

A highly enjoyable Prättigauer Alp Spectacle!

The Prättigauer Alp Spektakel took place last week for the 9th consecutive year over 4 days with events taking place in Küblis and Seewis, combining innovative ideas with Alpine culture that are both natural and genuine and also original and traditional.

Clair Southwell

The opening two nights of the «Alp Spektakel» in Küblis are always a sell out! The Prättigau is rich with its culinary delights and primitive Alpine Legends and the stories are re-enacted in the Prättigauer dialect with music and candlelight to create an atmospheric evening. On Saturday, the renowned Alpbzug takes place in Seewis and is such a special day – even the rain in the morning did not dampen the spirits of the large crowds lining the streets of this charming mountain village! The preparation for such a huge weekend of festivities must involve a lot of people and it starts with very slick parking and transport organisation in Grusch from where, with a continuous relay of PostAuto buses, they get everyone up to Seewis with the minimum amount of waiting. It is a good idea to buy pre-paid vouchers for food and drinks in the huge marquee and also the charge of CHF 10.– per adult is fair and contributes to the cost of putting on this event. The actual parade of the cows, sheep, goats and horse wagons with cheeses is quite different to our one and I think their cows are unruly compared to the Klosters «ladies» who always seem so di-

gnified ambling along the road to Monbiel. Maybe it is because the Seewis cows appear to carry the most massive bells ever seen and it is all downhill anyway!! It is also fun to see the same families and the children leading their flocks of sheep and cows through the narrow streets. After the parade it is off to explore the extensive market which was easier to move around when the rain stopped and the umbrellas were put away – the stalls display such a wide variety of traditional Alpine products with colourful decorations and painted toys, felt hats, Prättigauer tops, hand made crafts, dried flowers and unusual objects. There is a truly hospitable and friendly atmosphere and lots of smiling and happy faces! Dotted around amidst the other stands are representatives of many of the local Alps in the region selling their cheeses, home made sausages and dried meats, jams, breads and cakes – all looking very appetizing. This is a great opportunity to try many cheeses from different Alps and you can really taste the difference between them – with so much choice it is hard to decide which one is preferable and I think they are all delicious! Even more confusing



The cows with their huge bells «powered» down the hill into Seewis - it was probably safer for these two youngsters to bring up the rear!



Many children take part in the Alpbzug including this young lad who is enjoying his important role!

in the Turnhalle there was an Alp cheese tasting where you tried at least 15 different cheeses and then had to say the order of what you liked best – we also had a delicious Raclette so all in all were pretty «cheesed out» by the end of the afternoon! If you have never been to this fabulous event then do go next year and on the Sunday they have even more activities going on and non stop music and entertainment too.

Sweden by trike

You may remember last Easter when David Brandenberger pedalled off from Klosters Dorf to explore the world on his specially built solar power-

ed Tricycle. David previously worked for eight years as an optician for Thomas Maissen and is also known as a very talented photographer and artist. The beginning of the tour had its problems with one repair after another and the realisation that the Trike was not suitably built for such an adventure! After 500 km and both axles breaking, David had to stop this project but was happy that he had at least managed that distance and he has learnt a lot and is convinced the system will work and the project will not end! David went to meet two specialised builders in the Czech Republic who had built a recumbent trike that had successfully gone about 7000

km from France to Kazakhstan, and they discussed what would be feasible (or not!) for his project. The conclusion was that the recumbent trike could carry a few bags but the entire solar system and the bigger part of the luggage would be in a trailer attached to the trike. It is not known, as yet, if David succeeded with his test «drive» to the Czech Republic as it is happening around now but if it is then the trike will probably be left there over winter and might need some alterations before resuming the world tour next spring. David's original plan was to reach Northern Sweden by the trike before the winter started but as that is over 2700 km away

there is no chance of that now! So he will travel by train to Kiruna, the northernmost town in Sweden where he will work for a company called Lapland Wilderness Tours with the huskies and dog sledding in the polar nights – maybe he will try downhill skiing under the midnight sun but it will be Arctic weather conditions! If you are interested in following David's blog then go to www.d-t-b.ch where you can also learn more about how to support the Solartrike project as a charity. We wish him a successful winter in Lapland and no doubt he will have spectacular photos and films to show from it. We will keep Klosters updated with his progress!



Delicious home made produce from Buura-Beizli were one of the many stalls selling cakes, jams, cheeses and other delectable goodies in the Seewis market.



Feeling the heat? This herdsman is obviously proud of his upper torso leading his cows down from the Alp!



This lovely young girl delighted the crowds with her accordion playing in the market street.



Heinz from Appenzell is taking a 5 day holiday in Klosters to weave a special silk scarf for his wife with a particularly complex pattern! Heinz took up weaving in his retirement 8 years ago and has a loom at home but finds the idea of combining a stay in Klosters and the peaceful solitude of the Webstube (basement of the Sprützhüschi) the recipe for a perfect break! The next weaving course is from the 27th - 30th November with a planning day on Friday 14th November. There are still places available and for further information go to www.waerchstuba-klosters.ch or email info@waerchstuba-klosters.ch. This is a great opportunity to learn or further your weaving and after a course you can pay to rent a loom for a certain period to do your own projects! The Wärcbstuba Klosters is an association run by five enterprising ladies (they also help organise the Christmas Market on Saturday 29th November) and they run over 50 courses a year in basket weaving, metal design, sculpturing, embroidery, painting, music, yoga and pilates - so something for everyone and a great venture for Klosters!



The solar trike had two broken axles after 500 km – the right axle went in the middle of a busy street in Osthofen – but luckily causing no accident or injury!



David Brandenberger in the early stages of his world tour enjoying the sights of the Ludwigsburg Palace near Stuttgart with his specially built solartrike.