

800 years Klosters 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 the village and will be the focus of attention for the anniversary.

Clair Southwell

Throughout this year, the festivities of this unique anniversary will illustrate the amount that Klosters has 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 present 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.

This is the time to appreciate the past, enjoy the present and shape the future. In the anniversary year 2022, Klosters will allow people from near and far to share in the aspects of the unique history and culture of the Walser people, yesterday, today and tomorrow. The Jubilee Year 2022 is much more than a village festival in several acts. It aims to raise the awareness of the locals for their own culture and to strengthen the sense of community through encounters.

There are numerous different events planned for this year and on the snow sport side events begin with The Selfranga Night Show on Friday 18th February. The

Selfranga lift is the oldest valley ski lift in Klosters, and it is therefore most appropriate to have a demo show from the Klosters and Saas Ski Schools with references to the development of snow sports and winter tourism happening on these slopes. Numerous facets of the various snow sports equipment such as skiing, cross-country skiing and snowboarding will be shown giving an insight into the many possibilities of snow sports equipment. The show starts at 7.00 pm followed by free night skiing for all! Further information on www.klosters800.ch/selfranga-night-show.

This well planned Selfranga Night Show will be repeated and expanded in its programme one week later on Friday 25th February marking the opening of the first major event for Klosters 800 years, a winter festival entitled "Winterläba". This impressive opening event will show the historical time travel of winter sports in various images. You can marvel at everything from historic horse-drawn vehicles transporting logs just as they did a hundred years ago to modern snowmobiles and a snow grooming show.

Another highlight on the evening will be the Gögelerrennen (sled race) on the specially built Gögelerbahn on Selfranga. Whether young or old, sporty or Gögeler-beginner, all visitors are invited to take up the



Graggenegg in 1912. This formidable jumping hill on Graggenegg was started in 1908 and jumps up to 17 meters were possible. The Selfranga ski jump with stands was completed in 1914, the costs were 1634 SFr at that time! At the first competition in 1914, Parodi set up a hill record of 43.0 meters, the first tournament with international participants took place on Selfranga in 1922. After World War II, Sepp Weiler landed a last hill record with 57.5 m, but then the alpine section in the Ski Club Klosters superseded ski jumping.

Photo: zVg

challenge of the fastest Gögler! The entry fee is CHF 800 centimes (CHF 8.-) and the number of participants will be limited to 100 registrations. Starting places will be allocated according to the number of registrations received and the nostalgic starting numbers may be kept as trophies. Start numbers will be handed out from 5.00 pm with the start of the Göglerrennen at 6.30 pm (for registration go to

ing home. The children will start at 9.30 from the "Alte Eisbahn" car park and process along the river in the direction of Aeuja and after a pause will come back to the Sports Centre. If you have never seen this glorious procession, then do not miss it!

Other events start at 10.00 am until 4.00 pm on the Christlisch, at the Arena and on Selfranga with demonstrations and



Two delightful girls with beautifully braided hair sorting out their outfits. All the family help with making the paper flowers in the colours of their choice to decorate their sledges.

www.klosters800.ch/winterlaebae) followed by the Snow spectacle / Demo Show beginning at 8.00 pm.

The evening will end with the Göglerrennen prize giving. This is going to be a unique and great fun evening so please take the bus up and enjoy some Selfranga fun.

On Saturday 26th January the «Winterläba» will be dedicated to a full programme of snow and winter sports opening with the fabulous spectacular Children's Sleigh Ride which was an old custom revived about seven years ago thanks to the initiative of Martina Ruosch and Diana Niggli and is organised together with the Women Farmers Association. The tradition of the Sleigh Ride is that younger boys and girls are pulled over the snow in beautifully decorated "Rennbänä". The older children (the "Rössler") were invited to partake in the afternoon by the parents of the younger ones and traditionally they ("the Bagaschi") would all meet together for refreshments before return-

displays of biathlon, avalanche transceiver training, cross-country skiing, fat bikes, curling and ice hockey, you can al-



Oh dear! These boys looking a bit downhearted could not find any charming girls to join them so had to make do with pulling along rusty cans and not so much decoration!



Patricia Flütsch on Paco leading the procession and looking splendid in her outfit. Patricia will once again be the "Füürriiter" heading the procession on the 26th February.

so try skiing and telemark. Professionals will also be there to explain the basics of mountain rescue, snow making and interpretation about snow profile. There will be definitely something for everyone to enjoy going on!

The weekend will be rounded off in style with a great musical highlight with Austrian folk music and pop singer Melissa Naschenweng and the Swiss dialect rock band *Volxrox* from Emmental who will rock the open-air stage on the old ice rink from 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm. Tickets cost CHF 20.- (entrance is free up to 16 years) and can be obtained from the tourist offices in Klosters and Davos or from the website: www.klosters800.ch/winterlaebae