

HORIZON

MAGAZINE

December 2023 / January 2024

CONTENTS

Editorial, Vice-President's Words, Board Report	2
Centrepoin News	4
Event Reports	6
Volunteering	10
Regular Events	12
Special Events	13
Activity Groups	14
Conversation Groups	16
Out and About	17
Basel Essentials	18
Features	20
On a Lighter Note	24
Puzzles	26
Partners & Communities	28
Calendar	31

THEME OF THE MONTH: HOBBIES



When hobbies become a passion.



Page 7



Page 17



Page 22

OPENING HOURS

Desk Volunteers on Duty		
Monday	CLOSED	Im Lohnhof 8, 4051 Basel,
Tuesday	9:00 - 13:00	Switzerland
Wednesday	9:00 - 13:00	Tel: 061 261 20 02
Thursday	9:00 - 17:00	e-mail: info@centrepoin.ch
Friday	9:00 - 13:00	www.centrepoin.ch
1st Saturday	11:00 - 13:00	facebook.com/centrepoinbasel
Sunday	CLOSED	instagram.com/centrepoinbasel

GOVERNING BOARD

President	David Ruiz Lopez, Acting President president@centrepoin.ch
Vice-President	David Ruiz Lopez volunteers@centrepoin.ch
Treasurer	Simon Ireland treasurer@centrepoin.ch
Board Secretary	Peter Berrie secretary@centrepoin.ch
Activities Coordinator	Elda Orozco activities@centrepoin.ch
Communication Marketing Coordinator	Heidrun Osterer communications@centrepoin.ch
Membership Coordinator	Eveline Wyss membership@centrepoin.ch
Volunteers Coordinator	David Ruiz Lopez volunteers@centrepoin.ch

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Advertising & Privileges Programme	Ange Stronge adteam@centrepoin.ch
Apéro	Apéro Team apero@centrepoin.ch
Artwall	Peta Hysen artwall@centrepoin.ch
Conversation Groups	Sarah Stringer/Alison Findlay conversations@centrepoin.ch
Front Desk Volunteers	Front Desk Team fdv@centrepoin.ch
Horizon Magazine	Alison Waterfield editor@centrepoin.ch
Library	Joanna Lonergan library@centrepoin.ch
Premises	Vacant premises@centrepoin.ch
Public Relations	Vacant pr@centrepoin.ch
Social Media	Yana Mironova socialmedia@centrepoin.ch
Talks	Bronwen Saunders talks@centrepoin.ch
Trips	Michelle Lauterbach trips@centrepoin.ch
Website	Maik Schulte-Althoff web@centrepoin.ch
Weekly Briefing	Lubica Smiercakova weeklybriefing@centrepoin.ch

Disclaimer: Opinions and comments expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the general membership or by Centrepoint's Governing Board.



Editorial

Dear Readers,

This month's theme is "Hobbies". A hobby (plural: hobbies) is considered to be a regular activity that is done for personal enjoyment or relaxation, typically done in one's leisure time. Hobbyists can, according to Wikipedia, be identified under three sub-categories. "Casual leisure" is an intrinsically rewarding, short-lived, pleasurable activity requiring little or no preparation. "Serious leisure" is a systematic pursuit of an amateur, hobbyist or volunteer activity that is substantial, rewarding and results in a sense of accomplishment. "Project-based leisure" is a short-term, often one-off, project that is rewarding. What are your hobbies?!

I have had hobbies that cover all three sub-categories above. Up to around 2016, my biggest hobby was playing badminton in various clubs, training regularly and competing in tournaments or interclub matches. That was a serious leisure hobby! Since becoming injured and with all that Covid brought with it I discovered new hobbies that are more casual, enjoyable and/or relaxing such as art, crochet, getting out more in nature, wellness, iPhone photography, re-discovering reading and re-igniting my passion for writing. Project-based leisure activities I enjoy are travelling and exploring new places.

Centrepoint's activity groups are a great way to try out new activities that could become a new hobby! Come along for a coffee morning or conversation class if socialising is one of your hobbies. If outdoor activities are more your thing, then try out the Sunday walkers group. You could also join us for a trip or talk - we have some exciting new events in the works!

As this is a double issue of Horizon covering both December and January, we have a jam-packed issue! So many exciting things have been going on recently at Centrepoint and in Basel and we have many event reports for you. In our Features section I share some statistics about the Swiss' favourite hobbies. If you are looking for more information on hobbies and where to do them in the Basel area, then Meaghan at You Belong in Basel has some tips for you! Peter shares with us his passion for railways, both real and model, and Maryann's "What's in a Phrase" is well worth a read!

As the year comes to a close and a new year begins, I want to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to Horizon during this last year. It would not be possible without you and I am grateful to each and every one of you for your support. The Horizon Team will be taking a well-deserved break but will be back to produce the February 2024 Horizon.

The next issue's theme is "Local Culture". I am looking for quotes, comments, anecdotes or stories from members about your experience of local culture, here in Basel (particularly Fasnacht) or your own home town, area or country. If you are interested in contributing please contact me. See page 9 for further details.

Finally, I wish you all happy holidays, a good start to the new year and see you again in 2024!

Alison Waterfield
Editor
editor@centrepoin.ch

Vice-President's Words



Dear Members,

As we dive into the pages of our monthly magazine, I am thrilled to connect with you once again, this time to address two crucial matters. Firstly, our organisation is in search of a dedicated individual to step into the role of President. The urgency of this task cannot be overstated as we aim to have a new leader in place by our upcoming Annual General Meeting in March 2024.

The role of President in our organisation is a cornerstone, guiding us with vision, commitment and a passion for our mission. We have accomplished remarkable feats together thanks to the unwavering dedication of our members, volunteers and past leaders. Now we stand at a pivotal juncture where we need an enthusiastic and capable individual to steer us into the future.

This call for a new President is not merely a formality. It is an opportunity for someone who shares our values and dreams to take the reins and make a lasting impact for Centrepoint. If you or someone you know possesses the leadership qualities and a deep commitment to our cause, we urge you to step forward. Your involvement could be the catalyst that propels Centrepoint to new heights. Please contact me at volunteers@centrepoint.com to express your interest or nominate a suitable candidate.

As we search for our new President, it is also important to remember that life is a beautiful tapestry of interests and passions - the second crucial matter I want to address. This month's edition of our magazine is dedicated to hobbies - those pursuits that bring us joy, balance and personal enrichment.

Hobbies offer us a vital source of rejuvenation and creativity, enabling us to give our best in both our personal and professional lives. Whether it's gardening, painting, playing a musical instrument or any other pastime, I encourage you to explore your interests and find the hidden gems that make your heart sing.

In this busy world, hobbies allow us to pause, unwind and nurture our well-being. They connect us with like-minded individuals and broaden our horizons. I hope you find inspiration in the stories and experiences shared by our Centrepoint members in this issue.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate the importance of finding our next President and, at the same time, celebrating the diverse hobbies that make life fulfilling. Together we can continue our mission and lead a well-rounded, enriched life. Thank you for your unwavering support and let's look forward to the exciting journey ahead.

David Ruiz
Vice-President and Volunteers Coordinator
president@centrepoint.ch

*Front page photos and photographers (counterclockwise):
Men Modelling with Peter Berrie and David Frost (Brigitta Hänggi) (page 4)
Yana, Mariia and Jan at the GGG Ukrainian Event (Brigitta Hänggi)
Pyramid at Basel Christmas Market (www.basel.com)
Winter walk (Pixabay)*

Board Report



Key Points for October

Membership

- In September there were 9 new members, but 16 suspensions*; however overall numbers remained stable. A recommendation by friends is still the most common reason for coming to Centrepoint, but social media and internet are becoming more important. Also, a number of members lost during COVID are re-registering
- Of the 170 members contacted about reducing the cost of posting Horizon, 70 replied as follows:
 - 33 agreed to change to email
 - 21 to email and pick up a copy at Centrepoint
 - 16 would like to continue receiving Horizon by postA letter thanking those who replied and giving non-repliers a second chance to indicate their preference will be sent out with the November Horizon. The changes to delivery profiles will be implemented in time for the December Horizon

Volunteers

- Ilma Zubovic stepped back as Premises Manager but is still volunteering in other roles
- New volunteers were Michelle Lauterbach (Trips Coordinator), Susan Cooke (Apéro Coordinator) and Bronwen Saunders (Talks Coordinator)

Marketing and Communications

- Basel Life is now a Centrepoint partner:
 - All events (open to non-members as well as members) will be in the Basel Life Calendar
 - An article on Centrepoint will also appear on their website
- The last "Welcome to Basel" meeting at the Zoo was very successful with at least three new members being recruited

General

- A new coffee machine will be purchased to replace the defective one
- The foyer stairs will be provided with safety markings within the next month

Peter Berrie
Secretary
secretary@centrepoint.ch

**Suspensions are people who do not pay their subscriptions on time. They are suspended from membership until they pay. If they do not pay within three months after the deadline, they are struck from the records.*

Centrepoint News

News Round-up

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Winter Break

Centrepoint will be hard locked from 17:00 on Friday 16th December until 09:00 on Tuesday 3rd January. During this time it will not be possible to enter Centrepoint's premises using the door keypad.

Door and Key Box Code Change

As always at the end of the year the door and key box codes will be changed. All group leaders and volunteers requiring the code will be informed of the changes by email. If you need the codes and have not received them by 1st January, please contact David at: volunteers@centrepoint.ch

Activities Handover



Outgoing Activities Coordinator Sanne Akkermans hands over to her successor Elda Orozco. We wish to thank Sanne for her valuable contribution in overseeing Centrepoint's activities since 2021, and we welcome Elda to her new role on the Board. See page 11 for Elda's bio.

Centrepoint Talks under New Leadership

Centrepoint's regular talks are set to continue throughout 2024 under the new Talks Coordinator, Bronwen Saunders. Having been a freelance translator for approximately 30 years, Bronwen has had to pick apart texts in fields ranging from art and architecture to cancer research and power generation. From this she has learned that "almost anything can be interesting if only you dig deep enough" and that "Centrepoint's regular talks are an ideal opportunity for providing just that kind of depth, in a friendly, informal setting."

Bronwen has been busy coming up with ideas for talks and would like to hear from you. Do you have something in particular you would like to share with your fellow Centrepoint members? A memorable experience, an interesting encounter, a hair-raising adventure or an unusual line of work? Or maybe an arcane field of study, a hobby or a concern that you are passionate about?

One of the first talks of the new year will be a round-table discussion of artificial intelligence (AI) and how it is impacting us at home and at work. If you have something to say on this topic and/or could imagine contributing to this discussion, please get in touch with Bronwen at talks@centrepoint.ch.

Here's to a new year of stimulating talks!

Creative Studio Relaunch

Creative Studio has long been a standing invitation to Centrepoint's artistically inclined members to meet regularly and do art together. Bronwen Saunders will be taking over as Creative Studio Leader in the new year and would love to hear from you if this is a group that would interest you.

Although it will remain teacherless, Bronwen is considering changing the format slightly so that attendees can challenge themselves from time to time, for example by trying out a new medium together (marbling, collage, calligraphy, etc.) or honing their observational skills with 5-minute sketches. Further suggestions are very welcome.

Bronwen asks for your input especially on the following logistical questions:

- When should Creative Studio be held? On a weekday or weekend? Afternoon or evening?
- How often should Creative Studio be held? Once or twice a month? Less often or more often?
- What would you like to do? Work on your own project? Try out new things? Both? Neither?

If this sounds like a group you would be interested in joining, please get in touch with Bronwen at: creativestudio@centrepoint.ch

Hello, I'm Ian.

I'm here to support you,
wherever you are just now.



CounsellingWorksOnline.com

Life has its ups and downs,
in relationships, family, or work,
and you're feeling troubled.

You have emotional and
psychological concerns just now,
and need a safe place to talk.

You need some time with
someone you can trust,
an ethically grounded Counsellor.

You're looking for someone
who can be beside you,
listening confidentially,
and supporting you to find
the best way through together.

I'm a dual-qualified Counsellor,
highly experienced in
working with adults like you,
who live ex-pat, business,
and nomadic lifestyles.

Whether troubles are happening
in your private life or workplace,
affecting you as an individual
or as a couple, that's what I do.

Simply get in touch with me at
CounsellingWorksOnline.com
and let's get started together.

Front Cover Main Photo

This month's front cover photo was taken by Brigitta Hänggi of Men Modelling activity group members David Frost and Peter Berrie in action. This is what Peter had to say about his hobby that became a passion project:

"The model shown in the photo is the Model Airways Wright Flyer, officially recognised as the mother of all aeroplanes. Modelled to a scale of 1/16, the kit was purchased in late 2010 as the second project for Men Modelling, the first being a sailing ship. At the time the group met twice a month and had four or five members, so rather than build according to the instructions, separate tasks were allotted to each person.

Within a short time, the wings, engine, elevators and propellers had been built and all that was left to be done was to put everything together. This proved difficult for two reasons: firstly, the number of Men Modellers was reduced to only two or three in 2011 and secondly, some tasks became more difficult because parts were put together in the sequence they were completed not according to that in the instructions.

These are, of course, the challenges that make building such a model so rewarding. The instructions are, anyway, very vague in parts, so innumerable dry runs are required before a piece can be finally stuck. That's provided the glue hasn't solidified in the meantime or a tiny piece hasn't fallen on the floor. Despite such small setbacks, the pandemic and the cans of beer consumed over the years, the Flyer is nearing completion. What comes after is anyone's guess."

PS: If you want to get a feel for the task, Peter suggests checking out this thread whose building time was 15 months: <https://bit.ly/WrightFlyerModel>

Farewell MyPlace



Jakob Mettler says goodbye to his role as MyPlace organiser, stepping down from the role after the last MyPlace of 2023, Canada, which took place on 30th November. Jakob has been organising MyPlace since 2017 and bids a fond farewell below with a look back at the evolution of the popular talk series, some advice for future presenters and ideas for talks still waiting to happen.

"Mike Humphreys created this successful series which will have run for 8 years at the end of this year. He started with his own MyPlace, Wales, on 8th October 2015.

At the end of 2015 and during 2016 there were MyPlaces on The Arctic, Albania & Greece, Romania, Iran, the Alps, Indian Food, My Cruise Ship, Colombia and Australia.

When Mike left for home, I took over and have enjoyed a good run with many interesting MyPlaces. Even during Covid, the Zoom MyPlaces went well because we were presenting to a small audience of people we knew.

My first MyPlace was my own Switzerland, specifically Swiss History on 11th May 2017. The following MyPlaces took place while I was in charge:

- 2017 Japan, South Africa, Argentina
- 2018 Scotland, Afghanistan, Russia, Mexico
- 2019 Pakistan, The Basque Country, Liverpool, Middle Germany/Frankfurt, Brazil
- 2020 Panama and Ukraine (both zoomed), Philippines, Hong Kong
- 2021 Swiss History (again), Turkey, New Zealand (all zoomed)
- 2022 No MyPlaces this difficult year because recruiting new speakers during Covid was impossible

- 2023 Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Pittsburgh, Scotland (again), Peru and ending with Canada (30th November)

Many interesting MyPlaces indeed (over 30) and presented in many different ways, but when the subject is your home country or favourite subject, always from the heart.

Let me end by thanking all the presenters - ladies and gentlemen and couples who got up there and talked about TheirPlace. The English wasn't always perfect, but they all did a great job with information and sometimes afterwards with drinks or snacks from there.

I also want to thank my team, especially Debbie and Penny without whom these events couldn't have run so smoothly and the others who jumped in to help when needed.

It would be great if the series could continue. There are still many countries represented at Centrepoint which have not been presented (see below). It has been difficult, even after Covid is over, to find people willing to get up and talk about TheirPlace.

Future Presenters

Your English doesn't have to be perfect. You can talk about your town or favourite place if a country is too much. You are proud of YourPlace, so it will be easy. Just step up and give it a go. It is very interesting for the other Centrepoint members to hear about where you come from.

Future Presentations

MyPlace talks still waiting to happen: England, USA, India, Spain, The Netherlands, France, China, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Bolivia, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia.

This list is based on an old list of countries where the members come from and in order of the number of members from a country, so maybe some of the countries are no longer represented or there may be some new ones.

All the best and hope to see you on one of my Basel Tours next year or when I talk about Switzerland again."

Event Reports

Volunteer Appreciation Apéro

DAVID RUIZ LOPEZ

On Thursday 9th November over 45 volunteers gathered at Centrepont for the 2023 Volunteers' Appreciation Apéro. The Board organises and hosts this annual event to say thank you to all our volunteers who devote some of their free time to help with the day-to-day running of Centrepont. Without these people Centrepont would not be able to exist.

It was a delightful evening, with volunteers enjoying the opportunity to converse over a glass or two of wine while indulging in various nibbles. During the event, the ten Volunteers of the Month for 2023 were also acknowledged and presented with a bottle of Champagne and a box of delicious chocolates. This year, we also held a raffle for an experience box, which included one night at a hotel with breakfast and access to the spa for two people. The winner was Katrin Müller, one of our Conversation Group Leaders.

A big thank you to all the attendees who made this another memorable Centrepont evening, and special appreciation to Yana Mironova for capturing these moments and sharing them on our social media platforms throughout the night.



Building Bridges through Culture

MARIIA MANDZIUUK



Lviv Virtuosos (Brigitta Hänggi)

On 26th October 2023, a special cultural celebration between the Basel and the Ukraine communities took place at the GGG West Library. I helped host the Ukrainian Initiative Team from Centrepoint to support my motherland, Ukraine.

One of the best Ukrainian quartets, the Lviv Virtuosos, was invited to perform. It was the best way to show the richness of Ukrainian culture and traditions through music and folklore songs. Lviv Virtuosos are well known in the ancient city of Lviv and have represented our country in prestigious concert halls around the world. In view of this fact, you will not find a better match to feel the Ukrainian spirit. It rained that evening, but I noticed that many people outside who were just passing by the library stopped for a moment to listen and watch the performance.

During the musical intervals, we heard some Ukrainian fairy tales translated

into English and read by Jeanne Darling, which gave me a moment to forget about all the problems and return to my childhood. It was surprising to find out that the well-known “The Legend of the Christmas Spider” had been turned into a Ukrainian fairy tale.

Afterwards everyone was invited to try Ukrainian food. Before I had been asked to cook something Ukrainian and guess to whom I reached out for advice? Of course, my mother, who shared with me her recipe “Vognuk”. Centrepoint member Yana Mironov made “Vinegret” and Maria Ladmann brought Spanish “Empanadas” which were both incredibly delicious.

It was funny during the evening to hear different names for the same dish: “Ogonek”, “Jewish snack” and “Namazka”. What really made me happy was that people came and told me that the taste made them feel like they were back home. That was probably the most valuable comment for me since we are far from our native cities and separated from our families. This feeling meant a lot to me.

I reached out to one of the musicians to thank them for the performance and I found out that we also were both from the same city - Kharkiv. He had performed in the Kharkiv Opera House and had come especially from Düsseldorf to perform at our event in Basel!

Overall, it was a great evening that gave us Ukrainians the feeling of being at home

and showed the beauty and richness of Ukrainian culture to the audience. About 60 people, including the superb musicians and volunteers, participated in the evening. Many attendees eagerly wore solidarity ribbons displaying the Ukrainian and Swiss colours which were created by Jan Hawley and made available for the event. Vivian Beetle, who also helped organise the event, unfortunately could not be present.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to my mother, Elena, for her delicious recipe (see page 24), which was a great success. I am also tremendously thankful to Centrepoint and the GGG West Library, in particular Nicole Scoles and Karin Minssen. Sadly, the war in Ukraine is not over and this event is a reminder that Ukraine still needs continuous support.

Radio X Interview

VIVIAN BEETLE



Steve (English Show team and Centrepoint member), Vivian (Centrepoint) and Jeanne (GGG) (Brigitta Hänggi)

By all measures, the collaborative cross-cultural programme presented by Centrepoint and GGG West Library in late October was a resounding success. In preparing for the “Building Bridges through Culture: Basel Ukraine Community” event, both groups worked diligently to promote the English language occasion to their respective audiences. This included a joint interview on the English Show at Radio X a few days in advance with Vivian Beetle speaking on behalf of Centrepoint and Jeanne Darling representing GGG.

You can still listen to the English Show segment at: <https://bit.ly/EnglishShow>



Lviv Virtuosos performing at the event (Brigitta Hänggi)

Event Reports

WWF Climate Change Talk

JULIE TELFORD

On the evening of Thursday 5th October, Jack Church of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International Volunteers gave a talk on climate change to a packed audience in the Centrepoint library.

Jack's expertise on the climate crisis enthralled us all. He presented one information-packed diagram after another on how global heating has arisen, how we know, what we must do about it and the consequences if we don't. Many revelations were disconcerting. Switzerland is not escaping the climate crisis as is illustrated by its fast-melting glaciers. Furthermore, the richest 10% of the people in the world cause 50% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. And who are those 10%? Anyone with a yearly income over CHF 23,000. Yes, yearly.

Jack showed how our environmental impact falls into two categories: personal choices and systems. We were invited to look at our personal choices by completing WWF's questionnaire to work out our carbon footprints*. This led to more unpleasant surprises, for me, at least. I thought I lived carefully, but apparently my CO₂ emissions equivalent is 7 tonnes per year. Of course, there is only so much an individual can do. In Switzerland about the best one can do is to reduce one's emissions to 4 tonnes. Remembering of course that our goal is 0 tonnes.

That led us to the matter that systems need changing. For example, Basel's district heating is not as carbon neutral as we like to think. With cars, we need to think beyond the individual vehicles' emissions and look at emissions of the entire system, including the roads. And will electric cars reduce traffic jams?

So far, so bad. But Jack was upbeat. There is still time to rescue ourselves, although not much.

Jack's talk left us in no doubt that climate change is a huge and complicated subject. But the take-home message was very clear: it's real, it's bad and we need to act drastically and urgently. But we can, and we know how to. Stop burning fossil fuels, stop methane-producing activities and take the CO₂ we've put into the air back out.

*WWF questionnaire:
<https://bit.ly/WWFQuestionnaire>

ArtWall Vernissage

PETA HYSEN

The Centrepoint ArtWall Vernissage "Through Their Eyes" held on Friday 3rd November for the three Ukrainian artists and Centrepoint members, Oleksandra Maliiova, Viktoriya Horbenko and Viktoriya Parkhomenko, was a captivating event that showcased their incredible talent and creativity. The art on display was truly exceptional with each artist's unique style and perspective shining through their works.

The evening was made even more enchanting by a choir and a violinist whose performances added a delightful musical dimension to the event, creating a wonderful atmosphere that complemented the art beautifully. It was a memorable evening celebrating Ukrainian artistry.

The ArtWall exhibition will run until Friday 15th December so if you haven't had a chance to see it yet, there is still time to see the wonderful works of art created by our Centrepoint members.



Viktoriya Parkhomenko, Viktoriya Horbenko and Oleksandra Maliiova (Brigitta Hänggi)

Prix schappo

BRIGITTA HÄNGGI

The Prix schappo is awarded twice a year to associations or groups that do something for others and show exceptional voluntary commitment to promoting the quality of life in Basel. Centrepoint won the Prix schappo award six years ago.

On 2nd November 2023, the 51st Prix schappo was awarded to the CURA Encounter Centre. In his address Beat Jans, President of the Government, said: "with schappo, the Canton of Basel-Stadt takes its hat off to voluntary and community commitments with exemplary character and especially honours the volunteers."

CURA was launched in 2020 with Claraspital as the driving force and broad-based sponsorship. The starting point was the realisation that many patients are left to their own devices after an in-patient hospital stay. CURA offers a low-threshold oasis with a colourful range of services and activities for the mind, body, soul and spirit. Without coercion, without registration and without obligation.

"At CURA, people find distance from their fears and hardships," said Denise Moser, member of the schappo expert commission. In addition to a core team of professionals, eleven volunteers are involved in CURA. They ensure smooth daily operations and create an informal atmosphere for encounters.



Prix schappo poster for CURA meeting centre, Basel-Stadt (schappo.bs.ch)

This Is Your Horizon!

We warmly welcome member contributions to Horizon. Each issue has a specific theme of the month upon which various Horizon section contributions are based. A contribution may include a connection to the Basel region or Switzerland or cover a more general or global scope linked to the theme.

The themes for the next two Horizon issues are:

- February: **Local culture**
- March: **Springtime**

Interested in writing an article of between 200 and 600 words on one of our themes? A trip or talk report, or perhaps even a poem? Do you have an idea for a new kind of contribution or section? Please get in touch!

You do not have to be an English native speaker, nor does your English have to be perfect to contribute; at least half of our members are non-native English speakers. And the Editorial Team is here to help!

The deadline for contributions is the 1st day of the preceding month (or the 2nd/3rd of the month if the 1st is a bank holiday or falls on the weekend). For example, for the February 2024 issue, the deadline is Wednesday 3rd January. However, we accept articles whenever they are ready and the earlier the better!

If you have an idea you want to discuss, a question you want to ask, or an article you are thinking of submitting, please contact editor@centrepoin.ch. Knowing in advance regarding an intended submission greatly helps in the content planning process.

*Submissions should include **Title and Author**. Accompanying photo(s) are a welcome addition to any contribution; please include a caption(s) and the photographer's name or other source. **Please be sure to obtain permissions from any individual appearing in a photo before submitting**. The image must be **at least 300dpi** and in **.jpg** or **.png** format. The Editor reserves the right to shorten or edit submissions as necessary, though authors retain copyright.*

Has this got your creative juices flowing and made you want to put pen to paper? If so, what are you waiting for, get writing!

Anglican Church Basel

CAROL SERVICE

Traditional Service of Nine Readings and Carols

18:00, Sunday 17th December 2023

Heiliggeistkirche, Thiersteinerallee 51, Basel

Christmas Services at ACB 2023

- 10:30 3rd December - Children's Nativity Service
Adventhaus, Rümelinbachweg 60, Basel
- 10:30 24th December - All Age Christingle Service
Adventhaus, Rümelinbachweg 60, Basel
- 23:30 24th December - Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Predigerkirche, Totentanz 19, Basel
- 10:30 25th December - All Age Christmas Holy Communion
Adventhaus, Rümelinbachweg 60, Basel

For more information about the church,
our services and activities see our website:

www.anglicanbasel.ch

or contact the Church Office: admin@anglicanbasel.ch



Volunteering

Volunteer of the Month

Viktoriya Parkomenko



If you attend Friday Coffee Morning on a regular basis, you'll know Viktoriya's huge radiant smile very well. She's almost always there, and when she is there, she is always ready to give you one of her smiles. Since joining the Coffee Morning hospitality crew in mid-2022, she has been one of the most regular, dependable and welcoming members the event has ever known.

But it's not only top-notch hospitality that Viktoriya is known for. Since her arrival, she's been considered by many as Centrepoint's ambassador to the Ukrainian community in Basel. She's become a key member of the Centrepoint Ukrainian Initiative, which offers support to her compatriots.

She also serves as a connector between our organisation and newcomers from countries other than Ukraine. The work she does is an integral part of the migrant integration process, helping people to find their place in society and develop a sense of belonging.

Viktoriya is well liked, respected and highly valued as both a member of our organisation and an engaged volunteer.

Fun fact: She didn't know she was coming to live in Switzerland until a day or so before she arrived here.

Glen Mitchell

Volunteering Vacancies: We Need You!

Centrepoint is run entirely by volunteers. Without them we could not exist. Volunteering is fun! You can socialise with other people and it gives you a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are helping others.

Whether you have one hour or one day to give, whether you want to work from home or in an office, whether you want to work on your own or in a team, we have a position for you!

President

Centrepoint is currently seeking a new President! The President leads Centrepoint's Governing Board and collaborates with other Board members to formulate and oversee the organisation's strategic and operational activities. The President serves as the public face of Centrepoint, representing the organisation at external and member events. Previous Presidents have brought various skills to the role; the primary requirement is a commitment to contribute to the ongoing success of Centrepoint. This role could also be considered for a job-share arrangement if two members wish to work together.

If you would like to learn more about the role, please get in touch with David Ruiz, our Volunteers Coordinator at: volunteers@centrepoint.ch

Treasurer

The Treasurer develops and maintains all financial policies and processes, prepares the annual budget, and prepares the audited accounts for the Annual General Meeting. On an ongoing basis, the Treasurer ensures that all bills and invoices are paid, that the necessary banking services and contracts are in place and that key financial data is presented on a monthly basis to enable the Board to manage the budget.

If you like to know more about this role please contact David Ruiz at volunteers@centrepoint.ch

Horizon Layout Designer

The Editorial team are looking for a volunteer to manage the layout of text and images for the Horizon magazine, one of Centrepoint's most important communication tools. Working together with the editor and content contributors, you will play a central role in shaping Horizon's "look and feel". You should have experience of InDesign or a similar desktop publishing program.

For more information, please contact Alison Waterfield: editor@centrepoint.ch

Trips Leaders

Centrepoint is looking for Trips Leaders who will be members of the Trips team and report directly to the Trips Coordinator. The main objectives for this role are to generate ideas for English-language excursions or adopt ideas from the Trips Coordinator, communicate with the host organisation and manage all trip logistics such as scheduling, attendance and payment. The Trips Leader will also be responsible for advertising the event to Centrepoint members and arranging for a trip report.

Recommended skills for the Trips Leader are good organisation and planning skills and the ability to interact with other volunteers and the general public.

For more information, please get in touch with Michelle Lauterbach: trips@centrepoint.ch

Talks Leaders

We are also looking for Talks Leaders. The role is quite similar to the Trips Leader as described above, with the difference that you will be responsible for talks instead of trips.

If you are interested, please contact David at volunteers@centrepoint.ch

New Volunteer Bios

Board Appointment: Activities Coordinator



We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Activities Coordinator, Elda Orozco. Elda is from Mexico and has called Basel her home for over 10 years. Moving to Switzerland was never in her plans until an unexpected opportunity arose in Basel for which she was the only one in the company who had the specific certificate required for the job.

Elda has been a proud Centrepoint member for four years, cherishing the wonderful day trips in which she has taken part. Elda says that when she saw the Activities Coordinator opening, she felt it was her time to step up and get more involved. Post-pandemic she is taking a break from her hectic and demanding professional work to focus on her social life. That is one of the reasons she decided to volunteer.

The other reason is that her professional journey has been as a Compliance Officer, primarily responsible for enforcing rules, regulations and ethical standards within organisations. This role inherently involves dealing with matters of discipline and investigations which can create a perception of strictness and formality. She feels that people often find it challenging to see the person behind such a position. As activities coordinator Elda hopes this opportunity can allow her to be seen as more than just her professional persona, providing a chance for genuine human connection.

Elda says "Centrepoint thrives thanks to volunteers who contribute to its organisation and growth. Together, we can further grow our community and make a positive impact".

Talks Coordinator and Creative Studio Leader



We are pleased to announce that Bronwen Saunders has stepped forward to take on not one but two volunteering roles - Talks Coordinator and Creative Studio Leader.

Bronwen grew up in Great Britain and studied English Literature at Sheffield University and the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. On returning to Europe she worked initially as an English teacher in Germany before finding her niche as a translator of art books and exhibition catalogues. She also paints and plays the harpsichord and in 2021 launched Centrepoint's first ever Scrabble Club. She has a grown-up son and daughter and has been living happily in Basel with her Canadian-Swiss husband since April 2013.

Bronwen is excited to start her new roles and asks for your feedback to help her in planning and organising from the new year onwards. For more information, see the articles "Centrepoint Talks under New Leadership" and "Creative Studio Re-launch" in the Centrepoint News section on page 4.

Trips Coordinator



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Michelle Lauterbach as our new Trips Coordinator. Michelle has been managing the layout of the Horizon magazine since mid-2022 and now wishes to become more involved with Centrepoint events.

Michelle was born in Detroit, Michigan, moved to Boston, Massachusetts for her college studies and then with her husband to Mannheim, Germany. Their son was born in 1989 and they subsequently relocated to Basel in 1998. She has worked as an editor, IT specialist and corporate communications manager for both American and Swiss companies.

Over the coming months Michelle plans to build up the Trips team and, with the team's support, to provide a diverse programme of events for Centrepoint.

Kindermusik®



Put the gift of music
under your tree!

www.kidsmusic.ch

Regular Events

Climate Change Discussion

Date: Monday 4th December, Monday 8th January
Time: 15:30-17:00



In December we will look at different ways of calculating our personal carbon footprints. In January, Cheryl Anne Morgan will give a presentation on the Earthshot Prize. For further information contact Julie Telford at climatechange@centrepoin.ch

Kaffee auf Deutsch

Date: Every Wednesday Every Friday
Time: 10:30-12:30 14:00-15:30



Would you like to practise your German or help others improve their own? Come and join us on Wednesday or Friday mornings for a cup of coffee or tea, and some German.

Weekly Coffee Morning

Date: Every Friday
Time: 10:30-12:30



Would you like to meet people from different countries, find new friends and learn what is happening at Centrepoin, in Basel and its surroundings? Then join us on Friday mornings for a cup of coffee or tea.

Monthly Apéro

Date: Thursday 14th December, Thursday 18th January
Time: 18:00-20:00

Join us for a glass of wine and snacks and enjoy mingling with the wonderful community we have. It's a chance to meet up with friends old and new and talk about anything that comes to mind.



Monthly Welcome Coffee

Date: Wednesday 6th December, Wednesday 10th January
Time: 10:30-11:30



New, current and potential members are welcome to join Wendy upstairs at the Café Huguenin at Barfüsserplatz.

All our regular events take place at Centrepoin and are open to members and potential members. Just drop in!

To find out about talks, trips and other ad hoc events, check out the weekly briefing email sent to Centrepoin members every Friday morning.

You can also find this information on the Trips and Talks pages in the Members' Area of the Centrepoin website.

**HAPPY HEDGEHOG
INTERNATIONAL
PLAYGROUP
BASEL**

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS BETWEEN
0 AND 7 YEARS

MORNING AND AFTERNOON
CARE IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN

EXTRA CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

Contact us:
+41 21 218 62 73
info@happyhedgehog.ch

German Semi-Intensive Courses

2x/week mornings

**all courses
now hybrid**

inlingua

Special Events

Trip reminder: Fancy a Spin? - Let's go Ice Skating!



Easier than it looks (Anonymous)

If you haven't signed up yet for the ice skating meetup on Tuesday 5th December, 17:00-19:00 at the Kunsteisbahn St Margarethen, you still have a few days left! Join in or spectate, all are welcome! Find out more and register here: <https://centrepoint.ch/event-5450555>

Trip: Behind the Scenes of a Museum Library



Reading Room (Julian Salinas)

Centrepoint member Mareike Doleschal, librarian at the Kunstmuseum, is offering two behind-the-scenes tours of the museum library. You will have the opportunity to explore the building's fascinating history, see some of the treasures housed in the library's strong rooms and discover an oasis of calm and tranquility.

When: Wednesday 6th December and Wednesday 24th January

Time: 14:30-15:30

Where: Foyer of the Kunstmuseum library

Registration: Essential. Only those registered may attend. Max. 8 attendees per trip.

6th December 2023:

<https://centrepoint.ch/event-5466733>

24th January 2024:

<https://centrepoint.ch/event-5466739>

Who: Event is open to members only

Cost: Free of charge

Organiser: Mareike Doleschal:
mareike.doleschal@unibas.ch

Winter Adventures in Switzerland: Where to Go and What to Do!



(Robert Schoutens)

Are you a winter lover and looking for tips on preparing for a Swiss winter adventure, what to do and where to go? Join Melinda and Robert Schoutens on Thursday 7th December, 19:00-20:00 for an interactive and engaging talk on how to make the most of Switzerland in winter followed by a Q&A session. Register here: <https://centrepoint.ch/event-5449293>

Tour of Salt Production Site



Cooking salt (Pixabay)

Discover Switzerland's buried treasure--salt--at the Schweizerhalle facility in Pratteln. This hands-on tour demonstrates the production and uses of salt and is suitable for adults and children from age six. The tour will be followed by a small apéro.

When: Saturday 16th December

Time: 10:00-12:00

Where: Salina Helvetica, Schweizerhalle, Pratteln

Registration: Essential. Only those registered may attend. Max. 25 attendees
<https://centrepoint.ch/event-5492426>

Who: Event is open to members only

Cost: CHF 12 for adults, CHF 6 for children, CHF 6 for apéro

Organiser: Michelle Lauterbach
trips@centrepoint.ch

ArtWall Vernissage

Our next ArtWall Vernissage will take place on Friday 9th February. The exhibition "Nature Inspired" will run from 9th February to 28th March and will feature works by local artist Robin Ballard. Below is one of her recent works from her Habitat series.



Petite Camarque, 2023, acrylic on canvas
www.robinballard.ch

The main body of Ballard's work has been dedicated to nature and organic forms. Check out the upcoming February 2024 Horizon edition for a full bio of the artist.

Annual General Meeting 2024

The board is beginning preparations for the 2024 Annual General Meeting which will take place on Thursday 21st March 2024 in the Foyer Meeting Room (ground floor under the Centrepoint premises). As in past years, all documents relating to the AGM will be posted in the member's area of the website under the heading "Annual General Meeting 2024" as they become available before and after the meeting.

Members are reminded that any proposals for amendments or revisions to the statutes must be submitted to the board 45 days in advance of the meeting, i.e. by Monday 5th February 2024. The proposed amendment or revision must be specifically and clearly stated in the form of a motion to the AGM. The current statutes can be viewed in the membership area of the Centrepoint website.

Activity Groups

ARTS AND CRAFTS

CREATIVE STUDIO

Date: Fridays (upon request)
Time: 16:00-18:00
Place: Centrepoint
Who: Members only
Contact: creativestudio@centrepoint.ch



Bring along your latest project and materials (sorry, no oil painting permitted) for our informal art group. We'll share ideas and enthusiasm but also give you the time to work on your own.

MEN MODELLING!

Date: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday
Time: 16:30-18:30
Place: Centrepoint
Who: Members only
Contact: Peter at modelling@centrepoint.ch



If you fancy a chat over a beer about life in general or men's hobbies in particular, then come and join us. Now and again we also work on the current model. Please contact Peter to confirm dates.

HOOKS AND NEEDLES

Date: Every Thursday
Time: 14:00-16:00
Place: Centrepoint Library
Who: Members only
Contact: Heather at hooksandneedlescentrepoint.ch



Enjoy a good chat over a cup of tea or coffee while knitting, crocheting, cross stitching or quilting etc. We can't offer tutorials but we are always happy to help one another and offer advice.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Date: Tuesday 13th February
Time: 19:00-22:00
Place: Centrepoint Library
Who: Members only
Contact: Uwe at photography@centrepoint.ch



The Photography Group learns together by discussing photos, their quality and how they might be improved as well as going into the field for some practice. New members are always welcome.

OUTDOORS

SUNDAY WALKERS

Date: 3rd Sunday
Time: 10:00-13:00
Place: Basel region
Who: Members and friends
Contact: Giselle at sundaywalkers@centrepoint.ch



Join us as we go for a two-hour ramble through the Basel countryside. All walks are accessible by public transport.

BIRDWATCHING

Date: 2nd Saturday
Time: 09:00-11:30
Place: Basel region
Who: Members and friends
Contact: Dave at birdwatching@centrepoint.ch



Join Dave for a birding walk, sometimes searching for specific bird species, sometimes just checking what is around. Both beginners and experienced birders welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

GAMES

JASS

Date: Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Time: 14:00-16:00
Place: Centrepoint
Who: Members only
Contact: jass@centrepoint.ch



Some playing experience required.

BOWLING

Date: TBD
Time: TBD
Place: Arena Bowling, Stücki
Who: Members only
Contact: Kristina and Maik at bowling@centrepoint.ch



Everyone is welcome. No skills or minimum level of play are required. Casual, comfortable clothing is recommended. Cost per lane per hour (39.-) will be divided equally. Registration is open until Thursday 18:00 one week ahead. For registration send an email to bowling@centrepoint.ch with your name and number of bowlers.

GAMES

WEDNESDAY BRIDGE CLUB

Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 13:00-16:30
Place: Centrepoint Library
Who: Members only
Contact: Darlene at bridge@centrepoint.ch



Some playing experience required.

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS

Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 09:00-13:00
Place: Centrepoint library
Who: Members only
Contact: Sev at bridgeclub@centrepoint.ch



Come and learn the basics of bridge in a friendly atmosphere with lots of support.

WESTERN MAHJONG

Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 10:30-12:30
Place: Centrepoint Library
Who: Members only
Contact: Team at mahjong@centrepoint.ch



If you are interested in the game of Mahjong, please join us on Tuesday mornings. All levels welcome. We will also teach beginners the basics of this fascinating game.

SCRABBLE

Date: 3rd Wednesday
Time: 19:00-21:00
Place: Centrepoint Library
Who: Members only
Contact: Bronwen at scrabble@centrepoint.ch



Does your passive vocabulary need an airing? Do you enjoy playing with words? Then join us for an evening spent poring over the Scrabble board and shunting letters around. No previous experience required, just a love of language.

READING & WRITING

BOOKS IN ENGLISH

Date: 2nd Tuesday
Time: 17:30-19:00
Place: Centrepoint lounge
Who: Members only; non-members welcome to attend once
Contact: booksinenglish@centrepoint.ch



For a list of current and forthcoming books, send us an email. Feel free to drop in if you would like to join in the discussion (spoilers likely).

SPANISH BOOK CLUB

Date: Friday 15th December
Time: 17:00-18:30
Place: Centrepoint
Who: Members only
Contact: Olga at spanishreading@centrepoint.ch
Book: "Elena sabe" by Claudia Piñeiro



We select and read a total of six books per year. Every two months, we gather to share our points of view and discuss the material. Please read before the discussion. Come and join us!

THIN RAFT WRITERS

Date: 3rd Tuesday
Time: 19:30-22:00
Place: Centrepoint
Who: Members only
Contact: Roger at thinraftwriters@centrepoint.ch



Everyone is welcome. Bring your writing for review and constructive critique.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

YOGA

Date: Every Thursday
Time: 16:00-17:00
Place: Centrepoint Library
Who: Members only
Contact: Marianna at yoga@centrepoint.ch



Give your body and mind a chance to come closer together through the physical practice of yoga. Bring your mat and join Marianna in the library for an hour dedicated to ourselves. No yoga experience required.

MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

Date: Every Friday
Time: 13:00-14:00
Place: Centrepoint Library
Who: Members only
Contact: baselcounselling@gmail.com



No special equipment or clothes are required and all the sessions will be seated on ordinary seats. Sessions will be facilitated by Tony Moody and you just require an open and curious mind.

If you have an idea for a new group and would like to help organise and publicise it, please contact: activities@centrepoint.ch.

My aim is very simple - to help people resolve their emotional, psychological, relationship and work issues, so that they can live in a more positive and productive way.



I am a highly trained, qualified and experienced UK counsellor with over thirty-six years' experience of helping children, adults, couples and families through a wide range of problems at home and at work.

Centrepoint members are entitled to a half fee for the first consultation. My practice is just a five minute walk from the Centrepoint office.

Tony Moody

+41 (0) 79 962 8462
baselcounselling@gmail.com
www.baselcounselling.com

German Intensive Courses

5x/week mornings



all courses now hybrid

 inlingua

Conversation Groups

Good to Know

- Conversation groups are free of charge for Centrepoint members.
- Non-members can usually attend one session without charge, after which they must become a Centrepoint member.
- Conversation Groups are held in-person in the Centrepoint Conversations Room or Library. Certain groups are held online via Zoom.
- The groups are generally not suitable for absolute beginners.
- The conversation group leaders are volunteers.
- The primary purpose of the groups is language practise. Centrepoint does not provide structured language courses.

Joining a Conversation Group

- Please send an email to conversations@centrepoint.ch.
- We will send you an application form in which we ask you to provide some personal details and information about your language level.
- Then we will check for available places in suitable groups and invite you to a trial session. You may try more than one group if places are available.
- If there are no places available in any of the suitable groups, you may choose to go on a waiting list.
- We kindly ask that you only go to a group once you have received confirmation that a space is available from conversations@centrepoint.ch.

- (B) Beginners, A1-A2
- (B/I) A2-B1
- (I) Intermediate, B1-B2
- (I/A) B2-C1
- (A) Advanced, C1-C2

Current Courses

Baseldütsch

(B)	Thursday, 11:30-12:20	Doris Nett
-----	-----------------------	------------

(I)	Thursday, 12:30-13:25	Doris Nett
-----	-----------------------	------------

English

(B)	Tuesday, 11:20-12:15	Gillian Macdonald
-----	----------------------	-------------------

(B)	Wednesday, 9:30-10:25	Sarah Stringer (online)
-----	-----------------------	-------------------------

(B/I)	Monday, 12:00-12:55	Elsa Obolensky (English Coaching)
-------	---------------------	-----------------------------------

(I)	Thursday, 9:00-10:10	Alison Findlay
-----	----------------------	----------------

(I)	Thursday, 15:00-16:00	Jill Gregson
-----	-----------------------	--------------

(I/A)	Wednesday, 17:00-18:55	Vivian L. Beetle
-------	------------------------	------------------

(I/A)	Thursday, 13:45-14:40	Elsa Obolensky (English Coaching)
-------	-----------------------	-----------------------------------

(I/A)	Friday, 9:30-12:25	Carmel Curran, Rebecca Mantle
-------	--------------------	-------------------------------

(I/A)	Friday, 12:30-13:25	Marica Freuler, Sarah Stringer
-------	---------------------	--------------------------------

(A)	Tuesday, 12:30-13:25	Gillian Macdonald
-----	----------------------	-------------------

German

(B/I)	Monday, 13:30-14:30	Katrin Müller
-------	---------------------	---------------

(B/I)	Monday, 14:45-16:30	Esther Jucker
-------	---------------------	---------------

(B/I)	Tuesday, 14:45-15:45	Andrea Meerholz
-------	----------------------	-----------------

(I/A)	Monday, 18:00-19:00	Brigitta Bende
-------	---------------------	----------------

(I/A)	Thursday, 10:15-11:10	Brigitte Oeschger (German Plaudern)
-------	-----------------------	-------------------------------------

Italian

(B)	Wednesday, 12:00-13:00	Jenny Burckhardt
-----	------------------------	------------------

(I)	Monday, 9:00-10:30	Valentina Fontana
-----	--------------------	-------------------

(I/A)	Wednesday, 10:30-11:30	Jenny Burckhardt
-------	------------------------	------------------

(A)	Monday, 10:30-12:00	Valentina Fontana
-----	---------------------	-------------------

Russian

(B)	Tuesday, 10:00-10:55	Ludmila Cherednichenko
-----	----------------------	------------------------

Spanish

(B/I)	Tuesday, 9:00-9:55	Deyanira Ortiz Rusterholtz, Nallely Alvarado
-------	--------------------	--

(I)	Tuesday, 16:00-16:55	Gabriela Vivot
-----	----------------------	----------------

(A)	Friday, 16:00-17:10	Olga Märki
-----	---------------------	------------

Out and About

December/January Events

PETER BERRIE

The **Christmas Market** will be with us until Saturday 23rd December as will the Adväntsgass in Rheingasse, Kleinbasel: <https://www.basel.com/en/events/christmas>

The **Lörrach Christmas Circus** runs from 21st December to 7th January: <https://www.loerracherweihnachtsircus.de/>

There are horses galore at the **Longimes Classics** at the St Jakobshalle 11th to 14th January: <https://www.chi-classics-basel.com/>

Finally, don't forget the **Museumsnacht** on Friday 19th January, from 18:00-02:00: <https://museumsnacht.ch/programm/>

For other December and January highlights, check out the Basel Life calendar which has a comprehensive events listing which you can filter by event type: <https://www.baselife.com/events/>

Basel West Library

Toddler Tales (Ages 9 Months - 4 Years)

Join us for a half hour of interactive exploration of classic stories. We will introduce you to a wonderful world of books and language through singing, rhyming and dancing.

Date: Friday 22nd December
Time: 10:15-10:45

After School Story Time (Ages 4 - 8 Years)

Date: Thursday 7th, 14th, 21st December
Time: 16:00-17:00

Information for January under:

<https://www.stadtbibliothekbasel.ch/de/veranstaltungen.html>
(filter by English Events, GGG Bibliothek Basel West)

Basel Panto

Sleeping Beauty

Date: Thursday 7th, Friday 8th December, 19:30
Saturday 9th December, 14:00 and 19:30
Sunday 10th December, 13:00 and 17:00

More info: <https://www.baselpanto.org>



WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND?

Do you have a friend (or two?) who might like to join Centrepoint?

Perhaps they would like to meet and chat with new friends over a coffee in English at our Friday Coffee Mornings or in German at our Wednesday Kaffee auf Deutsch?

- or chat over a glass of wine and nibbles at our monthly evening apéro?

- or practise speaking English, German, French, Italian, Spanish or Baseldütsch?

- or listen to a talk, go on a trip or take part in one of our activity groups?

- or read a book from our library or our latest edition of Horizon?

Centrepoint offers many ways to meet people and socialise. So why not suggest us to a friend?

Visit www.centrepoint.ch for details.

Basel Essentials

More Conservative, Less Green; The Swiss Had Their Say

BRIGITTA HÄNGGI



Bundeshaus Bern (Brigitta Hänggi)

With a voter turnout of 46.6 %, Federal elections were held in Switzerland on 22nd October 2023. Every four years the Swiss elect or re-elect all members of the National Council (Nationalrat) and Council of States (Ständerat). These elections will be followed on 13th December 2023 by the full Parliament electing the Federal Council (Bundesrat), Switzerland's government and collegial presidency.

Instability in many parts of the world seemed to influence Swiss voters with concerns about rising immigration outweighing those about the environment, as reflected in the final results. Many people voted for parties which promised security, order and a strong state.

National Council

The big winner overall was the right-wing People's Party (SVP) with the Greens (GRÜNE Schweiz) and Liberal Greens (GLP) suffering major setbacks. Forecasters had predicted that the Conservative Party (SVP) would gain votes. Their campaign slogans promised more security and focused strongly on migration and refugee movements which made many voters turn more conservative throughout Switzerland. They ended up with 28.6% of the voter share, the second-best result in the party's history.

The left, the Social Democrats (SP), also gained but more modestly. They addressed issues like the loss of purchasing power and the costs of rent, health insurance and daycare. Their voter share was 18.3%.

In general, parties which addressed concrete concerns and promised solutions were able to increase their share of the electorate.

Because neither the right nor the left camp would stand to have a majority in the future, the real winner was not the SVP. Even though the Centre (Mitte) Party gained only one seat, it was poised to have the most important role to play - that of determining the majority in the National Council.

These results were true until Wednesday when big headlines proclaimed that the federal government had miscalculated. The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) said Sunday's results - 14.6% for the Centre Party and 14.4% for the Radical-Liberals (FDP) - were wrong. The Radical-Liberals in fact got 14.3% and the Centre Party 14.1%.

The Mitte no longer was in the position of determining the majority with its 14.1%. The FDP will again be the third largest party. There were also slight adjustments in the other parties' results, although they did not change the ranking.

The newly elected parliament is more right-wing and less green although according to post-election surveys, voters still expect social problems to be fixed and a move forward with the country's energy transition. The National Council became a little younger on Sunday. Whereas the average age was previously 51.7 years, it is now 49.5 years.

Basel-Stadt stands out in particular. For the first time in its history, the Canton is sending an all-woman delegation to the Federal Parliament. Four previous female National Council members managed to be re-elected while Mustafa Atici (SP) lost his re-election bid for the lower house. Basel-Stadt had lost one National Council seat because of redistribution. The four successful incumbents are Sarah Wyss (SP), Patricia von Falkenstein (LDP), Sibel Arslan (Greens/Basta) and Katja Christ (GLP). Eva Herzog (SP) achieved the best result in 40 years in the elections for the Council of States.

Satisfaction for Eva Herzog

Incumbent Councilwomen Eva Herzog (SP) will continue to represent the canton of Basel-Stadt in the Council of States. Her conservative challengers had no chance. Herzog ultimately garnered 42,677 votes, more votes than anyone else in 40 years.

"For me, today is a day of joy," said Herzog. In December 2022 Herzog had been on the verge of crowning her political career: She was considered the clear favourite in the race to succeed SP Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga. In the end, she lost but kept her seat in the Council of States in Bern. Herzog will now achieve a coronation after all. In December 2023 she is expected to be elected President of the Council of States - a gratifying alternative to not being elected to the Federal Council. Herzog will continue to be one of the most influential players in Swiss financial and fiscal policy over the next four years.

Watch out for news of the outcome of December's election of a Federal Councillor in the February Horizon edition.



Eva Herzog (SP) (permission granted to use image)

The Price of Success

PETER BERRIE

Sunday 22nd October saw the completion of the first round of the Swiss Super League with FC Basel firmly anchored at the bottom of the table, four points adrift of their nearest rivals. Even if they win their match in hand against FC Lugano, the club will still be seven points behind a position in the upper half of the table, which would ensure that they do not have to be part of the relegation round in the final five matches of the season.

Until that time there are 66 points to be won, so although things look black at the moment, there is still time to get them right. But what went wrong?

Back in June the club appointed a new trainer, Timo Schultz, who trained St Pauli, Hamburg, for two and a half years before being sacked in December 2022, when the club was facing relegation from the second German league. After "long and serious consideration", FC Basel saw Schultz as the ideal man to lead them back to the top of the table.

When Schultz signed, Basel had just completed a motley season, just scraping fifth position in the league, but with a fantastic run from second qualifying round to the semi-final of the Europa Conference League. It was clear that this success would bring in offers from bigger clubs - Basel has always let players go - but losing nine good players before the summer transfer window closed meant that the team had to be rebuilt. The last three, including two strong midfielders, went after the season had started, making the task even more difficult as potential replacements were already out on loan.

In his explanation of Schultz's dismissal, St Pauli's chairman described the latter's match plan as "hope plus a striker". Thierry Barry has proven to be a striker who can win a high ball, but where it goes afterwards is unpredictable. In addition, there is seldom a midfielder following up behind him. The current wingers don't go for the byline but rather pass back early, taking the pressure off the opposing defence.

Basel's own defence look solid at times, but not solid enough to hold a 1-0 lead. This is not helped by the Jöggeli crowd whistling when possession is held - my memories of Leeds United in their halcyon days have the crowd cheering and counting every successful pass. This pressure to always attack leads to the full backs moving too far up field, leaving the defence vulnerable to counterattacks. It



Renato Veiga in action against Luzern (FC Basel, LC)

was this that led to the 1-1 draw against Luzern, a match that should have been won, and where Basel finally began to look like a team.

Unfortunately, the FCB powers that be decided otherwise. Schultz was dismissed after the match and an unhappy Heiko Vogel* took over again as team manager. The match against Stade Lausanne-Ouchy three days later showed what team

spirit and a strong midfield (led by Basel loan Emmanuel Essiam) can do, as Basel were sunk 0-3. The crowd actually applauded the last goal.

Is there anything positive to say? Well, Portuguese U21 defensive midfielder Renato Veiga looks well worth his transfer fee - he just needs to find a reliable partner in the offensive midfield (oldies Xhaka and Frey are more defensive). Finn van Breeman at centre-half also looks good at times. If Barry learns how to control the ball and pass accurately, he will definitely be an asset. For the general situation, a couple of wins would probably be enough to change the team's fortunes - the potential is there.

*Heiko Vogel was sacked as chief coach on 31st October. His replacement is Fabio Celestini, former chief coach of Sion.

Where happy children thrive!

DISCOVER THE ELA BASEL DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF

- From 3 months to 12 years
- Two city-centre locations
- UK Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum
- English language tuition with intensive German and French
- Small class sizes
- Wrap-around care from 07:30 to 18:00
- Home-cooked snacks and hot lunches included
- Creative curriculum that includes: swimming, music, performing arts, sports
- Outdoor learning opportunities, forest days and most educational trips included
- After-school enrichment clubs and Vacation Programme
- Open 50 weeks per year

ELA BASEL
The Swiss British School of Basel

Contact us to book a tour and FREE trial day

ELA Basel, Gartenstrasse 93, 4052, Basel, Switzerland
+41 61 313 05 80
admission@ela-basel.ch

COBIS
MEMBER

On the Right Track

TEXT AND PHOTOS PETER BERRIE



Approach to Moorthorpe Junction: the buildings are freelance and made from Bristol board with brick and stone coverings

Yesterday morning my wife rang up and told me about a dream she had just before she awoke. It took place in a railway station "with lots of lines" and I was there "playing a positive role".

"Was I the engine driver?", I asked.

Just what the role was she could not say, but I must admit that I would have liked to have been the engine driver of her dreams. As a small boy, becoming an engine driver was the answer I gave to anyone who asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. It was also the answer that most of my peers would have given. Railways played a major role in small-boy life.

Just why I find railways so fascinating is hard to say. It might have started with my father playing cricket on Saturdays for Slazengers. Their cricket field was next to Horbury cutting and at any sign of an approaching train, a crowd of small boys would rush to the fence to spot the number.

Then there were the Wolf Cubs - the weekly meeting finished around 7:45, just time enough to grab threepenny-worth of chips before rushing to see the "ten-past eighter" steam locomotive race through Horbury & Ossett station behind Jubilee Classes "Mars" 45698, "Dauntless" 45717 and "Glorious" 45719 or the unnamed "Patriot" 45517.

With the railway nearby, it wasn't long before whole Saturday afternoons were spent trainspotting. At first the numbers were put in a small red book, then, after saving several weeks' pocket money, came the moment when I bought my first Ian Allen ABC of British Locomotives - for the North Eastern Region. Imagine my disap-

pointment on getting home and opening it to find that none of the numbers I had collected were in it. My numbers started with 4 or 5 and all the numbers in the ABC started with 6!

A quick consultation with a couple of older boys revealed that in order to see the "sixers" I had to go to Wakefield Westgate. This involved taking the bus, which I was allowed to do in the company of a friend. What a difference to the Calder valley line, which was predominantly freight. Here we had the Kings Cross-Leeds expresses and the highlight of every afternoon, the up and down "Queen of Scots" Pullman. It was here that I fell in love with all things LNER (London North Eastern Railway).

Another "must" in small-boy life in the 1950s was the train set. I got one for Christmas at the age of five and have had one ever since. It grew piece by piece

on birthdays and Christmas and, as I entered adolescence, by Airfix kits that I assembled myself. In 1960, I decided to exchange my weekly Eagle magazine for the monthly Railway Modeller, 63 years of which now adorn my bookshelves.

Model railways have also kept me firmly in their grip. It's probably because they need a combination of skills to make a good model. The manual work involved and the problem solving that comes with it is a good counterbalance to more intellectual pursuits such as scientific research, translating or technical writing. I assembled my first locomotive kit and scratch-built my first wagon at university.

When I first came to Germany in 1973, I bought my first N gauge¹ locomotives, two BR-outline Minitrix locomotives. N gauge was new at the time and offered a railway in minimum space. My first N gauge layout had to wait, however, until my wife and I returned to Stuttgart in 1978. My collection then started to grow, but mostly through second-hand purchases at local toy markets.

It was only after arriving in Lörrach in 1990 that my modelling career really took off. I joined an N gauge group, the "N'ler in Dreiländereck", which wanted to build modules, get together four or five times a year at weekends and run trains to its heart's content. This, plus exhibiting, we have been doing for the past 33 years. In that time, I have built 22 modules, including two stations, one of which I sold. A number of these modules form a permanent layout in my cellar - moving house some years ago merely involved rearranging the modules to suit the available space.



BLS Re425 No. 180 at Basel Badischer Bahnhof

Hobbies Build Community

MEAGHAN RENNER OFORI

My interest in railways has also brought with it a number of friends and acquaintances. At the recent Eimeldingen second-hand Börse I met not only fellow N'lers, but also the BLS² engine driver who showed us around the Basel loco shed - and allowed us to drive a loco up and down the track outside the SBB - as well as a Frenchman, who helps organise the Bartenheim model railway show.

And my interest in full scale railways has not waned over the years. Nowadays it is the unusual things that catch the eye. For instance, the brown BLS locomotives that have been hanging around the Basel Badischer Bahnhof for the last couple of weeks, despite the fact they are supposed to be mothballed, or the Rheingold express locomotive, which should really be in a museum in Konstanz.

On my many journeys to Freiburg I watch the progress of the new line between Basel and Müllheim. Back at home I don't need a watch, only the S5 and S6 passing my window. And the treat of the week is the midday Tuesday to Thursday log train, which can vary between a locomotive alone to a collection of five wagons. Yes, railways have a lot to offer the enthusiast and can be a rewarding hobby for an entire lifetime. Back in 1952, I was certainly on the right track.

¹ N gauge is a set of standards used in railway modelling to define the distance between two rails, referred to as the gauge. The 'N' stems from the distance of nine millimetres between rails.

² BLS written in full is the Berner Alpenbahn Gesellschaft Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon. It is one of the "big" rail companies of Switzerland.



Sunday Walkers (Brigitta Hänggi)

Hobbies are a great way to make friends and build community. Centrepoint already knows this and has done such a great job providing activity groups to encourage and foster hobbies within their community. With groups dedicated to games, crafts and outdoor activities, Centrepoint provides the perfect venue to join in the fun, meet some new people and foster a sense of belonging.

At You Belong in Basel we also recognize the importance of hobbies in forming

a community and as such have devoted several articles to the subject. These articles have a wide range of topics including cooking classes, painting, gardening, yoga, woodworking, hiking and more. We look at these articles as 'How-to Guides' so that if people are interested in a particular hobby they can find the resources they need which makes it easier for them to get involved and feel a greater connection to the Basel community.

Do you play racket sports? Are you part of a theatre group? Would you like the wider public to know more about the great activity groups available at Centrepoint? Do you enjoy writing? We are looking for volunteer writers to share their passion for hobbies! If you are interested, we would be very grateful for your participation. We are so lucky to have a growing community of contributors that have shared their knowledge and passion so far. Maybe you too can join our team!

For more information, please visit our site or get in contact.
www.ybibasel.ch
meaghan.renner@ybibasel.ch

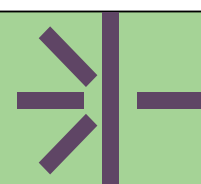
Egg freezing as fertility preservation at the RME (Universitätsspital Basel)

At the center for reproductive medicine and gynaecologic endocrinology (RME) of the University Hospital Basel, we offer elective oocyte cryopreservation (egg freezing) for reproductive age women who are interested in having children but not ready yet.

The latest freezing technology (vitrification) is used to preserve the eggs.

To learn more about this treatment and to find out whether egg freezing is a good option for you, contact us at reproendo@usb.ch.

 Universitätsspital
Basel



English consultations with reproductive specialists available

Features

Swiss' Favourite Hobbies

ALISON WATERFIELD



The favourite Swiss hobby: travelling (Pixabay)

It's no secret that the Swiss work a lot but what do they actually do on their days off or after work? With the aim to find some concrete data, I started with a google search (as you do!). I came across Statista (statista.com), a leading online statistics portal that integrates statistical data on over 80,000 topics from more than 22,500 sources. Luckily data for my specific search ("Switzerland's favourite hobbies") was available for me to view.

Statista conducted an online survey on the subject of "Most popular hobbies and activities" with a total of 7,804 respondents in Switzerland aged between 18-64 years old during the time period July 2022 to June 2023. The specific survey question I am interested in was phrased as "What are your personal hobbies and activities?"

Travelling was the most popular answer with a 41% share of respondents, closely followed, as one would expect, by outdoor activities (39%). The top five answers in fact all cluster closely within 10% of the top answer; in descending order from third to fifth place: cooking / baking (38%), socialising (38%) and reading (37%). Doing sports and fitness came in sixth place (27%), followed by pets (27%), tech/computers (24%), gardening and plants (23%) and video gaming (23%) in tenth place.

Activity	Share of Respondents
Travelling	41%
Outdoor activities	39%
Cooking / baking	38%
Socialising	38%
Reading	37%
Doing sports and fitness	33%
Pets	27%
Tech / computers	24%
Gardening and plants	23%
Video gaming	23%
DIY and arts & crafts	22%
Photography	21%
Board games / card games	19%
Cars / vehicles	19%
Meditation / wellness	19%
Making music	15%
Writing	15%
Other	5%
Don't know	1%

Most popular hobbies and activities in Switzerland as of June 2023 (Statista.com)

How do the Swiss cohort's answers compare to those of its bordering neighbours, other European countries and those from other countries around the globe? I browsed some of the openly accessible data on the top two hobbies given in respective surveys carried out by Statista in 2023.

Our only close neighbour with outdoor activities in a top two spot is Austria - as might be expected. In France, cooking/baking took the top spot (as I would expect, France being the country of gastronomy), while the Germans seem to enjoy socialising the most and the Italians travelling.

Travelling, socialising, cooking/baking and reading score highly in other European countries, as well as in the US, Canada and Australia. Travelling and reading dominate the top two activities in most of the Asian countries I could find data for, with the exception of China which has outdoor activities and sports and fitness in its top two. Tech/computers comes in second place in Nigeria, Egypt and Turkey and first in Brazil. Otherwise the usual suspects reading, travelling and cooking/baking again feature in the top two.

It is clear to see that there is significant overlap in the top hobbies and activities of individuals in every country around the world no matter the location. What are your favourite hobbies?!



Baking, a universal pastime (Pixabay)

What's in a Phrase?

MARYANN BARNACLE



Maryann on her hobbyhorse (Steve Barnacle)

When I heard that the theme of this edition of Horizon was to be "hobbies" one phrase immediately came into my mind: **"to get on one's hobbyhorse"**. This phrase is used to describe someone who is obsessed with a particular topic and who tends to talk about it excessively, often to the annoyance of others! For example, it could be used to describe someone who is passionate about their personal hobby, say stamp collecting, and bores other (less interested) people by constantly talking about stamps! The phrase dates from the 17th century when a popular children's toy was the hobbyhorse (a stick with a model horse's head on one end which children would pretend to ride). Thus, when someone talks incessantly about their favourite topic it is thought that they gain a similar level of enjoyment as a child does riding their hobbyhorse.

There are so many hobbies aren't there? And, as the saying goes, **"one man's meat is another man's poison"**, i.e., what one person enjoys or values, another person may not. This phrase is very old indeed. It was first published in English in an autobiography by the English composer Thomas Whythorne in 1576 but the Roman poet and philosopher Titus Lucretius Carus (known as Lucretius) used the same phrase (though obviously in Latin!) in the first century BC.

Many people collect things as a hobby - stamps, coins, vintage cars, etc. - and

they always want to collect things that are in **"mint condition"**, i.e., in perfect condition. The first recorded use of the phrase dates back to the 1540s when it was used by workers in coin production facilities (known as "mints") to describe coins which had just been stamped but had yet to be used. The phrase extended from coins to stamps, and by the 1920s it was used to describe any second-hand/used items that had been well-maintained. How many items do you see advertised on eBay as in "mint condition"?!

Fishing or angling is another popular hobby, i.e., using a fishing rod to catch fish in a sea, lake or river. However, those who don't like the hobby of fishing may still **"fish for compliments"**, a phrase in popular usage by the late 1700s meaning to attempt to gain praise and reassurance from someone by pretending to be modest or by saying negative things about oneself. The person seeking to be praised (the fisherman) uses false modesty (bait) to gain praise (the fish)!

Those who read for a hobby literally read the words of a book but sometimes, if the storyline is particularly complicated, they may also need to **"read between the lines"**. This phrase, meaning to understand something which isn't obvious or explicitly stated, is derived from a form of cryptography in which confidential messages were hidden between lines of text. By the mid-18th century, the phrase was being used to describe being able to understand the meaning of any unclear form of communication. A good example of needing to read between the lines is when someone (often British) says that something is "interesting" (is it really interesting or is it not?!).

Do you play a musical instrument as a hobby? I used to play the flute. I was pretty good even though I don't like to **"blow my own trumpet"**. This phrase means to boast about one's skills or achievements and appears to be derived from the practice in medieval times of announcing the arrival of an important guest at a formal gathering with a fanfare of horns. The idea is that a truly important person is recognised by others and is heralded, while a self-important person remains unrecognised by others and must therefore blow his own trumpet. In American English I believe a phrase with a similar meaning is **"to toot your own horn"**.

Let me finish this article with a phrase taken from the hobby of baking which I hope you will agree is **"the icing on the cake"**. Covering cakes in icing was introduced into baking in the 1600s. At that time, sugar was very expensive. To have a cake was already a treat and if icing was added it was even more special. So, the phrase to put "icing on the cake" came to be used to refer to something that enhanced or improved an already positive situation though it can also be used in a sarcastic manner meaning that something bad has been added to an already bad situation. In this particular context I will leave it to the reader to interpret whether this last paragraph really was "the icing on the cake" (good or bad)!



PRE-SCHOOL

Bi-lingual (English and German). For children from 3 months to 4 years old. Full and half day options.

KINDERGARTEN

Bi-lingual Kindergarten with full and extended day options. For children from 4 to 6 years old.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bi-lingual Primary School with full and extended day options. Small class sizes. Excellent resources.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Bi-lingual Secondary School with flexible options. We cater to every student's individual needs. Small class sizes. Excellent resources.

CAMPS

Sports, music, art, dance and cultural camps during school holidays.

BREAKFAST, HOT LUNCH PROGRAM & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Hohestrasse 150, CH-4104 Oberwil
Office +41 61 301 00 69, www.blis.swiss

On a Lighter Note

Recipe of the Month

MARIIA MANDZIUK

Vognuk

I made this recipe for the recent GGG event celebrating the Basel Ukraine community and due to popular demand share the recipe with you all here. It is my mother's recipe and I hope you enjoy it!

Servings: 8
Preparation Time: 30 min

Ingredients

- 200g block of processed cheese (Schmelzkäse), pre-frozen for 20 min (to make grating easier)
- 3 large eggs (or 4 medium)
- 2 garlic cloves, pressed
- 2 tbsp mayonnaise
- Ground pepper mix - pinch, to taste
- Salt - pinch, to taste

Instructions

Hard-boil the eggs for approximately 10 minutes. Let them cool, then peel and grate them on a medium-sized grater. Grate the cheese.

In a salad bowl combine the grated eggs and cheese with the pressed garlic and mayonnaise, then lightly season with salt and pepper. Mix everything thoroughly.

Adjust the consistency and seasoning to your liking. If the mixture is a bit dry, add a little more mayonnaise to it. The mixture is now ready to serve. Serve immediately or store mixture in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 3 days.

Serving Suggestions

Serve immediately, garnished with olives and sprigs of herbs, for example dill.

Serve on slices of fresh or fried bread, slices of crackers or fresh vegetables, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, etc.



(Brigitta Hänggi)

NSH!

Learn German now!

Start a German course now with 10% off*
Available for German courses Intensive Plus, Intensive, Standard and Crash Course.
Fill out the consultancy form and comment **GERMAN10**.

* Not redeemable on other courses, one-to-one-lessons and Goethe certificates.

Scan for further details, or go to [nsh.ch](https://www.nsh.ch)



NSH
BILDUNGS
ZENTRUM

ipso! Bildung
seit 1876

Cartoon

MARCO LEHMANN



Basel in Detail: Where Am I?

TEXT AND PHOTOS HARRIET GOEPFERT



"I actually wanted an alhorn for my birthday..."

This object is somewhere in the old centre of Basel. It can easily be seen from the street.

The answer will be in the next edition of Horizon.



Answer to November Basel In Detail

The answer to last edition's "Where am I?" puzzle is: The object is on the left-hand side of the front façade of the Münster. You can't miss it!

Puzzles

Word Search and Sudoku

HARRIET GOEPFERT AND ANDREW CRAVEN

This month's search is about hobbies:

ACTIVITY, AMUSEMENT, BIRDWATCHING, BOWLING, BRIDGE, COMPUTER, COOKING, DISTRACTION, GARDENING, GENEALOGY, GYM, HOBBY, HOBBYHORSE, INTEREST, JASS, LEARNING, MAHJONG, MODELLING, PASTIME, PHOTOGRAPHY, PLAY, PLEASURE, RECREATION, RELAXATION, SCRABBLE, SHOPPING, SINGING, SPELEOLOGY, SPORT, WALKING

Solution next month.



November Solution



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution next month.

9		4	6					
	3			1		7		
5					4	3		
			1	2		9		
	9						3	
		2		9	8			
		8	3					6
		9		8			7	
					7	4		5

Everyone knows that if a square has only one option, then of course that's the solution, and no other square in the row, column or block can have that same number. Note that the same elimination rule is true if two squares in a row, column or block only have two solutions, and 3 and 4 and so on.

November Solution

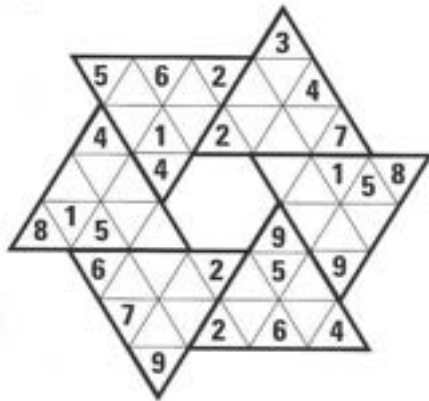
3	9	5	8	7	1	4	2	6
4	8	2	6	9	3	1	5	7
7	1	6	2	4	5	3	8	9
6	5	1	7	2	4	9	3	8
2	3	8	1	6	9	5	7	4
9	7	4	5	3	8	6	1	2
8	4	9	3	5	7	2	6	1
1	2	3	4	8	6	7	9	5
5	6	7	9	1	2	8	4	3

Riddles

MARCEL CORPATAUX

A) Sudoku Christmas Star

For Christmas we have a very special Sudoku. Enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty fields in such a way that each number appears exactly once in the triangles formed by new fields and in each row. The outer rows also include the points of the star.



B) Who goes with which glass?

- Artist
- Optimist
- Surrealist
- Utopist
- Scepticist
- Realist
- Physicist
- Pessimist
- Relativist



C) Faulty Father Christmas

No, they are not seeing double! Because the right Santa differs from the left one in five details. Can you discover all five differences?



Beware! (Vorsicht Falle):

- 1) What is in the middle of Paris?
- 2) What is in seasons, seconds, centuries and minutes but not in decades, years or days?
- 3) What animal keeps the best time?
- 4) How many types of animals did Moses take on his ark?
- 5) What happens to the dog when it stands in front of the hot sun?
- 6) What room has no windows, floors, ceilings or doors?
- 7) What do you call a chicken with bad sunburn?
- 8) Morgan's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and who?

If you need help?: marcel.corpataux@bluewin.ch

November solutions:

- A.) "PRIZE PUZZLE"
- a.) Big bang.
 - b.) The first galaxies form.
 - c.) Our sun comes into being, shortly followed by our planets.
 - d.) The first land plants colonise the surface.
 - e.) Asteroid impact wipes out the dinosaurs.
 - f.) Homo Sapiens emerges.
 - g.) Cultures produce monuments (Stonehenge / pyramids).
 - h.) Today.

$$10 + (6 * 2) - (60 / 3) + 8 - (7 * 1) = 3$$

The winner will be announced in the next Horizon magazine.

B) - D.) ask: marcel.corpataux@bluewin.ch

What am I?

- 1) A road.
- 2) A porcupine.
- 3) Snow.
- 4) Time.
- 5) The pupil of the eye.
- 6) Icicle.
- 7) A ship.
- 8) An iceberg.

Partners and Communities

Partners

BASEL LIFE



Basel Life is an online English-language event calendar and guide to living in Basel. With events, museum exhibits, fairs, markets, sports, excursion ideas, culture, history and practical tips for living in Basel and Switzerland, you can find what you are looking for at Basel Life. The easy-to-use calendar lists events for all age groups and interests that you can share or download to your electronic calendar with a simple click. Completely free and anonymous to use. www.baselife.com

FRESH AIR KIDS



Fresh Air Kids Switzerland is on a BIG mission to start an outdoor revolution that connects as many families as possible to the natural world. By breaking down the barriers of spending quality time outside, we hope to inspire, motivate and encourage more outdoor adventure in the lives of families across the globe. www.freshairkids.com

YOU BELONG IN BASEL



Comprehensive website with informative articles, detailed profiles and travel suggestions about how to settle, connect and thrive in the Basel region. www.ybibasel.ch

General Community Interest

BASEL CONNECT NETWORK

BaselConnect supports the collaboration between expats and locals. They strive to open and maintain dialogue and answer questions about life in Basel. www.baselconnect.ch

BASEL EXPATS

This site is a free service to the expat community in Basel and beyond. The purpose of the site is to inform English speaking expats living in the Tri-Nations Region on the 'knee' of the Rhine about issues that may be of interest to them. <http://baseexpats.com>

BASEL IN ENGLISH

Website with everything you need to know about Basel... in English. www.BaselInEnglish.ch

LIFE IN BASEL

This site is dedicated to providing accurate, honest and balanced information about living in or moving to Basel. www.lifeinbasel.com

THE ENGLISH SHOW

Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 pm; Radio X, 94.5, weekly news from Switzerland and cultural events in Basel and surroundings. www.theenglishshow.com

Social & Professional Groups

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BASEL (AWC)

A non-profit social and civic association founded in 1947, the AWC aims to further social relationships among American women who live in the Basel area (including women of other nationalities with ties to America), to promote friendly relations with our host country and the greater English-speaking community, and to contribute financial aid primarily to Swiss philanthropic organizations. www.awcbasel.org

BASEL COACHES DIRECT

Monthly get-togethers over coffee or dinner for local coaches. Contact Sharon on mpconsultandcoach@gmail.com for more information and to join the list.

BASEL HOUSEMEN VEREIN

We are an English-speaking association of housemen, men who stay at home to look after the children and the house while the wife is out hunting and gathering. www.facebook.com/hausmen.verein

BASEL INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

One of the two public Toastmasters clubs in Basel city that holds meetings exclusively in English, Basel. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month from 18:45 - 21:00. Guests are welcome. <http://bis-tm.org/>

BASEL IRISH CLUB

We provide a focal point for Irish people, their families and friends, and those interested in all things Irish in the Basel region. www.baselirishclub.org

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP OF BASEL

PWG Basel is a not-for-profit volunteer organization of international English-speaking women from all around the world who live in the Basel area. It exists to offer women of diverse professional and cultural backgrounds a platform to gain new insights, exchange information and share experiences whilst building friendships and professional relationships in a welcoming and social environment. www.pwg-basel.ch

TOASTMASTERS OF BASEL

Meets on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 18:45 - 21:00 in the Lohnhof Foyer. Guests are welcome. email: tmbaselinfo@gmail.com www.toastmasters-basel.ch www.toastmasters.org

Parenting Community

BASEL CHILDREN'S TRUST

The BCT is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that provides help, support, and information to expectant parents and families with young children living in the Basel area: from "bump" to "babe" and "beyond". <https://baselchildrenstrust.ch/>

BASEL INTERNATIONAL GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouting is a fun activity for English-speaking girls between 5 and 18. For more information contact baselusagso@gmail.com, www.baselgirlscouts.com

HSK ENGLISH (HEIMATLICHE SPRACHE UND KULTUR)

HSK offers English lessons to mother-tongue speakers who attend Swiss schools in Basel-Stadt and Basel-Land and would like to keep up and improve their English. www.hsk-english.ch

PLAY BASEL

Here you can find lots of ideas and information about family-friendly activities in and around Basel. <https://play-basel.weebly.com/>

SCOUTS BSA BASEL

Scouting for boys and girls aged 6-18. Pack #681 has been active in Basel for more than 40 years. For Cubs (ages 6-11): <http://baselcubs.ch> Scouts (ages 11-18) www.troopwebhost.org/Troop681Basel/index.htm

Health and Well-being

ALANON (English-Speaking)

Sunday evenings, 17:45 - 18:45, Schweizergasse 23. Contact: alanon.basel@gmail.com For families and friends of alcoholics. Offers Dandelion on-line forum 24 hours hotline service 0848 848 84 www.al-anon.alateen.org, www.al-anon.ch

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (English-Speaking)

Mondays, 18:30 Schweizergasse 23, Wednesdays, 19:30 Florastrasse 12, Sundays, 19:00 Schweizergasse 23. You are cordially welcome to attend. For further information please call: 061 643 0214.

SELF-HELP CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Krebsliga beider Basel has an English-speaking support group that meets one or two times per month. For more information or to register please contact Judith Csapo, rebalance@juditcsapo.com. <https://basel.krebsliga.ch/veranstaltungen-kurse/cancer-support-group-english-speaking-2-1>

Music and Theatre

BASEL CHAMBER VOICES

A small choir of mostly amateur musicians (SATB) devoted to unaccompanied singing. We practise weekly and put on concerts in January and June. email: basel.chamber.voices@gmail.com <https://baselchambervoices.weebly.com>

BASEL ENGLISH PANTOMIME GROUP

Produces the Basel Panto at the Scala each year. www.baselpanto.org

GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

Enjoy Gilbert and Sullivan and socialise with like-minded people in the Basel region. Contact: savoyardsbasel@gmail.com. www.savoyards.ch

THE SEMI-CIRCLE

Basel's English-speaking amateur theatre with two productions a year as well as play-readings on the 1st Monday of the month at Centrepont. www.semicircle-basel.com

Sports

BASEL DRAGONS RUNNING CLUB

Mondays and Thursdays at 18:30, at Landskronstrasse 26.
www.baselrunning.ch

BASEL HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Usually meet the second Saturday of the month at 14:00, but check website for details.
<https://basel.harrier.eu.org>

BASEL HOCKEY CLUB

Basel Hockey Club welcomes players of all ages and abilities.
www.bhc.ch

BASEL TOUCH (RUGBY) CLUB

Touch is an increasingly popular low-contact rugby-like game played by men and women. We welcome all skill levels, from total newbies to legendary masters.
www.baseltouch.ch

Government Sites

BASEL FOR NEW ARRIVALS

The Kanton Basel-Stadt provides useful information in English for people newly arriving in Basel.
www.bdm.bs.ch/Wohnen/basel-for-new-arrivals.html

BASEL NETWORK ONLINE TIMETABLE

Find your route to Centrepoint and everywhere in the Basel tri-regional area using BVB online time tables.
<https://www.bvb.ch/en/fahrplan>

BASEL TOURISM

The purpose of Basel Tourismus is the promotion of tourism in the city of Basel and its surrounding area in close collaboration with the public authorities, partners in the tourist sector and other interested groups.
<https://www.basel.com/en>

BRITISH/SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) was founded in 1920 and is an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting its 750-plus members and promoting business relations between Switzerland, Liechtenstein and the UK. The Chamber provides an ideal network and platform for business people to facilitate dialogue and change.
<https://bscc.co.uk/>

GERMAN COURSES

You can find details from the Kanton Basel-Stadt about language schools and German courses in Basel. There are options in the top right-hand corner of the website to select an English or other language translation of the site.
<https://www.deutschkurse.bs.ch/>

LIVING IN BASEL

Useful information in English from the Kanton Basel-Stadt about living and working in Basel.
www.bs.ch/en/Portrait/living-in-basel.html

English Services

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF BASEL

10:30 morning service (contemporary style) with children's and youth ministry
Adventhaus, Rümelinbachweg 60, Basel
17:30 evening service (traditional style)
Niklauskapelle in the Basel Münster cloisters
Chaplain Revd Caroline Throup
www.anglicanbasel.ch 061 321 7477

THE BAHAI LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF BASEL

The unity of mankind
Children's Junior Group and introductory classes for Adults
Regular public meetings in Lohnhof, Basel.
1st Saturday each month, at 17:30. 061 311 60 77

BASEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

10:30 every Sunday with crèche
Johanneskirche, Am Krayenrain, 4046 Basel
Mark and Maureen Hill, 061 751 82 06
www.baselfellowship.org

CATHOLIC SUNDAY MASS

Bruder Klaus Kirche, Bruderholzallee 140, Basel
17:30 Sunday Evening Mass
Father Sibi, 061 735 11 57
www.esrccb.org

CROSSROADS BASEL

Please check our website for Sunday service times and location:
www.crossroadsbasel.ch
Contemporary music, youth ministry, Sunday School and Crèche
Pastor David Fortune
Contact: office@crossroadsbasel.ch

GELLERT CHURCH at Christian Merian Platz (Karl-Barth tram stop)

19:00 every Sunday
Service translated into English (please request headphones). Band plays modern music. Meal for a reasonable price is offered at the Rundum Caffé downstairs before the service.

MIGWAN - Liberal Jewish Congregation

Herrngrabenweg 50, 4054 Basel
Basel's egalitarian Jewish group.
Religious classes for children and adults.
Please visit our website for more info
www.migwan.ch or e-mail us at migwan@migwan.ch

QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP

10:00 (1st Sunday of each month)
CVJM, Claragraben 123, Basel
Nancy Krieger: +33 389 54 10 72 or
nancy.kreiger@wanadoo.fr

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF BASEL

An inclusive liberal spiritual community with humanitarian values.
Please see our website for Sunday service times:
www.UUBasel.org
or e-mail us at: UU.Basel@gmail.com

German Integration Groups

2x/week evenings



 inlingua

Advertising Information

Horizon is published 10 times per year (double issues July/August and December/January) and distributed on paper (in black and white) and in electronic format (in colour) at the beginning of the month.

Advertisements may be included within Horizon and/or distributed as flyers. The printed version of your flyer will be posted with Horizon and the PDF added as a download to the electronic version. Centrepoint does not print flyers.

How to Submit

Formatted advertisements must be high resolution (300dpi), accurately sized and submitted in colour and/or black and white as JPEG or PDF files.

Email your formatted advertisement and/or PDF version of your flyer together with details of your order, your name and postal address for invoicing to advertising@centrepoint.ch by the 1st of the month preceding that of publication. We will advise the number of flyers required.

Flyers

Hand deliver your printed flyers by the 15th of the month to Centrepoint during its opening hours (see www.centrepoint.ch). They must be addressed to Horizon Distribution Manager and indicate that they are flyers for (month) from (your name). Please inform advertising@centrepoint.ch once flyers have been delivered. Any non-posted will go on display outside Centrepoint for one month.

Queries should be sent to advertising@centrepoint.ch

ADVERTISING FORMATS AND RATES

Within Horizon	Height in cm	Width in cm	Price CHF* per issue
Size A	4.4	5.9	25
Size B	8.9	5.9	50
Size C	8.9	12.2	120
Size D	8.9	18.5	180
Size E	18	5.9	100
Size F (half page)	13.5	18.5	270
Size G (full page)	27	18.5	380
Plain text advert up to 10 lines of 55 characters			20
Flyers			60

Must fit into B4 (25 x 35.3 cm) envelope without need for

further folding and weigh under 20 grams

*Discretionary discounts: 10% for 3 or more consecutive issues of Horizon

DISCLAIMER: Centrepoint reserves the right not to publish your advertisement or distribute your flyer. In such cases any fees paid to Centrepoint will be fully refunded. Advertisements and flyers are not endorsements by Centrepoint of any company or product.



Bilingual all-day school with Daycare


Combined Curriculum (international & local) | School entry possible at any time for children from 1.5 to 16 years

Early Childhood Center
Preschool
Primary School
Secondary School

Information Event: 23.01.2024 | 09.30 - 11.00
isrh.ch - Register now!

ipso Bildung AG | Bahnhofstrasse 26 | CH-4310 Rheinfelden
[ipso! International School is an ipso! education brand](http://www.ipso.ch)

December

MON Desk closed	TUE Desk open 9:00 - 13:00	WED Desk open 9:00 - 13:00	THU Desk open 9:00 - 17:00	FRI Desk open 9:00 - 13:00	SAT Desk open 11:00 - 13:00 1st Sat only	SUN Desk closed
				1 09:30 English 10:30 Coffee Morning 12:30 English 13:00 Mindfulness 14:00 Kaffee auf Deutsch 16:00 Spanish	2 11:00 - 13:00 Front Desk open	3 Closed
4 09:00 Italian 10:30 Italian 12:00 English 13:30 German 14:45 German 15:30 Climate Change 18:00 German 19:00 Semi-Circle	5 09:00 Spanish 09:00 Beginner's Bridge 10:00 Russian 10:30 Mahjong 10:30 Beginner's Bridge 11:20 English 12:30 English 14:45 German 16:00 Spanish 17:00 Ice skating*	6 09:30 English ^o 10:30 Kaffee auf Deutsch 10:30 Welcome Coffee* 10:30 Italian 12:00 Italian 13:00 Bridge Club 14:00 Jass 16:30 Men Modelling	7 09:00 English 10:15 German Plaudern 11:30 Baseldütsch 12:30 Baseldütsch 13:45 English 14:00 Hooks & Needles 15:00 English 18:00 Yoga 19:00 Talk: Getting Ready for Winter	8 10:30 Coffee Morning 12:30 English 13:00 Mindfulness 14:00 Kaffee auf Deutsch 16:00 Spanish	9 09:00 Birdwatching*	10 Closed
11 09:00 Italian 10:30 Italian 12:00 English 13:30 German 14:45 German 18:00 German	12 09:00 Spanish 09:00 Beginner's Bridge 10:00 Russian 10:30 Mahjong 10:30 Beginner's Bridge 11:20 English 12:30 English 14:45 German 16:00 Spanish 17:30 Books in English 19:00 Photography Grp	13 09:30 English ^o 10:30 Kaffee auf Deutsch 10:30 Italian 12:00 Italian 13:00 Bridge Club 16:30 Men Modelling	14 09:00 English 10:15 German Plaudern 11:30 Baseldütsch 12:30 Baseldütsch 13:45 English 14:00 Hooks & Needles 15:00 English 16:00 Yoga 18:00 Monthly Apéro	15 09:30 English 10:30 Coffee Morning 12:30 English 13:00 Mindfulness 14:00 Kaffee auf Deutsch 16:00 Spanish	16 Hard locked: Closed	17 Hard locked: Closed
18 Hard locked: Closed	19 Hard locked: Closed	20 Hard locked: Closed	21 Hard locked: Closed	22 Hard locked: Closed	23 Hard locked: Closed	24 Hard locked: Closed
25 Hard locked: Closed	26 Hard locked: Closed	27 Hard locked: Closed	28 Hard locked: Closed	29 Hard locked: Closed	30 Hard locked: Closed	31 Hard locked: Closed

^o event online

* event not on Centrepoint premises

January

MON Desk closed	TUE Desk open 9:00 - 13:00	WED Desk open 9:00 - 13:00	THU Desk open 9:00 - 17:00	FRI Desk open 9:00 - 13:00	SAT Desk open 11:00 - 13:00 1st Sat only	SUN Desk closed
1 Hard locked: Closed	2 09:00 Spanish 09:00 Beginner's Bridge 10:00 Russian 10:30 Mahjong 10:30 Beginner's Bridge 11:20 English 12:30 English 14:45 German 16:00 Spanish	3 09:30 English ^o 10:30 Kaffee auf Deutsch 10:30 Italian 12:00 Italian 13:00 Bridge Club 13:00 Jass 16:30 Men Modelling	4 09:00 English 10:15 German Plaudern 11:30 Baseldütsch 12:30 Baseldütsch 13:45 English 14:00 Hooks & Needles 15:00 English 16:00 Yoga	5 10:30 Coffee Morning 12:30 English 13:00 Mindfulness 14:00 Kaffee auf Deutsch 16:00 Spanish	6 11:00 - 13:00 Front Desk open	7 Closed
8 09:00 Italian 10:30 Italian 12:00 English 13:30 German 14:45 German 15:30 Climate Change 18:00 German 19:00 Semi-Circle	9 09:00 Spanish 09:00 Beginner's Bridge 10:00 Russian 10:30 Mahjong 10:30 Beginner's Bridge 11:20 English 12:30 English 14:45 German 16:00 Spanish 17:30 Books in English	10 09:30 English ^o 10:30 Kaffee auf Deutsch 10:30 Welcome Coffee* 10:30 Italian 12:00 Italian 13:00 Bridge Club 16:30 Men Modelling 17:00 English	11 09:00 English 10:15 German Plaudern 11:30 Baseldütsch 12:30 Baseldütsch 13:45 English 14:00 Hooks & Needles 15:00 English 16:00 Yoga	12 10:30 Coffee Morning 12:30 English 13:00 Mindfulness 14:00 Kaffee auf Deutsch 16:00 Spanish	13 09:00 Birdwatching*	14 Closed
15 09:00 Italian 10:30 Italian 12:00 English 13:30 German 14:45 German 18:00 German	16 09:00 Spanish 09:00 Beginner's Bridge 10:00 Russian 10:30 Mahjong 10:30 Beginner's Bridge 11:20 English 12:30 English 14:45 German 16:00 Spanish	17 09:30 English ^o 10:30 Kaffee auf Deutsch 10:30 Italian 12:00 Italian 13:00 Bridge Club 14:00 Jass 16:30 Men Modelling 17:00 English 19:00 Scrabble	18 09:00 English 10:15 German Plaudern 11:30 Baseldütsch 12:30 Baseldütsch 13:45 English 14:00 Hooks & Needles 15:00 English 16:00 Yoga 18:00 Monthly Apéro 19:30 Thin Raft Writers	19 09:30 English 10:30 Coffee Morning 12:30 English 13:00 Mindfulness 14:00 Kaffee auf Deutsch 16:00 Spanish	20 Closed	21 10:00: Sunday Walkers*
22 09:00 Italian 10:30 Italian 12:00 English 13:30 German 14:45 German 18:00 German	23 09:00 Spanish 09:00 Beginner's Bridge 10:00 Russian 10:30 Mahjong 10:30 Beginner's Bridge 11:20 English 12:30 English 14:45 German 16:00 Spanish	24 09:30 English ^o 10:30 Kaffee auf Deutsch 10:30 Italian 12:00 Italian 13:00 Bridge Club 14:30 Trip: Kunstmuseum Library 16:30 Men Modelling 17:00 English	25 09:00 English 10:15 German Plaudern 11:30 Baseldütsch 12:30 Baseldütsch 13:45 English 14:00 Hooks & Needles 15:00 English 16:00 Yoga	26 10:30 Coffee Morning 12:30 English 13:00 Mindfulness 14:00 Kaffee auf Deutsch 16:00 Spanish	27 Closed	28 Closed
29 09:00 Italian 10:30 Italian 12:00 English 13:30 German 14:45 German 18:00 German	30 09:00 Spanish 09:00 Beginner's Bridge 10:00 Russian 10:30 Mahjong 10:30 Beginner's Bridge 11:20 English 12:30 English 14:45 German 16:00 Spanish	31 09:30 English ^o 10:30 Kaffee auf Deutsch 10:30 Italian 12:00 Italian 13:00 Bridge Club 17:00 English	 <p>centre point basel A local club for global people.</p>			

^o event online

* event not on Centrepoin premises