



## TRADITIONAL FEASTS

You can find this point of interest in Canzo - Path 1 - Stage 2

### DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

#### The *Giubiana*

The *Giubiana* is a traditional feast quite popular in Piedmont and Lombardy, especially in Brianza and in the Varese area, which consists in putting to trial and send to the stake the puppet of an old lady (i.e. the *Giubiana*), which symbolizes the evils of winter and the year that has passed: it is therefore to be interpreted as a propitiatory rite.

The feast takes place on the last Thursday of January.

In Canzo this celebration is particularly complex: its key moments are the trial of the *Giubiana* in the public square, strictly spoken in local dialect, which ends with the judgment by the *Regiuu* (the town elders), followed by the bonfire and the traditional dinner consisting of risotto and sausage (*liùgànega*) accompanied by mulled wine (*vin brülé*). The event also involves other figures who play other symbolic and traditional characters.

#### Feast of the Sun - Feast of *Òman*

The Feast of Midsummer Sun, celebrated on the Sunday nearest to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, has been made to coincide with the traditional *Festa di Òman* (Feast of *Òman*), now lost, which exalted masculinity linked to images of strength and fertility typical of the sun. The whole day, organized by the local *Cumpagnia di Nost* association in conjunction with ERSAF (Regional Agency for Services to Agriculture and Forestry) and Legambiente (an environmental association), is characterized by cultural events and games: participants walk uphill in procession from Gajum to Prim'Alpe to play games of strength (*da fòrza*) and ability (*da malizia*), taste typical local dishes (the *disnà*), enjoy folk music and characteristic rites, such as the sound of the shepherd's horn, the *s'ciupetada*, and the reading of the Ode to the *Rè di Alp* (King of the Alp), an homage to this symbolic figure who looks after nature and its rhythms.

#### Biofera

On the second weekend of September the courtyards and rooms of Villa Meda host the Biofera, a fair and market where more than a hundred small farmers and craftsmen, carefully selected from all over Italy, present their products related to organic farming and alternative medicine remedies. The fair also includes cultural and recreational activities such as conferences on the relationship between man and nature and the rediscovery of traditional knowledge, dance, theatre performances, concerts, workshops, tasting, demonstrations, children's games and competitions related to the Celtic tradition.

Biofera is one of Italy's most important fairs on organic products and culture, together with Fierucola in Florence and Bioest in Trieste.

#### Christmas

In addition to the presence of wandering musicians playing local bagpipes (*piva* and *baghèt*) and fifes, and the distribution of yule logs, other initiatives help to create a Christmas atmosphere, such as Christmas Eve banquets based on tripe in minestrone (*büsechin da la vigilia*) organized by a number of associations (Alpines, *Cumpagnia di Nost*, Senior Center), and the Christmas Mass at dawn (*Mèsa Prima*, i.e. the First Mass), with the reading of the Gospel in Canzo's own dialect.

#### Patron Saint's Feast and Fair

On Saint Stephen's Day (26th December) a solemn procession is held and a white ball hanging from the ceiling of the church at the main Mass starting at 10.30 is burned. Via Rimembranze and Piazzale Giovanni XXIII are the locations of Saint Stephen's fair, which has always attracted visitors from all over Brianza.

Freely adapted from Wikipedia – Canzo page, and publications by the *Cumpagnia di Nost*