



Fishermen Toivo Suitsberg and Arvi Merendi

Here, fishing provided the main income of households and thus the villagers may be called professional fishermen



Ice drift in spring



Bus stop and information point in Kiideva



Kiideva Emperor's Quarters

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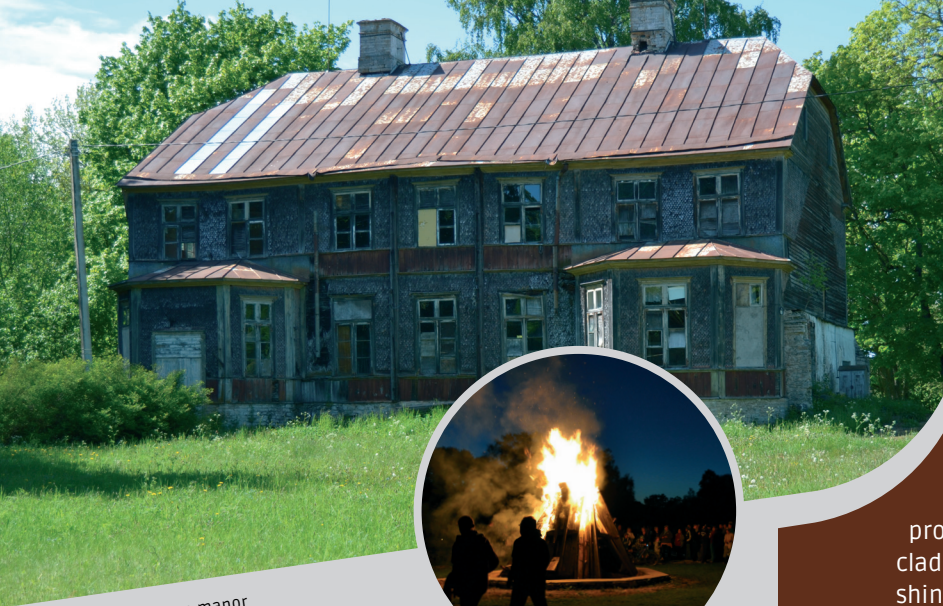
Bird watching tower

The cultural heritage of Lääne county is preserved



Kiideva FISHING VILLAGE

The village of Kiideva was awarded the Village of the Year prize in 2009. There are 17 permanent households with altogether 10 children in the village.



Kiideva manor



The night of ancient bonfires

Kiideva used to be one of the few genuine fishing villages beside Puise in Lääne county.

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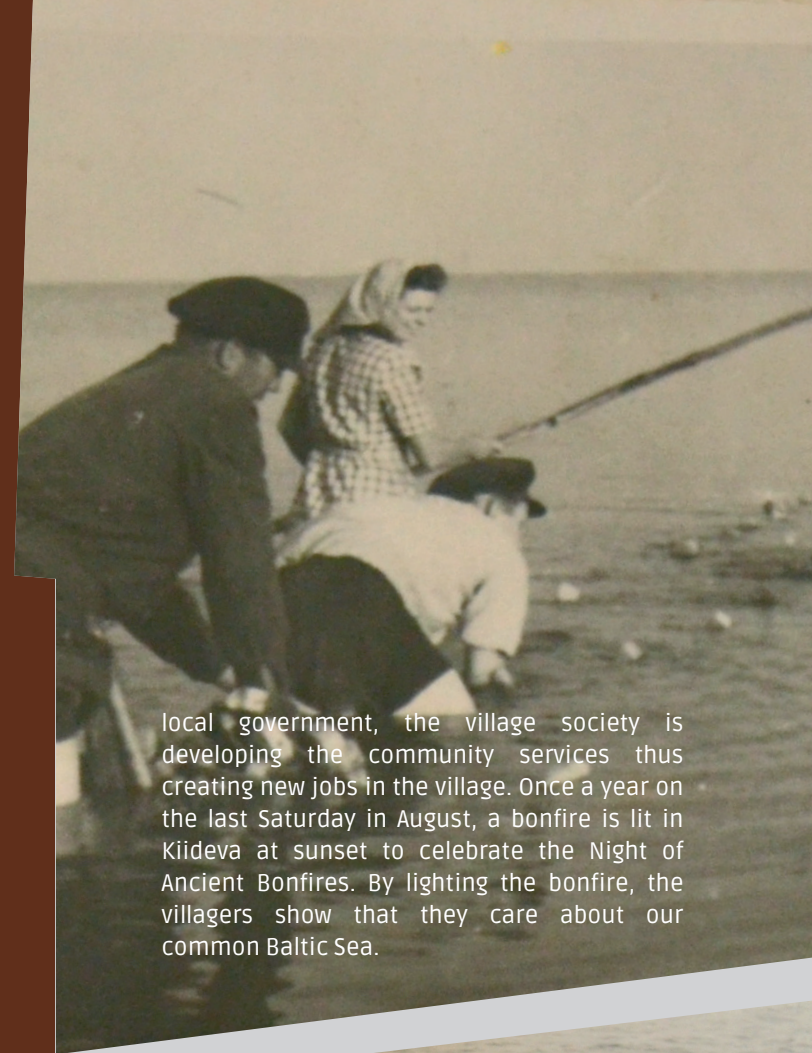
As fishing was crucial to their livelihood, the villagers searched for ways to fish all year round. Once the spring season was over, they headed for the north-west coast of Saaremaa to fish flounder and Baltic herring after midsummer (June 24). They came back by Michaelmas (September 29) to pick their potatoes. Fishermen often brought their entire families and even animals with them on fishing trips. There were proper fishermen's huts constructed on the coast of Saaremaa where they could live for months. Such a centuries-long tradition of fishing farther away from home began to wane in 1930s and disappeared with the Soviet era. Today, the importance of fishing to coastal people's everyday life has diminished considerably.

Although there are also professional fishermen, people mostly go fishing for pleasure. Even now, there are tourist farms in Ridala municipality where they serve flounder or perch caught and smoked by themselves and the host would be glad to take you on a fishing trip too.

Manor

The two-storey wooden main building probably dates back to the 19th century. The cladding of the walls consists of round-edge shingles similar to fish scale which is highly unusual in Estonia. Kiideva has been related to the military campaign of the Germanic tribe Swedes led by King Ingvar in about 600 that is described in one of the earliest Swedish texts, sagas written by Snorri Sturluson. Ingvar was defeated by the Estonian tribes and fell at the site now marked with words at steini, in other words, at the rock. Kiideva with its historic name form Kiwidepäh is the only place name on the West-Estonian coast directly referring to a stone.

The village of Kiideva was awarded the Village of the Year prize in 2009. There are 17 permanent households with altogether 10 children in the village. In cooperation with the



local government, the village society is developing the community services thus creating new jobs in the village. Once a year on the last Saturday in August, a bonfire is lit in Kiideva at sunset to celebrate the Night of Ancient Bonfires. By lighting the bonfire, the villagers show that they care about our common Baltic Sea.

