

le News

WEEKLY SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

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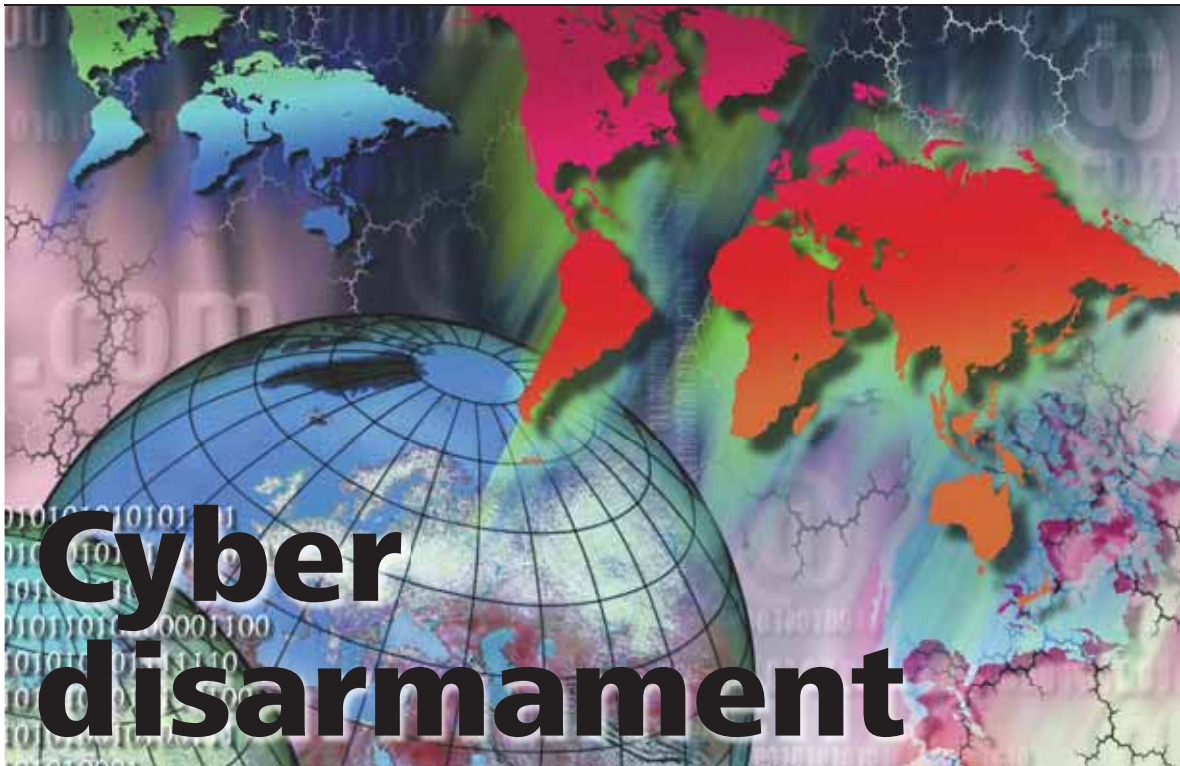
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Cyber warfare is considered by many states and most multinationals to be one of the most serious security threats facing society.

GENEVA An idea is circulating in Geneva to create a round of disarmament talks for a new type of arms control: waging war in cyberspace.

This time, however, the talks would encompass more than UN member countries and include what's known in UN-speak as multi-stakeholders such as private companies and civil society.

Geneva is under consideration to host the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which assigns internet domain names, when the US gives up its control next year. The city is already home to several bodies that monitor internet activities, including the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Internet

Governance Forum.

In early April a new body was launched, with the support of the Swiss government, known as the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP). The man who inspired it, Jovan Kurbalija of the DiploFoundation, said the goal is to enhance cooperation among international organizations, the private sector, governments and civil

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This Week in Switzerland

On 26 June, just before the Montreux Jazz Festival starts, a new jazz café will open its doors in what is now the Brasserie of the Fairmont Le Montreux Palace hotel. The first **Montreux Jazz Café** opened at Geneva airport in 2008, followed by others in Zurich, London (in Harrods) and Paris Gare de Lyon. The fifth café will be a **homage to the festival's founder**, featuring objects from Claude Nobs' private collection, audiovisual archive footage, and black and white photos immortalizing 50 years of world-class concerts. Funky Claude's Bar, replacing what is now Harry's Bar, will open in September as an intimate jazz performance venue.



Lausanne is introducing a **subsidy** to partially offset the cost of city living. Starting in May 2014, every person – including children – whose principal residence was in the city for the calendar year of 2013 will receive **CHF 80**. The payments due under the "Subvention80" initiative will be made in the form of a **credit on electricity bills** issued by Lausanne Industrial Services (SiL).

The **Swiss population** has already consumed its hypothetical share of the natural resources it can environmentally afford for the year. From now on, Switzerland will have to live on "credit" since it has **exhausted its notional quota of natural resources** that the Earth can renew in a year. According to WWF's calculations, if all countries lived like Switzerland, it would take 2.8 planets to meet our resource requirements.

Turkey has become an official member of CERN. This week, Director General Rolf-Dieter Heuer and Taner Yildiz, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey, signed an agreement admitting Turkey to **CERN Associate Membership**. This will strengthen the long-term partnership between CERN and the Turkish scientific community dating back to 1961.

Swiss hotels registered **3.2 million overnight stays** in March 2014, a slight but welcome growth of 0.4% compared with the same month in 2013. Foreign visitors accounted for 1.8 million overnight stays, an increase of 0.3%; overnight stays by Swiss increased by 0.5% compared with the previous year. **Asian visitors** to Switzerland were **up by 19%**, with China accounting for the most significant absolute increase at 35%.

EPFL has announced an innovative project to **store wind and solar power** using compressed air. The CHF 1.6 million project will be financed by the canton of Vaud as part of its undertaking to invest CHF 100 million in renewable energy in order to achieve the goal of **ceasing nuclear energy production** by 2034. The project involves the installation of three pilot plants: one in Mont-Soleil, in the Bernese Jura, and two at the EPFL campus in Lausanne.

Cult Swiss artist and designer **HR Giger** has died in Zurich aged 74. The visual effects he created for Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror movie *Alien* earned him an Oscar in 1980. Hans Ruedi Giger suffered from **night terrors** and this had an **influence on his art**, which included sculptures, paintings and furniture. He also created **album covers for Debbie Harry** and Emerson Lake and Palmer and even designed the ELP logo. The H.R. Giger Museum in Gruyères is permanent home to many of the artist's most prominent works.



According to a recent study by Italian volcanologist Giovanni Leone at the ETH Zurich, life on Mars is unlikely. After examining thousands of high-resolution surface images of the network of deep gorges known as the Noctis Labyrinthus and of the planet's largest canyon, the 4,000-km-long Valles Marineris, Leone concluded that they had been shaped by lava, not by water erosion as previously thought. The findings reduce the possibility of life on the Red Planet.

Cyber disarmament

Continued front page 1

society about the various risks faced in the age of digital innovation.

For veteran security expert, Daniel Warner, the threats faced by this century are as serious as the wars of the past. "The First World War had gas that had to be outlawed. World War II had nuclear bombs that had to be outlawed. Now we have cyber attacks as a new form of warfare and another type of international treaty is needed to say that this is not acceptable."

Warner, who joined the security watchdog group, the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF) in January 2011, believes the Geneva Platform is the perfect place to begin such talks. For him, what is needed is a type of code of conduct. This could be similar to the one recently reached at DCAF for military and private security companies to improve oversight and accountability, which has been signed by 708 security companies so far.

The Swiss Intelligence Service noted in its report of 5 May that the

security of information lies at the centre of its concerns. It said that while the security situation is "quiet and stable," the country continues to be targeted despite treaties with other nations.

Warner was not surprised. "The Snowden documents indicated that things have gone beyond whatever agreements we have with the US regarding surveillance. The fact is that the US is able to listen to communications between other governments on Swiss territory and to intercept private communications."

"We are learning that because advances in technology happen so fast, it is more difficult to safeguard secrets," he said, adding that although it may be possible to protect data on CDs or storage keys, shielding telephone communications is more difficult. "With some kind of code of conduct, you would least have a means of going public, of naming and shaming, a piece of paper saying this is what was agreed upon that should not be done, and you have violated it."

Pamela Taylor

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Regional

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Editor's comment

Swiss quality, yes. But what about good value?



Whenever visitors balk at the high price of a coffee, a hotel room or a lamb cutlet, the Swiss are always quick to respond: we provide quality. This may be true to a point. It is certainly the argument of the Swiss taxi cartels to justify their incredibly

high rates or Swiss airlines in its efforts to re-establish the once praised Swissair image of the past (see stories on other pages).

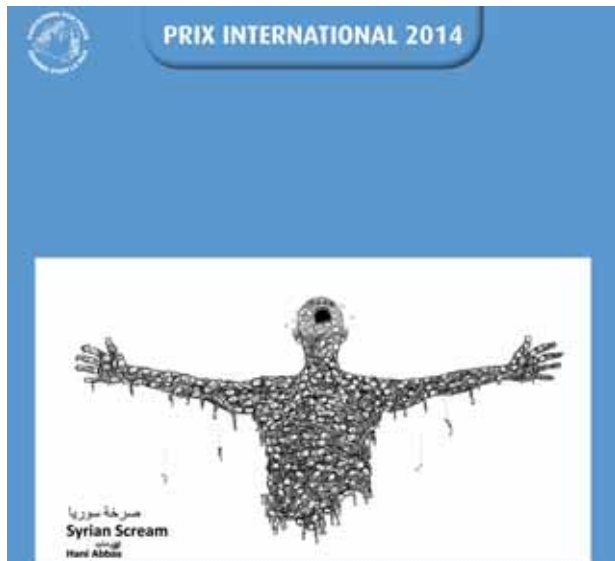
But is Switzerland really offering quality at good value? All too many restaurants charge ever-higher prices but without the value – or service – one expects. The agricultural industry is complaining that more open markets with the EU and US means that Swiss farmers will be penalized. Migros, Manor and Coop also remonstrate against shoppers crossing into France or Germany to buy cheaper produce.

But can consumers be faulted? People want quality but also value for money. If new competition succeeds in breaking the cartels and results in cheaper, better services, then why not?

The public seem more sympathetic to farmers. But farmers need to explain why local seasonal products, even if expensive, are good quality and more environmentally sustainable than the bland greenhouse strawberries or tomatoes from Spain tainted with chemicals and low wages. It's all about better communication.

Edward Girardet, Editor@lenews.ch

Cartooning for peace



Blocher resigns from parliament

Billionaire politician Christoph Blocher, the driving force behind the right-wing Swiss People's Party (UDC), has resigned from the House of Representatives, with effect from the end of May.

Blocher has long been an outspoken critic of parliament and, indeed, of most Swiss political institutions. He is leaving to pursue other political goals.

The 73-year-old former justice minister has been unre-



Christophe Blocher, long time driving force behind the UDC.

lently dismissive of the political establishment, often positioning himself as the rational business-minded advocate of pragmatism. A view not readily shared by his opponents. His explanation for his departure holds true to form, with his claim that the political system is inefficient and best left to what he some-

what disdainfully refers to as "professional politicians".

Blocher's parliamentary voting record clearly corroborates his lack of respect for Swiss political institutions – he has voted less than any other member of the house.

Known as a challenging thinker by some political elites and as a maverick by others, Blocher has stated that he intends to focus on the fight against further Swiss-EU agreements and government moves to undermine the implementation of the mass immigration initiative. For those attempting to repair the damage that they perceive has been caused by the recent anti-immigration vote, Blocher's decision to operate outside the country's democratic institutions is unlikely to be a welcome development.

Jeremy McTeague

Cartooning for peace

the role of press cartoonists "who celebrate freedom of expression with, as weapons of

mass conviction, their audacity, their talent and their pencils."



GENEVA This striking outdoor exhibition along Geneva's Quai Wilson focuses on events from civil conflicts to cyberwars since World War I (1914-2014). The Foundation Cartooning for Peace and the city used the launch to present the 2014 Press Cartoonist award to two talented artists who risk their lives for their work: Doaa Eadl from Egypt and Hani Abbas, a Palestinian from Syria. 2001 Nobel Peace laureate, Kofi Annan stressed

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Business & Economy

Online overtaking taxi cartels

GENEVA Online businesses are encroaching evermore into new sectors. The licenced taxi business is the latest to find itself in the digital cross-hairs.

Taxi tariffs in the region are expensive and compare unfavourably even with Paris or London. French-side taxis are cheaper, but fewer and far between. The trade is highly regulated with virtual monopolies or cartels operating without any real threat of competition. The operators justify their rates by arguing that they provide a safe, secure and reliable service. This may now change.

A couple of years ago, a Swiss start-up, Tooxme, launched a service whereby volunteer drivers and passengers are matched via their smart phones. In short, a passenger calls for a ride via the Tooxme app and any avail-



able app-registered driver can accept the call. The cost is calculated based on distance at CHF 0.99/km. Payment is made via the app. Both driver and passenger have to rate the other for the peace of mind of future customers and drivers.

Now a US firm, Uber, is staging an entry to the region. Already operating in Zurich, it says it will launch in Geneva, offering a similar model with a

smoother interface and more business-like approach. The company may provide competition that will raise Tooxme's game, but also undermine the cartel. If that happens, it is unlikely that traditional operators will lower their rates. One thing is sure, however, they will no longer be in the driving seat.

Jeremy McTeague

Health spending reaches 11.5% of Swiss GDP

Swiss medical care costs rose from 11% of GDP in 2011 to 11.5% in 2012 due largely to an unprecedented increase of CHF 2.3 billion in hospital spending. With the average healthcare spend per person reaching CHF 709, the nation's total 2012 health bill reached a record CHF 68 billion.

Palexpo generates CHF 581 m for region

Palexpo, Geneva's exhibition and conference centre turned over CHF 77m in 2013, an increase of 15%, despite the number of events it hosted falling. Based on calculations by the University of Geneva, Palexpo reports that its activity generated CHF 581 m for the regional economy. Palexpo, is owned by the canton of Geneva. It plays host to many of the region's most important events, among the others, the Salon de l'Auto – the Geneva Motor Show.

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Insight

Preparing for the next Swiss tsunami

A tsunami on Lake Geneva? Well, one did happen over 1,400 years ago.

BERN As difficult as it may be to imagine a tsunami in landlocked Switzerland, geophysical and climate scientists consider it their duty to adopt a long-term view of cataclysmic events to help mankind prepare preventive measures.

Records show that a tsunami caused by an earthquake did strike Lake Geneva back in 563. It created 8-metre-high waves that not only killed untold numbers but also destroyed villages, with waves that rose as high as the walls of Geneva's Old Town. The subject of tsunamis on Swiss lakes has continued to come up over the years in scientific circles, most recently at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna (27 April – 2 May).

Flavio Anselmetti, a professor of geology and paleo-climatology at the University of Bern, addressed the conference about the latest research in sophisticated computer simulations that monitor underwater lake movement, and realistic scenarios regarding which land areas might be affected. He said that much of their research is sponsored by insurance companies and local authorities, Anselmetti agrees that it is difficult for the general population to imagine the hazards of a tsunami that might not happen for several generations. "A thousand years may seem long. But if it was decided to build a nuclear power plant on a lake shore, it would have to be safe for more than a thousand years. If a structure could not be made safe from an event for that length of time, we would recommend against building it." Anselmetti said that his tsunami

research on Swiss lakes was underway long before the 2011 ocean surge that caused Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster. There was nevertheless much discussion in Vienna about the increasing dangers of catastrophic flooding throughout the world owing to climate change. According to a 2012 study by Katrina Kremer of the University of Geneva, the 563 tsunami is believed to have occurred following a massive landslide on the mountain of Le Grammont, near Les Evouettes, at the point where the Rhône empties into the extreme eastern end of Lake Geneva. Such events are not uncommon in the Alps. The Kremer study cited reports of waves as high as 13 metres in Lausanne and eight meters in Geneva. City excavations indicate that waves washed over the walls of the Old Town. The lake's shoreline is today populated by more than a million peo-

ple, 200,000 of them in Geneva alone, which is most vulnerable because of its position at the far western end of the funnel-shaped lake, in a configuration that increases the height of the waves.

So would Anselmetti buy a house on the shores of Lake Geneva today? "I was asked that once and I said I don't have the money, but if I did and knew that such waves occur only every thousand years or so, why not?" Anselmetti added that geologists must be able to imagine phenomena that have no historical equivalent, examining such rare events as the extinction of dinosaurs by meteorites 65 million years ago. "If we are not prepared for exceptional possibilities, questions could be asked of people like us, why didn't you know about this and warn us?"

Pamela Taylor

Payot goes international

GENEVA Much has been written about the bleak future for bookshops in the face of digital competition, with booksellers around the world fearing their shops may become quaint relics of the past, like tobacconists, albeit for different reasons.

This phenomenon also has been noticed in Switzerland where Payot, the Suisse Romande chain, has stood fast in its insistence on supplying quality literature and out-of-print or hard-to-find books. It has come up with an original way to attract and keep a demanding clientele by transforming its store on Rue Chantepoulet in Geneva into a non-francophone, international bookshop.

Books in French have been transferred to the new Payot on the mezzanine of Gare Cointrin and will continue to be the main feature at other Payot shops. Browsers at Chantepoulet, however, will find a huge selection of books in English: not only literature and best-sellers, but also translations of important works in other languages, in addition to the usual categories of history, poetry, psychology, gardening and the like. Another innovation is the addition of shelves devoted to books in German, Italian, Spanish and Russian.

"We decided to go international at

Top 10 best selling books of the week				
Rank	Title	Author	Published by	Genre
1	The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair	Dicker, Joel	Quercus Publishing	Fiction Hard Cover
2	A Delicate Truth	Le Carré, John	Penguin Books UK	Thrillers
3	Inferno	Brown, Dan	Corgi Bantam Paperback UK	Thrillers
4	The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden	Jonasson, Jonas	Fourth Estate Ltd	Fiction Paperback
5	The Goldfinch	Tartt, Donna	Little Brown UK	Fiction Hard Cover
6	Swiss Politics for Complete Beginners	Cormon, Pierre	Stlatkine	Swiss History
7	The Golden Egg	Leon, Donna	Arrow Books Ltd	Thrillers
8	Flash Boys	Lewis, Michael	Norton and Co Ltd	Finance Economics
9	By Its Cover	Leon, Donna	Heinemann Ltd	Thrillers
10	Cross My Heart	Patterson, James	Arrow Books Ltd	Thrillers

Chantepoulet because of the increasing demand for books in English," said store manager Xavier Huberson.

"We found we have a special clientele who are very well-read and who demand titles not easily found on the internet,"

"The other languages were chosen because the first two are, of course, national languages, and because there are so many residents in our region from Spain and Russia." He said Payot felt there was no need to compete with a very good Portuguese bookshop for the large Suisse Romande community.

Payot may be riding the crest of a new wave. Already in the US and the UK, where digital books have swept even large bookstore chains off the street, there are signs that e-books may

have peaked in popularity. Waterstones has plans to open a dozen new shops in the UK in 2014 and statistics from the American Booksellers Association show that fewer bookstores are closing down and that their number has stabilized.

Many independent booksellers have tried various ways to tempt clients away from ordering books online, including creating coffee shops or cafés as meeting places, but Payot seems to have found its own, unique business model, perhaps only applicable to a multilingual country. "We found we have a special clientele who are very well-read and who demand titles not easily found on the internet," said Huberson, noting that while many anglophones live in Canton Vaud, "most of them work on Geneva's Right Bank". With this in mind, he said, Payot took the decision to specialize in books of quality, "the kind we received orders for in the past, from anglophones working at international organizations, rather than the popular type found more easily on Amazon or Google".

Payot also sells electronic readers and e-books through its website, but Huberson says there have been fewer requests for them.

Pamela Taylor

Insight

Switzerland part of EU plan to battle invasive species

GLAND There are over 12,000 alien animal and plant species in Europe, ranging from the North American grey squirrel, red-eared terrapin and grass carp to the highly dangerous Asian hornet and tiger mosquito. They are causing €12 billion worth of damage annually and pose an ever-growing threat to biodiversity and health.

Walking around ponds and swamps in the Lake Geneva region, such as at the Aubonne Arboretum, the Bois de la Bâtie in Geneva or where the Rhone enters the lake near Villeneuve, you can often see turtles sunning themselves or searching for food in the shallows. These are probably not the rare European pond turtle, or cistude, but rather the rapacious American red-eared slider – those green little terrapins originally brought over by the pet trade and now found throughout Europe. While the red-ears are not thought to have established breeding



populations in Switzerland, they can live as long as a human, grow to 30 cm in length and prey on water fowl, fish and frogs. They are also pushing out the country's only native terrapin.

Other invaders include the North American racoon (introduced to Germany during the 1930s), grey squirrel

(now overrunning the native red species), racoon dog (from north-eastern Russia), the South American coypu, or nutria, and North American muskrat (both brought over for the fur industry), American catfish, bullfrog, various species of Asian and American crayfish, and even the exotic mandarin duck from China.

Many can spread disease, kill nesting birds, or ruthlessly compete with other species. Out of the 28 types of fish in Lake Geneva, half are considered invasive such as rainbow trout, sunfish and even giant goldfish or koi. The Thai chipmunk, in northern Italy has encroached to within three kilometres of the Swiss border. It carries diseases such as Lyme disease. Some animals, notably the Italian crested newt, escaped from a Geneva research station and have now completely displaced the local great crested variety.

Last month, the European Union

introduced an action plan to counter problematic plants and animals introduced to the wild by humans. "Not all invasive species are bad, so the main focus is to protect biodiversity and to counter those that are a problem," noted Piero Genovesi, who heads up the specialist Invasive Species Group at IUCN in Gland and is a scientist at the ISPRA environmental institute in Italy. "The only way to do this is through concerted prevention on a European-wide basis."

For Wolfgang Nentwig of the Institute of Ecology and Evolution at Bern University, which produces DAISIE, the European invasive species inventory, such species have become more frequent because "space and resources are limited; someone else has to disappear". "Clearly, one cannot stop all species, but one can introduce effective management to reduce their spread," said Genovesi. "It's also a matter of informing people properly. Locally, one does not see a huge change, but globally it means the 50 native bird species in Hawaii that have been replaced by 50 outsiders."

The problem is expected to worsen as climate change encourages some species to move north. One of these is the deadly Asian giant hornet, which consumes 50 honey bees a day, threatening honey production and pollination. Highly venomous, it has already arrived in northern Italy and is expected to cross into Switzerland soon. "The hornet could spark a general crisis with other pollinators of fruit trees and other forms of agricultural production, which are crucial for human survival."

"The issue is that we never seem to learn from our mistakes," said Genovesi.

Hence the need to focus on prevention, including rules to inhibit the import of certain species before they can become established. It is also necessary to react rapidly. Canadian beavers released in the wilds of France were removed in a matter of weeks. In other situations, it is too late to act. The golden jackal, which is spreading naturally and through quick adaption from the Mediterranean, has now arrived in Switzerland and Italy and is moving toward Estonia and Hungary, probably as a result of climate change rather than direct human intervention.

Edward Girardet

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Chez Vous

Meet the neighbours

Ever felt you'd like to get to know your neighbours, but have never really had the chance?

Help is at hand. On Friday 23 May, all around the region, thousands of neighbours will congregate at hundreds of Neighbours' Day parties. Started in 1999 in France, the aim is to build and strengthen communities and improve people's quality of life. Neighbours' Day parties are self-organized. The parties are pot luck allowing the residents in a building or street to meet up, share their favourite specialties and get to know each other.

Neighbours' Day has grown steadily more popular. Last year in Lausanne alone, more than 5,000 people attended some 300 parties. Although local communes do not actually host the parties, they actively support those willing to host an event by providing organizational support, a free kit including promotional and decorative items (balloons and flyers), food and drinks from local producers, and even a Neighbours' Day party game to help break the ice and get the gig moving.



**la fête
des
voisins**

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If you're interested in organising a neighbourhood party, visit www.immeublesenfete.ch for more information about the support your commune provides to organizers, and to register your party. The commune will then send you a neighbourhood party kit, along with practical advice such as recommended venues and how to organize a successful do. Take the first step to enjoying more rewarding relationships with those oh-so-important people – your neighbours.

Jonathan Bischoff

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Cracking up

True confessions of a book fiend

“Goodbye, my darlings,” I waved to them, as they sped away in the back of the charity shop van. “I’ll never forget you.”

My books. Boxes of them, packed off as if they meant nothing to me. As if they hadn’t given me some of the happiest moments of my life. My husband, who has a heart of stone, was unmoved.

“You’ve still got too many,” he said, pointing at the boxes being loaded onto the moving van. “Those ones are coming with us,” I answered, baring my teeth a little. “Fine. But let’s try to keep it under control in the new place, okay?”

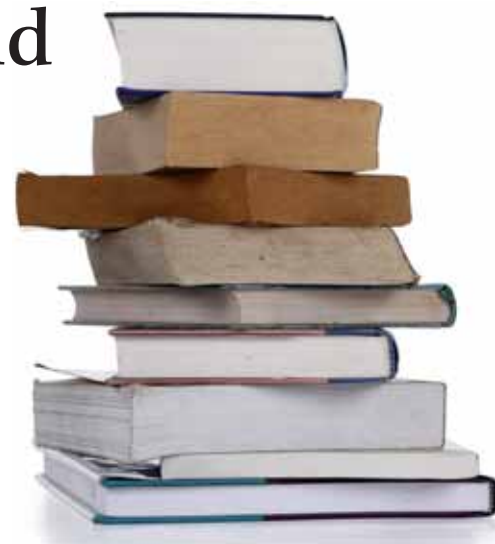
Three years later and “the new place” is starting to feel familiar, if not actually like home. And the book situation is pretty much under control. Because the minute our feet touched Swiss soil, we went completely digital. I dusted off my Kindle and started mainlining e-books. Oh, the immediacy of it! You hear about a book, you hit that Buy now with 1-Click® button and ten seconds later you have it! Just add coffee, for perfect happiness. Maybe such immediate gratification isn’t psychologically healthy but it’s a book, so it’s okay, right? Also, e-books are very secretive. Nobody but Amazon and me need ever know how much more time I spend buying books than buying groceries. Nobody need ever say, in a judgemental tone, “We’ve been out of muesli and tomato sauce for a week, but I see you’ve finally completed your Sookie Stackhouse collection. Well done.” Then I discovered

Audible and things got even better! I can have books read to me while I run, cook, dust my empty bookshelves, whatever.

But. I’m going to give all of that up and go back to print; back to space-devouring, dust-gathering, forest-munching paper books. For the sake of the children. Ever since the four-year-old ordered “a big glass of wine” in a restaurant in Yvoire, I’ve realised that children do as their parents do. If I want them to read, they need to see me reading. Actual books, not e-books on my laptop. For all they know, I could be spending hours ... I don’t know ... watching cute cat videos on YouTube and Face-booking. (Cough, cough).

And it’s no use looking to their father, who seems to have taken to reading business books in bed at night. (Who is this man? Seventeen years ago he won my heart by quoting poetry and now he’s reading something called Data Analysis and Decision Making). Clearly the job of bibliophile-building is up to me.

So, henceforth, print books will be seen in hand. They’ll also be seen on floor, on bedside table and next to bath. Stories will tumble off shelves again, and intrude into our lives. They’ll trip us up, get in our way, remind us of ourselves all the time. It’ll be really untidy and my husband won’t like it but it’ll do him good too. Man should not live on management textbooks alone.



And how will I stay away from my late night trysts with that Buy now button? Well, I won’t. Sooner or later I’ll find myself running to the computer, like Gollum to his Precious, eyes full of longing and arms outstretched ... slowed down only by the dusty piles of books that someone left all over the floor.

Robyn Goss is a South African writer, recently moved to Switzerland. You can read her blogs at www.robbygoss.com

Lifestyle

Last chance to see CERN

CESSY Visitors will be able to visit three of CERN's French-side sites in Cessy, Échenevex and Ferney-Voltaire on 24 and 25 May before the accelerator becomes operational again next year. Having probed the frontiers of physics since 1954, the pan-European organization is one of the first projects to have catalysed European unity through scientific research after the Second World War. Created in 1954, and celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, le Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire now boasts 21 member states delving ever deeper into the exciting world of particle physics.

The platform upon which experiments are observed remains deceptively archaic. The Large Hadron Collider, first used in 2008, runs around a 27km cross-border tunnel and accelerates opposing particle beams that will subsequently collide. These collisions will then release information detected by the CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid), a 12,500-tonne detector build around a super-magnet capable



CERN must be credited for its protracted scientific success.

of generating 100,000 times the force of the Earth's magnetic field. The generated data, which is substantial, is analysed by CERN's Worldwide LHC computing grid, with computing centres located in more than 30 countries. In preparation for upcoming 2015 colli-

sions, 27,000 electrical shunts have recently been installed to strengthen connections between superconducting magnets on the accelerator, reducing the risk of technical mishaps such as those that delayed operations in 2008. These preparations are intrinsic

to a three-year hiatus in which upgrades have been made to deal with greater energy experiments.

Jargon aside, CERN must also be credited for its protracted scientific success and international synergy. The discovery of the Higgs boson, a subatomic particle that could explain how all matter acquires mass was hailed by many as the most important discovery of the 21st century. Had the political environment been different in the US in the early 1990s this, along with many other discoveries, might have been discovered by CERN's abandoned counterpart: Texas' Superconducting Super Collider in a tunnel three times the size of CERN's. What killed the project, apart from costs, was that Congress found the intangible experiments difficult to sell – an argument that hasn't put those lucky enough to visit what is a melting pot of engineering and scientific endeavour.

Christopher Woodburn

SWISS – Flying up or down quality-wise?

Swiss International Airlines, which was founded in 2002 following the collapse of Swissair, dislikes – for legal reasons – being referred to by the same name as its predecessor. Yet Swiss, a subsidiary of the Lufthansa Group, still talks about having 80+ years' experience, cashing in on the quality reputation that Swissair once enjoyed. Heavily criticized for spending over CHF 4 million on an un-inspiring "new" logo in 2002, Swiss began re-painting its tail fins in 2011 to look remarkably like Swissair.

Now profitable and flying over 16 million passengers a year, Swiss still has far too go (despite its clever "we didn't get the poor service memo" adverts) before it can even remotely re-assert Swissair's past prestige. This includes providing better service than most US airlines (save for Southwestern) whose no-frill economy services are of little comparison to prestige European and Far-East carriers. Swiss still offers free breakfast or lunch on most European flights – and chocolate. The American carriers want you to pay for everything from bags to drinks with some imposing unwanted



ads on overhead TV screens.

However, Swiss is in danger of going "cheap". It recently introduced a low-budget rate for travel with hand luggage only, a restriction not immediately clear on its website. To put a bag in the hold, you have to upgrade your ticket, which can make it more expensive than buying a regular ticket in the first place. If Swiss is serious about quality, it might focus more on being different – and better – rather than competing with Ryanair's irritating strategy of separate item pricing.

Edward Girardet



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Rhapsody in shabby chic

If you're yearning for a new look for your home interior, thinking of converting a room into a living space, or have rediscovered furniture that has lost its panache, then surprise yourself with what a sprightly touch of interior retouching and decorating can do. Spruce up any room devoid of life or subdue the harsh wooden tones of an old armoire through the merest lick of fresh paint and new upholstery. Give your room a new chic look, quickly and easily.

Tucked away in the quaint village of Confignon, right next to Geneva, is the interior designer L'atelier de Beauvent. Through synthesis of the authentic with "shabby chic" style, the studio's designers Myriam Martin and Stéphanie Hazart have been breathing life into once sombre rooms and drab furniture to lend an individual tone and upbeat liveliness to homes. Applying coats of paint in the "patiné" style to refinish wooden pieces of furniture that would otherwise scream "cumbersome burden" is the speciality of the studio. Applying patiné techniques can brighten up a worn-out table or unattractive bed frame brought down from Granny's attic or bought at a flea market. Myriam and Stéphanie affirm that instead of smashing and throwing out old furniture, people should "recycle and reuse it. We call it anti-consumerism and instilling life with paint".

For those setting up home in the region after travelling the world and faced with a huge outlay on furniture, or those who find themselves torn sentimentally by their less aesthetically pleasing possessions, such as an inherited old writing desk or antique chairs, the seasoned Swedish finesse of "Gustavian" fashion can transform items and whole rooms alike. For furnishings, the technique takes coarse wooden items and, through intricately applied coats of clean beige, illuminated pinks, and other pastel colours, turns them into light, sublimely attractive pieces. When placed into a room decorated with crisp wallpaper, they create a relaxing luminosity.

Sumptuous curtains, luxurious



Before: shabby.

After: chic

couches and elegant bedding are ideal to complement the look. Les Ateliers de Virginie, situated in Bernex, imports textiles and fabrics from reputable suppliers across Europe to fuse the customer's vision into reality, whether it's cotton for summer with an air of Provence, or a come-back for velvet. "It's all about listening to the client's needs and guiding them to accomplish the idea in their mind's eye," states Virginie Glassey. "Clients increasingly want to remodel their interiors, bring back and redo old furniture, and rejuvenate outdated couches and chairs with up-to-date fabrics to create that personal space."

Made-to-measure curtains, cushion covers, window blinds and pillowcases crafted at the workshop lend a timeless quality to windows and whole rooms alike. All of these elements blend together to create a lighter, more youthful living environment that flows with the seasons. Flowered textiles, electric blues and diverse violets, even 1970s prints (not forgetting matching rugs for the floor) can add freshness and fun to fit diverse tastes.

Freshly applied paint, pleasing wallpaper and vibrant textiles provide limitless options, from the exotic to the classic, to bring to life any room, whether you're inspired by the blue waters of Lac Léman, the lush greens of the mountains or the local architecture. A room newly re-finished in shabby-chic style offers a tailor-made piece of calming urban or rural paradise.

www.atelierbeauvent.com
www.lesateliersdevirginie.ch

Russel Mahon

Photos courtesy of M. Martin and S. Hazart

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#ForPeopleOnTheMove

Education & Technology

English threatening Swiss cohesion?

MARTIGNY Once again the can of worms has been reopened regarding whether English or a Swiss national language should be the first foreign tongue taught at primary-school level.

Several German-speaking cantons continue to object to a federal requirement that two mandatory foreign languages must be taught at primary level. Many schools in Canton Zurich already have dropped French in favour of English. Last March, the parliament in Schaffhausen asked the federal government to allow cantons to choose which foreign language they may teach on the grounds that two are simply too much at this early age.

Education Minister Alain Berset reacted quickly and warned that this is in violation of a 2010 law stipulating that children must be taught at least one other Swiss national language as well as a foreign one. The president of the Swiss-German teachers union (LCH) Beat Zemp went further, saying it is a political decision whether or not to change a law that clearly states that French, as a national language, must have priority over English as the first foreign language taught at primary level.

His counterpart, Georges Pasquier of the Suisse Romande teachers' union (SER) in Martigny, said that the issue is larger than honouring cantonal autonomy. "Yes or no, will Switzerland continue to be a multi-lingual country in the four official languages stated in our constitution or not?" Switzerland is unique in that it has 26 different education systems. According to the website for the Conference of Cantonal Education Ministers (EDK), "the main responsibility for education and culture lies with the cantons. They coordinate their work at the national level."

A comprehensive nationwide project in 2009, known as Concordat HarmoS [sic], attempted to harmonize the patchwork system, in part to facilitate the movement of teachers and families between cantons, but also to harmonize the language problem. It recommended that two foreign languages be taught in primary school – English and one national tongue. The 2010 law went a step further and stipulated that priority must be given to a national language. The result is a 50-50 split among the 21 German-speaking cantons, with those in eastern Switzerland seeking to drop French in preference of English. Pasquier said the dividing line is mainly along the Reuss River and has become known as the



"Fosse Reuss" (Reuss Gap). "Those cantons around Zurich, St Gallen and Thurgovie, which are farther from francophone Switzerland, want to begin with English. The cantons in central Switzerland such as Bern and Basel, which are closer to Suisse Romande, said they wanted to begin with French as their first foreign language."

SER is sounding the alarm now because Pasquier believes that "Suisse Romande cannot stand alone in defending confederal linguistic solidarity. If instruction in French disappears in German-speaking parts, Suisse Romande may also discontinue instruction in German and the result could be that Switzerland becomes an English-speaking country."

That horse may have already bolted. German-speaking Swiss are resorting to speaking English amongst themselves rather than standard German or various Schwytzerdütsch (Swiss-German) dialects. Swiss of all ages are learning it at a very rapid pace since it is unavoidable whether in films, on television or on the internet. But Pasquier believes that English will not help Swiss from different cantons understand each other's cultural differences, or why they vote as they do, which he said is the key to the country's national cohesion.

Pamela Taylor




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Travel

Weekend in an Italian constellation

If you are planning a weekend away and want to take in some history and enjoy nature, you can find an ample supply of both less than three hours' drive from Geneva.

Nestling in the Piedmont mountains near Turin in northern Italy, in a region called the Via Lattea (or Milky Way), are the villages of Cesana, Sauze d'Oulx, Bardonecchia, Sansicario, Pragelato, Claviere and Mongenèvre. Great for winter weekends because of its incredible network of ski slopes, in summer the Milky Way is a pleasure to explore on foot, through woods and on the ancient paths, roads and mule tracks criss-crossing the area. Built for military reasons, these paths were also natural thoroughfares for European pilgrims heading to Rome on the Via Francigena in the Middle Ages. The route passes by some imposing fortifications like Fenestrelle – the largest fort in the Alps – Fort Vinadio in the Stura Valley, and Exilles in Val Susa with its wonderful museum that re-creates life in a military garrison. In

Pragelato, visit the Museum of Costume and Traditions of Alpine People.

For open-air sports lovers, these paths are ideal for riding and mountain biking (there are stables and bike hire shops in the area). In Cesana Torinese, an hour from Turin, there are numerous climbing options on limestone rock or granite; or get the adrenaline flowing with some tough rafting and kayaking on the river Dora Riparia. And those into alternative sports can challenge friends and family to traverse high rope bridges, zip wires and Tarzan swings at the adventure park.

The region is rightly famed for its cuisine. Enjoy typical regional dishes such as bagna càuda, a wonderful vegetable fondue type dish, in one of the many local restaurants dotted around the villages. If you're close to the little village of Sauze di Cesana, taste the fruity beers at the local brewery, which looks like a tavern from a fantasy movie set.

For those who simply cannot do



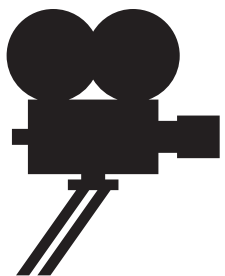
Mount Chaberton is in the Piedmont mountains north of Turin

without shopping and a social buzz, Sestriere, Sauze d'Oulx and Bardonecchia are good places to get your fill of dining, cinemas and Irish pubs.

And at the foot of Mount Chaberton, towering above the border with France, are the quaint villages of Mongenèvre and Claviere, two little

gems in which Italian and French culture blend wonderfully. Reachable by car, or by crossing the spectacular Tibetan footbridge from Cesana Torinese (not for vertigo sufferers!), they offer several golf courses and rather refined French and Italian restaurants.

Cristina Otero



FILM REVIEWS

By Neptune

GRACE OF MONACO ★★ ★

GRACE OF MONACO opened up the Cannes film fest with the usual pomp and ceremony, especially as Monaco is situated just down the Croisette and Corniche from this Everest of film festivals. Nicole Kidman is a touching and radiant Princess Grace in this controversial (Prince Rainier's family has vehemently objected to the movie), but surprisingly effective film. Director Olivier Dahan has created a 1960s mood and look for a crucial moment in Grace and Rainier's life – a turning point for them both – one personal, and the other financial and diplomatic, as De Gaulle threatens the autonomy of their tiny principality. With private conversations and actual characters such as Hitchcock, Onassis, Callas and Rainier's sister, how much of it is real and which part is artistic licence? Although a convincing actor,



sharp-faced Tim Roth is a strange choice to play the handsome Prince, but the film nevertheless develops intrigues that keep the audience spellbound. To believe or not to believe, that is the question, the attraction, and the principality's momentary headache.

CANNES (May14-25)

Cannes is truly the summit of all film festivals. This is where you can make it big as a filmmaker, like little-known Quentin Tarantino managed in 1994 for Pulp Fiction or Steven Soderbergh in 1989 for Sex, Lies and Videotape, both of them taking home the Palme d'Or. The regulars and other past Palme winners are again present this year, such as Belgium's Dardenne brothers with Deux Jours, Une Nuit or Britain's Mike Leigh with the biopic, Mr. Turner, about the great painter, competing against countryman Ken Loach's Jimmy's Hall. 4000 plus journalists cover this gigantic marathon of international films with its many parallel sections such as Un Certain Regard, Quinzaine des Réalisateurs or Semaine de la Critique. This year's main Competition jury is as usual a power-house of talent, presided by Australian director Jane Campion and includes American director Sofia Coppola, Iranian actress Leila Hatami and French actress Carole Bouquet, amongst others. Not to forget the

financial life-line of the festival – the immense Film Market - which brings in thousands of industry people selling and searching for the next blockbuster or lucky indie film. It's a three-ring circus of art and commerce and we'll be covering the high points for you in the coming weeks.



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LES ARTS

Artiswiss art gallery

If you are looking for a gift or souvenir of Lake Lemman or a Swiss region, then come and visit us at ARTISWISS ART GALLERY in 28b Grand Rue in Coppet. We offer a great choice of paintings by various Swiss artists. Meet the artist, Rita Mancetti, who paints on-site and who can explain her work to you. Also available: tailor-made projects. Opening hours: daily 9.30-12.30 except Wed/Sun, Sat open + upon appt. www.artiswiss.ch 079.216.55.99.



Meet John Betjeman and Philip Larkin at the Village Players!!

Conversations - in which JB and PL chat about what they wrote and why they wrote it, their 'inner spirits' come on stage to explain how they encouraged the poets to produce their works and add a few spicy reminiscences of the poets' private lives! The witty dialogue is richly illustrated by recitations of the works of Betjeman and Larkin. 15, 16, 17 May at the Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy, Lausanne starting at 20:00. Tickets CHF 25, Tel: 079 219 02 29 www.villageplayers.ch



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Beautiful houses for sale in Aïre, Geneva

This project is composed of three villas on a large garden plot in the center of a quiet residential area. Only two left for sale. Each villa consists of three bedrooms, kitchen open on the dining room and living room, two bathrooms. 140 m2 of living space, 64 m2 cellar, 190m2 private garden and terrace, 450 m2 total land plot. 5 min walk from schools, high energy efficiency, Plan sale 1,650,000 CHF. Contact Mattias Innocenti +41 22 839 73 83



Le News will be published fortnightly from 22 May

We carried out an extensive reader survey earlier this year. Many readers asked for a better website and more in-depth and events-related content. To deliver this we have decided to publish the paper fortnightly and invest more time and resources in our website and digital content. Readers can already sign up to receive our weekly newsletter by email.

Our new website launches on 22 May!
www.lenews.ch



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Regional Events

le News

PICK OF THE WEEK IN COLLABORATION WITH



Montreux. "Freddie for a Day" AIDS Prevention Festival

31 May-1 June

The first "Freddie for a Day" festival will be anything but boring! Organized by the staff and students of the Hotel Institute Montreux and the Swiss Hotel Management School, the festival promises to be a fun-filled weekend based on the theme of AIDS prevention. All funds raised will be donated to the Mercury Phoenix Trust to help in its continued fight against AIDS worldwide.

Place du Marché
Montreux
<http://www.him.ch/signature-event>



Grandson. Bol d'Or du Lac de Neuchâtel

24 May, race starts at 11h, finishes at 14h30

This regatta is the major event of the 2014 season of the Fédération de Voile des Lacs Jurassiens championship. On windy Lake Neuchâtel, more than 100 sailing boats will loop around Grandson and Neuchâtel (60 km). Spectators will be able to watch the race up close from a barge.

Grandson lake front
CHF 60.-
www.boldordulacdeneuchatel.ch



Yverdon-les-Bains. Superman, Batman & Co...mics! Exhibition.

Until 21 September

The universe of super-heroes is familiar to us all, at least on screen. Superman, Batman, the Hulk and the Avengers regularly compete for first place at the box-office. But the "comic culture" that emerged in the mid-1930s is rather less well known. This contemporary art reminds us that, in some ways, we are super-heroes.

Maison d'Ailleurs
1400 Yverdon-les-Bains
www.ailleurs.ch
Tickets: CHF 12; concessions CHF 10
© Adrian Tranquilli



Lausanne. Pully for Noise Festival

21-23 August

Cult eighties band Blondie and rock duo The Ghost of a Saber Tooth Tiger (The GOASTT) take top billing at this year's For Noise Festival in Pully near Lausanne. This outdoor festival is less crowded and frenetic than Paléo. Other notable acts include Anna Aeron and Beirut. Tickets from CHF 52 - 69 now available from FNAC and Petzi.

www.fornoise.ch



Geneva. Pittoresque Nude Exhibition

23 May to end of Nov, 11h to 17h

"Pittoresque nudes" is an exhibition of unique pieces dating from Antiquity to the 20th century from Africa, Asia, Oceania and Pre-Colombian America. It leads us to question nudity in all its guises. Through the centuries and across different civilizations, we discover how nudity relates to motherhood, strength and power, virility, life and death, and sexuality.

Barbier-Mueller Museum
Rue Jean-Calvin 10, 1204 Geneva
www.barbier-mueller.ch
Tickets CHF 8; concessions CHF 5
Photo Studio Ferrazzini Bouchet.



Versoix. R'Celt Festival

Friday 23 May from 17h00
Saturday 24 May from 15h00
Sun 25 May from 11h00

The R'Celt Festival is the gathering for all fans of Celtic music, both modern and traditional. Alongside groups such as Soldat Louis, The Mooring and Celkilt, traditional drum and pipe bands, including the Massed Pipes and Drums of Romandie, will play authentic Celtic folk music at the Sunday parade. The event takes place under cover for the comfort of kilt-clad festival goers. Bring out the Celt in you!

1290 Versoix/Sauverny
www.rcelt-festival.ch
CHF 10 to 15; 3-day pass: CHF 30



Geneva. La Nuit des Bains

22 May, 18h

A group of 12 galleries and 4 cultural institutions encourages and promotes contemporary art in the Quartier des Bains in Geneva. The group organizes three "Nuits des Bains" each year - joint opening events (vernissages) - for the public in March, May and September. Many of the exhibitions continue into the summer. See the website for details.

Bains District
Rue des Bains
1205 Geneva
www.quartierdesbains.ch
Free
© Guillaume Colligon



Geneva. The Geneva Games

17-18 May

More than 4,000 young athletes, competing in 30 sports disciplines, will take part in The Geneva Games which are held in and around the city (Annemasse, Pays de Gex, Nyon). A great opportunity to watch familiar sports such as rowing, handball and judo and to become better acquainted with possibly less familiar tests of prowess such as Swiss wrestling, tchoukball and even chess.

www.jeuxdegeneve.ch



Château de Chillon. Portraits Fantômes Temporary Exhibition

6 June-26 October, 9h00-19h00

Many of the greatest painters and writers of centuries gone by have visited Château Chillon. Fascinated by its aura and the surrounding landscape, through their works they imbued it with an almost mythical reputation. French artist Hugo Bonamin, now living in Caux, pays tribute to his famous predecessors - Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Henry James, Lord Byron and William Turner, to name a few.

www.chillon.ch
Adults CHF 12.50; children CHF 6;
families CHF 29; concns: CHF 10.50



Lausanne. Conversations: John Betjeman and Philip Larkin at the Village Players

15-17 May, 20h00

Meet John Betjeman and Philip Larkin at the Village Players. Conversations is an engaging play in which JB and PL chat about what they wrote and why they wrote it. Their "inner spirits" come on stage and explain how they encouraged the poets and add a few spicy reminiscences of the poets' private lives. Witty dialogue is richly illustrated by recitals of the poets' works.

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CHF 25. www.villageplayers.ch



Competition

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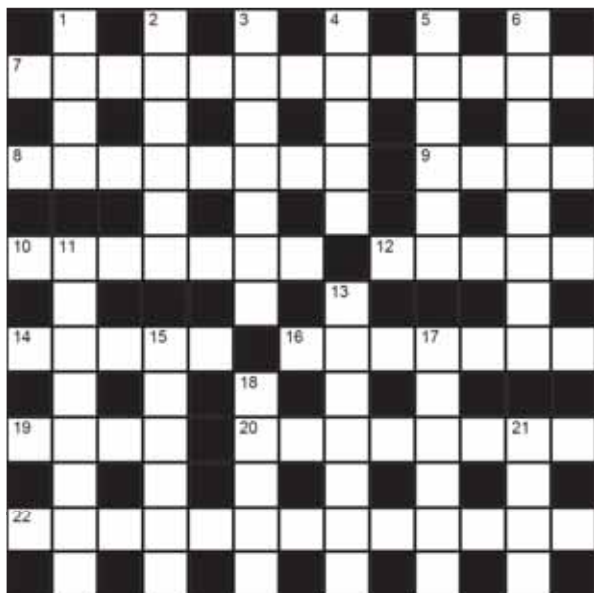


le News

WEEKLY NEWS IN ENGLISH

The Booze Brothers - The Moorings - Fiddlers Green - Pipes Bands - Shoepolishers - Celkilt - Soldat Louis

Puzzles



QUICK CROSSWORD

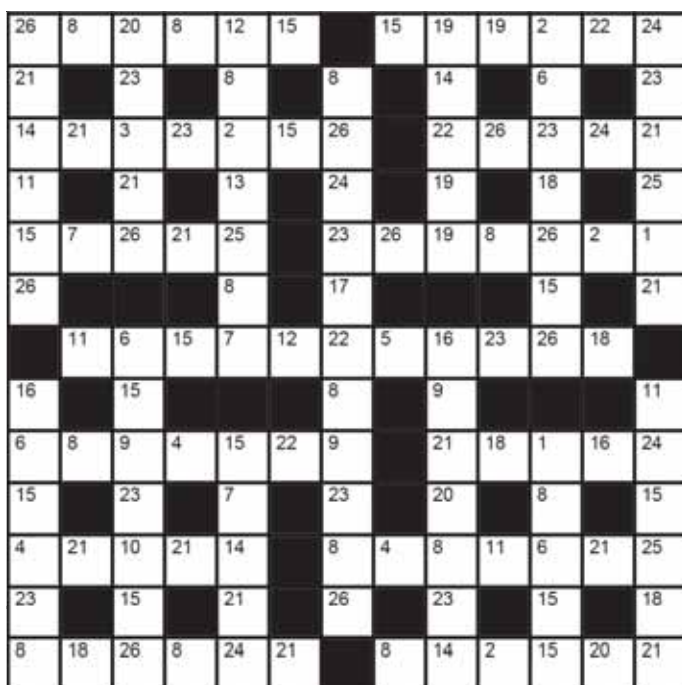
ACROSS

- 7 Categorical (13)
 8 Administers an oath (6,2)
 9 Expect and wish (4)
 10 Bridge formed by crossing of two highways (7)
 12 A small island (5)
 14 Straight-billed game bird (5)
 16 Own (7)
 19 Contributions to the poor (4)
 20 Alpine scurvy (8)
 22 African descendent living in the Caribbean (4-9)

DOWN

- 1 Eat away at (4)
 2 Rounded red fruit (6)
 3 long, wandering, eventful journey (7)
 4 A small table for holding various articles (5)
 5 Baths in Rugby argot (6)
 6 A slight wetness (8)
 11 Treated to stay fresh (4-4)
 13 Between a solution and suspension (7)
 15 Side arm (6)
 17 Mean, unworthy and despicable (6)
 18 Scandalise (5)
 21 Interpret something that is written (4)

Last week's solution



CODEWORDS

Each letter has been replaced by the same number throughout the puzzle. Simply decide which letter is represented by which number and complete the puzzle. To start off we're given you the first three letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		X										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				G		V						

What's On

La Nuit des Eglises

First there was the Night of the Museums, now it's the Night of the Churches on 24 May from 18h till midnight. Thirty churches in Lausanne will be opening their doors to the public, providing entertainment, contemplation, refreshments and a chance to chat and find out more. The organizers have devised nine routes, based around bus and metro lines or pedestrian circuits.

There is something for everyone, religious or not. Jazz on the organ in St François at 17h, other music in the Temple de Chailly and at the German church at Villamont. Painters in action (Chapelle de Malley and Temple de Chailly); stained glass explained (Eglise du Sacré-Cœur in Ouchy, Saint Joseph Catholic Church); Vietnamese songs at the Temple of Saint Paul – along with a juggling pastor; African songs and dancing at the Temple de Béthusy; the chance to be a pilgrim on the route to Santiago de Compostella at St Jacques; vespers in the Greek and Romanian Orthodox churches – even an all-night discotheque in the church at the Croix d'Ouchy (with professional sound and light). Several churches offer kids' activities and the Salvation Army has a



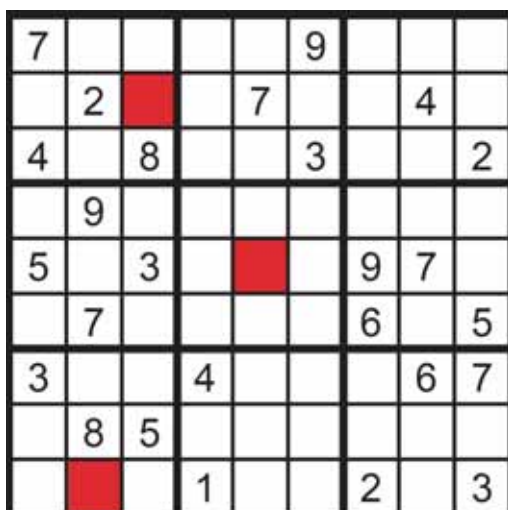
An unusual mix of faith, culture and history.

crèche. Most of the programme is French, but for many activities, language doesn't matter. Participating English-speaking churches are the Scots Kirk, which will provide musical interludes, an apéro and informal tours of this church designed by Viollet-le-Duc (who worked on Notre Dame in Paris and Lausanne cathedral), and Christ Church which is highlighting its stained glass windows designed by Clayton & Bell of London, well-known manufacturers who also created the windows for Peterborough Cathedral in England.

For the full programme, visit www.nuitdeseglises.ch

La Nuit des Eglises, 24 May, 18h to midnight.

Jane Duncan



SUDOKU

Easy

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

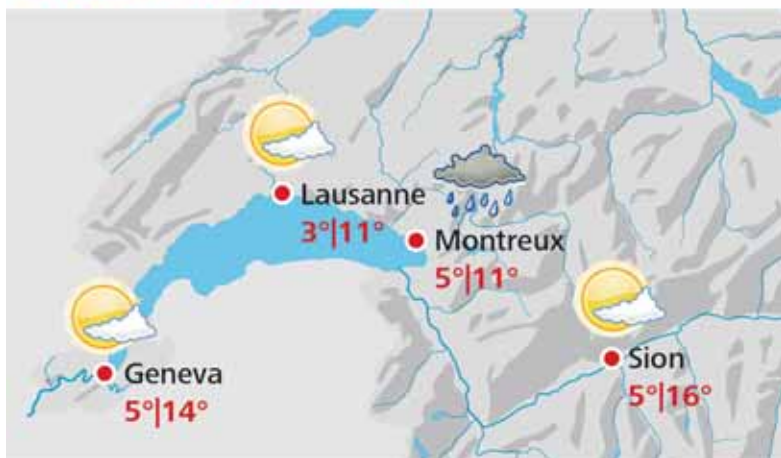
Win!

Sudoku: Send us the three numbers in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.00. The first correct answer drawn next Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch

Code word: Send us the three letters in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.00. The first correct answer drawn next Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch

Weather

SUISSE ROMANDE



GENEVA

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 14°	6 17°	6 19°	7 21°

LAUSANNE

3 11°	4 15°	5 15°	6 17°
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The weather report is sponsored by



William Tell's other three Children



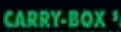
23 to 25 May 2014

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