

## Aspects of Erlangen

### Bergkirchweih 2022

Well, it's back again, after two years of pandemic-related absence, and with it the fearless Franconian Society contingent ensconced in Fleischmann's Garten enjoying a chat and some perfect weather.



The organizer as ever was Teresa, who deserves a huge thank you for finding a relatively quiet corner for some of the more senior visitors to the Berg, a perfect spot for lovers of grilled fish and a goodly measure of beer.

Below us were the fairground rides, the sellers of candyfloss and popcorn, the laughter of children and the sight of cheerful dirndls and manly lederhosen.



And to think it all began on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1755, when the then city counsellors determined that the traditional Whitsun market should be moved from Erlangen's Old Town to the Burgberg. Little did they realize that a couple of centuries later the "Berch", as the locals call it now, would be attracting something like a million visitors each year and would become an Erlangen institution in its own right, the "fifth season" in the local calendar.

The Erlangen breweries, of which back then there were many, had been creating beer cellars in the sandstone of the Burgberg, from 1675 at the latest, over whose entrance ways since 1718 "Lusthäuslein" (pavilions) were built, today much sought-after locations for "Berch" lovers who appreciate their beer, oompah-oompah music or a good singsong with their compatriots.

I don't think the dozen "Franconians" who came along broke into song, but we have long become a (very modest) part of the Kirchweih tradition, and long may it remain so.



Frank Gillard