausages. As usual, we downloaded the Swiss president's speech and played the National Anthem for which everybody stood.

On Tuesday 22th of May our club met for a skittles evening at the Jolly Farmer pub in Blacknest. We had 32 attendees and a most enjoyable evening. The members of the winning team each received a bottle of wine.

Next club's events:
Saturday 20th of October:

Gschwellti und Käse
 1pm Darby Centre, Blackwater.

Saturday 8th of December:

Christmas Party, 1pm Darby Centre, Blackwater

Sunday 27th of January:

Lunch, venue to be confirmed.

More information:
www.saswissclub.org.uk

SWISS SAYINGS: Lost in translations

Wüssa, wo dr Bartli syn Moscht holt

This saying literally states that somebody knows where the bearded Man gets his cider from. It actually means, that a person is clever and streetwise. According to a Saxon legend, however, the saying goes back to a wine tavern owner named Bartholomäus Zimmer, who lived in Meissen at the beginning of the 16th century. This man had great expertise in the field of wine and sourced only wines from the best camps. The phrase began to be used to describe an extremely hard-working and intelligent person. Perhaps something along the lines of showing you how it's done, or to 'know every trick in the book'.

In French it is: *'être dans la course'*

In Italian it is: *'saperla lunga / essere un furbacchione / essere un furbo di tre cotte'*

BEATRICE SCHEGEL, TRANSLATOR

6: SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH

After all these beautiful weekends it rained on the 1st of August celebration in Edinburgh! But as one of the members wrote, there was a sunny atmosphere in Saughton Hall Community Centre. We were about 40 people, enjoying good grilled sausages, gorgeous home-made salads and dessert, freshly baked 'Zopf', drinks and each others' company.

More information about club's event:
swissclubedinburgh.co.uk
FB: [@swissclubedinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/swissclubedinburgh)



Swiss-Scottish members enjoying our National Day in Edinburgh.

For more of her work, visit:

www.fiphotos.org

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FIONA: The view from the top

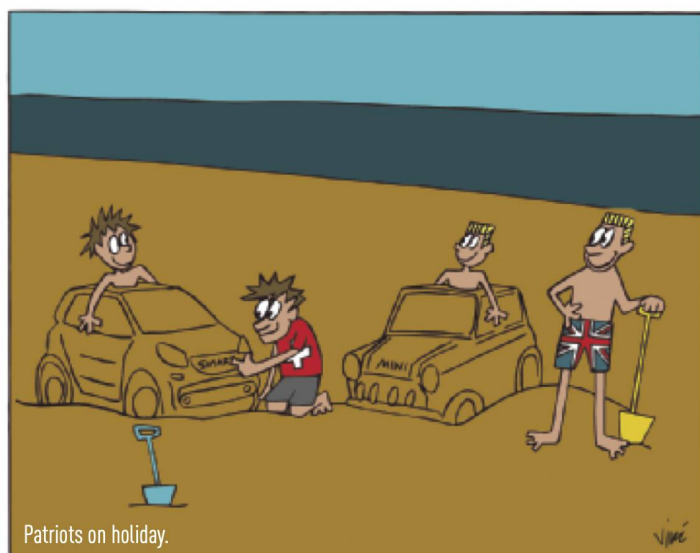


Breithorn Traverse part of Monte Rosa range.

VIKI: A cartoon for the Swiss in the UK

www.vikicartoons.com

f @Vikicartoons



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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