

## *Welcome to Gammelgården*

### **Bortom Åa – different and exciting experiences for the whole family**

Visit Gammelgården and find out what life was like for a wealthy farming family. Step over the threshold of this grand early 19th century farm, where everything has been preserved for several generations. Look around in the old gunsmith's workshop and examine the farmhands' lodgings and the grain store with seven locks – you'll be amazed and surprised. Baking might be in

progress in the bakehouse on the day of your visit.



### **Animals and living history**

Maids and farmhands in period costume show visitors around the farm and relate stories from the past. Animals graze in the pastures during the summer months.

### **Linen and wooden products on sale**

In our shop you'll find genuine handcrafted products, beautiful textiles, ceramics and the Fågelsjö Horse, which is the characteristic symbol of the farm.



### **Café and study centre**

Enjoy a cup of coffee and homemade cakes/buns or sandwiches. The aroma of the morning's baking lingers! You can hire the bakehouse for your own baking activities.

Alternatively you can buy our flatbread – it is baked one day a week during the summer to go on sale to the public.

### **Guided tours**

Daily all summer. No tours on Midsummer's Eve.

Tours are given at other times by pre-arrangement. You can also book a tour for just a few visitors at other times!

We have a number of parking spaces for motorhomes and caravans next to Gammelgården.

Telephone: +46 657-30030, e-mail: [info@fagelsjo.nu](mailto:info@fagelsjo.nu)

We offer overnight accommodation of youth hostel standard. Please book in advance by phoning +46 657-30030.

Fågelsjö is located by the E 45 road, about 90 km west of Ljusdal, 100 km north of Mora, and 40 km south of Sveg.

# *Hantverk till salu*

## *Handcrafted products on sale*

**The shop** at Gammelgården sells local handcrafted products. The range on sale may vary slightly from one year to the next, but it includes knives with skilfully made blades and handles as well as knife sharpeners. We also sell knitted scarves and handicraft materials for your own work, flax dolls, ceramics, felt insoles, wirework, and much more made by craftspeople in and around Fågelsjö.



We mustn't forget the **Fågelsjö Horse**, which is still crafted by local craftsmen who started making them about 35 years ago.

We also sell many books, for example about Finnish colonisation in the area, Fågelsjö, and several about building conservation. New handcrafted items are added to our range every year.

# *Gårdens historia*

## *History of the farm*



Kristina & Mårten

**Fågelsjö Gammelgården** is a well-preserved, untouched cultural environment, with roots dating back to the Finnish colonisation in the 17th century. The Finnish slash-and-burn cultivators who settled in Fågelsjö in about 1670, had already lived in Sweden for two generations. Before moving to Fågelsjö they lived in Tandsjöborg, some 15 km south of here. Until about 1840, the village came under the town of Mora and it is entered in the church records as “Mora Finnmark”. The farm was owned by the same family for seven generations.

The main farmhouse, a timbered one-storey *parstuga*, was built in 1818 and was adapted and extended throughout the 19th century. A new master of the house took over the farm in 1822 and the first thing he did was to add a storey to the building. Each generation wanted to make their personal mark on the farm.

In 1895 Kristina, the only heir, took over the farm from her father Jonas Olsson. Jonas was the main farmer and strong figure of the village. Kristina had a long tradition to build on; she looked up to her father and often referred to him when talking about chores on the farm. Kristina married Mårten Persson, who ran a general store in Fågelsjö.

Of the couple, she was the one who continued to live in a traditional manner as a farmer’s wife. Kristina remained the sole owner of the farm, which was unusual for a woman at that time.

**Mårten** was a man of the new era. After training as a bookkeeper in Stockholm, he returned home and became a shopkeeper with his own business. He was the first in his family, perhaps in the village, to make a break from the traditional way of life. It was a time of change; the forests were now valuable and people started to realise that there were other means of earning a living besides being a farmer or farmhand. Mårten became a respected man in the village. He was a lay judge and was elected to the municipal committee and school council.



Mårten and Kristina lived in Gammelgården until 1910, when they moved into a new house on the opposite side of the farmyard. They built their new residential property in a style that was completely new in the area and that, it is said, was inspired by a postcard from the United States.



*Illustration 1: The seven locks on the grain store door illustrate in-depth knowledge of forging techniques.*

**The new house** was equipped with new furniture and utensils, while all the old ones were left in Gammelgården; the idea was to preserve the farm for future generations. The couple did not have any children, so they left the farm in their will to what was then Loos Municipality. Ljusdal Municipality is the current owner and Fågelsjö Hembygdsförening, the local heritage association, looks after the farm.

Gammelgården is unique in Sweden – it is an invaluable source of knowledge about building practices, self-sufficiency, handicraft techniques and folk art. The fact that the farm stands on its original site adds to its substantial value.

The farm includes many outbuildings, grain stores, a storage building with a gallery and two storeys, a bakehouse, a section preserved from the 18th century, and a restored gunsmith's workshop – which is one of the farm's foremost attractions.

Gävleborg County Administrative Board has awarded the farm "listed building" status due to its historical interest.

# *Interiörer*

## *Interiors*

**Gammelgården**, dating from the early 19th century, is an untouched environment with extremely well-preserved interiors and paintings. Among the attractive wall paintings, furniture and artistically decorated objects, you can sense the atmosphere of a world so unlike our own.

The farm includes a textile treasure trove: a walk-in closet with garments and other objects from three generations.

Another storey was added to the farm in the 1830s and included a banquet hall. The hall was embellished with beautiful wall paintings by Bäck Anders Hansson from Rättvik. Several of the rooms are decorated with elegant stencils. The farm is adorned with a magnificent wedding arch, skilfully carved and painted for a wedding in 1821. The rebuilding projects carried out show that even in this remote forested area people were influenced by middle class ideals. The family had printed wallpaper as early as in the 1850s.



The picture shows the **priest's chamber**, in which the priest stayed when he came to the area once a year. His visit lasted several days, because he had many christenings, marriages and funerals to attend to – as well as visiting households to test people on their knowledge of the catechism. Each year the priest's weekend is still celebrated in Fågelsjö, a popular event at the end of which the priest leaves the village in a boat decorated with leafy branches to the sound of a

gun salute.

**The spacious kitchen** is dominated by a large fireplace for cooking, light and heat. This is where the family got together to eat and chat. The kitchen is full of objects left on their shelves and hooks, from cutlery and utensils to hand-wrought guns made in the farm's own workshop.



**Guns and tools** from Fågelsjö were famous in their day for their high quality. All the objects illustrate great craftsmanship and imagination.

## *i Fågelsjö by*

*In the village of Fågelsjö*

Information about the village.

The bakehouse is located on the nearside of the Fågelsjö river, before you cross the bridge. Each week members of the local heritage association bake products that go on sale to the public. You can also hire the bakehouse for your own baking activities.

### **Fågelsjö Chapel**

The chapel was built in 1862-69 by Fågelsjö villagers and is open to visitors.

The separate bell tower was consecrated in October 1953 and was paid for using funds raised by the church's sewing circle, which was active at that time.

The cemetery was consecrated in 1832.

### **Bygdegården**

Bygdegården is the village hall and can be hired for various functions, such as birthdays, funeral wakes, christening parties and wedding receptions.

There is enough equipment in the kitchen to cater for more than 70 people. The building includes three toilets as well as showers.

There are also small cabins behind the village hall for use as overnight accommodation for up to about 25 people. Kursgården/Amerikahuset contains additional accommodation.

This is an ideal venue for conferences of up to 25 delegates, and meals and coffee can be ordered from Café Bortom Åa, tel. +46 705383876.