

# Guts Muths – gut tut's!



## New GutsMuths Memorial Hall Schnepfenthal

In the area of the town of Waltershausen, in the Federal State of Thuringia, Germany

**"We teach our children religion, we teach them civic duty, yet we don't pay attention to their bodies' health and its education."**

(GutsMuths, *Gymnastik für die Jugend* / "Gymnastics for youth: or A practical guide to healthful and amusing exercises: For the use of schools. An essay toward the necessary improvement of education, chiefly as it relates to the body." – The first systematic textbook in gymnastics, 1793/1804.

## Waltershausen honours GutsMuths

**250<sup>th</sup> anniversary/ birthday of the founder of modern physical education**

2009 was an anniversary year

### **800 years of Waltershausen**

Celebration week: 15. - 21.06.

### **250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GutsMuths**

Services, hiking tours, ceremony and public festival on his birthday Sunday, 9 August in Schnepfenthal

### **225 years of Salzmannschule (Salzmann School) Schnepfenthal**

Project week 2. - 7.03.; symposium "J.C.F. GutsMuths – the last of the Philanthropists 7. - 9.08.

### **170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GutsMuths' death, 21 May**

Wreath-laying ceremony and school sports festival the previous day

### **50<sup>th</sup> meeting of elderly gymnasts Waltershausen – 9. - 11.10.**

Competitions, performances and award ceremonies in Waltershausen, and in the New GutsMuths-memorial hall Schnepfenthal.

The GutsMuths year 2009 was declared on New Year' Eve 2008, with the **first annual GutsMuths cross-country run**. From then on, the New Year's run takes place in Waltershausen every year.

When honouring **Johann Christoph Friedrich GutsMuths** (09.08.1759 Quedlinburg – 21.05.1839 Ibenhain), we equally think of **Christian Gotthilf Salzmann** (01.06. 1744 Sömmerda – 31.10. 1811 Schnepfenthal), one of the forerunners of modern pedagogy and school sports.

In Schnepfenthal, Salzmann set up a philanthropy-approved school, which was committed to the progressive teaching aims of enlightenment. In this school, pupils were taught all day long in subjects such as Geography, History, Religion, French, and English.  
For the first time Physical Education became a school subject of equal status in Germany!

One year later, Salzmann employed GutsMuths as a teacher in Geography, French, and Gymnastics. He was the author of numerous texts, for example “Gymnastik für die Jugend” (Gymnastics for the Youth), 1793/ 1804 and “Spiele zur Übung und Erholung des Körpers und des Geistes” (Games for the education and relaxation of body and mind), 1796.

### **GutsMuths' highest achievements:**

- 1. German gymnastics and artistic gymnastic ground, starting 1785
- 1. Artistic gymnastics book of the modern world, 1793
- 1. Pedagogical game book of Germany, 1796
- 1. Competitive swimming lessons, starting 1798
- 1. Comprehensive pedagogical magazine, 1800 – 20
- Reformer of Geography lessons
- Forerunner of new forms of sports in Thuringia, such as pole-vaulting, cross-country runs, ice skating, Nordic skiing

In an area that is shaped by the beauty of the Thüringen forest, something new was created in 2009- the Year of GutsMuths: On 9 September 2009, we opened **the New GutsMuths Memorial Hall in Schnepfenthal** - Sports hall, exhibition, club and training room.

**Address:** Leinaer Weg 3, Schnepfenthal, D 99880 Waltershausen

### **GutsMuths Memorial Hall Hours & Admission prices:**

**Monday - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Tuesday & Saturday - 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

***Additional guided tours can be arranged***

**Admission prices:**

**2 €, Seniors**

**1 €, Students**

**Free for children and pupils**

**Phone: (0049) 03622 – 401391, also see our contact information below**





This small GutsMuths Museum devotes itself to themes such as GutsMuths' life and work, regional history and sport, Rennsteiglauf (a cross-country race named after GutsMuths), Zöglingsweg (a hiking route on the tracks of Waltershausen's Philanthropists).

In the open-air area, everyone can test their skills on the reconstructed GutsMuths sports equipment and read the informational plaques about: the Zöglingshain (trees of the pupils) and Terra Gymnastica (sports equipment). We are open to the public at any time.

### Sights in near vicinity

**Historical forest cemetery** in the nature reserve of Hardt with the graves of Salzmann and GutsMuths.

**First German gymnastics and artistic gymnastics ground** behind the country inn "Zur Tanne"  
**Salzmannschule** – Public school specializing in languages, where the students write secondary school examinations which prepare them for university admission, together with the **Salzmann - GutsMuths Museum**:

Hours: Tue & Wed 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.,

Phone: (0049) 03622 – 913-0,

E-Mail: [www.salzmannschule.de](mailto:www.salzmannschule.de)

These sights are connected with the fairytale-like **Zöglingsweg** (a hiking route on the tracks of Waltershausen's Philanthropists). Furthermore, the castles of **Reinhardtsbrunn** (Radkapelle Klosterpark) and **Tenneberg** (puppet's exhibition, opening times: 1.11. - 30.4., Wed – Sun 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., phone: 03622-69170) are situated along the way.

The spirits of the old philanthropic educators and their pupils still hover everywhere. (Phi|l|an|th|rop, <Greek> (philanthropist))

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**J.C.F. GutsMuths**  
(09.08.1759 - 21.05.1839)

