## THE PATH OF MEMORIES

## 1 Bergby School Community Center



Allmän folkskola was introduced in Sweden in 1842 following a decision by Sweden's Riksdag. Even before that, however, most of the population could read and write, thanks to church education and house examinations. There was a schoolmaster in Norrby as early as 1777. He taught itinerantly in various homes. The first permanent school in Norrby opened in 1875 in the so-called

The prayer house (see sign 21). In 1882 the number of students was 53 children. During this time, classes were held only every other day.



Bergby School 1949

Bergby Skola was built in 1908 as a permanent elementary school. In 1928, a separate teacher's residence with two apartments was built. In 1930, the basement was dug out to accommodate a laundry room and sauna. Previously, students would travel to Hallstavik to bathe and wash themselves. Bergby Skola operated as an elementary school (grades 1–6) for just over fifty years. For most of this time, between 1926 and 1960, Nils Börjemalm was one of two teachers. He was a well-known and respected person in the area. In 1960, Bergby Skola was closed down, as the number of students decreased sharply. The students were transferred to Häverö church school, among other places. In Bergby Skola, Häverö municipality started a housewife's school, later a high school, which was run until 1982.

**Bergby Skolas Bygdegårdsförening** was formed in 1986 when Norrtälje Municipality leased Bergby's old elementary school to the association. Since then, the building has been used as a community center – an important gathering place for the area's residents and a vibrant cultural center in the area.

Bergby Skolas Bygdegårdsförening is a non-profit association whose mission is to run the old elementary school as a public gathering and meeting place. In addition, the association will work for the cultural development of the village.

The community center has a permanent exhibition about **Hatt-Stina Ericson**.

The exhibition consists of a collection of beautiful hats as well as pictures and texts about Stina and the milliner's trade. In the 1920s she worked at Bergby Gård. Thanks to support from her uncle, Stina was able to train as a milliner in Stockholm for two years. Stina married the preacher Halvar Holm and began making hats at home in

Trästa. Stina becomes widely known under the name Hatt-Stina. Women from The whole of Uppland travels to buy hats from her, and she herself goes to markets to sell her creations. Her hats become both popular and style-defining. She continues to work as a milliner until the 1960s and lives a life characterized by creativity and entrepreneurship. Hatt-Stina was born in 1897 and died in 1981.



Hatt-Stina (second from left) at the market in Häverödal

The members of the village association collect cultural history material about the villages in the area and conduct cultural history study circles. In 2008, the association published a book about the people, the farms and the villages –

**Memories' journey** through the villages of Norrby, Bergby and Västerkulla in 1950. The association's website contains a photo collection and stories from the 60 years that Bergby Skola operated as a public school. The village hall has a fine collection of old wooden skis from the school days. Bergby Skola's village hall is also the starting point for our cultural trail through the villages; **The Trail of Memories**. See separate sign.



Are you interested in **participating in one of our courses**, or perhaps you have
Do you have your own idea for a course? In the village hall, we offer children's activities, bridge
and computer courses, gardening courses, gymnastics, wine tasting, dance courses and village
research. Contact Bergby Skola's Village Hall Association if you would like to participate in or
arrange a course.

The public can rent the community center. Downstairs there are two halls and a fully equipped kitchen for parties, courses or meetings. We have space and equipment for up to 80 people. In the basement there is a shower and sauna. Upstairs there are exhibitions and an extra meeting room. The entire house has wireless Wifi with internet connection.

The association also has a popular **flea market** that is open 24 hours a day during the summer months. We thank everyone who donates and all the customers who trades. All proceeds go to the Village Hall Association.

We welcome everyone to Bergby School Community Center!