



**UNIONE TICINESE**  
FONDATA A LONDRA NEL 1874  
SEZIONE AUTONOMA DELLA PRO TICINO

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

JANUARY 2017

Dear Members,

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas period and found a chance to relax.

The 2016 year ended happily for the society, with a successful Castagnata and the revival of the San Nicolao party for children, after a gap of around 20 years!

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in the course of 2017.

Best wishes,

Peter Barber  
**Presidente dell' Unione Ticinese**

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**FUTURE EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017***

*Carnevale, Caprini Ristorante, 77 Waterloo Road, SE1*

***Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017***

*AGM, TBC*

# **CARNEVALE**

**SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2017, 7 for 7:30PM**  
Caprini Ristorante, 77 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UD

This year we shall be celebrating the 143rd anniversary of our foundation – and simultaneously Carnevale – in a new, yet in some ways traditional, style. In the decades following our foundation in 1874, the Society's dinners always took place in restaurants owned by members. In fact, there were so many restaurateurs that the honour had to be shared out among them! Older members will also remember with fondness the dinners we held at Valchera's, the Jacomelli family's restaurant in Richmond, before its closure in 1987.

This year we shall be celebrating not at the Embassy, as has been the custom in recent years, but at the Caprini Restaurant opposite Waterloo Station. True, it is not owned by a Ticinese – but it is very similar in atmosphere to the ones that were. It dates back to 1946 and is a good traditional restaurant. It was also a favourite restaurant of our wartime president, Giuseppe Eusebio, and remains so with his family today.

The dinner will cost £25 for adults and £12.50 for children under 14 years old. This includes an aperitivo and a three-course meal, each course having three alternatives. Wines and other drinks will need to be purchased separately on the day.

We shall have a room to ourselves and you are welcome to come in fancy dress. Please note that the restaurant has no lift and the first-floor room where we shall be celebrating may be unsuitable for people with mobility problems. Feel free to contact the restaurant with your mobility queries on 020 7928 6645.

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment: allocation of places will be on a first-come basis.

## **To reserve your place:**

1. Complete a Carnevale 2017 Booking Form
2. Use a pen to indicate your meal preferences on a print-out of the attached menu
3. Return both the Booking Form and annotated menu in an envelope with your cheque (made out to 'Unione Ticinese') to Peter Barber at 16 Tivoli Road, London N8 8RE by Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

## EVENT REVIEWS

### ***VISIT TO THE GRAVES***

*SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER 2016*

A small group paid our annual visit to and laid flowers on the Society's graves in East Finchley.

### ***CASTAGNATA***

*SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2016*

Around 50 people arrived to celebrate this year's Castagnata, including children and several new and most welcome faces, creating a most enjoyable evening. An excellent plate of cold meats, and vegetarian alternatives alongside plenty of wine accompanied succulent and large chestnuts (marroni).



The feast was followed by plentiful dessert and a fantastic raffle drawn by the youngest people present. As usual we are indebted to the hard work of Christiane Barber and her helpers.



# **SAN NICOLAO**

*SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2016*

For the first time in over 20 years we had a festive children's party, organized by a group led by Emilie Martinoni Hogenboom. It took place in 'The Winch', a community centre in Belsize Park, near Swiss Cottage and was attended by parents and some grandparents.

San Nicolao himself also managed to put in a timely appearance and chatted to all of the ten children giving them all presents. A few were perhaps a little timid, but others were not a bit afraid and from the point of view of conversation, gave as good as they got!



## **CONDOLENCES**

I am sad to report the death of a loyal member and of a frequent guest at our events who will both be much missed and to whose families we extend our deepest sympathies.

### **JOSEPHINE WOROPAY NEE BONETTI, 1925-2016**

Josephine died on Boxing Day. She was the last of a remarkable generation from the Valle Levenina. Her funeral took place in Putney on 11 January and the Unione Ticinese was represented. Her son Julian, who is also a member of the Unione Ticinese, writes:

Josephine Woropay was born in Grumo, a small village in the Val Leventina, Alto Ticino, the youngest of eight. At the time of her birth in March, the snow lay six feet deep. She stayed in Switzerland for only a few months before coming to London where her parents owned a Swiss Restaurant in Putney.

When war broke out she was evacuated twice, once to a small village in Wales. Back in London she met the love of her life, Zygmunt, a pilot with a Polish squadron of the RAF. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and took Polish language lessons but the coming to power of a Stalinist regime in Poland kept her and Zygmunt in the West. For three years the family lived in Southern California where they enjoyed sunny road trips and the great outdoors. A return to England enabled her to spend many joyful summer holidays in her native mountains. In her working life she provided secretarial assistance to a Polish physics professor at the University of London. At home she was an adventurous cook, baking her own bread, whipping up a divine zabaglione after Sunday mass and furnishing her bridge parties with a different cheesecake every week. She made many of her own clothes, studied languages and was a keen gardener. In Josephine's retirement Zygmunt fell ill with Alzheimer's disease which lasted a decade and tested her devotion and stoicism to their limits.

Like many of her extended family Josephine was a keen member of the Unione Ticinese: her sister Lucia sang in the Chorale and her brother Giuseppe (Joe) had continued the family catering tradition. Josephine continued to live independently at home in Putney until the age of 91 but became very frail. She is survived by a daughter, son and grandson who will miss her very much.

### **CHRISTOPHER LYSTER**

I am also sad to report the death, on 28 December, also at the age of 91, of Christopher Lyster, the husband of Margrit Lyster, a loyal member of the Unione Ticinese and a leading member of the Swiss community in the UK over many years. Although Christopher, an architect, was not a member of the Unione Ticinese, he regularly attended our functions until a short time ago. Those who met him will remember with fondness his friendliness, good humour and dry wit. We send our condolences to Margrit and her family.

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD!



### RAYAN FRANCESCO MATOUSSI

We'd like to announce the happy news that Adriana Pogia Matoussi and her husband Amir are celebrating the birth of their son, Rayan Francesco Matoussi on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Rayan is the first grandchild of longstanding members Diego and Elisabeth Pogia and nephew to our editor Francesca. Many congratulations to you all.

## REPRESENT FIFTH SWITZERLAND

Any member with Swiss nationality who is interested in representing the expat Swiss Community as a delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad between 2017 and 2021 should fill in the application form on [www.swiss-societies.co.uk/candidate-form](http://www.swiss-societies.co.uk/candidate-form) or write to the Embassy.

If you're interested and would like further information (e.g. about their eligibility) or have any problems about downloading the form, please email [enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@swiss-societies.co.uk).

# **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

We would be most grateful if you could remember to renew your subscriptions for 2017. The current fee is £25 per member and should be paid where possible by Standing Order to the Society's account with Lloyds TSB.

## **PLEASE CHECK ACCOUNT NUMBERS CAREFULLY:**

**Payee: Unione Ticinese**

**Sort Code: 30-64-57**

**Account No. 46005060**

**Reference; 'Subscription'**

Alternatively, subscriptions can be paid by cheque payable to 'Unione Ticinese'. Your cheque should be sent to the Treasurer:

Irene Gandara Jones, 39 Oatlands Road, Oxford OX2 0EU

Email any questions to: [utmembership@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:utmembership@yahoo.co.uk)