

Welcome to Cultural and Customs Meeting and to the Street Carnival 2019 in Altstätten

The extended organising committee 2019 would like to welcome the population of the region, the neighbouring countries, all participating groups, carnival guests and visitors from all over Europe to Altstätten.

It has been five years since the Röllelibutzen Association's commission first thought about the 100th year anniversary and then laid the foundation stone for it.

The visions and ideas of that time have been practically all been integrated into our upcoming anniversary and realised. The start of the 100th year anniversary celebrations will take place with the book presentation on the 11th of November 2018 at the Museum Prestegg. Afterwards, the various European carnival cultures will be on display there as part of a special exhibition until the mid of 2019.

The European Cultural and Customs Meeting is the highlight of our festivities. About 35 traditional custom groups from 13 different European countries will meet in Altstätten and celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Röllelibutzen Association.

Visitors will get to see a European carnival culture, which is unique in its kind. Our association is proud to celebrate its 100th year anniversary with traditional carnival associations from all over Europe. The organising committee would like to thank the participating groups from Switzerland and from many European countries for their participation and performances.

The film, which shows not only the life of the association, the organisation of the carnival, but also the customs as it is lived today, and the commemorative publication will not only represent a contemporary document for our descendants but will also record our current association activities.

Altstätten Street Carnival 2019

After the traditional festivities, our traditional street carnival will take place. The organising committee did not want to refrain from holding the regular street carnival as part of the 100th year anniversary celebrations. On the contrary, 14 days after the Cultural and Customs Meeting, a special, grand, unprecedented street carnival will follow. 100 groups were invited to Altstätten in 2017. For all visitors and participants the street carnival is to become an unforgettable experience in Altstätten during the 100th year of the association.

On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank all persons, helpers, caretakers, associations, authorities, employees of the municipal and school community of Altstätten who are working for our event.

Special thanks go to the patrons, the Lottery Fund of the Canton of St. Gallen, the St. Gallen Rhine Valley Association, the City of Altstätten, the sponsors of trade, industry, gastronomy and patrons who make our events possible in the anniversary year.

Furthermore, the Röllelibutzen Association would like to thank the entire film team of Kuno Bont, the Altstätten Museum Society and Andreas Winet for their support in selecting and inviting the traditional groups, as well as for the realisation of the exhibition and the commemorative publication team.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the numerous non-members working free of charge and to all members of the association, who have contributed a great deal to the 100th anniversary celebrations.

Special thanks are due to all the members of the association's organising committee as well as to the colleagues of the extended organising committee for the intensive years of preparation, personal commitment and their work in celebrating the anniversary year.

The hospitality and enthusiasm of the people of Altstätten, as well as the flair of our old town, will leave a lasting impression on all groups and guests nationally and internationally, and encourage many to return.

I would now like to wish all our guests and friends happy, fun, accident-free, and carefree anniversary days in Altstätten.

Alex Zenhäusern

President of the organising committee

Röllelibutzen Association Altstätten