

# Switzerland in the UK

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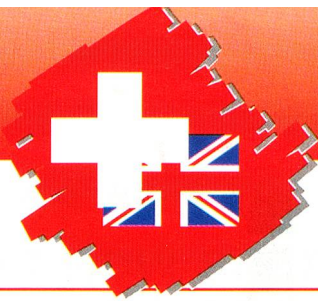
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# Switzerland in the UK



For 24 years he was the most celebrated English resident in Switzerland, and after he died the Swiss erected a statue in his honour.

Now the British Post Office is adding its own tribute to Charlie Chaplin, by issuing a 64p stamp this summer to mark the great man's outstanding contribution to the world of entertainment.

It was in 1953 that Charlie,

## The tramp on a stamp

banned from living in the States by the notorious Un-American Activities Committee, chaired by witch-hunting Senator McCarthy, decided to make a new home in Switzerland.

With his family he took up residence in the once-derelict Manoir de Ban in the tiny village of Corsier sur Vevey, which is also the *commune d'origine* of the UK editor of the Swiss Review, Derek Meakin.

It was there that Charlie died on Christmas Eve, 1977. Five years later a statue of the comedian was erected on the lakeside of Vevey, where it is a popular attraction.

## FOSSUK support for initiative to aid Young Swiss

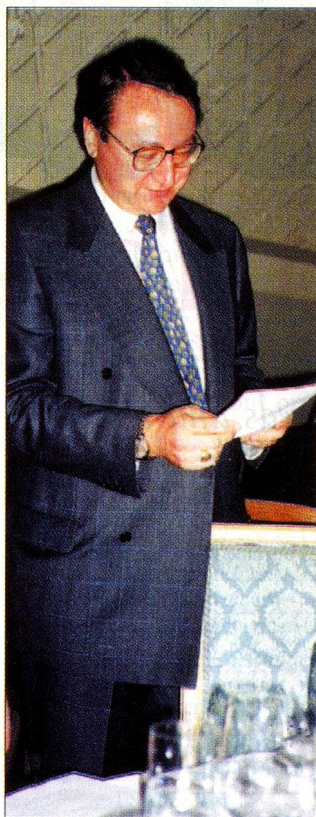
Marianne Junger, a Bernese student at the University of East Anglia, has been made vice president of the new Association for Young Swiss Abroad, and is the driving force behind a proposal to hold a forum in London in September of next year.

FOSSUK has promised to give its support to the event, and it will be discussed at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lausanne in August.

Marianne told *Swiss Review*: "We want many young people with fresh ideas to join us and support our common interests. Help us make the London Forum a huge success by contacting us with ideas and wishes for fun and serious matters alike."

Marianne can be contacted through the association's own Internet site: [www.youngswiss.ch](http://www.youngswiss.ch)

## New chairman for City Swiss Club



René Charrière pictured taking the chair at the AGM of the City Swiss Club

Swiss financier René Charrière was elected chairman of the City Swiss Club when the club held its AGM in the Fabergé room of Anton Mosimann's exclusive London dining club.

Mr Charrière is managing director of Swissca Securities London, the UK arm of the joint undertaking of the cantonal banks of Switzerland, with funds under its management now topping the Sfr. 25 billion mark.

His work involves securities trading and broking as well as fund management.

He has taken over at the CSC from Henry Angest, CEO and chairman of Secure Trust Ltd, the UK financial services group quoted on the London Stock Exchange, who controls around 40 per cent of the shares.

At the AGM Mr Charrière recalled how important the club was at the end of the last century, when its meet-

ings were reported in The Times and to be chairman was a position of respect and power in the public eye.

Those positions were mostly held by the general managers of the big Swiss banks and entry to the club was a very formal and elaborate procedure. In his six years as chairman Henry Angest had changed the rules to make it more open and easier to manage.

Today the CSC has about 250 members from all professions, although with the Swiss dominance in financial services there are still quite a number of bankers.

Its activities range from formal lunches and dinners in conjunction with the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce to Jass evenings.

Mr Charrière, who has an English wife, two children and two Bernese mountain dogs, has been a member of the City Swiss Club since 1984.





## Swiss and UK children can now share in the Pestalozzi ideal – in a unique Sussex venture

With improved educational opportunities in Third World countries, the international Pestalozzi organisation, named after the Swiss humanitarian and education-  
alist, is widening the scope of its operations. One aspect of this change in direction is the sponsoring of secondary education for young people in their own country.

As a result English children, as well as children of Swiss parents living in the UK, are now being invited to take a course of studies at the Pestalozzi Children's Village in East Sussex which gives them a far broader based curriculum than that offered by the traditional A level exams.

The Pestalozzi aim is to develop "heads, hearts and hands – to address the whole individual." That is how it is described by the village's director of development education, Julia Ponsford.

"This is why we opted for the International Baccalaureate, which removes the enforced choices so many children face when taking A level," she said.

"It also contains two further critical elements which are at the fore of the

Pestalozzi approach."

In addition to taking six subjects – three at the IB's higher level, which is comparable to the British A level, and three at the standard level – students also cover a module on 'The Theory of Knowledge'.

This interdisciplinary component aims to stimulate critical reflection and awareness, an essential ingredient of the multicultural makeup of the Pestalozzi ideal.

Another key element in the holistic approach to learning is CAS – Creativity, Activity and Service to the community.

An example of this is what happened when a group of Nepalese students returned home last summer and became involved in many activities ranging from tree planting to prevent soil erosion, working with children in local schools to raise awareness about environmental and health issues, and organising a free health camp to provide checkups and distribute medicine.

Similar projects are now in the pipeline, with students from many different countries taking part. Funding comes primarily from pri-



Students at work constructing a mud-and-straw building on the Pestalozzi estate in Sussex – helping them to have a greater understanding of sustainable development possibilities

vate and some corporate sponsorship. Local organisations like Rotary also contribute in cash and kind.

Said Julia: Our sister organisation in Switzerland receives 50 per cent of its income from the Swiss government. Sadly we cannot hope for anything of that nature in the UK – but then I suppose this also serves to make us more self-reliant."

The academic programme is run in conjunction with Hastings College, which has had a long relationship with the Pestalozzi Village. Some of the buildings on the estate were built some years ago

by the college's construction students.

Chris Morrell, International Baccalaureate coordinator at the college, says the appeal of the programme lies in the unique combination of the Pestalozzi experience and the IB curriculum.

"In addition to the cultural environment which is what Pestalozzi offers, students will meet with considerable academic challenges," he said.

For more details of the Pestalozzi scheme contact Chris on 01424 442 222 or look on the college web site at [www.hastings.ac.uk](http://www.hastings.ac.uk).

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## Fifty years of Sasha dolls

A London based designer who has dual Swiss-UK nationality has produced the first book about the Sasha dolls that have been a feature in many Swiss households in the last half century.

Michael O'Brien, whose late mother came to England from Zurich, has long been an enthusiastic collector of the dolls. Disappointed that no one had ever written a book about them he decided to write one himself.

The dolls were designed by Sasha Morgenthaler in the 1940s and were featured on the wrappers of Lindt and Sprüngli chocolates. They were first mass produced in the 1960s by two companies, one of which was Stockport



**One of the Sasha dolls that are featured in the new book**

based Frido/Trendon, and were best sellers in stores like Migros and Franz Carl Weber.

The full colour book illustrates 29 special dolls. It is a limited edition with text in German and English, price £9 including p+p, and can be obtained direct from Mr O'Brien at 93 Prince George Road, London N16 8DL.

## Marlow's Swiss baker dies at 88

A prominent Buckinghamshire baker and confectioner, Eric Burger, has died at the age of 88.

Born in Neuchâtel, he came to England before the war and opened Burgers of Marlow – whose logo promised 'A Taste of Switzerland' – with his wife Marie in 1942. The couple ran the family business until Marie died 11 years ago. He was president of the local Rotary Club and was an influential figure in setting up the Marlow Chamber of Trade.

Two of his sons, Philippe and Bernard, have now taken over the business. His other son, André, lives in America. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

Bernard Burger said: "I am very proud to be carrying on the Burger's tradition that my father started and for which he was so well known. It was important to him for someone to carry on the business."

Philippe added: "My father was a craftsman and a businessman. He had a great sense of humour and was very loyal to everyone who knew him."

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# Swiss REVIEW

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## Ticinese discover their past in the streets of Old London

Peter Barber had prepared a detailed itinerary for this walk, which was like an open horse-shoe through central London.

It was divided into four distinct parts to be covered ideally in a clockwise direction, though it could be started from any of the four points.

Because of the number of participants we had to have three groups, one of which was made up entirely by Ticinesi – most of whom did not speak English – who had come over specially from the Ticino and other parts of Switzerland. This lucky party was led by Peter Barber and Peter Jacomelli.

The other two were led by Joe Broggin and myself, although we could never have done it without the extensive notes prepared by Peter Barber.

These groups were made up of members of the Unione Ticinese, many of them descendants of Ticinesi restaurateurs, including a few new (or prospective!) members who had discovered they were related to famous restaurateurs after reading *Continental Taste*\*.

All those taking part who have asked for it will receive a copy of the itinerary, so that they can re-visit at leisure those parts which interested them most,

Many of the places visited have been closely associated with the Ticinesi over the past 150 years, beginning with the old Italian quarter in Holborn where the story started.

There we saw the Italian church of St Peter's, built in 1862, which Carlo Gatti

### Valeria Ossola tells the story of a remarkable weekend

must have known well.

We walked along the Strand, which formed an early focal point for the Ticinesi and where the earliest Unione Ticinese meetings took place.

We also walked through the Fitzrovia area that was the heart of the Ticinese colony until about 1950 and visited the church of St Charles Borromeo in Ogle Street.

Here we were able to see three plaques commemorating members of the Meschini family of Pagani Restaurant's fame and closely linked to the Unione

Ticinese. Several masses a year are still said for various members of the family, in particular Mrs Linda Meschini who, in the 1920s, made a gift to the parish of the freehold of the church.

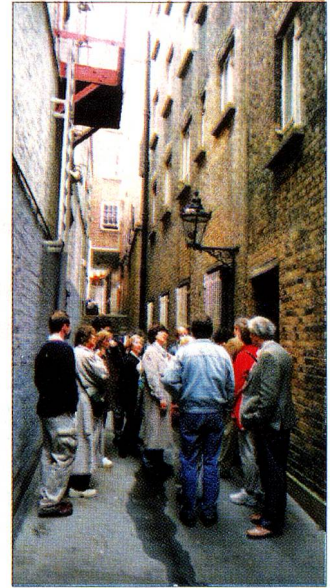
Each group had a special tour of the London Canal Museum, the headquarters of Carlo Gatti's ice business after 1847, and visited the new little gallery devoted to the Ticinesi café restaurants at the Museum of London, with its poignant souvenirs of the golden years.

En route we saw bits of old London that are little known to most Londoners!

In the evening members of the two groups joined the visitors from Switzerland for a meal at the famous Players' Theatre in Villiers Street, close to the spot where Carlo Gatti first started in business in a big way and where he had his music hall.

Judging by the comments heard during the dinner I think everyone enjoyed the experience. The visitors from the Ticino showed their appreciation by making a generous donation to our 125th Anniversary fund.

On the Sunday morning the group from the Ticino paid a visit to St Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Kensal Green. Here they saw the



The back streets of London reveal their fascinating secrets to intrepid Ticinese explorers as they walk in the footsteps of their ancestors

family graves of early Ticinesi restaurateurs like the Gattis, the Monicos and the Reggioris, whose restaurants once stood along the route covered the previous day.

Several of the visitors were particularly moved when they found the names of their ancestors among those engraved on some of the Unione Ticinese graves.

\* *Continental Taste* is the story of the Ticinese immigrants who changed the face of London restaurants in the second half of the 19th century. Copies can be obtained by sending a cheque for £7.50 (including p+p), made out to Unione Ticinese, to: Christiane Barber, 16 Tivoli Road, London N8 8RE.

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Over the last few months, fuelled by an aggressive advertising campaign, the popularity of digital satellite television in the UK has been soaring.

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At the touch of a button you can switch from BBC or ITV to the French language TSR1 or TSR2, the German language SF1 and SF2, or the Italian language TSI1 or TSI2.

All you need is your ordinary TV set, a digital

receiver fitted with a Viaccess decoder, a 60cm dish and a SSR Sat Access card.

**What receiver do I need?**

There are a number of digital receivers on the market, but you need one that is fully compatible with the Viaccess encryption system used by Swiss Television.

Your first step should be to talk to your local independent satellite dealer and ask for his recommendation. You will get more impartial advice here than from one of the big high street stores, who will try to tempt you with taking out a subscription to Sky instead. Resist their blandishments!

One receiver that has won favourable reviews from the satellite magazines is the Humax F1-VACI. This is a top of the range system that has a smart card reader for programmes encrypted by Viaccess already built in.

You can find out more about it by contacting Turbosat at 13 Alphabet Square, Hawgood Street, London E3 3RT (tel: 0171 537 1010).

**What about decoding?**

For copyright reasons the Swiss satellite channels have been encrypted, and the code can only be unlocked with a credit card sized Sat Access card. This costs a one-off fee of Sfr. 50, and there is an annual subscription of Sfr. 120.

The card is available from: SRG SSR Sat Access, PO Box CH-8052 Zurich (tel: 0041 1 305 65 50).

More details, and an application form, can be obtained by sending a stamped

addressed envelope to: Sat Access, Swiss Review, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

**What about programmes?**

None of the UK satellite magazines give a guide to Swiss TV programmes. But if your receiver has teletext you will be able to access the Swiss Teletext service. Go to page 300 to find out all about forthcoming programmes.

If you can use the Internet there are a number of different ways of finding out what's on.

You can go direct to the Web site of the station you want to watch ([www.drs.ch](http://www.drs.ch), [www.tsr.ch](http://www.tsr.ch) or [www.tsi.ch](http://www.tsi.ch)) or one that gives you all the European channels like [www.eurotv.com](http://www.eurotv.com).

The web sites of Swiss newspapers also give a list of TV programmes. For instance, for programmes for French speaking Switzerland go to [www.edicom.ch/tv/](http://www.edicom.ch/tv/)



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## The 134th City Swiss Club Banquet & Ball

The committee invites all members, Swiss people and friends of Switzerland to:

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Please reply to: Gill Egdell, City Swiss Club c/oSwissca Securities Ltd,  
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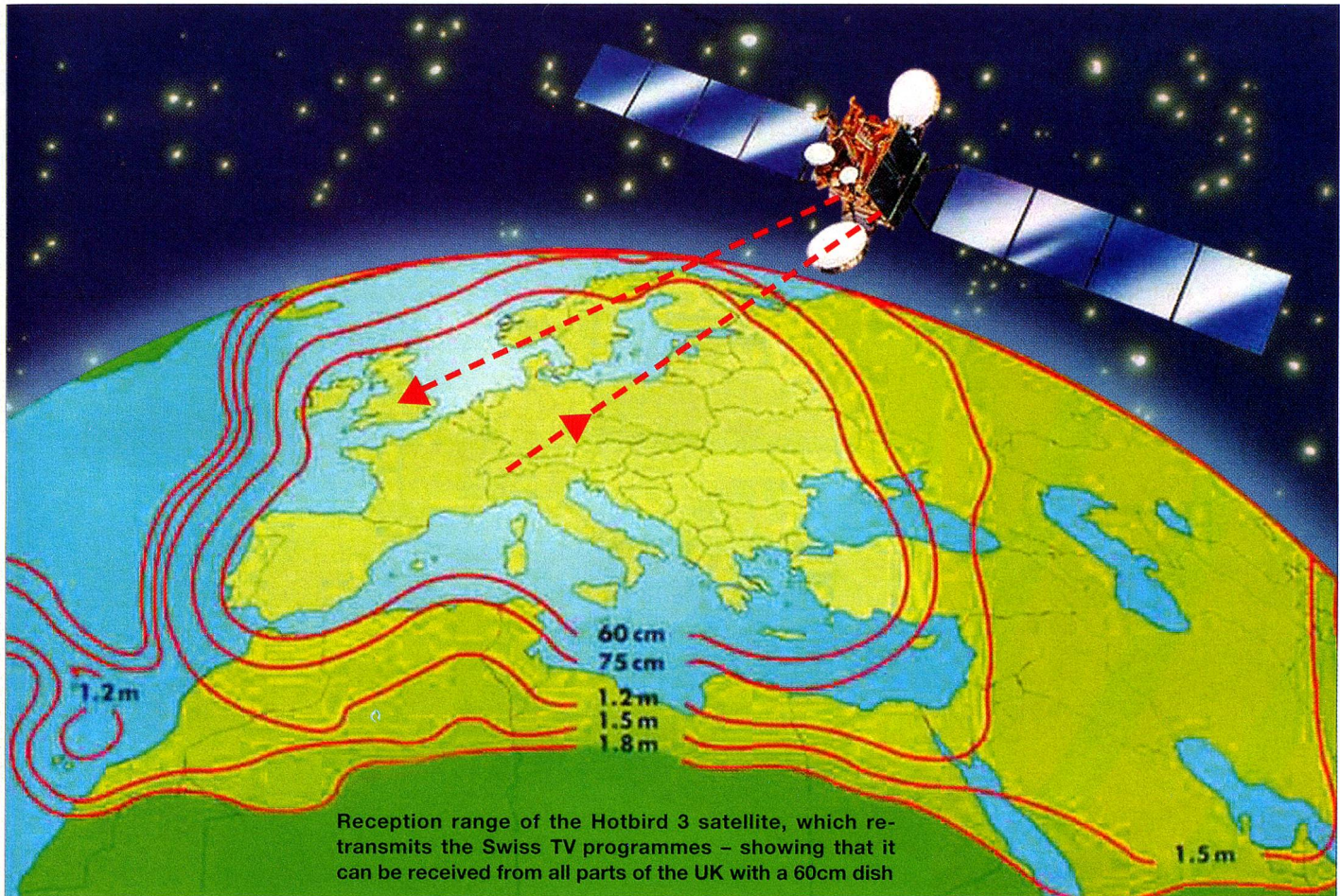
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## How to contact the editor

Reports of Swiss society activities and coming events, and articles and correspondence for the 'Switzerland in the UK' section of the Swiss Review, should go to the editor, Derek Meakin, at Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. Tel: 01625 855 000; fax: 01625 855 128.

His email address is: [dmeakin@europress.co.uk](mailto:dmeakin@europress.co.uk).

Enquiries regarding advertising should go to Jeffrey Long, 30 Finsbury Drive, Bradford BD2 1QA. Tel/fax: 01274 588 189.

● The 'Switzerland in the UK' supplement appears four times a year. The deadline for the next issue containing UK news, to be distributed in November, is October 4.

## Swiss club prepares for its 150th birthday

Manchester Swiss Club treasurer Huldi Broadhurst has been elected club president. She follows in the footsteps of two other women presidents, Odette Scheiwiller and Mariann Reutter.

She will be leading her club – one of the oldest Swiss clubs in the world – into its 150th year, which it celebrates next year.

Speaking at the club's AGM, Rose-Marie Breitenstein, secretary of FOSSUK and one of the UK's three delegates to the Congress of the Swiss Abroad, congratulated Mrs Broadhurst on her election and spoke of the important role a club plays in any Swiss community.

She described the extensive lobbying carried out by the Congress to safeguard the interests of Swiss citizens living in other countries, of whom 70,000 were now registered to vote in

federal referenda.

"That is quite a big voting potential, bigger than nine cantons," she said. "It is right that people should use their vote and exercise their rights as Swiss citizens."

She said that 27 clubs and societies in Britain had taken part in a survey of Swiss clubs throughout the world. She had been a member of the working party that had

produced a report based on the survey, which found the biggest problem faced by clubs worldwide was a shortage of younger members.

She also said that while plans had not yet been finalised it was hoped that FOSSUK's Millennium AGM would be held in Manchester, to coincide with the club's own 150th anniversary.



Get-together in Manchester: Huldi Broadhurst, Odette Scheiwiller, Rose-Marie Breitenstein and Mariann Reutter

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## Ducros paintings go on show in Norwich gallery

Over recent weeks visitors to the Norwich Union Gallery in the museum of Norwich Castle have been able to admire some remarkable paintings by the Swiss artist, Louis Ducros.

All the paintings were on loan from the Musée cantonale des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne, and the exhibition had been made possible by Pro Helvetia.

Ducros was born in Moudon, Vaud, in 1748, the son of a drawing master. He studied at a private academy in Geneva, copying the work of Flemish and Dutch masters, and then spent some years painting watercolours of the countryside around Geneva and in Savoy.

But his career really took off when he travelled to Rome in 1776 with the Swiss engraver La Croix, opened his own studio and showroom and built up a clientele which included many of the crowned heads of Europe.

Travel in the 18th century was an essential part of the education of the well off, especially among wealthy Britons, many of whom were to call on Ducros. But fears about the spread of the French Revolution, coupled

with the jealousy of Italian artists, forced him to flee to the safety of Naples, where one of his new patrons was the British envoy, Sir William Hamilton, whose wife later became the mistress of the English admiral, Lord Nelson.

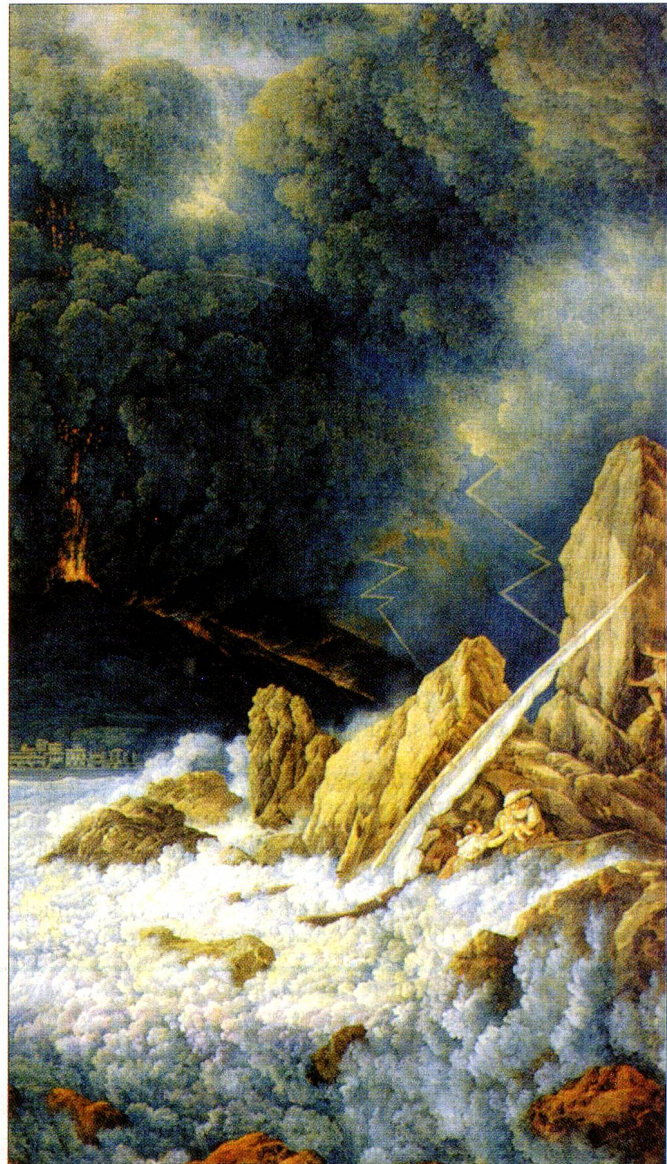
This period was one of Ducros' most productive, and it was not until 1807 that he returned to Switzerland, becoming an honorary member of the Société des Arts in Geneva and making his home in Lausanne.

He died in 1810, and in order to pay his debtors his paintings, including the 37 on show in Norwich, became the property of the Canton of Vaud.

## Music School's Swiss tour

Pupils of the Music School of the Swiss Church in London are visiting the Canton of Vaud in August to give performances of the musical Jonas in its original version.

Their itinerary takes them to Gryon, St Prex, La Sarraz and Donneloye. Details can be obtained from the school on 0171 581 5991.



Shipwreck with the Eruption of Vesuvius: One of the Ducros masterpieces on show in Norwich is this dramatic scene of what happened in June 1774 when Naples, where he was living at the time, was covered in a cloud of ash from the erupting volcano.



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## COMING EVENTS

**Aberdeen Swiss Club:** Christmas meal and AGM (November 27). Details from Susanna Weir (01224 586 018).

**Fyfe Swiss Club:** National Day celebrations (August 1). Details from Heidi McGhie on 01383 412 635.

**Manchester Swiss Club:** National Day celebrations (July 31); Bowling & Barbecue (September 5 or 12); Bernerplatte evening (October 9); Dinner dance, Stanneylands Hotel, Wilmslow (November 13). Details from Mariann Reutter on 01260 273 681.

**Midlands Swiss Society:** Wine and museli garden party at the Schneiders, Sutton Coldfield (July 11); National Day celebrations, Beechwood Hotel, Coventry (August 1); Soup evening at the Geiers, Sutton Coldfield (September 4); Skittles evening, Walsall (October

15); Candlelit tour of Litchfield Cathedral (November 12); Samichlaus Party, Trinity Centre, Sutton Coldfield (December 6). Details from Glynne Roberts on 01543 250 737.

**Southern Area Swiss Club:** August 1 celebration (July 31); Family walk, Alice Holt Forest (September 19); Skittles (October 28); Christmas party (December 14). Details from Vreni Rudkin on 01252 547 948.

**Swiss Club East Kent:** Pub lunches and country walks every four weeks; National Day celebration (August 1). Details from Agi Smith on 01843 601 314.

**Swiss Club Tyne Tees:** Joining the Yorkshire Swiss Club for the National Day celebration (August 1); Club meeting, Three Tuns Hotel, Durham (September 25 and October 30); Swiss Samichlaus Party, Whitehill Hall,

Chester-le-Street (December 5). Details from Nelly Scott-Niederberger on 0191 519 0956.

**Torbay Swiss Club:** Visit to Shaldon Zoo (July 21). National Day celebration (August 1); Snacks at Passage House Inn (September 15); Halloween Hat Parade (October 20). Details from Max Singer on 01803 842 355.

**Unione Ticinese:** Lecture on Ticinesi wines (September 11); Autumn family outing (September 26); Castagnasta (October 16); Lecture by Professor Remigo Ratti (November 23). Details from Christiane Barber on 0181 348 3751.

**Yorkshire Swiss Club:** National Day lunch, The Swiss Connection, Hebden Bridge (August 1).

*Secretaries of Swiss societies are asked to write to the editor before October 13 with details of events planned to take place after November 27.*

## small ads

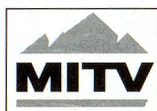
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