

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Thus the last event of the year at Foteviken is over, with a torchlight procession, bonfire and feast. The new restaurant keepers Kiin and Ragnar, who took over after Andreas and Ulf, offered a spectacular menu – All in the spirit of the Vikings.

It has been an eventful year that was ended by the storm “SVEN” causing a lot of havoc in the Viking Town. The rafts tore free, buildings in the experimental workshop were annihilated, wall barriers, barge boards and roofs were blown off and apart. Luckily nobody was injured, but it has resulted in a lot to do and repair before the next tourist season begins.

En epoch is also laid to rest: 15 years with the medieval cog ships come to an end when the New Year bells toll. 5 years of experimentally and scientifically reconstructing the two medieval cog ships, followed by 6 years of building and running the Malmö Cog Museum, and ending with maintaining and running the ships, sailing tours with school classes in the small cog, and volunteer tours with tourists in the large cog. The fate of the ships has long been in the air, though thanks to a wealthy man who took a fancy to the ships they will now remain in Malmö. How they will be used is unknown, but I do know my time as shipowner is now over, and it feels good due to the many concerns surrounding the ships, with storms and damage to the ships.

This exciting year has also led to changes in the organisation surrounding the museum. While I remain as museum director for another year I no longer manage the daily operations, which are now taken over by Sussi and Sofie in earnest. Sussi manages the administration, museum shop, staff and bookings. Sofie manages programmes and activities, education and implementation. My role is that of senior advisor of museum operations, thus I will have more time to spend on projects.

Projects like Craftland which has activities planned at Foteviken during 2014. In late August the Craftland project offers a musical journey from the Stone Age to the present. The OpenARCH project with quality assurance and development of educational activities is another part we will work on ahead awaiting a new 7 year period of fresh EU project opportunities.



Destination Viking is another very exciting project, run by the association with the same name. I participate as vice chairman and we work with improving visibility and knowledge of Viking markets and Viking Age attractions across Europe. Locally we cooperate within the Öresund region and last year Viking markets and competitions were held between the Trelleborgs in Sweden and Denmark, Frederiksbund in Denmark and Fotevikens Museum in Sweden. TV-shows and movies like the Vikings, Thor etc generates a lot of interest in the

Viking concept currently, even if much of it is fantasy. We will participate in this wave and focus even more on bringing in visitors from across Europe, but also from the east and Asia. More visitors will generate the means to build, maintain and educate even better at the various attractions.



