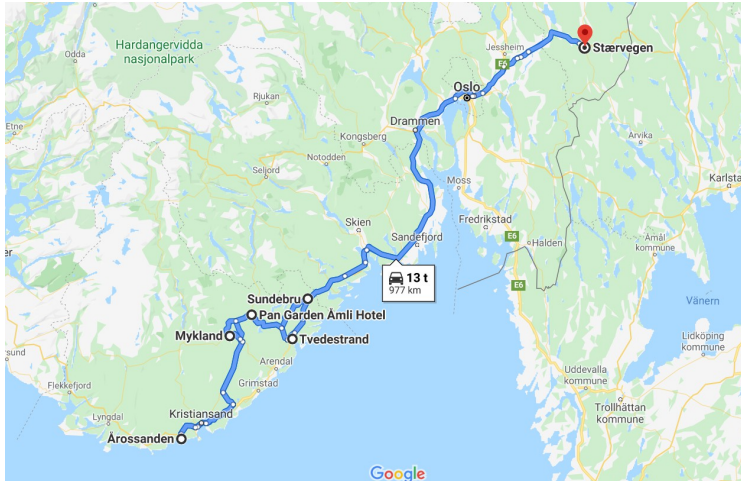


ÅMLI – ÅROS 17. – 19. JULY 2020

We traveled to visit Janette, Geir, Maren and Mathilde at their country house in Åros, which is located in [Kristiansand municipality](#). It used to be in Søgne municipality, but it was merged with Kristiansand on 1 January 2020.



This is the stretch we drove.



The first leg, on Friday 17 July, was to [Pan Garden Åmli Hotel](#). We took off from the E18 at Sundebru, but there we entered a narrow and winding road. We agreed that we would not drive this road on the way home.



Lots of [Indian cress](#) in the flower boxes.



This sign outside the reception / restaurant welcomed us.



The room looked like this.



After we checked in and installed ourselves in the room, we found out that we were going to have a gin & tonic before dinner. This is the dining room and the breakfast room.



There is also a bar counter and the bartender is making the drinks.



We sat out on the terrace.



This is the view from the terrace. The lake we see is called Vallekilen. There is a swimming area with a sandy beach just below the hotel. The water from Vallekilen flows into the [Nidelva](#) which goes behind the lake in the picture. Sigridnes is located on the other side of the Nidelva behind the forest to the left. More about Sigridnes later.



There were three caravans below the hotel when we stayed there.



The view from the room. We see Stigvasselva before it flows into Vallekilen.



More views. We also see the road that goes down to the swimming area. At the back we see the main road that goes past the hotel.



Original bookshelf in the room.



In the dining room there are posters with a bit of [Kirsten Flagstad's](#) history

The dining room is called the Kirsten Flagstad hall.

Kirsten Flagstad (1895-1962) was born in [Hamar](#) but grew up in [Kristiania](#). She married the industrialist Henry Johansen, from Kristiansand, in 1930. Around 1930 he became the owner of a wood veneer factory and the property Amalienborg. Amalienborg remained Kirsten Flagstad's home for the rest of her life. To procure timber for the factory, Johansen bought the farm Sigridnes, so in that way she got a connection to [Åmli](#).



On Saturday we visited Janette. They have a cat named Milo. It is a [Main Coon](#).



Here we also saw wild [carrot](#) that bloomed.



On the day of departure we took pictures of a wall with paintings by the artist [Monica Olsen](#).



One of the paintings. Under all the paintings there was a short text taken from Engvald Bakkan's novel trilogy 'The cross is yours'

Engvald Bakkan

Engvald Bakkan, apotekar og forfattar, var ei lågmalt forfattarrøyst frå skog- og heiebygda Åmli i Aust-Agder. Han skildra tragiske menneskelagnader frå åmlisoga i trilogien *Krossen er din* (1947–52), men kom lenge i skuggen av litteraturen frå sørlandskysten, som i lang tid definerte diktinga på Agder.

Bakkan fekk det høghengjande Gyldendals legat i 1953.

Kulturformidlar og menneskeskildrar

Bakkan hadde sterke lokal- og kulturhistoriske interesser. Alt i gutedagane hadde Engvald fått høyre gamle forteljingar av far sin, Olaf Salvesen, som verka som lærar i heimbygda. Mykje av det munnlege tradisjonsstoffet han høyrde i barndomen, tok han tak i som vaksen forfattar. Segner og soger frå heimbygda kom til å gi form til eit stædeige litterært univers og namn og liv til personane i mange av romanane og novellene hans.

Bygdelivsbakgrunnen kjem tydeleg fram i romantrilogien *Krossen er din* (1947), *Gjennom Fossane* (1949) og *Regnbogen i toreskya* (1952), som av mange er rekna som det fremste verket i forfatterskapen. Åmlibygda på tidleg 1700-tal er åstaden for den dramatiske historia forfattaren spelar ut om det fredause paret frå Mjåvasstøy, enkjemannen Knut og svigerinna Inger. Dei innleier eit forhold etter at første kona til Knut, syster til Inger, er død. Inger vert med barn, misser barnet, men etterburden vert funnen, paret fordømt og forholdet rekna som blodskam etter reglane og normene den tida. Ved god hjelp frå bygdefolket greier paret å gøyme seg for kongens menn i ein mannsalder i heieområda på Agder, for å unngå å verte tekne etter at domen for utukt er vorten rettskraftig. Bakkan får tydeleg fram dei veldige konsekvensane val og enkelthendingar har for livet og lagnaden for mennesket i eit samfunn. I botnen på trilogien ligg segnene, men Bakkan gjorde eigne grundige kjeldestudier og arbeide seg gjennom rettsreferata frå saka mot Inger og Knut i statsarkiva alt frå 1936, for å skape innhald til forteljingane.

[Engvald Bakkan](#) (born 20 August 1897 in Åmli in Aust-Agder, died 3 July 1982) was a Norwegian author and pharmacist. He published novels and short stories with motifs and action from Åmli in older times, including the trilogy 'The cross is yours', which is considered his main work.



Then breakfast.



I supply myself with the food.



It was good food.



We also wanted a picture of the the [beaver](#) before we left. Åmli is the beaver municipality in Norway.



On the way home we had not driven far before we came to this sign.



This sign was next to the other.



The navy.



This water tower stands by the railway line at Simonstad station on the Treungen line. Here you could fill the steam locomotive with water. The railway line ran between Arendal and Treungen.



A picture of the station building when it was in operation. It was taken into use in 1910. When Søftestad mines were closed in 1965, the railway between Simonstad and Treungen was closed in 1967 and the station building was demolished.



There is a picnic area here with stone tables and stone benches. It was opened in 2010.



Here is written “EN TAKK TIL Norsk Kulturminnefond Jernbaneverket Åmli Kommune Statens Vegvesen Bergene Holm avd Nidarå Fevik Steinindustri as”



Here is written “Levert av Dugnadsgjengen og Fevik Steinindustri as 2013”.

This monument stands at the entrance from the main road.



A set of carriages is on display.



A telephone booth was needed at a train station.



?



A weight.



The water tower seen from another angle.



Here it's stop.

The railway between Nelaug and Simonstad is still there and the section has not been formally closed. The association 'Friends of the Water Tower' was formed in 2007. It has received funds to restore the tower and the surrounding area.



There grew [Yellow toadflax](#) here.



A few hundred meters further there is a statue of a beaver.



When we got to [Nesgrenda](#) we stopped at [Nes Jernverk](#). We parked on the left.

The ironworks was opened in 1665 and closed in 1959. [Næs Jernverksmuseum](#) (The Næs Ironworks Museum Foundation) was established in 1992. The nearest house is Hammeren (The hammer). The next is Stykkboden (The store room) and the lowest is Digelstålverket (Crucible steel works).



Overview.



The road is crossing [Storelva](#).



Above the bridge Hammerdammen (The hammer dam) is located.



Below the bridge there is an overflow pipe.



View further down the river.





Here we see mainly the carpentry shop / reception and at the back the house for the blast furnace.



Do not know what kind of house this is.



The reseption.



A big spruce tree.



Raspberries grow here too.



I'm on my way through the walkway to the blast furnace house.



Inne i bygget står dette bildet.



From here we glimpse Nes' mansion house.



Various production equipment.



Coal bin.

After this stop we drove straight to the E18 and then home to Kongsvinger.