

## Modern conditions in the beautiful manor school of Puurmani

Puurmani manor in Jõgeva County had an important role in the history of the Estonian War of Independence and for the past 85 years, also in the local educational life.

The history of Puurmani manor dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century when a stronghold was built to protect the crossing on the Pedja River on the road between Tallinn and Tartu. Nothing has remained of the stronghold. The best preserved historical traces are of the Buhrmeister family who owned the manor in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The family also gave the name to the place.

Puurmani manor has been a school since December 1923. In 2005, a renovation project gave the manor school a beautiful and modern look. Most of the classrooms in the manor building were renovated. Proper learning and working conditions were created for the children and teachers; the rooms as well as the ventilation system and good lights now meet the requirements. Renovation works were crucial in order to fulfil the requirements of the rescue services, health protection and heritage conservation.

The construction of Puurmani manor was begun in 1864. It is one of the most beautiful and magnificent neo-Renaissance manors in Estonia, which Julius Kuperjanov used as headquarters for his South-Estonian battalion during the Estonian War of Independence. The building has been designated as a heritage conservation area. Part of the renovation works were begun earlier when fully automatic boilers were installed and the basement of the school building was renovated.

Thanks to the renovation, the building has become more attractive for tourists because the splendid octagonal tower of the manor was also renovated. Before the renovation, the stairs of the tower were in a dangerous disrepair blocking access to the tower. "The whole region benefits from the project," Rauno Kuus, Puurmani rural municipality mayor, affirms. Above all, the renovation has had an impact on the lives of around 300 pupils and teachers of Puurmani School.



Photo: Toomas Kohv

The school is proud of its beautiful manor building and willingly shows its splendour to anyone interested. The school pupils work as enthusiastic guides in both the manor as well as its unique park. The manor was visited by almost 400 people in the summer tourist season.

Rauno Kuus recommends the following to the developers of similar projects: "Do not be afraid to ask for advice and assistance from Enterprise Estonia. It is always useful to consult them if it is necessary to make changes. This makes it easier and faster and there are fewer problems later."

The mayor hopes that the rural municipality receives more financial support for Puurmani

high school in order to fully renovate the manor building. The ground floor, facade and roof of the building still have to be renovated.

### Program for the Development of Local Living Environment



ERDF support:

3 440 000 kroons

Applicant: rural municipality of Puurmani

Supported activities:

- Renewal of the power system
- Renewal of the heating and sanitary systems
- Interior finishing works

Total project cost: 4 300 000 kroons

Project duration: 2005

