

# Discover the fishermen's chapels of Gästrikland and Hälsingland

Along the coast in the county of Gävleborg there are some very special wooden buildings – eleven well preserved fishing chapels, the oldest built during the seventeenth century. The buildings are all relatively small and have certain distinctive features, which can be seen in nearly all chapels helping us to recognise them. The chapels in this county are rather unknown, but have an exciting history.

Most of the chapels are situated on islands only reachable by boat, probably one of the reasons why they have changed very little during the centuries. The places where you find the chapels are characterized by the strenuous conditions of the life of the fishermen. In these surroundings the chapels became the most important meeting point and the responsibility of the whole fishing community. It was also here the fishing outfit were stored during the winter season when those who fished went home to their different villages.

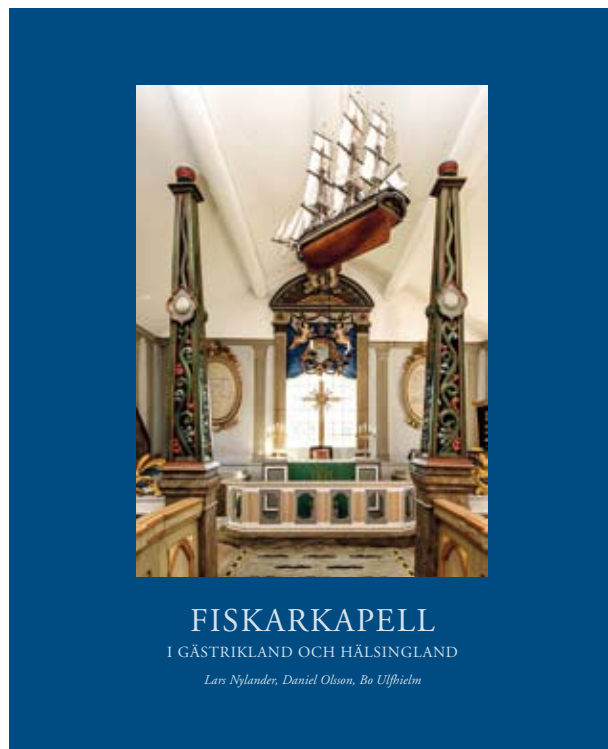
The fishing chapels have been well taken care of by the users, who wanted to keep them as they always looked. But the chapels are in the highest degree a living cultural heritage still used and yearly visited by lots of people. They are well liked tourist destinations during summer time and still used for divine service, baptism and weddings.



*The reading bench and hymn number board in Agö chapel.  
Photo: Philippe Rendu.*



*The fishing chapel in Kuggörarna. Photo: Daniel Olsson.*



## FISKARKAPELL

I GÄSTRIKLAND OCH HÄLSINGLAND

Lars Nylander, Daniel Olsson, Bo Ulfhielm

*The sanctuary in Agö chapel. Photo: Philippe Rendu.*

### Now we are slightly opening the doorway...

Hälsingland Museum and The County Museum Gävleborg have mapped the fishing chapels and their history and together with Svenska kyrkan (The Swedish Church) just published the book "Fishing chapels in Gästrikland and Hälsingland". With that book in your hand you can on your own make a different expedition to some of the very best preserved and striking cultural environments along the coast.

Chapels described in the book:

Name:	Built:
Bergön	1636
Bålsö	1603
Kuggörarna	1778
Hölick	1930
Olmen	1956
Agö	1660
Kråkö	1736
Prästgrundet	1838
Storjungfrun	1619
Bönan	1843
Lövgrund	1831

Contact Hälsingland Museum (in Ljusdal) or The County Museum Gävleborg (in Gävle) if you want to buy the book.

[www.halsinglandsmuseum.se](http://www.halsinglandsmuseum.se), [www.lansmuseetgavleborg.se](http://www.lansmuseetgavleborg.se)

*Daniel Olsson, The County Museum Gävleborg*

# Stina Jonsson wrote food history in Trödje

Stina Jonsson was born 1887 on the farm Jon-Jons in Trödje and stayed there to her death 1973. She never got married. She and her sister Karin took over the farm after their parents' death. Together they managed the cow house, but Stina took the responsibility for the kitchen and Karin for the rest of the household duties such as cleaning, tending pot plants etc. It seems clear that Stina also was responsible for the farm. She was good at figures, did the tax-returns for the local farmers and was auditor in Trödje Handelsförening (local trade society, later Konsum). During most of her life she made notes in diaries of different kinds. In a calendar from 1939 she started to note what the family had had for dinner every day. From the year 1940 she is documenting all meals from morning to night. This gives us a unique possibility to follow the dietary in a farm household, see how the food varies from day to day, but also how the access of food-stuffs and food traditions affect the catering during the year. Thanks to Stina we can now know what people consumed along the coast of Gästrikland, how often and when.

The meals at Jon-Jons were served according to a special daily rhythm. Breakfast was served at 8 o'clock. At that time the daily work had already been going on for many hours. The dinner, being the main meal, was served at 12.30. Supper was served when the work in the cow house was finished around seven o'clock. At what hour you ate was important. But what kind of food that was served followed also a special order.

The main components of breakfast were nearly always fish and porridge. It varied though from day to day, with different kinds of porridge and different ways of preparing the fish. Besides a few cold-buffet dishes with salted meat, pork or sausages were always served for breakfast.

Like in most places along the coast herring was the base in the morning meals. During the month of August 1946 the following dishes were served at Jon-Jons for breakfast: smoked Baltic herring, grilled salted herring, oven baked herring, grilled herring, fried Baltic herring in vinegar, Baltic herring with onions and cream, pickled Baltic herring, pickled herring, cooked salted Baltic herring and oven baked Baltic herring. Fermented Baltic herring was not served for breakfast, but for supper. There is nothing in Stina's diaries indicating that fermented Baltic herring was considered food for feasts but it is clear that it was still eaten daily during the 1940th.

Fish dominated on the breakfast table but the principal meal was based on meat and flour. The typical dinner was rich in both carbohydrate and fat – it was meant to give energy to the worker. There was pork in different ways: pasta with pork, potato dumplings with chopped pork filling, mashed potatoes with pork, blood bread with pork and stewed cauliflower with pork. Other common dishes were potato cakes, stuffed cabbage rolls, boiled pork sausages and boiled beef with horse-radish sauce. A dish less known to-day is stone-cakes, a kind of heavier and more flour-rich pancake which probably filled better. The stone-cakes were served with a soup of some kind. (If you



*Stina is cooking for a report in ICA-kuriren (a food magazine) 1946. Photo: Ateljé Carl Larsson, Gävle. The County Museum collections.*

would like to try you will find the recipe here.) The main meal always finished with a dessert, often based on berries or fruit.

Fresh fish from lakes were not served very often. During the summer you sometimes got stewed or fried perch and during the spring boiled roach. Stina bought pike in town. It is therefore likely that pike was considered exclusive food. Another fish that ought to be especially mentioned here is the whitefish. It is noted in cultural history chronicles that it was a tradition in Trödje to have whitefish on the Christmas table. That is proved by Stina's diary from 1946, where the Christmas table of that year tempts with "Bread flavoured with wort. Homemade Christmas bread, white and dark bread, fresh cheese. Rockefort cheese, whitefish, anchovy, brawn, ham, liversausage."

## **Stone-cakes from Trödje**

5 dl milk  
5 hg flour  
½ tsp salt  
1 egg  
250 g fat

*Ingela Broström, The County Museum Gävleborg*

# Wander along the coast and visit some exciting nature reserves

**Furthest away in the northern part of Jungfrukusten you can take a beautiful walking tour 70 kilometres long. You will pass along roads and paths through old fishing villages, living hamlets, beautiful forest nature with rich flora and fauna, past ancient remains and along fine sandy beaches! The municipality of Nord-anstig and members of the local league for protection of nature are responsible for this project called Kustleden (The coastal trail). The trail is neither far away from E4 or Kustvägen nor from the sea as the trail all the way follows the coast.**

The trail is passing through three fine nature reserves. The fourth reserve you have to look at from the trail if you do not come in a boat. From north to south it passes the Klackudden, Vattingsmalarna, Gnarp-skaten and Notholmen reserves.

## **The nature reserve of Klackudden with fine woods**

The woods of Klackudden are clearly characterized by the nearness of the sea. Along the rocky slopes open forests are dominating. In the more fertile parts there are fir forests with deciduous. Many traces show that the land has been inhabited by men for a long time. The most ancient remains consist of memorial mounds of stones from the Bronze Age or early Iron Age. Not so old are the traces of buildings near Gamla hamnen (The old harbour).



*Stroll along The coastal trail through Klacksudden nature reserve.*

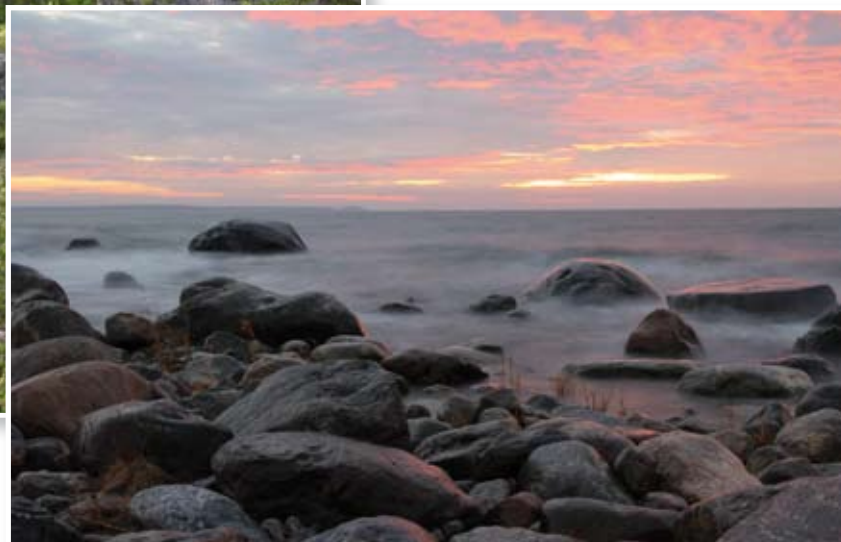
## **Behold the cobblestone fields in Vattingsmalarna nature reserve**

The largest cobblestone field in the county stretches 500 metres in from the sea in the nature reserve of Vattingsmalarna. Old shores have built terraces in the field, forming very long lines. Nowhere along the coast of Gävleborg can you see so longish and clearly marked terraces as here. They are lying there as the sea left them when the water quickly sank to a lower level and the waves started to form a new line of rounded stones. The vegetation in the cobblestone fields is mostly meagre and consists of heather, blueberries, cowberries, bearberries and bog whortleberries.



*Cobblestone fields in Vattingsmalarna nature reserve.*

Along the trail through the reserve there are plenty of halting places with tables and benches. There you can sit down and look for ringed plovers running up and down along the shore or you can just sit down and gaze at the sea.



*Sunset from Vattingsmalarna nature reserve.*

### Shifting sand dunes in the nature reserve of Gnarpsskaten

Gnarpsskaten nature reserve lies on a point along the coast. The sea and the wind have shaped vast cobble stone fields and a beach with shifting sand dunes. In this moor like area a pine forest with open glades grows and in small tarns water lilies and dragonflies prosper.



### Notholmen is an island with a long social history

Notholmen lies just outside Mellanskogen fishing village and you reach this beautiful island by boat. The nature of the ground is partly rough due to blocks of stones, but on the west side of the island you can move fairly smoothly along the shoreline to the halting place in Månsvik. On the island grows knotty old pine trees and you can find traces of a lot of different species of insect and woodpeckers.

At Holmhällan, on the west side of the island, there are traces from



*View of natural reserve Notholmens.*

*Gnarpsskaten nature reserve.*

long ago of a harbour for ballast. On the rocks among the windswept pine trees you can see the iron rings used to moor the ships and in the water ballast stones from all over the world are still lying.

If you want to visit more nature reserves so read more about them on the web: [www.lansstyrelsen.se/gavleborg](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/gavleborg)



Länsstyrelsen  
Gävleborg



*Ballast harbour at Holmhällan nature reserve*