

A word from the President

The summer of 2012 with its holidays and the Olympic and Paralympic Games is history. Now the autumn colours are slowly making an appearance and before we know it, it will be the end of year festive season.

At the New Helvetic Society, we strive to come up with exciting events for the benefit of our members and friends of Switzerland. We fell short on this commitment in the last few months and like you we are disappointed.

The Council is composed of a small number – not enough – of devoted volunteers who spend a lot of time and energy for the Society. We cannot keep our promises as soon as one or two of our Council members cannot fulfil their tasks due to personal circumstances such as ill health and family obligation. I appeal to you to help us find more Council members otherwise I regret to say that we will have to curtail our activities. As always, we welcome your constructive comments and criticisms.

Not all is doom and gloom I am pleased to say. We have come up with an exciting programme for you to enjoy, details of which are found on page 2.

A friend of mine, Wallace Peters, has written a book, which could be of interest to you. Its title is: *Four Passions: Conversations with Myself*. A synopsis can be found on page 3 as well as where you can buy the book. Wallace's late wife Ruth was a Swiss citizen.

I look forward to seeing you on many occasions in the coming months.



Daniel Pedroletti

www.newhelveticociety.org.uk
info@newhelveticociety.org.uk

Address:
New Helvetic Society
16–18 Montagu Place
London W1H 2BQ

Future Events

Next Event

■ 18 October 2012

Film Night *Tandoori Love* at the Swiss Embassy



NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

Thursday 18 October 2012 at 7 pm



TANDOORI LOVE

Film Night
Thursday 18 October 2012 at 7 pm, at the Embassy of Switzerland, 16–18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ

This is no cult movie with no deep messages and no dilemma to solve. It is just good fun, romantic with a touch of violence. The contrast between Bernese and Indian cultures brings some comical moments not forgetting singing and dancing in the local supermarket.

This film has been nominated and has won awards at various film festivals.

Swiss German spoken with English subtitles.

Refreshments will be provided

If we would like to attend the film night on Thursday 18 October 2012 at 7 pm.
Fee: **free for members**, £10.– per person for non-members.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Tel.No.: _____

As booking is essential, please return this slip with your cheque made payable to:
New Helvetic Society by **Friday 12 October 2012**
to New Helvetic Society, c/o Swiss Embassy, 16–18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ
Please note: no tickets or confirmations of booking are issued and fees cannot be paid at the door.

New Helvetic Society, 16–18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ
Website: www.newhelveticsociety.org.uk | Email: info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk

NSH

Future Events

■ 15 November 2012

Concert of classical music with the Pirandello Trio

■ December 2012

L'Escalade

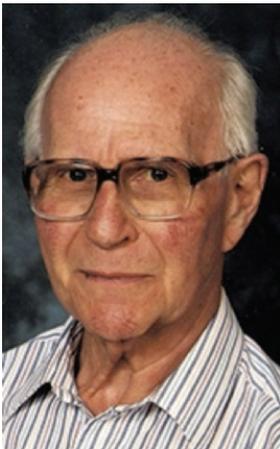
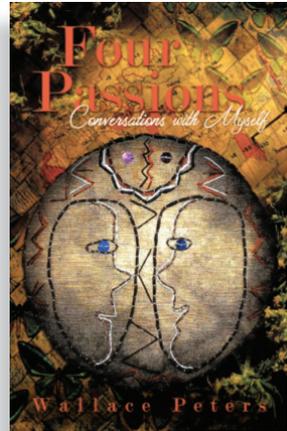
Details of the above events are published as soon as they are available.
Members are personally informed by email or post.

How to Find Happiness After Retirement

Four Passions: *Conversations with Myself* is a frank account of the psychological pitfalls that many couples encounter after one or both are obliged to retire.

Author Wallace Peters is a renowned medical scientist in his 80s, whose main interest is tropical medicine. In 2007, he and his wife, Ruth, moved into a peaceful retirement village located in the English countryside. Nine months later, Ruth succumbed to cancer. After her death, the author learned that many of the 200 residents in his community, irrespective of their former careers, struggled to find direction in their lives. Hoping to restore their enthusiasm, Wallace sets out to describe his and Ruth's experiences with their positive lifestyle during retirement.

An ever-increasing number of seniors will face an unprecedented long period of living post-retirement. This book offers an optimistic perspective on the pleasures of old age.



About the Author

Wallace Peters grew up in London and currently resides at Castle Retirement Village, near Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

He has written three books on medical and entomological topics; was a senior author with two different co-authors of six editions (since 1977) of *Atlas of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*; and co-editor of four books on malaria and leishmaniasis.

FOUR PASSIONS: CONVERSATIONS WITH MYSELF

(ISBN: 978-1-61897-095-4)

is now available and can be ordered through the publisher's website:

<http://sbpra.com/WallacePeters> or at

www.amazon.com or

www.barnesandnoble.com

Past Events (January – February 2012)

19

JAN 2012

The Swiss – EU relationship: model or accident?

Mr Urs Schmid, Minister at the Swiss Embassy, gave a very interesting and lively presentation – despite the seriousness of the topic humour was present with lively illustrations – about the relationship between Switzerland and the European Union. Is this relationship a model or an accident?



The figures of the trade between the two entities show that Switzerland needs Europe as a market to sell the goods it manufactures - a large chunk of its exports are sold in the EU – but also relies on foreign nationals among them many frontaliers –to work in Switzerland. However, after decades of negotiations to achieve the Bilateral Agreements I and II, how can we consider the relationship between the two entities when you know that CH is kept out of EU negotiations and has to abide by the decisions reached by the EU? The Minister concluded after a short and concise presentation that this model of cooperation is neither an accident nor a model. Stephan Lauper - who assisted Mr Schmid with the presentation - gave an insight into the difficulties faced by the fraught relationship. The lively session of questions and answers continued around a glass of wine and delicious homemade nibbles. *Nathalie Monnot and Marie-José Lindon*



16

FEB 2012

Film Night: *Home*

This film simply portrays a family living in a house by a disused motorway section. The parents and the children live a happy life until the motorway reopened without much warning. This has a profound effect on their lives. This portrait of family life is painted without voyeurism or sentimentalism. However it does not fall into any kind of conventional documentary, as it is in turn very emotional, comical, realistic and surreal. It is a kind of anti-road movie. This critically acclaimed film invites you to draw your own conclusion. *PDL*



Past Events (March 2012)

09

MAR 2012

Launching rockets never gets old

About 30 members met up on Friday afternoon 9th March at the Camden Arts Centre for a guided tour by Swiss artist Raphael Hefti – from Bienne – of his first solo exhibition in the UK. After meeting for tea and cakes – or a heavenly cup of chocolate according to the members who tried it – we first had a brief explanation by Gina about the beautiful building that is now home to the arts centre.



The building on Finchley Road used to be a library and it has been renovated in a modern fashion without losing its original features. It is bright and airy with access to an outdoor area. Raphael Hefti then took us upstairs to show us his exhibition. He explained first about the photographs where patterns have been created by burning the spores of the Lycopodium plant – well known by people who use homeopathy – to create ambiguous patterns on photosensitive paper.

The main object of the exhibition attracted a lot of interest. These are 6 giant panels of glass that Raphael has covered with several layers of Luxar coating in Switzerland then transported to the UK by road with the other pieces of glass that the company was delivering to its UK customers. The panels have been custom created for the big room of the Camden Arts Center and the colours change with the light in the building making it an ever-changing piece of art. Raphael told us that already two of the pieces have been sold. *Avis aux amateurs!* Raphael came to art by chance, having first studied for an apprenticeship in electronics. He likes to experiment with new objects and with processes. His latest art project is oysters in which he became interested during a recent trip to Brittany but we will have to wait for another exhibition to know more about this. *Nathalie Monnot*

Past Events (April 2012)

19
APR 2012

2012 AGM

Apart from what is usually discussed at AGMs of any given clubs, the membership agreed with the proposed changes to our rules following the merge of the New Helvetic Society and the Cercle Genevois. From now on, we shall celebrate *L'Escalade* – an important historic event that took place in Geneva in 1602 – by smashing the chocolate *Marmite* in the old tradition each December.



All Council members willing to serve were re-elected. It was time to thank Marina Malmed who resigned for personal reasons. Marina has played a key role in the running of our Society and she will be thoroughly missed. We hope to see her at many of our future events. The president made an appeal for people to come forward to serve on the Council, as we seriously need more volunteers.

Our last AGM was concluded in record time as we went through the agenda very quickly because no issues were raised by the membership. This does not show a lack of interest but this must mean that the members are in agreement with what we do and enjoy our events. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support.



The official part was followed by a meal and a quiz. Congratulations to our winner, Anne Allen, who received two bottles of Swiss wine. PDL



Members' Corner

The Society is pleased to welcome the following members:

Mrs Hélène Alexandrou
Ms Karen Chambers
Mrs Lucienne Greig

You write, you say

Last August, after a short break in the Bernese Oberland with an old school friend, she insisted that we should return to Geneva via Giessbach to visit an amazing hotel. She was right.



My photo doesn't do it justice. It is a revival of a *Belle Epoque* palace hotel in the most beautiful spot with views on Lake Brienz and, of course, on the Giessbach waterfalls. The waterfalls cascade down over 500m in 14 steps some visible from the hotel.

The hotel was built in 1873–74 and was the place to be at the turn of the century with a clientèle comprising heads of state and royalties – Europe's high society. After the wars it fell into disrepair and was due to be demolished and the site redeveloped, when in 1983 the ecologist Franz Weber stepped in to save it for the nation. He managed to raise the necessary funds for a progressive refurbishment to start and continue over many years. The result is as my friend put it *absolument extraordinaire*. Wondering around the ballroom and looking out over the lake, you step into another world.

We had another stop on the way back to sample Swiss caviar and enjoy smoked sturgeon with exotic fruit salad in... Frutigen. But that's another story. *Marie-José Lindon*



Last But Not Least



COMPETITION Issue 31

Where in Switzerland can you find the Breitling Orbiter and who were the two men who travelled in it non-stop around the world?

Prize two bottles of Swiss wine.
Send your answer with your name and details to our usual postal or email addresses.
The winner will be drawn from the correct answers.
Deadline: 10 November 2012



COMPETITION RESULTS Issue 30

Name the Swiss town where you can find this gate
The answer is **Lugano** and the winners are Heidi and John Williamson who will receive a bottle of wine and a book.



SWISSCELLANY

facts and figures about Switzerland

This is a new book by Diccon Bewes who wrote Swiss Watching which has recently been published in German under the title:

Der Schweizversther. Ein Engländer unter Eidgenossen

In need of Council members

The Council of the New Helvetic Society is looking for new members. Is there anyone willing to spare a few hours on a voluntary basis? Computer-literate persons would be ideal. Interested? Please contact the President at

info@newhelveticsociety.org.uk

**NEW
HELVETIC
SOCIETY**

facebook

Facebook

Please join us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same: www.facebook.com/NewHelveticSociety