



# ANGLO-SWISS NEWS

www.angloswissclubs.ch

SEPTEMBER 2005

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF ANGLO-SWISS CLUBS – FASC

## A brilliant weekend in Locarno

The FASC weekend at the Grand Hotel in Locarno was a brilliant success, with even the weather cooperating. Almost 100 people from 16 clubs all over Switzerland enjoyed a weekend of socialising, meeting old friends and making new ones. There was lots of time to look round Locarno and take the funicular up to Madonna del Sasso and Cardada, and even Cimetta to enjoy the fantastic views.

The organised part of the weekend on Friday kicked off with a wine tasting session with excellent local wines to get us in the mood for the boat trip, when we were offered a real Ticinese risotto. Saturday afternoon saw us playing sports in the beautiful grounds



of the hotel, followed by a gala dinner attended by 130 members and dancing till the wee small hours to the sound of a very enjoyable duo.

The first prize in the lottery, which was two return business class tickets from Zürich to London donated by British Airways, was won by Norman Trounce from ASC St Gallen, while the second prize, a two-night stay in a double room at ROSL in London, was won by a young lady called Cecilia. Many thanks to the London Food Store in Zug for other lottery prizes in the shape of hampers of English food. On Sunday morning there was a tremendous English breakfast buffet – including kippers – and the prize-giving for the sports. *(continued on page 2)*

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# Editorial

One innovation you'll notice in this issue is that instead of two pages of club news, we now have three! It's a tribute to how active we all are. Some clubs have had extremely interesting days out, and there's no reason why we shouldn't do a bit of club-hopping occasionally, and go and visit when there's something particularly interesting. Most club programmes are on the FASC website. That is one of the beauties of belonging to a nation-wide organisation – you have friends all over the country, and get to know some super places in good company.

This is what FASC is for. The recent Locarno weekend was just as successful as we anticipated, and there are lots more activities coming up to get you all together as much as possible, as you'll see on page 8.

This brings me on to my next point. If you've got a holiday flat or chalet to let, or are an ardent collector looking for contacts, or anything else fairly long term, this is the ideal place to advertise. We'd like to start up a classified ads section (for a small fee). So send in your ad to me ([anitra.green@datacomm.ch](mailto:anitra.green@datacomm.ch)).

We also have another Letter to the Editor as part of the ongoing debate about changing the FASC logo to give a more accurate reflection of the mix of FASC members. What do you think about this? Your opinion also counts!

## Letter to the Editor

### Changing the title of FASC?!!

Naturally one has to go with the times and people have to adapt themselves to the changing facts, but has it to be everything? Even if the title "FEDERATION OF ANGLO-SWISS CLUBS (FASC)" doesn't cover all the facets of membership, it is in my opinion high time that we started to call a halt to all these new-fangled names and abbreviations.

If the mobiles we buy today are already old by tomorrow, this doesn't apply to our federation and its name. Let's be British (even if I am not) and stay put.

I don't believe that we will lose one member nor gain anybody who is interested in our organisation by staying with the old (?) title.

*Peter Imhof  
(Honorary President, English-Speaking Club Zofingen/Langenthal)*

The Grand Hotel formed an almost ideal backdrop to all this activity: the terrace outside the bar (where else) was a natural meeting point where people could get together to swap anecdotes and generally enjoy themselves. It's a shame this grand old hotel with its spacious rooms, magnificent chandeliers, frescoed ceilings and beautiful grounds is going to close at the end of this year, and will probably be pulled down.

Many thanks to Laurent and especially Nathalie Belet for the organisation, Claude Böhler for organising the sports, and all their helpers.



## Sports prizes

**Tennis (mixed doubles):**  
EC Zofingen-Langenthal

### Table-tennis:

Queen: Anna Tappern, ASC of Geneva  
King: Eduardo Bonifaccio, ASC Locarno

### Shooting:

Queen: Inge Askins, ASC Lucerne  
King: Tony Schneider, ASC Lucerne  
Team: ASC St Gallen

### Crossbow:

Queen: Karin Scheidegger, ASC St Gallen  
King: Barry Hart, ESC Baden-Brugg

### Darts:

Queen: Heather Waygood, ASC St Gallen  
King: Geoff Tappern, ASC of Geneva  
Team: ASC St Gallen

### Croquet:

Queen: Vera Scheer, ASC Basle  
King: Eduardo Bonifaccio, ASC Locarno  
Team: ASC Lucerne



We would like to thank British Airways and the Royal Overseas League for helping to make our Locarno weekend raffle such a success by donating two tickets to London

and a weekend at the ROSL club in London. Please support our sponsors; they can be contacted as follows:

[www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com)  
[www.rosl.org.uk](http://www.rosl.org.uk)

## Locarno music festival

The programme at the Grand Hotel in Locarno in October 2005 celebrates Harmony in Music, Art and Words. There will be art and photo exhibitions, informal music recitals and introductions, with actors reciting prose and poetry on the balcony overlooking the lawn of the hotel.

There will be four concerts: the choir of Radio Svizzera singing Mozart's Requiem; The Academy of St Martin Chamber Ensemble from London playing music by Rossini, Mozart and Schubert; Christian Zacharias playing

Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1; and the Liege Philharmonic Orchestra with Frank Peter Zimmermann playing Mozart's Concerto for Violin.

The highlight will be a piano recital by the Parisian pianist Caroline Haffner on Sunday 16 October. Her prodigious technical and musical gifts brought her a string of prestigious awards and prizes including the Geneva International Piano Competition.

Information from Jane McIntosh, Director, MCM Ltd Swiss office:  
Grand Hotel Locarno, 17 via Sempione  
CH-6601 Locarno. Tel: +41(0)79 286 64 26  
[www.grand-hotel-locarno.ch](http://www.grand-hotel-locarno.ch)

# British Council in Switzerland

The British Council is active in 110 countries all over the world with about 8000 staff. As its aims are to improve perceptions of the UK in other countries, develop mutual understanding and create stronger ties, you may wonder what they do in an Anglophile country like Switzerland. Answer: a surprising amount.

British Council director Caroline Morrissey MBE, who's been working in Berne for this organisation for 20 years, explained that it's for creating opportunities mainly for young people. It has four areas: arts, education, science and society. It receives a core grant-in-aid from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office but is also partly financed by its own activities, i.e. teaching English and administering exams, which is subsidised but a huge business.

As director, Caroline decides what the Council does in Switzerland. She emphasised it's here for long-term relationships and that its values – people, creativity, mutuality, professionalism and integrity – are extremely important.

The arts and society aspects in Switzerland are in the capable hands of Barbara Mosca, who has a solid background in the visual arts. Recent successful events include "Beat'n'Bars & Air Guitars", a celebration of contemporary British music through film in Winterthur and Lausanne; "From Here and There", on South Asian literature, in Berne, Zürich and Geneva; and "Write Identities", a multi-ethnic workshop for young writers in Berne.

The Council's strength is that it can bring together people from all spheres in a way that other organisations can't, such as the Swiss-British conference in Geneva last year, "Not for Sale", on the traffic in artefacts from Iraq and Afghanistan.



Caroline Morrissey

Looting of artefacts there is a huge problem, and the Council brought together prominent people from politics, Interpol, Swiss and UK customs, dealers, collectors and museums.

## Climate change

As for science, the Council's job is to increase public awareness of scientific issues. The focus in the next two years is climate change and will culminate in a youth summit conference in Berne on November 24/25. The idea is to get young scientists together with tomorrow's leaders to work out a manifesto.

On the education side, the Council gives advice to Swiss students intending to study in the UK. It does a lot of work with Swiss schools and universities, and helps training English-language teachers. As regards exams, it organises the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) that it developed with Cambridge University and IDP Australia. This is so popular it has to run the exam twice a month and constantly train new examiners. There are two versions, an academic one for professionals (e.g. doctors who want to practice in the UK) and a general one for Swiss emigrants to places like Australia. The council holds other exams mainly for people taking distance-learning courses. Altogether, it holds about 1000 exams a year.



"From Here and There" was a big success.

## BSCC on the move

What does the rise of Asia – especially China – mean in economic terms for Europe? Members of the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce had the privilege of hearing an excellent talk by Stephen K. Green, HSBC Holdings chief executive, at its AGM in June.

The BSCC moved to larger new premises in Zürich last autumn and now boasts not only a fabulous view of the lake from its top-floor offices but also an attractive meeting room for the use of its members.

On September 6, there's a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, followed on September 14 by a lunch in Zürich addressed by Josef Felder, president and CEO of Unique Zürich Airport. The prestigious annual Prince's Technology Lecture (initiated by Prince Andrew) will take place on September 21 at the Technopark in Zürich. It's be-



The Basle Chapter went to the BIS (Bank of International Settlements) open day in July.

ing given this year by Sam Beale, chief engineer in the research and technology department of Rolls-Royce. In October, the Geneva chapter will hear a lunchtime talk about Geneva's position as an international business area. A monthly get-together on Mondays is organised by the Basle chapter; for details, contact [matthew.lanfear@syngenta.com](mailto:matthew.lanfear@syngenta.com).

Don't forget, members of the Anglo-Swiss clubs are welcome to attend many of these events, but it's wise to check in advance with the BSCC headquarters in Zürich at [www.bscc.co.uk](http://www.bscc.co.uk).

# Welsh Marches

The Welsh Marches? No, it doesn't mean left, right, left, right from Cardiff to Conway. A march also means a frontier or border region. The Saxon, Norman and early Plantagenet kings of England, from the 8th century to 1283, had endless trouble stopping the Welsh from cattle-raiding, burning villages and towns on the English side, and doing a bit of slave trading (if you were Welsh, of course, you had endless trouble with the English doing the same thing). This skirmishing resulted in a huge ditch on the border, dug by order of a Saxon king, Offa of Mercia. The line of Offa's Dyke, from near Chepstow to Prestatyn in North Wales, is now becoming a popular walk, taking twelve days.

The Norman kings gave huge tracts of land to their cronies and followers, based on Chester, Shrewsbury, Hereford and Gloucester, with a backstop further east at Worcester. There were many famous names defending the march for the kings, who turned a blind eye towards their intrigues and feuds, lawlessness and arbitrary sense of justice, provided they kept the Welsh at bay.

There are more castles in that strip of land than anywhere else, I imagine, in the world. Grim stone keeps, vast fortifications, and curious fortified but obviously luxurious manor houses of a later date are scattered like confetti; Shrewsbury, Stokesbury (a wonderful fortified manor), Clun, Ludlow, Goodrich etc.

You don't like castles? Try domestic architecture. Every city, town and village has its half-timbered, black-and-white houses, from country cottages and wayside pubs to town houses and vast



*Goodrich Castle*

buildings like Little Moreton old hall in Cheshire and "The Feathers", a hotel/restaurant in Ludlow. Some are over 600 years old, others around 300, all still held up by colossal oak beams of every configuration, from simple, short right-angles to complex, densely conjoined curves, circles and quarter-circles known as crucks. They are a tribute to their architects, builders and all who lived in them. Some were built as town or market halls; others are now banks, hotels or shops. Above all, they are a tribute to the sheer endurance, strength and tenacity of English oak.

Then there are the religious buildings: the ruined monasteries at Tintern, Tewkesbury, Chepstow and many more – vast and austere. And the living, standing cathedrals of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester. So alike, and so different – vast, with short, stubby, massive towers, buildings of refuge and defence, but built to the glory of God. Thick, round Norman (romanesque) pillars, long needle-like windows of the early English style, purest Gothic, the thin pillars and huge, lace-like windows of the decorated style, and the traceried vaults and windows of the perpendicular style, unique to England – every style is represented. At Hereford, there's one of the world's oldest maps, and an enormous library of chained books. There are the glories of big parish churches, too, e.g. Shrewsbury and the church in Ludlow with its tall, slim tower, and some smaller but delightful ones in villages.

Don't like churches either? Try the countryside. In Shropshire, there's Long Mynd (rhymes with pinned) and the Stiperstones (rhymes with piper-stones). None rise above 600 m, yet they are wild, treeless moorlands, with wide views of the valleys below, all woods, villages and green or yellow (oil-seed rape)

fields. Up here it's windy, cold and harsh; but the sheep like it.

Symonds Yat, a high point above the River Wye, has one of the loveliest views in England, where deer graze along the forest edges, buzzards mew, and peregrine falcons nest in the cliffs below. The Forest of Dean is still a forest covering hundreds of square miles. There are the bare, bleak Welsh hills, the Black Hills and the Brecon Beacons, and the incredibly steep Malvern Hills near Worcester. They all seem higher than they are; no point tops 900 m – but you start near sea level, whereas walks to 3000 m in Switzerland start on a pass at 2100 m! The first two days we were there, there were sharp showers backed by a freezing wind, but 15 minutes later, the sun was shining.

If you want to see England at its best, go in May, tour the Marches, and look out for sunlit glades carpeted with bluebells. In fact this area is worth a visit at any time; the hotels, guest-houses and pubs are excellent, and we always had top-class food. DHG



*Gloucester Cathedral*



*The gatehouse to Stokesbury Castle*

# News from the clubs

## Ascension Day

A good crowd of members from ASC Basle and EC Bienne foregathered at Zwingen station for the annual Ascension Day walk this year. The question of whether to have a coffee first was swiftly resolved: with one accord, we piled into the station restaurant to fortify ourselves with various hot drinks and delicious freshly-baked croissants, before tackling the hill. Well, to be honest we cheated a little bit and drove up the first part of the hill as far as the village of Blauen and started from there.

Christian Wyss, new committee member of ASC Basle, had planned a beauti-

ful route across the dry meadows of the Jura, with lovely views over the surrounding hills and villages. He obviously knows the area like the back of his hand, as he seemed to be able to identify every single village and hill in sight. These meadows are special in that farmers are not allowed to fertilise or over-graze them in order to preserve the diversity of the original plants and flowers.

The purple orchids were spectacular; there was such a large field of them they looked as though they'd been sown, and there was any number of other unusual flowers that I couldn't even begin to identify. Not surprisingly, these meadows are also fa-



Chris Wyss (to the left, pointing) explains the finer points of the view.

mous for their butterflies. For lunch we enjoyed a very good meal at the Bergwirtschaft Blauen Reben (the portions were huge, but we felt we'd earned them!) before taking the short route down the hill

to Blauen. We'd been blessed by good weather all day, but just as we arrived at the car-park, the skies opened and there was a real downpour. A most enjoyable day in excellent company. AG



## ESC Zofingen/ Langenthal grill

Once again M.Louise and Henry Studer invited the members of the ESC Zofingen/Langenthal to the traditional summer grill party in their grill-room and garden. A total of 18 people enjoyed the lovely meal and the conversation about God and the

world. Everybody brought along their own food, drinks, plates, cups and cutlery.

The aperitif beforehand was offered by the club, and the coffee afterwards was provided by the hosts. On top of that, several members brought along some tasty home-made cakes and fruit salad for a dessert buffet. A successful event, indeed!

MLS

## A trip to London

To celebrate the club's 20th anniversary, the International English Speaking Club of La Chaux-de-Fonds decided to organise something really special: a long weekend in London.

Early in the morning of Ascension Day we flew to London by British Airways. We did a sightseeing tour on a double-decker bus together, then we split up into small groups over the next few days, so that everybody could see what he or she wanted to see.

A small selection of what people visited: the London Eye, Kew Gardens, the National Gallery, the Science Museum, the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, and many other things... and shopping of course!

One evening we went to see a musical, with some going to "The Lion King", others to "The Producers". The days flew by, and even though for most of us it was not the first trip to London, we all would have liked to stay longer. We all look back on a wonderful weekend!

SO



Before flying back to Switzerland on Sunday, we spent the Saturday evening having a farewell meal together at a carvery buffet.

## Seewen music box museum

ASC Basle visited this fascinating museum in May, booking a guided tour in English. Housed in a specially constructed air-conditioned building, the collection was started by Dr Heinrich Weiss and opened as a private museum 26 years ago. Now part of the Swiss national museum, it boasts about 500 musical automata dating from 1700 to 1930, with everything from huge fairground organs to pianos that play themselves to barrel organs and exquisitely

made musical boxes. One of the most impressive pieces looks like a tall cupboard; the doors open to reveal three violins played by a continuous circular bow. Similar mechanical instruments were very much in vogue in dance halls a century and more ago.

Not all the automata are musical. We were also shown a room lined on one side with work benches showing how some of these things worked, and on the other by a series of mechanical figures which really had us chuckling. After that we enjoyed a well-earned snack on the terrace of the museum café. The museum also holds special exhibitions: one on



ASC Basle enjoys a trip on the Rhine in early August.

musical automata at Swiss railway stations has just ended and the current one, "Jewels of Time", features clocks

and watches. It may be well off the beaten track, but is well worth a visit for anyone visiting this area. AG



Not just a popcorn-tasting event...

## ASC St Gallen

In May we had an outing with a horse-drawn wagon for a lovely trip through the beautiful Thurgau countryside. We couldn't have wished for better weather, it was one of those really hot days. Tables were reserved for us at the "Buschenschenke", thankfully in the shade, where all could enjoy something to eat and drink, before boarding the wagon for the trip back. A really delightful day: thanks to Bob for organising it all.

In summer we enjoyed an Anglo-Swiss-American Barbecue, kindly organised by our members Starr and Holger. Originally it was go-

ing to be a popcorn-tasting event but as it was so near July 4, grilled meat, salads, vegetables and Starr's famous baked beans joined the popcorn to become a barbecue. Again the weather god was kind to us and we had a really nice afternoon with new and old friends and also all the neighbours. How we laughed at the getting-to-know-each-other game, which was a real success. We had to guess the name of the famous person on the label on our backs. This certainly got everyone talking and is well worth the effort as an ice-breaker. Thank you, Starr and Holger, for making us so welcome in your lovely home and garden. EO

## ASCOG's Calendar Girl

The Anglo-Swiss Club of Geneva had a full programme for events for the summer, including a couple of lunch-time events as an experiment: a visit to the Garden of the Five Senses at the Botanical Gardens at the end of June, and a concert by the local Red Cross/Red Crescent. July saw us enjoying a cruise on the lake and another walk in the Jura. Following our club's predilection for dining well, we also arranged a lunch at an ancient farm with no running water but wonderful food, and a barbecue hosted by Trevor and Rita Griffiths. We're already looking forward to our traditional "Escalade" fondue and "vin chaud" party.

The club report from Fribourg in the last issue of the ASN concerning their evening with

the film „Calendar Girls” reminded me that we have our own: ASCOG committee member Rita Griffiths. The Hungerford (UK) WI produced a calendar for 2005 in aid of research into motor neurone disease, and Rita is Ms September (incidentally, I was assured Rita had given her permission for this picture to be printed here – Ed). Motor neurone disease is a horrible condition affecting the husband of one of Rita's friends, hence the calendar to raise funds. It has been quite a success. PS



ASCOG's own Calendar Girl for September 2005

## EC Bienne: Moscow & Malt

More than half of the year 2005 has passed and we look back on a very interesting time. Some of the highlights were certainly the interesting talks about the Theatre Group UPSTAGE in Bern and the lectures held by Ken Birch about his childhood in wartime London, as well as Jacquie Martinet's lecture about a Wedding in Moscow. More light-hearted entertainment was provided by our club member Stephen Ferron, who used to be on stage with many world famous musicians; his wife, Monika, supplied the musical accompaniment, and we enjoyed a lovely 'Evening of

Song'. Anitra Green's talk about the Islay Single Malt whisky was a hit amongst our members; many were probably tempted to attend by the promise of tasting a wee dram of the liquid gold. And remaining tuned into the spirit, the week after we enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day meal, prepared by the club's own chef, Sylvie Arn. Unfortunately no leprechauns showed that night...

Switzerland's oldest English Club is looking forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary in two years' time. It's one of the few clubs in Switzerland lucky enough to have its own club premises and is very active as well, offering weekly events which are planned by a very dedicated committee! SA

## BC Basle: Bird Park

What took place on Saturday, 18 June, was no wild goose chase – though any flying geese passing overhead would surely have been tempted to drop in and take a break. After paying EUR 12 entrance fee at the Bird Park at Steinen (Germany) and enjoying a fortifying drink, members of the British Circle Basle met a guide who explained, in English, the appearance and habits of various feathered inmates of the park. We learnt that typically the male stork has a bigger beak than the female. We also heard the strange story of the emu. It seems that the fe-

male emu has the strenuous task of laying 14 large eggs over the space of 14 weeks. After each "birth", she's so exhausted that she leaves the male to sit on the eggs (none of which are his) and goes into the woods to recuperate, emerging in time to lay the next dark green egg. Finally, when no. 14 has been laid and left in the care of the male, she returns to the forest to entertain all the young male emus that have not yet gained a mate. The writer confessed that in her next reincarnation she wanted to come back as a female emu...

Part of the programme was watching birds of prey in flight. As it was so hot, the snow eagle went on strike and refused to fly. Since she originated from Siberia, she could be forgiven, I think. We even saw a huge vulture fly, while our guide insisted that we should keep moving! A flying snow owl on one of my pictures reminds me of a happy afternoon in good company and pleasant surroundings, and a wish to go back some time to see more. VW



A souvenir snow owl.

## Visit to Saillon and the Bisses de Tzoumaz

Two of our members organized a very interesting outing in that wonderful canton of the Valais. We first were told about Samuel Farinet, a sort of Swiss Robin Hood who produced counterfeit money, the proceeds of which he gave to the poor. This short visit made us all hungry (and, of course, thirsty) so a little stop for an aperitif had been organized, in a typical "Valaisan caveau".

We then went on to look at the "sentier des vitraux". This leads up to a number of vineyards on the "colline ardente" (burning hill). At the top of this are some very interesting tiles with inscription from all sorts of people. The main focus is however the "Vigne de la Paix" (vineyard of peace) which claims to be the smallest vineyard in the world measuring only 1.67 m<sup>2</sup> and now belongs to Abbé Pierre and the Dalai Lama. It has been visited by numerous personalities of stage, screen and sports, not to mention the jet set (some names: Boris Becker, Danielle Mitterrand, Clay Regazzoni, Jane Birkin, Caroline of Monaco, Gina Lollobrigida and the Lord Mayor of



London (complete with congestion charge!) who claim to have "worked" in the vineyard. If your French is up to it you can get more details at [www.farinet.net](http://www.farinet.net).

We then crossed over the motorway and drove up the mountain on the opposite (southern) side to visit the Bisses de Tzoumaz and its "Sentier des senteurs" (smelly path?). It is a lovely little walk of about 1 1/4 hours, depending how long you spend at the 12 stations which offer a sort of intellectual "parcours Vita". The walk starts at an information kiosk situated at about 1700m. "Bisses" can be found all over the Valais: they were used to channel the water to the vines and other agricultural land.

We finished up having coffee at the information centre, making their day for the sellers of local produce by buying bread and honey wine.

NC



Enjoying the picnic.



Clubhouse at Limpachtal

## Forthcoming events

The third **FASC Golf Tournament** is taking place on September 11, at the same place as before, the Limpachtal golf course at Aetingen, near Solothurn. Rinaldo Wolf, president of ASC Solothurn and the organiser of this event, hopes for a super turn-out and lots of people to cheer on the players. The course has been expanded to 18 holes.

The next event is the **Piedmont weekend**, be held in Alba on October 21–23. This proved so popular last year that we're doing it again, staying in the Hotel Savona and hiring a coach as before, but this time visiting different vineyards and a hazelnut factory, and going on a White Alba Truffle hunt. Again, we'll be able to eat at some excellent restaurants. And if you want to, you can make a really long weekend of it, arriving on Thursday and/or returning home on Monday.

There will be an **Evening of English Music in Berne** on Wednesday, 2 November, at 8 pm, with a small ensemble of piano, flute and guitar headed by the talented Swiss baritone, Pierre Eric Monnin. Organised by SBS Berne and co-sponsored by the Arts Council of Berne University and the International Club of Berne, it will be held in the Müsmatt Aula in Getrud-Wokerstrasse, near Bühlpplatz. Admission is free.

Plans are underway for the next **FASC Ski Weekend** in January 2006, and we look forward to a good turnout and lots of snow.

### Lecture tours

The cartoonist **Loon** (alias Alasdair Hillary) is visiting Switzerland in No-

vember 2005 with a talk entitled "Life as a Cartoonist". Loon comes from the Scottish highlands. He's best known for sporting cartoons (his cartoons of highland deer masquerading as humans are not only very funny but also beautifully drawn), and he's also been commissioned by the Royal Family and other prominent personalities.

In March 2006 we will welcome **Bob van Ligten**, who will talk about the problem of sustainable energy. This is a subject of great concern to practically everybody with the price of oil going up so fast, so his talk on how to get round this problem promises to be absolutely fascinating. In May 2006, we look forward to welcoming **Marian Davies**, the

## Who's who

**John Pearson** is webmaster for FASC and the British Circle in Basle, where he's been a committee member for 17 years and vice chairman for most of that time. Now retired, he came to work as

a chemist for Ciba-Geigy 23 years ago, but has always had a keen interest in computing and electronics, and is secretary in Switzerland for the Institute of Electrical Engineering. In his spare time he enjoys long walks with his wife Jackie – he's also one of the leaders of the No-vartis walking group.



## Summer WE 2006

We have now fixed the date and place for our 74th Annual Weekend. This will be held on Friday June 22nd till Sunday June 24th with the option to stay the Sunday night as usual.

We have been very lucky in finally finding a place in the Swiss Romande – something that is practically impossible in summer due to the high rates charged. For 2006 we are very fortunate that the Swiss Hotel School of Lausanne has agreed to host us. This is a unique opportunity as it allows us not only to see how the great hoteliers and chefs start their careers, but also to sample some of that hospitality and cuisine at a very reasonable price.

The programme and prices are not yet fixed, but it will be less than last time with an equally varied programme and full sporting facilities. So please note the dates now. *Laurent Belet*

former actress and a very experienced and amusing speaker, who visited us some years ago (anyone remember her talk about Benny Hill? Hilarious!). More details will be available in the next issue of the ASN.

### Anniversaries

Congratulations to **ESC Baden-Brugg** which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year with a Christmas-cum-anniversary party on 10 December.

## IN MEMORIAM

We recently heard that **John O'Neill**, one time president of ASC Solothurn, died in Scotland after a long illness on 20th July 2005.

**Dieter Adler**, committee member of the British Circle Basle from 1972 to 1979 and then chairman till 1983, died in Basle on 28 June 2005, aged 68.

Finally, our condolences go to Hans-Ruedi Fritscher, a faithful and long-term FASC member, who lost his beloved **Trudi** in June this year. She was 90 years old.

## Lecture tours

# Undersea with Don Walsh

Everybody's heard of Jacques Piccard and Jacques Cousteau. Don Walsh, who did a FASC lecture tour in May/June this year, is another prominent ocean expert who worked with them both. In his talk entitled "To the Far Depths: A Personal Odyssey", he gave a potted history of ocean exploration, where he's been involved for almost two-thirds of its history. The original bathyscope, a ball tethered to a ship by a long cable, was superseded by an underwater balloon called the bathyscaph.

The first seaworthy bathyscaph, the "Trieste", joined the US Navy in San Diego in 1959, and Don Walsh became first officer-in-charge and the first submersible pilot in the US.

In January 1960, he and Jacques Piccard took the "Trieste" to the deepest place in the world's oceans at 35,840 feet (about 11,000 m), the Challenger

Deep off the Marianas Islands in the West Pacific. For this achievement, he received a medal from President Eisenhower at the White House. There have been many other bathyscaphs since then. The latest is an all-acrylic, completely transparent ball, known as the people bowl. There is also the tourist submarine, but it usually only go down to 50 ft, as colours disappear at any greater depth.

Don retired from the US Navy in 1975, but is still closely involved with ocean exploration, being professor of ocean engineering at the University of Southern California (USC) and founding director of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Studies.

In total, he's visited 112 countries, and he isn't slowing down. He's written innumerable ocean-related publications, given countless lectures and appeared on TV and radio programmes all over the world. He travels regularly on Hapag-Lloyd's cruise ships, often with his wife. In July 2001, he dived 12,500 feet to the "Titanic", and in July 2002 he went down to the WWII German battleship "Bismarck" at 15,500 feet. And



Don Walsh

he's still going: he's currently working on two manned submersible projects, in Dubai and England.

This was a fascinating talk by a real expert, beautifully illustrated with well-chosen slides. I wish I'd been able to hear his other talk too, on the Antarctic.

AG

## Recipe corner

# Tarte au Citron

I was hunting around recently for a recipe for tarte au citron, my absolute favourite dessert for summer. After a couple of tries, here's what I came up with. The almond pastry is wonderful, fragile and delicious and the Mascarpone gives a great counterpoint to the sharp lemon juice. Sprinkle it with icing sugar, put a flower in the middle and serve it on your best white plate. Serves 6

### Pastry

250g flour and a pinch of salt  
50g icing sugar  
30g ground almonds  
125g butter  
1 egg

### Filling

3 eggs + 4 yolks  
200g sugar  
grated zest and juice of 3 lemons  
250g Mascarpone

Put the flour, salt, sugar and ground almonds in the food processor and



process till it resembles breadcrumbs (or do this with your fingers). Mix in the egg till the pastry comes together, then chill the pastry. Roll it out to fit a 26 cm quiche tin and bake blind at 200 C for 10 minutes; reduce the temperature to 180 C.

For the filling, beat together the eggs, yolks, sugar and lemon zest till smooth, light and fluffy. Whisk in the Mascarpone until smooth, then the lemon juice. Pour the filling into the pre-baked pastry case and bake for 35-40 minutes or until just set and lightly golden.

Lift out and put on a rack. When cool dust with icing sugar.

For more delicious recipes by Sue Style, the well-known food, wine and travel writer, see her website at: [www.suestyle.com](http://www.suestyle.com)

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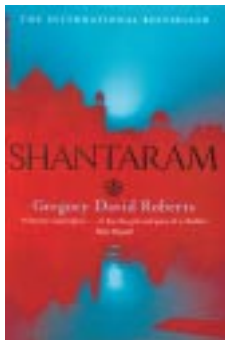
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# Book reviews

## Shantaram

By Gregory David Roberts  
Abacus, Time Warner  
ISBN 0-312-33053-7, CHF 19.50



“Shantaram” is the fictionalised account of the real adventures of the author Gregory David Roberts. He has poured everything into one single book and it shows. With over 900 pages, “Shanta-

ram” is huge, but its size is what makes it so attractive – it makes you wonder what kind of adventures it contains.

The narrator is an Australian called Lin who has just escaped from prison. He manages to get to Mumbai with a fake passport, little money and no plans for the future. With the help of a taxi driver he befriends, Lin makes the slums of this giant city his home. While running a first-aid centre he starts engaging in criminal activities to be able to make a living. Lin finds friends immediately. His Indian friend the taxi driver introduces him to people and helps him learn his own native language, Marathi, and Hindi. He also meets foreigners like him living in Mumbai for some reason or other. Karla, a Swiss woman from Basel, attracts his attention and he falls in love. Unfortunately Linbaba, as he is called in India, has to hide his identity from all these new acquaintances. As the years go by Lin is

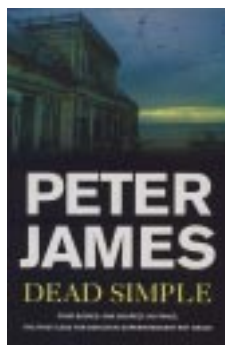
arrested for his criminal activities and thrown into the hell of Indian prisons.

“Shantaram” gives the reader a panoramic view of the monster city of Mumbai. If you know India and especially Mumbai, do read this book. For those who have never been to India the book opens the doors to a world totally foreign to us. Amazingly Roberts wrote this book three times; his first two versions were destroyed by prison guards.

Marzella Burri

## Dead Simple

By Peter James  
ISBN 1-405-04841-7, CHF 27.70



It was a harmless stag-night prank. But a few hours later the groom has disappeared, and four of his best friends are dead. With three days until the wedding, Detective Superintendent Grace – a

man haunted by the shadow of his own missing wife – is contacted by the distressed fiancée and begins to investigate the shocking events of the night in question. But the one man who knows something is the man saying nothing – and is also the person with most to gain.

This first novel about Detective Roy Grace gets under your skin, and you really want to know what’s going to happen next.

Stefanie Koch

# Useful addresses

## British Embassy

Thunstrasse 50, 3005 Bern  
Tel: 031 359 77 00, Fax: 031 359 77

## British Consulate-General

Tel: 022 918 24 18  
rue de Vermont, 1202 Geneva  
Tel: 022 918 24 00, Fax: 022 918 23 22

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Tel: 091 950 06 06  
All [www.britain-in-switzerland.ch](http://www.britain-in-switzerland.ch)

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Gewerbestrasse 14, 4123 Allschwil  
Tel: 061 483 09 77, Fax: 061 483 09 77  
E-mail: [achalmers@british-vice-consulate.ch](mailto:achalmers@british-vice-consulate.ch)

**Solution to the cryptic crossword** in the May 2005 issue of the Anglo-Swiss News:

## DOUBTLESS

Congratulations to the winner, Helmut Schweikert of ASC Basle.

## Across:

1 blood from a stone, 9 upgrade, 10 arbiter, 11 attend, 12 lifts, 14 pinch, 15 press on, 17 heretic, 18 brick, 21 trace, 22 potato, 25 orifice, 26 angular, 27 game set and match.

## Down:

1 brush, 2 orgy, 3 drastic remedies, 4 reefer, 5 meanders, 6 subtle stratagem, 7 out of touch, 8 egress, 13 liberalism, 16 simplest, 19 strong, 20 attain, 23 worth, 24 plot

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E-mail: mission.nz@itu.ch

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Jubiläumsstr. 93  
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Tel: 031 357 70 11

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Enquiries: 9-12 (Mon-Thu)  
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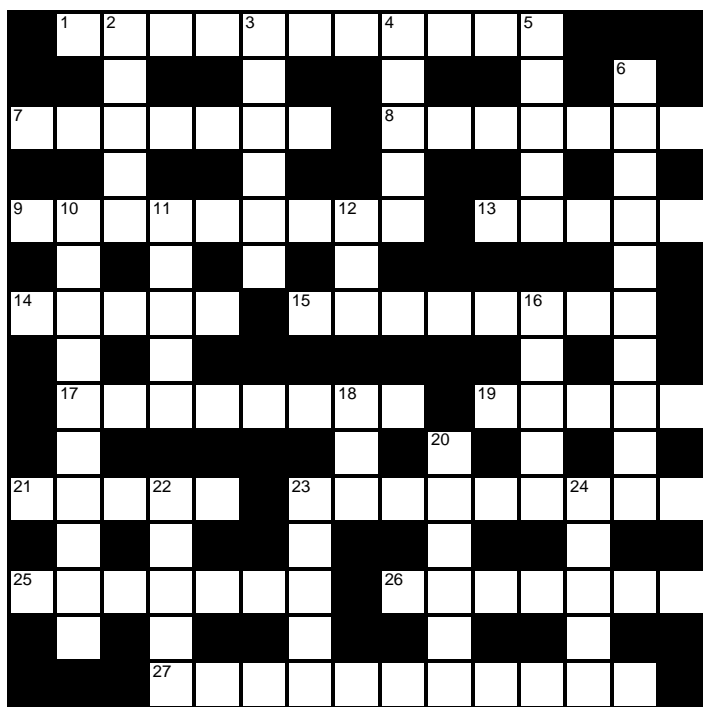
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## Prize cryptic crossword by Hogarth



Take the initial letters of the words given by clues 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 19, 20, 24 and 27 and re-arrange them to form a nine-letter word with a shapeless connotation. Send the solution to anitra.green@datacomm.ch or Anitra Green, Kornackerweg 16, 4132 Muttenz, by October 31, 2005, with your name and address. The winner will be drawn from a hat containing all the correct answers and will be awarded one of the books reviewed by Bider & Tanner in this issue. The solution will be published on the FASC website in November 2005 and in the next ASN. Good luck!

### Across:

1. Light Greek pictures seen originally in camera (11)
7. Common to tigers and the US flag (7)
8. Brave and polite, a gentleman – or a cigarette (7)
9. My set, Myra, for a lopsided result (9)
13. Yes, TR has four of them underneath, like all cars (5)
14. Fight for a small piece (5)
15. Was this -----, Mark Anthony asked about Julius Caesar (8)
17. Can mean trouble when used to make tea (3,5)
19. Liver, tripe and kidneys (5)
21. Confusingly rated way of making a living (5)
23. Study of our world (9)
25. Finish, alternatively move southeast to countersign (7)
26. Live gal mixed up a small human settlement ((7)
27. Lizards went for this European confederation (11)

### Down:

2. Kiss me! To make me resistant to adverse conditions (5)
3. A cut to cure completed, but without the 500, so it's not closed (6)
4. A confused elderly female relative loses direction, getting very annoyed (5)
5. Flavoured with a mineral condiment (5)
6. Not on top (10)
10. For the figure-conscious with a sweet tooth (10)
11. Intended that way in a mean type of person (5)
12. Spirit with naval associations (3)
16. Below Latin, with a red association (5)
18. Private or witness, it's the same orb (3)
20. I lap up gruel to make myself even less attractive (6)
22. Rain falls individually (5)
23. A visitor in one's home, from when the ague stops (5)
24. Scampi on the hoof, so to speak (5)

**Aarau**

English-Speaking Club  
*www.escaarau.ch*  
 Meets on Wednesday 8 pm  
 (weekly) & Friday (monthly)  
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 Stapferstrasse 14  
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 or 079 340 16 52  
*petschibli@bluewin.ch*

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English-Speaking Club  
*fhadfield\_hart@yahoo.com*  
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