

# IMCZNEWS



OCTOBER 2010

## EDITOR'S INKWELL

### Change and Flexibility

Menacing dark clouds over the Rigi slowly approaching our lovely lake signalled the end of the short summer and the beginning of the autumn. Nights are getting longer and many of us are going to work when it is still dark. Switching to wintertime shall be very late this year. In fact the latest possible because the last Sunday in October shall fall on the 31st this year. We have to get used to the days getting rapidly shorter until we have only eight hours of daytime and sixteen hours long nights on December 21st when winter starts. The eternal cycle repeats itself, but every time it does, one marvels at the heavenly clock and how it works.

There is a brighter side, however, in spite of the short days and the November storms. We have finally shaken off the lethargy of the summer and the holiday state of mind, and are back to work at full steam. The kitty has to be filled up before Christmas. What is even nicer, the winter sport season is beginning, and soon it would be time to get the skis out of the cellar and look forward to powder snow on the white slopes.

Our club is also preparing to fill in the long nights with several activities. This year we were blessed with a "triple-A" events coordinator and there are so many events coming up, I can only hope that more of our members would participate. We have something for every taste; all you need is to scroll down this Newsletter to see some of the activities planned. Considerable time and effort is invested in organising these events, your encouragement and participation would be the best reward for the hard working organisers.

Muthana Kubba,  
Secretary IMCZ Editor  
secretary@imcz.com



# IMCZ

Introducing...new members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

**Jens Haarkoetter**

**Indrin Pillay** hails from South Africa and enjoys tennis and golf.

**Kevin Robinson** comes to us from the UK. He likes music, sport, travel and food.

**Dennis Hagarty**  
is from Australia.

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## FUTURE EVENTS

- OCTOBER 20TH: **IMCZ-ZIWC Bowling**
- OCTOBER 20TH: **Zug after 6; "Horse Sense"!**
- OCTOBER 21ST: **Visit Picasso Exhibition, Zürich**
- OCTOBER 26TH: **Pool at Sports Zugerland, Cham**
- OCTOBER 27TH: **Zug after 6; Swiss Cheese, Swiss Wine & „Swiss-German“**
- NOVEMBER 3RD: **Discover Zug with an Insider**
- NOVEMBER 10TH: **Workshop — Swiss Business**
- NOVEMBER 11TH: **New Members Reception at Swiss Chalet, Parkhotel**
- NOVEMBER 17TH: **IMCZ-ZIWC Bowling**
- NOVEMBER 17TH: **"Dine & View" EVZ Terrasse**
- NOVEMBER 17TH: **Wine Tasting and Tapas at the Rest. Taube, Zug**
- NOVEMBER 18TH: **Joint Stammtisch with ZIWC, Parkhotel**
- NOVEMBER 24TH: **"Swiss Life and Fondue"**
- NOVEMBER 26TH: **TGIF (Thank God it's Friday) at The Blinker**
- NOVEMBER 30TH: **Pool at Sports Zugerland, Cham**
- DECEMBER 11TH: **ZIWC Annual Christmas Party, Casino, Zug**
- DECEMBER 15TH: **IMCZ-ZIWC Bowling**

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**REMEMBER**  
**The Stammtisch**  
every Thursday evening  
**18:00-20:00**

Join us in the Walchwilersaal  
at the Park Hotel in Zug.



# Oktoberfest News



Arranged by the Zug International Women's Club, a fine Oktoberfest celebration was held on October 2 in the Event-Raum Chugelrüti in Baar. Here's a report of the event from Dawn Ray of the ZIWC. And thanks, Dawn! –ed.

Oktoberfest was celebrated in Zug by a group of 45 adults and 11 kids. We started the afternoon at 4 pm and really enjoyed the beautiful weather outside with the kids and beer. We had some bank tables and games for the kids. We played outside until about 6:30 when we went inside to sit down and sing Ein Prosit before starting dinner. We had great Oktoberfest fare with Schweinshaxe, potato salad, chicken and Weisswurst. We had some awesome large pretzels for which we would like to especially think Linda Vogel with Peace Foods. She ordered them from Germany and baked them for us just before the event. (Peace Foods is on Lättichstrasse and they offer American breakfasts and Thanksgiving turkeys. Website: [www.peace-foods.ch/](http://www.peace-foods.ch/).)

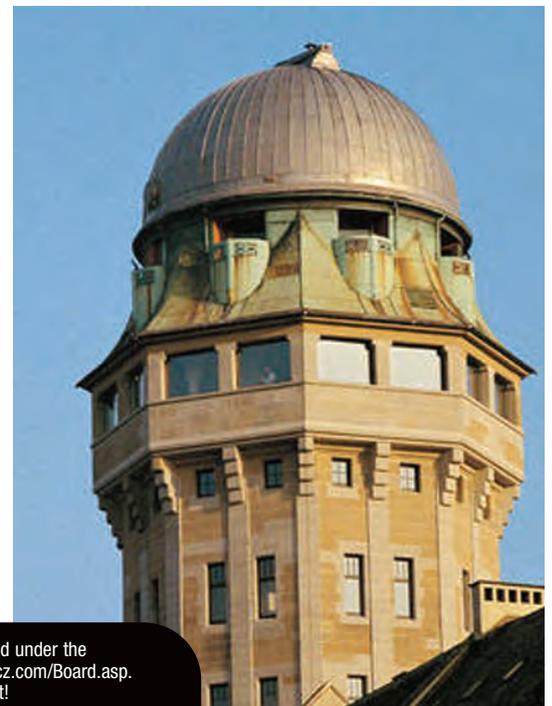
After dinner we enjoyed each other's company over lots of beer and wine. We did have a disappointment with the music as it was either too loud for those next to it, or not loud enough for those across the room. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all both large and small. I would like to thank all the members of the ZIWC and IMCZ who joined and made the evening such a huge success. I would also like to especially thank the party committee (Nicole, Alexandra, Meri, Shana and Carole) for all their hard work, organization and cooking of excellent desserts to end the evening on. Please plan to join us for the Christmas party on the 11th of December.

– Dawn Ray, ZIWC Party Chairwoman

# IMCZ Visit to the Astronomical Observatory Urania

On Friday, October 15, several of our members (with guests) toured the observatory facilities of the Urania-Sternwarte, in the middle of the city of Zürich. It was a bit cloudy and so we couldn't see as far into the heavens as we might have liked, but we were given the opportunity to peer through the telescope to view at least one star, even if it bore a suspiciously close resemblance to the adornment on the nearby church tower.

We also received a clear and detailed explanation of the equipment in the Urania observatory, including how it's mounted, adjusted, and used, as well as its historical details. With films, slides and patient description, our guide explained some of the details of our near and not-so-near celestial neighbors. We learned particularly much about Mars and Jupiter. Thanks to Ermano Bassi for setting this visit in motion.



## IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member bios are posted under the following link: <http://www.imcz.com/Board.asp>. Go ahead and check them out!

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## IMCZ New Members Reception

The fall New Members Reception is planned for Thursday, November 11th. Due to renovations at the Parkhotel, finding a venue has been difficult to organise. However, we have found space in the Swiss Chalet, just off the Restaurant, inside the Parkhotel.

**Date:** Friday, November 11, 2010

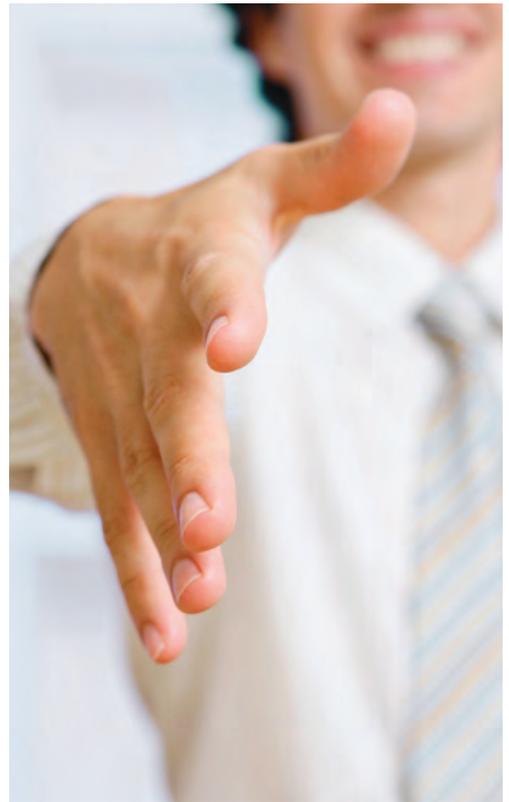
**Time:** 18:00–20:00

**Venue:** Swiss Chalet at the Parkhotel

**Cost:** Members attend at no cost; drinks and hors d’oeuvres are on the Club until 20:00.

**Register:** Ermano Bassi a, phone 041 711 87 87 / mobile 079 633 00 06, [events@imcz.com](mailto:events@imcz.com)

All IMCZ members – new and veteran – are welcome. Longstanding members are encouraged to meet the Club’s new arrivals, while recent entrants are invited to meet the people who have made the IMCZ what it is today. Reception attendees who are not yet members will have the option of paying an entrance fee of CHF 30.- or joining the Club outright on the spot.



## 8-BALL POOL at Sports Zugerland, CHAM

Come join us for informal fun POOL evenings for 2 hours of fun. The 4 tables are pre-booked at 25% discount to IMCZ members. Mark these dates below in those diaries!!

**Date:** Last Tuesday of the month:  
Tuesday, October 26 • Tuesday, November 30 • Tuesday, December 28

**Time:** 19.15 h gathering; 19.30 h starting

**Cost:** Around CHF 15 per person, and your drinks and food if any, are extra.

**Venue:** Sports Zugerland, being what used to be called the Tennis and Squash Centre Cham, is a non-smoking area throughout and is easy to get to. So there are two excuses out of the window for not making this into another popular event again. Good food is available as well as drinks – the pool tables being next to the restaurant.

**Contact:** Please register with Stephen Butterworth at [sbutterworth@zugernet.ch](mailto:sbutterworth@zugernet.ch) or catch him at a Stammtisch.



## Joint Evening Stammtisch

Joint Stammtisch with the ladies of the ZIWC will be held on Thursday, November 18th. We will have a special seating area in the Restaurant A Point in the Parkhotel.

**Date:** Thursday, November 18, 2010

**Time:** 18.00 – 20.00 h

**Venue:** Parkhotel Zug

**Cost:** Beverages at individual member’s expense

**Register:** No registration required.





## Miscellaneous Happenings

In addition to regular organized events such as bowling, pool, and the weekly Stammtisch, as well as special activities like a visit to Seleger Moor or a summer barbecue, a number of other happenings and activities are available to provide diversion. Here are some quick mentions of some coming items which Events Coordinator Ermano Bassi thought might interest you. You can attend these on your own or contact Ermano and see about going with some other members.

### Zug after 6, Zug

The Zug Tourism bureau has organized a series of "after work" events designed to help hotel guests in the city get to know more about Zug. The events are open to everybody, however, so see if one of these get-togethers captures your interest.

- Date:** Every Wednesday though November:
  - October 20: „Horse Sense“! Horse activity, snacks, drinks.
  - October 27: Swiss Cheese, Swiss Wine and „Swiss-German“
  - November 3: Discover Zug with an Insider
  - November 10: Workshop — Swiss Business
  - November 16: "Dine & View" EVZ Terrasse
  - November 24: "Swiss Life and Fondue"
- Time:** 18.30 meet-up in train station. See link below for details.
- Venue:** Meeting at the Zug Tourism counter in the train station.
- Cost:** Fr. 25 and up; varies depending on the activity.
- Contact:** More info at [www.zug-tourismus.ch/zugafter6](http://www.zug-tourismus.ch/zugafter6) (German, but English page available).

### TGIF (Thank God it's Friday)

This is an event usually organized by the Zug International Women's Club (ZIWC), but this time, it's our turn. We've chosen an evening at The Blinker in Cham - The "Cockpit" is reserved for ZIWC and IMCZ Members and partners/friends.

- Date:** Friday, November 26, 2010
- Time:** 18:30-21:00
- Venue:** The Blinker, Cham
- Cost:** Refreshments at attendee's own cost.
- Contact:** Ermano Bassi a, phone 041 711 87 87 / mobile 079 633 00 06, [events@imcz.com](mailto:events@imcz.com)

### Vino, Vino: Wine Tasting

Organized by the ZIWC, this inaugural meeting of this new wine tasting group will take place at Vinothek Weinstube zur Taube, a charming and historic wine bar and tapas restaurant in the old town. It specialises in Spanish wine and Daniel, the very knowledgeable owner, will take us on a two-hour tasting tour through a selection of red and white wines, accompanied by various tapas. We will have a room to ourselves and people are welcome to stay on after the event if they want to continue eating and drinking (at their own expense, of course). However, the room holds a maximum of 15, so book early and reserve your spot.

- Date:** Wednesday, November 17, 2010
- Time:** 119:00-21:00
- Venue:** Vinothek Weinstube zur Taube, Unter Altstadt 26, Zug
- Cost:** CHF65, includes wine, tapas, mineral water and bread.
- Contact:** Lynne Constable, 041 534 94 30, [lynnecon@mac.com](mailto:lynnecon@mac.com).



## IMCZ

Introducing...new members



THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

*Last month, we inadvertently connected new member Michael Shrum (August issue) with some biographical details of even newer member Mark Shires. We apologize for the error and sincerely welcome both.*

**Mark Shires** is American. He speaks German and English. He and his wife Tina Lupberger live

in Oberägeri. Tina is the Marketing Director for Bone Oncology at Amgen International and Mark is responsible for Volvo Fleet & International Sales at Zimmermann Garage in Hagendorn-Cham. Their two boys, Benjamin and Christopher, attend the International School in Walterswil. Mark's hobbies include golf, skiing & boating.

### BOARD VACANCIES

Interested in talking a turn helping our club move forward? Several positions on the IMCZ Board will be vacant next year. Express your interest to any current Board member. We'd love to have your involvement!

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**ZUG-LUZERN**



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Fun-filled soccer action for boys & girls looking for more of a challenge & wanting to take their skills to a higher level.

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Great fun with more brilliant challenges the older the child. Chance to make lots of new friends in a fun & stimulating environment.

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A fantastic intro to soccer for boys & girls with all the basic skills taught & lots of competitions in a fun, stimulating & safe environment. Mornings only.

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# Dietary nitrate and its controversial health implications

Contributed by IMCZ member Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen,  
Head R&D Sponser Sports Food Ing. Appl Food Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

Not so many years ago a high content of nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) in vegetables was simply considered unhealthy. You may have heard that the consumption of lettuce during wintertime was discouraged, because of its high nitrate content caused by the use of fertilizers in indoor-culturing. Nowadays there exist medicals based on nitrate to reduce blood pressure. The working mechanism is a dilatating effect on blood vessels caused by nitric oxide or nitrogen monoxide (NO), which is formed from the enzymatical breakdown of  $\text{NO}_3^-$ .

It is indeed a recommendation to reconsider if not to forget all together. Nitrate itself is harmless for adults (it is different for babies which still miss a necessary enzyme at their age). But the danger of nitrate lies in its breakdown product called nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ ), which is formed in the absence of oxygen by microorganisms. If followed by a heat treatment in the presence of amines (ammonia-containing compounds, as, for example, found in any protein) and in an acid environment (e.g., in cured meat, but also in fruits and bread) may lead to formation of the hazardous nitrosamines. These are cancerogenic. During industrial food production the formation of these cancerogenic nitrosamines can be inhibited by the addition of ascorbic acid at the right process step. Hence, the highest risk of nitrosamine intake comes from home-made cooking or restaurant meals. As an example, imagine a "toast Hawaii": ham with substantial amounts of nitrite, cheese with a high amine content, and pineapple with amines and acids; when heated there are the perfect conditions to form nitrosamines.

Nevertheless, the main sources of nitrate and nitrite are in our organism itself. On the one hand many microorganisms in our intestines (but also enzymes in our saliva) reduce nitrate to nitrite. Nitrite formation in saliva is estimated to constitute up to 30–60% of our total nitrite load. Why nitrite formation in our body is not of concern, or rather is advantageous, is explained by the lacking heat treatment of our body ;-). So, apart from for babies, also nitrate-rich vegetables are still "good" vegetables (for exceptions reread the former paragraph). For babies probably water is even more risky than vegetables, because its intake in non-breastfed babies receiving dissolved powder formulas is supposedly more of an issue than veggie consumption during their first months of life. The danger lies in a disease called methemoglobinemia, which, in short, inhibits a proper oxygen supply in the blood. Cases of fatal intoxications after consumption of home-made vegetables purées in about up to one-year-old infants are documented.

But let's come back to the topic title and stress now the advantageous part of the story. Particularly high in nitrate is red beet, to name one of the "classic" sources besides spinach and lettuce. After the medical use of nitrate there is now also interest in sports nutrition for its vasodilatating effect. This is because vasodilatation is supposed to be helpful for muscular oxygen supply and waste transport due to NO-induced improvements in microcirculation. In consequence, enhanced performance, decreased perceived exertion, and accelerated recovery may be expected. A recent study on athletes taking 500 ml of red beet juice a day for six days provoked very

impressive improvements in endurance as well as in high-intensity running performance (Bailey et al, 2009: *Dietary nitrate supplementation reduces the  $\text{O}_2$  cost of low-intensity exercise and enhances tolerance to high-intensity exercise in humans. J Appl Physiol*). Particularly noteworthy is the conclusion that the achieved reduction in oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) cost by drinking red beet juice is not even achievable by long-term endurance training!

I do not suggest stopping your weekly running routines and substituting with a daily glass of red beet juice. But if you are worried about or already irritated by borderline blood pressure values, you may reconsider your daily vegetables routines.



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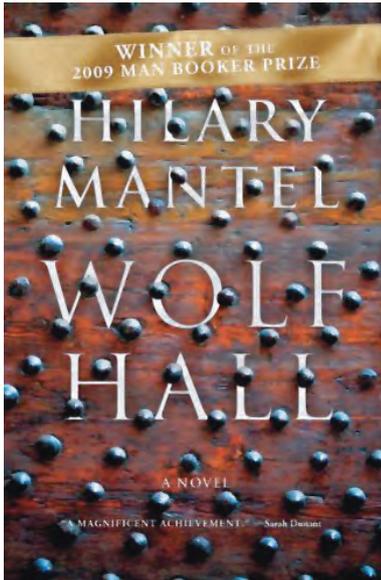


## Wolf Hall

by IMCZ member Andrew DeBoo

# by Hilary Mantel October 2010

Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, winner of the 2009 Man Booker Prize, is the most recent text of debate of the Reading Circle for English Language Literature.



Mantel's novel is a grand, massive work, a historical portrait set in sixteenth-century England. The cast is large, famous, and includes Pope Clement, the Emperor, Thomas More the Chancellor, whose fall from grace is followed by an ascension in righteous piety, a particular guy named Henry, a queenly lady named Catherine, followed by an aspirant named Anne, a dame called Jane, and not to be forgotten, though he as many others eventually fell out of favor and went to the block a hated figure, the lawyer Thomas Cromwell.

The book does not bear witness to Cromwell's death, following rather his upward trajectory, from his lowly start at the end of smith and brewer Walter Cromwell's boot in Putney in 1500, as his father kicks the boy about the cobbles in the story's opening scene, to the summer of 1535, when recently promoted to Master Secretary, Thomas Cromwell plans King Henry VIII's itinerary for a journey in early autumn, deciding that the king will stop and be hosted by the Seymours at Wolf Hall, where a daughter named Jane happens to be of marriageable age, making her ripe to succeed Anne Boleyn.

Mantel and history itself insistently disallow that the mere thirty-five years be dismissed as too brief a period to be significant, and readers are strongly encouraged to refer to their histories of the English Reformation or biographies of principal players to recall the

age's tumult and its vast documentation. Where history provides the factual bricks and architectural restrictions for Mantel's structure, she supplies rich imaginative mortar and adornment to hold the edifice together and make it live. She applies her fictive art in coaxing out and coloring the emotional pith and force which the facts can only suggest.

Cromwell fears his father, and with the help of his sisters and brother-in-law escapes him. In the period during which the lad becomes a young man there is a certain historical unaccountability, which emerges in the story as a reluctance the mature Cromwell shows in speaking in detail of his past and station of origin, though it also seems that the roughness of his early circumstances — beatings at the hands of a smith — has hardened him well for later battles. He does have a mind for religion; he can recite the New Testament by heart. He is a polyglot, commanding besides his mother tongue French, Italian, Dutch, German and Spanish. He has fought alongside the French and worked in the Italian banking economy, and likely in connection with this engagement developed a trained and prodigious memory structured through mnemonic devices for placing information in the mind with distinct positional markers which make the information retrievable on summons in full flower, a practice which went back to the Greeks.

He serves Cardinal Thomas Wolsey with devotion, whose task it becomes to extract King Henry VIII from his marriage to Katherine of Aragon which has produced only a daughter, Princess Mary. The king himself adopts Leviticus's restriction of marriage by a surviving brother of a deceased man's wife, as Henry had done in taking Catherine after his brother Arthur's demise. Cromwell in Wolsey's — and by extension Henry's — service is charged with other things, such as closing certain monasteries which channel revenue to Rome that the king could put to good use, but he sees the Cardinal's struggle with the Pope, his attempts to keep indirect negotiations with Rome under wraps, as well as the deterioration of Wolsey's position before the king as his efforts fall short of the required result.

Henry is set on marrying Anne Boleyn, who has him both in her charms and manipulations. She is not content merely to supplant her sister Mary as the king's paramour; she targets loftier goals, feeding and stoking Henry's fire by turns to advance

her candidacy for queenship, while loyal Catholic that he is, Henry desires the consummation of a union under full sanctity of papal approval.

Cromwell's efforts with the monasteries have their desired effect, which will not escape the king's notice, but it does not come to pass that he must denounce Cardinal Wolsey in order to preserve or enhance his position. The Cardinal dies beforehand, and Cromwell advances to position in which he leverages his legal skills in drafting legislation and arguments that pave the way for the king to divorce Catherine of Aragon in becoming head of the Church of England, to marry Anne and raise her to the throne.

Elizabeth, Cromwell's wife, and both daughters Anne and Grace are claimed by the sweating sickness, mown down in blazing onset as is the normal course, plunging husband and father the quicker into grief. They haunt Cromwell thereafter in dreams; even the moments of joyous recall, tender happinesses that recur to him, tinge the circumstances of the ever-working servant of His Majesty with a hue of sadness.

As Cromwell pushes Henry's case forward in opposition to the pope, he creates a legal framework which constrains others in expression of any opposition. They must swear their loyalty to Henry, recognize him as rightful head of the Church of England, and acknowledge the righteousness of his divorce from Catherine as well his right to name Anne Boleyn as his queen. While many acquiesce rather than fall foul of Henry, there are notable exceptions, among them Thomas More, the former Chancellor, once so zealous in bringing heretics to the pyre, and Elizabeth Barton, a young visionary, who has committed treason by predicting the king's death should he carry out his plan to wed Anne. More cannot condone Henry's divorce from Catherine, and also cannot swear allegiance to Henry as head of a church in usurpation of his devotion to God. This refusal is, logically, also treasonous.

So a number of face-offs are set up. Cromwell is not without his sympathies for both of these unsuitable criminals, More a former statesman, scholarly and devout, father of children whose education he has overseen with pride, nevertheless a man already advanced in years, whom Cromwell would try to spare the meeting with the executioner if he could, by careful argumentation with the nimbly minded More, extract a measure of allegiance that could be



interpreted to his and the king's benefit. Elizabeth Barton is young, impressionable, inspired in her devotions but just as likely exploited by the monks with whom she has been in contact, since she has represented a source of revenue.

Try as he might to secure the proper expression of recantation, change of opinion or remorse, More and Barton do not budge from their positions, which bolsters that of Rome and makes a mark against Henry's establishment of a Church of England. The king may have been forgiving for a period, but that span of patience—mercy—will also have its limits.

For other concerns mount as well. Namely, Queen Anne has given the king a daughter, a diluted blessing by monarchical measure. Another pregnancy has come to miscarriage, so the court is rocked by uncertainty. Henry has gone to lengths to enthrone Anne, and her failure to deliver the prescribed heir sits very uncomfortably. Cromwell must try to reassure, appease, and maintain the trust of both. Meanwhile in his own household he is on the lookout for marriage possibilities for his own son as well as that of his wife's sister, and his right-hand aide takes that of a woman

who has not been so long in his service, the flourishing romance escaping his notice what with all the other courtly business to which he must give his time.

Thomas More and Elizabeth Barton go respectively to the block and the pyre. Henry shows his former Chancellor a quantum of mercy in commuting his sentence to decapitation rather than the standard hanging, drawing and quartering meted to treasonous criminals. These two are only part of a parade of people who lose their heads, limbs, entrails, or end in a mass of gooey ashes. Cromwell suffers serious illness, days of delirium when those who come to speak to him transmogrify to ghosts, his daughters, or others who utter strange messages.

On his way to recovery, King Henry stops to visit, charming the household with his ease of manner. In a subtle resurrection, Cromwell is raised by Henry to be the king's chief minister, and so is bound by him to advance his master's cause further to the best of his ability. Now he must plan the king's movements, his mind on future consequences and the details of ensuring the king's comfort. In the summer of 1535 he notes the itinerary of an autumn journey the king shall make. In the course of

his return there will be five days at Wolf Hall with the Seymours. They have a daughter. Her name is Jane.

The enormous achievement of Mantel's novel lies not merely in mastering the mass of historical fact and its restrictions, but in infusing the character of Thomas Cromwell and so many others with believable emotion, so that they can act effectively, with force or grace, fear or tenderness, what vital stuff that history has left unrecorded. The work is thus as much an effort at grasping and sorting minutiae as it is in summoning the atmosphere that bound them before they became history, when they were life and live.

Other meetings in 2010 will discuss the following texts on the given dates:

- 21.10. **Cat's Eye**, Margaret Atwood
- 02.12. **The Children's Book**, A.S. Byatt

The meeting dates are Thursdays, chosen by popular vote, and begin in the Dachraum of the city and cantonal library at 19:30 h. The Circle has a current membership of roughly ten people, and would welcome the active participation of a few more men! For further information please contact Andrew DeBoo at [a.deboo@language-refinery.com](mailto:a.deboo@language-refinery.com).



## The English Theatre Group of Zug

### JOIN THE TEAM!!

2011 will be our 25th anniversary and it looks like being exciting! We have the play "Black Comedy" coming up in January (27 – 30, put that in your diary now!), and the Casino is booked for the end of September for something big.

We need a strong production team for that big production, so come and join in!

We are currently looking for people to get involved in

- production management • stage management • backstage logistics • building of sets and props • sound and lighting • managing "front of house" (the bar, wardrobe etc.).

**The bigger the team, the more fun it will be!**

We would also be delighted to hear from you if you have experience in stage management, choreography or music direction. As an amateur group our work is voluntary, but we are happy to reimburse out of pocket expenses and we also propose to support attendance, where appropriate, at relevant NODA courses in the UK.

**What about joining the team?  
And do you know anybody else who might be interested?**

If so, please contact either Bruce Mathers ([bmathers@gmx.ch](mailto:bmathers@gmx.ch))  
or Myrtha Schuler ([schulerhm@sunrise.ch](mailto:schulerhm@sunrise.ch))

Contributed by IMCZ Secretary  
Muthana Kubba

# Memristors: A Fourth Element in Electronics

We all have heard of resistors, transistors and thyristors, etc., even if you don't really know what they are, but memristors? You don't have to be an expert in electronics to recognise that you have never seen or heard of something called memristor. It is indeed a new passive element which was discovered by Hewlett-Packard in their laboratories in California about two years ago. Passive means it does not amplify or change the current, as opposed to transistors, diodes or thyristors.

So far in electronics there are only three basic passive elements: resistor, inductor and condenser, and they form the backbone of all electronic gadgets and equipment. In fact 100% of the passive electronic components which go into all electronic devices are made up of these three basic elements. Their characteristic behaviour, as opposed to active devices, is that they are linear, meaning that if the current passing through any of them were doubled, then the voltage developed across them shall double as well. This is simply a restatement of the famous formula: Ohm's Law.

Memristors are similar to resistors but, from their name, they have a memory in addition. In other words, they are passive linear elements, which obey Ohm's Law just as normal resistors do, but the value of their resistance can change depending on various clearly defined and fixed criteria. It was observed that their behaviour is similar to that of the synaptic connections between neurons in the brain. The strength of the synaptic junctions in the brain changes depending on the characteristics of the chemical or electrical signals received. Thus scientists speculated that memristors can be used to build computers that work like human brains.

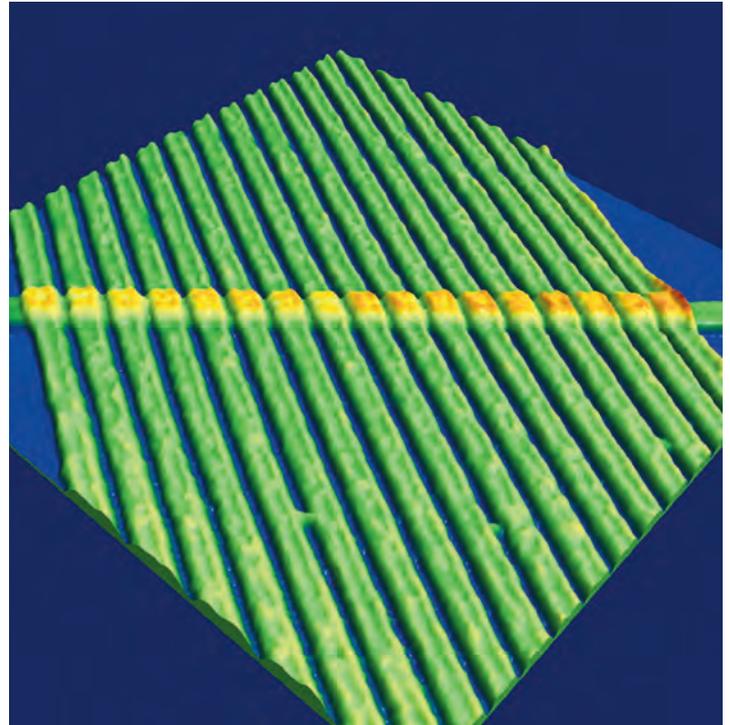
## Oxygen Tweaking

The first memristor built by Hewlett-Packard was based on titanium dioxide  $TiO_2$  film with a layer depleted of some oxygen atoms i.e.  $TiO_{2-x}$ ,  $x$  being the intensity of the depletion. This construction has the effect of the device having a fixed resistance. But when an electric field is applied (a positive voltage pulse), then the state of the device would change and its resistance becomes much lower. In other words, we have a two-state device, which can change its state from one into the other easily and very fast. Thus we have the ones and zeros device which is at the heart of all memory devices and computers.

The beauty of these memristors is that they are cheap and easy to manufacture, can be made as small as 10 nanometres ( $10^{-9}$ ) and can work at very fast speeds. Hewlett-Packard claims that it shall introduce a flash memory stick with a memory intensity of 20 GB per square centimetre within three years. Personally, I would not be surprised if we saw terabyte ( $10^{12}$ ) memory sticks based on memristors within five to ten years.

## Neuromorphic Computers

The true breakthrough came about more recently. A group of researchers at the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College, London, succeeded in putting a second layer on the titanium dioxide device. This layer was tweaked to have excess oxygen atoms, i.e.  $TiO_{2+y}$ ,  $y$  being the intensity of the doping with the additional atoms. The resulting device was called a bi-polar memristor. It had the unique quality of being easily switchable between three stages of three different resistance values. This property makes this type of memristor



particularly interesting for building neuromorphic computers as they can fully implement neuron-synapse brain functions.

## Non-Volatile Memory

The best and most interesting property of memristors for everyday use, is the fact that the memory is "non-volatile"! This means that switching off does not affect it. In future, computers using memristors will not only have huge on-line memories, up to 100 GB, but will no longer need booting up. When you switch on your computer in the morning, you will not have to wait up to five minutes till it boots up and loads all the programs, it shall be instantly available the minute you switch it on. The memory would be exactly the same as when you switched it off last time. It would be time to say goodbye to Restart and Switch Off modus. If you want to reboot then you must press a special button on your future computer, marked: "Erase Memory"! Switching off does not erase memory. Additionally, the size of the memory would not increase the power consumption of the computer, so be prepared for huge sizes of very fast memories of laptops without noisy cooling fans. A luxury? Perhaps, but all the signs are already written in the research labs of the manufacturers.

## Further reading

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memristor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memristor)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-11165087](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-11165087)



From the LANES...

## New Bowling Venue

*Starting with the September 22nd get-together, the dates and venue for our monthly bowling event have changed. For the first time, the men of the IMCZ and women from the ZIWC met at the Bowling Center White Line in Meierskappel instead of the Cherry Bowl in Baar. Steven Butterworth was there, of course, and sent in these details:*

We had a reasonable turnout for the event and all of us had great fun whilst the Whiteline staff made us more than welcome.

The first round was fairly low scores with Sergiy Shtangey being the early leader with 130 for the fellows and for the ladies Janis Meier with 124.

The second round with much lower scores for the ladies was Catherine Butterworth with 77 and for the fellows David LeBow with 145.

The third round for the ladies Janis Meier with 96 and again that David LeBow for the fellows with 148.

So wine for David with a total of 394 for the three games and for Janis with 294.

There is a saying for most of the rest of us from Hans-Peter Schobert, "definite room for improvement" and that was certainly the case for myself!

Until the end of November Whiteline are giving prizes for each and every one of the 12 lanes. Prizes vary by lane. All one has to do is break the lane record! (That's all!) For example Lane 1, if you beat the current record, you receive 200 francs, and on lane 2, you would win a bowling ball! Certainly a good reason to go there!

The fast starter out of the chute was Andy Joines, who just missed his season high 167 by six pins in the first game. Biding his time with a just-above-his-average 150 was David LeBow, undoubtedly trying trying not to startle the pack too soon. Ewan Currie with 132 and Otto Steuri with 131 rounded out first group.

As mentioned, the regular dates for the bowling nights have been changed. The IMCZ's regular bowling event for Club members now takes place on the **3rd Wednesday of every month**. Coming dates in 2010 and 2011 are:

- October 20th • November 17th
- December 15th • January 19th
- February 16th • March 16th

Members are encouraged to come out and cheer for the bowlers if they do not intend to bowl themselves.

The evening opens at **19:30**, the **crush of strikes and thrill of spares starts at 20:00**, and the event is open to registered and prospective IMCZ and ZIWC members.



Early arrival to assure good shoes, a good ball and some liquid calisthenics is encouraged. **Reservations are required**, since the venue must be notified of how many bowlers to expect. Please **contact Steven Butterworth by the preceding Friday** via e-mail or phone, [butterworth.sp@gmail.com](mailto:butterworth.sp@gmail.com) or **041/790 4172**. If you register to bowl and can't attend, you must let him know by the preceding Monday. The **IMCZ No-Show policy** applies. The cost for a regular (not a Challenge) evening is CHF 20.00 for two hours of bowling and shoe rental — a bargain indeed — and concludes at 22:00.

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by IMCZ member David Harris

All web sites included in this series are offered in an unbiased way and do not always reflect my personal views; the reasons for bringing them to your attention are that I found them interesting, perhaps offering another point of view and definitely worthy of note.

## MUVIZU COMPUTER GRAPHICS

<http://www.muvizu.com/>

3D Animation for everyone. Muvizu 3D has thousands of blocks and props to scale and customise. Upload your images and video to incorporate into the scene. To me, as only semi-computer literate, this was not the easiest site to navigate but for those that know it should be a doddle.



## MAPS OF WAR

<http://www.mapsofwar.com/>

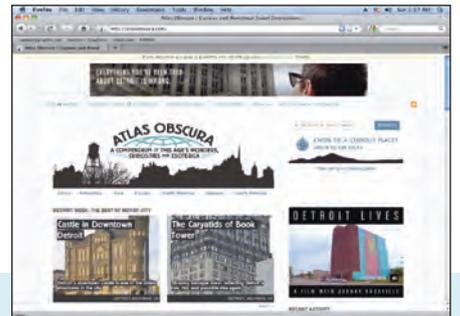
Where has democracy dominated and where has it retreated? This site gives us a visual ballet of democracy's march across history as the most popular form of government. From the first ancient republics to the rise of self-governing nations, see the history of democracy.



## ATLAS OF OBSCURA

<http://www.atlasobscura.com/>

The Atlas Obscura is a collaborative project with the goal of cataloging all of the singular, eccentric, bizarre, fantastical, and strange out-of-the-way places that get left out of traditional guidebooks. If you're looking for miniature cities, glass flowers, books bound in human skin, gigantic flaming holes in the ground, phallogical museums, bone churches, balancing pagodas, or homes built entirely out of paper, the Atlas Obscura is where you'll find them.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE TV

<http://www.gksoft.com/govt/>

Web sites for the various English language TV programmes. These sites are in English and give the complete daily programmes.

- **BBC1** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcone>
- **BBC2** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctwo>
- **BBC3** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree>
- **BBC4** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour>
- **BBC World** <http://www.bbcworld.com/>
- **ITV 1, 2, & 3** <http://www.itv.co.uk/>
- **Motors TV** <http://www.motorstv.com/>
- **Sky News** <http://news.sky.com/skynews/home>
- **Film 4** <http://www.filmfour.com/>
- **Sailing Channel** <http://www.sailingchannel.it/>
- **Yacht & Sail** <http://www.yachtandsail.it/>
- **Extreme Sport** <http://www.extreme.com/>
- **Channel 4** <http://www.channel4.com/>
- **Fashion TV** <http://www.ftv.com/>





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# Oktoberfest News

...continued from page 2



## Damn Fine Explanation

The wife came home early and found her husband in their bedroom making love to a very attractive young woman.

And she was somewhat upset. "You are a disrespectful pig!" she cried. "How dare you do this to me — a faithful wife, the mother of your children! I'm leaving you. I want a divorce right away!"

The husband replied, "Hang on just a minute honey, so at least I can tell you what happened."

"Fine, go ahead," she sobbed, "but they'll be the last words you'll say to me!"

The husband began. "Well, I was getting into the car to drive home, and this young lady here asked me for a lift. She looked so down and out and defenseless, that I took pity on her and let her into the car. I noticed that she was very thin, not well dressed and very dirty. She told me she hadn't eaten for three days. So, in my compassion, I brought her home and warmed up the enchiladas I made for you last night, the ones you wouldn't eat because you're afraid you'll put on weight. The poor thing devoured them in moments."

"Since she needed a good clean-up, I suggested a shower, and while she was doing that, I noticed her clothes were dirty and full of holes, so I threw them away. Then, as she needed clothes, I gave her the designer jeans that you've had for a few years, but don't wear because you say they're too tight."

"I also gave her the underwear that was your anniversary present, which you don't wear because, 'I don't have good taste'."

"I found the sexy blouse my sister gave you for Christmas that you don't wear just to annoy her, and I also donated those boots you bought at the expensive boutique and don't wear because someone at work has a pair the same."

The husband took a quick breath and continued. "She was so grateful for my understanding and help that as I walked her to the door, she turned to me with tears in her eyes and said, 'Please ... Do you have anything else that your wife doesn't use?'"

## Quick Quips

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Evening news is where they begin with "Good evening", and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

Behind every successful man is a woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.



**«Our next removal, we will do again with the friendly team from Weber-Vonesch, Zug», Linda Sørensen explains.**



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In spite of the fact that the September puzzle was very simple, there were not so many responses. Only two correct replies were received, and the hat says the winner is Roger Dixon. Congratulations Roger. Your drinks for the next Stammtisch are on the house.

There are five different difficulty levels in Sudokus: Easy, Medium, Hard, Extreme and Diabolic. This month's is a diabolic one. Only those looking for a real challenge should try it. The hint of the frequency of the digits is helpful but not sufficient. The trick I use is to look for a binary combination, one of two possibilities. If one fails then the other one is right and so on. The dead line for receiving solutions is October 31st. The winner shall be drawn from the pool of correct solutions received. The easiest form in which the solution is sent, is nine rows of nine numbers in a Word document or an email. In every Sudoku, every digit between 1 and 9 occurs exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 square. Please send your answers to [muthana@trasco.ch](mailto:muthana@trasco.ch)

## Sudoku

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

### Solution to the September 2010 Puzzle:

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

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**Spb@entourage-butterworth.net**

IMCZ board member and certified Software Engineer with over a decade of experience, Hal Trufan, is seeking new employment. For CV and recommendations see his LinkedIn page at <http://ch.linkedin.com/in/htrufan> or email him at [hal.trufan@mensa.ch](mailto:hal.trufan@mensa.ch).

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**Do you have a flair for advertising sales?** Promote IMCZ and the newsletter! Benefit through subsidized events (Stammtisch, for example).

Ron Sumners ([www.sumnersgraphics.com](http://www.sumnersgraphics.com)) can be thanked personally on a regular basis at the Stammtisch for his graphic design support.

