

Cullivoe Up Helly Aa 2020



£3

www.cullivoeuphellyaa.com

Wir Guizer Jarl - Craig Dickie

Craig is a Cullivoe man through and through, although his work has taken him all over Scotland in the last few years. Growing up in North Yell, Craig has always looked forward to taking part in Up Helly Aa, first with the school squad, before becoming a member of the 'Young Turks' in 2003. Craig's first Jarl Squad outing was with his brother Campbell, who was Jarl in 2011, following the tradition of their father Hubert, who was Jarl in 1977. Outgoing Jarl James Nicholson asked Craig if he would be interested in taking the helm, and Craig has been honoured to. In 2013, Craig's wife Becky bought him three Highland cattle, and the hobby has grown since, so the mascot for this year's festival is Craig's new Highland bull Chieftain of Tordarroch.

Alongside the 15 men in the squad are Craig's three children Jessica (14), Monica (11) and Rosie (10) who are participating as Viking Warriors, and are looking forward to taking their battle stations. All three of the girls have loved taking part in the schools' Up Helly Aa traditions - the festival is very much in their Cullivoe DNA.



Up Helly Aa wouldn't happen without the support of so many members of the community and wider area. In particular Craig would like to thank James for his nomination, all of the squad for their uproarious support and help, his wonderful musicians who have provided them with many great tunes, the galley builders, the South Mainland Up Helly Aa committee members who have allowed us the use of their blueprints, and for their warm welcome in Cunningsburgh. A massive thank you goes to Fiona Taylor for her work and patience in making the kirtles! Thanks also to Rosemary Johnson for all of her help. Thank you to the Jamiesons for helping with all transport arrangements. We are grateful for all the work done by the door staff, and kitchen helpers, and to the schools for their continued support and enthusiasm. There are so many people to include in this list, please accept our sincere apologies if you are not all mentioned – rest assured your help has been appreciated in every instance. Craig would finally like to thank the wives whose husbands and partners have been absent from mid-October to the beginning of March (!).

Craig has chosen to put any funds donated over the weekend towards supporting the Air Ambulance service as well as Galley Shed renovations.

Hope everybody has a brilliant helly – three cheers for Up Helly Aa!

Schedule of Events

Friday 28th February

- 08:00 Jarl Squad breakfast at Cullivoe Hall, specially prepared by resident gourmet chefs Michael Henderson & Andrew Nisbet.
- 09:30 The Jarl Squad begin their duties, accompanying the galley to Moarfield Garage to meet the school and pre-school bairns.
- 09:45 Jarl Squad escort 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 Band**.

Saturday 29th 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 Guizers' Hop Variety Concert, followed by another night of dancing to **The James Leask Band**.

Sunday 1st March

- 16:00 Again, hands are required to help clean up the Hall.
- 17:00 Fish and chips will be served from 17:00 to 19:00 and all are welcome to come and enjoy their supper in the hall. The Jarl Squad will conclude the festival by having their hair and beards redesigned in "interesting" styles.

Monday 2nd March - Craig Dickie Day

Jarl Squad 2020



Former Jarl James Nicholson



Guizer Jarl Craig Dickie



Jarl-Elect Steven Brown



Robbie Coutts



Alan Jamieson



Lee Jamieson



Kevin Laurenson



Steven Henderson



Alan Keith



Hubert Dickie



Stuart Whittaker



Campbell Dickie



Brian Henderson



Darren Saunders



Daniel Lawson



Jessica Dickie



Monica Dickie



Rosie Dickie

Musicians



Andy Stephen



Callum Watt



Ryan Couper

Jarl Squad Introductions

James Nicholson: Last year's Jarl, James O'Breckon saw great Viking potential in his old friend Craig, and asked him to step up to the job. Free from the pressures of his Jarldom, James has often been responsible for drinking the Galley Shed dry of Cockburn's Fine Ruby Port.

Steven Brown: Steven is Jarl-Elect for 2021. He and his wife Marina have been in Cullivoe Up Helly Aa squads since 1993, with Steven joining Robert Thomson in his Jarl Squad in 2000. A very familiar character who will sail through to next year.

Hubert Dickie: The Jarl's father, and a master craftsman. Hubert was Jarl in 1977 and has been an essential part of the galley building team working to make Craig's vision a seaworthy reality. Hubert is the eldest member of the squad, but you wouldn't tell that from the dance floor!

Campbell Dickie: An older brother to the Jarl, and an Up Helly Aa veteran who led the festival himself in 2011. His experience and sage advice has been invaluable to Craig this year, normally along the lines of: "Joost git on wi it!"

Jessica Dickie: Eldest of the Dickie Warrior trio. She is joining the Jarl squad after taking part in both the school squad, and in the Women's squad. 'J' is always at hand to help with the galley shed duties, and tunes to remind the squad to 'Eat More Mutton.'

Monica Dickie: a.k.a Moby D, is the popstar of the Dickie family. Destined for Viking stardom, Monica can't wait to take centre stage for this year's festival and is really looking forward to joining the squad.

Rosie Dickie: Youngest member of the entire Clan Dickie, Rosie is Craig's hardest Viking. She is very proud to join her Daddy in battle. Rosie is a small but mighty Viking who loves reading all about the goriest parts of Viking history.

Stuart Whittaker: Craig's brother-in-law, and this year's furthest travelled squad member. Stuart lives in Westport in Ireland, and when not designing planes can be found making a brew or two. If you're lucky, you might get to sample some over this helly!

Alan Jamieson (Sandyburn): There is no Viking regalia that Alan is not capable of designing and engineering. This is his first time in a Cullivoe squad, but this Vidlin man is certainly no stranger to Up Helly Aa festivals throughout Shetland.

Kevin Laurenson: Along with Sandyburn, Kevin is another of Craig's squad to hail from the Mainland, this time Weathersta. A former Jarl at Delting Up Helly Aa, Kevin is welcomed in the squad despite his allegiances to New Holland!

Alan Keith: Always keen to disagree with Campbell, Alan's advice to Craig is normally to hold off and think through problems in great detail. Now a full-time Cullivoe man, Alan is no stranger to Jarl Squad antics and is a great asset to any Viking production line.

Robbie Coutts: Always keen to disagree with Alan, Robbie is sometimes forced into taking sides with Campbell. Biding and squadding in such close proximity to Clan Dickie could perhaps be overwhelming, but – if Robbie ever needs a time out – Michelle normally has some jobs waiting for him at home.

Lee Jamieson: The only Unst man in the squad.

Brian Henderson: Childhood friend of the Jarl, and a merchant of the deep blue sea, Peerie Brian lives the life of a modern day Viking. His time home this year has been characterized by enthusiastic Galley Shed sprees!

Darren Saunders: Darbo is well known as the man with the most spare-tyres in North Yell. His need to know the gossip means that he never misses a night in the Galley Shed, and his baking ability means that he is always welcome.

Steven Henderson: Another brother-in-law and former Chief Viking to be included in the Jarl's s(QUAD). Steven is a laid-back trucker with a quick wit, who is always on the wind up. He has brought great grace and style to proceedings this year, with his 'ice n slice' approach to Galley Shed drams.

Daniel Lawson: The 'Voice of Shetland' has scraped through another year in the Galley Shed, despite no practical skills or beard-growing ability to speak of. His easy nature and willingness to sweep up seem to have served him well enough once again.

THE HOUSE BAND

Andy "Shakin" Stephen: Yes folks...he's here again! All-round-entertainer Andy is a showman extraordinaire. He has in his repertoire everything from John Prine to Baloo the Bear. Also available for children's parties.

Callum Watt: A former Young Fiddler of the Year, Callum will keep the tunes flowing wherever the squad go. Callum is Craig's nephew, and with his love of tractors, trucks and the occasional dram, is very much in Craig's mould.

Ryan Couper: A star-studded musical cast is rounded off with another former Young Fiddler of the Year. Ryan is more often seen with a guitar in his hands, but don't be surprised to see him swap instruments now and then. Ryan is no stranger to Cullivoe Up Helly Aa, and we're happy to welcome him back.



BURRAVOE HALL

WISH

THE JARL AND HIS SQUAD

A GOOD VOYAGE AND A HEARTY WEEKEND

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[2021 Carnival date - Saturday 12th June]



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Wishing Craig and the Jarl Squad a brilliant weekend!



The 2020 Bill Head, painted by Jessica Dickie

Proclamation 2020

WIR JARL IS WAN O DA TRICKIEST FELLOWS IN DA PLACE
HE WINNA BE GOING TAE DA CRAIGS DA NIGHT, BUT HE'LL HAE A HECK(IE)
O A SPREE WI HIS LASSES AND SQUAD
THERE WILL BE NO ST(D)RAIN ON AS HE IS DIGGING AROUND MOVING EARTHLY
OBJECTS. HE WILL KEEP TRACK ON THE PROCEEDINGS AND PLAN TO
DRIVE TO GUTCHER WHERE THEY MIGHT HORSE AROUND OR COOULD JUST
GRAZE AROUND. BY KEEPING HIS FEET ON DA GROUND WORKS WONDERS IN
CASE HE HAS TO SIT(E) DOON AFORE CLEARING FOR DA DANCE

CULLIVOE IS DA PLACE TO BE, SQUADS AN GUIZERS ALL ON HAND TO CELEBRATE UP HELLY Aa AS WE HEAR
DA BROON COO PLAYED BY JAMES LEASK AND HIS BAND

WIR JARL DECREES THAT GUIZERS WILL REPORT IN GOOD TIME TO COLLECT THEIR TORCHES AND
JOIN THE PROCESSION FOR 'LIGHT UP' AT THE HALL AT 7:30PM PROMPT

DA GOOD FOLK OF CULLIVOE NEED A NEW ROAD	DA BONNY BUS GUID OWER DA SOOND
DA OWLD EEN APPARENTLY CANNA TAK A HEAVY LOAD	TO BE SELT TAE P&T COACHES
DA BUSINESS PARK & MARINA ARE MUCH NEEDED	THAT BIT WIS PLAIN
WHILE HOPES FOR NEW HOOSES N' SHEDS GO UNHEEDED	NOO HERE IN CULLIVOE ITS ALL COME AROOND
IF DA ROADS DEPARTMENT IS STILL SAYING DA SAM	DA SAM BUS IS BACK AN IT'S LEE'S ONCE AGAIN
DA ONLY WHEELS ON DA B9082 WILL BE PRAMS	
AND DA VIKINGS AN GALLEY PROCESSION TAE COME	
FORGET IT, PERMISSION DENIED, YOU'LL JUST HAE TAE BIDE HOM	

DA HILL ROAD O CULLIVOE IS DA VERY PLACE TAE PLAY WHAN DU IS STEAMIN
DU CAN HANDBRAKE TURN, WHEELIE AN MIBEE EVEN IMPRESS DA WEEMIN
DU CAN DRIVE DY FAST CAR UP DERE WI A DRAM OR THREE
BIT MIND ON WHAN DU WAS BLOOTERED DAT DY MATES WIR TEEN DA KEY

A BURRAVOE FELLOW WAS REELING HOME LATE, DA NORT YELL SQUAD BEGGED HIM TO RETHINK AND WAIT
BUT WI FULL THROTTLE HE SET OFF FOR MID YELL, SPEEDING DOON DA RODD LIK A BAT OOT O HELL
HE SOON MADE HIS WAY WI DA FIT TAE DA FLOOR, AN DA NIXT PLACE DEY SAW HIM WAS AT OGILVIE'S DOOR

WHILE DA GUARDIAN ANGELL FISHED ON THE SEAS, CAPTAIN MICHAEL WAS AS HAPPY AS COULD BE
BUT RETIREMENT KNOCKED, HE ANSWERED THE DOOR, AND HIS FISHING DAYS ON ANGELL ARE NOW OER
HOWEVER, HE'LL AYE STILL GET A FISH FOR HIS TEA, IN FACT HE'LL GET PLENTY FOR HIS WHOLE FAMILY
AS THE BOATS THAT LAND HERE IN CULLIVOE, HAVE FISH TO DONATE, YOU JUST HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW
AND DESPITE THE HADDOCKS WERE MEANT FOR ALAN'S PIE, MICHAEL FRIED THEM UP AND ATE THEM WI A
TWINKLE IN HIS EYE

ALL YOU YOUNG LASSES SHOULD LISTEN TO THIS, IT'S A LONG WALK HOME FAE MID YELL IN A TIZZ
AND FURTHERMORE YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR HEADS, WHEN ENTERING AND EXITING THE GALLEY SHED

HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE THE CULLVOE JARL, CRAIG'S COW JUMPED OWER DA BANKS
HIS PEERIE DUG LAUGHED AT DA FACE O HIS DAD, AN BECKY RAN INTO DA STANK WI HER QUAD

A NIGHT IN DA BYRE POOR SANDRA WAS TOLD,
EFTIR MAKIN A FIRM FAVOURITE FEED IN MANY A HOOSEHOLD
DA DENNIR WAS RUINED, 'MUCK TOTTIES' WHIT WIS BEEN DON?
FUR SHE HAD BOILED DA TOTTIES AN LEFT DA SKINS ON
WONDER IF MAC AN CHEESE WID CAUSE AS MUCH ANGER?
COME WI DA MINCE AN DON'T FX@# AROOND NO LONGER!

HAVING A FEW DRAMS SETTING UP BEFORE A BIG EVENT
A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL, A BIGGER NIGHT DAN WAS MEANT
SOME STILL GOING STRONG, SOME HAD GONE TAE BED
FOUR EMERGENCY CALLS SOMEBODY HAD MADE
DA POLICE CAME TAE DA DOOR TAE MAKE SURE ALL WAS O.K.
BUT SHED HAD TAE CHECK DA CALLER BEFORE HEADING AWAY
THROUGH DA HOOSE DA OFFICER COULD SEE SOMEBODY ASLEEP
DA CULPRIT HAD MADE DA CALLS WHILE COUNTING BO-PEEPS SHEEP

DIRS BABES ON DA T.V. DAT YOU CAN BUY, OWLD MEN NOOADAYS NEEDNA BE SHY
JUST WAN CALL, SHE'LL COST YOU DEAR, BUT SHE'LL NEVER MARRY YOU, LETS BE CLEAR

THINGS WE WANT TAE KEEN:

WHY ARE FLAMING FURRY SELKIES MORE IMPORTANT DAN FOLK?
WHAT WAS WRONG WI MICHELLE WHEN SHE TURNED BACK FROM THE MID YELL SCHOOL,
SHOERLY SHE COULD HAVE CARRIED ON?
DID BEENKY BENKLE MARY'S MOTOR?
DOES PETER FRASER HAE WIND PROBLEMS?
IS SKIPPY MAKIN WARK FOR MARTIN LEASK?
WAS ALAN KEITH IN DA DUG HOOSE AFORE HIS NEW WAN?
WILL ORKNEY IAN BUILD AN ARK FOR THE NEXT FLOOD?

DEFACERS OF OUR BILL WILL BE SEEN AS QUARRY, LOADED AND TRACTORED TO GUTCHER FOR A
LECTURE ON S.N.P. POLICY WITH NO HORSEPLAY.

BY ORDER AND UNDER THE SEAL OF THE GUIZER JARL

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



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*Everyone at R.S. Henderson Ltd would
like to wish Craig Dickie and his squad
a hearty Up Helly Aa 2020!*

Squad List

Hall	Name	School
1	JARL SQUAD: SWEYN ASLEIFSSON	1
2	Dis is da Rod ta Nowhere	9
3	Can't Beat a Bit of Bully	10
4	CBC Presents	11
5	Gutcher's Golden Guys	12
6	Tortoise an da Hare	13
7	Take It Off	2
8	Empty Chairs	3
9	Beef Curtains	4
10	Old Smokey an da Bandit	5
11	He's Got The Look	6
12	You Couldna Mak It Up	7
13	Dickie's Decades	8

* Running order subject to change

Roars fae da past...



Squad performing in the old hall [1984]



Guizer Jarl
Michael Henderson [1988]



Guizer Jarl Alex Watt with
his wife Janice [1978]



Robert "O'Midfield" and Trevor Henderson [1996]



Guizer Jarl Andrew Nisbet and his squad visit Isleshavn Care Centre [1985]

A New Ship

This year has seen a change in the way our galley is built. After being impressed with the shape and build quality of the galley at the South Mainland Up Helly Aa, Craig was keen to see if we could do something similar in Cullivoe. The hard-board sides have been replaced with plywood boards, built up around wooden bands. These wooden parts were made from templates kindly supplied by the South Mainland galley builders. The end product is a more traditional looking boat. We can't wait to see the finished article this weekend!



When the South Mainland galley team were asked if they would be willing to give us a few hints, they proved to be more than helpful. A few fact-finding missions were made to Cunningsburgh, and their team were also welcomed on a return visit to the Cullivoe Galley Shed. A good relationship has been forged between the two festivals at opposing ends of Shetland. Below, Craig tells us more about his vision for a new galley:

"Da last wholesale revamp o wir galley took place in 2003, when Jarl Kevin Tulloch altered da design an started da tradition o burnin at sea. In my professional capacity Im always considerin da best design an da suitability o materials, an wanted ta tak da nixt step forward ta bring wir galley into line wi idder festivals across Shetland. Wi da essential an kind aid o da SMUHA galley team, an da particular assistance o my faider, Im delighted to reveal da wooden-hulled 'Hjalmundal'. May she burn brightly, an live long in da memory."



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Cullivoe Up Helly Aa

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7pm

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YEARS
of Cullivoe Up Helly Aa

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Spot the Difference



Can you spot the 10 differences between these two pictures?
How many Jarl Squad members can you find?



“LIFT YOUR TORCH”

(Jarl Squad Song, by M. Mone/D. Lawson)



[Chorus]

Grab your gear and drink your beer
We're going to burn a boat
Well I never said goodbye to the woman this time,
but I left her a note
So lift your torch to heaven,
And raise a glass as well
Because we always have a fun,
When the Vikings come
It's Up Helly Aa in Yell!

HEY!

(Instrumental)

It was just our luck to be that drunk
When Craig asked all his squad,
But we said we'd do it – to help him through it –
we all gave him the nod,
We've gaffed and drank and made and more –
for 6 months on da skyte,
In the Galley Shed, with a few sore heads –
getting ready for his big night!

All wood and nails and copper scales – and Fireball by the tonne
Flat to the back – but we had some crack – getting all our duties done.
And now we're here, we hope you'll cheer – and join in the spree!
Let's raise a dram – to our main man – the Jarl, Craig Dickie.

A hundred torches burning bright, a galley lighting up the night
– oh baby – let's go to Cullivoooooooooeee...

[Chorus x 2]



Guizer Jarl Craig Dickie leads his squad on the charge at Brough



Viking Warrior Monica Dickie (a.k.a. Moby D) keeps watch astride her faithful steed, Tiger Lily

List of Jarls (1957-2020)



1957 - Peter Spence	1978 - Alex Watt	1999 - Brian Thomson
1958 - Willie Barclay Henderson	1979 - Andrew Anderson	2000 - Robert Thomson
1959 - George Henry	1980 - Laurence Tulloch	2001 - Steven Henderson
1960 - Basil Willie Tulloch	1981 - Robert Jamieson	2002 - Johnnie Clark
1961 - Gilbert 'Bertie' Henderson	1982 - George Tulloch	2003 - Kevin Tulloch
1962 - James Bruce Spence	1983 - Gordon Jamieson	2004 - NO FESTIVAL
1963 - Charles Spence	1984 - George Gunn	2005 - Ian Anderson
1964 - Bruce Spence	1985 - Andrew Nisbet	2006 - Timothy Fraser
1965 - John Henderson	1986 - Gilbert Tulloch	2007 - Raymond Henderson
1966 - NO FESTIVAL	1987 - Christopher Thomason	2008 - Leslie Tulloch
1967 - Alex Nicholson	1988 - Michael Henderson	2009 - Euan Henderson
1968 - NO FESTIVAL	1989 - Gilbert Nicolson	2010 - Martin Henderson
1969 - Robert Henderson	1990 - Bob Severn	2011 - Campbell Dickie
1970 - Andrew Williamson	1991 - Derek Jamieson	2012 - Graham Hughson
1971 - Charlie Henderson	1992 - Neil Nicholson	2013 - Michael Nisbet
1972 - Daniel Nicholson	1993 - Danny Jamieson	2014 - David Spence
1973 - Laurence Williamson	1994 - Marvin Thomason	2015 - John Williamson
1974 - Danny Anderson	1995 - Trevor Henderson	2016 - John Saunders
1975 - Alex Robertson	1996 - Brian Nicolson	2017 - Mark Lawson
1976 - Victor Jamieson	1997 - Colin Nicholson	2018 - Laurence Odie
1977 - Hubert Dickie	1998 - David Henry	2019 - James Nicholson
	2020 - Craig Dickie	

Laurence Odie KNITWEAR

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Congratulations to Guizer Jarl
Craig Dickie and his squad!



The mascot for Up Helly Aa 2020,
Craig's Highland bull Chieftain of Tordarroch

The Saga of Sweyn Asleifsson



This year's galley is named *Hjalmundal*, which is the Viking name for Helmsdale, the village where our Guizer Jarl's wife, Becky, is from. It is also where Sweyn Asleifsson, the Viking represented by Craig, launched a devastating revenge attack. Described by Eric Linklater as 'The Ultimate Viking', Sweyn used his homeland in Orkney, and his properties in the Western Isles, as bases to launch raids on the rest of the British Isles.

Concentrating on farming in the summer, Sweyn was like a number of other chieftains who went raiding whenever convenient. According to the *Orkneyinga* saga:

"This was how Sweyn used to live. Winter he would spend at home on Gairsay, where he entertained some eighty men at his own expense. His drinking hall was so big, there was nothing in Orkney to compare with it. In the spring he had more than enough to occupy him, with a great deal of seed to sow, which he saw to carefully himself. Then when that job was done, he would go off plundering in the Hebrides and in Ireland on what he called his 'spring trip', then back home just after mid-summer, where he stayed till the cornfields had been reaped and the grain was safely in. After that he would go off raiding again, and never came back till the first month of winter was ended. This is what he used to call his 'autumn- trip'."

- Orkneyinga Saga, Chapter 105

Sweyn was born sometime before 1135, the son of Olaf Hrolfsson of Gairsay and Asleif. His father was murdered in 1135, by Olvir Rosta, a chieftain from Sutherland, who was seeking revenge after being soundly defeated by Olaf in a sea battle off the coast of Tankerness. Olvir had launched a surprise raid on Olaf's residence in Caithness, in the north of Scotland, where he burned the house down around the warrior's head.

After helping his overlord Rognvald gain his Earldom, Sweyn set about paying off some of his own private scores and sought revenge for the death of his father. Sweyn decided to concentrate his efforts on Olvir Rosta. To carry this out, Sweyn asked Earl Rognvald for two fully manned ships, a request that the Earl granted. Sweyn then sailed south and into the Moray Firth, intending to launch a surprise

attack on Olvir's residence at Helmsdale in Northern Scotland. He landed to the south of Helmsdale and acquired more men and guides from Earl Maddad before heading north to finally avenge his father. Expecting the assault from the north, Olvir had concentrated his forces to the north of his lands and was caught unawares.

A short fight took place and Olvir's forces were routed. Sweyn's men ransacked the house before setting it alight and burning all the inhabitants including Olvir's mother Frakkok. After plundering the area, Sweyn returned to his ships and sailed back to Orkney where Earl Rognvald 'received them cordially'.

Sweyn displayed all of the characteristics expected of a Viking. He was acquisitive, ruthless and daring and he died a Viking death, with his sword in his hand.



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



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 Craig W. Dickie Plant

Women in the Viking Age

Though relatively few historical records mention the role of women in Viking warfare, the Byzantine-era historian Johannes Skylitzes did record women fighting with the Varangian Vikings in a battle against the Bulgarians in A.D. 971. The 12th-century Danish historian Saxo Grammaticus also wrote that communities of “shieldmaidens” dressed like men and devoted themselves to learning swordplay and other warlike skills, and that some 300 of these shieldmaidens held the field in the Battle of Brávellir in the mid-eighth century. In his famous work *Gesta Danorum*, Saxo wrote of a shieldmaiden named Lagertha, who fought alongside the famous Viking Ragnar Lothbrok in a battle against the Swedes, and so impressed Ragnar with her courage that he sought and won her hand in marriage.

Symbolism was a very important part of Viking culture, and Viking women could become as influential in society as men. This also meant that they had the power to divorce their husbands, a very radical position for women to be able to adopt at the time. As a symbol of their independence, Viking women of status often carried a key on necklaces or on their belts. Honouring this tradition, each of Craig’s warrior children is carrying an ancient Viking key.



These real Viking keys are very nearly 1,000 years old, and following the festival will be donated to the Cullivoe Galley Shed to become part of the annual summer exhibition.

Guizer Jarl 1977 - Hubert Dickie

Below is the full report from Cullivoe Up Helly Aa when Craig's father Hubert was Guizer Jarl. Reproduced with kind permission from The Shetland Times (4th March 1977).

"Promptly at 8 o'clock Jarl Hubert Dickie boarded his longship "Fraegth" and to cheery singing led the torchlight procession from Burnside to Cullivoe Hall.

Although a strong wind was blowing most of the torches survived the journey. To the strains of "The Norsemen's Home" they lit the bonfire which finalised the open-air part and heralded the Public Hall part of Cullivoe Up-Helly-A' 1977.

To the strains of "The Up-Helly-A' Song" the Jarl and his henchmen entered the hall and were greeted with loud applause. The Jarl welcomed the company and thanked all who had helped, then he introduced the squads.

After the stunts Jarl Dickie read several telegrams from well wishers. A lively and well-attended dance followed and on Friday a very enjoyable Guizers' Hop was held.

The squads this year were as colourful and varied as usual.

1. **VIKINGS (5).** The usual looking Viking garb of navy and turquoise cloaks, bright breast plates, raven winged helmets and thonged leggings.
2. **CLOWNING AROUND (16).** The first squad of children. Two ringmasters introduced the acts which were clowns, acrobats and jugglers. They were eventually chased off by clowns armed with water pistols and pies.
3. **THE WURZELS.** As the name suggests they were dressed as country yokels who sang songs and drank cider.
4. **SCOTS CORNER (8).** The last of the three children's squads and voted one of the best squads of the night. Dressed in tartan and carrying a banner proclaiming "Scotland the Brave" they entered the hall to a version of "Marie's Wedding" with the words altered to suit the occasion. There followed appropriate topical verses of poetry and song and they finally performed a well-executed dance before skipping off to their dance music.



5. AERIALS GALORE (5).

Following the recent expansion of TV to cover ITV and colour TV this squad was a skit on the various attempts to get a decent picture on an old couple's TV set.

6. CLOWNS. A colourful squad with some odd-shaped and unusually large clowns, a "baby" in a pram and a small clown on a trike. The size of the clowns was explained by a series of bangs and their gradual shrinkage in size.

7. OLD CHRISTMAS EVE (5).

A very humorous squad depicting an old couple - the lady of the house baking some very dubious looking bannocks - and their old Christmas visitors. The postman brought a large Christmas parcel containing a melodion and the old lady obliged with a tune before departing.

8. MINSTRELS (6). With top hats, waistcoats, etc. this squad was dressed in the usual minstrel style and in the manner of these minstrels, they did a song and dance act.

9. YELL SCANDALS. A supposed visit to a local hostelry by some easily recognised and well played local "characters" who discussed various items of juicy local scandal. Eventually accosted by two policemen, one of these worthies blew into a balloon which turned out a brilliant green. He was chased out after being reluctant to give a sample.

Telegrams were received from:-

- Best wishes for tonight - Robert, Edinburgh.
- Fair winds for tonight - May and Mac, Selkirk.
- Our best wishes for a successful Up-Helly-A' - Ina, Henry, Muriel and family, Lerwick.
- Best wishes for a good night - Andrew, Gilda and family, Ollaberry.
- Best wishes for a successful festival - Robbie, Jessamine and family, Lerwick.
- All the best for a good night, sorry we can't be with you - Janice and Alex Watt, Aberdeen."



The 1977 Jarl Squad

Back: Malcolm Fraser, Hubert Dickie, Gilbert Tulloch
Front: Robbie Willie Sinclair, Victor Jamieson

All the best to Jarl Craig Dickie & his squad from all of the staff and employees at EMN Plant Ltd

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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)

