

**OPEN INVITATION TO
THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL WEEKEND
18th – 20th of May 2018**

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that the Honorary Consul of Belfast **Franziska Hewitt** and FOSSUK are announcing the programme for the upcoming **53rd FOSSUK Annual General Meeting and Social Weekend**, which will take place in **Belfast** on the 18th, 19th and 20st of May 2018.

On the 18th of May we will open the cultural programme with a unique opportunity to meet Swiss writer **Barbara Kastelin** at the iconic pub **The Duke of York**, while enjoying a typical Irish stew. The Duke of York is nestled along a narrow, cobbled alleyway in the historic Cathedral Quarter area of Belfast and it is known for its famous welcome of craic, music and humour. During the evening Barbara will talk about her latest book, '**When Snow Fell**', which explores the impact on a family of fleeing from their native country into exile in Britain.

On Saturday the 19th of May we will be faced with the tough decision of choosing between two equally inspiring tours. Participants will need to decide between a 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; or a group visit to the winner of the World's leading attraction, the Titanic Museum and SS Nomadic. The Nomadic is the last remaining White Star Vessel and the role of the ship was to taxi passengers out to board Titanic when it was docked in Cherbourg.

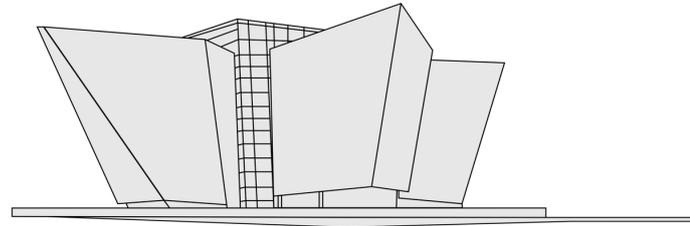
FOSSUK's AGM will take place in the afternoon at the award-winning venue **Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC)**. The MAC is a cultural hub and since its opening in 2012, it has quickly become a beacon for the ongoing regeneration of Belfast. The AGM will commence at 2.00 pm, with registration opening at 1.30 pm, when light refreshments will be provided.

We are pleased to announce the presence of **His Excellency Ambassador Fasel** alongside representatives of the Swiss Embassy, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. **It will come with no surprise that this year's AGM will focus on Brexit** and the work of the OSA delegates to support the Swiss citizens living in the United Kingdom.

The second part of the AGM, which will commence at 4.45 pm, will include an introduction to film director **Francesco Bernasconi** followed by the premiere of his latest work, '**Ciccillo**'. **Ciccillo** is a short movie which focuses on the internal monologue of the main character who reflects on his life and the path he needs to take to achieve fulfilment.

The full programme of activities continues into the evening with a drinks reception kindly offered by **HE Ambassador Fasel** followed by a private dinner at the restaurant James Street South.

Those that wish to visit the beautiful coast of Northern Ireland, will have the opportunity to do so on Sunday. A bus will depart at 9.15 am from the **Premier Inn Belfast Cathedral Quarters** to venture to the North of the country and provide an opportunity to admire the beautiful coastline and **the Giant's Causeway**. The **Giant's Causeway** is a spectacular area of global geological importance on the sea coast at the edge of the Antrim plateau in



Northern Ireland. Celebrated in the arts and in science, it has been a visitor attraction for at least 300 years and has come to be regarded as a symbol for Northern Ireland.

The tour will also include a stop at the scenic **Carrick-a-Rede and Larrybane**, where we will have the opportunity to visit **Carrick-a-Rede Island**. The island is connected to the cliffs by a rope bridge across the Atlantic Ocean. Suspended almost 100 ft (30 m) above sea level, the rope bridge was first erected by salmon fishermen 350 years ago. Carrick-a-Rede Island is the home to a single building - a fisherman's cottage. We are certain he will enjoy a visit from the Swiss contingent! We are expecting the outing to last until 4.00 pm.

For those of you that will be joining us from far away, we have selected the **Premier Inn Belfast Cathedral Quarters**, wonderfully located in the centre of Belfast and within a short walk from The York of Duke and the AGM. We have booked several rooms and if you wish to use one of these rooms, please complete the reservation form accordingly.

All event details and booking information can be found on the **FOSSUK website** and will be mailed to the Presidents of the member societies for distribution to their members. Please address any queries to:

The President: Loredana Guetg-Wyatt president@swiss-societies.co.uk

The Secretary: Ané-Mari Peter enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk

Whether you are able to join us for the entire weekend or only for a part of it, this event will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to meet other members living in the UK.

Further information is available under the AGM section on www.swiss-societies.co.uk

Loredana Guetg-Wyatt

Loredana Guetg-Wyatt
President

With heartfelt thanks to our AGM & cultural weekend sponsors;

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 **FAULHABER**