



Cullivoe
Up Helly Aa
2017

www.cullivoeuphellyaa.com

£3

A Word From The Guizer Jarl Mark Lawson:

When I moved to Cullivoe - 'fresh faced' - in December 2002, I never dreamt that one day I would be Guizer Jarl. It is a huge honour for me. As a family, we have always appreciated how we were welcomed into this community - the place we now call home. Being able to bring up our children here - surrounded by supportive friends and neighbours - is something we can never repay. We know how lucky we are, and we try hard not to take it for granted.

When John asked me to be Jarl - I was gobsmacked. I still feel very unworthy of the honour, and I will always be grateful to him. Also, to all the ex Jarls who have welcomed me into their illustrious group, offering advice and support.



I have had a fantastic time with my squad - everywhere from Celtic Park to the Rum Room! We've had a great spree - and no doubt that will continue this weekend, and into the summer.

There are so many parts of Up Helly Aa that I am looking forward to. In particular, visiting all of Yell's schools - and sharing with them the excitement of Up Helly Aa. I get to work with our young people every day. It's a fantastic privilege. Having taken part for the past 13 years, I realise what an important event this is for our community. However, I never fully understood the amount of effort that goes in, much of it behind the scenes. I hope to see you all over the weekend, but just in case I don't: 'THANK YOU!'

So - have a good spree, look after each other - and let the Fireball flow! Up Helly Aa!

Cheers,

Mark

Schedule of Events

Friday 24th 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 James Leask Dance Band**.

Saturday 25th 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 **The James Leask Dance Band**.

Sunday 26th 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 **Local Schools, and Meningitis Research Foundation**. Charities chosen by the Jarl.

Jarl Squad 2017



Ex-Jarl John Saunders



Guizer Jarl Mark Lawson



Jarl-Elect Laurence Odie



Alan Keith



Daniel Lawson



Jack Lawson



Kenny Graham



Ben Lawson



Alfie Lawson



Leslie Tulloch



Robbie Coutts



Robert Jamieson



Jack Jamieson



David Blakemore



Derek Gillespie

Princesses



Brodie Lawson



Jasmine Lawson



Ruby Lawson



Evie Tulloch



Cassie Tulloch

Musicians



Lewie Peterson



Merran Nugent



Peter Wood



Adam Johnson

JARL SQUAD INTRODUCTIONS

JARL – Mark Lawson – Mark moved to Cullivoe in 2002, and has settled in as the Head teacher of Cullivoe and now Mid Yell School. He was in the 2008 and 2016 Jarl Squads –and sits on the Cullivoe Hall committee, and the North Yell Development Council.

JARL ELECT – Laurence Odie – Burravoe resident Laurence is set to be Guizer Jarl next year. He runs a successful knitwear business – and is also the chairman of Yell’s Community Council. We’re sure he’ll be a great Jarl for the whole community next year!

EX-JARL – John Saunders – Part Santa Claus, part postman– John always delivers. He asked Mark to be Guizer Jarl this year. Controversially, he is also a Rangers fan – and suffered admirably through the squad’s visit to Celtic Park last year.

DANIEL LAWSON – Daniel is the oldest of Mark’s 7 children, although you might not realise it from looking at his ‘beard’. What he lacks in facial hair growth, he’s tried to make up for in dram pouring and song singing.

JACK LAWSON – Jack is another product of the Jarl’s loins, being Mark’s second oldest. He studies in Aberdeen, and has made several trips home throughout the year to help the squad prepare (and celebrate!)

ROBERT JAMIESON – Jarl Squad veteran Robert runs arguably the best bus company in Cullivoe. He and his wife Julie were great friends to the Lawsons when they first moved to Shetland – and continue to be so!

JACK JAMIESON – Fresh faced Jack has been flying regularly between the Galley Shed and his work in Glasgow. He’s also been in charge of song writing and musician sourcing. Any interested females should contact Jack on 07787947809.

ALAN KEITH – Alan, from Aywick, has been a welcome addition to the Jarl Squad - thanks to his practical abilities. Many squad members wouldn’t know a wrench from a wrightsaw – but Alan has worked tirelessly to avoid any spanner in the works!

ROBBIE COUTTS – Robbie, an immigrant from Fetlar, has worked with Mark to train up the next generation of talented North Isles football players. He’s a great signing for the Jarl Squad –spending many long nights cutting leather for all shapes and sizes!

LESLIE TULLOCH – Up Helly Aa stalwart Leslie doubles as a Galley builder and Proclamation writer for the festival. Mark was in Leslie’s Jarl Squad in 2008 –and was only too happy to repay that favour this year!

KENNY GRAHAM – Kenny, a fellow ‘Weegie’, has also settled into the Cullivoe way of life. He runs fishing trips out into Bluemull Sound – and, when the fish ain’t biting – can be found drinking copious amounts of Miller beer in the Galley Shed.

DAVID BLAKEMORE – David made the questionable decision to join the Lawson family when he married Mark’s sister Joanne. Since then – the ‘Blakey’s from Blantyre’ have been regular visitors to Cullivoe. David has weathered many storms to reach squad meetings – fitting for a Rangers fan!

DEREK GILLESPIE – ‘Del’ is one of Mark’s childhood friends. He has also made regular trips up to the Galley Shed –developing an insatiable taste for Fireball whisky, and indulging in his favourite pastime of winding up the Jarl’s wife, Claire.

ALFIE LAWSON – Alfie is the most competitive of Mark’s bairns, making him a dangerous Jarl Squad apprentice –regularly beating his seniors at Galley Shed games. He’s also served as chief water carrier – a very useful skill in this part of the world!

BEN LAWSON – Ben, the youngest of the Jarl’s sons, has drawn on the vast experience he gained in the 2008 Jarl squad. The only thing sharper than his specially-shortened axe is his fierce pride at being a two-time Viking from such a tender age.

BRODIE LAWSON – Brodie is Mark’s eldest daughter, and is enjoying her first appearance in the Jarl Squad. She’s provided plenty of ‘Bill material’ this year, and is regularly amongst the last ‘men’ standing at the Galley Shed!

EVIE TULLOCH – Peerie Evie is joining her father Leslie in the Jarl squad, and has helped to craft some beautiful jewellery for the princesses’ outfits. Don’t be fooled by her cute looks though – she’s been bossing Vikings around for months now!

JASMINE LAWSON – Mark’s daughter Jasmine has had many roles in preparation for the festival. She keeps her old man in check - and makes sure everything is organised to her exceptionally high standards.

RUBY LAWSON – Ruby is last but not least of the Jarl’s children, and has lit up the Galley Shed many times with her mischievous smile. She’s a great alarm clock – making sure everyone is up after a night in the Galley Shed.

CASSIE TULLOCH – Cassie is the youngest member of the Jarl Squad - and joins her sister Evie and their Dad, Leslie. Her youth hasn’t deterred her from getting involved, and she’s done well to keep her Galley Shed ‘gurning’ to a minimum.



BURRAVOE HALL

WISH

JARL MARK LAWSON 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 25th February

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

BURRAVOE CARNIVAL WEEKEND

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE – SUPPERS & MUSIC NIGHT

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE –SAILING REGATTA, TREASURE HUNT,

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SUNDAY 11TH JUNE – BREAKFASTS

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Pictured together are 6 decades of Jarls

(L-R) Alex Nicholson 1967, Hubert Dickie 1977, Christopher Thomason 1987, Raymond Henderson 2007 & Mark Lawson 2017

(Missing from this photo are Peter Spence 1957 & Colin Nicholson 1997)

Proclamation 2017

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

WIR JARL A GLASGOW BHOY WITH HIS FAMILY CREW HAVE DECLA(I)RED THAT THE GALLEY IS PARKED AT THE HEAD OF THE PROCESSION TO MARK THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR. HE WILL PUT HIS H(J)EART AND SOUL INTO TONIGHT'S CELEBRATION

AFTER SCHOOLING HIS SQUAD ON VIKING AND CELTIC OUTLAWS ON THE NIGHT, HE WILL BE A MATCH FOR ANY ATTACKERS AND WILL DEFEND HIS POSITION AS THE CHIEF OF THE GUIZERS.

HE MAY BE SEEN IN THE MIDST OF A HUDDLE OF GUIZERS YELLING SUPPORT TO THE SQUADS. HE WILL HEAD UP THE FESTIVAL HAVING MASTERED AND LEARNED ALL THE OLD CUSTOMS AND WILL TAKE A FIRM GRIP OF THE HELM.

WELCOME TO THE LAWSON CLAN WHO'S AA COME NORTH TO SUPPORT THEIR MAN THEY'RE SURE TO DANCE AND BECOME FANS OF JAMES LEASK'S FANTASTIC BAND WIR UP HELLY AA BEGAN 60 YEARS AGO, FIRST IN SELLA FIRTH THEN IN CULLIVOE A FESTIVAL FOR ALL TO ENJOY BE YOU MEN, WOMEN, LASSES OR BOYS

WIR REPORTER IS DONE WEEL TINK WHAT YOU LAEK, HE'S PASSED DA TEST FOR COORTIN AN HE CAN FAIRLY SPAEK

WI HIM GETTING DA TROPHY FUR WHIT NEWS HE TELLS, HIM AN LAURA'S ALL SET FUR DA WEDDING BELLS.

LET DA WIND BLOW HIGH LET DA WIND BLOW LOW, ROOND DA WINDMILLS DEY MAN GO BUT SOME FOLK HERE ARE A SPECIAL BREED, DEY CANNA SEE PROGRESS AN THINGS MOVIN AHEAD BUT DEY NEVER TINK DEY MIGHT BE GLED HAYIN POWER FUR DA BLANKET TA WARM UP DA BED WE HAY GENERATORS WI DA TIDE GOIN ROOND AN ROOND PITTIN POWER ASHORE FAE DA MIDDLE O' DA SOOND BUT SOMEDAY WE MIGHT ALL GET A GLUFF WHEN WIR COMMUNITY HAS MONEY FOR ALL KINDS O' STUFF

IF YOU SEE DA POSTVAN SUDDENLY MOVE HERSEL, DA DOOR WUNNA BE LOCKED RIGHT AN DA KEYS ARE DERE ASWELL

YOUR POSTMAN'S BUSY YARNIN CATCHIN UP WE ALL DA NEWS, SOON DA P.O. WILL BE STEPPIN IN TA TIGHTEN UP DA SCREWS

DIS PAIR LEFT DA DISCO AMIDST AA DA SHUG IN TA STUART'S BARN FOR A KISS AND A HUG HE HED HIS ERMS ROOND HER AN STARTED TA SQUEEZE HER, WHAN SHE SAID "BOY IT'S COLD, TURN AFF YUN FREEZER"

DA BUSINESS DONE AN ALL FINISHED AN TINKIN THINGS COULDNA GET MUCH BETTER BUT NEVER MINDED TA HOID DA EVIDENCE WHEN HE FORGOT TA POST HIS FRENCH LETTER.

DA WEDDING CELEBRATIONS WERE IN FULL SWING DAN DA BARMAN BLEW HIS HOOTER WHAN WHO CAM MOTORIN UP DA AISLE BUT A HAIRDRESSER ON A SCOOTER HER ANTICS AN HER STEERING MADE DA CROWD WI LAUGHTER ROAR WHAN ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE LOST CONTROL AN BROWT UP ALL STANDIN IN DA CLUBROOM DOOR.

TWO FINE YOUNG WOMEN GEED CHASIN DA HENS BUT ALL DEY DID WUS UPSET DA HEN'S PENS TA CATCH A COCK IT'S SOMETIMES TRICKY, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT BELONGS TO A MRS DICKIE.

DA ROD WAST BY WHALFIRT SEEMS DA PLACE TA BE EFTER YOU'RE HED YOUR FRIENDLY SPREE
YOU MAY MAK FUR DA WASTARD, YOU CANNA WAIT, YOU MAY EVEN DRIVE TROW AN IRON GATE
THEN YOU MEET A MAN WANDERIN AT DA SAME TIME AS DA PLOD, GOIN AROOND HALF NAKED AT DA
SIDE O' DA ROD.

IN ABOOT DA NIGHT DEY GOT A BIT O' A FRIGHT FOR DA HEATIN IT KEPT GOIN DOON
BUT DA PONIES WERE QUICK DEY HAD PLAYED A RIGHT TRICK AS DEY WATCHED DA PARAFFIN RUN DOON
DA TOON.

WIR JARL WAS IN UNST TO PICK UP HIS PRIZE, BEST BEARD IN DA ISLES.... WELL DONE!
BUT AT ALAN'S STAG HE FELL BY AND NO LIES, HIS CHIN WAS ALMOST SHAVED SMOOTH AS A NEW BABIES
BUM.

A MARATHON IN DA CITY, LET'S GO THEY SAID, WE'RE FIT, WE'VE PRACTISED, WE'LL CERTAINLY LEAD
BUT A MISSED FLIGHT, A BOAT TRIP AN THEIR KNICKERS IN A TWIST MEANT THE STARTERS ORDERS WERE
PROPERLY MISSED.

SHE CAN CALM DOON A BULL AN MAK HER MAN WIRK TA RULE, CUT SILAGE AN CLEAN OOT DA BYRE
SHE CAN GO JOGGIN AN DO HOOSEWARK WI OOT ANY FUSS, BUT SHE STILL CANNA TAK HER DOG ON A
BUS

I KEEN I ALWAYS DO FEEL QUEER, ME HOOSE IS FA'AN TA BITS, IF DEY DUNNA GET DIS WINDMILLS UP I'LL
BE GOIN BY ME WITS
I DON'T KEEN WHO TA SPEAK TILL, BUT I'LL TRY "YE OLD POST MESTER", HE TOO IS UP IN ERMS WE HIS
ROD IN A SLESTER
DA HEED IS NEARLY GONE NOO, HE'S DISAPPEARIN FAST, NOW I'LL GO AN PHONE MY HUSBAND FUR I
HEAR DIR GOIN TA BLAST.

DA SQUADS DEY COME AN DA SQUADS DEY GO, ALL FORGOTTEN ABOOT AT DA END O' DA SHOW
BUT TROW DA FACEBOOK PAGE BE IN WIND OR RAIN, DA PHANTOM POOPERS STRIKE AGAIN.

DA BRIG O STOWNNESS IS FAAIN IN BRUCK AN DA COUNCIL REPAIR PLAN IS HAVIN NAE LUCK
FUR SOME FOLK SEEKIN TA PROTECT DA SEALS, OTTERS AND YOWS AN DA HISTORIC CAMPSITE UP ON DA
KNOWE
ARE BEING UNHELPFUL AND ARE TAKING A LOOK AT WHAT IT SAYS ABOOT ROAD SAFETY IN DA HOLY
BOOK.

THE FIELDS OF ATHENRY HAS SURELY NEVER SOUNDED BETTER THAN LAST OCTOBER WHEN THE JARL
SQUAD WIR A NEW TREND SETTER
THE VIKINGS, A WILD BUNCH HEADED BY MARK MARCHED PROUDLY AND SMARTLY AROUND CELTIC PARK

THE WEDDING BANNS HAD ALL BEEN SORTED BUT THE LONG JOURNEY HOME HAD TO BE ABORTED
THE CAR WAS STATIC, IT WOULD NOT GO, I FEAR PETROL INSTEAD OF DIESEL IS A BIG NO NO.

WHEN DA WITTLISS CONTRACTOR BURNT DOWN DA MOTEL FOR THEIR FRIEND IN MID YELL THINGS
DIDN'T GO WELL
FOR ALL HE COULD DO WAS STAAND AN GLINDER AS HIS PICK UP FOR SPARES HAD BEEN BURNT TO A
CINDER.

FUR HADDOCKS AN COD DEY WANTED TA LEAVE, FUR DA YOWS DEY WANTED TA STAY
SOME MIGHT WIN AN SOME MAY LOSE, BUT HIT'LL NO AFFECT AN MP'S PAY
AN WE A NEW REFERENDUM ON DA CARDS AGAIN IT'S ALL STARTIN, TA SEE IF YOU WANT A FAIR ISLE CAP
OR WAN MADE FAE TARTAN

WHILE YOU'RE BUSY MAKIN' TORCHES AN YOUR MIND GETS IN A STEER, IT'S BETTER TA HAE A DRAM AN ENJOY YOUR TIN O BEER.

BUT AS DA NIGHT WEARS ON AN JOKES ARE GONE FOR SOME AT LEAST IT SEEMS, DIR MINDS START TA TINK ON DIS WOMEN O' DER DREAMS.

WI DA TORCHES NOO FORGOTTEN DAN DA FUN IT JUST BEGAN, DEY DRAPPED DIR TOOLS AN SQUARED UP FUR ROOND WAN.

DIS ISLAND PARISH IS JUST DA JOB NOOADAYS, DA DAYS O' DA KIRK IS DONE AN WE DA WY O' WIR UPSTANDERS NOO HE TOO WILL SOON BE GONE.

BUT WE STILL HAE NUNS AN COOPERS AN PRIESTS, IT REALLY IS A GAFF, SOON WE'LL HAE DEM TRAINED TA CAA AN WIRK DA STAFF.

DEY CAN HAE A DRAM IDA PAET HOOSE TILL DER FULL O' CHEER AN HERTY, AND WHAN DEY COME FAE DA EELA DEY CAN GO AN JOIN DA PERTY.

WHAN DA REPORTERS SOBER UP AGEEN DEY RAISE A FRIENDLY SMILE AS DEY GO AN VISIT DA VICAR'S BIG HOOSE IDA SOOTH END O' DA ISLE.

DIRS NO BIGGER RIVALRY DAN UNST vs YELL, FOULS, TACKLES, GOALS, BRAWLS AN PINTS IN DA MOTEL. DA FUTURE'S NOW BRIGHT, AN FULL O' INTRIGUE, FUR IN DER VERY FIRST SEASON NORT ISLES WON DA LEAGUE

WIR BRODIE IS A SPLENDID YOUNG LASS, A PRINCESS ABOARD DIS YEAR'S GALLEY. JUST TRY NO TA MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT COLVISTER QUARRY.

AN SOME IDDER SQUAD MEMBERS, DEY STRUGGLED DA SAME, AS DER VAN SEEMED QUITE PARTIAL TA LYIN IDA DRAIN.

DA PICK-UPS DEY ROLLED UP WAN BY WAN, GETTIN HER ON TOOK QUITE A WHILE

AS KENNY LAY DARE ON HIS SIDE TINKIN HE WAS BACK ON BALTI ISLE.

HE WAS DRIVING ALONG FEELIN HEAL AN WEEL, BUT HE DIDNA HAE BOTH HIS HANDS ON DA WHEEL, THEN THE LAW STEPPED IN AN SAYS YOU BETTER WATCH OUT. THIS IS WHAT I SEE WHEN I'M OUT ON THE SCOUT.

DIS IDDER TWO BOYS DEY FARED NO BETTER, DEY JUST CARRIED ON AN SAYS "BOYS WHIT'S DA METTIR?" WI A GOOD SHOT ABOARD AN ALL SET FOR THRILLS, JUST SAY "WHY WORRY" AN TAK TAE DA HILLS.

THINGS WE'D LIK TA KEEN.

DID THE VIKNES STOP OWING TO DICKIE ENGINEERING?

DID LEE KEITH TINK DA HILLTOP CORNER NEEDED A WASH?

HOW OFTEN SHOULD A DEAD WHALE BE TOWED BACK TO SEA?

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE THE S.I.C. TO SPOT A SAGGING FLOOR?

IF WE VOTE TO LEAVE THE REST OF THE UK, WILL IT BECOME SHEXIT?

IS DA WILLIAMSON PARTNERSHIP STILL A PARTNERSHIP?

DEFACERS OF OUR BILL SHALL BE SENT BACK TO SCHOOL FOR A HARSH LESSON AND MADE TO SAY 67 HAILMARYS FOR ATTENDING STAG DOOS IN IRELAND WHILE ON MATERNITY LEAVE. ALSO FAMILY PONIES WILL BE FUELED UP AND HAVE TO DUCK OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE TO PREVENT THEM LAWSON THE PLOT

BY ORDER AND UNDER THE SEAL OF THE GUIZER JARL

Laurence Odie

KNITWEAR

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Congratulations to Guizer Jarl
Mark Lawson and his squad

Wishing you a brilliant
weekend

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Here's to the Jarl, his squad,
and all the squads in 2017.

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Wishing Jarl Mark Lawson and his Squad a successful Up Helly Aa.



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Contact Steven: 07887895560 / steven@rshenderson.com

Contact Trevor: 07887867809 / trevor@rshenderson.com

Squad List

Hall	Name	School
1	JARL SQUAD: THORFINN RAVEN-FEEDER	1
2	YMFA	10
3	Swipe Right for Julie's Boys	11
4	School's Out	12
5	Unsung Heroes of North Yell	13
6	Wir Still Game	14
7	Hello Dolly	2
8	Lawson Da Plot Butt	3
9	Awright But.	4
10	If You're No Winnin' You're Lawson	5
11	Awards For All	6
12	Mark's Greatest (T)Hits	7
13	Any Which School	8
14	Mark's Bad Habits	9

* Running order subject to change

Roars fae da past...



Jarl Victor Jamieson with his Squad [1976]



Jarl Brian Thomson and Family [1999]



Jarl Johnnie Clark with his wife Mary [2002]



The galley "THOR" burning [1965]



Jarl Steven Henderson with the school bairns [2001]

Roars continued...



Jarl David Spence with daughter Bryony [2014]



The Galley 'HAV ORN' outside the school [1959]

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH MARK AND THE
2017 CULLIVOE JARL SQUAD THE VERY BEST**

LET THE FIREBALL FLOW!

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Best Wishes to Jarl Mark and his Squad from Team Nova



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and employees at EMN Plant Ltd

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We are saddened this year by the loss of two very important figures in the history of the Cullivoe Up Helly Aa.

Carol Williamson nurtured many future Jarls in her job as Head Teacher of Cullivoe Primary, and instilled a love for Up Helly Aa in all who took part in the School Squad. She worked tirelessly for many years preparing the bairns for the event.

Laurence Tulloch, pictured here with his wife Margaret and daughter Liz, was Jarl in 1980 and was a stalwart of Up Helly Aa for many years besides that. Laurence still holds the record for appearing in the Jarl Squad most often (8 times)



Previous Jarls

1957 - Peter Spence	1987 - Christopher Thomason
1958 - Willie Barclay Henderson	1988 - Michael Henderson
1959 - George Henry	1989 - Gilbert Nicolson
1960 - Basil Willie Tulloch	1990 - Bob Severn
1961 - Gilbert 'Bertie' Henderson	1991 - Derek Jamieson
1962 - James Bruce Spence	1992 - Neil Nicholson
1963 - Charles Spence	1993 - Danny Jamieson
1964 - Bruce Spence	1994 - Marvin Thomason
1965 - John Henderson	1995 - Trevor Henderson
1966 - NO FESTIVAL	1996 - Brian Nicolson
1967 - Alex Nicholson	1997 - Colin Nicholson
1968 - NO FESTIVAL	1998 - David Henry
1969 - Robert Henderson	1999 - Brian Thomson
1970 - Andrew Williamson	2000 - Robert Thomson
1971 - Charlie Henderson	2001 - Steven Henderson
1972 - Daniel Nicholson	2002 - Johnnie Clark
1973 - Laurence Williamson	2003 - Kevin Tulloch
1974 - Danny Anderson	2004 - NO FESTIVAL
1975 - Alex Robertson	2005 - Ian Anderson
1976 - Victor Jamieson	2006 - Timothy Fraser
1977 - Hubert Dickie	2007 - Raymond Henderson
1978 - Alexander Watt	2008 - Leslie Tulloch
1979 - Andrew Anderson	2009 - Euan Henderson
1980 - Laurence Tulloch	2010 - Martin Henderson
1981 - Robert Jamieson	2011 - Campbell Dickie
1982 - George Tulloch	2012 - Graham Hughson
1983 - Gordon Jamieson	2013 - Michael Nisbet
1984 - George Gunn	2014 - David Spence
1985 - Andrew Nisbet	2015 - John Williamson
1986 - Gilbert Tulloch	2016 - John Saunders

Historical Note on Thorfinn Raven-Feeder

“Earl Thorfinn made himself a great chief; he was the tallest and strongest of men, ugly, black-haired, sharp-featured, and big-nosed, and with somewhat scowling brows. He was a mighty man of strife, and greedy both of money and honour.”

Orkneyinga Saga

It may not be immediately apparent why I've chosen Thorfinn Raven-Feeder, also known as Thorfinn The Black and Thorfinn The Mighty, especially based on that less than flattering description ...

Long before I ever imagined living in Shetland, Thorfinn was the first of the Norse Jarls I encountered, and the story of the man - who controlled Orkney, Shetland, the Hebrides, Caithness and Sutherland at the height of his power - has always stayed with me.

From the age of 5, Thorfinn was raised in Scotland by his maternal grandfather - Malcolm II of Scotland, whilst his father Sigurd the Stout travelled to Ireland to fight with King Sigtrygg Sik-Beard, before falling beneath his “cursed” raven banner at the Battle of Clontarf.

Already made Earl of Caithness and Sutherland by his grandfather, at 15 Thorfinn sought to claim a share of the Norðreyjar (Orkney and Shetland) and, for a time, ruled jointly with his half-brothers Einar and Brusi - until his foster-father killed Einar. Following intervention by King Olaf Haraldsson of Norway in this ongoing dispute, Thorfinn and Brusi once more shared the earldom until Brusi's death, when Thorfinn became sole Jarl.

Thorfinn faced challenges from other earls seeking to acquire his lands, and - having met these - would respond by raiding deep into Scotland, burning and plundering as he went. Despite being part of the aristocracy, he was every bit the Viking - and each summer sailed south raiding as far as England and Ireland - returning home in time for the harvest and to winter in Birsay. In time, he gained control of the Suðreyjar (the Hebrides, the islands of the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Man) and 9 Scottish earldoms.

The earldom became shared once more when King Magnus of Norway gave Thorfinn's nephew Rognvald Brusisson the third of Orkney previously held by his father. Whilst Thorfinn stayed in Caithness, Rognvald based himself in the islands - and

for 8 years the pair got on well, meeting to go raiding and ravaging. The harmony didn't last, and - after losing a sea battle - Rognvald thought he had managed to kill Thorfinn in a surprise attack by burning a house down around him. Thorfinn had escaped however, and – keeping a low profile – caught Rognvald on Papa Stronsay, showing him the right way to kill your kin...

Raised a Christian, Thorfinn had introduced the first Bishop of Orkney to the islands - and seems to have turned more towards the church in his twilight years. He travelled through modern Scandinavia and Europe on pilgrimage before arriving in Rome, where he received absolution from the Pope. Given his previous sins, it probably wasn't a quick confession! He returned home, and - finished with Viking life - instead devoted his time to the governance of his people and country. He died peaceably, and was buried in Christchurch, Birsay (St Magnus Cathedral).

Thorfinn's links to Scotland and Christianity – plus the fact that he settled later in life in the Norðreyjar - make him the Jarl I always wanted to be.

"All the way from Tuskar-Skerry down to Dublin hosts obeyed him Royal Thorfinn,

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



2017 Squad Song—Written by Leo Moran/Jack Jamieson

Well I didn't see much future
When I left St Brides Catholic school
So I waved a goodbye with a cheeky smile
And I left the girls to drool
Sometimes when I'm reminiscing
I think about the funs that we had
And if my weans did the same
I know that I'd go mad!

Chorus:

*Yes I wish I was a Viking
High seas and the pillaging
And I wish I was a Viking
High seas and the pillaging
I'd be, sailing with all my Viking dreams*

Well I left old Soapy for Shetland
And travelled up to get the north boat
And as I turned left at the head of Gutcher
I could feel a lump in my throat
And driving in the south road
With the family in the back
But I know now if they asked me too
I never would go back!

Chorus:

Now as I stand here the Jarl
At the Cullivoe Up Helly Aa
I never have been prouder
Even being on Celtic park
And behind all these beards are good men
Who have guided with all their might
So we'll light the torch
And form the march
And burn the Galley tonight!

Chorus:

Woah woah woah
Sailing with, my Viking friends



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The owners and all the staff
at LJ's would like to wish
Jarl Mark and his squad a
happy Up Helly Aa!

The Up Helly Aa Song (First verse & chorus)

**From grand old Viking centuries Up-Helly-Aa has come,
Then light the torch and form the march, and sound the rolling drum:
And wake the mighty memories of heroes that are dumb;
The waves are rolling on.**

**Chorus: Grand old Vikings ruled upon the ocean vast,
Their brave battle-songs still thunder on the blast;
Their wild war-cry comes a-ringing from the past;
We answer it "A-hoy"!
Roll their glory down the ages,
Sons of warriors and sages,
When the fight for freedom rages,
Be bold and strong as they!**

(Words by J.J. Haldane Burgess)

(Music by Thomas Manson)

The Galley Song (First two verses)

**Floats the raven banner o'er us,
Round our Dragon Ship we stand,
Voices joined in gladsome chorus,
Raised aloft the flaming brand.
Voices Joined in gladsome Chorus,
Raised aloft the flaming brand.**

**Every guizer has a duty,
When he joins the festive throng,
Honour freedom, love and beauty,
In the feast, the dance, the song.
Honour freedom, love and beauty,
In the feast, the dance, the song.**

(Written by John Nicolson, to the tune of an old Norwegian folk song)

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

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

Photograph courtesy Joe Plommer



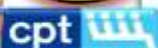
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