

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM | IRELAND

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! 2025 promises to be a year filled with events and challenges for the Swiss community abroad. As highlighted in our final issue of 2024, this year marks the elections for new delegates to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) parliament. We call on individuals passionate about representing our community to step forward and advocate for the rights and needs of Swiss nationals in the UK.

This year also continues the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Review. To honour this milestone,

we've dedicated a page to showcasing messages received from readers around the globe, reflecting the magazine's importance to the Swiss abroad.

To foster community spirit, we feature two interviews. The first is with the newly elected president of the New Helvetic Society, whose passion is strengthening connections within our community. The second is with Jessica, a Swiss artist rediscovering her roots through Bauernmalerei, a traditional art form. Finally, we celebrate the remarkable 175th anniversary of the Swiss Club Manchester, a testament to the enduring bonds within our community.



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»



FOSSUK:

Last chance to run as Delegate for the Council of the Swiss Abroad

Are you Swiss, 18+, registered with the embassy and interested in:

- Political affairs
- The rights of Swiss living abroad
- Getting involved for the Swiss in the UK
- Being part of a dynamic Council with Swiss delegates from all over the world
- Getting an insight into Swiss politics and making a difference

You still have until 15 February 2025 to run as a candidate for the Council of the Swiss Abroad. The term is 4-years, and you will be joining a team of 5 UK delegates.

Get in touch with us

email: president@swiss-societies.co.uk
website: swiss-societies.co.uk/elections
More info: swisscommunity.org/en

50 Jahre Schweizer Revue: What readers say about us

In 2024, the 'Swiss Review' celebrated its 50th anniversary. However, the celebration continues into 2025. Fifty years ago, the first edition of our magazine reached Swiss citizens abroad.

Today, our mailbox is filled with letters from readers sharing how they engage with the 'Schweizer Revue' – and how it connects with them.



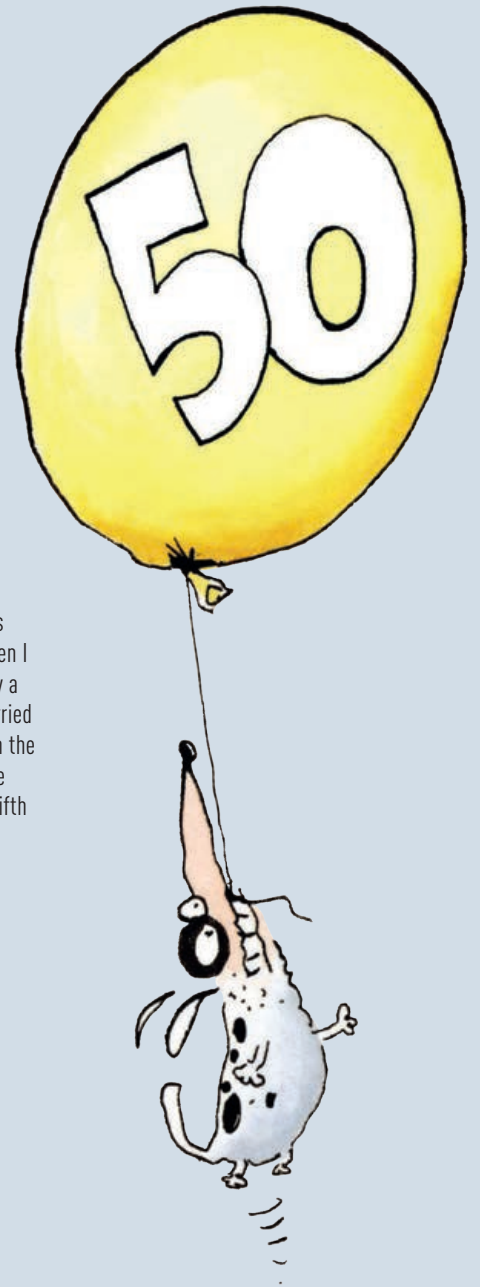
«For 26 years reading and sharing the Swiss Review with Swaussies of the 'Fraser Coast Swiss Group' and keeping in my Guestroom. Very much appreciated to receive this bountiful magazine with Info which connects us to our 'Heimat'. Most interested in the 'Regional News Oceania' pages, were me and other clubs report events and activities, always with lovely pictures.»

CECILE SCHERRER, QUEENSLAND/AUSTRALIA



«I wanted to share my love for the Swiss Review. It's now about 30 years ago, when I was first introduced to this magazine by a dear friend of mine who is an American Citizen and married to a Swiss woman. I always look forward to getting it in the mail. I enjoy reading the articles about Switzerland. The stories which include politics, trade, hobbies, nature, Fifth Switzerland, OASI, travel and more. Thank you all for making this magazine relevant to us abroad.»

KURT ZUGER, THORNTON, COLORADO/USA, RETIRED



«I thoroughly enjoy reading many Swiss Review articles, especially about Swiss culture, traditions and people; not so much the political views as I have never lived in Switzerland and am a second generation Swiss (Made in CH, born in NZ). The Swiss Review offers a great variety of interesting articles, fosters our Swiss connections, gives an insight into opportunities that are available to our youth (camps etc) and so much more; and I look forward to receiving every issue.»

I thoroughly enjoy the Oceania section of the Swiss Review and finding out what is happening at Swiss Clubs in our Oceania region. We all really appreciate the time and effort that Roland Isler gives to compiling this, and, as I contribute the Taranaki Swiss Club News, have developed a great 'e-mail friendship' with Roland and do hope, one day, to meet him in person! Grateful thanks to everyone who contributes to this great magazine, and I hope it continues being published for many more years to come!»

MARIANNE DRUMMOND (NEE BENKERT), RTARANAKI/NEW ZEALAND, SECRETARY / TREASURER, TARANAKI SWISS CLUB AND PAST PRESIDENT AND PAST TREASURER, SWISS SOCIETY OF NZ



«My name is Felix Egli, I have been living in the USA for 53 years and I am retired and a member of the 'Auslandschweizer Rat'. I have always preferred the paper version over the electronic version, and I read almost every article, this publication has kept me up to date on events in the Homeland and the information comes in handy in discussions in the Council for the Swiss Abroad. Years ago, there were also results from Swiss sporting events that I could not get from the local papers, which was enjoyable.»

FELIX EGLI, USA, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE SWISS ABROAD

MORE INFO

'SR 50 Jahre' anniversary: swisscommunity.org/en/strengthening-peoples-attachment-to-switzerland

Cartoons: **Max Spring** maxspring.ch

Engaging the next generation: Shaping the future of the New Helvetic Society



In the March 2024 issue, we introduced Léonore Lavorelle as the new president of the New Helvetic Society (NHS) in London. With a background in promoting Swiss culture and leading the LSESU Swiss Society, Léonore brings fresh energy and a vision to engage younger members. In this interview, she shares her plans for 2025, from cultural events to fostering connections across generations, ensuring the NHS remains a hub for Swiss heritage in London.

SR: What is your vision for the New Helvetic Society in the upcoming year?

Léonore Lavorelle: My vision for the New Helvetic Society (NHS) in 2025 is to create a vibrant and inclusive community where Swiss nationals and those connected to Switzerland can celebrate Swiss culture and build meaningful connections. As a committee,

SR: What key events or initiatives are you planning for the new club year?

LL: We have an exciting calendar for 2025, including pub comedy nights, art tours, fondue and raclette dinners, countryside cycling, hikes, wine tastings, and possibly speaker events. Highlights also include celebrating traditional Swiss holidays like Geneva's Fête de l'Escalade and supporting 1 August festivities. These initiatives align with our mission to blend Swiss culture with contemporary experiences, creating a welcoming environment for all. I hope to add my personal touch by introducing fresh, dynamic formats that broaden our appeal while respecting our traditions.

SR: What are your expectations for member engagement and growth?

LL: My main goal is to encourage active participation by providing opportunities for members to contribute ideas, volunteer, and engage in events. I aim to foster a strong sense of com-



Kayaking through London's canals for the NHS members.

SR: Who supports you in your role as president?

LL: I'm fortunate to work with an incredible team of committee members: Kerry-Jane Lowery (acting Vice-President), Andy Ross (Treasurer), Tiphaine Lestra (acting Secretary), and Paolo Gheorghiu. Each brings expertise and enthusiasm, handling event planning, budgeting, communications, and member outreach. We collaborate closely, with each member leading specific events to ensure the success of our programme. I'm also deeply grateful for the many volunteers and members who assist behind the scenes, whether at events or by sharing their insights. This spirit of collaboration is the heart of what makes the NHS a thriving and supportive community.

GIOIA PALMIERI



New Helvetic Society's committee members: Kerry-Jane Lowery (Member), Tiphaine Lestra (Membership Secretary), Andy Ross (Treasurer) Léonore Lavorel (President), Paolo Gheorghiu (Member) Jolanda Crettaz Chandler (Member) Christina Brandao (Secretary).

we aim to offer traditional Swiss-themed outings alongside innovative and fun events, appealing to both long-standing members and newcomers. By fostering partnerships with Swiss organisations in the UK and diversifying our activities, I hope to position the NHS as a central hub for Swiss culture in London, where people can enjoy enriching experiences and foster broader cultural exchanges.

munity where everyone feels valued. I hope to attract younger generations and families by making our activities more accessible and diverse. Enhancing our digital presence and embracing innovative outreach strategies will help us grow and remain relevant. Intergenerational relationships are particularly important to me, as our rich, diverse London community benefits from people of all ages connecting and learning from one another.



Escalade celebration on 30 November at the Swiss Embassy.

Bauernmalerei: Exploring identity through folk art heritage



Blending tradition with modern artistry, Jessica R. Guiver – a Swiss-born artist – has revived her family’s legacy of Bauernmalerei – a folk art once used by farmers to adorn their homes during long winters. Her great-grandfather, a travelling artist, and her father and grandfather all

practised this craft, inspiring her to return to art after a career in higher education. Now, she reimagines Bauernmalerei by painting contemporary designs on paper, often incorporating symbolic flowers to reflect personal and cultural connections. Through her website, Art Blüemli, she invites others to explore this heritage, share their own stories, and commission unique works celebrating their histories.

SR: You mentioned discovering a workbook from your father that sparked your interest in Bauernmalerei. Can you tell us more about how that moment influenced your decision to return to your artistic roots and pursue this traditional art form?

Art Blüemli: My father has always painted Bauernmalerei. Our house was filled with beautifully painted wardrobes, chests, coat hangers, and candlesticks. I knew the art form from an early age, but I didn’t consider painting it myself until adulthood. As I grew older, I became more curious about my ancestry and family history. The question ‘Where is home?’ was something I struggled to answer. I am Swiss, but having spent most of my life outside Switzerland, I didn’t feel connected to its traditions. When I found my father’s handbook, Swiss Folk Art, I was inspired to learn Bauernmalerei, hoping it would bring me closer to Switzerland and my sense of belonging. Alongside painting traditional designs, I research the history of Bauernmalerei and its evolution across Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and other parts of Central Europe. This process has been deeply meaningful for me as an artist and as someone searching for a connection to my heritage.

SR: Your work combines traditional Bauernmalerei designs with contemporary elements, like incorporating flowers from different regions. How do you balance maintaining authenticity while infusing personal and cultural influences into your art?

AB: I always start with a traditional Swiss design, drawing inspiration from my father’s book or other Swiss sources like Christian Rubi. These Swiss foundations reflect my identity, but I’m also British and American and have lived in various countries. These influences are part of who I am.

Flowers are a key element of Bauernmalerei, and by incorporating flowers iconic to regions meaningful to me – like the Tudor rose for England or the Texas bluebonnet – I create pieces that reflect my multicultural experiences. These works blend tradition

with personal storytelling, bridging my family’s history with my contemporary life.

SR: Bauernmalerei has a rich history tied to Swiss farmers decorating their homes. How does this historical context influence your modern approach?

AB: Growing up surrounded by painted furniture, I appreciated its beauty and uniqueness, especially as a Swiss family living abroad. However, most people today don’t seek painted furniture. To keep the tradition alive, I adapt Bauernmalerei for modern tastes, using watercolor to create framed artworks with vibrant, contemporary colors. These adaptations ensure Bauernmalerei remains relevant and appreciated. It’s vital to preserve this essential aspect of Swiss folk art and pass it on to new generations.



Jessica’s Christmas card: a charming Bauernmalerei creation.

SR: How does creating Bauernmalerei help you explore your identity, and what role do you hope your art plays in connecting with others?

AB: As a Third Culture Adult, I’ve grappled with the idea of ‘home.’ Reconnecting with Switzerland through Bauernmalerei has allowed me to explore my identity and heritage. I hope my art resonates with others who share similar experiences of longing for connection.

I encourage readers to visit my website, www.artbluemli.com, to learn more about Bauernmalerei, share their stories, and join a community passionate about preserving this unique art form. Follow me on Instagram @artbluemli to see more of my work and join the conversation.

Swiss Club Manchester – Celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2025



The club was founded in 1850 by Swiss business people, entrepreneurs, engineers and others during the fast-developing industrial revolution in Manchester and surrounding areas. Their interests included textiles, machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. At the same time, they founded their own Swiss social group, the Swiss Club Manchester, which met regularly at the former Grand Hotel but also when climbing, hiking, shooting or playing Jass.

The Manchester club, which is currently re-thinking its membership and programme, has about 80 members and meets throughout the year, including, of course, to celebrate Swiss National Day.

The club is progressive and, as well as new members at all levels, is looking to develop an active young Swiss group,

including those currently at Manchester and Salford Universities, with Swiss businesses or those who are in the Manchester area and wish to meet, or reconnect with, like-minded Swiss and friends of Switzerland.

The Swiss Club Manchester is currently expanding its profile but please look at our Facebook pages. We will be pleased to hear from you and our President, Juerg Bentele, can be contacted at bjbentele@ntlworld.com

ARTHUR BROADHURST

INFO

[f @Swiss Cub Manchester](#)

London: Welcome to the new Vicar of the Swiss Church



In September 2024, Manuel Zimmermann Grey embraced a new role he feels uniquely suited for:

Minister at the

Swiss Church in London. Growing up in the Bernese Oberland – a region beloved by many Britons – Manuel pursued theology at the University of Bern and Durham University, where he met his wife, theologian Carmody Grey. After his ordination in 2023 with the Reformed Church in Bern, the couple moved to Sussex, where their son Benjamin was born.

Now living in the Vicarage of the Swiss Church, Manuel brings a lifelong passion for community and faith, nurtured through his experiences as a youth leader,

summer camp organizer, and Swiss Army chaplain. He believes churches should focus on the heart of the Christian message, human needs, and today's pressing social and ecological challenges.

Manuel treasures the multi-faceted nature of his ministry, embracing its challenges while staying rooted in the simple yet profound mission to love God and people.

CONTACT

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Website: www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk

Rev. Manuel studied theology in Bern and Durham.

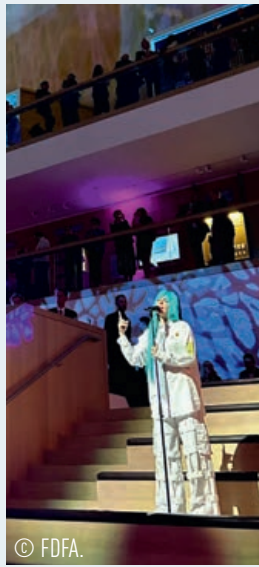




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London: Soirée Suisse 2024 at the Design Museum

The Swiss Embassy in London, led by Ambassador Markus Leitner, hosted the Soirée Suisse 2024 at the Design Museum. Celebrating Switzerland's forests and woods, the event blended traditional icons like chocolate, cheese, and mountains with its innovative and high-tech identity. Guests experienced Swiss culture through sights, sounds, and flavors, fostering connections between Swiss and UK partners while showcasing the nation's heritage and creativity.

London: A green Plaque for Café Monico

On October 23, Ambassador Markus Leitner revealed a Green Plaque honouring Café Monico, a celebrated London café of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Opened in 1877, Café Monico became a beloved landmark, famed for its refined décor and French-inspired cuisine. The ceremony, part of the Embassy's Settimana della Lingua Italiana programme, high-lighted the Ticinese community's lasting impact on London's culinary scene.

Monico family members, Swiss society representatives, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, and other guests attended. While Café Monico disappeared long ago, its legacy lives on near its original site under Piccadilly Lights, where Lindt's flagship store will debut in spring 2025. The plaque now marks 11-17 Shaftesbury Avenue, Westminster.



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To get informed about the latest from the Swiss clubs and community living in the UK and to get in touch with the UK OSA delegates, please visit the website swiss-societies.co.uk and FOSSUK's social media:

@ukswiss
 @FOSSUK

1: Pipes call at Lucerne's KKL Concert Hall

During the World Band Festival in Lucerne, Dollar Academy Pipe Band from Fife Scotland were invited to perform at the 25th anniversary of the 'Tattoo on Stage'. Together with the Ailsa Craig Highland Dancers, the performances were frenetically applauded by an enthusiastic audience. Both concerts were booked out!

PETER MÜLLER-MCDOUGALL, HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL EDINBURGH



Dollar Academy Pipe Band in Lucerne.

2: Swiss in Wales gather in Rhos on Sea

On December 14, the Swiss in Wales community came together for a delightful meeting in Rhos on Sea. The gathering was graciously hosted by Karen and Graham, pictured at the center of the group photo. Attendees enjoyed warm hospitality and the opportunity to connect and celebrate their shared heritage

BEATRICE SCHLEGEL



Thanks to Karen and Graham.

3: Southern Area Swiss Club celebrations

On Saturday, October 12, 2024, the Southern Area Swiss Club hosted a delightful Gschwellti and Chäs event, bringing members together for a wonderfully social afternoon. The festivities continued on Sunday, December 1, 2024, with the club's Christmas party at the Basingstoke Canal Centre in Mytchett.

Thirty-five attendees, including two children, enjoyed a delicious buffet and a lively raffle, rounding off the year in great spirits. Warm thanks to everyone who participated and made these events so memorable.

BERNI CURTRESS



35 attendees enjoyed buffet and raffle.

4: Swiss Railway Society at European Railways Event

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Swiss Railway Society participated in the Confederation of European Railway Societies event in Coalville, near Leicester, UK. Alongside the Swiss group, members of the Italian Railways Society, the Austrian Railways Group, the French Railways Society, and the German Railways Society were also present.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and exploring the railways that connect Switzerland with neighbouring countries and beyond.

HYWEL REES, COMPANY SECRETARY SWISS RAILWAYS SOCIETY



The event took place in Leicester.

PASSPORT AND ID CARD: Information for Swiss citizens resident in the UK and in Ireland**Travelling to or transiting through the United Kingdom from 2 April 2025**

On 2 April 2025 the UK is extending its Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme to all travellers (including children and babies) from Switzerland who do not currently need a visa for short stays or to transit through the UK, or who do not have any other immigration status.

Swiss citizens do not need an ETA if they

- have a UK visa
- have permission to live, work or study in the UK (including settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme)
- are a British or Irish citizen (they should prove their permission to travel using their British or Irish passport, or Swiss passport containing a certificate of entitlement (www.gov.uk/right-of-abode))
- live in Ireland and are travelling from Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man (www.gov.uk/guidance/electronic-travel-authorisation-eta-residents-of-ireland)



The ETA will cost £10 and lasts up to two years, or until the holder's passport expires, whichever is sooner.

Swiss citizens can start applying for an ETA from 5 March 2025.

For more information on the UK ETA, including who does not need to apply:

www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta

Reminder: Swiss citizens turning 18 years of age

All Swiss citizens registered with the Regional Consular Centre London (RCC) are asked to register individually when they turn 18. To ensure that they receive the consular welcome pack with important information, parents must keep their contact details (address, email, telephone) up to date via the Online Desk. In 2025 the RCC will host a Young Citizens Event for those who turn 18 in 2024 and 2025

**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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