

*Devant tous je m'engage  
Sur mon honneur*

## Annual Report 2022

2022 - After 14 years, another National Scout camp, this time in Goms VS. I visited it, an observer who took a look at the big event from the outside. What a crowd! How do the individual boys and girls feel? Scouting has accompanied me for more than 70 years, often up close and sometimes at a distance. At the end of the day, you take stock: what was it that kept you involved in scouting into old age? The other day I came across a YouTube video, an excerpt from the wedding of the heir to the Luxembourg throne in Luxembourg Cathedral. To my astonishment, a choir sang the "Chant de la Promesse" ( Fr. Jacques Sevin SJ, 1882 - 1951, founder of the Scouts de France), the song traditionally sung by the SdF (now SGdF) and other Scout Associations when taking the Scout Promise. Prince Guillaume sang along with the song, and so did his pretty bride, somewhat timidly. What do I have in common with the Crown Prince of Luxembourg? At the moment I am struggling through the work of Yves Combeau OP, Toujours prêts, Histoire du scoutisme catholique en France. The denominational ties probably created more tensions over time than we had. But Baden-Powell's work could not escape the social changes in Switzerland either. What remains? The promise that one made as a young person and which one has probably quite often strained in the course of one's life, binds; a kind of religious vow across times and generations, as the Crown Prince sang: "Devant tous je m'engage...", even if even the wording of the promise had to adapt to the circumstances of the time, and in this case the song probably referred to the marriage promise rather than the Scout promise. In addition to the commitment to a promise community, the very personal friendships were central, which also lasted over the decades and were based on the common ideals and shared experiences in intense youth years.

### The last quarter of 2022

The last weeks of the year seem to have it all. With squamous epithelial carcinoma, I have once again fallen into the hands of the oncologists and, apparently successfully, jumped off the wagon. As if that wasn't enough, there was a fire at 42 Araschgerstrasse, that is, in our old house, causing all sorts of trouble and, despite insurance, costs. Well, nobody was hurt, that's probably the most important thing.

My cousin Elsy in Ilanz died on 5 November. The energetic, capable Elsy! Now there are only two of us left out of the six cousins...

We are in the second half of November.... Hopefully it will stay with these bad news!

### Celebrations

After all, we also have positive things to report from the last quarter of 2022. We attended the wedding of our daughter Elisabeth to Michael Mosimann in late autumn, and they could move into their beautiful new flat in Zurich-Witikon in the summer. For the second time we had the pleasure to attend a wedding ceremony in the impressive town house at Zurich.

Anni and Sascha invited to celebrate their 11th wedding anniversary and used the ZVB. 11 years ago it was the red double arrow (an old SBB railcar), this time the blue Zurich tram, public transport in any case! With the tram you can take a city tour, of course on order, change from one line to the next, drive through the dense city traffic and enjoy an aperitif.



*The traditional (Swiss) Scout Promise*



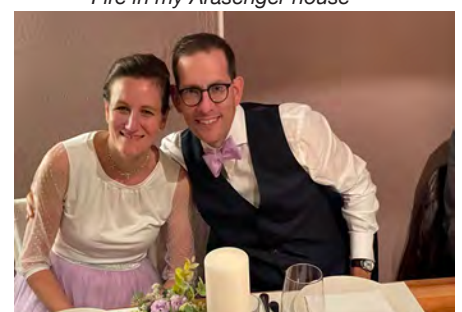
*Bula Mova 2022 Goms*



*Bula Mova 2022 Goms*



*Fire in my Araschger house*



*Elisabeth and Michael*

## Algund

Since Franca had a two-week break from childcare, we took the opportunity and drove on a beautiful day via the Flüela and Ofen Passes to the South Tyrol, to Algund near Meran. A beautiful hotel with indoor swimming pool and a view of the valley basin of Merano, weather largely as ordered, the Waalwege (paths along irrigation channels), which are almost flat and therefore hardly strained our joints, autumn colours and magnificent red apples in the plantations, yes, a little paradise. The ride on the Rittnerbahn mountain railway above Bolzano with the view of the Dolomites was the icing on the cake. We were happy to put up with the somewhat adventurous bus rides.

And the other three quarters? I don't have to emphasise that we had a wonderful, hot, sometimes too hot summer. So I spent almost every day on and in the Old Rhine near Diepoldsau. Because I was there early in the morning, I hardly had to share the water with anyone, at best I avoided the swans who thought they had to defend their offspring fiercely. Humans don't stand a chance against an angry swan in the water! I know from experience. In the afternoon of the hottest days, I usually stayed under the roof. I also didn't bother with the garden. The latter was very productive due to the favourable weather, vegetables, pumpkins, lettuce, berries, plums in abundance! The many beans almost drove Franca to despair. Where to put them when the freezers are full? Even our young plum tree made a contribution.

## E-bike

Also this year we were often on the road with our bikes, during the week mostly alone at an appropriate pace, on Sunday together, leisurely to an agreed destination. In spring and summer, for example, we go to Ruggeller Riet to watch the storks breeding. Otherwise we go to the pilgrimage site in Gamser Riet or to the "Hay Meadow" in Wartau. Alone, I occasionally go uphill: Buchserberg, Grabserberg, Gamserberg, St. Luzisteig, or in combination with a train ride: Weisstannental, Sernftal. A beautiful destination is also the Heinzenberg, where you can always keep an eye on the mighty Beverin. In the Urmein church, the Heinzenberg female artists have once again created an exhibition. It is worth stopping there.

## On foot

The time for long hikes is probably over. Together we have been up the Rigi twice, once Rigi-Staffelhöhe - Kulm and back, the other time on the scenic route of the former Scheidegg railway to Rigi-Scheidegg, up with the rack railway, down with the cable car from Scheidegg to Rigi-Kräbel. Who would have thought it: one becomes happy about the despised little mountain cable cars! Nearby we hiked together to the Lunabrünnen (above Buchs), alone I made it to the Isisizgrat and looked at the Margli (mountain above Buchs) from below. We also went to Sennis, with somewhat reduced hikes to Steia, to the Böden and to Stralrüfi and Mürlü.

## Travels?

Yes, we did, after Corona we were back on Amrum for the first time, despite the somewhat awkward journey. Thanks to fully booked sleeping cars, we left a day early and spent it in Hamburg. Among other things, we took a close look at the Elbphilharmonie (new and very famous concert hall) and took the ferry through the harbour. On Amrum, we were able to explore the whole island again more or less by bike and foot and visit the places we had grown fond of. The North Sea was still a bit chilly, but I was still in the water for a short swim every day, early in the morning. This time, too, we wondered if it had been the last



*City tour by tramway*



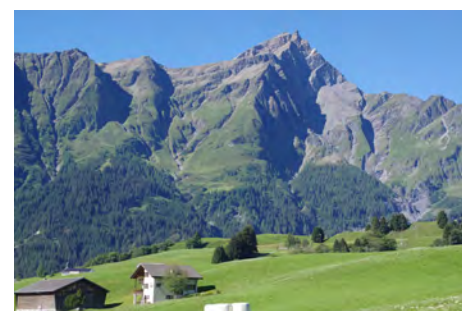
*Old Algund church*



*Waalwelle am Rablander Waal*



*Rittner Bahn, historic railcar*



*Piz Beverin seen from Heinzenberg*

time on Amrum. We'll see... The rest was more like travelling within the country's borders. Three times on Lake Lucerne, of course with a steamboat, at the general meeting of the steamboat friends, on my birthday together with Franca and finally at the anniversary steamboat parade of the steamboat friends. A couple of times a year we take the ZB (Central Railway) up through Obwalden, Franca over the Brünig with destination Brienzwiler, I stay on this side in Lungern. It's touching how the now grown-up "elected grandchildren" (as Franca calls them) get on with the old man!

Remembering!

Year-olds and class reunions... Corona has probably thrown a spanner in the works. In 2022, the 40ers from Buchs and Räfis-Burgerau got together again, on Corpus Christi according to tradition and in the Buchserhof (restaurant), soon also according to tradition. It was amazing how well most of them were doing, even if, in keeping with their age, health problems were an important topic of conversation. Only three of the 59ers business school graduates from the Kanti St. Gallen met in Solothurn last year. Thanks to their spouses, there were still five... Nevertheless, it was decided to meet again in a year's time, if fate would have it.

Farewells

From Franca's relatives we had to say goodbye to Werner Roth-Bianchi. Werner Roth was a printer, publisher, editor and journalist, a versatile person with many interests, educated, well-read, musical. Alessandra Bianchi, the beautiful and lovable Ticinese woman, also had to leave this world. Distinctive figures of Pfadi Zurich have passed away, the married couple Elsbeth "Peter" and Heinrich "Fick" Fiechter and Leonie "Loni" Pünter, active scouts throughout their lives.

Future

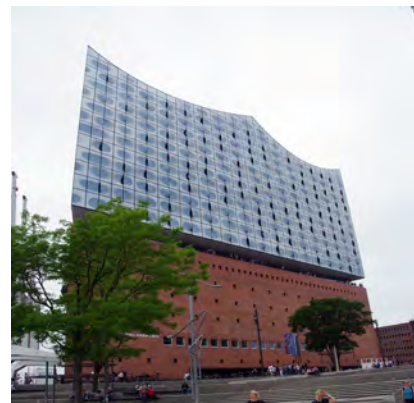
The youngest family members are now all three going to school. I wonder if they (like me) whether they prefer the holidays to school. Well, school is probably a bit nicer today than it was in my days. But the aims of compulsory schooling are probably still about the same, even if it sounds rather different in educational jargon. Reading, writing, arithmetic and a bit of trimmings around that.... Well, I wish Marc, Stella and Ladina success and, above all, joy in learning. Once you have the basics down, you can move on to your areas of interest and then hopefully it will be exciting (even more exciting...).

Quite close in time and, if all else fails: After two corona-related breaks, we will travel to Salzburg and visit the Advent Singing. But I'm not sure until we're sitting in the Festspielhaus!

Singing... once a month in the Grütlichhörli, straight from the shoulder! With folk music and happy chatter.

So, my three pages are full. There are still a lot of things to report. If you want to know more about my 2022, have a look at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wgiger/albums>. I wish you a happy new year and always good health! See you in 2023!

Walter



*Elbphilharmonie Hamburg*



*Exposition at Urmein: Regula Caviezel*



*My birthday on Lake Lucerne*



*Alessandra (88) with Franca und Olga Roth*

## Annual Report 2022

*Friends are like stars in the sky:  
often you can't see them,  
but it's good to know that they are there.*

Dear friends, relatives and acquaintances

The time has come. Our review of the year has reached you. After you have read Walter's report, here is the year 2022 from my point of view. In January we saw and heard a sermon on television in which stars were mentioned again and again. I followed the invitation to think about which people are/were stars for us. I was happy to think about people who were dear to me. I already mentioned my godmother Cilli in 2014. She was a star for me. I mention again after eight years that she intervened to prevent me from having to wear a back corset at the age of 14 because of my bad posture. We have been at war in Europe for more than half a year. Since the end of March, I have been praying in a small group once a week for an hour. We exchange ideas, pray for governments and church communities, for Ukraine and Russia. There is also room for personal concerns. Liselotte told me that worldwide, one minute is spent praying for peace at 4 pm. When I am at home, I join the prayers of those I know and those I don't know. One Sunday in April, I received a phone call from my father's cousin Olga. She told me that her 93-year-old cousin Alessandra had died early Sunday morning in Chiasso. The farewell party would take place on Monday. She asked me and Walter to attend, as the journey was too hard for her (90 years) and Werner (88 ½ years). At the same time she asked one of her nieces to go to Chiasso. Seven people were gathered in the church to pay their last respects to Alessandra. The priest spoke on the text: "Blessed are the spiritually poor." He spoke in an Italian that I understood. Alessandra always lived with her parents in a three-family house that belonged to her father. She had never learned a trade. After her parents died, a tenant of the house took loving care of her. The priest knew how to give Alessandra a sensitive farewell.

Walter and I travelled by night train to Hamburg-Altona in mid-June. In Hamburg, we visited the Elbphilharmonie with thousands of other visitors. We were taken up to the 8th floor (Plaza) by escalator. There we took a tour around the building. Hamburg from all sides from above. The next day, train and ferry took us to Amrum. Again we stayed at Konrad's. During the Corona period, a two-room flat was built at Konrads. A kitchen was built in upstairs. The Konrads now only rent out this two-room flat. We rented bicycles and visited the lighthouse, the Quermarkenfeuer, the Vogelkoje, the Himmelsleiter, walked along the Wryakhörnsee and around the northern tip. It was all slower and often under two times.

For Ladina, 2022 brought several changes. Until 15 July, she attended the Aemtler kindergarten. On 18 July, she moved from Aemtlerstrasse with Elisabeth and Michael to Witikon into a condominium. There she celebrated her sixth birthday, to which Walter and I were also invited. In August she entered the first class in Witikon. On 3 November, Elisabeth and Michael got married in the Zurich City Hall. Ladina was allowed to sit opposite the registrar at the civil wedding. Elisabeth and Michael sat on her right and the witnesses to the marriage on her left. Ladina was even the last one to sign. The guests were invited to a fine aperitif in the restaurant where Elisabeth and Michael had first met. In another restaurant we were served a special and fine dinner.

We often close our eyes, don't want to admit when someone dear to us becomes weaker. This was the case with Olga. It was only when Wer-



Godmother Cilli



Prier for peace



Alessandra



View on Hamburg



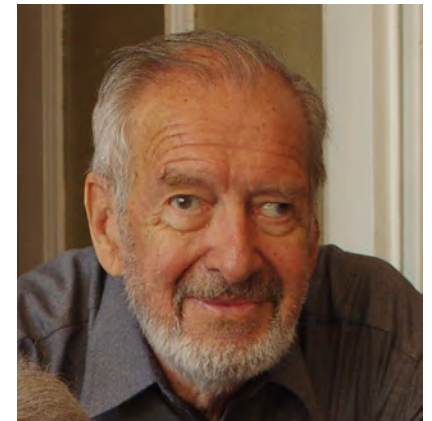
Cross light and plank path

ner had to be admitted to hospital four days before his return to eternity that she saw that the final farewell was approaching. I don't want to withhold Olga's and Werner's love story from you. Werner and Olga met in their teens over 70 years ago. Werner attended the commercial school of the cantonal school in Chur. When he saw Olga, a seminarian, for the first time, he wished that she would become his wife. Persistently and with perseverance he followed this goal. All's well that ends well. With Olga, the spark jumped when they played music together. They were married for 64 years. It was certainly a big surprise that after the birth of their first son, a second followed after seven hours. Two years later, the third son was born. A daughter completed the line of siblings five years after the birth of the twins.



*Ladina driving*

My house in Zizers is surrounded by walls on two sides. The whole wall was showing cracks. Jürg wanted to replace it before it could collapse. In March, he contacted experts. In order to carry out his project, he needed a building permit. For a long time, Jürg and Sascha heard nothing. Finally, they were told that a new wall could no longer be built at the same height. Jürg and Sascha had to comply. In September, construction could begin. Sascha took a week's holiday and helped.



*Werner Roth - Bianchi*

During a dinner with Jürg and Sascha in August on our seat, storks flew by not far from us. Three of them settled on a telephone pole. As long as it was light, we saw the storks. 2022 is the first year we saw storks in Buchs.

Anni turned 40 this year. Anni and Sascha, who had married on 1 October 2011, invited 98 guests (including 32 children) to celebrate 11 years of marriage with them on 1 October 2022. Walter and I found the hour-long tram ride through the city unique. During this ride we had drinks and many delicacies to eat. We had dinner at the Reithalle.



*on the wall at Zizers*

40... Anni wished to spend autumn holidays with the whole family in Namibia (the summer holidays Anni and the children spent two weeks and Sascha four days at BULA - National Scout Camp). In January, Anni contacted a travel agency. A trip with a rental car was worked out for them. At the beginning of October, the family flew to Africa. On our Whatsapp status we received pictures of zebras, giraffes, elephants, cheetahs, rhinos but also of whales and seals. I was happy to experience the journey in this way. But I was also grateful when they returned safely.



*Anni's birthday*

Walter and I went to Algund in South Tyrol from 7-17 October. Walter had rented a hotel room for this time. In South Tyrol, the Waals are well known. The water from these streams is used to irrigate vines and orchards. The streams have a slight gradient. In addition to the irrigation channels, there are paths that serve to maintain the channels and on which tourists walk today. Walter and I followed the canals from various villages. We visited Merano on the first Sunday, the only rainy day of our holiday. From the hotel we could see the village of Tirol, Tirol Castle and Thurnstein Castle. We absolutely had to go up there. Another time we took the bus from Bolzano to Klobenstein. From Klobenstein, a train goes up to Oberbozen, with a magnificent view of the Dolomites, among other things. In Oberbozen we took the path to Maria Himmelfahrt under our feet. We returned on foot, by train and bus. From the Stabner Waalweg we saw Juval Castle (Reinhold Messner) from a distance. The hike up there would have been too steep for me.

Back home, events came thick and fast. Walter needed an appointment with the dermatologist. He was worried about a mole that had grown quickly (in our eyes). Unfortunately, it was not a birthmark, but a squamous cell carcinoma (white skin cancer). A consultation at the oncology department of the Chur Cantonal Hospital and a PET-CT examination followed. Since 22 November we have been informed that no metastases were found in the PET-CT.



*Marc and Stella in the desert*

We said goodbye to Walter's cousin Elsy in Ilanz on 12 November. Since the death of her husband Lorenz in 2016, we had regular contact with Elsy. Elsy always owned dogs. After Lorenz's death, she saw in an advertisement that

a small four-year-old dog was for sale. That's how Nettli came to Elsy. She is a lovely little dog. When I was on the phone with Elsy, Nettli was the number one topic. Unfortunately, I understood Elsy less and less on the phone. Since early summer I refrained from phoning. Nevertheless, the news of her death came as a surprise to us.

On 13 November, the fire brigade was needed in our Araschgerhaus. The fireplace caught fire. The tenant phoned the fire brigade. None of the residents was injured. The house could be saved. Everything in the living room and in one room upstairs has to be torn out and rebuilt. Walter is in the middle of negotiations with insurance companies, police, etc.

On 1 December, Walter and I will travel to Salzburg for three days. We will hear the Advent concert "Snow in Bethlehem". In Buchs I have set up the Christmas cots and the candle arch. Stars decorate the windows. It is Advent. I wish you all a peaceful Advent season without stress. In the new year, may you feel the nearness of your stars in the sky, which you know are there even if you don't see them. With words that I have learned this year, I conclude:

*I want to have love that gives me the freedom to say YES to others,  
that loves unconditionally  
(Eberhard Borrmann).*

Franca



*Algunder Waalweg*



*Walter*



*Elsy Schleich - Leber*



*Candle arch*