

Renovated church to reopen in November

Its massive, £2.2 million project is almost complete. On the weekend of November 14-15, the Swiss church in London will open its doors to show its delighted congregation exactly what has been achieved.

The celebrations start on the afternoon of Saturday, November 14, with a programme of music from a brass quintet, an alphorn and the new and impressive 676 pipe organ, together with a slideshow and a film.

Demand for tickets has been so great that the programme will be repeated in the evening.

The official opening will be the following day after morning service and will be followed by a reception, attended by Swiss Ambassador Alexis Lautenberg, Swiss architects Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein, as well as the donors and patrons whose generosity has helped make the ten year renovation possible.

Swiss writer Regi Claire wins battle with cancer

After many months fighting a vicious cancer, Swiss author Regi Claire has told fans she has now conquered the disease.

The news has delighted members of the Swiss Club Edinburgh, where she is an active participant in club events.

Now that she has put her illness behind her, Regi has returned to her busy schedule.

With a number of books to her credit, and a stream of short



Regi Claire out walking near Edinburgh with her dog Leila. Picture: Rahel Egli

stories, she also finds time to pass on her literary skills to other writers.

She particularly enjoys giving readings at the prestigious Edinburgh International Book Festival, and is in great demand as a tutor in creative writing at the National Library of Scotland.

Her love for her adopted country goes back to long before she settled in Edinburgh in 1993, when she married poet and novelist Ron Butlin, the city's 'poet laureate'.

Her first experience of Scotland came when she won an exchange scholarship to the University of Aberdeen.

Born and brought up in the canton of Thurgau, in a little village near Lake Constance, her enthusiasm for writing first became apparent when she went to Zurich University to study English and German language and literature.

Then, after her spell in Aberdeen, she returned to Zurich University where she became a Ph.D student and research fellow.

But her subsequent success as a writer seemed to be about to be curtailed when she received a late diagnosis of bowel cancer.

The bombshell was dropped just after she had completed her

latest book, ironically called *Fighting It*.

Another irony is that one of the 16 stories in the book, written before she knew she had cancer, was about a woman with cancer.

In retrospect, would she have changed the story in light of her own experience? She told an interviewer: "I wouldn't need to change a word of it. In a strange way my imagination had evoked that situation without me ever knowing it."

• *Fighting It*, by Regi Claire, is published by Two Ravens Press, priced £9.99.

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