

# ÖRENÄS, OPERAS & ASTRONOMY

Sweden Section chairman Per Östlund and his wife Monica report from a well-attended and varied event enjoyed by around 100 members

THIS YEAR'S SWEDISH SECTION AGM and rally was held in the southwestern part of Sweden. Our base was the beautiful Örenäs Castle, where many members gathered on Thursday. We had a total of almost 100 participants in 50 cars and there was a great atmosphere right from the start. It was a spectacular sight to see the cars parked in front of the castle overlooking the sound to Denmark.

The rally itself began the following morning with a drive to the nearby Norrviken Gardens where the splendid display of flowers and plants was reminiscent of the charming gardens of England. We parked inside the garden and enjoyed the beautiful weather and surroundings. Several thousand other visitors were there that day and enjoyed the opportunity to admire our cars ranging from 1922-2018 – a really nice spread.

At this stage the rally participants were divided into two groups and with the help of a double-decker bus we were taken to the famous Birgit Nilsson museum, a real gem. We had the chance to follow Birgit's life and career as a soprano and also to go inside her childhood home. The Birgit Nilsson prize is awarded every three years for outstanding achievement in opera, concert, 'Lieder' or oratorio. It is the largest prize in the history of classical music and has a value of \$1 million, financed from the interest on the foundation's capital. In addition, a smaller prize is awarded annually to prospective opera stars. It is said that Maria Callas was the best-paid artist at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and was paid \$1000 a night. Birgit negotiated \$5000 a night – and that was back in the 1960s. An interviewer once asked her whether she sang in the shower, the answer was "I can't afford it."

After returning to Norrviken and lunch it was time to drive 30 miles back to Örenäs where we enjoyed a gala dinner in the main hall of the castle and we were pleased to welcome a significant number of young people to the evening.

Dinner was followed by prizegiving and Roberth N was presented with some bottles of fine whisky in recognition of his outstanding job as secretary and webmaster, as well as for looking after the member and car register during the past 16 years. We thank him for a fantastic job.

Among many other awards, the prize for the most beautiful car went to Stefan Noren and his 1953 Bentley R-Type. The well-deserved prize for best rally went to Ulf and Barbro Claeson for the Västmanland rally.

On Saturday morning we drove towards Krapperups Slott on the way to Mölle. The castle dates back to the 14th century and was inhabited until only a few decades ago. Afterwards we continued via Mölle towards Kullen where lunch was served. We then continued to the lighthouse of Kullen where we enjoyed the magnificent view and later we took the ferry to Ven for a guided tour of Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe's 16th century workplace. We ended the visit with a whisky tasting and dinner at the Spirit of Vhen distillery. We fell asleep easily that night.

On Sunday morning 55 people attended the AGM, including our first chairman Claes Wretfors and Richard Fenner from The Hunt House. During the meeting Roberth N, Anders B and Kalle Giertz were all thanked for their well-executed services. A small but very well-deserved gift was given to rally organiser Göran and his team. More about the annual meeting can be found on our website.

The Sweden Section has organised many rallies and the general consensus was that this year's rally was one of the best. Next year the rally will be at Thorskogs Castle at Lilla Edet with Björn Sundqvist and Andreas Dalqvist as rally generals. Everybody welcome!



**Clockwise from top left:**

**1955 Bentley R-type Continental 2 dr saloon by H J Mulliner, owned by Helen Elmgren was Best in Show**

**1922 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Piccadilly roadster at The Gardens of Norrviken**

**1951 Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith sedanca de ville by H J Mulliner, owned by Per Östlund**

**1961 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud II drop head coupé by H J Mulliner, owned by Regina & Hans Lindquist**

**1935 Bentley 3½ sports saloon by Thrupp & Maberly, owned by Christer Byhr**

**Members enjoy the spectacular view of Club cars on the grass outside Örenäs Castle**

**Outside the hotel: on the far left is Stefan Norén's 1953 Bentley R-type voted best car by the hotel staff**

