

City Swiss Club

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CITY SWISS CLUB

Summer Dance

One of the post-war traditions of the City Swiss Club is the summer outing. After two years at Monkey Island, the Committee decided to go back to Great Fosters near Egham in Surrey. The unqualified success of the evening on 27th June showed clearly that the decision was a wise one, and Mr. Lucien Jobin and his helpers must be pleased that their hard work was so much appreciated.

Great Fosters is one of Britain's finest country house hotels in beautiful surroundings. It has many historic connections, having been partly built by Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth I used it as a Hunting Lodge, as did Anne Boleyn and James I.

Drinks before dinner were taken out of doors in the splendid gardens, as the weather was most clement. The President and Mrs. Alfred Kuhn received the guests who included the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Keller as well as a number of other members of the Embassy.

The reason why the Club left Great Fosters a couple of years ago was that the food was not all one could wish. Whilst that reason would still hold good, I repeat what I wrote then: On an evening like that it is the good fellowship and the enjoyment of dancing and a happy atmosphere which matters; food is of secondary importance. And as far as ambiance and cheer were concerned, the Tithe Barn could not have provided a better background. Dancing was never neglected, and the wine glasses were filled again and again until 1 o'clock.

It was a good evening thoroughly enjoyed by members and friends and not least by — the Ladies.

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WELFARE OFFICE

for

SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.

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RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

APPENZELL COMES TO ESSEX

On the banks of the River Stour, in the heart of the Constable country, stands a beautiful sixteenth-century house, a few steps down from a main motor road, yet so quiet and peaceful that one easily forgets that one is near the busy city of Colchester in thriving Essex. The place is Dedham, and the house Le Talbooth Restaurant. Did I say peaceful?

Certainly not on the two evenings of 3rd and 4th July when the marquees in the grounds of the Talbooth were full of boisterous and jolly life, not to say noise. Both evenings were given over to Switzerland, more precisely to Appenzell, for it was the famous Alder Band, complete with *Hackbrett* and yodelling, which provided music for dancing. But it was not only the colourful Appenzell costumes which brightened up the tents — the whole place was gaily decorated with flags, flowers and bunting. It said "Après ski" was to be the dress, but for once it was too warm even in England to turn up in ski-ing trousers and thick knitwear. And the majority of women were in summer dresses and the men in casual suits. But as the evening went on, the dancing to the swinging folklore band became more energetic and the Swiss wines warmed heads and hearts more and more, men discarded their jackets, and informality took over rapidly. One never really connects *Bratwürste* (from the Swiss Centre Restaurants in London) potato salad, *Chäschuechli* and *Chuchipastetti* with formal dining and supping, nor trestle tables, however nicely set. It was just what the organisers set out to achieve, gay, light-hearted evenings with the atmosphere of a Swiss folklore festival. What was surprising were the large numbers, several hundred guests each evening! Few Swiss among them, at least not obviously, but a very, very large number of British friends of Switzerland, and I have heard it said that if they had not been on arrival, they certainly became such during the evening! And when the indefatigable band finally packed up their instruments, their music was played on records, and the musicians themselves showed how a real *Ländler* should be danced. The guests left in a happy mood, but Anglo-Swiss or Appenzell-Essex friendships were sealed in the bar of the Talbooth until early hours of the two mornings.

Much of the success of the evening must be attributed to the proprietor of the Talbooth, Mr. Gerald M. W. Milsom, whose initiative was the basis for the special Festival Week in general and the two Swiss evenings in particular. His house is well known for good food and attentive service; for years he has had Appenzell waitresses and other

Swiss staff. Swiss Fair Ltd. of London's Swiss Centre and the Swiss National Tourist Office have co-operated, and the result was certainly a very happy time for something nearing 1,000 people — most of them genuine friends of Switzerland.

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A GOLDEN WEDDING AND TWO BIRTHDAYS

On 11th August, Mr. and Mrs. Victor and Amy Bataillard, of 20 Keyes Gardens, Newcastle-on-Tyne 2, will be celebrating their Golden Wedding. We send them congratulations and many happy returns of the day.

Mrs. A. Bachofen will have her birthday on 10th August, and on 18th August, Mr. Giovenale Bozzini will be 87. To them as well as to any other readers whose birthdays will fall within the next fortnight, we extend best wishes.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle, in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres:
No meetings until 1st October.

AUGUST:

4th to 16th — Hampstead Theatre Club (01-722 9074) — PIERRE BYLAND — Swiss Actor/Dancer/Acrobat/Poet and Pianist.

22nd to 29th — Swiss Church CAMP at Ashburnham Place near Battle in Sussex — Please apply for information to Rev. U. Stefan, 3 Womersley Road, N.8. 01-340 9740.

Friday, 29th to Sunday, 31st — ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD — Montreux.

SEPTEMBER:

Sunday, 14th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING Bisley Camp (Siberia Range).

Tuesday, 23rd — City Swiss Club — CARD EVENING.

Sunday, 28th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING (*Gruempelschiessen*) — Bisley Camp (Siberia Range).

NOVEMBER:

Saturday, 8th — Swiss Club Manchester — ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL — Excelsior Hotel.

Friday, 21st — City Swiss Club — 104th ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.