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SOCIETY AND SOCIAL SCENE

Swiss Churches' bazaar was great success

THE Swiss Churches in London held their two-yearly Bazaar in the Swiss Church at Endell Street recently.

For the first time this event was held in the church rather than at the Westminster Central Hall as on previous occasions, so as to save on the heavy overheads which were incurred.

The Bazaar was extremely successful, not only commercially – proceeds of £4,800 – but also socially. Hundreds of people made their way to Endell Street. A great many of them were British friends of parishioners.

They all helped to boost sales of wieneries, sauerkraut, cakes galore, bratwuerste and a great many other good things.

With such numbers, the church building was naturally packed, but the success of the event, coming one year after the equally successful Minibazaar, speaks in favour of using the church building for this vital fund raising function.

The Ambassador, Monsieur Claude Caillat, opened the proceedings, witnessing to the important contribution of the Embassy to the Bazaar.

As usual, there was a stall run by members of the Embassy and their wives. A number of Swiss banks and businesses had sent handsome donations and gifts in kind.

The raffle was won by a Mr Johnson, who gets a free trip to Switzerland for himself and his wife.

Second prize, a beautiful man's watch worth about £300, went to a Mrs Barbara Radmoor, a Swiss lady married here.

The third prize, an equally lovely lady's watch, went to Mrs B. Kaluza. Among the other prizes,

two, a bottle of wine and a musical cigarette case, went respectively to Ambassador Caillat and to Mr Keller, of the Commercial Section of the Embassy.

Special thanks are due for this great afternoon to the efforts of the Rev Steiner and Miss Barbara Schwartz, community worker, and, naturally, to the Bazaar Committee which is chaired by Mrs Crack, President of the Con-sistoire, and includes members of the Frauenverein, La Causerie, the Mothers Group and the Swiss Catholics.

One of the great pleasures of the afternoon was to see such a great many children. Some came as visitors, others worked in the stalls, one of which was served by members of three generations!

PMB

Healthy Edinburgh

THE programme of Edinburgh Swiss Club continues to provide members with a healthy blend of good food and exercise, according to a report from Claire McKay.

When the Manchester consul general, Mr Charles Glauser, visited Edinburgh at the end of last year the lady members provided a spread of cheese tartlets and delicious cakes. A fondue party is now planned for the end of February, and the summer's

main event will be a beach barbe-que.

To work off some of this tasty fare the club plans a game of skittles at the Sheep's Head Inn at Duddingston in May. Meanwhile, some of the lady members can still be found in the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh, at the bright and early hour of 9.30.

Bargain book

IF you want a bargain, look up the September issue of the Swiss Observer and turn to pages 18 and 19. There you will find an illustrated article about "Switzerland and her Glaciers... from the Ice Age to the Present."

It describes the contents of a beautiful book of that title, published by the Swiss National Tourist Office in Zurich in conjunction with the geographical publishers, Kuemmerly and Frey.

The price at that time was £12 but now we have heard the good news that it has been reduced to £5. If that is not an absolute bargain, we should like to know a better one.

The book is obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 10 Wardour Street, London W1V 3HG.

For those readers who don't know about the book, the format is 30cm x 24cm and comprises 190 pages of beautiful colour and

black and white pictures, many explanatory graphs, maps and elucidating text.

The production is of the finest quality, as one has come to expect of Swiss publications of this nature.

It is not just a picture book on Switzerland's magnificent sights of eternal ice and snow. It is a well documented and comprehensive history as well as a geological survey.

It is written in such a way as to be of interest not only to the expert but also to the amateur and simple lover of natural beauty. A unique work and a valuable addition to any library.

MM

Success story

THERE was great excitement at Lainston House in Sparsholt, (featured in our September issue), Hampshire following publication of the new Egon Ronay hotel and restaurant guide.

Ronay awarded Lainston House, open barely a year after conversion to a country house hotel, a rating for excellence and luxury of 85 per cent – a score attained by only four other hotels outside London in the whole of England.

Both the restaurant and the hotel attracted warm praise, and particular mention was made of Lainston's friendly, concerned service.

Sipping champagne with his staff after hearing the news, Robin Oldland said: "Naturally we are delighted at this national recognition of our efforts after such a short period."



A toast to success: Robin Oldland and his Swiss-born wife Marie-Jose

Phaenomena . . . exhibition with a difference

IN today's world, men, women and children are subject to innumerable influences from outside.

They are bombarded with massive doses of opinions on every topic under the sun, by revelations of new discoveries, by advertising on television and radio, in print and on hoardings. No wonder one gets more and more confused and finds it difficult to find a straight path in that conglomerate of differing values.

This is the reason which prompted a group of institutions in Zurich to stage an exhibition of a new kind. At the initiative of the Zurich Forum a cultural body for the benefit of the community, partly subsidised by Canton and

Town, in co-operation with various departments of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and other notable organisations, "Phaenomena" is being planned for the summer of 1984.

Its aim is to bring closer to visitors the achievements of the natural sciences and of natural manifestations and to explain their origins and connections.

The layman can hardly follow any more what physics comprise nowadays, and the exhibition should allow him to recognise the basic laws of nature, the achieve-

ments of civilisation and the knowledge arisen from life's experiences.

The exhibition will take place from May to September in 1984, and the venue is the Zuerichhorn Park where three pyramid shaped marquees will be erected near the Fischerstube right on the shore of the lake.

The various sections will be devoted to water, air, optics, acoustics and mechanics. Nearby will be a solar observatory and a weather station. A hollow cylinder

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will be sunk in the water, from which the visitor will be able to observe the bottom of the lake.

A traversable structure will demonstrate all kinds of movements and wind play, and various wide chutes and a two storey mirror labyrinth will be housed there.

Between the marquees and the Blatterwiese, a "hall of illusions" will be built according to a concept worked out by students of the art and craft college. Furthermore, a water dome, an echodrome and an enclosure for balancing exercises are planned.

There will also be a special hall where the visitor has an opportunity of constructing various articles under expert tuition.

The estimated cost of the whole show is Sfr. 3 million. The town of Zurich will participate with Sfr. 600,000 and will guarantee a deficit to the same amount. It is hoped that the canton, too, will contribute.

At a Press conference in October the project was introduced as a bridge between the public and natural science. The Zurich Forum is pleased that so much interest has been shown and that practical co-operation and support has already been received from several quarters.

MM

Season's greetings

THE annual Castagnata (Roasted Chestnuts and Red Wine Evening) of the Union Ticinese, London was yet another social success for the society.

The guests included Mr Giovanni Montalbetti, who was especially flown over from Semione in Ticino for the occasion.

Giovanni, an exuberant accordionist, created a sense of



Zino Davidoff with a box of his precious Dom Perignon cigars

nostalgia among senior members while infusing a healthy and civilised Ticinese folklore among second and third generation Anglo-Swiss sympathisers.

Over 80 members and their families gathered in the traditional surroundings of the Valchera Restaurant in Richmond.

The committee wishes to

thank, among others, Peter Jacomelli who was instrumental in arranging the live entertainment.

The committee of the Unione Ticinese wishes to extend New Year greetings to all members and friends in the UK and to all those who follow its social activities in Switzerland and abroad.

READER'S LETTER

I ENJOY reading your magazine and especially Colin Farmer, whose stories from Berne are always well chosen and interesting.

In the December issue, he reported a so-called remedy for snoring. As I know from experience, people who snore don't always do it while sleeping on

their back, so the remedy is useless.

The pharmaceutical companies which published such rubbish should try to find a real remedy against what can be a very unpleasant habit, illness or whatever you want to call it - for the partners. - Anne Cendre, London W14.

Guru of the cigar

DID any fortunate reader receive a box of Davidoff cigars in his Christmas stocking?

Such a gift could indicate very rich or generous friends because a box of 25 Davidoff Dom Perignon, the largest cigar in the range and containing a blend of tobaccos from six years' harvests, costs £208, or £8.75 for one cigar.

Known in Switzerland and throughout the world as "the guru of the cigar", Zino Davidoff was born in Kiev where his father dealt in cigarettes and tobaccos.

The family eventually moved shop to Geneva, where they enjoyed the custom of one Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov, later known as Lenin.

In his teens, Zino started out on a pilgrimage to the tobacco growing regions of the world. In Brazil an old planter told him of the delights of Cuban cigars, which led him inevitably to Havana and the beginning of a life-long romance. Five years later he returned to Geneva and set up his own shop, which has become a legend.

In 1968 the Cuban government decided to acknowledge his services by granting him the rights to a brand of hand made cigars which would bear his name.

Since then he has lent his name to many smokers' products and accessories including humidors, cigar cases, cigar scissors, matches, pipes and tobaccos with the firm proviso that they match the quality of the cigars that he selects from Cuba.

Zino's advice to smokers, which he follows meticulously himself, is "to smoke little and of the best quality."