



More sports and outdoor activities for 2024

With the summer Olympics in Paris right around the corner and the winter Olympics coming to Italy in two years, 2024 is the perfect time to focus on sports and outdoor activities. The French government has been using the games as a platform to encourage various initiatives such as 30 minutes of activity for school children, sports clubs as anchors that bring together communities, and their label "Terre de Jeux" which recognizes local clubs and entities. Why not use this energy to encourage the speaking of English?

Allow me to introduce the ESC Sports and Outdoors group. Since it is rather difficult for most people to speak while exercising vigorously and we are not a Sports club, we will focus more on watching sports as well as going on hikes and walks. Events will be listed in the Upcoming events email and this newsletter, but also in a newly created WhatsApp group. There are already two exciting events planned for next year: the Etoile Noire men's first division ice hockey on 17/02, followed by the Internationaux de Strasbourg, the premier women's tennis tournament on clay before Roland Garros where we could meet on 20/05 which is a holiday.

If you like to watch or play a sport and want to share it with others, contact Pauline K. or Jonathan to join the WhatsApp group today and find out what others are doing.

Jonathan Crow, President

January - February 2024

For more info and updates, visit the [What's On](#) page of the ESC website:

••• esc-alsace.org •••

ESC contacts

- General: contact@esc-alsace.org
- Newsletter: newsletter@esc-alsace.org
- Events: events@esc-alsace.org

Upcoming events

see also: <https://esc-alsace.org/calendar/>

Galette des rois tea party

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024: 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Epiphany, or the arrival of the Three Wise Men, is often celebrated with Twelfth Night cake, more famously known as *galette des rois*. Who will be crowned King or Queen this year after finding the hidden figurine? Enjoy a slice of frangipane or apple galette with a cuppa, a coffee, or a glass of crémant; hot chocolate and apple juice for kids. Listen as Christine reads the story of this historical event, then watch the kids decorate their crowns and make plans with new and familiar friends.



We will meet at a member's home in the Orangerie area, Strasbourg.

Full directions and details will be given upon registration: [Sign-up link for Galette des rois tea party](#)

Cost: 5€ for ESC members, free for their children / 8€ for adult guests, 2€ for their children.

For any further details, contact Pauline at events@esc-alsace.org.

Coffee Morning

THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2024: 9.30 - 11.30 am

Our first coffee morning of 2024 will take place on 11/01 at L'Escale, Centre Socio-Culturel de la Robertsau, 78 rue du Dr François (in the upstairs room).

Drop in at any time between 9.30 and 11.30 am for a chat, a cuppa, and to browse the books and DVDs.

For any further details, contact Maggie at mvautheny@esc-alsace.org.

The next coffee morning gathering will be on 08/02.



Apéro at Le Tigre

FRIDAY 12 JANUARY: 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Join us from 6.30 pm onwards at Le Grand Tigre (the big room at the back, 2nd door "Jardin d'hiver") 5 rue du Faubourg National, to meet old friends and make new ones. As always, you pay for your drinks while the ESC provides some small plates to share. Melva Carteron has graciously volunteered to be our host for the evening.

[Sign-up link for Apéro at Le Grand Tigre 12-Jan-2024](#)

For further details, contact Jonathan at events@esc-alsace.org.



Provisional dates for the next apéros, all on Fridays: 16/02, 15/03, 12/04, 24/05, 28/06.

The location for each event will be determined in due time. If you would be willing to greet the 15-25 participants, order the small plates and be the point of contact for the evening, that would be of great help.

Save the date for the Bouc Bleu Carnival Parade

SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024: 2.00 - 4.30 pm in Hoenheim

Another fun event for all; children are most welcome. After the parade, there will be pancakes and hot drinks!

Burns Supper

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2024: 7.00 pm - ESCO community center, rue du Cimetière, 67850 Offendorf

There are still a few places on offer for our annual celebration of Scottish culture known as Burns Supper, which coincides with the birthday of famed Scottish poet Robert Burns. Bagpipers will accompany our host, Alasdair Hunter, in performing the Ode to the Haggis. Then we will feast on a traditional 3-course meal featuring soup, "haggis, neeps and tatties", and finishing with Cranachan. Performers from the Scottish Country Dancers will then lead us in Ceilidh dancing late into the night!

Sign-up link for Burns Supper (more details are given on HelloAsso). If you need any help, please feel free to contact the Burns Supper team at events@esc-alsace.org.



Ice Hockey with the Sports and Outdoors group

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2024 - 6.00 pm at the Iceberg, 1 rue Pierre Nuss, Strasbourg

The Etoile Noire, Strasbourg's men's hockey team, is currently in 1st place in the French top division. Let's meet at the Iceberg ice rink, 1 rue Pierre Nuss, Strasbourg (tram A or B, stop Rotonde) on 17/02 to cheer them on vs. Dunkerque.

We will watch the match and have a bite together (likely before or during the match). This is a great outing for adults and kids alike!

Contact: Jonathan and Pauline at SportsOutdoors@esc-alsace.org.



Conversation groups

The organisation of each group is specific.
Please get the details of next meetings' dates and locations directly from the group leaders listed below:



English conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Nigel at nigelpermaul@gmail.com - 06 75 63 89 98

German conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bronwyn at bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org - 06 85 33 11 24

French conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Colette at fredericka06@yahoo.fr - 03 88 20 21 17

Spanish conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria at mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org - 06 11 12 68 51

Book club monthly readings

Members of the ESC book club meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm (possible change of date during holidays). The member who has chosen the book will host the meeting and is invited to write a review for the newsletter (which is published in the following issue).

Interested in joining the book club? Contact Joëlle at bookclub@esc-alsace.org

The next books for discussion are:

“The Old Man and the Sea” by Ernest Hemingway on 15th January

“A Terrible Kindness” by Jo Browning Wroe on 12th February

“Tom Lake” by Ann Patchett on 11th March



The ESC committee wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May all that is beautiful, meaningful and brings you joy,

be yours this holiday season and the coming year!



Please remember that the cut-off date to renew your subscription with the ESC is 31/12/2023

ESC Registration 2024, click here: www.esc-alsace.org/renew

The fee remains a bargain at €30 for singles or €40 for couples/families. [Full details on our website \(Join Us\)](#). If you have another question, feel free to send an email to membership@esc-alsace.org.

Note that those new members joining from September to December 2023 are already considered to have paid up until the end of 2024.

Newsletter Publication

Articles for publication should be in English and sent to newsletter@esc-alsace.org.

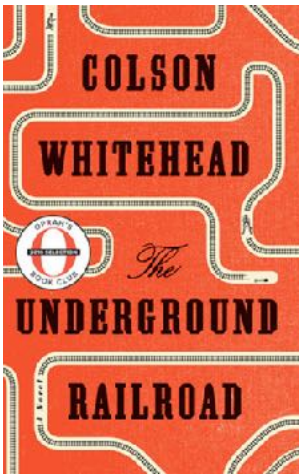
Half a page adds up to 1500 characters (with spaces); one full page is 2500 to 3000 characters.

Pictures (.jpg format only) are easier to handle if attached to your email, not included in a document.

The deadline for the next bimonthly copy (in March) is Sunday 11/02/2024.

Book Club

“The Underground Railroad” by Colson Whitehead



This fictional story describes the ruthless system of slavery prevailing in the Southern states of the United States before the Civil War, and the quasi-impossibility for black African slaves to escape.

Running away from the horrors on the Randall Plantation, Cora, the main character, dreams of freedom and getting North as far as Canada. The reader is carried along with her in the so-called “underground train”, the clandestine network set up by abolitionists to help the fugitive slaves.

Unfortunately, in her desperate flight from Georgia through South, then

North Carolina, Tennessee as far as Indiana, she is relentlessly pursued by an obsessive slavecatcher in a country dominated by fear and hate. Her voyage becomes “a trail of tears and pain”.

This highly documented novel faces the reader with shocking facts of extreme violence all along. Reading it was recommended by Barack Obama, first black American President, in the hope of making every American aware of the wrongs done to the slaves and their descendants and reflect on racism.

Claudine Marbach



Colson Whitehead was born in Manhattan in 1969. He graduated at Harvard university in English and comparative literature. Writing both fantastic and social fiction, he became very famous when he published “The Underground Railroad” in 2016 for which he won the Pulitzer Price for fiction.

After work!



Autumn children events

My Spooktacular Halloween Party

We had three different activities at Pauline's house: In the kitchen the pumpkin carving took place where I made a cute carved out kitten. In the living room, you could also create your own little ghosts, monsters and other decorations out of cardboard. Some of us got face painted and I ended up as... a cat looking like the one on my pumpkin. After the activities, we ate sausage snacks, bretzels and white iced biscuits that looked like mommies. It was awesome.

My little tips for carving, my favourite activity!

To do little noses or eyes, don't carve straight but with an angle (a bit like a wheel), it will let the light inside shine better. To make the ears I cut them separately and pushed them in a hole of the same size of the triangle side.

Méline, 11 year-old



Pumpkin carving

Christmas Carols

Our first children's choir led by Lara Delage-Toriel, supported by Joana Guerrin and accompanied by pianist Cécile Lesage. We had a beautiful rendition of carols: White Christmas, O Come All Ye Faithful and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, to name a few.

Bredele baking workshop



November and December events

Bonfire Night



Bye Bye Guy Fawkes



Apéro at Le Cube Noir



Back to the Sixties



Quiz Winners

Brewery Visit and Lunch in Uberach



Two of our Chefs



Obituary

Martin Weston

Many ESC members will have known Martin Weston, who died in Strasbourg on 29 October 2023.

Martin had a long and distinguished career as a linguist, stemming from a keen interest in modern languages which began during his school years. He was awarded, more than once, the Otto Maehler Prize for German, a prize named after the headmaster of the school in Essen with which an exchange was organised. Martin took part in the exchange and remained friend for the rest of his life with Carl, a pupil from Essen, who attended his funeral. Martin read modern languages at Exeter College, Oxford. After graduation, he studied for a postgraduate certificate in education at York, then spent a year teaching and studying at the University of Le Mans. Following a couple of years in the British Library as a research assistant he was appointed to the post of translator at the Council of Europe in 1974.



But he had not finished with academia, as in 1980 he took a sabbatical to study for an MA in linguistics at Exeter University. His dissertation became his only book, published in 1991, the “English Reader’s Guide to the French Legal System” – an essential reference book for translators of legal French to this day. In 1985 he was a Visiting Fellow in translation studies at the University of Salford.

As senior translator at the Council of Europe Martin was seconded to the European Court of Human Rights, which did not initially have its own translation service. He was promoted to the post of “reviser” and in 1992 became the head of the new English translation division, remaining there until his early retirement in 2003. He wrote a number of articles about legal translation and his work at the Court in particular. He worked in tandem with a colleague, Frank Bridge, in producing the Council of Europe French-English Legal Dictionary. In retirement he was working on a new edition but never finished. Over the years, his approaches to translation have been of great inspiration and use to academics and practitioners alike.

While at school Martin was already a keen actor; a review in the school magazine commented his performance in Macbeth: “Weston’s Banquo lives in the memory as intelligently conceived and impeccably performed”. In Strasbourg he was very active in the amateur theatre group “Tagora”. He continued learning languages and travelling, within Europe, until his mobility was impeded by illness. He sadly passed away, all too soon, at the age of 77, and is buried in the Cimetière Nord, Strasbourg.

James Brannan