

It's all happening in the South West

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It's all happening in the South West

ENTHUSIASM and activity seem to be the keywords down at the Schwyzerclub South West, where they are setting up a Bristol branch in an attempt to keep pace with the activities of this rapidly-growing club.

At last month's plenary meeting in Bristol more than 30 members – including seven new ones – had travelled from as far as Torquay and Salisbury.

The group spent the day together, enjoying a Swiss buffet and discussing the question of Switzerland's membership of the United Nations.

An exhibition of handicrafts, paintings and personal hobby items was also held.

The organiser of the new Bristol branch is Myrtha Hack, of 2 The Mews, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol. The branch secretary is Dorothea Chiverton of 24 Kennaway Road, Clevedon, Avon.

There will be informal meetings in Bristol and Taunton each month, and anyone requiring information about Taunton meetings should contact Ruth Cole at 34 Dillons Road, Creech St Michael, Taunton.

Mrs Anny Bachofen

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs Anny Bachofen, of 24 Midholm, Barn Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex, who died peacefully on March 22 after a few months' illness.

Anny Bachofen was born in Zurich on August 10, 1900. She spent her youth in Zurich and also met her husband there. He came to this country in 1903, joining the business of his uncle. Mr and Mrs Bachofen married in

1925 and lived here from then on.

After the death of Mr Bachofen in 1956 his wife carried on the business until a few years ago.

The Bachofens were well known in the Swiss community in London. He was a member of the City Swiss Club from 1910 and of the Swiss Mercantile Society from the early 1940s.

He and his wife were active members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and it was there and, in the Swiss Benevolent Society, that Mrs Bachofen played a special part.

Both served on the Council and, when Mr and Mrs P. Isacco left for Switzerland and the Swiss Youth Club, which was founded in 1948 and was under the auspices of the NSH, needed new leaders, the Bachofens offered to take on the arduous task.

For several years, until the premises in Grosvenor Square were shut down in the mid-fifties, Mr and Mrs Bachofen looked after several hundred Swiss girls and boys every Saturday evening. The youngsters owed them a debt of gratitude for taking such good care of them and providing them with dancing, games and get-togethers.

For many years, Mrs Bachofen was a member of the Swiss Benevolent Society and her practical help with the despatch of the Christmas parcels was always much appreciated.

Family and friends and representatives of the above societies gathered at Golders Green Crematorium on March 29 to say farewell to Anny

Bachofen.

The Rev Urs Steiner officiated and he reminded us of our transitory lives on earth and the promise of everlasting life.

Our special sympathy goes to the Bachofens' daughter Mrs Silvia Hopkins. With her, we shall remember her mother as we do her father, a kind-hearted and faithful friend – two loyal servants who did their work well.

MM

Rev Marcel Pradervand

THE Rev. Marcel Pradervand, who is remembered by all London Swiss with war-time memories, died on March 20 at his home in Geneva, aged 78, after a short illness.

Born in 1905 in Payerne (Fribourg), he studied theology in Lausanne, Basel and Berlin.

He began his ministry in 1928 as assistant minister to the Rev Hoffmann de Visme in the French-speaking Swiss parish in London. He remained with Mr Hoffmann de Visme until 1932.

After six years as pastor at Ressudens (Vaud), he returned to London in 1938, one year after the death of the Rev Hoffmann de Visme, to take over as Swiss Minister and conduct a ministry with great distinction right through the war until 1947.

The Rev Pradervand played a most important spiritual and inspirational role among the Swiss colony, which was separated from the homeland and suffered the hardships of war. He was,

throughout that time, a force of strength and encouragement to all.

After his stay in London, he worked for a while with the newly founded World Council of Churches in Geneva and then became General Secretary of the World Evangelical Alliance, a job which he held from 1949 until his retirement in 1970.

He continued to be active, particularly in visiting sick and lonely people, and was chaplain of a clinic in Canton Geneva.

The Rev Pradervand was a man of the Spirit and is particularly remembered for his ministry of healing and charismatic prayer. His widow, Mrs Marcel Pradervand, played a most important role in his ministry.

PMB

Discussion on the UN

THE Nouvell Société Helvétique will arrange a discussion on "Switzerland and the United Nations" on Thursday, May 19, at 7pm.

The meeting will take place at the Lecture Hall of the Swiss Embassy in London, and members of the Embassy will lead the debate.

It should enable various Swiss organisations to fill in the questionnaire being sent by the Secretariat of Swiss Abroad in Berne, prior to the Assembly at the end of August in Zurich when this subject will be the main theme.