



# NEWSLETTER

## February 2021

### ADDENDUM

[www.egtwinning.org.uk](http://www.egtwinning.org.uk)

#### **ADDENDUM: FASCHING in MINDELHEIM (from Alexandra Koenig)**

Unique in the world and also quite famous are our Tower figures. The Mindelonia Carnival Guild is primarily based on the Mindelheim tower figures, which are the landmarks of our town in the Carnival period (die fuenfte Jahreszeit.) Here is something about their history and meaning. Whilst on a walk, some gentlemen looked up at the Obere Tor (upper gate) from the main street (now Maximilianstrasse). One of the men had a vision: Look at the tower, doesn't it look like a jester? You should paint it right away.

And so on the Wednesday night members of a gymnastics group decided to put up a larger than life Hanswurst (jester) on the side of the tower facing the town. That was the start of the tower cladding in Mindelheim in 1909. The figure of Durahansl covers one of the town towers made into jesters at the Mindelheim Carnival, das Obere Tor (the upper gate). For the carnival figure of the wet nurse, the outside of the Upper Gate was cladded from 1936. She is Hansl's wet nurse. Columbine represents Durahansl's young girlfriend. This carnival figure was attached in 1953, as a counterpart to Durahansl, on the side of the Mauritia Febronia grammar school facing the town. So, the two lovebirds can flirt with each other throughout Carnival.

#### **Columbine**

I toast Hansl with a glass of champagne. I too fell victim to the storm a few years ago and thanks to the donations of numerous Mindelheim citizens I was renewed by the Mindelonia (carnival association). The new Columbine, like Hansl, was painted by the master painter Hubert Schwank.

#### **The wet nurse**

The people of Mindelheim affectionately call me "D' Narramuatr" (mother of the jester). I can be found on the back of the Upper Gate and so strengthen the back of Durahansl. In this great position I overlook the whole of Mindelheim's Stachus (fountain) with a view towards Munich. After 50 years at the Upper Gate, my clothes were completely worn out, so I had to wait two whole years until I could be freshened up and be with my Hansl again in 2002.

#### **Durahansl**

I have been a landmark in Mindelheim since 1910, especially in the Carnival period. I am situated on the venerable "Upper Gate" in Mindelheim. I was totally destroyed in 1994 after a severe storm. Thanks to Mindelonia and master painter Hubert Schwank, I was able to take my usual seat again a year later. I would especially like to say thank you to Sparkasse

Mindelheim ( a bank) which gave me new clothes. And a big thank you to Ms. Paula Holl, who convinced a lot of people to help, so that my two friends could also get some new clothes.

Gumpige Donnerstag (Thursday) is for us a day of real celebration. It is the Thursday before Rosemontag (the Monday before Ash Wednesday).

Traditionally, the town hall is stormed at 9:30 a.m. The 'Durahaufa' (the figures on the towers) gives our mayor and employees 10 tasks that have to be fulfilled. There is always one task that cannot be fulfilled, and so the DURAHAUFA storms the town hall. The Mindelheim brass band is always there.

There is much celebration, and before the big procession there is a reception in the FORUM, where all the important couples from the Unterallgäu are welcomed. At 2:14 p.m. the carnival procession starts its way through the town centre with numerous groups on foot and in wagons.

On Russige Freitag (the Friday before Ash Wednesday), the 'Durahaufa' will set up the jester's tree on the Marienplatz (main square), and children from the primary schools will read carnival poems ...

Mindelheim has two large carnival clubs, Die Mindelonia and the Durahaufa jester's guild, departments in the Frundsberg-Festring and the Siedelonia carnival club.

<https://www.durahaufa.de/>

<https://www.mindelonia.de/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, I have translated the special dialect words -

Durahaufa is a pile of towers - our figures.

I hope this is information that will help you, best regards and hopefully see you very soon,  
**Alexandra!**

### **Bourg de Peage.**

Marie France Collus says They don't have Mardi Gras! I assumed she meant for this year, and asked what they normally do, but she said just the schools; the town has crepes parties for them and each child gets a free pancake. I asked if there were any processions like in Germany and she said no. I have looked on the website, and there is nothing there either, so perhaps they are like us and just eat pancakes.

Below is a photo of the bugnes that she had made (which are a bit like doughnuts) and which she posted on Facebook. When I googled them it said they are eaten at Mardi Gras. That is all I have got, sorry.

