

Guizer Jarl - John Saunders

For his year as our Guizer Jarl, John has chosen to represent former King of Norway; Harald Finehair. Like Harald, John has many sons, and a son-in-law, all of whom join him in the Jarl Squad. John has chosen to use the emblem of a serpent, as they feature heavily in Norse mythology.



"I have taken part in Up Helly Aa for many years. We have a squad which is made up of family members ranging over four generations now. Before I married and came to Yell I took part in the Lerwick Up Helly Aa. This is only my second year in the galley shed, last year as Jarl-Elect in John Williamson's squad. I have enjoyed the experience, the squad has worked hard to get everything ready on time but we've still managed to have time for a laugh and "a fun".

I'm very grateful for the help given and offered by members of the community. On behalf of myself and the squad I want to say a huge thank you to our wives and partners. Special thanks go to Susan Williamson for making the kirtles for the squad and the dresses for the princesses, and also for all her help and advice. Thanks also to Laurence and his staff at Laurence Odie Knitwear for the amazing cloaks and the women's cardigans. I also would like to thank the galley builders and torchmakers, Jeanette Nowak for the proclamation head and Ingrid Dickie for the backdrop painting. Huge thanks to everyone else who does so much to make Up Helly Aa happen. I hope you all have a great weekend."

Schedule of Events

Friday 26th 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 **Da Fustra**.

Saturday 27th 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 Variety Concert, followed by another night of dancing to **Da Fustra**.

Sunday 28th 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 Cancer Research, and the Isleshaven Comfort Fund. Two charities chosen by the Jarl.

Jarl Squad 2016



Ex-Jarl John Williamson



Guizer Jarl John Saunders



Jarl-Elect Mark Lawson



Stephen Saunders



Darren Saunders



Matthew Saunders



Kenny Saunders



Kenny Graham



Laurence Odie



Darren Witt

Junior Members



Ben Saunders



Kane Saunders



Bernie Saunders



Jodie Saunders

Here's the Jarl to introduce his squad:

John Williamson: "Last year's Jarl John has been very helpful, offering much-needed advice and keeping me on track. John works willingly and methodically making sure everything gets done."

Mark Lawson: "Jarl-Elect Mark has been in the Jarl Squad before so knows the many pitfalls of the Galley Shed. He is willing to try any job and is never short of a joke or story."

Kenny Saunders: "My brother Kenny is a keen Up Helly Aa participant, and regularly takes part in the Lerwick festival. However he is ready to discover how it should be done!"

Stephen Saunders: "My eldest son Stephen has been in squads since school and has been in the Jarl Squad twice before. He's had a 'crack-on' approach with everything in the squad preparation."

Darren Saunders: "My second son Darren again has always been in squads. He's keen and willing to help with anything from painting to cooking."

Matthew Saunders: "Son number three Matthew, again always involved in squads. Matthew is willing to try most things, he enjoys the banter when everyone is working together."

Darren Witt: "My son-in-law Darren is very helpful and able. He's been at his best when assisting with the galley building."

Kenny Graham: "This is Kenny's first step into the world of Up Helly Aa. Kenny is one of those folk who is able to do most things: woodwork, metalwork, whatever. He's played a large part in getting us all ready."

Laurence Odie: "This is his debut in the Jarl Squad. Laurence has been a willing worker getting on with various jobs quietly and calmly. Laurence and his staff also designed and knitted our cloaks."

Ben Saunders: "Son number four Ben, has enjoyed the whole Galley Shed experience, helping mainly with painting."

Kane Saunders: "My youngest son Kane, has thrust himself into everything Viking. It appears he's looking to join the galley builders in the future, as he's managed to get his own miniature galley built."

"Bernie Saunders, my niece and Jodie Saunders, my grand-daughter join me as Viking Princesses. They are both very excited to be involved with Up Helly Aa."

Musicians: "This year the Jarl Squad will be entertained by music from David Spence, Neil Scollay, David Gear, Terry Irvine & Brendan Scollay."



The Saga of Harald Finehair

Harold Finehair is credited with being the first King of Norway. Harald succeeded, on the death of his father, to the sovereignty of several small scattered kingdoms.

The unification of Norway begins with a marriage proposal from Harald to Gyda, the daughter of the King of Hordaland. Gyda refused to marry him "before he was King over all of Norway". At this time Harald was also induced to take a vow not to cut nor comb his hair until he became the sole King of Norway. When he was justified in trimming it ten years later, he exchanged the nickname "Tanglehair" for the one by which he is now more commonly known.

Harald first conquered the many petty kingdoms which would compose all of Norway. He then made an expedition to Shetland, Orkney, the Hebrides and the Scottish mainland to clear opponents of his rule who had taken refuge there.

Harald and Gyda, who did consent to marry him, had many sons. Harald gave them royal titles and assigned lands to them to govern as his representatives. When Harald grew older he passed over supreme power to his favourite son Eirik Bloodaxe. Harald died of natural causes at the age of 83 in approximately 933 AD.

Squad List

| Hall | Name | School |
|------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | HARALD FINEHAIR | 1 |
| 2 | HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU | 8 |
| 3 | (R)EFFING NIGHTMARE | 9 |
| 4 | OPEN AA OORS | 10 |
| 5 | ROCK ON JOHN | 11 |
| 6 | LOWRIE LOWRIE | 12 |
| 7 | JOHN IS MARCHING ON | 2 |
| 8 | JOHN'S HELMET TRICK | 3 |
| 9 | DA ROD TAE RIO | 4 |
| 10 | ON THE BEAT | 5 |
| 11 | DEPOOPERIT | 6 |
| 12 | BA-ING ABOUT | 7 |

^{*} Running order subject to change





BURRAVOE HALL

WISH

JARL JOHN SAUNDERS AND HIS SQUAD

A GOOD VOYAGE AND A HEARTY WEEKEND

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL ON THE HOP DAY

Bar Lunches available all afternoon Saturday 27th February

(Bus leaving Cullivoe Hall immediately after the clear-up, £2 per passenger)

BURRAVOE CARNIVAL WEEKEND

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SUNDAY 12TH JUNE – **BREAKFASTS**

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Proclamation 2016

WIR JARL IS AYE TAE BE SEEN AS HE SAUNT(D)ERS OOT AN IN DA HOOSES DRESSED IN HIS JEANS. HE WILL FOSTER HOPES THAT TONIGHT HE CAN RELY ON OLD AND NEW FAMILY MEMBERS TO BE HOME FOR THE FESTIVITIES.

AFTER REFER(EE)ING TO THE UP HELLY AA RULE BOOK HE WILL WHISTLE UP SUPPORT FROM HIS TEAM TO SEND OFF THE SQUADS ON FOOT AND HE WILL BE BALLING OUT INSTRUCTIONS DURING THE PROCESSON. HIS GOAL IS TO KICK OFF PROCEEDINGS BY HEADING FOR THE BURNING SITE AVOIDING AA DA PASSING PLACES AND HE WILL RAISE HIS FLAG HALF WAY, (IF HE HAS TIME)

ANY OPPOSING SQUAD MEMBER CAUGHT DELIBERATELY HANDLING HIS BALLS WILL BE KICKED IN TO TOUCH. IT WILL BE A RELIEF FOR HIM TO SEE STAMPED YELLOW AND RED CARDS POSTED IN NORTH YELL

LET'S DANCE TAE DA FUSTRA, LETS CELEBRATE WI DA JARL
LET'S LAUGH WI AA DA SQUADS, AN NEVER LEET TA QUARREL
WIR BILL IS SURE TA MAK YOU GAFF, AN YOU SOOD TAK NO OFFENCE AVAA
FOR IT'S 2016 AN JOHN SAUNDERS' UP HELLY AA

IF YOU'RE LOOKIN FOR A PLUMBER DA GREEN BURN IS DA PLACE BUT DUNNA BE LIK ALAN OR YOU'LL END UP IN A MESS HIS MIND WAS SURELY WANDERING HE WAS DREAMIN O DA HELLY WHAN HE COOD HAE A LIE-BACK AN SPEND MORE TIME WI KELLY

WHAN YOU HAVE A GARDEN IN FRONT O YOUR HOOSE AND YOU JUST WANT A BIT O GIRSE TAE MAK IT LOOK FINE YOU SHOULD MIND DAT MID YELL BOYS ON DA LOOSE CAN ROLL UP A WHOLE LAWN IN A VERY SHORT TIME

DA FIRST EEN ON BOARD SAYS BOY DAT WIS NEAR
WI DA HEAVYWEIGHT FOLLOWING ON AT DA REAR
DA PASSENGERS CHEERED BOYS YOU'VE HAD A GOOD TIME
WI CHRIS RUBBIN HIS EYES HE COOD NE'ER SEE A STYME
HIS PARTNER FOR DA NIGHT HAD RISEN WI SHOCK
WHAN HE FAN OOT HE'D MADE A MESS O SETTIN DA CLOCK

LET DA WIND BLOW HIGH, LET DA WIND BLOW LOW
AT DA BANNOCK IN NORT ROE

ME
ALICE COMES TO SAY HELLO
LAURENCE WHAUR'S DE TROOSERS?

DA BUTCHER DIDNA HADD DA GUN STRAIGHT HE MISSED DA VITAL VEIN
HE MAYBE WUSNA JUST HIMSEL AN IT AFFECTED DAISY'S BRAIN
DA POOR ANIMAL BOLTED OOT DA DOOR. A SPLENDIT CHANCE SHE TINKS
FUR WIR WALTER TAE TRAIN FUR DA OLYMPIC GAMES DOON ON DA VATSTER LINKS

WE REALLY DO ADMIRE ALL DA WARK DAT HAS GONE ON TO MAK DA SCHOOLHOOSE SO PLEASANT FUR DA BAIRNS AN DA STAFF AN IT'S A SHEEM DAT THERE ARE FOLK WHO HAE TAE MOAN N GIRN LIFE IS AYE BETTER WHAN WE WHINGE LESS AN HAE MORE GAFFS

DA SPECTATORS WUR LOOKIN OOT TAE SEA DEY WIR WATCHIN DA REGATTA DA GUARD BOAT WIS FLYIN ROOND N ROOND DEY WINDERED WHITS DA MATTER HE'S PASSED DA BURGA SKERRIES NOO HE'S HEIDIN FUR DA NESS DAN HE'S UPSIDE DOON APUN A ROCK, O' DEAR FUR SUCH A MESS

DA WEEGIES AT NEW YEAR, DEY HAD A FULL LOAD
DEY REVERSED OWER DA GRID AN DOON BY DA ROAD
BUT DEY DIDNA QUITE MANAGE TAE MISS DA GATE POST
THREE DUNTS WI DER VEHICLES AN ALL WAS LOST
NOO MARK AN KENNY HAVE TO PUT IT ALL RIGHT
AN FIX DA GATE POST AFORE MICHAEL AN WILMA FLYTE

DA LOOS IN SHETLAND ARE SOMETIMES SHUT
DA LOOS ON DA MAINLAND CAN COST 50P
BUT IN CULLIVOE IT'S A WELL KNOWN FACT
DAT DA HALL LOOS, LOO PAPER N WATER IS FREE

DIS CREEL MEN WIR ALL ROOND DA SHORE
HAULIN UP LOBSTERS BY DA SCORE
BUT POOR RICKY MOST A HAED BURNIN LUGS
DA DAY EFTER HE STEAMED OWER DA TAP O DA RUGS

WHAN DU FINDS A NEW HOME FUR DY PROPS VERY FAST DU MUST MIND TAE INFORM DY UNCLE A DIS WID SAVE A LOT O HOT AIR AN BLAST FUR DA BRECKON SQUAD LEADER DA FOLLOWIN DAY

DIR NEW WAYS TAE DIG YOUR GAIRDIN NOO, JUST GO N CATCH A COO TAE PLATCH AROOND FUR MORE DAN AN OOR, AN AT DA SAM TIME HAE DA SCOOR DAN JUST SIT N WAIT FUR DA OWNER TAE COME, HE MIGHT EVEN HAE A BOTTLE O' RUM

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW:

DOES ROBBIE AY TAK MICHELLES CAR TAE GO SPOOTIN IN DA EBB?
WHO DID LEE CALL AN OLD COW? DOES SPEAKIN YOUR MIND EARN YOU JOB SECURITY?
HAS DAVID GOT A DICKIE OF A CHANCE OF FINDING A NEW CAR PARK?
DID PEERIE BRIAN ENJOY HIS SHOWER IN DA COONCILLOR'S BATHROOM?
HAS LESLIE GOT INDIGESTION IN HIS NEW JOB?

WIR JARL DECREES THAT GUIZERS SHALL REPORT IN GOOD TIME TO COLLECT THEIR TORCHES AND START THE PROCESSION FROM THE HALL AT 7.30PM DEFACERS OF OUR BILL WILL BE STAMPED & POSTED TO SELLAFIRTH WITH NO POLICE PHONE CALL OR RETURN ADDRESS

BY ORDER AND UNDER SEAL OF THE GUIZER JARL

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Wishing John and the Jarl Squad good luck and a great weekend!

Photograph courtesy Joe Plommer



WISHING GUIZER JARL JOHN SAUNDERS AND HIS SQUAD A BRILLIANT UHA WEEKEND!

VISIT OUR MILL SHOP FOR A LARGE SELECTION OF SHETLAND
KNITWEAR

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM

HOSWICK WOOLLEN MILL, SANDWICK



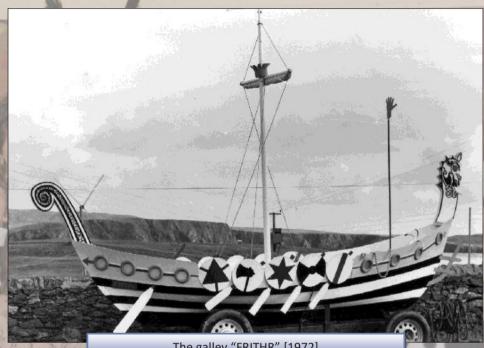
Roars fae da past...



Timothy Fraser's Jarl Squad marching to meet the galley [2006]







The galley "FRITHR" [1972]



Jarl Gilbert Nicolson & Squad [1989]



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Everyone at R.S. Henderson Ltd would like to wish ohn and his sauad a warm and hearty up Helly Aa 2016



We wish everyone a great Up Helly Aa!

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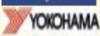
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Wishing Jarl John and his squad all the best for a successful Up Helly Aa





Tel 01595 690440



We would like to wish Jarl John and his squad all the best Have a great time!

The Squad Axe



1965 2015

Yell Football Club would like to wish their chairman and his squad all the very best for Up Helly Aa!



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Wishing John and his squad all the best and hope that they have a great time at this year's Cullivoe Up Helly Aa!

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The Jarl's Shield







