

REGIONAL EDITION

UNITED KINGDOM | IRELAND

Editorial

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to share the names of the newly elected delegates and deputies to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. A heartfelt thank you to all who stepped forward to represent the Swiss community in the UK.

We also celebrate the success of the recent online election for the UK's representatives to the Council of the Swiss Abroad in Bern. More than 1,000 citizens participated, making this process more inclusive and accessible than ever before.

This issue also includes a farewell message from Ambassador Leitner. We thank him for his outstanding service, particularly for being so present and supportive of our compatriots across all four nations of the UK. We wish him every success in his new role in Bern.

Finally, we pay tribute to FOSSUK. For over 60 years, this umbrella association has supported Swiss clubs and citizens in the UK. As it moves forward with a new name and structure, we honour its legacy and look ahead to renewed energy for the future.

Thank you, and have a good summer!



GIOIA PALMIERI,
«UK & IRELAND PAGES»

Ambassador's Farewell:

Dear Swiss compatriots,

After four years, it is time for me to say goodbye and return to Switzerland to take up a new assignment in Bern. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to represent our country in the UK, to strengthen bilateral relations and to promote the interests of Switzerland and its citizens.

My posting coincided with an extraordinary time in the UK, witnessing the Platinum Jubilee and the State Funeral of Queen

Elizabeth II as well as the Coronation of King Charles III. Politically, the UK underwent profound changes with four different Prime Ministers and even more Foreign Secretaries. On a bilateral level, I was privileged to welcome Swiss Presidents Ignazio Cassis (in 2022), Alain Berset (in 2023) and Viola Amherd (in 2024) along with a series of Swiss Federal Councillors who concluded important Swiss-UK agreements on social security, financial services, science cooperation, railway connections and mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

I also had the pleasure to meet with many of you during visits around the four nations, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar and the Cayman Islands. Thank you for flying the Swiss flag and for playing your part in promoting our bilateral relations. I invite you to stay in touch with the Embassy and my successor Dominique Paravicini to whom you will no doubt give a very warm welcome.

Together with my wife Doris, I wish you and your families all the best.

Markus Leitner

Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Kingdom
(2021–2025)



Election Results: Meet the five new UK Delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad

We warmly congratulate the five newly elected delegates who will represent the Swiss community in the UK within the Council of the Swiss Abroad. We also extend our best wishes to the three deputy delegates, who will step in should any of the main delegates be unable to continue their mandate.

Their full profiles and statements are available on the website www.swiss-societies.co.uk/uk-delegates or in the April issue of the local Swiss Review pages.

Elected Delegates



FRANZ MUHEIM, EDINBURGH
435 VOTES (Incumbent)

Profession: Professor of Particle Physics at the University of Edinburgh



LAKSHMI SUNDARAM, LONDON
351 VOTES (Incumbent)

Profession: Global Health and Gender Equality Expert



ISABELLE SCHENK, MANCHESTER
519 VOTES

Profession: Strategy Consultant



STEFAN BUCHER, CAMBRIDGE
435 VOTES

Profession: Assistant Professor, University of Cambridge



TOBY MATTHIESEN, BRISTOL
333 VOTES

Profession: Senior Lecturer at Bristol University

Deputy Delegates



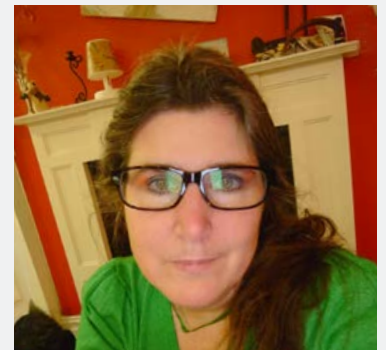
LORENZA ANNA CAVALLI, LONDON
305 VOTES

Profession: General Manager, Consultant, Coach



GERALDINE KRAEV, LONDON
305 VOTES

Profession: Manager in Financial Services



JOELLE NEBBE-MORNOD, YORKSHIRE
305 VOTES

Profession: Wine Importer, Distributor & Retailer

London: The last congress of the Swiss Abroad under FOSSUK

On Saturday 7 June 2025, the Swiss Embassy in London hosted a historic gathering: the last Congress of the Swiss Abroad organised under the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK (FOSSUK). The event marked a turning point for the Swiss community in Britain, notable for three reasons: the end of FOSSUK in its current form, the confirmation of the UK's new delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad, and the successful implementation of online voting for the first time for all candidates.

Reflecting on 60 years of FOSSUK

Loredana Guetg-Wyatt, outgoing president of FOSSUK, opened the AGM by honouring its 60-year legacy. Founded in 1949 and renamed in 1965, FOSSUK has long served as a pillar for Swiss communities across the UK. She paid tribute to past leaders – Jeffrey Long OBE, Margrit Lyster and Rosemarie Breitenstein – all present at the event. During this final AGM, Mrs Lyster read out moving reminiscences by Erika Farwell-Meier, daughter of Mr Meier, a FOSSUK founding member, honouring decades of collective dedication and the spirit of service that defined FOSSUK. Thoughts also turned to Mariann Meier, a steadfast advocate for political rights and equal treatment of Swiss citizens abroad.

Mrs Guetg-Wyatt's final act as president was to open the path forward, a task she has been deeply committed to. As habits and demographics shift, FOSSUK's transformation is now essential. OSA delegate Lakshmi Sundaram presented the new vision: SwissCommunity UK, a more flexible, digitally connected umbrella organisation for modern Swiss life in the UK. The motion for transition was supported by several longstanding societies and will be implemented by a dedicated committee.



Rosemarie Breitenstein, Jeffrey Long OBE, and Margrit Lyster.



Leo is a Swiss Paralympic gold medalist.



Newly elected OSA delegates and members of the FOSSUK committee.

A historic first for voting

Another milestone was the confirmation of five delegates and three deputies to the Council of the Swiss Abroad, following a pilot of secure online voting. Spearheaded by Andreas Feller-Ryf and Loredana Guetg-Wyatt, the UK was one of 13 electoral districts in a pioneering democratic initiative, with strong backing from the FDFA and University of Applied Sciences Bern.

Guests and new directions

The final part of the congress welcomed guest speakers. Ann Amann shared her inspiring journey of resilience and caregiving. Mr Michele Malizia, from FDFA, presented the 'Ageing Abroad Initiative', and Mrs Yvonne Rohner, Head of Division Consular Protection, emphasised the complexity of consular protection today, urging the use of the Travel Admin app. Mr Lukas Weber, OSA's new Director, acknowledged current challenges and promised innovation and support for Swiss abroad.

The last word belonged to Leo McCrea, Swiss Paralympic gold medallist, who gave a powerful speech on resilience, inclusivity, and the transformative power of sport.

Ambassador Markus Leitner offered a generous aperitif with Swiss food and wine, giving attendees the chance to mingle and continue the conversation informally.

GIOIA PALMIERI

Important: Please take note

Help us preserve FOSSUK's history:

We're collecting documents, photos, and stories from the past 60 years to honour and document FOSSUK's history. If you have materials to share, email swissreviewuk@gmail.com.

Join the Transition Committee:

A new committee is forming to shape the future of the Swiss community in the UK. **New contributors welcome!** Get involved and help us build what's next. Please email president@swiss-societies.co.uk

Please visit swiss-societies.co.uk to read more about the event.

Post-Brexit reality: Navigating uncertainty for Swiss nationals



Twice UK delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) and twice FOSSUK President, *Loredana Guetg-Wyatt* has worked to respond to the evolving needs of Swiss citizens living in the UK for more than a decade. Now, she joins The 3Millions, championing EU and Swiss nationals' rights post-Brexit. We spoke with her about the thread connecting her past and present roles.

Swiss Review: You've been an CSA delegate, FOSSUK President, and now a The 3Millions representative. What connects these roles?

Loredana Guetg-Wyatt: The link is clear. As CSA delegate, I saw Swiss abroad face shared issues – pensions, voting, banking. In the UK post-Brexit, we face unique legal complexities. Unlike EU citizens, Swiss nationals must navigate overlapping frameworks: the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), the UK–Switzerland Citizens' Rights Agreement (CRA), and the UK–EFTA Free Trade Agreement for social security.

SR: What do you mean by 'legal complexities'? Aren't Swiss citizens included in the EU Settlement Scheme?

LGW: Swiss who lived here by 31 December 2020 and applied under the EUSS received protections similar to EU citizens but under a separate agreement. Switzerland isn't in the EU, so Swiss aren't covered by the Independent Monitoring Authority or the European Court of Justice. Their rights rely solely on UK domestic law, unlike EU citizens who have independent oversight. This legal gap causes real concerns, like losing residence rights due to extended absences.

SR: Isn't this Swiss diplomacy's responsibility?

LGW: Swiss diplomacy works hard but can't do it alone, especially with recent budget cuts. There must be stronger links between citizens and diplomacy. Organisations like The 3Millions amplify concerns before they become crises. Some cases are complex and require coordination and direct support.



Mrs Guetg-Wyatt asking for an appointment with MPs.

SR: Can you share an example?

LGW: A Swiss citizen receiving NHS cancer treatment was told she lost free healthcare access because her sole source of income was from a Swiss pension and no longer from UK earnings. She was advised to buy Swiss health insurance, but costs are prohibitive.

SR: What role does The 3Millions play here?

LGW: The 3Millions effectively lobbies for EU citizens' rights. The Swiss community supports their work, but their mission focuses on EU nationals. We need to ensure Swiss voices are represented too. Older Swiss especially struggle with digital systems and understanding rights – they need targeted help.

SR: How can that support be formalised?

LGW: Ideally, through the new SwissCommunity structure. But it's volunteer-led and focuses broadly on common issues faced by the Swiss Abroad globally. We need a dedicated platform engaging with the Swiss in the UK along with the Embassy, FDFA, and UK institutions. Clear dialogue and representation are essential amid current uncertainty.

SR: Final thoughts?

LGW: Serving FOSSUK and OSA has been an honour. I believe in building bridges across generations and institutions. I'll continue this mission with The 3Millions, and as an active member of Unione Ticinese London.

The 3Million's representatives at Westminster.



Abstract expression: Karin Lanini Arthofer's art as a space for personal interpretation



Karin Lanini Arthofer, a Swiss artist based in London, creates abstract works infused with fashion influences and personal memories. Her art was recently showcased at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in London. In this interview, she shares insights into her journey, creative process, and inspirations.

Swiss Review: Karin, your artistic journey began during the pandemic. How did that influence your decision to start painting?

Karin Lanini Arthofer: Art has always been part of my life, from fashion to flowers. During Covid, I finally found the time and space to focus on painting. It became a form of therapy – a way to process emotions, express myself freely, and reconnect with my creativity by starting something deeply meaningful and new.

SR: Your work is abstract but includes personal materials like sand and fabric. How do these elements shape your art?

KLA: I see art as storytelling. Using materials like sand and fabric adds depth – these are things from my life, with emotional resonance. I want my work to be felt as well as seen, allowing the viewer to form their own connection with it.

SR: How does your creative process unfold, especially with the use of unexpected materials?

KLA: It's intuitive. I rarely plan – materials guide me. The unpredictability is exciting, and sometimes the most beautiful things come from letting go of control. Knowing when a painting is finished is the hardest part – I have to feel it's complete.

SR: Your paintings also function as decor. How important is their role in shaping a space?

KLA: Very important. A painting should enhance the atmosphere of a room, adding emotion and energy. That's why I leave



For further information about Karin's art, please visit: klaartdesign.com – Instagram: @klaartdesign

my work open to interpretation – so it can become part of someone's personal space and story.

SR: What's next for you?

KLA: I'm working on a new series for an event at Estila in London, where my art will be shown in an interior design setting. I'm pushing myself creatively and continuing to explore. That's the joy of art – it's always evolving.

GIOIA PALMIERI

Sold out: Swiss National Day celebration in London

Our National Day celebration at the 'Crypt on the Green' on 31 July is now sold out.

Those with tickets will enjoy performances by Lorenzo and Rolando (traditional Bandella music from Ticino) and Nat Cartier (saxophonist & painter). Meet Swiss artists and creatives, taste

Swiss food and drinks, join the Swiss Cake competition, and kids can take part in the lantern workshop. Fantastic raffle prizes await, including Swiss Travel Passes, tickets to JungfrauJoch, and a Victorinox suitcase.

For more details, please visit: www.snd-london.com



Dublin: A milestone in Swiss-Irish relations

On 29 May 2025, Federal President Karin Keller-Sutter paid an official visit to Dublin, a significant chapter in the long-standing relationship between Switzerland and Ireland.

During her meetings with President Michael D. Higgins, Prime Minister (Taoiseach) Micheál Martin, and Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe, discussions spanned a wide range of topics including bilateral cooperation, European policy, and current international affairs. Both parties reaffirmed their shared values: strong democratic traditions, a steadfast commitment to the rule of law and human rights, and a mutual interest in open, rules-based international trade. As Ireland looks ahead to its EU Council Presidency in 2026, this visit underscores a renewed commitment to deepening collaboration and partnership.

President Keller-Sutter also attended the opening of the exhibition ‘Words on the Wave: Ireland and St Gallen in Early Medieval Europe’ at the National Museum in Ireland in the presence of President Higgins and Minister of Culture Patrick O’Donovan.

The exhibition reflects the historic ties between Ireland and St Gallen during the early medieval period and displays artefacts and manuscripts from Ireland’s Golden Age, when Irish missionaries spread Christianity throughout Europe.

The presence of Irish manuscripts in Swiss collections, and their loan for this exhibition, is a testament to the long-standing cultural connections.



President Keller-Sutter at the National Museum with Minister O’Donovan, with President Higgins, the Prime Minister Martin and Minister for Finance Donohoe.



Leapnote: Nat unites music and adventure

Swiss musician Nat Cartier recently partnered with Irish artist Dara Dubh for a unique live performance on the UK’s only fixed bungee platform in the Scottish Highlands.

Their song ‘Miles Above’ pairs soaring melodies with the adrenaline of the jump – available now on YouTube. Nat also performed at the Council of the Swiss Abroad at the Swiss Embassy and will bring his music to the Swiss National Day celebration in London.



Nat Cartier performing at the Swiss Embassy.


More at linktr.ee/n.cartier

Music: Swiss artists connect in London

Since Spring 2024, Swiss creatives in London have been gathering at the Swiss Artist Meetup, founded by Benjamin Keys.

Inspired by the Swiss Hollywood Meetup in LA, the group brings together musicians, filmmakers, and artists to share ideas and collaborate.



FOLLOW:
 [fdswisslondonmeetup](https://www.instagram.com/fdswisslondonmeetup)

1: Swiss Railways Society

The Swiss Railways Society held its 2025 AGM on 12th April at Kidderminster Railway Museum. Members enjoyed Swiss railway videos and a model exhibition with five layouts, including 'Zweiberg' and 'Paspels-Thusis Nord.'

The Society's stand offered publications and accessories. Members' summer photos from Switzerland may feature in upcoming Local Branch meetings. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement.

More info: www.swissrailsoc.org.uk

HYWEL REES, COMPANY SECRETARY

2: Birmingham – Helvetia Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Swiss philately remains vibrant. This spring, the Society joined Societies Day at Europhilex on 8 May at Birmingham's NEC, sharing our passion for Swiss postal history.

While daily mail declines, interest grows in the social stories behind it – known as 'context philately.' Digital tools now support deeper research, and excellent heimat collections from lesser-known Swiss regions are on display at exhibitions. Visit www.swiss-philately.co.uk to explore our archive or enquire about membership.

3: Southern Swiss Area Club gatherings

Our Southern Swiss Area Club has enjoyed a lively start to the season with two delightful gatherings. Jenny kindly hosted a cosy Easter egg decorating morning at her home, where five of us spent a creative and relaxing time together.

Earlier in the month, 21 members came together for a fun-filled skittles match, followed by a delicious lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up, share laughs, and enjoy each other's company. We look forward to more events in the coming months!

BERNI CUTRESS

4: Manchester Swiss Club Coffee mornings

The Manchester Swiss Club continues to enjoy strong attendance at our popular quarterly Swiss Coffee Mornings, held from 11 am to 1 pm at Wilmslow Garden Centre.

These gatherings offer a warm and relaxed atmosphere for members to connect, chat, and share stories over coffee. We look forward to welcoming even more members at our next event.

LAURA PASTEUR

5: Southwest Swiss Club update and events

This Easter, the Southwest Swiss Club revived the beloved Swiss tradition of 'Eiertütschete' during a joyful gathering near Glastonbury. Members had great fun practising their egg-cracking skills, sharing plenty of laughter and good cheer.

A big thank you to Beat, Sue, and Silvia for organising such a delightful event.

We're now looking forward to our annual BBQ on August 1st – everyone is welcome, including non-members!

For more details, please email: marcols.atkinson@gmail.com

MARIA ATKINSON



Model of the train on display.



Societies Day at Europhilex.



21 members came together.



Swiss Coffee Mornings.



The tradition of 'Eiertütschete'.

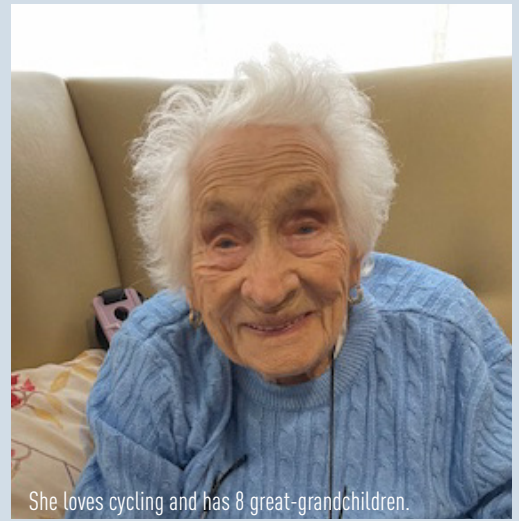


A delightful event.

Celebrating 100 Years: Congratulations to Elisa Rowland

Warmest congratulations to Elisa Rowland, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 21st March 2025! Elisa was born in Berikon, Canton of Aargau, in 1925. As a young woman, she moved to London to work as an au pair, where she met her future husband, George.

Together they raised two sons, and her family has since grown to include seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Elisa credits her long life, in part, to her love of cycling – an activity she enjoyed well into her late seventies.



She loves cycling and has 8 great-grandchildren.



UK Alphorn PlayDay 2025.

Berkshire: UK Alphorn PlayDay 2025

The second UK Alphorn PlayDay was held on 1 June 2025, bringing together ten players from across the UK. Organised by alphorn expert Dr Frances Jones, based in Reading, the event followed the success of last year's inaugural gathering.

Dr Jones has over 20 years' experience teaching alphorn in Austria and Switzerland and is passionate about its natural, evocative sound. The event took place in the landscaped grounds of Downe House School, Berkshire, chosen for its resemblance to a Swiss monastery. Attendees performed outdoors in groups and ensemble. The next PlayDay is set for 31 May 2026. Info: amazingalphorn.co.uk

Swiss dialects: A talk at the German Church in Liverpool

In March, Mrs. Joy Buchanan gave an engaging talk at the German Church Liverpool on Swiss German dialects and Switzerland's linguistic diversity, including Romansh.

A British native living in Graubünden for 40 years, she shared her deep knowledge of Swiss culture and language. Joy actively promotes Swiss culture across North West England.

Contact: joybu58@gmail.com

UK ETA: Swiss citizens with an online immigration status (eVisa) in the UK

If you have an online immigration status, also known as eVisa (which includes citizens with settled and pre-settled status), you must ensure that all valid travel documents are linked – www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details to your online immigration account.

This is particularly important for international travel following the introduction of ETA – www.gov.uk/eta. You do not need a share code – www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status – to prove your rights at the UK border, but you should get a share code in case you need to prove your immigration status to other people such as carrier (e.g. airline) staff. A share code is valid for 90 days.

London: Swiss Bakery voted Best Café 2025

Swiss Bread Bakery in Richmond has been voted Best Café in London 2025 at the Muddy Stiletto Awards – for the second year running. Founded by Tanja from Bern and Andre from Zurich, the bakery is known for authentic Swiss baking and traditional food. Andre says they're proud to share Swiss quality in the UK and grateful for the loyal support that made this win possible.



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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