



January - The Kiessee along Sandweg

The wish for a larger body of water in the Jahnstadion area was first voiced in 1913 and was initially to create a lake with a surface area of approx. 30 ha. However, it took until the 29th April, 1961 before the recreation and water sports zone on the Kiessee (gravel lake) was finally made available to the public. It was largely brought about in the 50's by the joining and reshaping of two gravel yards that had been abandoned for economic reasons although of the 30ha originally requested, the surface area was eventually only 15ha. This popular recreational area offers plenty of room for all sorts of leisure activities. Joggers, walkers and casual strollers populate the wayside, sunbathers bask in the meadows and there's a playground for children. The water itself allows for rowing, sailing, canoe-polo and pedal-boating and should the lake freeze in the winter, ice skaters perform their rounds on the ice as soon as it is officially declared safe.

Source: Karl Grabenhorst, Georg J. Merkel und die Göttinger Landschaftspflege, in: Göttingen die Universitätsstadt im Grünen hrsg. von Zweckverband Wirtschaftsraum Stadt und Landkreis Göttingen, 1964. Sylvia Möhle, 250 Jahre Grün in Göttingen, 2000.



February - Gottfried August Bürger with cord cap, Bürgerstraße

(1747 - 1794; poet, innovator and accomplished writer of German ballads). He started studying law in Göttingen in 1768 and in 1772 he obtained the post of Amtmann (district magistrate) in Gelliehausen. In Göttingen, he became acquainted with Hölty, Leisewitz, the brothers Stolberg and other members of the Hainbund (a group of students named after an ode by German poet Klopstock, 'Hain' is a grove) and from 1779 to his death he was publisher of the "Göttinger Musenalmanach". Bürger returned to Göttingen in 1784 and with support from Georg Christoph Lichtenberg he obtained a private lectureship in aesthetics, German style and German language at the University of Göttingen. In 1787, he was made an honorary doctor and was appointed a distinguished professor in 1789. Bürger is still largely remembered today because of his ballad "Lenore"(1773) and the tall tale "The Campaigns and Comical Adventures of the Baron of Münchhausen", that has since been translated into many languages. Bürger's bust stands in the Walhalla Hall of Honour and Glory next to other famous Germans such as Goethe, Händel and Sophie Scholl.

Source: Heinz Motel, Berühmte Persönlichkeiten und ihre Verbindung zu Göttingen, 4. Auflg. 1997.www.gutenberg.spiegel.de; www.wikipedia.de; www.walhalla-regensburg.det



March - Mauerstraße with view of St. Albani

Mauerstraße (Wall Street) lies in the former area of the "old village" Gutingi (the settlement at the watercourse) that developed around the St. Albani church and Lange Geismar Straße. Originally, Mauerstraße was only a narrow lane that allowed access to the (city-) walls and possibly to the developments of the plots of land to the rear of Rote Straße (Red Street) as well. It wasn't expanded until the 19th century and house no. 21 didn't appear until around the year 1870. Mention of the St. Albanikirche (Church of St. Albani), whose predecessor was the oldest church in the city (village church of Gutingi), can be traced back to 1254 although it is definitely much older. Little is left to give you an idea of the original design and size of the old church built in the time of Otto the Great or Heinrich II as the current church building comes from the 14th and 15th century. In the cemetery of the Albanikirche, you can find Carl Friedrich Gauß laid to rest (26th February, 1855) and today the Albanifriedhof (Albani cemetery) is part of Cheltenham Park (see text accompanying May picture).

Source: Baudenkmale in Niedersachsen Stadt Göttinge 5.1, Veröffentl. d. Instituts für Denkmalpflege. www.stadtarchiv.goettingen.de (Stadtgeschichte und Chronik); www.evlka.de/extern/goettingen/albani/





April - Berliner Straße Pergola

Welcome to the university city of Göttingen - since the 31st July, 1854 Göttingen has been connected with the rest of the world via rail too. Fountains, palm trees and flowers decorated the railway station forecourt until the building was burnt out during the 2nd World War and between 1950 and 52 the railway station was rebuilt in a simplified form once again. The barren forecourt then served as a parking lot, taxi stand and bus stop. Since the early 90's, Göttingen has been an ICE (Inter City Express) railway station. Originally a stop on the route between Hanover and Würzburg, it's trains now run directly to Basel, Zurich, Munich, Vienna, Innsbruck, Interlaken, Berlin, Hamburg, Kiel and Bremen. By 1997 it was high time to make the gate to Göttingen more presentable. The cars, buses and taxis were banished from the forecourt. A bicycle storage house and a bus station emerged. Fountains, palm trees and benches now lavishly decorate the forecourt. A 220 meter long, filigree, white pergola now covers and decorates the wide space on the city side of the station. It leads visitors to the information-tower, which is playfully crowned with a snow white, conical roof.

Source: W. Barsky, J.U. Brinkmann: Göttingen, Gestern und heute, 1. Auflg. 2001.

Jens-Uwe Brinkmann: Auf Schienen durch die Zeit, 2001. www.stadtarchiv.goettingen.de (Stadtgeschichte und Chronik)



May - Schwanenteich (swan pond) on the Bleicherschanze

Cheltenham Park area is one of the treasured relics from the expansion of the outer city fortifications that took place from 1362 and consisted of adding earth walls with watch towers and trenches. From the years 1447/48 until 1453/54, the ramparts were reinforced further by damming up and connecting the surrounding ponds. Only here at the swan pond is one of the original dams still to be found. From 1774, the city was "de-fortified". Parts of the ditches had already been swamped in 1762 and only the fire pond (Schwanenteich) in front of the Albanitor (Albani gate) and the section between Groner gate and the effluent of the Leine still led to water. In 1783, the magistrate of the city entrusted the former Bleicherschanze to the parishes of Albani and Nikolai who located their new cemetery here and which remained in use until 1881. Today, the rose gardens, the Schwanenteich and Cheltenham Park can all be found in parts of the former Bleicherschanze. The fire or swan pond is the last, non-dryed out section of the old trench-network.

Source: Baudenkmale in Niedersachsen Stadt Göttinge 5.1, Veröffentlichung des Instituts für Denkmalpflege. www.stadtarchiv.goettingen.de (Stadtgeschichte und Chronik)



June - GEOPARK on Goldschmidtstraße

If stones could speak, they would be able to tell us so much about the constant changes, the spectacular events and life and death on our planets soil. For example, a heavy sandstone slab weighing approximately 20 tons can take us 280 million years back in time to the age of the dinosaurs. Considerably younger are the stumps of the sequoia that are only approximately 35 million years old. The stages of life (birth, being and decay) are vividly depicted on the well gate and through its accumulation, pouring and its seeping away, the water has come to symbolise the basic principles of the earths recurring catastrophes (volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and avalanches) inside and on the planet's surface. Information about geological occurrences such as the continually changing position of the continents is presented in writing and pictures. Since 1991, the GEOPARK has been situated at the geological institute in the northern part of the university with approximately 20 topical-subjects, and extensive projects planned for the near future.

Source: www.geobiologie.uni-goettingen.de/museum/geopark.

Spektrum, Informationen aus Forschung und Lehre, Hrsg. Präsident Prof. Dr. Kern Universität Göttingen, 2/98.





July - Skybiker on campus, Platz der Göttinger Sieben

No one knew where he came from and how he got there! In the summer 1994, a transparent wiry cyclist rode a pink bicycle up the then unloved green column of prof. Erich Reusch into the heavens. A dispute broke out! The artist insisted on copyright for his artwork and the citizens and students gave him their support and protested. However it was all in vain! The Skybiker was removed from the – now once again unloved - green column by a court order and has since cycled undeterred up a large light mast in the middle of the campus square.

Meanwhile, in place of where a sports field lay approximately 30 years ago, an important hub of student life has developed housing several faculties and important institutional centres of the University of Göttingen like the main auditorium building, the central canteen and the new state and university library (SUB). And right in the middle: the forum, an open space (approx. 70m x 70m) for lingering between lectures, discussing the last seminar or just for relaxation.

Source: Dr. Dieter Porth, Offener Brief an Professor Reusch, 7. Mai 2002

www.vwl-wiso.uni-goettingen.de



August - Volkshochschule (adult education centre) on Bahnhofsallee

A European-wide competition was launched in 1996 to determine the new construction design of the Volkshochschule (VHS) building on the West side of the central station near the Otto-Hahn Centre. The final decision regarding the appearance of the new project was made on the 22.04.1997 and the competition was won by Berlin architects Almut Geier and Enno Maas. In 1999, after a 13 month construction period, the VHS found its new home. The new VHS building was presented to an anxious public on the 11th September with an opening ceremony and an open day. An "outstanding result" (Günter Blümel, managing director of the VHS): from a 3.400 sq. m plot of land a visually impressive, modern, functional, U-shaped building had emerged. The arrangement of the three building sections creates an opening to the Leineaue that harmoniously connects interior and exterior. 2.300 sq. m of workspace on 4 floors provide ample room for training and courses and administration for the largest adult education provider in Southern Lower Saxony.

Source: Göttinger Tageblatt: Diverse Zeitungsartikel 1995 -2000. www.vhs-goettingen.de

Arne Barth, Dem Sparzwang abgetrotzt, Volkshochschule Göttinge in Bauelt 40, 2000.



September - Rose garden playground

Walkers that stroll through Cheltenham Park can enjoy the art along the ramparts, but may feel bemused by the large sandpit in the immediate vicinity. Children play in the sand and contribute to the artwork itself. Artistic sacrilege? Since October 1996, toucans, snails, crocodiles, elephants and other animals have populated the meadow beneath the wall at the rose garden. The idea, to find new ways to design a children's play ground, came from landscape architect Johanna Spalink-Sievers. It was realised in a city project for children done in collaboration with the Northeim-based sculptor Wolf Bröll during the autumn vacations. Using hammer and chisel, the children chip away at giant sandstone blocks with great creativity and vigour and - under instructions and active assistance from the artist – they carve out the animals. The result: a unique, fascinating children's playground that allows plenty of room for individual games and ideas.

Source: Göttinger Tageblatt, Vollendung durch scheinbar Unvollendetes vom 21.02.1996

Göttinger Tageblatt, Kunst auf dem Kinderspielplatz vom 2.10.1996

Göttinger Tageblatt, Urtiere zum Bestasten und Spielen vom 2.04.1997







In the university clinic (construction started 1969; in use from 1977), daylight in the complex structure (225.000m sq. area) is scarce. However, in the main building you will find 6 light yards which, like islands decorated with plants and sound protective sails, invite you to work in a more relaxed environment. The importance of the clinic can be substantiated with numbers. In his address commemorating the buildings 25th anniversary in 2002, Prof. Dr. Horst Kern listed: 3.700 enrolled Students, 190 professors and 100 private lecturers, 7.000 permanent employees, 80 different medical units, 1.400 beds as well as 50.000 stationary and 300.000 ambulant patients a year. United under one roof: one of the largest medical faculties that trains doctors (not only for Germany), an exceptional centre of research for clinical as well as basic research and a hospital in Southern Lower Saxony of regional, national and international significance. Patients from all over the world come here to be treated by the specialists.

Source: Einblick, Sonderausgabe zum Jubiläum, 1977 – 2002 Universitätsklinikum Göttingen.



November - Saline Luisenhall industrial monument, Greitweg

The Luisenhall salt works is the only salt refinery still using traditional production technology in Europe. After its discovery in 1850 by Phillip Rohns, initial drilling began in 1851 and 1853 they eventually bumped into rock salt at a depth of 460 m. The underlying salt water from a fossilized salt lake has a saturation level of 24–27%. After going bankrupt, the salt works was sold at auction to the brothers Laporte who named them "Luisenhall" after their mother, Luise. Then, in 1881, H. B. Levin acquired the works and it is operated by his descendants to this day.

In terms of production methods, nothing has changed. The warm, pure, natural salt water is drawn using natural pressure, and is fed into two large pans and simmered at 70° C. After crystallisation, the salt is dried and is sorted and packaged by coarseness and the salt isn't just used as flavouring for food, but rather it is also used for its healing properties. Since 2002 one can enjoy the pleasant, relaxing and therapeutic effects of the salt water solution in the newly opened bath house.

Source: www.luisenhall.de; www.siedesalz.de; www.hartmann-analytik.de

www.goettingerland.de; www.reiselandniedersachsen.de; www.ndrinfo.de



December - Christmas in Göttingen, Kornmarkt

To celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Göttingen clothes itself in festive dress and decorates itself with a multitude of lights. The traditional Christmas market has taken place around the old town hall and the St. Johanniskirche (church of St Jonathan) since ancient times. However, this popular meeting place for young and old has become too loud and mundane for some citizens. A glance back: earlier, the fair was the only place in town to buy goods. The first display window in Göttingen wasn't used until 1866. 100 years ago the current Christmas market would still have been described as calm and reflective and it wasn't until mayor Calsow that somebody tried to bring the loud, sprawling market under control. A special feature was the setting up of the Göttinger Christgärten

A special teature was the setting up of the Göttinger Christgärten (Christ gardens) that are based on various international themes. The most magnificent was that of the building contractor Rohns: it stretched out from the Reinsquelle (Reins source) on the Hainberg to the swan pond. Today this tradition has been taken up once again and at Christmas time, many inner city businesses decorate their own Christgarten and a collection of nativity scenes are exhibited in the St. Johnanniskirche every year.

Source: www.goettinger-weihnachtsmarkt.de