



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JUNE 2016

Dear Members,

This year we are trying an experiment: a communal picnic which we hope will appeal to families with young children – but also to adults with an interest in gardens, in art and history and in historic pubs. The Park is very easily reached from central London. Do try to come along – there should be something for everyone.

A few weeks later, Swiss National Day will be celebrated at University College, Gower Street, London from 3 pm onwards. On past form I can promise that it is good fun and I do recommend it to you. It would be good to see the Ticinesi well represented and again, there is something for all the family.

There are also important and happy family events to report – and, I am assured, more to come! And finally, we include a report from our inimitable representative Valeria Ossola on this year's Pro Ticino AGM.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer whether in the UK, in Ticino or elsewhere.

Best wishes,

Peter Barber
Presidente dell' Unione Ticinese



GOLDERS HILL PICNIC

12PM ONWARDS, SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2016

Golders Hill Park borders Hampstead Heath (and specifically West Heath) and, like them, it is run by the City Corporation. Around an enormous central lawn, with views towards Harrow, are clustered a little free zoo run by the British and Irish Association of Zoos with kookaburras, lemurs, donkeys and coatis etc., a deer enclosure, a butterfly house, a playground, a walled flower garden, a water garden, tennis and ping pong courts and a croquet lawn. There is also a bandstand which gives concerts on Sunday afternoons and a cafeteria, currently run by an Italian family. We will meet in front of the cafeteria, near to the entrance, at midday.

The park is best entered from North End Way (A 502), easily reached on foot from Golders Green (Northern Line, Edgware Branch), or take the 210 bus in the direction of Finsbury Park for one stop. It is just up the road from King Alfred School, where the first Swiss National Day festivities took place. The 210 also leaves from Finsbury Park (Victoria and Piccadilly Line) or from Highgate (Northern Line via High Barnet) toward Brent Cross. Please allow half an hour for this journey. Drivers can find free parking on Sundays in the neighbouring streets. Travel info: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/golders-hill-park/Pages/default.aspx>.



Golders Hill was originally carved out of common land and fields in the 1760s for a wealthy merchant. His house and its Victorian replacement stood on the site of the cafeteria until it was bombed in 1941 –the grounds are best viewed from here. The house and park were saved from development by the Hampstead historian, Thomas J. Barratt, the owner of Pears Soap, and donated to the public in 1898. The famous landscape gardener Humphrey Repton is said to have had a hand in modelling the grounds in the late 18th century, a design simplified in the later 19th century. Since about 1900 when grazing stopped on the open heathland, trees have grown and the park is now surrounded by woodland.

A few metres south of the park, near North End Way, are the magnificent gardens and pergola of Hill House, built for the first Lord Leverhulme at the beginning of the last century. More or less across the road from the park is the famous (rebuilt) Old Bull and Bush pub, popularized more than a century ago by the music-hall comedienne and singer Florrie Forde (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZIkScbpwbq>). A fairly short walk across Sandy Heath brings you to the early 17th century Spaniards Inn and across the road, to Kenwood with its beautiful grounds and rooms designed by Robert Adam. Here you'll find a collection of paintings by (among others) Rembrandt, Vermeer, van Dyck, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Cuyp and Batoni.

You may just be more interested in sandwiches, ice cream and chat so do please try to come along!



VISIT TO LEEDS CASTLE

SUNDAY, 15th MAY 2016

We were lucky to have clear skies and no rain. Our small group made the most of the many things that the Castle has to offer. It is over 30 years since the UT's last visit and the Castle is no longer presented as a purely medieval castle, instead, more truthfully, as a castle which has altered over the centuries without losing its overall late medieval structure and grace.



While the Impressionist paintings have been sold off since the 1980s, the earls of Scarborough have loaned great early Tudor treasures from the Lumley family collection – in their way much more in keeping with the architecture than the Impressionist paintings and of enormous national importance.



Of course, we toured the Castle with the romantic gloriette on its island and we had a meal in the nearby restaurant. But we also saw an interesting falconry display – with birds of prey (including owls) doing things with which came as a surprise, at least for me. Gardens – vegetable and Mediterranean – have matured since our last visit and a complex maze too which we took the opportunity to solve before leaving. Having – with great difficulty – found our way to the castle in the centre of the maze we disappeared into a subterranean grotto before, miraculously, emerging outside the maze!

MEMBERS NEWS

We send belated congratulations on her 80th birthday to Bina Allegranza and to her son and daughter-in-law Paul and Deirdre. They recently became the parents of Saoirse, a sister for young Frank.

We send double but belated congratulations to the Broggini family: first on the birth of Amber Broggini Spain and also to Amber's parents, Sasha Broggini and Tim Spain, on their marriage.

101st PRO TICINO AGM

SOLOTHURN 28-29 MAGGIO 2016

Report by Valeria Ossola, Unione Ticinese Delegate

SATURDAY 28th May 2016

14.00 In the Kantonsratsaal

In the absence of the Presidente Centrale Giordano Elmer, who is recovering from a serious operation, the Vice Presidente Daniel Buchmüller (DB) welcomed the Delegates and Guests: first the Mayor of Solothurn, set to leave earlier in the day due to a prior engagement, began his speech with words of welcome in Italian, though he apologised for later continuing in German since his Italian was not up to it! He was very pleased that PRO TICINO had chosen his city for the AGM and wished a good outcome.

The other important guest was the Hon. Roberta Pantani, a deputy of the Consiglio Nazionale, who brought the good wishes of the Ticinese Delegation in Berne, always happy to support PRO TICINO in matters of importance for the Ticinesi. She, too, because of important engagements in Ticino was unable to stay.

DB now opened the meeting and began with the reading of the Annual Report, first with the words of the absent Presidente. The detailed report of the 100th Anniversary celebrations had already been presented at the Consiglio dei Presidenti on Sat 21 November 2015 in Däniken. Highlights include the success of the celebratory float (Carro) designed in co-operation with the SUPSI, which toured the country extensively and was great help in informing the public on the nature and history of PRO TICINO. It had also helped the various sezioni to celebrate, with those in smaller localities opting for joint celebrations with others. Several sezioni reported new members after these visits.

As usual, members of the Comitato Centrale read the report sections for which their departments were responsible. DB was responsible for reports on several sections, including the several sezioni with active and successful bowls (bocce) clubs. It was hoped that more sezioni would take advantage of assistance from the Comitato Centrale for the organisation of special cultural events. Altogether it was a very satisfactory report.

Further discussions revealed the sad shortage of members willing to serve on committees: this is a situation experienced by many clubs and associations. Other sezioni will be celebrating important anniversaries over the next two years and it is hoped that the celebrations would attract more (and younger) members.

A discussion on the next Assemblee dei Delegati followed. In 2017 Zurich will host the celebrations. As for 2018, California is keen to host the event which means more complicated organisation on the distance and costs involved. The idea is to offer a holiday package, leaving CH on the Friday morning, arriving in the evening (with the time difference), the usual programme of meetings and dinner with entertainment on Saturday, followed by a one or two week touring programme. The costs are being researched and will be published in the summer, with an autumn booking date to test interest and feasibility: a minimum number for each alternative will be required with a final decision made at the end of the year. Positive interest is essential at this point or the California option will have to be abandoned for a feasible alternative nearer home.

PREMIO TICINO (CHF5,000.00)

This year it was awarded to the Compagnia Finzi Pasca, now famous all over the world having organised various important events, among them the closing ceremonies of the Olimpiadi in Torino, Sochi (also Paralympics) and the next Vevey “Fête des Vignerons” (held every 25 years). Five members of the group were present, but sadly not Finzi Pasca himself, following the recent death of his wife, who was the force behind the organisation of all activities. The recipients of the award expressed their gratitude, since the Company receives no fixed public sponsorship but depends entirely on occasional public and private sponsorship.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

The outgoing Cancelliere di Stato Ticinese On. Gianpiero Gianella was named Membro Onorario for his great support of PRO TICINO over the years. We of UNIONE TICINESE have welcomed him in the past to various important celebrations, including the 200th Anniversary of Canton Ticino and our 140th Anniversary celebrations.

EVENING

After the meeting we were able to enjoy an aperitivo offered by the City of Solothurn, accompanied by an exhibition of the Basle Corale PRO TICINO. Later in the evening the gala dinner was held in the historic Aaregarten Restaurant, during which we were entertained by the famous Ticinese mentalist Federico Soldati. He performed the most extraordinary feats of memory and hypnotism as well as set his mind to bending and moving objects. I’m told he is well known for his TV appearances, but I must confess that since I am not a TV addict I had never set eyes on him nor heard his name before. However, having enjoyed his performance, I agree that his fame is well deserved!

SUNDAY 29th May 2016

After breakfast we were driven to the departure station of the “cabinovia” to the Weissenstein. Those of us who arrived first during the ascent in the comfortable floating cabins were able to enjoy the magnificent panoramic views of a vast area. On arrival at the summit for a short time we were able to enjoy the view. All too soon we found ourselves engulfed in a thick mist and we could barely see further than a couple of metres. Fortunately the many-roomed restaurant at the top could accommodate our large group with space for the musical group “Cantiamo Sottovoce”, who entertained us during a delicious lunch. The weather held and for the rest of our time there, it was impossible to see the chairs on the terrace outside because of the thick clouds: it was rather eerie, but a good time was had by all. After lunch we travelled in rain and made our way back to the floats, on to Solothurn to the cars or trains that were returning delegates home.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FUTURE EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Saturday 18 June 2016, 11am till late

Babel Festival, Wilton's Music Hall

Sunday 26 June 2016, from midday

Golders Hill Park Picnic

Saturday 16 July 2016, 3pm till late

*Swiss National Day Festivities, University College,
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. For further details see*

<http://www.swissnationalday.co.uk/programme>