

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



Easter Witches

Credit: Jenny Drakenlind/imagebank.se

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Our last month's meeting was in house and we distanced and were careful so we will have our April 8th meeting at Prince of Peace as well. We may meet outside, so dress accordingly. We will offer Zoom for those members who prefer this. There will be an installation for a few new members who missed it last month. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm.

We will have dinner with ham, potato salad, and baked beans. Jason Bloom has donated some korv so we will serve that as well. We will have the raffle the same as last month and the beverage team will have drinks. I would like to have volunteers for May, June, and September dinners. You can prepare or have catered food and we have available all the dishes, napkins, table cloths, etc.

Mark your calendars for November 13th for an anniversary celebration. We will vote at the meeting between Universal Hilton in Universal City or the Crown Plaza hotel in Ventura. Save the date for our Christmas Dinner and Lucia celebration on December 18th. Our next big trip will be April 23-24, 2022 to Yosemite National Park. I hope to see you all at the meeting.

Delphine

If you have not paid your membership dues, they are past due.

Questions? Ask:
Maidiemouse@gmail.com.

Please send your checks to:

Ann-Kristin Karling
13752 Burbank Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401

Reimbursement for an expense:

Dorothy Burns
8201 Glade Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91304

or
gladegal2003@yahoo.com

GVL Happenings

Happy April Birthday!!!

Natalie Mikkelsen	1
Eivor Wester	1
Nikki Taylor	5
Barbro Granath	5
Tommy Eneberg	6
Kristina Thorsen	11
Kerstin Wendt	13
Ann-Kristin Karling	14
Erik Karling	16
Jessica Santana	16
Rebecca Mikkelsen	16
Clinton Lien Jr.	21
Marianne Farn-Reinholds	24
Gunilla Hamaoui	29

2021 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

Chair: Delphine Trowbridge
Vice Chair: Andrea Tabanelli
Past Chair: Maidie Karling
Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Burns
Assistant Secretary: Mona Steffen
Financial Secretary: Maidie Karling
Treasurer: Birgitta Clark
Chaplain: Beth Bunnell
Master of Ceremonies: Lucas Taylor
Assistant MoC: Nick Storch
Cultural: Laurie Taylor (Temp)
Chaplain: Andrea Tabanelli
Chairman of Trustees: Kerstin Wendt
Trustee -3: Maria Jacobs
Trustee -1: Wencke Eklund
Chairman of Auditors: Maidie Karling
Auditor #2: Britt Marie Potter
Membership Chair: Ann-Kristin Karling
Events Co-Chair: Maggie Connelly
& Delphine Trowbridge
Scholarship Chair: Beth Bunnell
Financial Chair: Hubert Pitters
Historian: Laurie Taylor
Vasa Park: Richard Heinstedt
Bar: Dylan and Valerie and Hanna Olson
Newsletter: Laurie Taylor
Youth Group: Nicolette Taylor



Ha en trevlig födelsedag!



Culture Corner: The Blå Jungfrun Labyrinth Where Witches Dwell and Labyrinths Confuse



The Blå Jungfrun labyrinth. Source: Blå Jungfrun National Park By Wu Mingren

Its natural beauty led the Swedish government to declare the island of Blå Jungfrun, often translated as ‘Blue Maiden’, a national park. However, there is a dark side to this site and the island has a bad reputation in Swedish folklore for being a place of evil magic. Archaeological discoveries made in recent years on the island may provide an explanation for these local beliefs.

Geology and Biodiversity of a Small Swedish Island

Blå Jungfrun is an island located in the Baltic Sea in the southern Swedish county of Kalmar County. Geologically speaking, it is comprised of blue granite. The small island has a length of about 1 km (0.62 mile), and is dome-shaped, rising 86 meters (282.15 ft.) above the waters of the Kalmar Strait.

In terms of flora and fauna, parts of the island (especially the southern area) are covered by broad-leaf deciduous trees, such as oak, lime, maple, and aspen. Lichens, birds, and various species of insects also thrive on the island. It was designated a national park in 1926.

Blå Jungfrun Is Not the Island’s Real Name

Despite its rich biodiversity, this location is, according to local folklore, an ominous place. As a matter of

fact, people have even avoided calling the island by its real name, which is Blåkulla. Those sailing close to the island, in particular, abstained from using the name Blåkulla when referring to the island, as they believed that storms would brew up immediately if they used it. It was due to this that the island became known as Blå Jungfrun instead.

A Magical Site...But Not in a Good Way

More sinister is the association of the island with witches. According to local folklore, which dates to at least the 16th century, witches would gather on the island on Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday) to meet and worship the Devil. It has been suggested that the association of the island with witches may have been brought about by its ominous appearance.

Another local legend states that the island is home to certain female supernatural beings. People would leave votive offerings, normally articles of clothing, on the shore of the island in the order to appease these beings, and to gain their favor.

Yet another belief in the island’s magical power relates to the so-called Trolleborg labyrinth, an ancient stone labyrinth found on Blå Jungfrun Island. According to 3



locals, anyone who removes the stones from this labyrinth would be cursed with a lifetime of ill fortune.

Forgotten Rituals

Today, the stones of the labyrinth are not only protected by this curse, if one believes it to be true, but also by the law, due to the site's status as a national park. Whilst nobody knows who made it or when this labyrinth was created, it has been widely speculated that it was used in ancient times for ritualistic purposes. It has also been claimed that the setting up of such labyrinths on the island was common in the past, and that people would walk in them for good luck.

Archaeological studies in recent years have demonstrated that ritual activities were likely to have been carried out on the island in prehistoric times. Two caves in which rituals were potentially performed were identified in 2014.

In one of these, a feature that may have served as an altar was identified, whilst in the other, human modification of the cave suggests that the area could have been used as a sort of 'theater' or 'stage' for ritual activities. If Blå Jungfrun Island was indeed used for ritual activities in prehistoric times, then the tales told about the island's magical properties may indeed have some grain of truth in them.

Sweden's Very Own Viking Wonder Woman

By Elina Sundqvist

Birka, Sweden

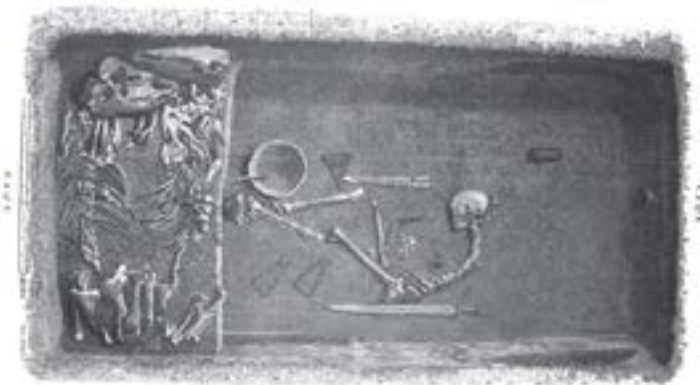
Ten years ago, archaeologists and historians found the remains of what seemed to be a fierce warrior in the Viking Age town, Birka, in Sweden. Buried together with two horses and war equipment, the warrior was originally thought to have been a man because of the items found in the grave.

Turns out archeologists assumed incorrectly.

Recent osteology and DNA-tests show that the remains belonged to a female:

"It's actually a woman, somewhere over the age of 30 and fairly tall, too, measuring around 5'6," archaeologist Charlotte Hedenstierna-Jonson of Uppsala University, reported. The findings were made during a study, which is published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology.





The woman was buried in the mid-10th century together with several deadly weapons and two horses.

“Aside from the complete warrior equipment buried along with her — a sword, an ax, a spear, armor-piercing arrows, a battle knife, shields, and two horses — she had a board game in her lap, or more of a war-planning game used to try out battle tactics and strategies, which indicates she was a powerful military leader,” Hedenstierna-Jonson said and added, “She has most likely planned, led and taken part in battles.”

The grave where the woman was found was discovered and excavated by Hjalmar Stolpe, a Swedish archeologist, at the end of the 19th century. Hedenstierna-Jonson described the grave as being “the ultimate warrior Viking grave”. The belongings found in the grave were presumed to belong to a man simply

because of their “manly” nature. But when Anna Kjellström, an osteologist at Stockholms University, had a look at the remains a few years ago — she noticed something interesting. The cheekbones were thinner and much finer than what the remains of a man would be, and the hip bones were feminine.

After an osteological and DNA-analysis, it was confirmed, the remains belonged to a woman.

“This image of the male warrior in a patriarchal society was reinforced by research traditions and contemporary preconceptions. Hence, the biological sex of the individual was taken for granted,” Hedenstierna-Jonson, Kjellström and the eight other researchers behind the study, noted in the report.

Hedenstierna-Jonson described it as a fantastic find but said it is unlikely to completely up-end historians’ view of the Viking society as being patriarchal, mainly constituting of male warriors. “It was probably quite unusual [for a woman to be a military leader], but in this case, it probably had more to do with her role in society and the family she was from than her gender,” Hedenstierna-Jonson reported.

We can only wonder about the exciting life of this woman, and how many more, similar to her, existed during the Viking Era.

The Swedish Naming Law

We’ve all heard about a friend of a friend who condemned their infant to years of ridicule on the playground after giving them some kind of ridiculous name like ‘Sunshine’ or ‘North West.’

Thankfully, in Sweden, your chosen name for your newborn baby has to be approved by the Swedish Tax Agency before it can become official, thus prohibiting names like ‘Ikea’ or ‘Volvo’ being unfairly lamped on to the poor kid.

The parents must submit the proposed name of a child within three months of birth. The current law was enacted in 2017, replacing a 1982 law. The Swedish Tax Agency administers the registration of names in Sweden. The law has been revised since originally enacted; in 1983, it was made possible for a man to adopt his wife’s or partner’s name, as well as for a woman to adopt her husband’s name.

The 1982 law states, in part: “First names shall not be approved if they can cause offense or can be supposed to cause discomfort for the one using it, or names which for some obvious reason are not suitable as a first name”. This text applies both when parents name their children and when an adult wants to change their own name. When changing a name, the first change is free of charge as long as at least one of the names given at birth is kept, and such a change is only allowed once per person. Further name changes require fee payment. The law states nothing about registering which name is used on a daily basis, but the tax authority can register that if requested.

History

The first real national legislation on family names was the Name Ordinance of December 5, 1901, primarily meant to prevent non-noble families from giving their children the names of noble families.

Culture Corner: Harald, Viking King

Most Text by:
Chloe ROCHEREUIL

The inventors of Bluetooth took a long time to come up with a cool name for their technology. Fortunately, a Viking king by the name of Harald Bluetooth came to their rescue.

Harald Bluetooth, by his Viking name Harald Blåtand, had no idea that, more than a millennium later, his blue tooth would inspire the name of a world-famous wireless computer system: Scholars say Harald was nicknamed “Blåtand,” meaning blue tooth, because he had a dead tooth that looked blue and dark.

The background

Winter 1996. Toronto, Canada. The story of the word Bluetooth begins in a crowded pub in the Canadian capital. This is where Ericsson employee Sven Mathesson first tells the story of an old Viking king, Harald Blåtand, to his friend Jim Kardach, engineer for Intel. The two engineers then work on a joint project within a consortium of companies made up of Intel, Ericsson, Nokia, and later, IBM. The tech giants of the moment want to build a standardized technolo-

gy to associate remote digital devices, Bluetooth.

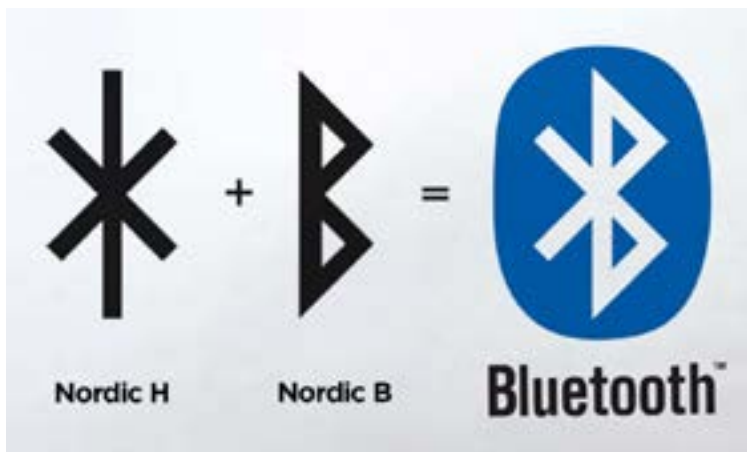
Harald, king of unity

Engineers get hold of the technology, but stumble over the name. MC-Link? Biz-RF? Low Power-RF? Too complicated, not sexy enough.

“Our proposals had just been rejected, so we went bar crawling in a windy, wintry Toronto. Being a huge history fan, I started talking about it with Sven,” Jim Kardach explained in a post. blog in 2008. Sven is Swedish. He has just read a book on the history of the Viking kings of the Nordic countries, “Longships” by Frans G. Bengtsson. One king in particular caught his attention: Harald Bluetooth - Harald with the blue tooth or Harald I of Denmark, in French.

It was he who, in the middle of the tenth century, managed to unite the Danish tribes and Norway in the same kingdom. Unite, as bluetooth will unite computers and phones later.

The codename Bluetooth was inserted into contracts as a placeholder until an official name was finalized. When other names that were being considered did not work out, Bluetooth remained.



In technical terms, the Bluetooth logo is a “bind-rune”. This simply means that it’s an image made up of two runes merged together. Runes have been in circulation for thousands of years now, which gives even more history to the Bluetooth image. So not only does this reference the king which gave Bluetooth its name, but the merging of the two letters also serves to represent how Bluetooth creates a connection between two devices.

The great thing about the bind-rune used for the Bluetooth logo is that it combines futuristic and historical elements to create something entirely

new. The runes themselves have their place in history. After all, human beings have used runes for centuries in countries across the globe. This makes the Bluetooth logo instantly more universal. The runes ensure that the image is historical and cultural, just like the story of the brand’s name.

At the same time, the harsh angles and shapes of the runic letters were also highly modern for the time. The image is interesting enough to grab attention, yet simple so that it can still be seen easily on a tiny pixelated screen. The group behind the Bluetooth brand choose an image that was versatile, timeless, and modern – that’s what makes the logo so powerful today.

March Meeting - Big thanks to Mona Steffen, Maidie Karling, and Jason Blohm for photos



Lighting up Rjukan, Norway

This interesting story made the news worldwide, but I missed it. In case you did too, here it is.

Rjukan town's founder, a noted Norwegian engineer and industrialist called Sam Eyde harnessed the power of the 100-metre Rjukanfossen waterfall to generate hydro-electricity in what was, at the time, the world's biggest power plant. He pioneered new technologies – one of which bears his name – to produce saltpetre by oxidising nitrogen from air, and made industrial quantities of hydrogen by water electrolysis.

But there was one thing he couldn't do: change the elevation of the sun. Deep in its east-west valley, surrounded by high mountains, Rjukan and its 3,400 inhabitants were in shadow for half the year. During the

day, from late September to mid-March, the town, three hours north-west of Oslo, is not dark (well, it is almost, in December and January, but then so is most of Norway), but it's certainly not bright either.

Martin Andersen unearthed a partially covered sports stadium in Arizona that was successfully using small mirrors to keep its grass growing. He learned that in the Middle East and other sun-baked regions of the world, vast banks of hi-tech tracking mirrors called heliostats concentrate sufficient reflected sunlight to heat steam turbines and drive whole power plants. He persuaded the town hall to come up with the cash to allow him to develop his project further. He contacted an expert in the field, Jonny Nersveen, who did the maths and told him it could probably work. He visited Viganella, an Italian village that installed a similar sun mirror in 2006.

Now, 450 metres above the town, three large, solar-powered, computer-controlled mirrors steadily track the movement of the sun across the sky, reflecting its rays down on to the square and bathing it in



Town of Rjukan, Norway receives no natural sunlight from September to March due to the steep mountains that surround it. They've installed large mirrors to reflect light into the town's square. The mirrors track the sun's path and move every 10 secs to create a 600m squared pool of light.

bright sunlight. Rjukan – or at least, a small but vital part of Rjukan – is no longer stuck where the sun don't shine.



*Sunlight reflects off the three giant mirrors.
Photograph: David Levene*