

CoScan Magazine

2017/1



The Magazine for the Confederation of Scandinavian Societies
Published twice yearly (June & December)

Contents:

CoScan, News and Societies

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Dane Sandi Toksvig – CoScan International Award 2017: *Mark Elliott*
- 4 Greenwich 2017: *Mark Elliott*
- 5 SKOL obituary
- 5 The Viking Society for Northern Research: *David Reid*
- 6 Letter from a reader: *Anne Connolly, NSA*

Language and culture

- 7 The rise and rise of Finnish maestros: *Edward Clark*
- 10 Scandinavia's cultural ties with the UK City of Culture: *N. J. Evans*
- 14 2017: the year the Vikings return: *Peter Addyman*
- 15 A Riverine Site Near York: A Viking camp of the 870s: *Gareth Williams*
- 18 Reading the runes: *Brita Green*
- 21 Allied airmen's WW2 memorials in southern Denmark: *S A J Bradley*
- 24 St Magnus of Orkney, 900th anniversary: *Brita Green and Eva Robards*
- 25 From the bookshelf, with review of 'The Seer': *Louise Sørensen*

Travel award reports

- 28 CoScan Trust Fund 2017 report: *Brita Green*
- 29 Prize-winning report 2016: Tracking wolves in Finland: *Bethany Smith*
- 31 Young Shetlanders in Hammerfest: *Gordon Stove and Wendy Mackney-Mills*
- 34 Learning to pronounce Eyjafjallajökull: *Hannah Ward*
- 36 Waterfalls and rainbows: *Kazim Ghafoor*

Contact details

- 38 Member Societies 2017
- 39 Executive Committee
- 40 CoScan Trust Fund, Editorial Board
- Back inside cover: CoScan Patrons

Front cover:

Brúarfoss, Iceland. Photo: Kazim Ghafoor (see also back cover and report on page 36)

Message from the President

Mark Elliott

It is my turn again to offer some reflections on the state of CoScan and of the world. Just at the moment it is easier to be optimistic about the former than the latter. The very public and well-attended occasion for our presentation of the 2017 International Award to Sandi Toksvig, described elsewhere in this issue, must have brought public awareness of CoScan's existence and aims to a new level. This is largely due to the energy of Tony Bray, described as 'Marketing' in the committee's list of responsibilities. Tony has been building up our profile with great dedication and expertise over the last couple of years — take a look at our website for evidence of his sense of style. Our 2017 AGM, held in the Greenwich area of London in early May, is the work of another relatively-new committee member Wendy Howell, who also has shown great professionalism and attention to detail in the preparations. At a time when many membership organisations are suffering from decreasing interest and feeling the financial pinch, it is a pleasure to report that CoScan is holding its own and looking towards a bright and active future.

I wish I could say the same about the wider political scene. Even Scandinavians resident in this country, normally among the most comfortably-based and secure of all, have recently been showing signs of disquiet. I doubt whether we shall have

achieved much more certainty, by the time this issue of the CoScan magazine is published, about the future status here of non-UK European nationals. The terms of future trade between the UK and its European partners will definitely not have been settled, and the long-term viability of any UK-based business venture will therefore remain in doubt. This is not the place to debate the rights and wrongs of our referendum decision last June to quit the European Union. It is still possible that our eventual state may be better than the past, that fundamental change of the kind now proposed will generate a new sense of commitment and energy in this country. But the way towards that goal is immensely complex, and meanwhile many of us in northern Europe (which Britain after all still is) will suffer from the uncertainty.

Of one thing I remain certain. Speaking at the International Award ceremony in March, I asserted that 'our part of northern Europe contains more sanity and good sense than any other part of the world'. That may be only a relative judgement. But events in the Middle East, in North Asia, in the United States and Russia, continue to alarm. New uncertainties abound, but in terms of relative social equality and national happiness, the Nordic countries continue to come out on top. In our small way, let us all do what we can to keep the world sane.

Dane Sandi Toksvig – CoScan International Award 2017

by Mark Elliott



Sandi Toksvig with the CoScan International Award 2017 P resident Mark Elliott and Chairman Eva Robards, who presented the award, on each side of her.

Photo: Alice Boagey, Southbank

Peter Wright's inspired creation of the CoScan International Award has come a long way in a couple of decades. On Sunday 12 March we presented this year's award to Sandi Toksvig before an audience of 3000 or so in the Royal Festival Hall in London, who responded by giving her a standing ovation. She appeared to relish her arrival on a list of recipients which includes a city, a telescope and a bridge.

Why Sandi? who is she? In Wikipedia, she is described as a Danish-British

comedian, writer, actor, presenter and producer on British radio and television, and a political activist. Born in Denmark to a Danish father and British mother, she was at school in England and was then outstandingly successful both academically and in the light entertainment sphere at Cambridge. Among her achievements since — books, plays, a musical, newspaper columns — it is radio and television which has perhaps brought her the widest degree of public affection, most recently

for the News Quiz on BBC radio and the television show QI. Her OBE in 2014 was ‘for services to broadcasting’.

Humour is only one of Sandi’s qualities. The occasion of our presentation was Southbank Centre’s seventh WOW — Women of the World Festival, which now extends over five continents and twenty major cities. Each year Sandi has presided over an evening of music and comedy, Mirth Control, this year subtitled ‘... Goes Nordic’ in tune with Southbank Centre’s year-long exploration of Nordic arts and culture, Nordic Matters in 2017. There was plenty of Scandinavian-ness — a bit of *hygge*, some extraordinarily powerful Swedish cow-calling like yodelling gone wild, plenty of ABBA with singers including Anne Sofie von Otter. Sandi’s Scandinavian roots matter to her, we felt.

The principal underlying cause of the whole festival, though, is celebrating the achievements and campaigns of women. Jude Kelly CBE, founder of WOW and Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, writes in the introduction to the programme: ‘Female voices have become immensely powerful as a force for positive change worldwide’. When we met Sandi before the show, she told us at once that the orchestra and the 200-strong choir were entirely female. The Mirth Control event, like those of previous years, contained a section of obituary, celebrating the achievements of women in many walks of life who have died during the last year. There

were references at various points during the evening to the discrimination against women, and threats to their basic rights, which remain widespread. Sandi did, after all, set up the UK’s Women’s Equality Party at the WOW festival in 2015.

It is this complex and energetic personality which led us to think of Sandi as a possible recipient of the CoScan International Award. Her father, Claus Toksvig, was a powerful and widely-respected Danish figure both in Britain and the United States — journalist, broadcaster and politician. Certainly in this generation there must be very many in Britain for whom the name of Sandi Toksvig would come first when asked to identify a Dane. The CoScan International Award is, among other things, for those ‘...who have caused the British... to view [Scandinavia] with even greater affection and respect’. That Sandi Toksvig certainly has done — and not just because we love anybody who shares our sense of humour. Addressing the Royal Festival Hall audience on 12 March after our presentation, she spoke of her Danish grandmother, a member of the resistance in the Second World War, who risked her life and those of her children to help facilitate the escape of the Danish Jews to Sweden; and said ‘In these dark times where we must constantly battle against unkindness or indifference to those in trouble, I dedicate this to her and hope that her spirit runs through me in everything I try to do’.

Greenwich 2017

by Mark Elliott

This year's Annual General Meeting, on 7 May, gave representatives of nine CoScan member societies an opportunity to visit Greenwich in south-east London and enjoy the generous and highly efficient hospitality of Wendy and Chris Howell.

As has become the pattern for non-overseas travel years, we assembled on the Friday evening and met each other again over a drink and some ample solid refreshment coupled with a light-hearted but comprehensive briefing on the local area's history and sights.

Saturday gave most of us an opportunity for some brisk walking in Greenwich Park (with frequent crossings of the Greenwich Meridian) and an

expertly-guided tour of the Cutty Sark and some of the fine Wren buildings nearby, before dining in a local Turkish restaurant.

The AGM itself was held on the Sunday morning, and the minutes have been circulated to individual and society members of CoScan. The meeting reviewed events of the past year, and looked forward to the future; more of this in the next issue, but it is worth mentioning here that our target for the 2018 Conference AGM is Finland, almost certainly Helsinki, as in 2003 but on that occasion a large part of our stay was occupied with a day-trip to Tallinn in Estonia. Wendy Howell, of the Executive Committee, has agreed to take on the planning for Helsinki 2018, to the delight of us all after the resounding success of Greenwich this year.



Participants, at Cutty Sark, in front of the largest collection of merchant navy figureheads in the world.

Photo: Chris Howell

Scandinavian Klubb of Lincolnshire (SKOL)



Rita Pike, née Hulgaard and wife of Norman Pike (Treasurer of CoScan for many years), died on Friday 7 April. Rita was a member of the strong Danish and SKOL contingent always to be seen at CoScan conferences and meetings. Despite ill-health in recent years she continued to be a cheerful and friendly presence. She will be greatly missed.

The Viking Society for Northern Research

by David Reid

The Viking Society for Northern Research was founded in London in 1892. Originally a literary society, it began life as ‘The Orkney, Shetland and Northern Society’, then later changed its name to ‘The Viking Club. Society for Northern Research’ as its publications, principally the *Orkney and Shetland Miscellany* and *Saga-Book*, became more learned. Finally, by 1914, the name ‘Viking Society for Northern Research’ was accepted and settled upon and so it has been called ever since.

The Society’s publication rôle also expanded with the introduction of a text, translation and monograph series inaugurated by the publication in 1902 of *The Life and Death of Cormac the Scald* (*Kormáks saga Kolbrúnarskáld*), translated by W. G. Collingwood and Jón Stefánsson. The Society had a somewhat tempestuous existence both financially and socially over much of the succeeding

century but still managed to assist in the establishment of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of London, in the process donating its own library as the seed collection for the new departmental library. And then, furthermore, finding the paper and printer to produce a translation of *Guðmundar saga Arasonar* — *The Life of Gudmund the Good*, translated by G Turville-Petre and E. S. Olszewska — during the height of World War Two in 1942.

Now, however, settled into a healthy old age, the Society continues to be one of the leading publishers of medieval Scandinavian texts and translations in the world and publishes University College’s Dorothea Coke Memorial Lectures in its journal, *Saga-Book*. The Society also holds three meetings a year at which a lecture is presented. The meetings follow the academic year, Autumn and Spring terms at University College in London

and each Summer term at a different British university. An Annual Dinner is held at the Autumn meeting and the AGM in the Summer term. Scholarly support is also provided with an annual student conference, disbursement of prizes to students at British universities, a fund to offer research grants to graduate students and independent scholars and the annual awarding of the Peter Foote Memorial Bursary to postgraduate students in Britain and Ireland to assist them in undertaking study or research abroad.

Society membership is open to all and no academic qualification is required or necessary — although an abiding interest in all things medieval and Norse is recommended!

Subscription and application details can be found on the Society's website, www.vsnr.org.



Letter from a reader

Mike and I are members of the Norwegian Scottish Association (NSA) in Edinburgh and several years ago Jim Osler gave the Association a wonderfully diverse and interesting talk about his Merchant Navy experience on the Arctic Convoy.

Because of his communications expertise he was seconded to Bletchley Park. He was in regular contact with Resistance fighters in Norway and was eventually honoured with the Ushakov medal.

Anne Connolly

H.... E. R... O —

*He saw the Spitfires bank, flame
over the Forth, knew the urge
to be a hero. So he grew a bit
enlisted on the dot of sixteen
and left by the Clyde, gliding out
beyond the sheltered neck of water,
stood to attention on the top deck
bound for manhood and Archangel.*

*Abandon ship! Filled to the gunnels
with necessity, lifeblood of convoy PQ17.
But not before the vital codes were scuppered,
hailed over tilting sides in three great chests
each one heavier than a sodden corpse.*

*Intermittent taps
staccato breaths
refrigerated marrow
dot-dash-splash
pneu-mon-iaaaaaaaaaaaaaa.*

*a long slow haul to
Bletchley Park.*

From *Love in a Mist* by Anne Connolly
Red Squirrel Press, Morpeth, 2011

The rise and rise of Finnish maestros

by Edward Clark, President of United Kingdom Sibelius Society (UKSS)

All roads lead to Rome! Never was a truer word said when contemplating the rise and rise of Finnish conducting maestros over the past few decades.

Sibelius began this road-building programme by becoming one of the greatest and most famous composers of his generation in the world. Finland, a country of just over five million people, spotted, nurtured and ultimately rewarded Sibelius as the country's most famous son both in and outside of Finland.



Jean Sibelius

The only other contender inside Finland was Field Marshal, later President, Mannerheim, a figure much less well known in the international arena.

A localised Music Institute in Helsinki was renamed the Sibelius Academy long before the great man died. This refurbished learning centre was fed by generous government funding within the general arena of an enlightened State education system. But this does not really explain the extraordinary rise of

a purely national conducting talent pool, conquering the world in such definitive form in the second half of the 20th century. The reason, surely, is the inspiration of having Sibelius as a role model for many aspiring Finnish musicians.

There were earlier signs of international fame among Finnish conductors. Robert Kajanus, who became Sibelius's greatest contemporary champion, was both a composer (though quickly dwarfed by Sibelius) and conductor. His early 1930s recordings made in London are freshly minted in a superb box set of CDs, entitled *Jean Sibelius. Historical Recordings and Rarities 1928-1945* on



Robert Kajanus

the Warner Classics label (reviewed in the UKSS January 2017 Newsletter). Sibelius's brother-in-law Armas Järnefelt was another international maestro, as was Georg Schnéevoigt, who gave the revised *Lemminkäinen Suite (Four Legends)* premiere in New York in 1939

and whose live concert recordings of the Fourth Symphony and *Luonnotar* from the Royal Albert Hall, London, on a pre-war tour are now the stuff of folk-lore. Both conductors are represented on this new box set. Among other notable Finns who conducted widely abroad, including the USA, were Tauno Hannikainen, Nils-Eric Fougstedt (both of whom performed at Sibelius's funeral in 1957), Simon Parmet and Sibelius's son-in-law Jussi Jalas.

But the flood gates really opened with post-war talent. The author/scholar Robert Layton wrote in 1965 that Sibelius's reputation in the UK had reached its nadir, due to a backlash against his long established music in favour of the newly promoted (by the BBC amongst others) modernist style of Stockhausen, Pierre Boulez and many others. Among the new talent was the conductor Paavo Berglund, whose 1965 centenary concert (symphonies 4 and 6) at the Royal Festival Hall, London, with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra still burns in my memory. His subsequent EMI recordings of the symphony cycle, *Kullervo* and many other works really did change the reputation for the better of Sibelius, and not only in the UK.

Berglund was the international trail blazer not only for Sibelius but also for a whole generation of Finnish conductors. The young Okko Kamu won the first International Herbert von Karajan Conducting Competition in 1969 and his prize was to record the Second Symphony for the DG label. Leif Segerstam also emerged at this time as a rather spectacular interpreter of

Sibelius, a reputation which continues to this day. He is also the composer of over 250 symphonies! Interestingly all three began as violinists. There is a wonderful recording on the Swedish BIS CD label of Kamu and Segerstam playing the Bach Double Violin Concerto.

A slightly younger generation quickly established international fame. Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Sakari Oramo, John Storgårds and Osmo Vänskä are among those best known to international audiences, all of them welcome regular visitors to the UK. Indeed they have or have had official appointments with various British orchestras.

All the above-mentioned, with the exception of Salonen, have recorded highly regarded Sibelius symphony cycles. But they are not limited in repertoire: Salonen produced and conducted a Stravinsky Festival in London last year; Saraste is a frequent visitor often performing Bruckner, and much contemporary music; Oramo leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra each season as Music Director; and Storgårds and Vänskä have recently given highly acclaimed Sibelius symphony cycles in Manchester and London respectively. All conduct English music. Vänskä's Beethoven symphony cycle, with his Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, is highly regarded on the BIS label.

New, younger talents continue to emerge with the names of Hannu Lintu, Mikko Franck, Pietari Inkinen and Susanna Mälkki (by no means the only female) prominent to international audiences.

One name must be mentioned as the inspirer of many if not most of these maestros: Jorma Panula. He can be heard in his recording for the Naxos label of *Kullervo*, but his reputation is founded on his conducting (often master) classes, at the Sibelius Academy, for the generations that followed on from Berglund. Without his diligence and authority it is doubtful if such rapid progress could have been

achieved by so many students under his care (many of the above-mentioned for instance). To connoisseurs he is a legend in his life time.

You can join the UKSS by contacting Edward Clark on ainola@blueyonder.co.uk. The latest biannual Newsletter has a memoir on the mid-20th century Finnish maestro, Nils-Erik Fougstedt written by his daughter Christina Arni (www.sibeliussoociety.info).



Simon Parmet,
Jukka-Pekka Saraste
Osmo Vänskä
Jussi Lassus

Paavo Berglund
Tauno Hannikainen
Hannu Lintu

Mikko Franck
Juhani Storgaard
Jorma Panula
Armas Järnfeldt (stamp)
Georg Schnéevoigt

Okko Kamu
Esa-Pekka Salonen
Susanna Mäkelä

Sakari Oramo
Nils-Erik Fougstedt
Leif Segerstam
Pietari Inkinen

Collage by Eva Robards

Scandinavia's cultural ties with the UK City of Culture

by Dr Nicholas J. Evans

As Aarhus began to celebrate its year as the 2017 European City of Culture, on 1 January 2017, Hull marked the beginning of its year as UK City of Culture with a series of highly visual and effective multimedia projections to showcase its own unique story. Themed ‘Made in Hull’, it told the story of Hull during the past 75 years. Well-known themes including Hull’s rich maritime heritage were told alongside recent sporting and cultural successes, and the port’s ties with Europe were also prominently displayed. Given that 68 percent of the city’s electorate had so recently voted to exit the European Union, it was surprising how much Hull’s past connections with Scandinavia were being used to launch the city’s high profile year. Yet whilst the population of Hull may have seemingly turned its back on the European Union, relations with Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Finland look set to occupy an increasingly central place in the way the city frames its past.

Situated on the confluence of the rivers Hull and Humber, Hull has a proud and rich maritime heritage bound up with the shared fortunes of Nordic Europe. Aside from the legacy of ancient Viking settlement in the vicinity of Hull — explaining why so many of the place names in the area end in *by* — the recent launch of the ‘England’s Immigrants Database’ by the University of York revealed that the number of

alien merchants from Nordic Europe, especially Denmark and Iceland, living in Hull from the 1330s onwards, was more significant than any other region of Europe (see www.englishimmigrants.com). The port’s historic ties with Holland have been celebrated since the Glorious Revolution of 1688, when the townsfolk supported the Dutch Stadtholder William III in becoming King of England, but its ties with Nordic Europe have also remained increasingly important to Hull’s commercial, cultural and maritime traditions. For example, at



Family migrating through Hull. Photo: N. Evans

the royal opening of the Albert Dock in 1869 the Danish-born Princess of Wales (and future Queen Alexandra) was met by delegations of Danish-speaking citizens of the town. In recent decades Hull has increasingly populated civic spaces with statues and other forms of heritage markers to remind visitors and citizens alike of aspects of the port-city's past, and this public heritage has increasingly included ties to Scandinavia, thanks in part to work by this author in researching Hull's migrant past at the University of Hull.

Since the millennium Hull's historic role as a conduit for Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish transmigrants — i.e. those Europeans en route to the USA, Canada and Latin America via the ports of Liverpool, Glasgow, and

Southampton — has been marked by a statue commemorating Scandinavian emigrants. A plaque to the former lodging house managed by Harry Lazarus was unveiled in 2003. His second wife Dina, born in Denmark, played a key role in accommodating Scandinavian clientele. And in 2014, the former Finnish Ambassador to Britain, His Excellency Pekka Huhtaniemi, unveiled a plaque marking the former location of the Hull-based offices of John Good and Sons who provided shipping services and passports for Finnish residents and emigrants during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most recently, this celebration of Nordic ties has expanded to include Hull's regal ties with Norway in the form of a new Lord Mayor centenary plaque at the former salon of



Projection on the Deep of migration through Hull.

Photo: N. Evans

Hull-based Couturier Madame Emily Clapham. Clapham's most illustrious client was Queen Maud of Norway. Even the Hull-born aviator Amy Johnson, marked in the city of her birth by a statue since 1972, has been appropriated by an arts festival. Whilst the Danish origins of her grandfather were long overshadowed by the fact she was born in the heart of Hull's self-styled 'fishing village', her Danish heritage has been discussed more widely in the Amy Johnson festival held between July and September 2016 (<http://amyjohnsonfestival.co.uk/>).



Statue of Amy Johnson.

Photo: N. Evans

Hull's migrant story fitted in with the longer-term economic regeneration of the area; Hull was to be promoted as a pioneering city, a gateway to Europe. Yet of equal importance is often what is not told, rather than what is, in post-industrial landscapes of cities such as Hull. For a time, the city conveniently airbrushed its former role as a major fishing port, a position decimated by the Cod Wars of the 1970s after which EU fishing rights prevented local trawlers harvesting Iceland's stocks of fish. In recent years such cultural diplomacy has increased with the unveiling of the Vík statue, by Icelandic Foreign Minister Valgerður Sverrisdóttir in 2006. The co-erection of matching statues in Hull and Vík, sponsored by Icelandic and British companies and supported by the British, Icelandic and local governments, emphasised the shared fishing heritage with Scandinavia. Diplomatically it reconciled an awkward part of the recent past by projecting a shared vision of the future, ignoring the fact that the collapse of the fishing industry caused immeasurable damage to economic conditions in the city during the last two decades of the twentieth century.

Surprisingly then, the city celebrated the beginning of the City of Culture by marking three of the aforementioned stories in a major visual art installation. 'Made in Hull', a series of nine installations across the city curated by award-winning Sean McAllister, depicted the legacy of the Cod Wars with Iceland, Amy Johnson's flights to Australia and Hull's role as an emigrant port from Scandinavia. Poignantly the

latter projection called ‘Arrivals and Departures’, projected onto Hull’s aquarium ‘The Deep’, told the story of Hull as a gateway from Nordic Europe that included immigrants and transmigrants. Situated opposite the historic landing stage where medieval merchants had once arrived from Denmark and Iceland, and near to the former Victoria Dock where transmigrants and immigrants arrived from Finland, images of former vessels belonging to *Det Forenede Dampskibsselskab* (DFDS) and *Finska Ångfartygs Aktiebolaget* (FÅA), which transported over 2.2 million Scandinavian migrants, were shown to an estimated 100,000 people.* The centrality of the movement of goods, people and ideas from Scandinavia to Hull’s expansion was finally celebrated, alongside specially composed music and the inclusion of key names and surnames of famous Scandinavians who had ties with Hull’s past.

Most recently plans for the City’s heritage have included a full-scale copy of Amy Johnson’s Gypsy Moth plane and a forthcoming exhibition at Hull Maritime Museum marking the Cod Wars from both British and Icelandic perspectives. Yet perhaps, as Pekka Huhtaniemi observed at the unveiling of the plaque to Hull’s Finnish heritage in 2016, cultural diplomacy will continue to play an increasingly important role in the future plans of British towns and cities like Hull as Brexit becomes a political reality. One thing is certain, it is now impossible to visit the UK City of Culture and not be aware of the port’s proud ties with Nordic Europe. Perhaps

Norway’s status as being outside of the EU bodes well for future commercial ties. Either way the effects of over a thousand years of migrant ties between the north-eastern port and Scandinavia remain as important today as at any time in the past, and represent a form of cultural connection central to European commercial ties in the years ahead.



Dr Nicholas Evans is Lecturer in Diaspora History at the University of Hull. His forthcoming essay, ‘The Making of a Mosaic: Migration and the Port-city of Kingston upon Hull’ appears in a book marking the 2017 UK City of Culture entitled Hull — Culture, City, Place published by the University of Liverpool Press in April 2017. This paper draws upon two presentations he made to the York Anglo-Scandinavian Society in 2016. Further papers by him concerning Scandinavian migration through Hull can be found on his University webpage: www2.hull.ac.uk/fass/history/our-staff/nicholas-evans.aspx

*The author was academic adviser to ‘Arrivals and Departures’ created by the artist Simon Wainwright. Authorities report that 342,000 visited the Made in Hull installations during the first week of 2017.

2017: the year the Vikings return

by Peter Addyman



Children before (above) and after (right) flooding in 2015

Printed with permission of York Archaeological Trust



2017 brings good news for all those interested in the impact that Scandinavians had on Britain in the Viking Age. York's world-famous Jorvik Viking Centre, which set out the story of the Vikings' northern English capital, was inundated in the catastrophic floods that hit the city on Boxing Day 2015. The floods destroyed the displays, though happily none of the original artefacts, which were evacuated according to the Centre's emergency plan as the floods rose. The displays have since been completely reconstructed and the Centre

and its story 're-imagined' — bringing up to date our knowledge of Viking York. Jorvik Viking Centre in its new form re-opened to the public on 8 April. Since the Centre first opened in 1984 over 18 million people have passed through its portals. There is every indication that the re-imagined Jorvik, with its new take on Viking York, will continue to introduce large numbers of visitors — and new generations of children — to the stirring story of the impact Scandinavian settlers had on the origins of town life in England.

There is a second reason for those interested in Viking culture to visit York in 2017.

The Yorkshire Museum, which holds England's second largest collection of Viking-age artefacts, has developed a collaboration with the British Museum, that holds the nation's largest collection. Together they have designed a special exhibition **VIKING: DISCOVER THE LEGEND** which will run at the Yorkshire Museum in York from 19 May until 5 November 2017, bringing together some of the finest treasures from both collections. What did it mean to be a Viking? What did a Viking look like?

How have recent finds, including marvellous metal detectorists' finds like the Vale of York Hoard and the Bedale

Hoard, changed our view of the Viking world? These are some of the themes in the new exhibition.

VIKING: DISCOVER THE LEGEND will tour the country after it closes in York in November.

York, Yorkshire Museum:

19 May – 5 November

Nottingham, Djanogly Gallery,

University of Nottingham:

24 November 2017– 4 March 2018

Southport, The Atkinson:

31 March 2018 – 3 June 2018

Aberdeen, Aberdeen Art Gallery:

23 June 2018 – 11 November 2018

Norwich, Norwich Castle Museum:

February 2019 – September 2019

A Riverine Site Near York:

A Viking camp of the 870s

by Gareth Williams

The site known today as A Riverine Site Near York (ARSNY) was discovered in the 1990s by metal detectorists, who worked on the site for a number of years, with the permission of the landowner and tenants. In late 2003 they discovered a concentration of Anglo-Saxon coins and artefacts, in close proximity to a number of clench-nails. Believing that the first group constituted a hoard, and therefore probably Treasure, they reported this. The clench-nails also gave rise to the initial interpretation that the find could be part of a Viking boat burial, although

this was quickly discounted. The finders also handed over for recording a number of iron objects discovered on the site, and later a larger group of coins and weights, although many of the earlier finds from the site had already been dispersed.

The landowner agreed to the investigation of the site, on the condition that its location remained anonymous (hence the ARSNY nickname in place of a proper name). It was decided that the York Archaeological Trust would carry out an examination of the site in collaboration with English

Heritage and the British Museum. This included limited excavations, together with topographic, geophysical and geoarchaeological surveys, the analysis of aerial photographs, airborne laser altimetry (Lidar) and Airborne Thematic Mapper (ATM) data, and an assessment of other archaeological and historical data. The finds discovered in the excavations were also considered together with those previously made by the metal detectorists, and a report on the site is shortly to go to press.

The site is located on high ground above the floodplain of a river which would have been navigable in the Viking Age. On one side of the site the ground drops away abruptly towards the river, but on the other sides it was enclosed by a bank and ditch of probable early

medieval date. This encloses an area of c. 31 hectares. The original height and width of the bank and ditch is not completely certain, as the ground has been heavily disturbed by agriculture, and perhaps for the same reason no traces of any structures within the enclosure could be identified.

However, a large number of finds were recorded. These include evidence of Roman activity on the site, but very little unambiguous evidence of pre-Viking Anglo-Saxon occupation. Fragments of pottery and numerous examples of the 9th-century Northumbrian copper alloy coins known as *stycas* may represent pre-Viking occupation, or may have been brought there by the Vikings themselves. There is also a small amount of evidence for continued use (but not extensive

A friendly smile and a warm welcome!

- Restaurant, café and guest house.
- Boutiques with clothes and home décor.
- Beautiful park and a herb garden.
- Health treatments.

Hillesgården

+46 (0)436-215 30
info@hillesgarden.se
www.hillesgarden.se
Meet us on Facebook

Hillesgå den, Sweden (advertisement)

occupation) of the site in the post-Viking period, but the bulk of the finds relate to Viking activity in the late 9th century.

These include weapons, but also a variety of objects relating to exchange, including Anglo-Saxon and Islamic coins, weights and balance parts, hack-silver and hack-gold, all of which are typical of the mixed bullion economy of the Vikings around the time of the Viking settlement of Northumbria in 876. There are also metal droplets and other waste relating to metal-working, and a number of decorative strap-ends for belts, some of which appear not to have been finished, suggesting manufacture on site. Other finds include loom weights and fishing weights, indicating a variety of everyday activities, including textile working which would normally be done by women.

Most of the coins are of types current during the period of the Viking conquests of the 860s and 870s, but the latest in the group is of a type issued from 874/5 in the kingdom of Mercia (between the Thames and the Humber). The other finds are not so closely dateable, but are consistent with this date. The date is interesting, because we know from historical sources that the 'great army' which had arrived in England in 865 and successively conquered Northumbria, East Anglia and part of Mercia, divided in 874, with one part moving north to Northumbria, and settling permanently in 876. The finds also show strong similarities with those from Torkey in Lincolnshire, historically documented as the winter camp of the 'great army' in 872-3, and also investigated through



Dr Gareth Williams is Curator of Early Medieval Coins at the British Museum in London and has published a number of books on money and medals. He was interviewed in the CoScan Magazine 2014/1 (pp 20 – 22) about the Viking exhibition at the British Museum.

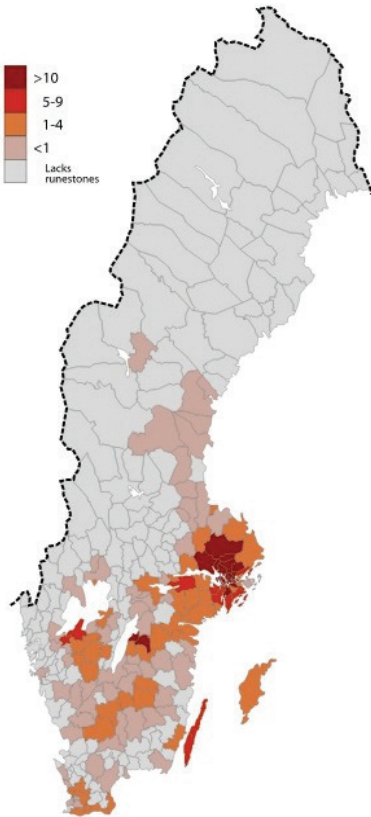
a combination of metal detecting and archaeology. A similar smaller site has also been investigated at Woodstown, near Waterford in Ireland, although the Woodstown site is probably a few years earlier.

What is interesting about these sites is both the size and the range of activities. The Vikings came from a largely rural background, but their settlements in England and Ireland are marked by the development of towns such as York, Dublin and Lincoln. Camps like ARSNY and Torksey, which are much larger than any contemporary settlement in Scandinavia, seem to be the missing link that made the development of such towns possible.

Reading the runes

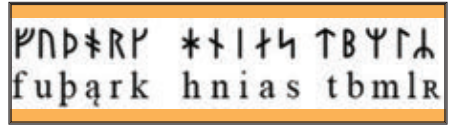
by Brita Green

Wherever you drive around the countryside in the southern half of Sweden you are never far from a rune stone. We have over three thousand runic inscriptions in Sweden. They are also found in the other Germanic, especially



Number of Viking-age runestones/square mile per municipality in Sweden.

Sveriges Nationalatlas, p. 45, Public Domain



Scandinavian, countries, though not in such large numbers.

When runes first began to be used, they were regarded as a gift from the gods, possessing magical powers. The word ‘rune’ has retained something of that meaning to this day, but their main use was as letters for writing messages.

The oldest runic inscriptions have been dated to the 3rd century AD, and it is believed that it was around that time that Germanic tribes began to use this writing system based on South European alphabets. The vast majority of the Swedish inscriptions stem from 800-1200 AD, the Viking age. Most use the 16-character ‘Younger *Fupark*’ alphabet (named after the first six runes) and are mostly memorial stones to people who have died or done something noteworthy like building a bridge or a road. Inscriptions of the alphabet itself can be found in several places, always with the runes in the same order and divided into three groups (see above).

The rune-stone with the longest inscription is the one in Rök in Östergötland. The whole stone (2½ m tall above ground) is covered with runes, using both 16- and 24-rune *Fuparks*, some of them encrypted — thus adding to the mystery. The large crosses at the top are not actual runes but coded messages: the short lines attached to the longer crossed lines indicate a certain position in the alphabet, e.g. the second rune in the

third group (reading right to left!). Code-breakers have interpreted one sequence to mean ‘At the age of 90, Sibbe from Vi begat’ (a son, most probably).

Experts used to claim that the Rök stone gave accounts of long-forgotten acts of heroism, but according to a recent interpretation by Professor Per Holmberg, Gothenburg (2015), the message consists of riddles concerning writing itself



The Rök Stone, 9th century

and how it makes it possible for us to commemorate those who have died.

Not surprisingly, most of the inscriptions that have survived are on stones, even though the angular shape of the runes indicate that they were also,

probably mostly, carved on wood. In fact, in the 1950s about seven hundred inscriptions on pieces of wood were found in Bergen in Norway. They are from the 14th century and are very clear evidence that the runes, like any alphabet, were used for practical everyday purposes. Many are just nametags etc., but there are also some interesting personal notes: ‘There is no beer here, and no fish either...’ ‘Send me some gloves’, and a passionate confession: ‘I love that man’s woman so much that fire seems cold to me’.

To read a rune inscription you need a knowledge of the alphabet and its conventions — for example, a rune was sometimes not repeated if two adjoining words ended and began with the same sound. The *Fupark* also had its limitations — there were not enough runes for all the sounds of the language, so the T-rune, for example, stood for both T and D and the I-rune for I or E or J. You also of course need to know something about the language, its vocabulary and grammatical forms. However, even with no knowledge at all of Old Swedish, it is not difficult to learn to recognise some standard phrases in the inscriptions and get the gist of a message. Many of the commonly used words are very similar to English. The usual formula is ‘X raised the stone in memory of Y, his/her/their/daughter/ mother/sister, /father/brother/son’. And once Christianity had begun to be established, a common conclusion to an inscription was ‘God help his soul’. So, let us look at a (transliterated and normalised) inscription (Husby-Sjuhundra, Uppland):

**DiafR ok Ork ia ok Vigi ok
IogæiRR ok GæiRhialmR, þæiR brö
alliR letu ræisa stæin þenna æftir
Svæin, broþur sinn. SaR varð dauð a
Iutlandi; hann skuldi fara til Inglands.
Guð hialpi hans and ok salu ok Guðs
moð R bætr þan hann gærð til**

It is easy to locate ‘let raise stone’ = ‘had the stone raised’, and what comes before that phrase must be the name of the person who raised the stone. In this case it is no fewer than five brothers, all named and joined by ‘ok’ = ‘and’. The preposition ‘after’ is often used to mean ‘in memory of’, so we see that they have put the stone up for their brother Sven. In the second sentence, where Jutland and England can be recognised, we learn that Sven ‘became dead’ in Jutland when he was on his way to England. The inscription is then rounded off with ‘May God help his spirit and soul, and God’s mother’ — with the modest (or sarcastic?) addition ‘better than he deserved’.

Alongside the Latin alphabet that came with the spread of Christianity, runes continued to be used by the common people, for example for putting owner’s or maker’s names on wooden objects. They were particularly long-lived in Sweden. The (perpetual) rune calendars too were in use well into the 18th century when the introduction of the Gregorian calendar (in 1753) and the availability of printed calendars eventually made them obsolete.



One side of the Husby-Sjuhundra stone, c.1000 AD

English soldiers' burial grounds in Scandinavia 1:

Tak for din hjælp

Allied airmen's WW2 memorials in southern Denmark

by S. A. J. Bradley

A major target for Allied bombers at the latter end of the Second World War was the north German city of Rostock with its aircraft-manufacturing facilities and its Baltic shipyard. The route to Rostock from Allied bomber stations in north-east England took the RAF's Lancaster and Halifax bombers — laden with mines to be dropped in the shipping lanes supplying Rostock — over the island of Als and islands of the South Fyn archipelago.

Flying low in the hope of avoiding German radar, these bombers nevertheless hazarded being intercepted by German night-fighters and brought down well before they reached their targets. Thus, tragically, Als became one of Denmark's crash-sites — and in many cases the final resting place — of some of the 1600 airmen who flew from English airfields on fatal missions against Germany.

On 23 April 1944, at 21.00 hrs, a Halifax bomber (LL 235) with its crew of seven took off from Elvington airfield, outside York, on a night mission to lay mines off Rostock. Two and a half hours later, now above South Jutland, it was detected by German radar and attacked by a German Messerschmitt fighter-plane. The Halifax caught fire, and the pilot evidently attempted a crash-landing in fields near Karlsminde on the island of

Als, but his aircraft overshot and plunged into the winter-cold sea a couple of hundred metres offshore. There it sank.

The German military authorities were of course zealous in getting to crashed aircraft as rapidly as possible, ahead of local sympathisers, to salvage information of any kind from the aircraft, its equipment and its documentation, to arrest survivors and to take charge of any dead. But it would sometimes happen that local people got to the stricken aircraft first — for sometimes survivors could be smuggled into hiding and secret information removed or destroyed.



A local fisherman saw the plane come down and at once went out in his boat to look for survivors. In the darkness he heard one voice shouting for help and managed to locate and drag from the water the rear gunner, Sergeant Douglas Harris. Tragically, the rest of the crew perished. Local men set out to take the survivor to the hospital in Sønderborg, some 20 km distant, but they were stopped on the road by German soldiers who arrested Harris as a prisoner of war and subsequently sent him to a prison camp. He did, however, survive the war and return to England.

One source (website www.airmen.dk) records that on 27 May the pilot's body was found in the water at the crash site; and on 31 May the mid-upper gunner's body was found on nearby Himmak Strand, Als. Both were buried in the cemetery in Aabenraa, Jutland. In June, the body of the navigator and that of the wireless operator, having drifted to different points on the coast of Fyn, were retrieved and taken for burial to Assens and Faaborg, respectively.

The body of the flight engineer was never found. Neither, officially, was that of the bomb aimer; however, there were indications that an unidentified body which drifted ashore near Havnbjerg on the Jutland coast north of Als was his. The body was taken to Aabenraa and buried there as an unidentified airman. His name appears, as does that of his flight engineer, on the great memorial at Runnymede which records the names of airmen whose burial places are unknown.

It is a humane instinct which sees to it that these many graves and memorials

on and about Als are maintained and honoured by local people. When, in 2015, a local history society proposed with the aid of the local sport-diving club to explore and document the remains of the bomber LL 235, such protest arose concerning the disturbance of a war-grave, albeit an underwater grave, that the plan was abandoned.



Avernakø hurchyard: 'Tak for din hjælp'.

In June 1949 — in lovely summer weather, said the local newspaper — the parents of airmen who, in May 1944, died in another RAF bomber (the Lancaster bomber LL963 from Elsham Wolds in Lincolnshire which crashed in flames into the sea some 30 km east of Als) visited their sons' graves in the several churchyards nearest to where bodies were washed ashore. In one of these churchyards, on the tiny island of Avernakø in the South Fyn archipelago,

apart from the official RAF stone marking a war-grave, there is a small granite boulder inscribed with the airman's name and the words *Tak for din hjælp* and *Avernakø sogn satte dette minde* (Thank you for your help; the parish of Avernakø placed this memorial).

In his address there on that occasion, the Danish pastor said: 'The parents here today gather as representatives of all those near and dear to the boys in the crashed aircraft. They have now seen their boys' resting places in these beautiful graves which will be cared for by the people because we regard these boys as the liberators of our land. We folk here on this island feel we have a share in your grief.'

The mother of the dead airman replied: 'I thank you with my whole heart for what you have done for my son. We have met with sincerity and sympathy, and I am proud to be the mother of a boy who was part of the struggle for the liberty of this beautiful land. And I will return home to England happy because I know that he rests with you.'

Photos of WW2 memorials gratefully retrieved from www.airmen.dk (an outstandingly well-documented website covering the WW2 air-war over Denmark).

Thanks to John Larder, Research Officer, Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, York, for generous assistance.



Karlsminde memorial stone with tributes laid at a commemoration ceremony 2010.

St Magnus of Orkney – 900th anniversary – and an art project

by Brita Green and Eva Robards

According to the sagas, Magnus Erlendsson was a 12th century Earl of Orkney, who was executed after a feud with his cousin, Earl Haakon. There were reports of miraculous healings and events near his burial place, and he was canonised. His relics are now in Kirkwall Cathedral, which bears his name.

Magnus was born sometime between 1075 and 1080 and died sometime between 1115 and 1118, soon after Easter. Orkney has chosen to celebrate his 900th anniversary this year (when Easter Sunday coincides with Magnus' feast day). The programme started during the Easter weekend, when the first leg of 'St Magnus' Way' was opened, the second leg at the end of May. Then follows an 'International Festival' in June, and 'St Magnus' Marathon' and the 'Diocese of Aberdeen Pilgrimage' in July.

St Magnus has been the inspiration for several modern works of art, e.g. the Orcadian writer George Mackay Brown's novel, *Magnus* (1973), which itself became the basis for Peter Maxwell Davies' one-act opera, *The Martyrdom of St Magnus* (first performed in 1977).

In connection with the anniversary, a special project is being undertaken by artist and stone-mason Beatrice Searle. Inspired by a stone with carved-out footprints sometimes known as 'St Magnus' Boat', she is carving her own footprint stone, 'The Orkney Boat', a



The 'Ladykirk Stone' or 'St Magnus' Boat'.

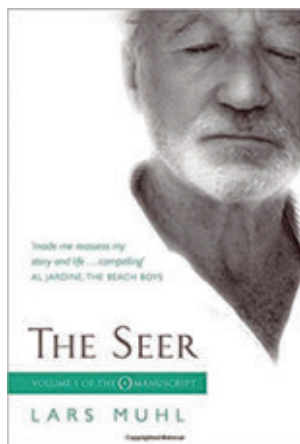
piece of the same red sandstone that forms the 'Old Man of Hoy'. On 1 June she will be setting off from Orkney and taking the stone by boat on a pilgrimage via Shetland to Norway, where she will pull it on a 'Monowalker *Wanderanhänger*', attached to her waist, on a 650 km walk from Oslo to Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim. People — campaigners, politicians and the general public — will be invited to walk with her and to stand, barefoot, on the stone, making statements if they wish. She will then return the stone to Orkney, where it will be installed in St Magnus' Cathedral.

We are hoping to be able to print Beatrice's story of her pilgrimage in the next issue.



Statue of St Magnus in Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim.

From the bookshelf



Review by Louise Sørensen

Lars Muhl, *The Seer* (2012)
(First published in Danish, *Seeren fra Andalusien*, 2002). Published by Watkins Media, Dec 2016 (paperback)
ISBN: 9781780289823, 9781786780379

Lars Muhl was born in 1950 in Aarhus, Denmark. He was a successful musician and songwriter for 30 years, enjoying recognition both at home and abroad. In 1995 he fell seriously ill and four years later called time on his music career. Since stepping away from the limelight, he has studied Taoist and Buddhist writings, mystics, occult schools and Aramaic, the language that Yeshua (Jesus) is supposed to have spoken. Today Muhl writes books on mysticism, runs workshops on healing and organises trips to the Pyrenees where he first met the seer.

The Seer is a book about Muhl's transition from musician to mysticist and is the first of three books that make up

the trilogy *The O Manuscript*. A film by the same name, based on Muhl's footage captured during time spent with the seer, was released in 2016.

Using a non-linear narrative, Muhl switches between a chronological account of his journeys to the seer in France and Andalusia and flashbacks to significant events in his life. These events help the reader understand Muhl's state of mind and why he is now going through this life-changing process. We get the impression that until he met the seer, Muhl was never quite present in the now, and he talks about another reality which, since childhood, has made him feel disconnected from the world. He writes, 'From my tenth to my twelfth year, each evening before I fell asleep, I had some unfamiliar and painful *kundalini* experiences, with the result that I hardly slept at all during this period. Since I wasn't able to share these experiences with anyone I became more and more introverted and unable to function'. He adds that he thought the intensity of life as a musician would cut him off from this unwelcome reality and end the loneliness, but it never quite happened.

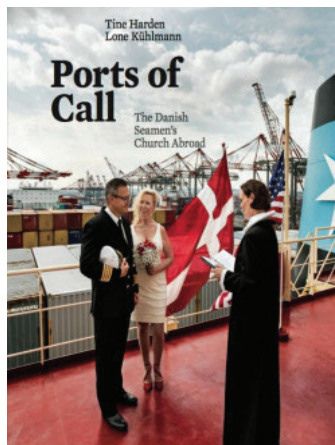
The book starts with Muhl falling seriously ill. Despite seeing a number of doctors, no one seems able to diagnose this mystery illness which saps all his energy and leaves him in constant pain. He describes it as 'the year I fell into the dark night of the soul', hinting that this was a condition that affected him both physically and psychologically. The attacks 'meant that the back of my neck hurt like hell, I felt nauseated, lost all energy and had to stay in bed for

days on end. It was like being caught in a no-man's land between the conscious and unconscious, between being awake and asleep, the feeling of iron'. After three years' suffering, Muhl has almost reached the point where he does not want to go on, but a chance encounter puts him in touch with the seer.

The seer is a mysterious figure who almost seems to possess supernatural powers. During his morning telephone consultations he speaks to people all over the world who need his help, and this is also how Muhl finally reaches him. After this brief conversation, Muhl already starts to feel better, and soon he is on his way to the south of France to meet the seer in person.

After a long train journey, Muhl reaches the mountain of Monsegur. In the Middle Ages, the religious group known as the Cathars, crucially believed to have possessed the Holy Grail, resided in this region before they surrendered to the Inquisition of the Catholic Church. According to Muhl the reawakening he experiences during his time with the seer is like finding the Grail. He explains, 'The Grail is neither a secret, worldly treasure in the shape of a cup or a specific mortal woman, nor a hidden, chosen family somewhere in the world. The Grail is a state of heart and mind! It is a multidimensional consciousness accessible to all who are: to let go of time's cosy little crime mysteries; to get up from the soft couch of comfort; to find the courage to set out on the quest for the Grail and to take the quantum leap most people only dare dream about'. Part of Muhl's quest is to serve an apprenticeship

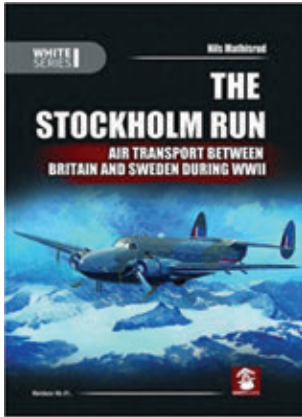
with the seer in France and Spain, and during their time together Muhl comes to terms with the demons of his past and the new direction his life is going in.



Lone Kühlmann and Tine Harden, *Ports of Call*. Published by Strandberg Publishing, Nov 2016. ISBN 13: 9788792949820

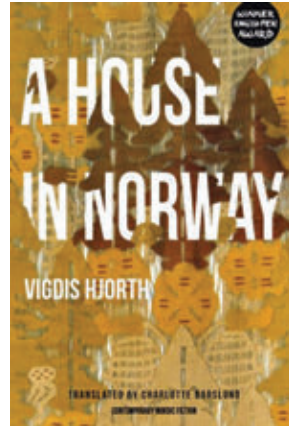
Journalist and author Lone Kühlmann and award-winning photographer Tine Harden have visited the Danish seamen's churches near some of the busiest harbours in the world. Their journey has resulted in a book of evocative pictures and vivid stories from the nine cities where the seamen's churches are still represented.

Many have predicted the demise of the seamen's churches since shipping is increasingly effective and ships only dock for short periods of time, but *Ports of Call* shows that the churches are still alive and well, and still perform an important function for Danes abroad.



Nils Mathisrud, *Air Transport Between Britain and Sweden During WWII*. Published by MMP Books, Dec 2016
ISBN 13: 978-8365281159

The German assault on Denmark and Norway in April 1940 effectively cut off all surface communications between neutral Sweden and the Western Allies. Diplomats and VIPs still needed to travel to and from Sweden and exports and imports of highly valuable goods needed to be maintained. To gain support for the war against an all-conquering Germany, it was also important to give the Swedish public the opportunity to read British newspapers and magazines. The only realistic way to maintain these links between Sweden and Britain was by air, and a civilian service was immediately established by British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC). This book covers the history of the flights and the aircraft used. It also has details of the markings and colour schemes throughout the war, illustrated with many rare wartime photos and colour profiles by the author of all the aircraft types.



Vigdis Hjorth, *A House in Norway*
Translated by Charlotte Barslund
Published by Norvik Press, Feb 2017
ISBN 9781909408319

A House in Norway tells the story of Alma, a divorced textile artist who makes a living from weaving banners for trade unions and marching bands. She lives alone in an old villa, and rents out an apartment in her house to supplement her income. She is overjoyed to be given a more creative assignment, to design a tapestry for an exhibition to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in Norway, but soon finds that it is a much more daunting task than she had anticipated.

Vigdis Hjorth (born 1959) is a Norwegian novelist whose work has been recognised with many prizes. She writes about the dilemmas of living in modern society; her characters struggle to come to terms with a rapidly changing world and to find a meaningful way to integrate with others and realise their own potential.

CoScan Trust Fund

2017 report by Brita Green

The Trust Fund sub-committee — Tony Bray, John Christmas and myself — met in York on 10 April. Alfild Wellborne had told us that she wanted to step down, and we thank her for her work over the years. We decided that the three of us are happy to carry on doing the job, with Tony now bearing the brunt of the work, which is much appreciated.

You can see some of the 2016 reports, including the prize-winning one, in this issue of the magazine, along with several photos. The cover picture was taken by this year's photo prize-winner. Other reports and pictures from last year will follow in the winter issue.

We had almost £2500 in the kitty. We are most grateful to all our donors, societies as well as individuals — and special mention must be made of our regular monthly contributor, Mr Smith. It is good to find that some societies are also becoming regular donors, and we thank York Anglo-Scandinavian Society, Norwegian Scottish Association, Hampshire Anglo-Scandinavian Society, SKOL and the Anglo-Scandinavian Society of Newcastle, as well as the

CoScan Executive Committee, for their generous contributions.

There were twelve applications this year, eleven of whom will receive awards. Three people are planning trips to Norway, one person is going to either Norway or Sweden, two definitely to Sweden, three to Denmark and two to Iceland. Activities are varied this year: four are going for medical or nursing electives, two are attending conferences (on archaeology and turbulence), two are taking part in research projects (on mides and glacial dynamics), one person is going as an intern to the WHO office in Copenhagen, one is sailing a long-ship, and one is undertaking an exciting art project of her own.

After rejecting one application (which amounted to no more than an enquiry), we split the available money among eleven applicants, giving eight people £150 each and three £100 each. If all offers are taken up, it will leave us just under £1000, in line with our usual policy. That will give us a start for next year's awards — but only a start. As usual, we appeal to you to help us build up our kitty for next year. The more we receive, the more generous we can be.

If you would like to make a donation, you can download a form from our website, <http://www.coscan.org.uk/travel-award>. Alternatively, just drop Tony Bray a line (tony.bray@coscan.org.uk) and he will send you a form to fill in.

Or send a cheque made out to 'CoScan Trust Fund', directly to the Trust Fund treasurer:

John Christmas, 7 Sutton Farm, Langton Road, Norton, YO17 9PU.
(Please do NOT send donations to the CoScan treasurer.)

CoScan Trust Fund
PRIZE-WINNING REPORT 2016

Tracking wolves in Finland

by Bethany Smith

I should probably start by explaining why I've been chasing top predators through the Finnish wilderness in the middle of winter. For as long as I can remember I've been fascinated by animals, particularly large, carnivorous animals like wolves and bears, and I'm completely set on a career in animal conservation. To gain some practical experience in this field, I spent November and December 2015 in Finland, volunteering as a research intern on a large carnivore project with the organisation Deep Karelia.

I got off to a rocky start, initially missing my flight, but after negotiating with the airline manager, a sleepless night in Helsinki and a six-hour train journey, I finally arrived at Lieksa train station. To my relief, Vladimir Bologov and Laetitia Becker, the founders of the organisation, were waiting for me on the platform. After another 45-minute drive, during which it started to snow (a pretty exciting sight for a Brit), I arrived at my final destination — a large, yellow school-house in the forest. I was introduced to my cohabiters — three other interns, a cat who could pass for an MI5 agent, he was so stealthy in his attacks, and a Yugoslavian mountain dog the size of a bear but with the temperament of a teddy bear. I was then informed that I'd be able to shower twice a week from a bucket once the water had been heated by the

sauna. I was pretty mortified at first but you quickly get used to it!

It was soon Monday and I was extremely excited to be starting work. 'Work' meant driving or walking set loops in the study area looking for animal tracks. I therefore had quickly to learn how to identify the prints of different animals: wolf (large, elongated prints with claw marks); lynx (circular prints with or without claw marks) and wolverine (large prints with five toes). We found prints of other animals too, such as moose, reindeer, mountain hare, fox and pine marten, but it was the prints of the large predators that we were interested in. Once tracks were found we set about following them in both directions, recording our location with handheld GPS devices, a process called snow-tracking.

I spent many days tracking a mother lynx with her two kittens and found several mountain hare remains along the way. I also found a place where a wolverine had dug up one of his buried kills. From the size of the jaw bone and the number of teeth, we concluded that the remains belonged to a small mustelid, probably a stoat. One day, we stopped tracking a wolverine to resume the next day, only to work out from the tracks that had we continued another 100m the day before, we would have come across the



wolverine sleeping! The animals I did manage to see were pretty amazing: a red squirrel, plenty of capercaillie (rare in the UK), a beautiful mountain hare who was sneakily following in our tracks, and the last animal I expected to find – a baby adder!

The highlight of my wildlife watching, though, has to be spotting eagles and wolves from a photo-hide. A few weeks into my internship it was my birthday and I couldn't think of a better way to enter my 23rd year than in a hide in the middle of the wilderness. The hide consisted of a bunk bed, frozen barrel of water, camping stove, heater, dry toilet and a fantastic view over a marsh where pig carcasses were placed as bait. When I woke in the morning I was greeted by the sight of several golden and white-tailed eagles, and shortly afterwards three

wolves materialised out of the dusk haze and began to feed on a carcass only 50m away from the hide. I cannot put into words how amazing this experience was!

When I wasn't tracking large predators or looking for wildlife, I spent my time being attacked by the bosses' energetic children, avoiding being attacked by the cat, looking out for the aurora borealis (with no luck) and processing excrements that I had collected. Processing excrements does indeed mean picking through wolf/lynx poo to find bones, fur and plant matter, which is as gross as it sounds but also extremely interesting.

I was filmed by a Finnish reporter one day, and spent time at nearby Ruunaa National Park, which is incredibly beautiful. I was really impressed to see places every few kilometres where wood and fire pits were provided. The fire pits

even had grills installed so I thought it only right to make a grilled cheese sandwich (see ‘cheesy’ photo to the left).

I hope it’s clear that I had an amazing time, but I’d like to finish on a few lessons I learned that I feel the need to pass on:

1) If you leave a motion-sensitive camera in the forest, you will record one video of a wolf and the rest will be unflattering, close-up shots of your face.

2) Don’t disable your mobile phone if it’s 11 km back to house and you only have 1 hour and 30 minutes before it’s pitch black.

3) If it’s -5°C your snot will freeze, if it’s between -10°C and -15°C your hair and eyelashes will freeze, and if it’s -25°C, don’t go outside to look at the moon without a coat on!

Young Shetlanders in Hammerfest

by Gordon Stove and Wendy Mackney-Mills

We write to thank CoScan on behalf of Brae High School, and especially the seven pupils and two staff who took part in the ERASMUS+ funded exchange to Norway’s Finnmark region in May. Your support helped us greatly with additional costs.

Our third flight on Friday 6 May took us to the northern city of Alta. We landed about midnight, and of course we had been warned it was not going to get dark, but it was still surprising to see just how much light there was on our two-hour journey north in the cars of the host families. Reindeer-spotting was a novelty that soon wore off! Not only had the host families undertaken a four-hour return journey to pick up their young guests, their commitment to ensuring that their visitors had a positive experience and total immersion all week was outstanding.

Our partner school was the Hammerfest *Videregående Skole*, an upper secondary school of some 450 students — more than double our size in Brae. They had planned a programme of activities, but

both before and after, our pupils were able to spend some great time with their host families. A few of them had a chance to attend family events associated with Confirmation, and even dress up in national costume.

During the first afternoon, each group of exchange students from different countries presented information (10 to 15 mins), which gave the others background about the traditions and transitions associated with growing up in their particular culture. Driving and other legal ages for consents, exam timings, cultural events and the differing emphasis placed by our peripheral neighbours on celebrations associated with schooling milestones were quite revealing, and quite similar. Getting the ‘key to the door’ was noted as a big thing in Sardinia, the year 10 Ball in Latvia, and the *Russetid* or *Russ* in Norway was described as the end-of-term party to end all parties! A series of icebreakers and an orienteering expedition rounded off the very successful day.

There were interesting activities every day. The Cermaq salmon-processing plant gave pupils the experience of seeing over 100,000 salmon being processed from slaughter to gutting to cleaning to icing to packing and distribution. Extreme biosecurity precautions for the pupils were very exciting — full polythene boiler-suits, gloves, hairnets and double bagged boots were donned.

Energihuset is a purpose-built educational centre built onto the hydro-electric power plant for the town. It is well equipped to cater for educational activities. There was a practical session on oil extraction, one on friction reduction in cars, and a presentation on Hydro Electricity and energy sources in our respective countries.

The Hammerfest museum also wel-

comed us. It is called the ‘Reconstruction’ Museum because the focus is on the development of the area after the Nazis torched it in 1944, supposedly to prevent it falling into the hands of the advancing Russians. A very sobering presentation of the events was well received. Pupils discovered that many of their hosts’ older relatives had had to take refuge in coastal caves and remote islands over the period.

An unforgettable day spent at Nordkapp took up one whole day. We stopped off en-route at a traditional Sami house.

We were invited by Statoil to the gas plant situated on an island accessible only by subsea tunnel. This visit involved much more than finding out about oil and gas production. For example, the groups were taken through a scenario in which



In the Sami house *Mikelgamen*, Hammerfest

the plant suffered a gas leak and were shown the methods employed to shut the plant down.

A group from the gaming company PCS (which is part-based in Hammerfest) engaged the group with a talk about the development of their new interactive ‘Fishing the Barents Sea’ game, which is in the final stages of development.

The closing ceremony for the whole project at school involved music and short contributions from the mayor and head teacher as well as students. The host parents attended and the catering department pulled out even more stops to provide a well-received finger buffet. Many of the host students added to the excellent atmosphere in the school by donning traditional dress for the evening.

Our last day of planned activities took us to Norway’s fourth largest island of

Sørøya. The superfast catamaran ferry left Hammerfest at just after 10 am. It acts like a passenger shuttle over on the Sørøya coast — stopping at various points where there are small hamlets and settlements to drop passengers and freight. There are roads, but they only go from the piers at the settlements to a few strung-out houses or holiday homes. Traditional fish-drying rigs made for an interesting smell along the early part of the walk to the beach some 3 km over the other side of the isle. We also encountered Norway’s only camels and a school of nine pupils aged 3–16! All in all, this was a great day to round off a brilliant week. Songs were sung at the *grille* and games played on the sand, though only the Shetlanders braved a paddle in the sea (5° C).



Fish-curing at Akkerfjord

Learning to pronounce Eyjafjallajökull

by Hannah Ward

Thanks to the help and support of CoScan, I had the opportunity to spend my six-week medical elective in Reykjavik, Iceland, as a fantastic end to many years studying at medical school. My decision for choosing Iceland is based mainly on family ties with the country, alongside earlier personal experiences here. Iceland is a beautiful country, with everything you could possibly want, all in one tiny country.

I was based in one of the medical school buildings on the University of Iceland campus, located with mountains to one side, the North Atlantic to the other and the main centre of Reykjavik just a few minutes' walk away. Whilst I spent the week working in the hospital genetics department, learning about the different healthcare environment in Iceland, and helping with research into why certain women get pre-eclampsia, I had weekends (and perhaps a few afternoons!) off to explore the beautiful country I had the pleasure to call my home for six weeks.

In particular I was able to climb the nearby mountain known as Mount Esja. Although only 900m high and considered a 'hill' by most other Icelanders, the capital residents are very defensive of their mountain, and it was great to have the chance to climb it on a sunny day. It was my first real day out, and I managed to negotiate the city buses to get to the foot of the mountain. I had left very early, so the only other people around were a

few runners, who had somehow managed to run up and down the mountain before 8 am and gave me a few tips on getting to the top. Iceland is getting more and more popular with tourists but Esja is one of the few places still only ventured up by Icelanders, at least in the early hours. There are no gates or fences, nothing to really show you the way, and definitely no ropes to help negotiate the trickier, ice-covered slopes! It was Iceland at its best, and for the last 30 minutes I honestly had no idea if I was heading to the top or just round to a different mountain! The views themselves were breathtaking and well worth the two-hour climb. I was the only person up there, surrounded by snow and just the wind (and it was very windy!) for noise. I have climbed a few mountains in the UK where there is always some sound, other people, birds, animals, but here there was nothing and it was incredible.

I did do some touristy things. I took a whale-watching tour where I saw the huge, magnificent animals that sadly are still hunted in Iceland. I went to Geysir and Gullfoss (which, thanks to my Icelandic lessons I now know are pronounced completely differently) and saw the rift between the two continents. Those trips showed me how much Iceland is changing. So many people know of it now that more tourists than ever are coming. Icelanders that I spoke to had different opinions on this, but I hope Iceland remains the beautiful, untouched

country it is at the moment and never becomes a tourist trap of massive hotels, roped-off areas and decked-out viewing platforms.

And for me, coming to Iceland with not much money meant I didn't follow the coach loads of tourists. I took the local buses, hitchhiked my way home without feeling at all worried, and got lifts with the locals to places where the buses and coaches didn't go. I was shown the local highlights, the naturally carbonated spring, the waterfall you could climb up and through using a metal chain and a broken bridge, the volcanoes that you

can't get to without someone who knows what they are doing, and the ice caves that only the locals know about.

But above all, I felt like a true Icelandic. I went swimming every day after work for about 50p, swam in the North Atlantic and spent six hours a week attempting to learn Icelandic. So not only have I seen places I had never dreamed about, but I now know enough to speak to the cashier in the shops in Icelandic, understand (slightly) what Icelanders are saying to each other, and can finally pronounce Eyjafjallajökull!



Horses walking through the canyon near Þósmök.

Waterfalls and rainbows

by Kazim Ghafoor

On 19 August, I embarked on a five-week adventure to Iceland. I had organised a medical placement at *Landspítali* Hospital, Reykjavík, where I would be working in the haematology department for a month as part of my medical elective. I was beyond excited to be spending such a significant period of time in Iceland. As a landscape photography enthusiast, Iceland had been on my bucket list for many years. It felt surreal to finally have the opportunity to tick it off that list.

Having studied medicine in London for the past five years, I was looking forward to operating within a different healthcare system, where I'd be able to reflect on the similarities and differences to the National Health Service in the United Kingdom. My time at *Landspítali* Hospital involved me attending ward rounds on the haematology ward, multi-disciplinary meetings to discuss treatment options for patients and investigating the latest research in order to aid the management of some of the more complicated haematological cases.

During my month, I was able to see patients with a wide range of illnesses including lymphomas, leukaemias and myelomas. There were several challenges I faced during my time. I had no grasp of the Icelandic language and almost every interaction in the hospital was in Icelandic as opposed to English, meaning I had to use other staff members as translators. Additionally, as I was based in haematology, many of our patients had

been diagnosed with different forms of cancer. It was difficult emotionally to see several of our patients lose their battles with cancer.

Despite the challenges, I had an amazing experience at *Landspítali*, and there were many more upbeat stories of patients recovering remarkably well from the rigorous treatments. Additionally, the hospital was kitted out with the latest equipment and technology, whilst the wards were large and spacious. It was great to observe each patient receiving high quality care from the healthcare team.

Outside of the hospital week, my weekends were spent exploring the stunning landscapes that Iceland had to offer. I witnessed more waterfalls and rainbows during my Icelandic stay than in my previous 23 years on this planet! Particular highlights included driving five hours solely to see one waterfall called Dynjandi (it was definitely worth it!), as well as exploring the depths of Landmannalaugar in the Icelandic highlands. Never have I experienced that scale of mountains splattered with the most intense colours. Every view felt like a painting. During my Icelandic journey, I was fortunate to make some great friends along the way and be able to share my experiences and adventures with them.

During my last week in Iceland, I decided, rather spontaneously, to visit the Faroe Islands. Situated only an hour's flight away, I felt that it'd be great to

make the most of my final week before returning to London, by exploring the Faroes. Although so close to Iceland, the islands had a distinctively different feel but were equally stunning.

I'd like to thank CoScan for my travel grant. Their generosity was greatly appreciated and was a huge help in ensuring I made the most of this incredible adventure.



Saksun, Faroe Islands

Member Societies 2017

Anglo-Danish Society – info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk –
www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Anglo-Finnish Society – paulus.thomson@btinternet.com –
www.anglofinnishsociety.org.uk

Anglo-Norse Society – secretariat@anglo-norse.org.uk. – www.anglo-norse.org.uk

Anglo-Norse Society in Oslo – mail.anglonorse@gmail.com –
www.anglonorseoslo.com

Anglo-Scandinavian Society of Newcastle – ingelise42uk@ntlworld.com –
www.newcastleangloscan.org

Anglo-Swedish Society – info@angloswedishsociety.org.uk –
www.angloswedishsociety.org.uk

Danish Church in London – kirke@danskekirke.org – www.danskekirke.org

Danish Seamen's Church in Hull – hull@dsuk.dk – www.danishchurchhull.co.uk

Danish YWCA, London – palle@kfuk.co.uk – www.kfuk.co.uk

Devon & Somerset Anglo Scandinavian Society – dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk –
www.angloscan.org.uk

Finn-Guild – mail@finn-guild.org – www.finn-guild.org

Finnish Church in London – lontoo@merimieskirrko.fi –
www.finnishchurch.org.uk

Grieg Society UK – griegsocietygb@gmail.com – www.griegsociety.co.uk

Hampshire Anglo-Scandinavian Society (HASS) – vibeke.sp@btinternet.com –
www.hass.org.uk

Hertfordshire Anglo-Scandinavian Society – info@hertsscandinavian.co.uk –
www.hertsscandinavian.co.uk

Manchester Swedish Language Meetup Group – tony@thebrays.org.uk –
www.meetup.com/Manchester-Swedish-Language-Meetup-Group

Nordic Horizons – nordichorizons@hotmail.co.uk – www.nordichorizons.org

Nordic Studies Centre, University of Sheffield – nordic-studies@sheffield.ac.uk –
www.sheffield.ac.uk/nordic-studies

Northants Anglo-Scandinavian Society – manjaronne@btinternet.com –
www.facebook.com/Northants-Anglo-Scandinavian-Society-945471712181263

Norwegian Church in London – london@sjomannskirken.no –
www.sjomannskirken.no/london

Norwegian Scottish Association – secretary@norwegian-scottish.com –
www.norwegian-scottish.org.uk

Orkney Norway Friendship Association – james@balaycot.plus.com –
www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/onfa

Scandinavian Klubb of Lincolnshire (SKOL) – derekmisse@mypostoffice

Scottish Norwegian Society (Glasgow) – anny.carchrie@ntlworld.com –
www.norwegiansocietyglasgow.co.uk

Swedish Church in London – london@svenskakyrkan.se –
www.svenskakyrkan.se/london

UK Sibelius Society – ainola@blueyonder.co.uk – www.sibeliusociety.info

Viking Society for Northern Research – vsnr@ucl.ac.uk – www.vsnr.org

Welsh-Norwegian Society – alanbh@btinternet.com – www.welshnorwegian.org

York Anglo-Scandinavian Society (YASS) – yasssecretary@gmail.com –
www.yorkangloscan.org.uk

CoScan Executive Committee

President: Mark Elliott, CMG, Wheelwright Cottage, High Lorton, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9UQ, president@coscan.org.uk

Vice President: Peter Wright, OBE, JP, BSc, FRSA, 5 The Heights, Carline Road, Lincoln LN1 1JP, vicepresident@coscan.org.uk

Chairman: Dr Eva Robards, Shrubbery Cottage, Nun Monkton, York YO26 8EW, chairman@coscan.org.uk

Treasurer: Manja Rønne, 6 Baker Street, Gayton, Northants. NN7 3EZ, treasurer@coscan.org.uk

Secretary: Lise Hodgson, 11a Herbert Grove, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2AT, secretary@coscan.org.uk

Membership Secretaries: Manja Rønne and Lise Hodgson, membership@coscan.org.uk

Marketing: Tony Bray, 14 Ridge Avenue, Marple, Cheshire SK6 7HJ, marketing@coscan.org.uk

Committee members:

- Wendy Howell, 10 Exeter Way, London, SE14 6LL, wendy.howell@coscan.org.uk
- Alexander Malmaeus, 15 Lebanon Gardens, London SW18 1RQ, alexander.malmaeus@coscan.org.uk
- Kari Moss Wright, 5 The Heights, Carline Road, Lincoln LN1 1JP, kari.mosswright@coscan.org.uk
- Norman Pike, FCA, Barna House, Church Lane, Bradley, Grimsby DN37 OAE, norman.pike@coscan.org.uk

Webmaster

Louise Sørensen, 23 Vere Road, Sheffield S6 1SA, webmaster@coscan.org.uk

CoScan Trust Fund

Chairman: Dr Brita Green, 103 Long Ridge Lane, Nether Poppleton,
York YO26 6LW, brita.green@coscan.org.uk

Admin: Tony Bray, 14 Ridge Avenue, Marple, Cheshire SK6 7HJ,
travelaward@coscan.org.uk

Treasurer: John Christmas, 7 Sutton Farm, Langton Road, Norton, YO17 9PU,
john.christmas@coscan.org.uk

Magazine Editorial Board



Dr Peter Addyman
Prof. Sid Bradley
Mark Elliott CMG
Dr Brita Green (chairing meetings)
Prof. Rory McTurk
Dr Bridget Morris
Dr Eva Robards (editing)
Cand. theol. Anna Sophie Strandli
Dr Louise Sørensen

**Deadline for contributions
to the next Magazine
1 October 2017**

Send to:
magazine@coscan.org.uk

CoScan Magazine

Printed by: Inc Dot Design and Print, York
ISSN 1478-2081

© All rights reserved



Embassy of Denmark



Embassy of Finland



Embassy of Iceland



Norwegian Embassy



Embassy of Sweden

CoScan Patrons

The Ambassadors of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

Scandinavian Embassies in the UK – press, culture and information

Denmark: Lone Britt Christensen, Cultural Attaché, 55 Sloane Street,
London SW1X 9SR, Tel: +44(0)20 7333 0200, lonamb@um.dk, www.denmark.org.uk

Finland: Pirjo Pellinen, Special Adviser, Culture and Public Diplomacy,
38 Chesham Place, London SW1X 8HW, Tel: +44(0)20 7838 6200,
sanomat.lon@formin.fi, www.finemb.org.uk

Iceland: Eyrún Hafsteinsdóttir, Cultural and Trade Officer, 2A Hans Street, London
SW1X 0JE, Tel: +44(0)20 7259 3999, eyrun.hafsteinsdottir@utn.stjr.is (or eyrun@mfa.is),
www.iceland.is/uk

Norway: Sigrid Anna Oddsen, Counsellor, Political and Economic Section and
Head of Culture and Communication, 25 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QD,
Tel: +44(0)20 7591 5500, emb.london@mfa.no, www.norway.org.uk

Sweden: Ellen Wettmark, Counsellor Cultural Affairs, 11 Montagu Place,
London W1H 2AL, Tel: +44(0)20 7917 6400, ambassaden.london@gov.se,
www.swedenabroad.com/london



Vik, Iceland

**CoScan Travel Award - Prize Winning Photographer 2016:
Kazim Ghafoor**

**If you are not already a member:
join CoScan!**

We do not receive funding from any government source
so membership fees constitute our main income.

For information about individual and society membership,
see our website

www.coscan.org.uk