

Aspects of Nuremberg

The pandemic has given the main market square a new and controversial face.



I am sure that you have read about the “Sommertage” in the heart of Nuremberg. The relative calm of the Nuremberg market square has been replaced by the noise of a fair ground, and not just for a long weekend, but for more than five weeks! This is totally unprecedented. Visitors to the historic city wishing to quietly photograph the famous façade of the Frauenkirche or capture the details on the Schöner Brunnen now have to contend with a Big Wheel, a Roller Coaster, and the noise of Dodgem cars.

In normal circumstances, of course, the so-called Herbstvolksfest (Autumn Fair) would be located out at the Dutzendteich. On a good day thousands of happy people would be milling around, and the owners of the rides and the sausage stands would be doing a great trade. But Covid 19 has put paid to all of that and the city, presumably under pressure from the fair ground lobby, came up with this novel solution, as seen in the photo above. Some of the Herbstvolksfest can be found next to the Jakobskirche, and at various other locations in the city. However, there are many who are dismayed at what is going on. Is this the right way to contain corona? With a significant rise in the infection rate in Germany, shouldn't we be more careful?

Other people, especially the younger generation, are perfectly happy to see the market square put to new uses – beach volley ball, mountain bike displays – but others prefer the peace and quiet of a traditional fruit and vegetable market with Franconian strawberries and Franconian rhubarb. A colourful Marktfrau who speaks in dialect completes the picture!

Of course, the centre of Nuremberg is already home to numerous special events: the Christmas Market, the Töpfermarkt (the Pottery Market), the Easter and the Autumn Market, the Flea Market, and so on, all of them well established in the centre of town, some of them already cancelled this year because of Corona.

Let's hope that in 2021 we can return to the time-honoured. Can forget the nightmare of 2020.

Frank Gillard

