

Aspects of Erlangen

The Erlangen author, journalist, and, specifically, animal-rights campaigner, Margrit Vollertsen-Diewerge, is a truly remarkable personality. I made her acquaintance just a few years ago when she asked whether I would like to be part of her “play-reading” group that focusses on plays written by Margrit which typically feature William Shakespeare and his work, another of Margrit’s great passions. Through her I was also introduced to the Schillingsfürst dynasty related to the Staufers but also to the British royal family through Prince Philip. This led, of course, to our Franconian Society trip to Schillingsfürst in 2022. She is also a prolific author of stories and fairy tales for children.



Arguably, however, it is her decade-long fight for “animal rights” that has been her main passion in life. This highly committed 90-year-old is seen here proudly standing alongside one of her most recent achievements, the sculpture that cries out that “Tiere haben Rechte”, “Animals, too, have Rights!”. It is the first “official” sculpture anywhere in Germany calling for an end to experiments on living animals.

It stands at the Bohlenplatz, just outside the main entrance to “Kreuz und Quer”, now a community centre whose history reaches back to 1728 when the foundation stone was laid for the former “deutsch-reformierte Kirche” in Erlangen. It is the work of the Spessart-born sculptress, Monika Ritter, who now lives in Kalchreuth. Here are some more details:

