

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

EDITORIAL

Dear readers, happy New Year! We all hope that the months to come will mark the end of the pandemic and allow us to return to enjoy our loved ones, travel and organise gatherings with our friends and compatriots.

■ *On this page, you will find Jeffrey Long's greetings on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Jeffrey has been an active community member for many years. We are always surprised by his energy, positivity and desire to help people in difficulty. May his tireless vitality be an inspiration to all of us!*

■ In the issue, you will also read about an award established by the Marchesi-Reggiori family in Kent and the launch of the new album by a young and talented artist from Zug. In addition, during the pandemic, initiatives were born that have made life easier for many: conversation groups on Zoom, online book clubs and even outdoor events. As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining!



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

ANNIVERSARY: JEFFREY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY YEAR FULL OF CHALLENGES & MILESTONES

The former president of FOSSUK and Yorkshire Swiss Club, Jeffrey Long, turned 90 the 22nd of October 2021. For this very special occasion, he organised a dinner in aid of charities, raising £2,239. This is the message he wrote to thank all the people who supported and helped him last year.

Here we are, survivors of the second year of Covid and still smiling and will continue to do so as long as we get our jabs and behave sensibly.

It has been a tough year for me what with restrictions and physical problems, in spite of which I have managed to raise over £6,000 for charities. Aware that it was the Royal British Legion's Centenary year, I decided to

do a 100-mile walk in support and then added on another 90 because of my 90th birthday, making 190 miles in all. Due to restrictions, I was unable to walk A to B, so I decided to do circular walks around the hills above Bingley, where I live. Normally I can walk 20 miles a day, but due to suffering from extreme back pain and a problem ankle, most days I could only manage 3 miles, the most being ten miles.

Back problems were caused when my parachute malfunctioned (no reserve) and I fell several hundred feet rather quickly resulting in a permanent injury. I had to take 3 days off and rest during this walk to recover and at the end was very glad to see the Cenotaph in Bradford and the Lord Mayor waiting to greet me! Altogether raising £3,884 which was divided between the Poppy Appeal & Support our Paras.

In October I spent a few days in the hospital because of ankle and leg problems. I have now got to go on a course of physiotherapy and a rehab course at the hospital. Once I've done these I expect to be out and about, raising funds for Charities.

Highlights of the past year being one of the four finalists for a Soldierinon Award and my 90th Birthday Charity Dinner at the Midland Hotel, Bradford, where I raised £2,239 which was shared between Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancer Research UK. About 56 people



attended, despite the difficulties due to the pandemic. I have also taken delivery of part of the order for 500 pairs of socks which I have been donated to the Salvation Army and other agencies who look after rough sleepers and others in need.

I would like to thank everyone who supported my efforts, be it by a friendly wave, words of encouragement or a donation to one of the Charities. I continue to bring a smile to many people on my walks by surprising them with the gift of a nice hankie, having given away 113 dozen since the first lockdown in 2020. Best wishes to everyone for the New Year, take care and keep smiling, it's infectious!

JEFFREY LONG MBE



KENT: SWISS FAMILY FUND SUPPORTS PRIZE FOR BEST SECONDARY SCHOOL ESSAY

The Marchesi-Reggiori Fund has agreed to support Kent University at Canterbury in its open competition to Schools and higher education establishments in Kent. The prize to be called the GRAHAM-ROGER Prize will be awarded to five categories.

The prize is dedicated to the memory of two men, one from the USA and one from the UK, both of whom survived the Japanese POW camps of WW2 and met at one of the oldest Swiss Restaurants in the UK, Marchesi Brothers of Broadstairs. The Restaurant began in the town in 1884, when Federico Marchesi from Poschiavo GR, opened his business there. The restaurant has stayed in the family ever since and kept going during some of the darkest hours. There are numerous anecdotes and stories concerning the family's bistro. It has served singers, world leaders, archbishops and schoolboys and it has been the oldest family-run restaurant in Britain for long time. Incidentally the restaurant was to play host to the FOSSUK Conference in 2005.

Alfredo Reggiori, whose family had owned the eponymous restaurant in Kings Cross and Edgeware Road, had married Alma Marchesi from Poschiavo in 1913. They had a daughter Freda who had married Eric Roger from Southampton in 1939.

With the ending of the War an American, Earl Graham who had suffered very much as a POW found himself transferred to RAF Manston just close to Broadstairs. When he learnt that another POW was in town he made a point of searching him out.

The two men met when Eric was working in Marchesi's and a lifelong friendship was born. Eric and Earl so much wanted WW2 to be the last conflict and that people would



Mr Peter Roger and Mr Timothy Farrow-House of Kent University at the signing of the agreement between the University and the Marchesi-Reggiori fund.

respect each other from whatever their background. For this reason, the family's Marchesi-Reggiori fund has instituted a prize for higher education.

The theme for the inaugural Graham-Roger Prize is based on President John F. Kennedy's famous 1961 address in which he said, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.' Kennedy's address inspired American people and the world to see the importance of civic action and challenged them to contribute to the public good.

On the 70th anniversary of this address, Year 10, 11, 12, 13 and FE college students are being asked to think how his call to action resonates today and how they can make a difference to their local community, society or the world. The Graham-Roger academic prize will also provide current University

of Kent students with the opportunity to win £1000.

A representative of the fund said, 'we would like to expand the competition next year and hope that educational establishments in Switzerland and USA may like to take part'.

Tim Farrow-House, Head of Development at the University of Kent pointed out: 'We are delighted that the Marchesi-Reggiori Fund is creating with us this opportunity for secondary schools across Kent and Medway and our students. We look forward to seeing the many inspiring and thought-provoking entries that will be submitted over the coming months'.

PETER ROGER

For further information please follow:
kent.ac.uk/what-s-on/global-citizen-prize



On the left: picture taken by Earl Graham of Marchesi Restaurant in 1951.
 On the right: Earl Graham and Mr Eric Roger.

EDINBURGH/ZUG: NATHANIEL CARTIER, WHEN MUSIC IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN SWISS AND BRITISH CULTURE



Nathaniel Cartier, who is only 21, is an unstoppable and talented musician. He has been raised in a multi-cultural British family and in 2011 he moved

from France, where he was born (Paris) to Zug.

Nathaniel's energy and positivity can be fully listened in his songs and in his new album Zuger Träumer, which has been released in July 2021. He moved to Edinburgh to study Acoustics and Music Technology (BSc) 3 years ago where he immediately caught up with the local Swiss Community.

'I did my whole High school in Switzerland and fully integrated as a Swiss citizen, learning Swiss German and being heavily invested into the local music scene as the President of Zug's Youth Orchestra & Big Band for several years' he explains to the Swiss Review. 'I am in my third year out of four and am now heavily invested in Edinburgh's music scene – having co-founded the city's open network for Creatives – The Edinburgh Collective'. He has also been having great success with his music: his most recent song was played on 'BBC Introducing Scotland', he played at a 'COP26' culture conference in front of Scotland's Minister for Culture, he played at the big Scottish Music conference 'Resonate Scotland', and went live on BBC Radio Scotland at the end of November '21.

SR: *How do you compose your music, what inspires you and why?*

NC: Abroad I always introduce myself as the Swiss multi-Instrumentalist: playing saxophone, piano, guitar & bass, as well as singing – all to a high standard. I love writing music with other people and incorporate their influences into my music. By doing this, every song has its own story and feel. What inspires me is creating positive emotional moments for other people through my music. I always tell people that I live and breathe music, and that my heart beats for music.

I also love playing with other people and this is what I have been doing after COVID – getting musician friends to play live concerts with me - this is much more special than playing on your own.

SR: *Last year you released your new album. What is it about?*

NC: The Zuger Träumer journey started with me writing a couple of the songs in summer 2020. I finished composing all of them in June / July 2021



before the release on the 31st of July. There was a big story around the album of me returning to Switzerland for the summer, and that this Album represents my love for Switzerland and is dedicated to my hometown of Zug and the time I spent growing up there.

SR: *Have you involved other artists in your album projects?*

NC: My Album Zuger Träumer represents the Canton of Zug's young/new emerging music scene. It is an album that reinforces community and brings people together. As I was saying before, I love writing with other people and Zuger Träumer is a great example of that. Involving ten other artists, to create a fabulous album full of diverse music. The cover (last one in this page) is a drawing of the view onto Zug from my balcony (which was also co-designed by a Zuger artist) and it progresses from Spring to Winter. So do the songs on the album – they all flow from Spring to Winter, and they bring the spirit and different genres of the other artists along with them.

SR: *What did happen when you released 'Zuger Träumer'?*

NC: The whole album was entirely organised, managed, recorded, produced, mixed, advertised and completed by myself with little to no external support. I organised two successful concerts in Zug and was interviewed for SRF 3 representing Zug, and they played a couple of Zuger Träumer's songs. The Canton of Zug and the City of Zug supported the project, making it a part of Zug's history. I was also nominated to be SRF3's best talent in September, but was not selected in the end. A Zug radio also interviewed me and hosted one of my concerts. After a super successful summer my Zuger Träumer was kind of cut short as I am back in Scotland for uni. Despite that I am making big achievements with my music here, so that is also super good – potentially even better! No matter what, I am always representing Switzerland abroad (I am now part of the Swiss Club Edinburgh Committee!). I have had so much support and great feedback on the whole album and my music from everyone in Zug and Edinburgh it has actually been really nice – I still love listening to Zuger Träumer myself!

Follow his music
 @n.cartier
linktr.ee/n.cartier

SCOTLAND: A DELEGATION OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL VISITED EDINBURGH

Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swiss National Council made a working visit to the UK and NI last October.

At their arrival from London in Edinburgh, the delegation was welcomed at Waverley Station ‘Scottish Style’ before conducting a number of meetings in the City of Edinburgh.

From left to right: Marco Fischer (Embassy) HE Markus Leitner (Ambassador). Members of the Committee: Christa Markwalder, Fabian Molina, Christine Bulliard-Marbach, Tiana Angelina Moser (President of Committee), Yves Nidegger, Eric Nussbaumer, Nicolas Walder with Peter Mueller (Consulate General) and Joachim Tomaschett (Swiss Parliamentary Services).

Photo (with Pipe Major MacPhail) taken upon arrival of the Swiss delegation at Edinburgh’s Waverley Station.

Information from the Swiss Embassy for Swiss residents in the UK

Entering the UK: From 1 October 2021, Swiss citizens need a valid passport to enter the UK. Those who have settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, or who have made a valid application to the scheme but not yet received a decision, can continue to use a national ID card to enter the UK until at least 31 December 2025. Dual nationals are advised to use the national identity or travel document which is relevant to their immigration or residence rights in the UK.
[gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-as-an-eu-eea-or-swiss-citizen](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-as-an-eu-eea-or-swiss-citizen)

View and prove your immigration status: with settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, you can view your immigration status online, check what rights you have in the UK, and prove your status to others.
[gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status](https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status)

If you have ILR (Indefinite leave to enter or remain: you need to evidence your rights in the UK in the same way as non-EU, EEA and Swiss citizens. You can do this by relying on Home Office documentation such as an endorsement/vignette in your passport stating ‘indefinite leave to enter or remain’ or ‘no time limit’, or by producing a valid biometric residence card (BRC) or biometric residence permit (BRP). To evidence your right to work, the endorsement/vignette must be in a current passport.
[gov.uk/government/publications/view-and-prove-your-immigration-status-evisa](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/view-and-prove-your-immigration-status-evisa)

Update your immigration status: if you have settled or pre-settled status, you must update your online immigration account with any new identity document. The system will not recognize your new identity document, for example when entering the UK, until you have updated your status.

[gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details](https://www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details)

EU Settlement Scheme – late applications: If you are a Swiss citizen who was living in the UK up to 31 December 2020 and you (and your family members) do not also hold UK or Irish citizenship, and you have missed the deadline on 30 June 2021 to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, it is still possible to make a late application where there are ‘reasonable grounds’ for doing so. You are reminded that you must hold settled or pre-settled status (or have evidence of ILR) if you want to retain your right to remain in the UK.

[gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)
eda.admin.ch/london/brexit

Healthcare when visiting Switzerland: Under the new Swiss-UK Social Security Co-ordination Agreement, from 1 November 2021 Swiss and UK citizens and EU nationals can use a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or UK European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to get state-provided, medically necessary healthcare at a reduced cost (or sometimes free of charge) when visiting Switzerland. For further information see Question 21 in the Embassy’s Brexit FAQ.

eda.admin.ch/london/brexit

TRADITIONS: THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ESCALADE

On Saturday the 11th December 2021, members and friends of the New Helvetic Society, gathered together to celebrate the tradition of L'Escalade at the Swiss Embassy in London.

L'Escalade remains one of the most important events in the Genevan calendar, commemorating the fateful event of December 1602 when the Duke of Savoy, Charles Emmanuel, attempted to take Geneva by surprise but suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of its citizens.

For over one hundred years, Genevans and friends have commemorated L'Escalade in London. December 2021 was no exception as more than 50 people gathered at the Swiss Embassy with our guests of honour, Mrs Simona Regazzoni Kwenda, Head of the Consular Affairs in London. Following an amazing performance by the Nicholas Meier Trio, guests were invited to savour some delicious Swiss Delicatessen from the Swiss Break Bakery and Jumi Cheese and a glass (or two) of wine from Alpine Wines.

The evening continued with President Loredana Guetg-Wyatt inviting Madame Lakshmi Sundaram, OSA Delegate, to recall the fateful event of December 1602. Last but not least, the event ended with the traditional smashing of the chocolate marmite (cauldron) filled with marzipan vegetables which was kindly transported from Geneva to London by Madame Liechti. Madame Marie-José Lindon, was asked to smash the marmite, with the support of our youngest guests, and did elegantly while diligently reciting 'Ainsi périrent les ennemis de la République' (Thus perish the enemies of the Republic). This refers to how Catherine Cheynel, better known as Mère Royaume, poured boiling hot vegetable soup on soldiers scaling the walls of the city.

The Society would like to thank Ambassador Markus Leitner and the team of the Swiss Embassy for allowing them to host the event in the Lecture Hall and for their continuous help and support.



SWISS-GERMAN BOOK CLUB: THE POPULAR SWISS AUTHOR PHILIPP GURT AS A SPECIAL GUEST ON ZOOM



In October 2021, members of the 'Swiss in the UK' Facebook group had the opportunity to get to know and join in a Zoom conversation with the Swiss writer from Chur, Philipp Gurt.

The event was held in Swiss-German and was part of the Swiss-German Book Club fuer Schweizer Frauen im Ausland organ-

ised by Ruth Thomas in Wales. Philipp spoke about how he developed to become the bestselling writer he now is. He gave some readings of his latest book 'Der Puppenmacher', introduced his first children's book 'Lenard, der Marmelibuab' and answered many questions from the Zoom audience. Philipp Gurt became known throughout Switzerland in 2016/17 for his bestseller autobiography 'Schattenkind', for which he received the Swiss Author Award, and also through the documentary film on Swiss television 'Vom Schattenkind zum Erfolgsautor'. Today, probably few writers in Switzerland boast as many books sales as Philipp Gurt. He has written 17 since he first started to write, biographies, fiction, novels, (historical & detective novels) and most of them have become bestsellers. His next detective novel, 'Buendner Abendrot' is due to be published in March 2022. There is no doubt, Philipp Gurt is

a prolific and popular Swiss writer, the *Weltwoche* (29.7.2021) describes him as 'ein ungeschliffener Diamant', an uncut diamond, he is genuine, frank, natural, approachable, cordial and above all proud to be a 'Buendner'.

The author's talk Zoom evening was organised by Ruth Thomas in Wales, Anna DeWit in Brighton provided the Zoom facility. Ruth has been running a virtual book club for Swiss German-speaking Swiss women abroad (SFIA Book Club) for several years. It was the first time, however, Ruth was able to invite a bestselling Swiss writer for a talk. It is hoped that another Swiss author's Zoom talk can be arranged by the virtual Book Club in 2022. Should any Swiss German-speaking Swiss ladies in the UK be interested in reading Swiss and international authors and meet occasionally via Zoom for a Book discussion in Swiss-German write to Ruth:

info.swissintheuk@gmail.com

FB: 'SWISS IN THE UK' GROUP'S MONTHLY CHATS

Many members of the Facebook group 'Swiss in the UK' have appreciated the weekly Zoom chats with fellow Swiss all over the UK during the lockdown and the ongoing Pandemic.

The members are grateful to Anna De Wit in Brighton who is using her annual Zoom subscription to provide and host these meetings three times a month on a Wednesday morning. The Swiss Benevolent Society usually hosts the fourth monthly Zoom chat. The language used in the chat meetings depends on participation members.

To provide an opportunity for those at work during the day, once a month evening Zoom chats are now made available by Anna. They will be held monthly on a Wednesday at 7pm – 8pm on the following dates: 12th Jan, 9th Feb, 9th March, 13th April and thereafter every second Wednesday evening per month. The evening Zoom chats are in Swiss-German with break-out rooms in French if desired. Should you be interested in joining, the Zoom meeting code is available via the Facebook group Swiss in the UK @swissintheuk

RUTH THOMAS; SWISS IN THE UK



Members of the conversation chat on Zoom.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: NEWS FROM THE SWISS CHURCH

On Sunday 5 December the congregation of The Swiss Church in London and ten young Swiss families were able to join together and celebrate a Swiss Family Christmas.

The Christmas story was told in Swiss German by Swiss author Peter Stäuber. Samichlaus visited us, and we enjoyed Swiss foods in a relaxed atmosphere, prepared by the amazing Robert Kaufeler. In mid-December we raised £10,650 via the Big Give Christmas 2021 Challenge matched funding charitable giving scheme.

This exceeded our target to raise £10,000 and will help fund our Breakfast on the Steps- Haircuts for the Homeless outreach work for the homeless and vulnerable in Central London in 2022. The outreach work restarted in November 2021, co-ordinated by Andreas Feller, one of the UK delegates to ASO. We were delighted to see this outreach work featured on SRF Swiss television and radio. We are looking for more volunteers to assist in this work.

COLIN MCINTYRE; TRUSTEE, CONSISTOIRE – THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON



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INFORMATION

Obituaries of Swiss citizens living in the UK recently passed away will be regularly published in the last issue of the Swiss Review. Please send an email to editor@swissreview.co.uk with all the information.

1: SWISS IN WALES

'Samichlaus in the woods', a new opportunity

Covid has had an impact on how Swiss Clubs and Societies hold their traditional events. It did in Wales. Our traditional Samichlaus event could no longer be held at the Welsh Centre in Swansea as it temporarily closed. However, Covid can also be an inspiration by having to look for other options. If you can't meet indoors, meet outdoors! This is what the Swiss in Wales thought when after planning their traditional Samichlaus event for 2021 at their usual meeting place, this had to be cancelled for the second year because of Omicron.

Going for a lovely walk with all the family and their dogs, decorating a tree in the woods, and meeting Samichlaus 'by chance' on the way back to the outdoor Cafe of the Penllergare Woodland Trust turned out for everyone to be much funnier than holding the event indoors. 'Samichlaus in the woods' is what in the future will be the new Pre-Christmas event for the South Wales Swiss. We already booked the Cafe at www.penllergare.org for Sunday 4th Dec 2022. For more information contact Ruth Thomas at info.swissintheuk@gmail.com

RUTH THOMAS

2: TAUNTON AND SOMERSET SWISS CLUB

The Taunton and Somerset Swiss Club had a double celebration on Sunday 1st August. It was, of course, our Swiss National Day but also our first reunion after all the restrictions.

The Club remains a very happy and lively group of Swiss nationals of all ages. Our president, Christiane Greening-Knoepfli, was delighted to see our members together again and we all raised a glass of bubbly to celebrate the occasion!

Beat very kindly opened his house and garden to us and we all enjoyed a delicious buffet of cold salads and sausages. The showers of rain didn't dampen our spirits. On the contrary, there was plenty of laughter and joy. We are pleased to welcome 4 new members to our Club and it was a pleasure to meet them on Sunday. Taunton and Somerset Swiss Club is growing and thriving! For further information, please contact Christiane Greening christianne.greening@gmail.com or 01823 327308

CAROLINE RAINFORD

3: THE SOUTHERN AREA SWISS CLUB

The Southern Area Swiss Club met for the first time in almost two years for a tea and cake afternoon. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing each other and had a good catch up. For more information on our events please contact Berni Curtress: berni@nbtsc.plus.com

BERNI CURTRESS



Kids super excited to meet Samichlaus in the wood!



This event in the nature turned out for everyone to be much funnier than holding it indoors.



The Taunton and Somerset Swiss Club remains a very happy and lively group of Swiss nationals of all ages.



The Southern Area Swiss Club met for the first time in almost two years.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing each other.

CULTURAL NEWS

Swiss band tour in the UK: 0540s, a Vaud-based rock band is touring in Britain in February, bringing to the audience a portion of the Swiss culture that Swiss living in the UK have been missing from home. The 0540 Time in the UK tour starts in Camden, London, on February 18th. Then they travel to Coventry on February 19th, followed by a show in Manchester's Northern Quarter on February 22nd. They then play in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, on February 24th and finish off their tour in Coalville, Leicestershire on February 26th.

More details on the tour venues and tickets are available via website. Listen to their music via website, or on Spotify:

0540s.com/tour



Swiss artists exhibition: Swiss Selection Live at Brixton House is an exciting programme of work from three of Switzerland's most dynamic artists. Proudly presenting the UK Premieré of works by Ntando Cele, Tr an Tran, & Alan Alpenfelt, this is an eclectic & current showcase of contemporary performance and art. Supported by Pro Helvetia, this programme presents some Switzerland's most urgent & innovative artists in London, offering Brixton House's audiences a chance to see international work that speaks to them.

brixtonhouse.co.uk



Swiss Books Available in English: New Books in German promotes German-language literature for translation into English in the UK, USA, and beyond. They feature recommendations of the best new fiction and non-fiction titles from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland.

new-books-in-german.com/swiss-nbg-books

UTL: THE CLUB'S 148TH ANNIVERSARY

5th of February: To celebrate the 148th anniversary of the Unione Ticinese London, some special guests have kindly agreed to address the audience.

The Ambassador Mr Markus Leitner, who is also the Honorary President of the Unione Ticinese. Mrs Manuela Bechtiger, Vice-President of Pro Ticino. Mrs Loredana Guetg-Wyatt, OSA Delegate. This will be followed by the viewing of the Ticinese doc film 'Un palco per la vita – A stage for life'. The producer and the film director will join the audience.

Info: utpresident1854@gmail.com



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:

GIOIA PALMIERI

108 Anfield Road
L4 0TE, Liverpool

Tel: 077 10837735
mail: editor@swissreview.co.uk

DESIGN:

Implemented by Marc Peter – on-IDLE Ltd
www.on-idle.com

The deadline for the next UK issue is: **28.02.2022**
Date of publication: **01.04.2022**

Next Issues

The Swiss Review is published six times a year. Its 'Switzerland in the UK & Ireland' supplement is out four times a year: February, April, June and October.