

800 Years Klosters

The community of Klosters is celebrating its 800th anniversary in 2022. Over the last 800 years, people have loved, worked, lived, and celebrated in Klosters and in particular, the Walser culture, which has left a lasting mark on Klosters, will be the focus of attention for the anniversary.

Clair Southwell

Christoph Luzi, a local and true «Klostertaler» was chosen to be the project manager and as a cultural scientist, historian and high school teacher, he definitely has the right qualifications for this mammoth task ahead! Christoph wishes to show through the festivities of the anniversary that Klosters has a lot to offer and that the entire region is an attractive place in so many respects, be it for a few hours, a few days or for a lifetime.

Klosters is known for its wonderful nature and the wide range of sports on offer. But it is the culture and history that makes Klosters unique. The Walser people play a special role here too because they have left a lasting mark on the village, its inhabitants, and its landscape which is still visible and audible today in buildings, customs and not least in the language, making it authentic and credible.

Walser culture will play a major role in the anniversary year hence the motto «800 years of Klosters. Walser pride & world stories». The intention is to bring the history and culture closer to people from near and far. Starting with the Romansh-speaking backgrounds of the monastery through the Walser settlers to tourism, which originated here. The Walsers are generally considered taciturn and stubborn, but also adaptable and innovative. With their self-sufficient way of life, these experts in high alpine agriculture offer an ideal starting point for asking what is important to us in the pre-

sent and how we want to shape our future. The preservation of tradition is very important as they can also emerge, develop, and change with the habits of people in their respective present day. Traditions are very diverse, and often not noticed as habits in everyday life. However, cultural, and historical knowledge is stored in traditions. For Christoph he finds the similarities and connections within and between traditions exciting and important.

During the time of his research for the anniversary, Christoph became particularly more aware of the role of wild hay-making thanks to Peter Guler. After the lower-lying areas had been hayed, they went up to the meadows, which were of-



ten far above the timberline. They climbed up very early in the morning and moved for hours on the very steep terrain. The hay was then piled up in so-called Tristen, square haystacks. In the past, the harvest would be brought down to the valley by sledge in winter. The fact that almost as much hay was harvested up there as in the valley left Christoph amazed and full of newly found admiration for the ancestors.

One significant feature of the anniversary will be the small fine stories in the lecture series, and also the Forum of Ten Courts

CS | Thank you for reading Visitors Corner and what a fabulous autumn we have enjoyed with magnificent colours everywhere. I look forward to being back with you again in December!

with the host communities from the former confederation founded in 1436. The open-air play will be very unique with a specially written play and a stage design the likes of which has never been seen here before. This diverse program will have something for everyone, both young and old, to look forward to.

There are many events planned for 2022 and the first highlight will be the «Winterläbä» (Winterlife) on 25/26th February. You can be a guest or be a part of this unique event as a volunteer and you will be able to experience the life in Klosters before the start and development of tourism in the last hundred years. Additionally, you can just watch and try out a lot of different sporting activities.

Another highlight will be Klosters Music – Singin' in the Rain on 5th August. The 4th edition of Klosters Music will celebrate the anniversary 800 years of Klosters by travelling through eight hundred years of music history. As a major feature, the musical «Singin' in the Rain» will be shown supported by live orchestral music on the big screen. This is a reference to the «Hollywood on the

Rocks» days in Klosters. Gene Kelly was the director and leading actor of the world-famous film musical in 1952 and was also a long-time guest in Klosters.

On 27th August will be «The Walser Genussmeile». This is always a highly popular event but this time it will also celebrate and revolve around culture and enjoyment. There will be ancient crafts to marvel at, as well as old garments and robes. A Walser and World stories village is planned where historical culinary delicacies will be offered and traditions crafts of the Walsers will be on display and much more too!

So, there is much to look forward to in this exciting year ahead and if you would like to get involved as a volunteer or contribute as a sponsor then please contact Christoph Luzi email info@klosters800.ch. The website is full of information and will be continually updated www.klosters800.ch