

Grüezi and hello - we introduce ourselves ...

for the Culture and Tradition Event 2019

Altstätten is the Carnival stronghold in the Rhine Valley and known far and wide. The Carnival enjoys an excellent reputation and shapes our town. It attracts countless visitors, from the immediate neighbourhood as well as from other regions of Switzerland and from abroad.

This success is to a large extent the merit of the Röllelibutzen Verein in Altstätten. The Röllelibutzen Verein is celebrating its 100th anniversary - congratulations!

The club was founded in 1919, but the history of the Butzen goes back much longer. The first historical mention dates from 1617, over 400 years ago. The review of the history shows that the Local Council of Altstätten repeatedly published bans in the local newspapers to "prevent the pagan Carnival goings-on".

As Mayor of Altstätten, I have the pleasure to pronounce the word of welcome on behalf of the Town Council for the Culture and Tradition event in 2019. From a historical point of view, this is not a matter of course. But it turns out that the folk tradition Carnival is alive, is maintained and is constantly evolving.

The Carnival tradition is committed in 19 European countries and for the Culture and Tradition event, we expect traditional groups and clubs from 13 countries. An interesting insight into the international Carnival tradition is approaching us - I am looking forward to these celebrations. On behalf of the Town Council, I warmly welcome all guests from near and far. I wish you a pleasant stay with us, convivial hours and many exciting acquaintances across cultural and national borders.

I would like to thank the Röllelibutzen Verein, the organizing committee, participants and helpers and all partners for their commitment. Gratitude is also owed to the sponsors for the support of the Carnival clubs.

May the days of Culture and Tradition also go down in the history books.

Ruedi Mattle

Mayor of Altstätten