

CoScan

Confederation of Scandinavian Societies of Great Britain and Ireland

Patrons: Their Excellencies, The Ambassadors of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

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Message from the President

Mark Elliott

Over the years I have spoken, probably too often, of Scandinavia and northern Europe generally as a haven of sanity in a troubled world. Looking out over the peaceful fells of the Lake District from our cottage window, one can easily forget external stresses and see only what is stable and eternal. But it would be wrong to pretend now that anybody is unaffected by the economic strains afflicting Europe. Unwise perhaps to say more, in a piece written inevitably some while before publication and in the midst of rapid and unpredictable change. Let me at least wish you all as easy and secure a summer as may be, and the space to build up strength to face any challenges which may lie ahead.

“You all” in that last sentence is beginning to mean more than it did. At the Annual General Meeting held in York at the end of April, we had encouraging news of the growing interest in CoScan stimulated by our Facebook page and the efforts of Helena Schmidt. The meeting agreed to ease the procedures for those seeking CoScan membership from outside the UK. Like all organisations we are in need of new (and younger) blood. The web is

creating a world-wide community in which distance and time-zones mean less and less. CoScan will surely now begin to take its proper place in that world.

The York AGM itself was another welcome sign of our vigour. York has long been home to our meetings in the years between overseas Conferences, centrally placed and accessible for most of our members. In 2012 the local society, YASS, excelled themselves as hosts and put on a programme as stimulating in its way as the “CoScan Goes To...” events organised in recent years by the Shetland and Orkney societies. The setting for both meeting and dinner was the medieval Bedern Hall, relatively newly restored and the perfect setting for a small function - it is rare to achieve the combination of antiquity, modern catering and unthreatening size. The informality of our YASS hosts put us at our ease from the start, and they led us in a kind of pan-Nordic sing-song at the end of the dinner which sent everybody away in the best of spirits. Check out (as they say) the collection of photos now posted on our Facebook page for the proof. Of course York is special. Not many cities can boast ancient walls and historic buildings in quite such profusion - some of us were treated to a tour by a real expert, a YASS member, who pointed out rarely-noticed architectural and historical quirks and knew all the anecdotes behind them. The Minster is an amazing building - its fine peal of bells was being rung almost

throughout the Saturday of our meeting, perhaps not just in honour of CoScan's presence, and the choir were in fine voice at a service on Sunday morning which was full of inspiring words as well as traditional ceremonial. But there are other cities and towns in Britain with much to offer. The model of an extended weekend, with opportunities for CoScan members to get to know each other a little better and to share experiences which may illuminate as well as entertain, is well worth copying by other societies in future years. There is plenty of time to address the programme for 2014 and thereafter, and for the moment our sights are set elsewhere. In 2013 we are promised another overseas venture, to Tallinn in Estonia; there is a note about our plans elsewhere in this issue of the magazine, and the opportunity is not to be missed.

I should not take up more space. But at risk of repeating things I said in the 2011 magazine, I must remind you that without our Chairman, Eva Robards, much of what has been good about CoScan in the last year would not have happened. She has been tireless in her enthusiasm and creative energy. This issue of the magazine will contain plenty of evidence of what she has been doing, and I will not try to spell it out. Please support her – with ideas, comments, reports and articles, and above all offers of active participation. In its seventh decade CoScan is as relevant as ever. But it needs its members to keep it flourishing.



AGM in Bedern Hall



Peter Campbell, Eva Robards, Mark Elliott, Norman Pike



From the auction



Scandinavian sing-song

Photos: AW Robards

Chairman's message

Eva Robards



Network might be an over-used word, but I am going to employ it as I think that this is the essence of CoScan. A local association has everything to gain from reaching out to other fellow organisations, both regarding **friendship** (something that most of our societies have as a motto in one way or the other) and useful information. There may also be financial benefits, The Grieg Society of Great Britain (new CoScan member) offering other CoScan societies to have the same privileges regarding reduced-price tickets as their own members.

Meetings offer excellent networking opportunities. At the AGM in York I was therefore pleased to see as many as 35 delegates from 11 societies, travelling from the Orkneys and Shetland in the north, Wales in the west, and London in the south – a contrast to what normally happens at ‘non-conference’ AGMs, with only committee members turning up. The meeting in York covered a good part of the weekend and was a mixture of

pleasure and duties, but above all we renewed friendship and made new ones. Naturally I would like to thank members from YASS (York Anglo-Scandinavian Society) for help with this event, especially John Christmas and Bernard Turgoose. Next year's AGM is a Conference in Tallinn (‘Danish castle/town’, as the name debatably can be interpreted); arrangements are well underway thanks to the organising committee from SKOL (Scandinavian Klubb of Lincolnshire).

My visits to societies around the country represent another kind of meetings.

Here, ideas come forward that otherwise may have stayed dormant. One example of issues that have emerged is public liability insurance; when this was raised, it became apparent that here is an area where CoScan should look after its members; therefore I have been in contact with an insurance broker and got offers on what can be provided at present. Some societies already have such an insurance in place, but if yours hasn't and you're interested: do get in touch with me about this – or any other area of concern that you would like to bring up (you don't have to wait for me to arrive on your doorstep).

Yet another kind of meetings are those with the Embassies. The CoScan committee meets each autumn with the Cultural Affairs Officers from the five Embassies to exchange relevant mutual information and discuss ways of possible collaboration.

Personally I am grateful for help on various issues over the last year; in particular I would like to say thanks to Vigdís Pálsdóttir who will finish an eight year term and return to her native Iceland, so unfortunately we will lose her in early July.

The last type of meeting I will mention here is the Editorial Board. By bringing people together, numerous good ideas were born, most of which have been followed

up and forwarded as a help to our hardworking Editor.

All in all, meetings are essential for creativity. It is mainly in contact with others that sudden insights appear – ideas which you didn't know yourself that you were capable of. 'It is by friction that we sparkle', says Jonah Lehrer in his book on how creativity works. Let's see a bit more of each other and make CoScan sparkle!



Youth and International Officer

Helena Schmidt

Let's talk!

It has been almost two years since the Confederation of Scandinavian Societies in Great Britain and Ireland joined the Facebook community.

First the CoScan website represented a milestone in digital dissemination of our message. Being able to reach an infinite audience is one of the wonders of the World Wide Web. Facebook has grown into a global community, one that at any time reflects society at large, with major and minor organisations represented by their own page.

Two years into the game, CoScan now has an established page with regular followers and a great number of views for each post we make.

We are reaching new people from all over the world, approached by stakeholders and private persons with a love for Scandinavia, and we are linked up to a large number of friendship organisations. The CoScan narrative is being told in several media, and what a story it is, indeed!

Now, I would like to invite you all to contribute to CoScan's Facebook page, and join us in making use of this digital message board. Whether you have photos from a trip to Scandinavia, a visit to one of the member societies or have a comment you would like to share.

Have you read a Finnish book, been to a Danish restaurant, enjoyed a Swedish play, heard an Icelandic rock band or seen a Norwegian art exhibition?

The CoScan Facebook page is yours to use, so let us step it up and start the conversation!

Grundtvig and The Case of the Captain's Potatoes

by Sid Bradley

Guest Writer



In 1829, the Dane N. F. S. Grundtvig made the first of three consecutive summer visits to England on a royal grant to study Anglo-Saxon manuscripts for the light they might shed upon the history and legends of Denmark and the North.

The vastness of London overwhelmed him, English busyness bewildered and exasperated him, the suave solidarity of English antiquarians outflanked him, English society ladies of shaky reputation flirted with him, dangerously flattering him in his naivety.

But his study of Anglo-Saxon religious poetry opened up to him a new and sympathetic understanding of pre-Reformation Christendom; and he also discovered that the English enjoyed many civil liberties denied to Danes under the system of royal absolutism they had imposed upon themselves in 1660. His encounter with both contemporary and historical English culture made a huge impact upon him and he returned home resolved to seek

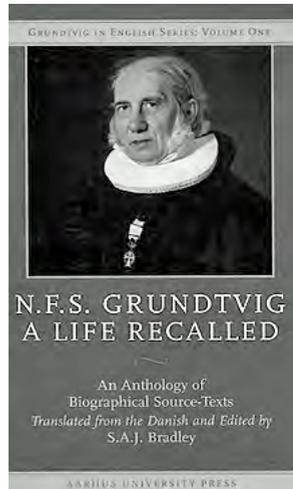
reforms in State and Church and to encourage his fellow Danes to take greater pride in their historical and contemporary identity after the national traumas of the first decades of the century. In much of this, he and his supporters succeeded over the years, and thus contributed significantly to the shaping of modern Denmark.

The following passage is extracted from an article Grundtvig wrote for his new periodical *Danskeren* (The Dane) in the year of Denmark's first war over Slesvig-Holsten (1848). The episode recalled here took place aboard the ship on which Grundtvig sailed from Hamburg to London in the early summer of 1829.

Englishmen are not among those people who accommodate themselves to foreigners, so if one wishes to go among them one must needs learn to stick one's finger in the soil and sniff where one is; and of this I got a foretaste even before I set foot ashore – and in such a funny way that even if it was in itself a triviality it still amuses me to think about it.

When one sails up the Thames to London one in fact takes on board a customs officer who has to see to it that one does not smuggle anything in; so we also got one, and since the lady wife of this same customs officer had come out in order to visit him, the skipper or captain I was travelling with was naturally polite

enough to invite her to eat dinner with us, which she accordingly did; but when the captain noticed that she did not help herself to the potatoes we had with the meat he did the best he could in his broken English to let her know that the potatoes were well worth eating; and so she then took a couple, but with a very condescending demeanour and with the words: *But I know in advance they are not so good as the English ones. At this, the captain was very offended – and sea-folk are rarely sensitive; but since after all he did not want to fall out with the Customs Office he made do with saying to me in Danish: Den forbandede mæ! The damned bitch! how can she say that my potatoes are not just as good as the English ones before she has even tasted them? Naturally, I agreed with the captain, both that the Custom-wife’s Englishness was a little excessive and that it had burst out very discourteously; but still, by examining more closely how far ahead the Englishman has got with the belief that there is nothing to match Old England or things English in all of the world, I have reached the conclusion that when it comes to the pinch a nation should much rather, like the English, idolise all that is their own, than, as we long have done, idolise almost everything foreign and disparage or even utterly forget one’s own.*



This translation is taken from N. F. S. Grundtvig: A Life Recalled. An Anthology of Biographical Source-Texts Translated from the Danish and Edited by S. A. J. Bradley (Aarhus University Press, Århus 2008).

An Emeritus Professor of English and Related Literature at the University of York, Sid Bradley was for some years attached to the Centre for Grundtvig Studies in the Theology Faculty of the University of Aarhus, Denmark, and recently retired as co-editor of the journal *Grundtvig-Studier*. Besides the book cited above, he has published numerous articles on Grundtvig, particularly on Grundtvig’s reception of Anglo-Saxondom, and has guest-lectured on this subject in the UK, Denmark, America and Ireland.

Chairman goes to:

by *Eva Robards*

Since January this year I've travelled to Northampton, London, the Orkneys and Shetland. CoScan societies I've met with are: Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society, Finn-Guild and Anglo-Finnish Society in London, Orkney Norway Friendship Association (ONFA), and Shetland Norwegian Friendship Society.

In addition, I visited two organisations, which don't (yet) belong to CoScan, but they "came in my way", which offered a good opportunity to find out about their activities. These organisations were the *Centre for Scandinavian Studies at the University of Aberdeen* (I met Director, Professor Stefan Brink) and the *Centre for Nordic Studies* in Kirkwall (here I met Drs Ragnhild Ljosand and Alexandra Sanmark).

Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society

I was invited to one of their ordinary meetings on 10 January in the Reading Room in Great Brington outside Northampton. A couple of members agreed to write about their society (see this issue of the Magazine).

Members suggested that CoScan should be able to offer useful service(s) to the societies, and mentioned public liability insurance as an example where CoScan could contribute something for its members. The travel awards were

seen as an area where CoScan does help.

We also discussed how an individual can get in contact with a local society. It is often through the Scandinavian churches that fellow nationals are found. Therefore all the churches should have informative lists about CoScan & member societies, as could also the Embassies and Scandinavian companies.

Finn-Guild (officially the Finnish Church Guild)

Finn-Guild had invited me to their AGM, held on the 24 March in the Finnish Church in London; this was a full day event as it was combined with a Meeting of Regional Representatives. Here I had the opportunity both to make a presentation about CoScan to the audience and to discuss CoScan with individual delegates.

Finn-Guild is the largest Finnish-British organisation, with 10,000 members divided between the two countries. Its aim is to promote Finnish language and culture in Britain, to support all levels of cultural exchanges between the two countries, and to work for the benefit of the Finnish-British community. It finances its work entirely through membership fees and income from its travel agency Guild Travel Ltd (explained in more detail by General Secretary Ossi Laurila in the CoScan Magazine 2009/2). Therefore, if you are planning a trip to Finland (or its neighbouring countries Russia, Estonia, Sweden and Norway)

it could be worth exploring www.guildtravel.com, tel +44 (0)20 7388 4158. Other organisations represented at the meeting were the Finnish Embassy, the Anglo-Finnish Society, the Finnish Church in London, the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, the Finnish Friendship Network, the Finnish-British Chamber of Commerce, the Finnish Student Society of Great Britain, the Scottish-Finnish Society, the Suomi Schools in the UK – and CoScan.

Orkney Norway Friendship Association

The Norwegian Constitution Day is thoroughly celebrated by the two Norwegian Friendship Associations/Societies in Orkney and Shetland. I had an invitation to both but could of course only take part in one. As I had accepted the ONFA invitation first, my *syttende-mai* took place in Kirkwall.

The day started 10.30 am with a ceremony at the Norwegian war graves at St Olaf's Cemetery. There were many Norwegians dressed in *bunad*; they had come over from Hordaland – the region surrounding Bergen in Norway with which Kirkwall is twinned. The tog/parade, starting from Kirkwall harbour, was led by the local Pipe Band to St Magnus Cathedral. Outside there were official speeches, singing (supported on accordion by ONFA Chairman Ishbel Borland – she also played at other occasions during the day), and music played by a group of



Photos: Eva Robards

youngsters. Music entertainment continued with a concert inside the Cathedral. Thereafter receptions followed: the first one was in the Town Hall, hosted by the new Convenor of Orkney Islands Council, and the other one in the evening, hosted by the Norwegian Consul. Then it was time for the Dinner/Buffer Supper and Dance, which finished well after midnight with Auld Lang Syne. What a day! And it was all organised by one of our societies, not only this year but year after year. In addition to this they have numerous activities on their programme (see their website www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/ONFA).

The following day I had the opportunity to discuss ONFA & CoScan with five committee members and five others of whom some were ordinary members. ONFA has been in existence for 34 years – so next year will be their 35th anniversary.

There are 100 paid up members, and the average attendance at meetings is about 30. I deduce from our discussion that ONFA would welcome access to other societies' programmes, and that it would be helpful for them to have lists of material that could be borrowed from the Embassies. It was also emphasised that CoScan conferences should contain enough conference substance and not only be pleasure trips, and that travel costs are heavy for members living far from cheap flight possibilities, which can make participation

difficult. Regarding finances, they advocated that each society should fundraise for CoScan once a year, so that CoScan's finances would not be so dependent on conference profits. There could be a Magazine article like "What is your best fund-raising idea?" (For the ONFA idea, see the article in this issue of the magazine by Jean Crichton on their visit to Flotta.)

Shetland Norwegian Friendship Society

In Shetland, the last but not least fascinating place on my itinerary, my host was Peter Campbell – Membership Secretary of CoScan. As I was somewhat late for the *syttende-mai* celebrations, I got a summary about what had taken place: the Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg had celebrated the big day in Shetland. He had opened the new Scalloway Museum, taken part in a wreath laying ceremony at Norwegian war graves in the Lerwick cemetery and participated in a civic parade to the Shetland Bus Memorial (the Shetland Bus was the name of an operation during WW2 for transport between Shetland and Norway).



Photo: Eva Robards

The Shetland Norwegian Friendship Society arranges for floral tributes to be placed at the Shetland Bus Memorial and Norwegian war graves in various parts of Shetland. Normally a supper dance is held in Lerwick Town Hall, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled this year.

Peter had set up a meeting with a couple of other committee members.



Photo: Eva Robards

First we had a look at the background of the society: it was founded in the 1960s as the Norwegian consul used to put down a wreath to commemorate Norwegian soldiers on 17th May, and veterans joined him in this. In those days there were both many veterans and families with daughters who had married Norwegian soldiers and moved to Norway. The membership

NB: If anybody wonders if CoScan is paying for these trips, I can assure them that this is not the case. I have however, been extremely well looked after by my hosts. Thanks to all of you!

is about 60 and the subscription fee £3 a year; donations for the refreshments at the meetings keep the Society's finances healthy. In April 2010 they hosted "CoScan goes to..." with 33 participants from various societies.

The Committee finds it difficult to fill eight meetings on their programme with Scandinavian activities. The policy is firstly to find something with Norwegian connection, thereafter Scandinavian connection, and if also this fails, something with Shetland/Scottish connection. Like ONFA, the Shetland Society would welcome lists covering material which can be borrowed from Scandinavian organisations, such as Embassies or tourist offices, and lists with possible speakers. One suggestion was that CoScan and its magazine could be the subject for one of the evenings, possibly linked with fundraising. This would be helpful for the majority of SNFS members who do not have email.

Naturally, a re-established shipping link between Shetland and Norway is something to dream about – and to lobby for.





Midsummer/Sankt Hans

compiled by Eva Robards and Anna Sophie Strandli

Summer in Scandinavia is short and therefore Midsummer is a highlight of the year, not to be missed. The day is the longest of the year, so the night is short or non-existent. The air is full of magic and expectation.

The celebration of the summer solstice is an ancient practice, dating back to pre-Christian times, but the church did their best to replace pagan traditions by allocating John the Baptist's birthday to 24 June as described in the Gospel of Luke.

Finns and Swedes, being rational, decided in the 1950s to make Midsummer a movable holiday, with Midsummer Day on the Saturday that falls between 20 and 26 June.

Maypoles are most common in Sweden, but are also raised in Finland by Swedish-speaking Finns. Bonfires are a part of the celebration in Denmark, Norway and Finland, often at lakesides, by the sea or high up in mountains.

Finnish folk magic has it that Midsummer was a very potent night and the time for many small rituals, mostly for young maidens seeking suitors and fertility. Will-o-wisps were believed to appear at midsummer night, particularly to finders of the mythical "fern in bloom" and possessors of the "fern seed", that was marking a treasure.

Midsummer Day is also the Day of the Finnish Flag.

Midsummer is, after Christmas, the most important holiday of the year in modern Sweden. The main celebrations take place on Midsummer Eve – on Midsummer Day all festivities are over, unless the visitor is lucky enough to have come to a region where neighbouring villages coordinate their maypole raising over the whole weekend.

Greenery and wildflowers are collected to cover the entire pole before the maypole is raised. People then dance around the pole, to traditional music. Many are wearing folk dresses, and many have garlands with wildflowers on their heads. Teenagers with a vulnerable ego keep a certain distance, but girls may still perform rituals to look into the future: if a girl puts seven (or nine) flowers under her pillow on Midsummer Night, her future husband will appear in the dream. In order not to break the spell, neither speaking a word or laughing is allowed while the flowers are being picked. Jumping over seven fences may secure the spell.

Among Danes and Norwegians Sankt Hans aften (St. John's Eve) is celebrated on the evening of 23 June.



Photo: Rob Heard

On that day Danes sing their traditional Midsummer Hymn "We Love Our Land", and burn straw witches on bonfires. This burning sends the witches away to Bloksbjerg for the great witch gathering there.

Witches, demons and trolls lived in Helheim (house of Hel) where the gates would open as the sun turned and these creatures could ride out on their broomsticks or pigs. Helheim is located in Niflheim which is the lowest of the nine worlds of the universe according to Norse mythology.

In Norway Midsummer is also called Jonsok (John's wake) and originates from Catholic times when it was an important night with pilgrimages to holy springs and places and waking in churches. Along with the Reformation in 1536/37 St. John got lost, but to this day myths and old rituals live in perfect health.

Some places mock weddings



between children are arranged in celebration of new life and new beginnings and the dance around the *sankthansbål* and *majstång* goes on until early morning.

In Iceland the summer solstice is celebrated among some families and friends. That is the night when Icelanders believe cows gain the power of speech, seals become human, and it is healthy to roll naked in the dew-covered grass. Jónsmessa on 24 June is an Icelandic holiday.

Traditional food for Midsummer in Scandinavia is various kinds of pickled herring with new potatoes, a salmon dish, the first strawberries of the season, *marengtårta* (pavlova), *rømmegrøt* (sour cream porridge), cured meat and "snaps" and beer.

On *Primstaven*, the ancient Norse cyclic eternity-calendar, each day was carved in as a line or a notch. Holydays and Saints Days were carved with special symbols.

Midsummer, 24 June, is usually symbolized by an hour-glass or the sun.



Midsummer among some of our Societies

Anglo-Scandinavian Society of Newcastle, *Douglas Robinson (over the phone):*

The Midsummer Party will take place on Saturday 23 June this year. It will be celebrated at the seaside at Cresswell and can go on from mid-afternoon (for families with children) until after midnight. People bring their own food, play games, take a walk along the beach, sing together, and (the brave ones) swim. Only a small bonfire is allowed where the party is held.

Danish Church in London, *Ian Berman:*

We celebrate St. Hans with a bonfire evening. Please see our website for information on events (www.danskekirke.org): Saturday 23 June at 7 pm in the garden of the church. Beer and hotdogs are on sale, and snobrød are on offer for the young ones. The bonfire is lit, while the witch flies to Bloksberg and the dark is descending. The speech will be given by Ulla Vitting, Chairman of Team Denmark FC.

Danish YWCA, *Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen:*

We will be celebrating Danish Midsummer on Saturday 23 June from 8.00 pm. In our garden there will be a traditional Danish hot-dog stall and it is also possible to buy beer, wine, coffee and soft drinks. Later in the evening there will of course be a bonfire and then

Mr Anders Lund Madsen will give the Skt Hans speech. For more information: www.kfuk.co.uk.

The Danish Cultural Institute, Edinburgh, *Kim Minke:*

We do not arrange events on account of Midsummer but the Scottish Danish Society up here celebrates Skt Hans with a BBQ and bonfire.

Devon & Somerset Anglo Scandinavian Society, *Dawn Watts:*

We celebrate Skt Hans (on the nearest Saturday). Two of our members (English/Norwegian) have created a silver birch wood in a corner of their field. We have been going to the same place for at least the last 15 years, and the trees that were once very small are now very tall and have in fact had to be thinned out and have some of their lower branches pruned to allow the last rays of the dying sun in. There is a big bonfire place which we feed with bits of wood that people bring, plus wooden pallets from the local garden centre.

Everyone brings their own chairs and blankets. We set up barbecues and cook (burn?) sausages and hamburgers. We have a selection of breads, potato pancakes, ketchup, onions etc and everyone helps themselves. Then the cakes! People bring national cakes, layer cakes of many shapes and sizes, aebleskage, etc, and the trestle table groans under the weight. Our stomachs then groan

after we have eaten more than we should. The bonfire is lit, marshmallows toasted, there is lots of hygge and last year the Norwegians burst into song at one point!

The length of the evening depends on how cold or wet it is, but eventually people begin to drift away as many of them have long journeys to make. Skt Hans is a high point in our calendar which no one wants to miss.

Finn Guild, *Ossi Laurila:*

We are not organising anything special as an organisation, but there are several Midsummer parties going on around the country organised by local communities.

The church has a huge party, in some years there have been about 500 people enjoying the midnight sun London style.

Hampshire Anglo-Scandinavian Society, details (abbreviated) from invitation in the HASS Newsletter:

Midsummer Party on Saturday 23 June, at 5.30-10.30 pm at Michelmersh Barn with “midsommarstång”, bonfire and barn dance; everyone brings their own picnic to eat indoors. The event is popular so people are encouraged to book their tickets early; additional guests are limited to two per member/family. The HASS traditions include sending the witch to Bloksbjerg, singing along by the bonfire, a raffle, and music and barn dance in a real traditional barn.

Irish Scandinavian Club,

Vicky Star:

Here at the ISC we have a Midsummer BBQ in the lovely grounds of Kilruddery House, Bray (Co. Kildare). Members bring along food and drink and some brave souls also bring along tents for the night. Often we invite the Irish Finnish Society along to join us to take the Weather Lottery (will it/won't it rain?!), sing traditional songs round the fire and of course, burn the witch!

Scottish Norwegian Society (Glasgow), *Ragne Hopkins:*

We just meet up in a park for an informal BBQ. The children play, while the adults just chat.

Scottish Swedish Society, (edited) from

www.scottishswedish.org

The Scottish Swedish Society is this year celebrating Midsummer/Juhannus/Midsommar together with the Scottish Finnish Society for the second time with a leisurely afternoon in the Edinburgh Academy School Playing Fields on Sunday 24 June, 1-5 pm. On the programme is a BBQ, decorating and raising a “stång”, and a friendly game of Finnish Baseball. The two societies will provide wine and soft drinks, a selection of salads, and dessert. Guests are encouraged to bring something to barbecue, a quilt to sit on, and for fun: a Frisbee, boules, or books to exchange ... and, if possible, greenery and flowers for the maypole.

York Anglo-Scandinavian Society, *Iain Robertson*

In his Chairman's report for 2009-10: Sankt Hans carries associations of balmy summer evenings, but all too often in York it seems only to invite rain. This year was no exception. Rain came and went as members struggled to assemble gazebos and protect the food from becoming soaked. The weather was not allowed to win, however.

Lanterns transformed the garden into a magic place and David Corry coaxed a bonfire into life. I suspect that David has some connection with the Norse fire-god Loki, since on this occasion he seemed able to make even the rainwater flammable.

Towards the end of the evening, though damp, we were able to consume our food round the fire, enjoy each other's company and even get in a little singing and story-telling.



Ruth Corry
Photo: Eva Robards

The Report for 2011-12 was rosier, however: ... for once the fickle gods who control the weather smiled on us. The evening was warm and the sky almost cloudless – perfect conditions for socialising and eating strawberries and cream!

Towards the end of the evening, as the sun was setting, Ruth Corry suggested that those who had good memories of Scandinavia might like to share them with others and then throw a log onto the fire. This was an inspired suggestion. Listening to people's memories in the glow of the firelight made a very atmospheric end to a wonderful evening.

Gunilla Kindstrand, Jonas Bohlin: The book cabinet/boklådan

The book cabinet, including ten interview books and a photo box, available in a bilingual (Swedish/English) limited edition of 500 copies. Measurements: length 403 mm, width 225 mm, height 410 mm.



An entirely new interface without barriers between furniture design, graphic design and the written word. The cabinet is host to the voices of some of Sweden's most significant personalities in the arts and their discussions and deliberations on art and life.

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Northamptonshire and Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society

Northamptonshire

by Gunilla Loe

Many of you probably just know Northamptonshire as the bit you drive through on the M1 on your way north or south. However, there is a lot more to Northamptonshire than that! Here you find traces from the Stone Age via the Romans, the Vikings, and our various civil wars, into modern times with the airfields for American bombers during WWII and the Silverstone Circuit. It is rather natural that we were in the midst of things being geographically in the middle of England.

Our county is beautiful with little rivers growing large in amongst rolling ice age hills with rich farming country in between. In medieval times it became prosperous thanks to agriculture and sheep farming. Some sheep were outsiders being herded through the county on their way to London and the east coast merchants. You can see traces of this affluence in the various medieval and Tudor enlargements of our parish churches as well in the old parts of our towns and hamlets.

It is now a county of private and prosperous landowners so you will not find many National Trust or English Heritage properties, but I do recommend Canons Ashby and Lyveden New Bield as well as Rushton Triangular Lodge. Northamptonshire is also industrial,

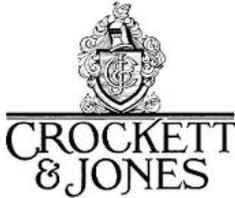


Northampton Coat of Arms



Rushton Triangular Lodge

and from the 19th century it was a centre for the shoe industry; these days many of our shoe manufacturers have disappeared but Churches, Crockett & Jones, Barker and Loake still keep the flag flying.



NORTHAMPTON
ENGLAND

MAKERS OF FINE SHOES
SINCE 1879

Fortunately, all Victorian Shoe Barons were keen to endow schools, hospitals, sports clubs and museum collections so Northamptonshire has a rich cultural and sporting heritage. Should you wish to explore shoes in depth then Northampton is the place with the Central Museum housing the National Shoe Collection, in addition to some very good art and ceramics. In the centre of Northampton you will also find the award winning Charles Rennie Mackintosh House and Galleries, 78 Derngate.



Photo: Courtesy of 78 Derngate Northampton Trust

True art enthusiasts make a pilgrimage to St Matthew's Church in Northampton to gaze at Graham Sutherland's Crucifixion painting and Henry Moore's Mother and Child sculpture.

Sporting fans support the Saints Rugby Team, and nature lovers explore the many nature reserves and pocket parks that have mushroomed during the last thirty years – you can also find red kites flying over Barnwell Country Park throughout the year.

So the Vikings got it right when they thought that Northamptonshire was a good place to be. And now there are us: the members of Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society. We guarantee a warm welcome should you want to come and explore our county. We look forward to your visit!



Henry Moore, *Madonna and Child* 1943-44
Photo: Errol Jackson

The Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society

– a summary of information received from members, former and present, and from old Society programmes

by Manja Ronne

Unfortunately, no documents are available to confirm exactly when the Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society (NA-SS) was founded, but there seems to be agreement amongst “old” members that it was in the early to mid 1970s.

It was started by a Mr Robinson, a thatcher who travelled around England and set up Scandinavian clubs. When the club was well up and running he continued his travels.

For some years thereafter our club was run by a Swedish couple; the man’s name might have been John. He and his wife both came from Stockholm and were somewhat formal. In the beginning some businessmen with connection to Denmark also attended, but they soon gave up coming.

Over time, fewer and fewer people attended the meetings, and finally John and his wife suggested that the club be disbanded. However, some members did not agree and continued the meetings, initially in each others’ homes to keep the costs down.

It is not known if a committee existed in the early years, but by

1982 the NA-SS was chaired by Eva Jungfalk Down, who continued as Chairman till 2005. During those years it also had a treasurer and an (honorary) secretary, as well as other committee members.

In the 1980s and 1990s the Society met at Dallington Country Club, later Fitness First, before moving to Moulton Guide Hall in 2001. In September 2005 it moved again, this time to the Reading Room in Great Brington, which continues to be the venue for most of the meetings.



Meeting in the Reading Room in Great Brington



Northants Party

Scandinavians at the London Olympics

by Mark Elliott



London 2012 – for the first time in modern Olympic history, the Games are coming a third time to the same city. In 1908 London volunteered itself at short notice to replace Rome, after the eruption of Vesuvius in 1906. In 1948 London took the place of Helsinki, chosen for 1940 and already well ahead with preparations when the Soviet invasion put an uncomfortable stop to them; both 1940 and 1944 were Games-less years, and war damage delayed the Helsinki Games to 1952. Janie Hampton has written two authoritative and lively books on all this, *The Austerity Olympics* (1948) and *London Olympics 1908 and 1948*. They are full of references to Scandinavian participation, and Janie has given CoScan permission to quote from her work for this article.

The 1908 Games are much farther removed from us in style as well as time. Accounts of the opening ceremony may serve to illustrate this. The Swedish flag was unaccountably omitted from those on display over the White City stadium, so the Swedes decided not

to take part at all in the opening parade. Finnish athletes paraded – but in a separate group with no flag, as Finland was at that time still part of the Russian empire, but they did not wish to march behind the Russian flag. Anecdotes of Scandinavian performance in 1908 are relatively scarce, but one is worthy of mention: the oldest winner, and still the oldest Olympic gold medallist a century on, was Oscar Swahn of Sweden, aged 60 in 1908 and winner of two rifle-shooting events then, but still around to win gold at the age of 72 in 1920.

For 1948, though, Janie Hampton's books are full of the Scandinavian/Nordic contribution. It starts early – Sigfrid Edström of Sweden had been President of the International Olympic Committee since 1942, and Thomas Fearnley of Norway was also an IOC member (he had captained the Norwegian tennis team in 1912, and was probably brought up in the Fearnley house which became the residence of the British Ambassador in Oslo in 1905). In those early post-war years London had to seek assistance of various kinds from participating nations, and the Scandinavians responded generously. Sweden and Finland provided wood for the seating and floors in Wembley Stadium, and the Finns gave the floor for the wrestling and weight-lifting venue at the Empress Hall. Denmark sent 160,000 eggs.

In athletics competition Viljo Heino of Finland, the world champion at 10,000 metres, and his compatriot E Heinström were in action on the first day. The Finns had dominated long distance running since the 1920s, but not on this occasion – a Czech army officer called Emil Zátopek ran everybody else into the ground, and Heino and 17 others actually fell out of the race before the end. The Finns had their day later, though, in their other traditional athletic event the javelin, won by Kari Tapio Rautavaara, who two years later became world champion in archery and went on to have a successful career as a folk singer and film-star. Sweden destroyed the opposition in the 3,000-metre steeplechase, winning gold, silver and bronze medals with Sjöstrand, Elmsäter and Hagström respectively (Hagström overtook the Finn Siltaloppi with one lap to go when the Finn fell head-first into the water-jump). The Swedes had also traditionally dominated in the 1500 metres, and did so again by winning gold and silver – “Sweden would have been in a state of national mourning if none [of their three in the final] had managed to win the race” – despite appallingly wet conditions; workmen had spent the afternoon piercing the track with garden forks to encourage it to drain, but to little effect.

On the day of the 1500 metre final, Friday 6 August, Swedes also won five gold and two silver medals in the Greco-Roman wrestling – this was the most successful day in

Sweden’s Olympic history. Danes also did well in the indoor events, Greta Andersen in particular in the swimming pool winning gold in the 100-metre freestyle and helping the Danish team to silver in a relay (though in the 400-metre freestyle she passed out in the deep end and was rescued by another swimmer); and in fencing Karen Lachmann was described as “the complete and orthodox foilest - a delight to watch”, despite losing in the final to a powerful Hungarian. Finland, together with Switzerland, was totally dominant in gymnastics, one Finn (having missed his grasp on the horizontal bar) being greeted by tumultuous applause when he swung right round it on one arm as if he had intended to. One of the nine Finnish medallists was 44 years old.

One of the most remarkable Swedish successes was in the modern pentathlon (horse-riding, fencing, pistol-shooting, swimming and running), an event which a Swede had won on all but one occasion since it was introduced to the Olympics in 1912. In 1948 Captain Willy Grut achieved the best score in Olympic history, 16 (negative) points against the next man’s 47. As a writer in *Punch* magazine put it - “He would be a useful man to have in a tight corner. If I were beset in a castle by armed desperadoes, I should pick out Captain Grut without any hesitation as the man to send off for help. ‘Grut,’ I should say, ‘I depend on you.’ He would then swim the moat with contemptuous ease, pistol his

way through the beleaguering lines, and after dispatching some well-aimed thrusts at any hulking fellows ill-advised enough to try to bar his progress, would leap onto a handy horse and ride until the gallant beast dropped dead beneath him. There would be nothing for it but to cover the last 4000 metres to the police station on foot, which he would do in 15 minutes 28.9 seconds.”

The sailing events in Torbay were the most comprehensively Scandinavian occasion. Crown Prince Olav brought the Norwegian royal yacht *Norge* on its inaugural voyage, and there were two Swedish training schooners dressed overall with signal flags. Racing began on 3 August after a 21-gun salute in honour of the birthday of King Haakon of Norway. The Firefly event was won by Paul Elvstrøm of Denmark after an epic struggle; asked by a journalist to what he attributed his victory, he replied “The others – they were too slow.” (Elvstrøm competed in seven more



Olympics and was voted Denmark’s Sportsman of the Century in 1996.) The Dragon class was won by the Norwegians (“quicker at hoisting and lowering their spinnakers”, writes Janie Hampton knowledgeably), appropriately as the Norwegian John Anker had created the Dragon in 1929 for a Swedish design competition – beautiful boats, one was given to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh as a wedding present.

Football, as so often since, made some of the largest headlines. Denmark met Sweden in the semi-finals, and scored first after a storming start. Sweden equalised after 17 minutes with an extraordinary goal, when their centre-forward, realising that he was about to be played offside, “leapt into the Danish goal to remove himself from the field, and, with the goalkeeper out of position, caught the scoring header off his teammate.”



The Swedes scored three more times. In the final Sweden beat Yugoslavia 3-1 on a wet and heavy pitch at Wembley (the British referee wore tweed shorts and a matching jacket with his football boots). Gunnar Nordahl, the Swedish centre-forward and one of three brothers in the team, scored seven goals in the tournament, still a record. Sweden was the last non-Communist football team to win Olympic gold until France in 1984.

The world has changed since 1948, and the number of nations competing at the Olympics has grown hugely – in 1948 not even the Russians were there. (In 1908 they had planned to compete, but arrived too late because they were still working on the Julian calendar which was 13 days behind.

It is difficult to see the Swedes coming second in the medals table this year, as they did in 1948 with 44 medals and 16 gold. It is improbable that in 2012 the Swedish equestrian team will be deprived of its gold medal after the event because one of its members is a sergeant and not an officer, as happened in 1948. Let us hope though that austerity in London of 2012 has not reverted to the 1948 level, when a Swedish journalist could write “it would all have been so much smoother if we could have had a teaspoon each when we had tea in a restaurant. No matter how many we were in a party, always one spoon.”

Janie Hampton: “The Austerity Olympics”, Aurum Press, £8.99: “London Olympics - 1908 and 1948”, Shire Publications, £6.90

Scandinavia’s biggest and most popular talk show on the move to London



SKAVLAN

MONKBERRY

Fredrik Skavlan's talk show has brought interesting stories and international celebrities into Norwegian and Swedish living rooms every Friday for more than ten years. This autumn some of the popular shows will be recorded at BBCs studio in White City and we welcome **Scandinavians** to join! Do you want to be in the audience on the Skavlan show at BBC? Send an e-mail to; skavlan@skavlan.com



Photo/text: Anna Sophie Strandli



The salmon has always lived a double life. From being born in humble circumstances in a river, somewhere in the countryside, it soon undertakes a rural exodus and goes to sea. Years later, now strong and dynamic after covering thousands of nautical miles, this seafarer returns to the exact same spot where it was born to spawn.

It is one of the most enigmatic of fishes; an adventurer living a vagrant and secret life. A sort of a submarine Peer Gynt.

The salmon is the reason that aristocrats from all over found their way to the end of the world in the north in the late nineteenth century, defying weather and language barriers, impassable roads and the residents curious ideas about hygiene and comfort.



Anna Sophie's Kitchen

For weeks they stood in the icy rivers to capture this first-class fighter with the delicate pink flesh achieved from a diet of crayfish juveniles. And at the same time as it was served in Europe's most fashionable salons and restaurants it was food for the rafters and loggers who slaved away along the rivers for greedy landlords. One of the few bright spots in their lives was a clause in their contract that guaranteed that they would not have to eat salmon more than five times a week.

Today the salmon is available to all and thus, depending on how you see it, we are all lumberjacks and aristocrats. The only place that it rarely occur are in top of the range restaurants where it has had to give way to fish that were not previously counted as human food.

The price of salmon is relatively modest which is good, but it is worrying that prestige is falling in line with the cost, especially as farmed fish hold better quality than ever.

The salmon may have stalwart written all over and this is just why it is time to re-install some of its former glory. One way is to serve it in the company of something exclusive such as Caviar or salmon roe. Gently mixed into a scrumptious Sauce Hollandaise this will not only give a very interesting texture, but also a feeling of abundance.

Salmon with a rich sauce

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Mix sugar, salt, dried thyme and white pepper with the salmon in a bowl. Drizzle over olive oil.

Fry the fish, skin side down, for two minutes on a high heat in a frying pan. Boil the fennel in water for 5 minutes. Transfer the fish and the fennel to oven-proof dishes and bake on the bottom level of the oven for 8-10 minutes. Meanwhile, make a Sauce Hollandaise your way!

Boil the radishes for two minutes, let them cool and add a little olive oil and sea salt. Just before serving, carefully stir/fold caviar or roe and chopped chives into the sauce. Serve with crushed, mashed or boiled new potatoes. Instead of fennel one could use sautéed spinach, sugar snap peas, asparagus or indeed kale at this time of year.



Lemon-butter. This butter is a blessing. If you don't have any sauce, or no plans to make one, it gives a lift to any fish or vegetable (fantastic with baked fennel).

Mix 50 grams of butter (room temperature) with the juice and zest of one lemon. Add finely chopped chives and one teaspoon of Dijon mustard. Can be served soft or 'frozen'.



Nordic sashimi

A light and elegant summer dish.

Start by steaming around 40 mussels until they open. Then make a *mussel mayonnaise* by whisking together 1 egg yolk, 1 tablespoon lemon juice or white wine vinegar and 1-2 teaspoons Dijon mustard. Pour in oil while whisking, first one drop, then another and finally a thin stream.

Mix 1 dl of the mayonnaise with 6 mussels in a blender until smooth. Add some chopped chervil/parsley and a half teaspoon of lemon zest. Cut the salmon into thin slices and place them partially overlapping with leaves of lettuce/rucola/spinach and/or watercress. 'Hide' the mayonnaise in between the layers and decorate with mussels.

Serve on a thin slice of rye bread or a rye biscuit or flat bread.

Northampton cont.:

It seems a long time

ago

by Gunilla Loe

My husband Michael and I moved "back" to Northampton in 1987/1988 with rather mixed feelings: we had not intended to end up here.

However, we had found a wonderful house to do up in the village of Harpole and we thought we would settle in well given time.

In 1988 I spotted a notice about an Anglo-Scandinavian Society, both in my little parish magazine and in Svenska Kyrkans Newsletter. I thought to give it a whirl since our sons, with whom I spoke Swedish every day, no longer lived at home, and it would be nice to speak Swedish again ...

I don't know what I expected but everybody seemed very friendly and the venue – a room in Dallington Country Club – was nice. I was rather overwhelmed by the Chairman Eva Jungfalk Down, who rather forcefully took me under her wing. The meeting was like many other club meetings: a bit of business and then a speaker, followed by coffee and Eva's home made cakes. So I carried on going to the meetings on and off but got disillusioned, because the structure seemed so loose and because I detected an undercurrent despite the friendliness. For the next ten to fifteen years I was an in-and-out member, getting to know some people well and others as mere acquaintances.

Then we had a crisis seven or eight years ago; it is never good to wash one's dirty linen in public, so suffice it to say that the crisis was resolved after a lot of soul searching and resulted in both a new constitution and a new committee. It says a lot for the members who, unlike me, were faithful through all the 'undercurrenty' and sticky years, because without them we would not have a society at all. Now we have a very happy Scandinavian oasis in Northamptonshire with monthly meetings full of laughter and chat, interesting speakers and other events, such as walks, our annual dinners and carol singing sessions. I am glad to be part of this and to know that my fellow Scandinavians are there for me whether I should feel like singing or swearing in my native language. Now, with the crisis resolved, I look back on happy memories with Lucia celebrations, Christmas markets – we may get back to these things – and just the sheer friendship that was and is on offer.



Northampton Swedish School

by Kerstin Banham

All the roads and places mentioned below are areas within the town of Northampton

Kerstin Lines and I started the Swedish School in 1979 at my house in Obelisk Rise. My daughter Caroline was only two years old, and my husband Nick used to look after her and supply the mothers with coffee in the sitting room, whilst Kerstin Lines and I taught Swedish to some eight children.

We then moved to Great Billing in April 1980, and Kerstin Lines' son Kristoffer was born in May and my son Sven arrived in July. We must have had a short gap when we were not teaching, but I remember that we had a Sankta Lucia celebration in December 1980 at Great Billing Village Hall.

In 1981 the number of pupils had grown and it was no longer possible to run the school from home, so we moved to Ecton Brook Community Centre. At one stage we had well over 20 children; some were here only for a couple of years and then moved back to Sweden, but the majority of the mothers were members of the Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society. It was tremendous fun and Kerstin and I really enjoyed it.

We received funding from the

Swedish Government, so we were able to pay for teaching materials, the hire of the hall, and other expenses.

I was interviewed on Radio Northampton, and we were also featured in the Northampton Chronicle & Echo a couple of times.

When Kerstin and I moved to Duston/Hunsbury in 1984, we had fewer pupils and we could accommodate them at home so we used to take it in turns to run the School from our homes.

We always did a Sankta Lucia celebration for the Scandinavian Community in December, at Ecton Brook Community Centre. We took all the children to the Viking Museum in York once, and we also had two trips by train to Barmouth, Wales, where we stayed in a B&B.

The School ran for ten years. Kerstin and I still miss it.



The School

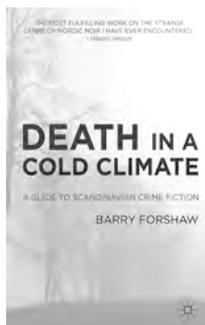
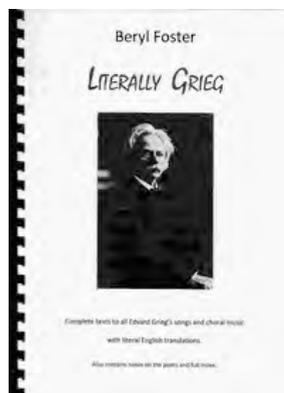


From the book shelf

Beryl Foster: ***Literally Grieg***

Texts and literal translations of all

Grieg's songs and choral music. Available now from Lindsay Music: www.lindsaymusic.co.uk, ISBN 0 85957 058 4. CoScan members are offered a discount (£10 incl. p&p, instead of £14.95).



Barry Forshaw: ***Death in a Cold Climate***

A Guide to Scandinavian Crime Fiction

Palgrave Macmillan (Jan 2012)

Paperback ISBN 0230361447, 224 pages

Death in a Cold Climate guides you from Sjöwall and Wahlöö's influential Martin Beck series through Henning Mankell's Wallander, the Reykjavik of Arnaldur Indridason, Stieg Larsson's publishing phenomenon

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and Jo Nesbø's Harry series. Barry Forshaw is a writer and journalist specialising in crime fiction and cinema.



Bjarne Riis and Lars Steen Pedersen: ***Riis – Stages of Light and Dark***

Former Tour de France winner and current Team Saxo Bank Manager
Bjarne Riis



Translated by Ellis Bacon
Vision Sports Publishing (May 2012)
Paperback ISBN 9781907637513,
340 pages

In 1996 Danish cyclist Bjarne Riis won the Tour de France. Eleven years later he called a press conference and confessed to taking a performance enhancer; he is now dedicated to cleaning up the sport in which he has been professionally active for over 25 years.

Signed copies of Bjarne's autobiography, Stages of Light & Dark, are available from Vision Sports Publishing on:

www.visionsport.co.uk/ssb/viewitem.asp?id=194

ONFA taking Norway to Flotta

by Jean Crichton

The first of the aims stated in the Orkney-Norway Friendship Association's Constitution is 'to foster and promote friendship and understanding between Orkney and Norway'. So the committee tries to visit some of the outlying parishes and islands of Orkney at least twice a year.

A few weeks ago six members of ONFA set off from Houton pier for a visit that was to prove one of the most enjoyable and rewarding events on this year's programme. After a sea journey of about 40 minutes, we arrived at the island of Flotta, were warmly welcomed by a friend and taken to the fine community hall where we set up our equipment for the evening. Waiting for us were several enthusiastic members of the Flotta Indoor Curling Club. What an afternoon of fun we had. Why does every community not have such excellent kit for a great team game - no ice needed?

The evening programme started with Norwegian music played on accordions, banjo and ukulele. We then showed the latest tourist DVD of Norway which was a delightful, up-to-date and informative tour of Norway's breathtaking scenery and its ancient and modern towns and industries, the commentary peppered with interesting facts and anecdotes. Our ONFA group had prepared an attractive and typically Norse



finger supper which was obviously much enjoyed. Little was left! Following the raffle there was more music to round off a great night out for more than half of Flotta's population.

But there's more. We stayed the night on the island, in two of its self-catering houses. Does the world know of this superb accommodation? It's warm, well-appointed, spotlessly clean and so cheap. There are fine walks roundabout, war-time relics at Stanger Head and the fascinating 'peerie (small) museum' at the Post Office, where David and Marina even offer you the chance to make a cuppa in their old kitchen while you read some of the many historic documents.

For us it was a sad parting on the Tuesday noon boat. This kind of visit is so worthwhile for us all.



Curling at Flotta

The Grieg Society of Great Britain

by Beryl Foster



Chairman of Grieg Society of Great Britain and
Vice-President of International Grieg Society

The Grieg Society was founded in October 1992 in conjunction with the celebrations to mark the composer's 150th anniversary in 1993, and aims to promote British interest in Grieg and other Norwegian composers. The first of the European societies to be set up, the British society is now affiliated to Grieg Societies in Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Russia, the United States and Japan, all under the umbrella of the International Grieg Society, based in Bergen. Our members include Grieg performers and scholars, but mostly those who like to listen to and talk about music in convivial company.

The Society hosts talks, concerts and social events, publishes a regular Newsletter, which details our activities, illustrated by photographs of previous events, members' news and sometimes a quiz.

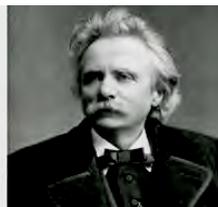
The annual *Journal* has longer articles about Grieg and his music and, like the Newsletters, is sent free to members.

For a number of years the Society has awarded an annual "Record of the Year" for a recording that, in our opinion, has added significantly to the available repertoire. Recipients have included such artists as pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, soprano Katarina Karnéus, the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra (awarded a special prize for their series of all Grieg's orchestral music), Naxos and BIS Records, and our Patron, the cellist Raphael Wallfisch. This event, hosted by the Norwegian ambassador, is the highlight of the Society's year, but in its place this year, to celebrate our 20th anniversary, there will be a special concert with Raphael Wallfisch and pianist John York.

For details of membership:
The Grieg Society of Great Britain,
c/o Royal Norwegian Embassy,
25 Belgrave Square, London SW1X
8QD; or 0208 691 1910/
01634 714434; or
griegsocietygb@gmail.com



The Grieg Society UK



Reports from recipients of CoScan Travel award (2011)

Extreme Arctic – two months in Svalbard

Price winning report by Katherine Pears

When I signed up for the expedition in early 2010, I could not have imagined what it would be like to fly over the sea ice and land at 2 am in Svalbard, with the 24 hour sun pretending to set behind the mountains.

Our team consisted of ten young explorers and seven leaders including a doctor. On the first day we were divided into two groups but these were mixed round throughout the trip and we were often all together at the base camps.

We spent just a day in Longyearbyen, the only major town in Svalbard, before setting out the next day towards base camp 1.

The first phase of our trip was one giant lesson in arctic survival: learning how to set up camp (complete with bear wires and a dug out loo), ski whilst pulling a heavy pulk, and melt enough snow to stay hydrated and well fed. We also learnt to shoot a rifle in case of polar bears, how to walk with crampons, how to rope up for glacier travel, and basic first aid.

After our induction to arctic life we had an expedition phase where we decided our own journey and got our first taste of developing skills such as leadership and navigation. As a team we managed to summit two mountains (Tronfjellet and Hallwylfjellet), cross three glaciers,

and travel an extreme 27 km in just one day. It was certainly challenging but when you're living in a place of such wild beauty it's impossible to have a bad day. At the end of the phase, on the way to base camp 2, we also built a giant snow hole and spent one night sleeping under the snow.

The next three weeks were the science phase. We spent half the time at science camp doing a detailed study on slush flows. These are fast-moving surges of water saturated snow which can occur on slopes from as gentle as 3 degrees, common in the arctic during the melt. My group also travelled to the Tunabreen glacier in order to map the snout but we were forced to turn back because of a crack in the sea ice. Luckily we were still able to complete our other work: visiting a Fulmar colony in order to continue a long term population study, and mapping an ice cave.

The ice cave was found two years ago but on the arrival the entrance was inaccessible. However just nearby we discovered a completely new ice cave which extended 89 metres back into the mountain. All over the ceiling the light from our head torches reflected off millions of ice crystals, beautifully formed but incredibly fragile.

It was absolutely freezing cold whilst we were completing the numerous measurements which required dextrous fingers, something that is not easily obtained when these have gone numb and/or are hidden in giant mitts. It made us realise that we really were only guests in this magical place.

From base camp 3, the other group had been carrying out their own science projects and also been visiting the goose hide and nearby bird cliffs regularly. It was great to be reunited for a short while, before choosing how we wanted to spend our last part of the trip. I was really keen to walk all the way back to Longyearbyen rather than take the boat across the recently melted Adventelva River, and after a short mountain phase we set off on the long walk. We switched the day around, travelling at night and sleeping in the day to take advantage of the harder snow. With the onset of the melt, getting anywhere became difficult meaning we often had to cross rivers and carry the pulks across large areas of tundra.

The landscape had completely changed since the beginning of the expedition. Adventdalen, where we had taken our first steps, was now a large river. It was my day to lead when we made the crossing; luckily we found one spot that wasn't too deep. We bivied out every night and also managed to squeeze in a 12 hour solo where we were able to have time alone to reflect on the trip. I even saw an arctic fox. Walking back into Longyearbyen hand in

hand on the 14 June was very emotional for everyone.

Coming back from the Arctic was probably one of my hardest challenges of the trip. After two months living in the wilderness it was very difficult to leave a place where I had adventures everyday, made amazing friends and fitted into a way of life most people never experience. I would like to say thank you to the British Schools Exploring Society (BSES) and my sponsors including the CoScan Trust Fund for making it possible.

Mingling with royalty in Sweden

by Felix Morgan



The purpose of my visit to Sweden was to be part of the World Scout Jamboree, which was held at Rinkaby in the south-east of the country 27 July - 8 August 2011. I was a member of the international service team that helped run the jamboree.

What quickly became clear was the sheer size of the event. The enormous site was divided into four "towns", each with its own facilities and shops, to accommodate more than 40,000 scouts and service team volunteers. There were scouts from

all over the world, representing around 150 countries.

A major event was the main opening ceremony, which encompassed themes from scouting and made you realise the global extent of the movement. The King and Queen of Sweden were in attendance, and in fact they visited



The Jamboree method of charging the phone

the jamboree on many of the days. Jamborees only take place every four years, so the grant you kindly gave enabled me to be part of this extraordinary and memorable event, which was so well organised by the host country Sweden.

Three days of rain in Bergen

by Jean Crichton

The West Mainland Strathspey & Reel Society, a traditional music group in the Orkney Isles, made a return visit to Norway at the end of June 2011 with 28 of its members, ages ranging from 16 to 78. A special direct flight from Kirkwall to Bergen had been graciously agreed to by the airline because of the problem of transporting keyboard, double bass and accordions safely.

In our chartered coach we headed for Voss where we were to stay in a

hostel for two nights. We performed a concert in the town square and also both nights on the open-air deck of the hostel. The young ones enjoyed rowing on the nearby lake on an idyllic evening.

Unfortunately we had three days of rain in Bergen – not unusual. Our spirits were not dampened, however, even in thick fog up Fløyen. Friends invited us all to a barbecue, and we played in a barn and in a Senior Citizens' Home, as well as at a folk-dance party. On Friday we did two performances in the Torgalmenning in Bergen.

The highlight of our concert tour was the magical experience when playing in the wonderful little Troldsalen concert hall beside Grieg's home at Troldhaugen. As well as playing traditional music from Orkney, Scotland and Norway, our choir sang and one of our young players, a superb pianist, gave a short recital; his jazz selection went down especially well.

Altogether we gave six performances in one week. In fact we probably came home better players! We are grateful for a grant from CoScan's Travel Fund for our younger members. To the horror of those of us who had organised the trip, the question from everyone was "When can we go back?!"



Performing in Troldsalen



Rain over Bergen (composite picture)

Not just IKEA and ABBA

by Duncan Street

The purpose of my visit to Stockholm was to spend four weeks experiencing dementia care in Sweden. My time was divided into three weeks of laboratory work and one week in the memory clinic of the Karolinska Institute Hospital.

I had never travelled to Scandinavia before, and was expecting to find the usual clichés of IKEA furniture, striking blondes, and ABBA. These preconceptions certainly misrepresent the vast, natural haven that is Sweden, a country endowed with twice the land mass of the UK but only the same population as Greater London. My time in the lab involved learning and participating in a number of laboratory techniques. I enjoyed the relaxed nature of the work and some excellent teaching that challenged my prejudices in favour of a clinical career in medicine rather than one in research. My week in the memory clinic was only slightly limited by my lack of Swedish, as the native

population displayed their faultless English and an enthusiasm to practise it. A multi-disciplinary team meeting of nine health professionals was even conducted entirely in English purely for my benefit.

During my stay I also visited Dalarö, a summer retreat for Stockholm's rich and famous and which counted among its inhabitants a former Formula 1 driver, an ex-Bond girl and the inventor of Skype, in a simple and unpretentious setting.

My final weekend involved an epic trip from Stockholm to Gothenburg – a journey of eight hours by coach in order to save money and experience more of the countryside. The trip has instilled in me a desire to explore more of Scandinavia, especially during the winter, and I thank CoScan for the generous contribution they made to help make this trip possible.

We are pleased to report that DFDS Seaways will continue to



give 10% discount on their sailings to CoScan members. (Only on bookings made from the UK). For more information please call: +44 (0)191 296 0101 or log on to: www.dfds.co.uk/coscan



Running for success in Stockholm

by Ruby Pester

Stockholm Fringe Festival (STOFF) is a live arts festival in Stockholm, which provides a creative platform for artists from all over the world, with a focus on promoting performance theatre and installation-art. We, Ruby Pester and Nadia Rossi, were delighted to be selected to develop, and showcase internationally, our performance work *Pushme-Pullyou* at STOFF 2011.

Pushme-Pullyou was a collaborative performance, in which two apparently symmetrical yet conflicting bodies undertook a delusional contest, mimicking the “pushmi-pullyu”, a mythical creature that has two heads, one at each end of its body. The two performers were independent of one another yet restricted by a costume that bound them together.

The performances took place three times a day in various locations in and around the *Kulturhuset*, and involved a number of interactive and participatory elements. We used various strategies (encouraging, persuading, bribing) to coax the public into making a choice and voting for a player to support. The public were invited to intervene in each contest by physically

manipulating one of the two performers. We remained silent; the only instruction was our badges reading PUSH and PULL. These instantly, if tentatively at first, provoked a reaction from the public, as they attempted to push and pull each of us in one or the other direction, giggling and dragging us through open spaces, into crevices and wrapping us around pillars.

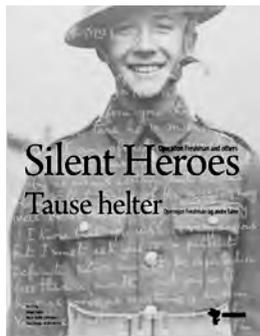
Participating in STOFF helped us to extend our networks and introduce us to the possibility of future collaborations and/or exchanges with other artists in Sweden, France, Mexico and Australia. The grant from CoScan was extremely helpful, and having received it we can be recognized as having been previously supported to tour internationally, which will be very beneficial to us in making grant applications in the future. Thank you for an invaluable adventure and experience.



Photo: Ruby Pester

Silent Heroes (Tause helter) – operation Freshman and others

Review by Iain Robertson



Some years ago, when travelling across Norway from east to west I stopped at the churchyard at

Lesjaskog. A friend pointed out the graves of two young English soldiers who had been killed in 1940 when covering the flight of the Norwegian royal family to Molde, from where they would sail to England. The sight of these graves, lying in a bleak and inhospitable terrain, struck me as one of the most poignant I had ever seen.

Perhaps these young men were the first British and Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives in Norway in the Second World War. A new and magnificently produced book, *Silent Heroes (Tause Helter)*, seeks to pay tribute to the memories of all of them. With text in both Norwegian and English (larger print), and with a wealth of photographs, the book is part scholarly record and part memorial.

The subtitle of the book is 'Operation Freshman and Others'. Operation Freshman was the first and disastrously unsuccessful

attempt to sabotage the heavy water production at Vemork near Rjukan. The plan was that two bombers and gliders would transport a team of hand-picked saboteurs over the North Sea from Scotland. Icing caused the gliders to become detached from their towing bombers, and in any case weather conditions made it virtually impossible to find the target. Both gliders and one of the bombers crashed. Those who survived the crashes were executed by the Germans, some at once and others following internment near Oslo. Four sappers from one of the gliders were brutally murdered by the Gestapo and their bodies thrown into the sea. News of the operation's failure leaked out only very slowly, and in some cases relatives were left to learn the facts from newspaper reports rather than through official military channels.

Not all British and Commonwealth casualties were so badly treated. Four airmen from a Wellington bomber shot down in a raid on Sola aerodrome in Stavanger were buried with full military honours by the Germans. But most were less fortunate, and many suffered fates which later came to be recognised as war-crimes.

Following the war great efforts were made to honour the deceased. Those who had been buried in haste in remote places were exhumed and

reburied with due ceremony in Commonwealth war graves. The book focuses mainly on the 45 buried in Eiganes cemetery in Stavanger, but of course there were many others. No fewer than 155 are buried in Trondheim, 46 in Bergen and 44 in Haugesund. Nor did the casualties end with the coming of peace. Oslo Western Civil cemetery contains the graves of 43 military personnel who lost their lives on May 10th 1945 during the airborne landings of British troops, and many were killed during disarmament operations.

A particularly warm tribute is paid in the book to Eric Ward Mills. Though he did not himself take part

in Operation Freshman, Mills was part of the liberating force which arrived in Stavanger in May 1945. Shortly afterwards he met a young Norwegian girl, Astri, whom he married in the cathedral there. After a brief spell back in England the couple settled in Stavanger where Eric Mills made it his life's work to see that due honour was paid to the memory of those who had suffered a fate which he realised could so easily have been his own. He took personal responsibility for the Remembrance Day ceremonies from the 1980s to 1998, and both before and after that accompanied many of the relatives of the deceased as they visited the war graves.

Jon Drew, Helge Sognli, Marie Smith-Solbakken, Hans-Jørgen Wallin Weihe : Silent Heroes (Tause helter) – operation Freshman and others, Hertevig Akademis.



Legal Advice

by Mark Elliott

We are occasionally asked how to find answers to questions about

law and administrative practice in the five Nordic/Scandinavian countries. The simplest course is to consult the relevant Embassy in London, and the easiest way of doing this is to go to the Embassy website (see last page of the magazine). In some cases there is a link to a list of lawyers competent in the language and law of the country

in question, in others it will be necessary to approach a member of the Embassy staff. No Embassy will be prepared to recommend a specific lawyer or other professional person on any list they provide, as Embassy staff are not expected to have all the necessary expertise. We are of course willing to help any CoScan member who is having difficulty in finding answers. If there is general interest in any problem of wide application, then we may be able to ask for advice in a publishable form. Please do not hesitate to contact us either about a problem which is personal to you, or if you are aware of any issue on which there is general concern.

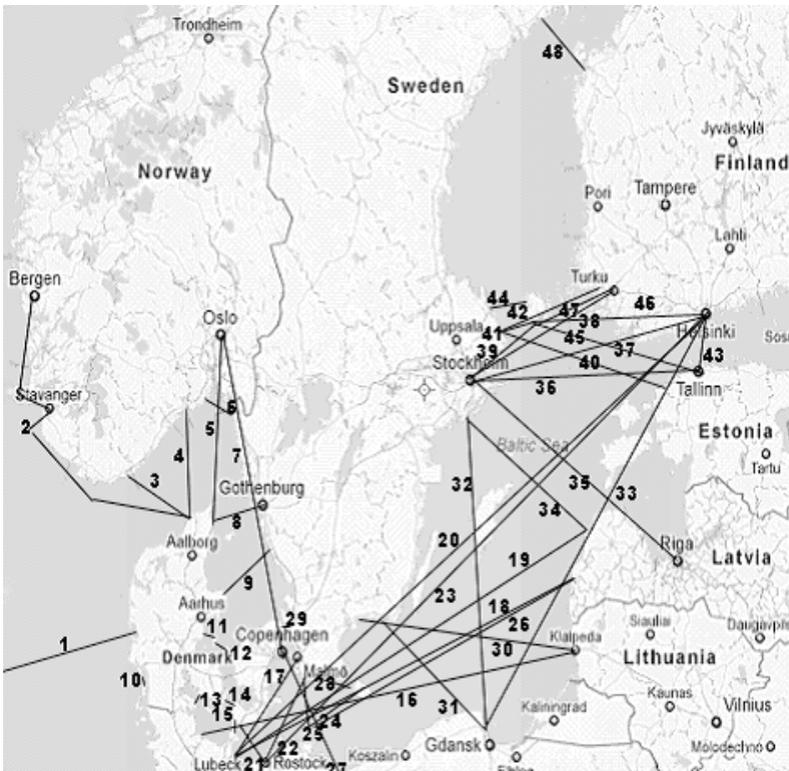
Ferry routes for passengers

compiled by Eva Robards

Once you are in Scandinavia, there are many ferry routes to choose from, as can be seen from the “cat’s cradle” and the list below. There are also numerous small “road ferries” and domestic ferries which are not included here.

Be warned, there may be queues in the summer months.

Another warning: you need to check the route you are interested in, because although I have contacted the shipping companies to verify my information, not all of them have replied. (I have found details to vary depending on which website or publication I have consulted.)



No	Route	Shipping Company	Frequency	Crossing time (hours)
1	Harwich – Esbjerg	DFDS Seaways	4/week	17 (+15 min)
2	Stavanger – Hirtshals	Fjord Line	4/week	11.5
	Bergen – Hirtshals	Fjord Line	3/week	19.5
3	Kristiansand – Hirtshals	Color L; Fjord L	2-3/day	2-3
4	Larvik –Hirtshals	Color Line	2/day	3 (+45 min)
5	Oslo – Fredrikshavn	Stena Line	7/week	8.5; 13
6	Sandefjord – Strömstad	Color Line	4/day	2.5
7	København – Oslo	DFDS Seaways	7/week	17
8	Fredrikshavn – Göteborg	Stena Line	7/day	2
9	Grenaa – Varberg	Stena Line	3/day	4 (+15 min)
10	Sylt – Romø	Rømø-Sylt Line	45/day	1
11	Hou – Sælvig	Samsøfærgeren	7/day	1
12	Kolby Kas – Kalundborg	Samsøfærgeren	5/day	1 (+50 min)
13	Fynshav – Bøjden	AlsFærgeren	8/day	50 min
14	Tårs – Spodsbjerg	LangelandsFærgeren	18/day	45 min
15	Puttgården – Rodbyhavn	Scandlines	45/day	45 min
16	Kiel – Klaipeda	DFDS Seaways	6/week	21
17	Travemünde – Malmö	Finnlines	20/week	8.5
18	Travemünde – Liepaja	Scandlines	2/week	28.5
19	Travemünde – Ventspils	Scandlines	2/week	29
20	Travemünde – Helsinki	Finnlines	7/week	27
21	Rostock – Gedser	Scandlines	10/day	1 hr (+45 min)
22	Rostock – Trelleborg	Scandlines; TT Line	19-20/week	6; 5.5
23	Rostock – Helsinki	Finnlines	3/week	36.5
24	Sassnitz – Rønne	BornholmerFaergen	9/week	3 (+20 min)
25	Sassnitz – Trelleborg	Scandlines	4/day	4
26	Sassnitz – Klaipeda	DFDS Seaways	3/week	18
27	Swinoujscie – Ystad/Copenhagen	Polferries	7/week	7 (+45 min)
28	Ystad – Rønne	Unity Line	14/week	7 (+15 min)
29	Helsingør – Helsingborg	BornholmerFaergen	8/day	1 (+ 20 min)
30	Karlshamn – Klaipeda	Scandlines; HH	4/ hour	20 min
31	Gdynia – Karlskrona	DFDS Seaways	7/week	14
32	Gdansk – Nynäshamn	Stena Line	12/week	10
33	Gdynia – Helsinki	Polferries	6/week	19
34	Gdynia – Helsinki	Finnlines	4/week	21
35	Nynäshamn - Ventspils	Scandlines	5/week	9
36	Stockholm –Riga	Tallink Silja Line	7/week	17
37	Stockholm – Tallinn	Tallink Silja Line	7/week	15 (+15 min)
38	Stockholm – Helsingør	Tallink Silja; Viking	7/week	16
39	Stockholm – Turku /Åbo	Tallink Silja; Viking	14/week	10.5
40	Sth. – Långnäs (Åland)	Tallink Silja;Viking	7/week	6-7.5
41	Sth – Mariehamn (Åland)	Tallink Silja;Viking	3/day	5.5
42	Kapellskär–Paldiski	DFDS Seaways	6/week	10
43	Kapellskär – Mariehamn	Viking Line	3/day	2
44	Kap. – Naantali (nr Turku)	Finnlines	3/day	8
45	Helsinki – Tallinn	Tallink Silja;Viking	2-7/day	2-2.5
46	Grisslehamn – Eckerö	Eckerö Linjen	3/day	1 (+45min)
47	Mariehamn – Tallinn	Tallink Silja Line	7/week	9
48	Mariehamn – Helsinki	Tallink Silja;Viking	7/week	10 (+)
49	Mariehamn – Turku	Tallink Silja;Viking	7/week	5.5
50	Långnäs (Åland) – Turku	Tallink Silja;Viking	7/week	4 (+15 min)
51	Umeå – Vaasa	RG Line	7/week	4.5
52	Hirtshals – Faroe Islands	Smiryl Lines	2/week	1 day 6 hrs
53	Tórshavn – Iceland	Smiryl Lines	1/week	16
54	Kiel – Oslo	Color Line	7/week	20

Olympic Fever – Helsinki 1952

by Dr Juhana Aunesluoma

Director, Network for European Studies, University of Helsinki



Helsinki, the capital of Finland, is a unique host in the history of the modern Olympic Games. It has been awarded the summer games twice, but it has delivered them only once. Until now it has not tried its luck with the winter games.

The first attempt to host the games was in 1940, but unlike in the ancient world, war did not then cease for the games. The peaceful art of sports had to surrender to the art of war.

Coming out of the war in 1945 still as independent nation, Finland was given a second chance – also with the hosting of the Olympics. Hearing in 1947 about the news that the games had been awarded to Helsinki, the President of the Republic and an elderly statesman J. K. Paasikivi noted with uncharacteristic cheerfulness: “The world has not forgotten about us!”

For two magic weeks in the summer of 1952, the world came to Helsinki. The games were a success on several counts. The Finnish organizers proved to be up to the task and the athletes did even better. World records in various sports were beaten one after another. The

enthusiastic crowds could enjoy the feats of the Czech runner Emil Zátopek, as well as those of many other less well known athletes and sportsmen and women from around the world.

That the Soviet Union’s and the other socialist bloc teams chose to enter the Modern Olympic Games in Helsinki, gave the event its special flair. An influx of international royalty and other celebrities made the city more international than it had been ever before. In the end, no-one experienced the games as strongly as the hosts did. Having the Olympics in Helsinki ended a spell of isolation. Recovery from the world war had not been easy. Living alongside the Soviet Union, the Finns were anxious about what would happen to them if the Cold War turned any hotter.

All this gave the event its special meaning for Finns. For a moment it seemed, that the clock could be turned back to where it had stopped in 1939. And if undoing what had been done was impossible, a new beginning was at hand. Successful hosting of the Olympics helped Finns to overcome their anxieties. The games were evidence of Finland’s endurance as an independent and free nation. If the 1940 Olympics had been swept aside by the war, the 1952 games swept aside many of its memories.

Scandinavian Crime

Discussion with Christopher MacLehose,
by Mark Elliott

Christopher MacLehose has been described as British publishing's doyen of literature in translation. Through the Harvill Press and the MacLehose Press imprint of Quercus he has brought such figures as Peter Høeg, Henning Mankell and Stieg Larsson to the British reading public. He kindly found time to talk to me about his lifetime of association with translation from Scandinavian languages, with special reference to the current popularity of crime fiction.

The forerunners of the Scandinavian crime fiction phenomenon, in his view, were the Swedish couple Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö, writing in the 1960s and 70s. Their sequence of ten novels built round the detective Martin Beck was widely followed in Sweden and elsewhere, but although the books were published by Penguin in Britain and by Pantheon in the US, they did not attract a wide following. Even thirty years ago few were reading Scandinavian crime novels in translation. It was the publication in 1992 of Peter Høeg's *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow* (to use the English title) which first caught the attention of the English-speaking world in this field. But this was not an orthodox work of detective fiction, although detection is a central theme in it, and Høeg did not return to that theme in his later



Christopher MacLehose

work; and its huge success did not rub off on the numerous detective works by other Danish writers which followed in its wake. It was the Swede Henning Mankell's Wallander books which first achieved world-wide fame in English translation, from about 1997. Thereafter other Swedish authors, Norwegians, and Icelanders have followed into the public consciousness; not so much the Danes, and Finnish according to MacLehose has had until recently the benefit of too few outstanding translators. (The work of Arto Paasilinna, for example, is popular in France and to some extent Germany, but hardly appears in Britain.)

What was it that suddenly brought Mankell and others to international prominence? MacLehose thinks the reason may partly be commercial; crime fiction sells well, and the



recent spate of television dramas - The Killing, The Bridge and so on - have amassed astonishing viewing figures “and perhaps sold a lot of sweaters too“. Maybe the wave will break and the public’s fancy turn elsewhere. But there is plenty of good writing there, he adds, and runs through a few of the great names. Åsa Larsson, from Kiruna in the far north of Sweden, is especially strong on character and atmosphere and tends to avoid the political themes. The Norwegian Karin Fossum is another with a different personal style; MacLehose mentions her *Elskede Poona* (*Calling Out for You* in English), praised for its “real emotional power” by crime award judges. Arnaldur Indridason of Iceland writes gripping narrative and tells a good story. Jo Nesbø, the Norwegian currently riding high in the charts, is another accomplished story-teller although his novels can be “painfully violent” - something of a modern tendency. The Stieg Larsson books can be even more gripping than those of Henning Mankell.

I ask whether there is something about Scandinavia and its literature which accounts for the peculiar success of its crime fiction, and its rather dark character. MacLehose says that it would be quite wrong to generalise. There are many fine writers - he mentions Per Olov Enqvist and Torgny Lindgren of

Sweden, Per Petterson of Norway (*Out Stealing Horses*), the Nobel prize-winner Halldór Laxness of Iceland - who are all completely different from each other and certainly no less successful. It is good style, not the supposed Scandinavian gloom, which sells books, even though the dust-jackets of Scandinavian crime novels do tend to major on snow-scenes. And of course it is quite wrong to lump Danes, Finns, Icelanders, Norwegians and Swedes together as a single people - just as wrong as to identify the Scots with the English (MacLehose is a Scot). What is more, the world of Mankell and Stieg Larsson is no more identical with the real Sweden, in all its aspects, than is that of Haruki Murakami with the real Japan. It is all very well to market Scandinavian crafts and design under a single banner, but Scandinavian writing needs to be kept apart.

We talk finally about the craft of translation. MacLehose recalls that decades ago translation from Scandinavian languages was a rare commodity. Michael Meyer, famed for his Strindberg and Ibsen translations, was perhaps the only great name of the period. Nowadays there are many more skilled translators into English, and indeed into other languages, although the pattern of success and failure in different countries is variable - in Portugal, Brazil and China, for example, Stieg Larsson’s books have been less well received than one

might have expected. I interject a comment about old-fashioned translations from languages such as Russian and Japanese, where the stylistic mannerisms of the original language showed through only too plainly in the English version. MacLehose agrees that this is much less of a problem with the Scandinavian languages, to which English is a good deal closer.

And that seemed a good note on which to end. After all, one of our CoScan themes is that Scandinavians and British share many common values. Even if a taste for violent crime is not necessarily the most commendable, we can all share in the love of a good story well told. Christopher MacLehose has perhaps done more than anyone to satisfy that desire.



CoScan Conference in Tallinn, Estonia: 19 – 21 April 2013

from Lynne af Rosenborg
with the SKOL organising team

We would like to find out if you are interested in attending our Conference in Tallinn

Our sights are on tantalizing Tallinn where the euro is in use and we can use the expertise of our special travel organiser Kari Moss Wright. We have obtained excellent rates at a cost of approximately £300 per person in a centrally placed hotel. The price is for 3 nights with bed and breakfast and includes the CoScan Dinner. The price does not include flights and insurance which, as usual, you will have to arrange yourself.

Travel: It is wise to book flights early; seats sell fast and discounts are good.

We hope to arrange the ‘same procedure as last time’: a Reception, a Tour – hopefully with an alternative option for those not able to walk too far, an AGM, and a Dinner to round it all off.

Please let us know of your interest in going to Tallinn **as soon as possible**. Send me a quick email: lynnerosenborg@tiscali.co.uk, phone me on 01673 857326, or if you prefer, write to Dane House, Victoria St, Wragby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 5PF, UK. Further details will be to follow when you have registered your interest.

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www.norseman.no

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(2003 – 2012)
www.finnbrit.fi

Quiz on Iceland



1. Who was the first permanent settler in Iceland?

1 Ingólfur Arnarson 2 Leif Eriksson 3 Erik the Red

2. When was the Republic of Iceland established?

1 1814 2 1918 3 1944

3. What is the name of the present President of Iceland?

1 Sveinn Björnsson 2 Vigdís Finnbogadóttir 3 Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson

4. From when is the Icelandic Constitution?

1 1262 2 1874 3 1944

5. Which of Iceland's volcanoes erupted on 21 March 2010?

1 Eldfell 2 Eyjafjallajökull 3 Vatnajökull

6. How many times is an Icelandic horse, having left Iceland, allowed to return?

1 never 2 once 3 any number of times, as long as its PETS passport is valid

7. Which is the second largest town in Iceland?

1 Kópavogur 2 Eskifjörður 3 Héraðsvötn

8. For what is Halldór Laxness known?

1 formed the basis for Icelandic Contemporary Art 2 caused the collapse of three leading banks in 2008 3 won the Nobel Prize in literature 1955

9. What does the name of the capital Reykjavík mean?

1 smoke-bay 2 trade-centre 3 ship-building site

10. The Icelandic currency is

1 euro 2 króna 3 daler

11. Who was Njáll in Njáls saga?

1 a warrior 2 a trouble-maker 3 a lawyer and a sage

12. What/Who is Sigur Rós?

1 an Icelandic athlete 2 a music band 3 Icelandic name of the rose that is the symbol for the Icelandic Rose Society

13. What kind of food is Þorramatur?

1 a selection of traditional cuisine 2 cured ham 3 rotten shark meat

14. How many Santa Clauses do the Icelanders have?

1 one 2 thirteen 3 seven

15. Iceland is the world's oldest parliament. What is it called?

1 Althingi 2 Íslandsráðgjafi 3 Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn

Send your reply to CoScan, c/o Lise Hodgson, 11a Herbert Grove
Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2AT (or email liseinga@hotmail.com).

Closing date is 10 September 2012. Two prizes from the Icelandic Embassy will be awarded for correct answers; these and the two winners will be published in the next issue of the CoScan Magazine.



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