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President's Report

My word, we've had a month off doing the Helvetia magazine...and where has the time gone???!!! It has just flown by. Nearly a month ago, Adrian snapped his Achilles tendon playing squash...what a time of year to have that happen!!! He had played all season without injury, and...bang...second to last game of the season!!! Of course it had to happen just as we had started calving, and getting to the busy time of year. Eight weeks in plaster and then four weeks of being very careful as during this time there is a great risk of recurrence!!! Frustration for him as he can see everyone working, and he is very limited with what he can do...hanging on to two crutches calving a cow wouldn't work!!! No hands available with which to put cups on!!! Can't let the plaster get wet!!! It"s endless.

We are, however, very fortunate to have family helping us...Mum and Dad are here on a farm stay with their campervan!!! Previously they weren't aware that farm stays included working!!! Adrian's parents don't live far away, and they too are helping us out. It is very easy for everyone to take family for granted...but are they not always there to help out? Can we not rely on them when the going gets tough for one reason or another, to pitch in and lend a hand? I firmly believe that we should all be very thankful that we have families...and that we must learn to appreciate them far more than what we do. We all need to remember that what comes around goes around...and that if we've helped out someone in the past, we may need their assistance in the future...or conversely that if someone has helped us out, we may be able to help them out at a later date.

Thanks to all the 'helpers' out there...may the favours be returned some day.

Regards
Marianne

Spruch des Monats

Der Fruehling, droben am Berge

Die Natur erwacht aus tiefem Schlummer, es
wird jetzt langsam Fruehling und dann bald
wieder Summer und vergessen ist der ganze Winter-Kummer!
Man freut sich auf die Waerme und den
Sonnenschein und dein Gemuet ist wieder fein!
Heimlich wuenscht man sich, es sollte immer so sein!
Die Pflanzen, die Erde und die Luft, verbreiten
ihren herrlichen Fruehlings-Duft!
Vergessen sind die haesslichen Wintertage, wo ich
mich kaum nach draussen wage und immer
erbarmen, mit den "Viechern" habe!
Jedes Jahr, stelle ich mir die gleichen Fragen, ob
es sich lohnt, sich selbst so zu plagen und sich
jeden Tag mit den schlechten Wetter und den Elementen,
draussen herum zu schlagen?
Im Fruehling, hast du wieder neue Zuversicht, die
Menschen, die Tiere und die ganze Kultur, erfreut
sich an der Vielfalt der Mutter-Nutur!
Niemand vermisst die dunklen Tage, den Regen, den
Schnee, den Frost und den "bissig" kalten Wind, es
ist alles froh, dass die hinter uns sind!!!
Von mir aus, koennte es das ganze Jahr, Fruehling
oder Sommer sein!
Der Herbst is ja auch noch zu vertragen,
aber der Winter, oh nein, oh nein, der ist hier
droben eine richtige Pein!, darum wuensche
ich mir, es moege doch entlich Fruehling sein!!!

Written by Walter Seifert

Message from the Embassy of Switzerland on behalf of The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

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5 things you didn't know about breakfast

Legend has it that the croissant dates back to 1863, when Vienna was under siege by the Turkish Empire. Bakers, who worked mainly underground, heard the Turks tunnelling, called the army and saved the city. To mark the victory, the bakers made bread in the shape of a crescent moon, the symbol of the Turkish flag.

James C Jackson made the first ready-to-eat breakfast cereal in 1863, called Granula. About 15 years later, Dr John Harvey Kellogg launched a rival breakfast cereal also called Granula. Kellogg was sued by Jackson, so switched the name to Granola.

The Kellogg brothers first made Corn Flakes available to the public in 1906. Rice Bubbles were not developed until 1928.

Charles Strite invented the pop-up toaster in 1919, when he became frustrated with burnt toast!!!

When people say 'the best thing since sliced bread' what they could be meaning is 'the best thing for 91 years'. Otto Rohwedder, the father of sliced bread, began work on a bread slicer in 1912. It took him until 1928 to perfect a machine that could slice and wrap bread, keeping it fresh.