

# Cullivoe Up Helly Aa 2013



[www.cullivoeuphellyaa.com](http://www.cullivoeuphellyaa.com)



£3

# Guizer Jarl - Michael Nisbet

Our Chief Guizer this year is Michael Nisbet, who has chosen to represent Hrollaug Rognvaldsson. Originally from Cullivoe and now residing in Voe, Michael has been involved in Up Helly Aa his entire life. Michael takes up the mantle of Jarl exactly 28 years to the day after his father Andrew led the festival on the 22nd of February 1985.



Michael works as an IT Technician at the NAFC Marine Centre in Scalloway. A keen supporter of Aberdeen and Everton football clubs, Michael was a “pacy” left winger during his footballing career with Yell FC. He is currently a member of the Shetland Football Association Committee and is responsible for the popular Shetland Fantasy Football League. He also maintains our website: [www.cullivoeuphellyaa.com](http://www.cullivoeuphellyaa.com).

Michael’s wife Marie, a teacher, has been involved throughout the preparations, and has endured many a late night in the build up to the festival. Michael and Marie would especially like to thank Susan Msalila, Jeanette Nowak, John Robertson, Marie Coutts and Mike Cooper, as well as everyone else who does so much over the weekend to help make Up Helly Aa happen.

We wish Michael and Marie all the very best!

# Schedule of Events

## Friday 22nd February

- 08:00 Jarl Squad breakfast at Cullivoe Hall, specially prepared by resident gourmet chefs Michael Henderson & Andrew Nisbet.
- 09:30 Jarl squad walk to Moarfield Garage to meet the school and pre-school bairns.
- 09:45 Jarl Squad accompany the galley full of bairns to Cullivoe Primary School.
- 10:00 Tea, coffee and biscuits in the school. Photographs taken with the bairns.
- 11:30 Jarl Squad visit residents of Cullivoe, starting at Greenbank Road.
- 12:45 Jarl Squad return to the school for dinner with the bairns.
- 13:45 Photographs of the squad are taken at a location of the Jarl's choosing.
- 14:30 More visiting by the Jarl Squad throughout the township.
- 17:30 Jarl Squad return to the Hall for food and rest.
- 19:00 Guizers gather at Cullivoe Hall to start the procession sharp at 19:30. The bar will be open for a short while before the procession begins.
- 19:30 Procession leaves the Hall bound for the marina. Immediately following the procession squad performances will begin in both the Hall and school. Following the acts there will be a dance with music from the **Alan Nicolson Band**.

## Saturday 23rd February

- 11:30 As many hands as possible are called upon to help clean up the Hall and school.
- 13:00 Bus leaves for the Burravoe Hall in South Yell where food, drink and music will be served. Charges apply for all but the music.
- 17:30 Bus departs Burravoe heading back to Cullivoe.
- 19:30 Various acts perform in the Hop Concert, followed by another night of dancing to the **Alan Nicolson Band**.

## Sunday 24th February

- 18:00 Again, hands are required to help clean up the Hall. The bar will open after the clear-up when the Jarl Squad will have their heads shaved in "interesting" designs. Donations are invited and all proceeds will be given to charities of the Jarl's choosing. This year Michael has selected the British Heart Foundation and the Multiple Sclerosis Trust.

# Jarl Squad 2013



Former Jarl  
Graham Hughson



Guizer Jarl  
Michael Nisbet



Future Jarl  
David Spence



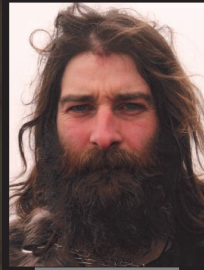
Michael  
Thomason



James  
Nicholson



Robbie  
Coutts



Kristian  
Cooper



Brian  
Spence



Stephen  
Saunders



Brydon  
Barclay

**A number of new faces appear amongst this year's Jarl Squad, who have been meeting regularly at the Galley Shed since late September.**

**Graham Hughson:** This marks Graham's fourth appearance in the Jarl Squad, having assumed the role of Guizer Jarl last year. His knowledge and experience have been vital for Michael and the rest of the squad.

**David Spence:** "Cullivoe man wi a county van" David makes his third Jarl Squad appearance as Jarl-elect. He has been involved in the festival his whole life, and his father Bruce was Jarl in 1964.

**Michael Thomason:** A Gossabrough man now also residing in Voe, Michael T's joinery skills have been invaluable to the squad.

**James Nicholson:** This year sees farmer James O'Breckon make his debut in the Jarl Squad; we doubt it will be his last appearance.

**Robbie Coutts:** During their university years in Aberdeen, Michael and Robbie spent many days at Pittodrie and many nights in O'Neill's...

**Kristian Cooper:** Michael's Orcadian cousin travels north to be in the Jarl Squad at his first-ever Up Helly Aa.

**Brian Spence:** A lifelong friend of Michael's, Brian's artistic talents have been called upon throughout the preparations.

**Stephen Saunders:** Another of Michael's primary school classmates, Stephen brings a great sense of humour. (And a dishwasher.)

**Brydon Barclay:** Hailing from Unst, the land of rum and red tins, Brydon's boat-building skills have come in useful over the winter.

**Musicians:** The Jarl squad are accompanied this year by the musical stylings of **Andy "Shakin" Stephen, Ryan Couper and Lewie Peterson.**



# The Saga of Hrollaug Rognvaldsson

Guizer Jarl Michael Nisbet is assuming the role of Hrollaug Rognvaldsson. This is his story:

Hrollaug (Pronounced “Hrot-lowg” and meaning “Consecrated Fame”) lived around the year 900 AD. He was a son of the mighty Jarl Rognvald of More, on the west coast of Norway. Rognvald gained earldom of the Nordreys (Orkney and Shetland) in the late 9th century. This was given by King Harold as compensation for the death of another of his sons, Ivarr. Rognvald returned to Norway and the earldom of the islands was taken over by firstly his brother Sigurd Eysteinnsson, then by his sons Hallad and ‘Torf’ Einar. Hrollaug volunteered to be Earl of the Isles, but his father thought him unlikely to be successful there as he was too kind of heart. Instead Rognvald directed him west to Iceland where he predicted that he would become a prosperous and noble man. The Orkneyinga Saga says: *Then Hrollaug asked, "Do you want me to go?" The earl says, "Not for you is the earldom destined, the spirits that follow you lie towards Iceland; there you will increase your race and be a famous man in that land."*

When Hrollaug's first saw land on his voyage to Iceland, he cast overboard his high seat pillars\* but lost sight of them as his ship was churned around in an ocean storm. He landed in Miry-Creek, in the Nesses, where he wintered until finally hearing news of where his pillars had made landfall. He settled in Hornfirth where he was known to be a great lord, kind and generous to his people.

The popular Hrollaug kept up friendship with King Harald of Norway, but never went abroad. King Harald sent him a sword, an alehorn and a gold ring which weighed five ounces. Hrollaug is still a well-known name in Iceland, and many Icelanders can claim to be descendant from the Jarl. Hrollaugseyjar, a small set of islands off the south east coast of Iceland, were named after Hrollaug. Stories about Hrottaug are still passed down through the generations over 1000 years after his death. His gravesite survives to this day.

\* As wood was sometimes a scarcity, Viking settlers took a large supply with them on their voyages. These pillars could be used for building but were sometimes highly decorative, adorning either side of the Jarl's throne as a symbol of wealth and status. It was thought to be lucky to toss these spars into the sea and allow them to wash ashore. Wherever they made landfall was where the Jarl would settle. The spar washing to shore also indicated that other useful resources would be brought by the tide.

# Squad List

Hall	Name	School
1	<b>HROLLAUG ROGNVALDSSON</b>	1
2	<b>Put A Spark In It</b>	8
3	<b>In Aboot Da Night</b>	9
4	<b>Afore Da Fleud</b>	10
5	<b>Cash @ Keldabash</b>	2
6	<b>Mrs Brown's Boy</b>	11
7	<b>Michael's Weak Links</b>	3
8	<b>Mini Market Sweep</b>	4
9	<b>#FerryCrisis</b>	5
10	<b>Help We Need Somebody</b>	6
11	<b>Florence An Da Machine</b>	7

## **BURRAVOE HALL**

WISHES

### **JARL MICHAEL NISBET AND SQUAD**

A GOOD VOYAGE AND A HEARTY WEEKEND!

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE HOP DAY.

Bar Lunches available all afternoon on Saturday 23rd February.

(Bus leaving from Cullivoe Hall immediately following clear-up, £2 per passenger)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

**BURRAVOE CARNIVAL & BBQ - Saturday 8th June 2013**

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**Wishing Michael and the Jarl Squad good luck and a great weekend!**

Photograph courtesy Joe Plommer

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**Karen, Jackie and all at BDC wish Michael and the Jarl Squad 'aw da best'  
for Cullivoe Up Helly Aa 2013.**



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**Rosemary Johnson**

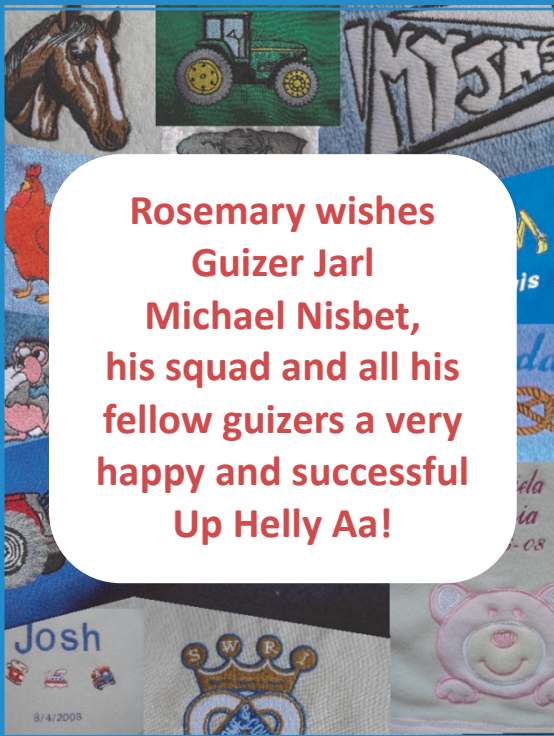
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**Rosemary wishes  
Guizer Jarl  
Michael Nisbet,  
his squad and all his  
fellow guizers a very  
happy and successful  
Up Helly Aa!**

# Proclamation 2013

WIR JARL DECREES THAT GUIZERS WILL REPORT IN GOOD TIME TO COLLECT THEIR TORCHES AND START THE PROCESSION FROM THE HALL AT 7.30 PM.

WIR JARL WILL EXCELL HIMSELF AND PLAY A KEY ROLE TONIGHT WHEN HE BOARDS HIS GALLEY HE WILL MONITOR THE PROCESSION TO THE MARINA WHERE THE FIRE W(A)JILL BURN BRIGHTLY IN DA VOE.

HE HAS PASSED ON THE WORD THAT HE WILL NOT ALLOW ANYONE TAKING THE MICKIE. HE WILL NOT BE HARD ON HIS SQUAD NOR DRIVE A TIGHT SHIP, BUT ANY FANTASIES OF PLAYING FOOTBALL HAVE BEEN BANNED DURING THE PROCESSION. LATELY HE'S NO BEEN AFIL FAR FAE CULLIVOE BUT HAS BEEN SINGING THE PRAISES OF HIS GUIZERS AND TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO SAVE DEM FAE RACK & RUIN.

FLOATS DA RAVEN BANNER OWER US, ROUND THE VIKING SHIP WE STAND, ALL THE GUIZERS AND SQUADS ARE READY, SO IS ALAN NICOLSON AND HIS BAND.

JARL MICHAEL HAS A DUTY WHEN HE JOINED THIS VIKING MOB, LAUGHTER, DRAMS, FUN & MUSIC FOR THE SQUADS, THE DANCE & HOP.

DA FLOORERS NEAR DA GALLEY SHED GREW BIGGER AN BIGGER, BUT WAS ALL DUG UP, TWA BOYS WI A DIGGER. NIXT DOOR TINKS IAN, I'LL TRY AN OBJECTION, ADVISE DEM TA GO IN ANNIDER DIRECTION. HE DIDNA STAY LONG, HE TINKS DIS IS NO FINE, AS HE WAS VERY SOON TELT DIS GRUND IS NO DINE.

DA OBERON LEFT WI ANGLERS GALORE, TA CATCH COD & OLICKS NEAR DA WRECKS OFFSHORE, DIS DIDNA SUIT SOME SO DA COMPETITION WAS ON, WI ME ROD & MA-REEL I WON'T BE OUTDONE. THEN TAE DA FISHERY OFFICER DIS CREW BOTH SPED, TA GET DIS RECORD BREAKER CHARGED DEY WID BE GLED, THEN McMILLAN SHOUTS OUT "YOU CAN'T ARREST ME, FOR I CAN STOP YOU FROM GOING TO SEA".

IF YOU WANT TO SELL YOUR LANDROVER YOU SHOULD DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR WIFE, AND YOU NEED TO PUT THE FACTS JUST RIGHT TO PREVENT ALL KINDS OF STRIFE.

THE JARL HAS A WIFE WHO AYE LOOKS BRALLY GOOD, GOIN OOT TAE DA SCHOOL LIK ALL TEACHERS SHOULD, BUT WAN MONDAY (IN FACT DIR WIS TWO, TA BE FAIR), SHE LOOKED DOON AT HER FEET AN HER SHOES WIRNA A PAIR.

A DICKIE BIRD SPED ALONG WITHOOT A HITCH, NEXT SHE WAS ON HER SIDE IN DA DITCH, O WHAN WILL WE GET DIS ROD FINE AN WIDE AFORE ANNIDER VICTIM IN DA DRAIN DOES SLIDE. DA NEXT WE HEAR ON A DAY BRIGHT AN CLEAR, A BLACK VAN LIES WRECKED BELOW MR. GEAR, PHONE BELLS TINKLED FROM HERE TO THERE, MOBILES WERE BUSY, "OH WHO'S IN DESPAIR?" A VAN UPSIDE DOON IN A BUCKLED-UP FENCE, O GOSH JOSH IT'S DE CAN DO NO WIRK SOME SENSE?!

DA CARS WERE STOPPIN ALL OWER DA PLACE, ON DA MIDDLE O DA ROD OH WHIT A DISGRACE, WHEN AT LAST DEY TRIED TA CLEAR UP DA MATTER, DEY FAN DER DIESEL TANKS WIR HALF FULL O WATER.

DA OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW WAS ON IN DA CITY, AN DA NORT YELL BOYS SET OFF TA ENJOY A FINE DITTY. DEY SAT IN DA SUMBURGH HOTEL WI NOT A WORRY AMONG DEM, AN IF IT NO BEEN FUR MAGGIE DA PLANE WID'VE BEEN IN GLASGOW WITHOOT DEM.

WE COULDNA BELIEVE WHAN WE HEARD DA NEWS - DIS MOST BE AN IMPOSTER, BUT NO, WIR LEE HAS MADE DA CHANGE FAE BUS DRIVER TA CROFTER. TWUNTY YOWS WID DO DA TRICK, DEY'LL SURELY BE OF USE, DER'S A LOT O HOOPS TA JUMP TROO TA TRY AN BIG A HOOSE. HE TINKS DIS FITBA'S MAYBE NO DA GAME FUR ME, BUT I'M MAYBE JUST GETTING SOFTER, AL ENJOY ME NEW APPROACH TA LIFE, JUST BEIN A PERT-TIME CROFTER. YOU'RE IN DA PICK-UP WHILE YOU CAA YOUR SHEEP, IT CERTAINLY ALL MAKES SENSE, YOU SPEND NOTHING ON WIRE, STAPLES AN POSTS FUR IT SEEMS NOOADAYS YOU DUNNA EVEN HIV TA FENCE.

IT'S FINE TA BE OOT AMONG DA CREELS, CATCHIN PARTANS AN VELVETS, HOW GREAT IT FEELS,  
WHAT YOU GET BACK ASHORE LIFE'S NIVER DA SAM, LIK GETTIN A BLACK EYE FAE A BULTIN RAM.

I'VE BEEN AGROUND ON LINGA AN MAYBE IDDER ROCKS FUR BY,  
I'VE TRIED DRAININ WI ME BIT O VAN TWICE AN ALTERED DA FRONT O IDDER CARS FUR BY,  
I GOT ANIDDER ENGINE FUR ME VAN BUT HIT DIDNA LEST A HOST,  
I WROUGHT BENEATH DA BONNET TILL I WAS FIT TA SPEW, AT TIMES IT ALL GOT LOST,  
I GOT A BLACK EYE IN ORKNEY, IT ALL GOT OOT O HAND, BUT WE FORGOT IT AA BOTH ANE AN AA AN EVERYONE GOT  
HERTY,  
BACK HOME IN DA CLUBROOM IT WAS ALL ARRANGED, MY SURPRISE 30th BIRTHDAY PARTY.

HOULLIGAN WIDNA MISS UP HELLY AA, HE ALWAYS MARKS DA DATE,  
BUT HE'S IN A BIT O PAIN DIS YEAR, HIS SHOODER'S IN A STATE.  
HIS SQUAD MEETING HEARD A BANG FOLLOWED BY WAILS O DISPLEASURE,  
FUR BRIAN HAD TRIPPED AN FAWN OWER HIS VERY OWN SAFETY MEASURE.

JAMES GEED AFF DA ROD WI HIS MUCKLE TRACTOR, OH DEAR FUR SIK A SHUG,  
DAN HIS BULL TOOK A NOSE DIVE IDA LOCH, AN OWER DA BANKS WENT HIS BONNIE BLACK DUG.

IT'S A CORBIE FOR ME OH A CORBIE FOR ME, I NIVER SHOOT CORBIES DIR SO DEAR TA ME,  
DA GREYLAG IS BRAW AN SO IS DA CRAW, BUT DA SMART PEERIE CORBIE IS DA BEST O DEM AA.  
I FED HIM ON MUTTON & RABBITS FUR BY, HE WID SIT ON DA PALING WI A GLINT IN HIS EYE,  
WHAN HE NEEDED A DRINK HE LET OOT A SQUAWK, AN HIS BELLY DAT FULL HE WUS NEAR FAAN AFF HIS BAUK.

THE BLADES OF THE WINDMILL WERE TURNIN REAL FINE, DEY HEATED DA HALL WHILE DA PUNTERS DRANK WINE,  
BUT NEXT DOOR "HEY WHAT'S UP?" UNCLE ARTHUR CRIED, AS HIS LIGHTS AND HIS POWER ALL FLICKERED AND DIED.  
SO IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WARM IN DA HALL NOW IT SEEMS, YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR A TURBINE THAT'S DRIVEN BY  
STEAM.

NOO FOLKS WHEN YOU'RE TINKIN TA DRIVE BY VOE, YOU MUST TAKE CARE AND JUST GO AAFIL SLOW,  
FOR YOUR BOAT NEEDS AN ENGINE HALE, SHINY AN NEW, AN YOU DUNNA WANT TA LOSE HIM AHINT DA DYKES O VOE.

IT'S A HARD LIFE FOR DA FISHING BOYS, DA WAVES CAN BE HIGH AN FISH SLOW TO APPEAR,  
BUT WHA WID TINK DEY WIDA BEEN SAFTER AFLOAT WHEN DA SHED WAS ABLAZE AT DA PIER.

DA BONFIRES WERE BIGGIT TAE A BIG BIG SIZE, OH WHO IS GOIN TA GET FIRST PRIZE,  
WILL IT BE DA NORT VOE OR WILL IT BE DA SOUTH VOE, OH BAIRNS FUR SUCH A MELEE,  
WI A CROWD ON EACH SIDE TA JOIN IN DA SPREE.  
TORCHES WERE LIT DEY REALLY LOOKED BRAW, BUT DA MANMADE FIREWORKS WAS DA BEST OF AA.

THINGS WE'DE LIK TA KEEN:

DID DA BOYS AT DA GALLEY SHED GET A DOSE O DA CRABS?  
WHO WINS DA PRIZE FOR BEST OFF ROAD VEHICLE THIS YEAR? INGRID, ADRIAN, DAVID or JOSH?  
WAS HUBERT PLAYIN KNOCK DOOR RUN AT WINDLESTRAE?  
THE MIGHTY CUNNISTER LAND WARS ARE BOUND TO CONTINUE, WILL THERE BE A JOINT WINNER?  
DID DANIEL COP A FEEL OR FEEL A COP?

DEFACERS OF OUR BILL

WILL BE TAKEN TAKEN TO THE SCALLOWAY COLLEGE AND HAVE THE MICKIE TAKEN OUT OF THEM  
BEFORE HAVING THEIR HARD DRIVE REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH A FLOPPY DISC.

BY ORDER AND UNDER SEAL OF THE GUIZER JARL.

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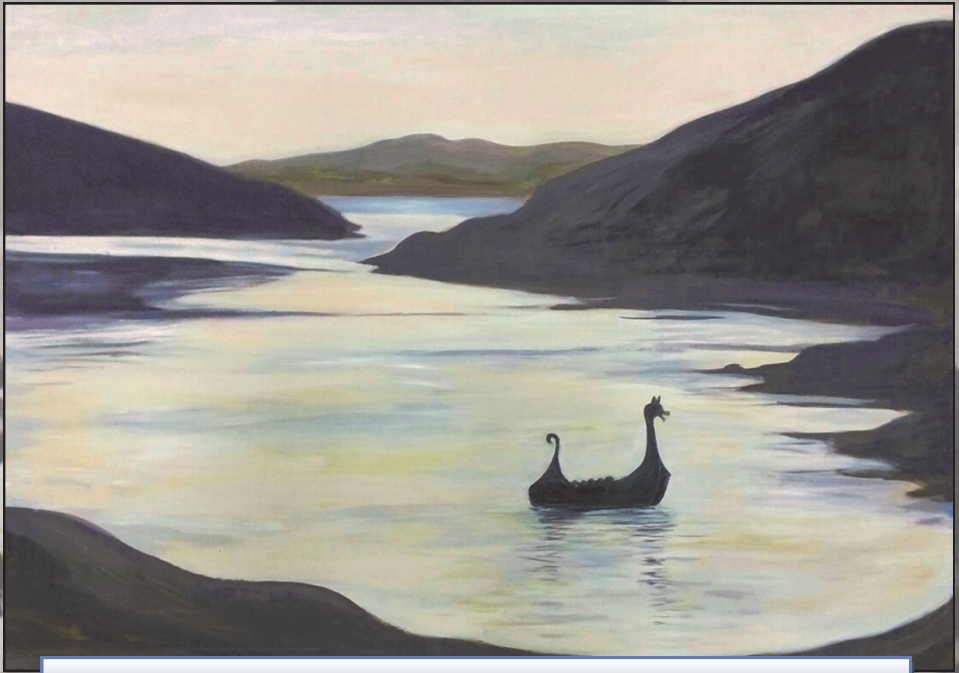
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Everyone at Hendersons wishes Michael and his squad all the best.  
Looking forward to a great Up Helly Aa 2013!



We wish everyone a great Up Helly Aa!

From all at the CCI



This year's bill head, painted by Jeanette Nowak



Jarl Squad visit to Burravoe Primary School [2012]

# Roars fae da past...



Squad ready to set sail [1974]



A performance in the old Cullivoe Hall, now the Galley Shed [1982]



Jarl Gilbert Tulloch's Squad with school bairns [1986]  
How many Jarl Squad members, past and present, can you spot?



Hamish Nicolson, Cynthia Henderson &  
Jeemie Nicolson [1962]

# Up Helly Aa 1985



Below is the full report from Cullivoe Up Helly Aa when Michael's father Andrew was Guizer Jarl. Reproduced with kind permission from *The Shetland Times* (8th March 1985).

"Last Thursday provided one of the best evenings ever for a Cullivoe Up-Helly-Aa and many people commented that it was more like a regatta in midsummer than a late-winter fire festival.

The galley, *Reall*, looked particularly splendid this year as it lead the procession in perfect weather conditions. Guizer Jarl Andrew Nisbet's squad were resplendent in crushed velvet cloaks - red for the Jarl and blue for his squad members. Their new-style shields were black and silver with a ferocious looking spike in the centre.

## THE SQUADS

1. The Benny Hill Show. An amusing squad, based on the television show, with scenes of a scantily clad lady being chased in double-quick time; a rather messy attempt at eating spaghetti and a slightly mysterious shootout involving a clay duck.
2. Festive Foy. Once again the lasses' squad got top marks for their beautiful costume. This year they wore old-time Shetland claes consisting of beautifully made lace-trimmed bonnets, Shetland shawls and "rivlins". Accompanied by a guitar and fiddle they sang and dance, sat down with their "sock" and then handed out song-sheets concerning topical events sung to the tune of Kittie Beadie.
3. Super Brain. Not unlike the television programme Mastermind, but the contestants did not appear to have such a wide range of interests - all of them choosing very definitely North Yell specialist subjects such as the History of Wast Firth. A clever squad with topical questions and answers which finally determined a winner - the young lady contestant who was so overcome with delight that she had to passionately embrace all the gentlemen, not least the Jarl who made the presentation.

4. Salmon Brothers Seabase. The title of this squad speaks for itself, concerning the topical salmon cages versus oil development dispute over Basta Voe. A most amusing interplay between two salmon farmers, a well-known councillor and two seabase planning officials. Unfortunately all the hard work and speculation was in vain, thanks to a marvellously realistic otter who attacked the salmon cages and removed the greater part of the bone of contention.

5. Whose Baby. This squad closely followed the television programme of the same name but with one big difference - no-one was willing to claim as their own any of the large and hairy babies who trundled around on pram, trike and baby-walkers.

6. Gutcher Geese. This squad imitated the real life pet geese fed and cared for by the Gutcher ferrymen, although no-one has yet seen these geese doing the Birdie Dance.

7. Ten-in-a-Bed and 8. Old MacDonald's Farm. These were the bairns' squads which performed with their usual enthusiasm, singing well despite being pushed out of a massive bed in the first squad and displaying beautiful costumes in the second squad.

9. Hamefarin. A uniformed ferryman ushered in visitors from all the airts, all home for the Hamefarin. He introduced them to an incredibly dressed Shetland lady wearing an "all over" dress, matching leg warmers and a sheepskin. The visitors came from Australia, the Philippines, Scotland and America. The American visitor was no less than a very realistic B.A. Baracus. After a dram and a chat they all danced a Shetland reel.

10. Does Du Tink The Price Is Right? Again based on the television programme. This squad of young people gave a most amusing take-off and the celebrity contestants were most realistic. Dolly Parton won the main prize - tickets for a tour of the new Cullivoe Hall - but she preferred to take home the debonair young host.

11. Gibbie's Part-Timers. The new fish factory was the theme of this amusing squad set at the filleting table. After a lot of bickering and squabbling the manager himself ended up being filleted.

The evening was voted a great success with the festivities carrying on until the early hours of Friday morning to the music of Johnny Clark, Robert Goodlad, Gordon, Victor and Margaret.

The Guizers' Hop the following evening was, if possible, an even greater success. A well-attended concert began the evening's entertainment with the Oakbank Sound, Eddie Barclay, the Smith Sisters and Margaret Robertson, followed by a dance to the music of the talented young Oakbank Sound.

This was the last Up-Helly-Aa in the old Cullivoe Hall and everything went off without a hitch - not even the power cut that brought the Tilley lights out at last year's festival."



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*Wishing Jarl Michael Nisbet and his squad all the very best!*

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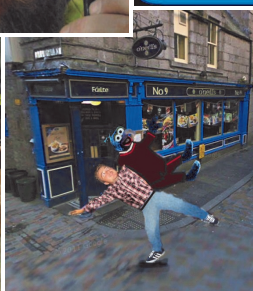
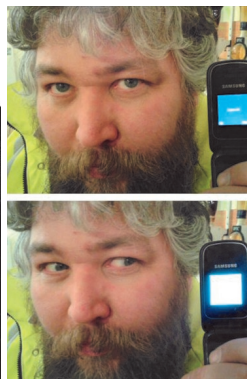
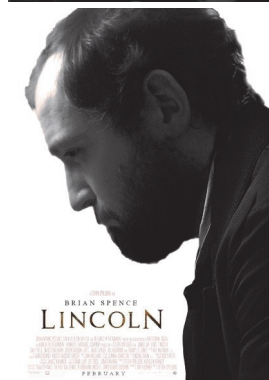
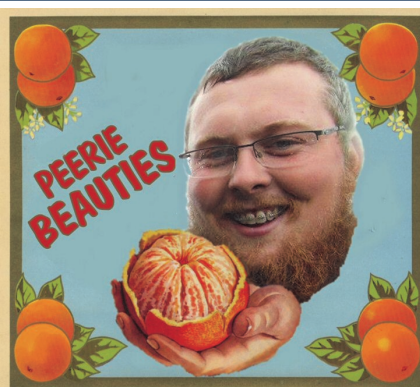
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Wishing Jarl Michael and his squad all the best for a  
successful Up Helly Aa

# Galley Shed Shenanigans...





"Tap o da Rod" Squad [2002]

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**Wishing Jarl Michael Nisbet and his youthful squad all the Best and hope that they have a fantastic weekend!**

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