

# Glimmingehus

The construction of Glimmingehus began in 1499. Queen Margareta's ban on nobles building private castles had been lifted 16 years before. One of Denmark's most powerful people, the knight, privy councillor, lord high admiral and county sheriff of Gotland, Jens Holgersson Ulfstand, built Glimmingehus. The primary purpose was defence, but it was also well-equipped for accommodation and feasts. In charge of the building work was the German architect and sculptor, Adam van Dören.

Jens Ulfstand had many enemies in the eastern provinces of Denmark after he took large areas of land, mainly in the south-east part of Scania. This gave him good reasons to defend both his land and his position in the state, and was therefore a good justification for building the stronghold.

From the mid-1500s until 1735, Glimmingehus belonged to the Danish noble family, Rosencrantz. After the last owner within the Rosencrantz family, Glimmingehus was bought by Countess Christina Piper, who soon afterwards gave the property to the Beck-Friis family in an exchange deal. They owned Glimmingehus until 1834, when the property was bought at auction by the judge, Tage Sylvan. In 1869, Glimmingehus returned, through marriage, to the ownership of the Rosencrantz family. It would remain with them until 1923, when the castle and estate were sold to the agronomist, Nils Månsson. A year later, Månsson donated the castle to the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, which during the 1930s bought the entire castle islet. After a handover, the castle is now owned and run by The National Heritage Board.

Glimmingehus is considered to be Scandinavia's best-preserved medieval stronghold. With its solid construction, it has stood unchanged for over 500 years, despite being subjected to heavy attacks from Swedish troops in the Scanian War of 1675-1679.

## Vallby Church

Just over two kilometres west of Glimmingehus is Vallby Church, which has connections with Glimmingehus in several ways.

The original stone church was built in the late 1100s in a Romanesque style. The building material was limestone. To the east, the nave has a narrower straight, closed chancel. To the west, a square tower was built that was 290 cm broader than the nave. The nave has simple doorways opposite each other on the south and north sides. These were extended later with external porches.

The church is dedicated to St Laurentius, who is Lund Cathedral's patron saint. During Archbishop Eskil's time, Vallby Church was annexed for the Premonstratensian monastery in Tumathorp that had been founded around 1150. The annexation ceased with the Reformation of the 1530s.

In the late 1400s, the original flat ceiling was replaced by pointed Gothic-style cross vaulting with diagonal ribbing.

During the 1480s, a sepulchre was built for the Ulfstand family of Glimmingehus. The selected place was right under the main altar at the level of today's hymn number board. Subsequently, grave slabs were set in the chancel floor to commemorate privy councillor Holger Hindriksen (died 1485), lord high admiral Jens Holgersen Ulfstand (died 1523) and Lady Else Poulsdatter Laxmand of Asserbo (died 1546). The slabs were taken up and placed in the church porch in 1871. The sepulchre caused subsidence in the foundations and vault construction, which led the Crown to issue a royal letter in 1557 stating that the congregation was allowed to use funds from the tithes for necessary repairs. The work was done and even documented with the painting of the date "1560" on one of the arches.

The church also contains a chapel for the Rosencrantz family. It was built in the north porch the year after Mette Rosencrantz's death in 1696.

The next change to the church came in the 1780s. It was considered too cramped, so the nave was

extended to the east and given an equally broad extension to the north (the present north aisle). One hundred years later (1870-1871), the south aisle and present apse were built. The medieval tower was torn down and a new one was built on a square foundation. These changes gave the church the appearance it has today.

Several of the valuable articles in the church have been donated by Glimmingehus owners. In 1656, Lorentz Wittingh and his wife Gertrud donated the small brass baptismal basin, and when Mette Rosencrantz died in 1696, her husband, Holger Mogensen Rosencrantz, donated an altar painting (scrapped in 1782), a red chasuble and the large baptismal basin in oxidised brass.