



Vigneti a Gnosca a capodanno - foto preso da Nadja Gianetta

This year sees the Society celebrate 135 years in existence, and although we look eventually to the 150th we feel that some celebration is in order. The idea is to have a range of events which will appeal to the various interests of the members. The regular UT events are planned but with a slant and reference to the anniversary. We plan to make these events more accessible to members by both a small subsidy from central funds (UBS and Credit Suisse eat your hearts out) and perhaps having some locations beyond London. Some of us might be affected by the depressed economic climate while others may remain buoyant. However beyond our economic state some members have been suffering. Both Donaly Boxall and Gloria Holland died before Christmas, the latter's family suffering further grief when Agostina Albertolli (Gloria's mother) died just before the New Year. Our sympathies go to their respective families. Peter Jacomelli, who celebrated his 90th birthday in September last year, has been in hospital - first following a fall, then for a more serious condition regarding his heart - now sorted. So best wishes and speedy recovery. Peter's brother Louis is recovering well from his heart problem, but suffering the fall of Sterling! Anetta Diviani is also recovering from a spell in hospital. These are just the trials and tribulations that we have heard of. No doubt many of us have sorry circumstances and may they all resolve in a reasonable manner. Best wishes to Nadja and Scott who are on their way to New Zealand so they and also many of us will be pretty cheery, so stay that way! Of course whether highs or lows, if you feel they should be in the Newsletter, please let us know. To brighten any winter gloom and catch a sparkle of spring come to the Serata ticinese on Saturday 7 Feb at the Swiss Embassy London. This (actually 8 Feb) is the founding date back in 1874. See inside for further details and mark in your diaries Sat 9 May for the Spring Outing. You will also note in this Newsletter a request for someone to fill the UT post of Treasurer so if you have a sense of contabilita here's your chance.

# Coming Events

## Serata ticinese

Saturday 7 February

Every year, roundabout 8 February, we have a supper to celebrate the foundation of the Society. For many years, as the date tends to correspond with 'carnevale' the evening has taken up this theme which has been reflected in costumes worn and sometimes even having luganiche e riso. This year following on from the feed back of the Serata Aperta (see report below) and the fact that we celebrate 135 years, the evening will take on a ticinese theme. So stilo ticino is the order and the flouting of RED and BLUE is encouraged (some would say obligatory!) The evening will be unstructured, and via the generosity of the Embassy, you can meet up with friends over a buffet supper - affettato misto (with vegetarian options).

Spring  
Outing  
Saturday 9 May

This year the Spring Outing is going to be a bit special, your Committee is planning a boat trip followed by a buffet supper and it is hoped that guests from the ProTicino Centrale and other ProTicino groups can attend. We shall keep you posted on developments.

All Society events this year are dedicated to celebrating 135 years of existence. The aim is to offer something of interest and to the 'pocket' of all members; to assist this aim each event will be subsidised to help keep charges down. However there will be a small surcharge (£2.00 per head) for non members. So it might be worth suggesting that your friends join as Associate Members.

## Reports & News

### Serata aperta

Il 12 settembre abbiamo organizzato una "SERATA APERTA" per, per così dire, fare un po' di pubblicità per la nostra associazione. Infatti in un mondo in costante movimento e cambiamento, i bisogni degli "emigrati" sono anche in movimento e cambiamento e sono in ogni caso diversi da quelli del buon tempo passato. Ora, la nostra associazione, come anche molte altre, necessita di nuove forze e di nuove idee per proseguire solidamente nel futuro. Da qua l'idea di organizzare una bella serata in allegria invitando i nuovi arrivati a Londra a venire a fare la nostra conoscenza. La speranza essendo, naturalmente, di attirare nuovi membri, nuove idee e nuovo entusiasmo di cui tutti abbiamo bisogno in questo mondo poco stabile. E che bella serata è diventata! novantacinque persone erano presenti di cui quarantanove non membri. La sala ci è stata messa gentilmente a disposizione dall'ambasciata svizzera. L'atmosfera era rilassata e allegra. Tre musicisti jazz -Mornington Lockett, Mario Castronari e Steve Mellington hanno presentato il 'Ticino Jazz Project' e hanno suonato per noi non solo ma anche popolari canzoni ticinesi in chiave moderna e questo con gran successo!; il bar offriva vini ticinesi da Matasci e Peduzzi, che il nostro tesoriere diventato barista per la serata, Michael Burtscher, "vendeva" con gran entusiasmo; il formaggio nostrano di Ferro Bassi (via negozio Wyder) era una delizia; il salame di Michele Rigozzi di Dongio pure. Dopo un cordiale saluto di benvenuto da parte del nostro presidente Ian Giuliani. Il nostro storico privato, Peter Barber, ha presentato diapositive della società dal passato al giorno d'oggi in una interessante e positiva carellata. Il nostro vicepresidente Joe Brogginini ha presentato, durante un discorsetto emozionante ed emozionante, il lato bisognoso di nuove forze della società. Durante la serata, i membri del comitato si sono soffermati a chiacchierare ora con uno ora con un altro invitato "sconosciuto" ottenendo l'impressione di una serata riuscita bene con potenziale interesse da parte di un buon numero, di unirsi a noi e garantire un futuro solido ad una società che ne vale la pena. Al fine della serata c'erano undici nuovi soci.



Agnese & Mornington

Agnese Bettelini works very hard for the Society behind the scenes. She was a key player in the organisation of the Serata Aperta. She has just celebrated her birthday Best wishes and many more birthdays

anche gli ospiti



## Funghi —walk

Il 23 settembre venne organizzata "La giornata dei funghi".L'idea di questa giornata era di Antoinette Groom, membro del comitato, e diretta dal Prof.Richard Fortey - recentemente pensionato dal Natural History Museum di Londra .

Nove persone vi parteciparono e la caccia ai funghi avvenne nei boschi vicino ad Henley on Thames nel sud della contea do Oxfordshire. Magnifico osservare il Sig Fortey in azione ed ascoltare le sue spiegazioni mentre una trentina di tipi di funghi sono stati scoperti e ammirati : dalla velenosissima Amanita Phalloidee allo squisito Corno dell' Abbondanza! Il ricco raccolto é poi stato trasformato in un eccellente risotto ai funghi a casa del presidente Ian Giuliani. Una buona quantità di Merlot del Ticino ha accompagnato la risottata. Sig. Richard Fortey é diventato un entusiasta della Svizzera ,particolarmente del Ticino e del Grigioni, scrivendo il suo libro " The Earth : an intimate history". Una simile uscita é già stata progettata per il prossimo anno!!

Amanita phalloides



Corno dell' Abbondanza



Rosemary Allegranza



Leo Cima



Antoinette Groom

Richard Fortey

# castagnata

Il 25 ottobre abbiamo avuto la nostra tradizionale castagnata. Sotto l'eccellente ombrello organizzativo di Antoinette Groom, una buona decina di membri si sono dati da fare : chi ha portato questo, chi quello; chi ha tagliato le castagne, chi ha decorato la sala messa gentilmente a disposizione dall'ambasciata svizzera; chi ha fatto da disc jockey e chi da annunciatore di tombola. Insomma i soci erano attivi nel vero senso della parola e la serata é stata piacevolissima per tutti. Ian Giuliani, il nostro indefesso presidente che ha organizzato il vino ticinese ed il salame nostrano ha dato a tutti un caloroso benvenuto e ha salutato particolarmente Rina Eusebio-Longhi che con i suoi 100 anni sembrava molto felice e cantava allegramente " quattro cavai che trotano...". Un altro saluto particolare andó a Leo e Joane Cima per i loro 50 anni di matrimonio. Ancora, da tutti noi dell'Unione Ticinese : auguri! Il piatto forte erano naturalmente le belle e grasse caldaroste cotte a perfezione da Ian. E molta apprezzazione ha portato la tombola con I suoi ricchi premi così ben imballati e decorati da Linda e Francesca.

quasi una decina !



## Italian Cultural Institute London

### "Ich like Italiano: Dal Dialetto all'inglese" a film by Bruno Soldini

The Italian Cultural Institute in London offers a rich mix of Italian cultural activities, many focusing on the built environment and architecture and often presents lectures and films either of interest to Ticinesi or of Ticinese origin. These events, are encouraged and supported by the Swiss Embassy and its Cultural Attaché Denis Charrière. Such an event took place at the end of October 2008 with the showing of the film:- "Ich like Italiano" made by Bruno Soldini for RTSI. Following the film Bruno Soldini gave a talk and discussion continued at the excellent reception provided by the ICI

Il film "Ich like italiano" è un viaggio attraverso la lingua italiana, nella sua complessità e con le sue curiosità: alla ricerca del "vero italiano", sentirete parlare la gente nella strada con le varie intonazioni regionali, da Firenze a Milano e fino ai dialetti dei ghetti di Brooklyn. Potrete ascoltare i più eminenti linguisti sulla storia e i problemi recenti della "lingua di Dante" in Italia e in Svizzera: i due paesi in cui l'italiano è la lingua ufficiale.

# Tutti Santi

Le 2 novembre 2008 giorno di ricordo dei nostri cari defunti, il presidente e l'addetta alle tombe Maddalena Bucher si sono recati a far visita e a portar fiori alle tombe di Unione Ticinese nei cimiteri di kensal Green e East Finchley a Londra.

A kensal Green abbiamo fatto leggeri lavori di pulizia e mantenimento delle tombe e abbiamo posto bei vasetti di primule su ogni tomba. A East Finchley ci siamo incontrati con Ivana and Peter Cohn and Peter and Christiane Barber e assieme ci siamo diretti verso il gruppetto di otto tombe dell' UT. Anche qua abbiamo pulito e depositato fiori colorato su ogni tomba. Al posteggio ci siamo soffermati a chiacchiere e a mangiare uno spuntino portato da Ian Giuliani di formaggi e salame nostrano e naturalmente vino ticinese.



Ivana at work in East Finchley



Kensal Green



East Finchley

## Gloria Holland

Gloria's husband Mike writes:-

My dear wife Gloria passed away on 6th December after a long battle bravely fought against illness. Her funeral was held on 18th December, at Holy Family Church in Farnham, with a requiem mass followed by burial at a cemetery near our home. Gloria and I had been married for 49 years. We met in Portsmouth in the 1950's when we were both students. She also worked as a part time waitress at the Continental Restaurant in Commercial Road, which was owned and run by her parents Elvezio and Agostina Albertolli, originally from Ticino. We moved to Farnham in 1970 and raised our family here. Gloria was a devoted wife and mother to our two children Guy and Paula who have always brought us joy. Paula's children, Emily now 11 and Sam 8 brought us even more. Gloria was affectionate, compassionate, caring and humorous and a bit of a perfectionist. She also loved good company and good food especially spaghetti; and we both love Semione. She was not much of a wine drinker, she preferred weak tea. I had to drink for both of us. Gloria battled with breast cancer which recently spread and with rheumatoid arthritis for years. She had tremendous spirit, was very, very brave and always played down her problems. With the aid of a wheelchair and a pair of crutches in the back of the car we were able to get around to see our friends and relatives. We were both pleased to be able to visit Semione again last August for a family holiday and meet old friends and relatives again. On her last outing only ten days before she died, I took her to her sister Frances and her husband Peter's house and we went together to celebrate her mother's birthday. That trip was a supreme effort for Gloria but she was determined to go. She was just outlived by her mother Agostina Albertolli - who died at the end of December



## Agostina Albertoli

"Agostina Virginia Gianora was born in the village of Semione in the southern Swiss canton of Ticino on the 27th November, 1911. She died aged 97 on the 30th of December, 2008.

She was the eldest of seven children, and is survived by her brother Felice Gianora who now lives in Geneva.

"She came to Britain in 1936 and married Bartholomew Elvezio Albertoli in Portsmouth. Although speaking no English prior to immigrating, she learnt the language quickly through working in her husband's family restaurant "The Continental". She retired in 1973 and moved along with the her husband, her sister-in-law Mary and brother-in-law Alfred to the Portsmouth suburb of Farlington. Her husband Elvezio died there in 1985.

"She made regular summer visits back to Semione throughout her life, only prevented by frailty and ill-health in her last few years.



## Yvonne Merlini



Yvonne Merlini, Ivana's mum, died suddenly on 12 Oct 2008. Ivana had arrived only the day before and was very shocked, as although aged 91 was in good health. Yvonne moved with her parents (who had interests in a pasticceri) to Ascona, all moving to Minusio later where Yvonne found a local boy and married in 1939 resulting in Ivana and her brother Claudio. We send condolences to all the family.

Donaly Boxall died on the 10 November at the age of 68. Her Swiss roots came from her mother who was born in Zurich, her father was English. She became disabled after a brain operation when a teenager. However this did not prevent her leading a full life. She lived in Weybridge and worked locally for British Aerospace. A UT member for many years, she supported many functions, her favourite being the BBQ at Hurstpierpoint. She is survived by a brother who lives in Switzerland, to whom we express our condolences.

## Donaly Boxall



7 April 1940 -  
10 November 2008

## Thelma Giuliani

una zia al Presidente

Thelma the second youngest and last survivor of four siblings has died aged 94. Her father - Giuseppe Giuliani\* (and father to Carlo\*, Delphine & Rino\*) was a Ticinese immigrant who arrived in London in the late 1900's

\* UT members

Portrait of Thelma  
made in June 2008



# Le Corbusier

Although not a Ticinese the architect Le Corbusier or 'Corb' as he is known in the trade was a Swiss (from the Jura) and is the single most influential architect of the twentieth century (and probably most reviled in the UK). This year sees the first major exhibition of his work in the UK for over twenty years. As part of this celebration of his work a symposium was held recently at the Architectural Association in London. The symposium was remarkable in that it brought together (of those remaining) who wrote to and cajoled 'Corb' to give what has turned out to be his only ever lecture in the UK. The audience was also peppered by those who as students had attended the lecture — held in 1946 ! All had a zest for life - and revolution - that defied their years. It was a privilege to be present and to dine with these larger than life characters afterwards, was to be allowed to see inside history. The event was supported by the Swiss Embassy under the direction of the Cultural Attaché Denis Charrière.



The Chapel of Notre Dame at Ronchamp France

# Corinne Jola

Corinne Jola, who has joined the Society after coming to the Serata Aperta is a student of psychology, prior taking up a studentship at Glasgow University in October last year she completed - as part of her training in psychology a course in choreography at the Laban Dance Centre in South London. The photographs are taken from pieces submitted for her graduation. The President attended these performances with great pleasure and interest. The Laban Dance Centre is situated in an iconic building designed by the Swiss Architects Herzog & De Meuron



Fleur de Paris is run by UT member and onetime Secretary Angela Ballard & the floral designer Kim James. Originating in London's West End they are now located in Newcastle Emlyn in Carmarthenshire. Fleur de Paris create innovative designs tuned to individual's needs and budget, they specialise in modern and bespoke designs for all occasions especially Weddings and Corporate Events.

Clients include the Royal Family and of course ubiquitous media celebs, but also such as The National Woollen Museum of Wales - sounds intriguing.

Fleur de Paris has just won the Newcastle Emlyn town councils award for Best 2008 Christmas Window. So look them up at:- [WWW.FLEUR-DE-PARIS.CO.UK](http://WWW.FLEUR-DE-PARIS.CO.UK)

# Angela Ballard

&

*Fleur de Paris*



If you have a special interest, trade, craft or profession let us know

**WANTED** a **TREASURER**

Michael Burtscher retires from the post of UT Treasurer at the next AGM and so this exciting post offering amazing career possibilities and a salary from Heaven has become available.

Contact Rosalina Rigamonti UT Hon Sec and Human Resources Director for further details on: 0208 764 8704

# E-mail

Communicating by E-mail is generally more economical than post. Could members who have access to E-mail please send your address to the UT at:  
[unioneticinese@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:unioneticinese@yahoo.co.uk)

## Peter Jacomelli & brother Louis

Peter, who is still actively involved with the Society and came and kept an expert eye on the Castagnata, subsequently had a minor fall, which required a stay in hospital, followed by a more recent stay. He has now returned home but was disappointed not to be able to attend both the funeral of Gloria Holland and Agostina Albertolli - both old friends from Semione. In Semione brother Louis is now much stronger following his cardio problem. Best wishes to both.

## Igea Upton

Remaining in Ticino for a moment. our member, Igea is on better form than ever, she telephoned the President to convey best wishes for the New Year and she sounded fantastic. No doubt that you remember she was involved in a car crash which left her very seriously injured. But recovery has been sure and she goes from strength to strength.

## Annetta Diviani

Here in the UK, but probably hankering for Dangio - at least when a bit warmer Annetta is recovering from an op. to sort out a nerve in her back. She hopes to be at the Serata Ticinese in February, so best wishes for a speedy return to full health.

## Andy Crabb

Belated congratulations and best wishes to Andy, who celebrated his 80th birthday back in June. Difficult to believe, but Andy will no doubt let you into his secret of youth - one element being Merlot del Ticino. Keep at it Andy.

If you have a piece of news or know a Member who does - birthdays, other celebrations, work or recreational activities send a note to either the Rosalina or the E-mail address above

**ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Many thanks to those who have settled up their overdue subs following the letter from Rosemary and the President. And apologies to any who received same but have already paid. However there are still some outstanding and Rosemary would be grateful if you could settle up. Rosemary can organise Standing Orders which can be very convenient to all. Also please note that receipts will not be issued except in the rare case of cash payments made directly to Rosemary.

**£15 to the Membership Secretary** - Rosemary Allegranza,  
at Cherry Hey, 56 The Croft, Barnet. Herts EN5 2TL

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## *Information & Editorial*

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*Colour version of this Newsletter is available to those with Email and on the UT website*