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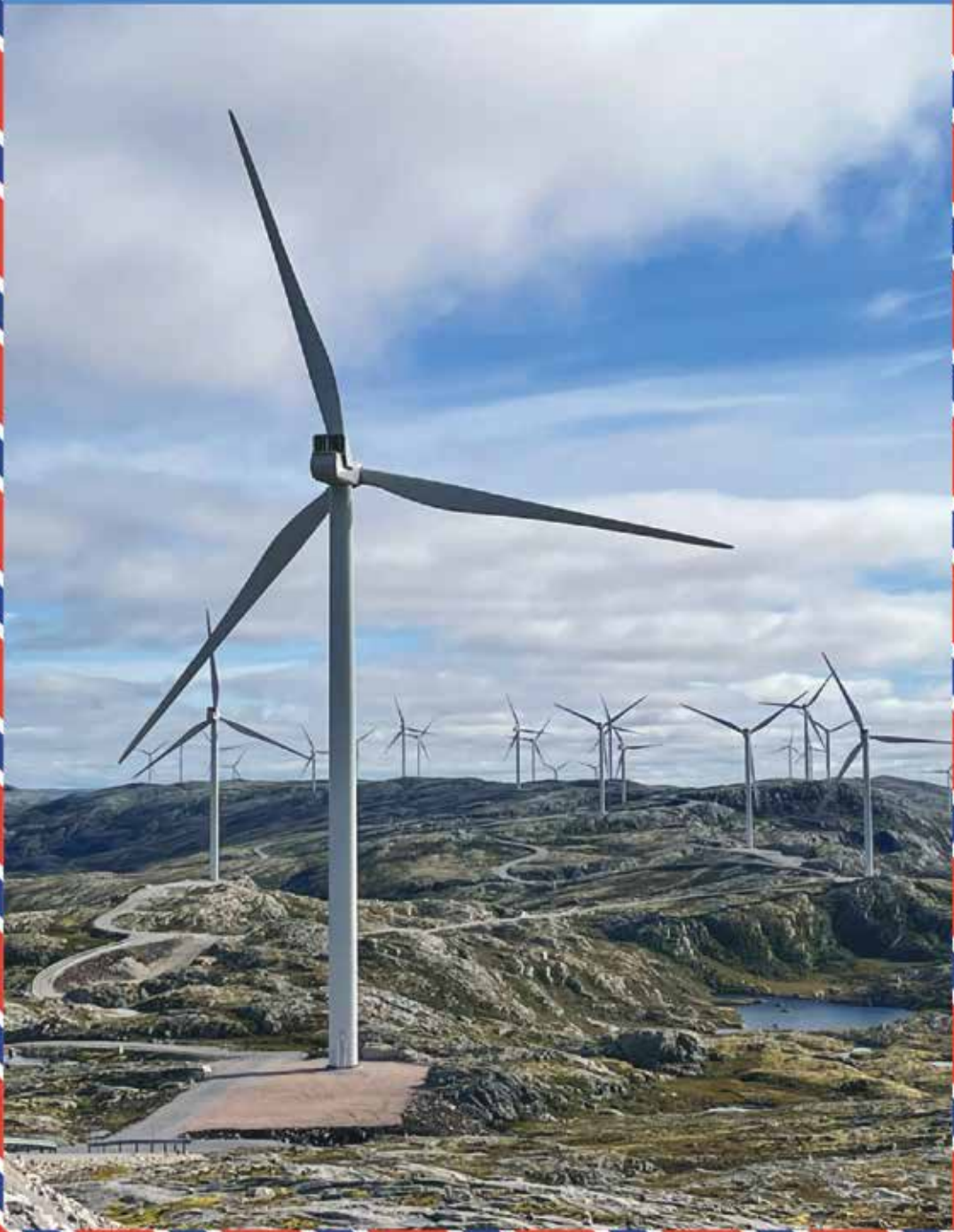
Anglo-Norse Review



The Wind Turbines in Fosen. Photo credit: Katrina Rønningen.:

ANGLO-NORSE REVIEW

THE ANGLO-NORSE SOCIETY – LONDON

Patrons: **H.M. Queen Elizabeth II** **H.M. King Harald V**

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Contents

Page

Editorial **4**

Visits by Queen Elizabeth II to Norway *By Paul Gobey* **4**

Why Do We Talk about Indigenous Rights? **9**
By Else Grete Broderstad, and Kirsti Strøm Bull,

Domaine de la Senche *By Arnstein and Tove Hernes* **12**

Ambassador Wegger Strømmens Farewell to the UK **15**

Ski-Jumping on Hampstead Heath in 1950 *By Will Coles* **17**

The Oldest Ladies' Ski Club *By Ingrid Christophersen* **20**

The Reports of Anglo-Norse Scholarship Holders
Report from Florence Walker **21**
Suki-Mei Hannan's First-Year Report **23**
Luke Simmons' First-Year Report **25**

Editor's Summer Reading Suggestions **27**

Editorial

The first thing that has to be said is that we, on this side of the North Sea are, of course, sad to hear of the closing down of our sister society in Norway. However, details of how former Norwegian members can join the Anglo-Norse in the UK, or just continue receiving the *Review* are inside the back cover.

As usual this edition of the *Review* contains a wide range of articles, from one covering the several visits to Norway of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II to the serious conflict between the Sámi and the Norwegian Government about the issue of wind turbines on Sámi land. On the one hand there is the Norway's need for green energy and on the other the traditional rights of the Sami to let their reindeer graze undisturbed. But there is also happier and lighter material, such as the story of how one Norwegian, Arnstein Hernes, bought, and took over the running of a wine domain in France; then there is the story of the the ski-jumping event created on Hampstead Heath in 1950!

I do not know how many readers of the *Review* read the reports of students who have had scholarships to do postgraduate work in Norway, but I can recommend them to do so. Not only do their reports show their enormous gratitude to the Society, but also their appreciation of the stimulating and challenging courses they have attended and not least the opportunity their studies in Norway have afforded them to enjoy the fantastic nature of the country.

Visits by Queen Elizabeth II to Norway

By Paul Gobey

Our late Patron, HM Queen Elizabeth II, was the most travelled monarch in British history. She visited Norway four times (including one 'private' holiday), all accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. This is an account of those visits.

1955 (Friday 24th – Sunday 26th June): Oslo

In a speech to King Harald V, (? in 2001) The Queen recollected: 'In 1955, on my first visit outside the Commonwealth, Prince Philip and I sailed up the Oslofjord in *Britannia* to join the celebrations for Norway's Golden Jubilee of Independence. It was midsummer, an enchanting time in Norway, and I remember the bonfires along the coastline as we arrived and the enthusiastic welcome we received as guests of your grandfather, King Haakon'.

HMY Britannia was greeted with a gun salute from Akershus Fortress and, after inspecting the Guard of Honour at Honnørbryggen, the royal party travelled in open cars to the Palace, greeting the crowd from the balcony. After lunch The Queen and King Haakon VII laid wreaths by war memorials

An official photo of the Queen and Prince Philip as guests of King Haakon in 1955. Photo credit, NRK

at Akershus and Vestre Gravlund and visited the Holmenkollen Ski Jump. King Haakon hosted a State Banquet where the Queen wore the Chain of the Order of St Olav, which she had earlier received from His Majesty.

The Queen and Duke were taken to Bygdøy on Saturday, visiting the Folkmuseum (where Her Majesty was seen tapping her foot to a traditional folk-dance), the Viking Ship and Fram museums, and Kon-Tiki (guided by Thor Heyerdahl himself). After a garden party and tree-planting at the British Embassy there was a Gala Performance at the National Theatre of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*.

At the Sunday morning service in St Edmund's Church, led by the Anglican Chaplain and the Bishop of Fulham (then also responsible for northern Europe), the Duke of Edinburgh and Foreign Secretary Harold Macmillan read the Lessons. Lunch was at the Crown Prince's residence,

Skaugum, and at the traditional 'return banquet' later on the Royal Yacht, Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen was a guest. The Norwegian royals stayed aboard as Britannia set sail, finally alighting at the Dyna Lighthouse.

1969: Vestlandet

During the summer of 1969, the Queen, Prince Philip and all four of their children took a private holiday on Britannia to Norway's west coast. After visiting the Aquarium, Mount Fløyen and Troldhaugen in Bergen, accompanied by King Olav V, they visited Åndalsnes, Molde (including the birch tree made famous by a photo with King Haakon and then Crown Prince Olav in WW2) and Trollstigveien. At his home in Melhus, near Trondheim, the Norwegian Prime Minister Per Borten hosted the royals for lunch and a game of croquet! The tour concluded with a civic dinner in Trondheim.

1981 (Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th May): Oslo and Stavanger

The Queen and Prince Philip arrived in a cold, cloudy Oslo on Britannia. As in 1955, after inspecting the Guard of Honour, the British and Norwegian royals drove up Karl Johans Gate to Slottet for lunch and a balcony appearance, and wreaths were laid at Akershus and Vestre Gravlund. At the State Banquet hosted by King Olav, British Ambassador Gillian Brown (later Chairman of the Anglo-Norse Society in London) wore the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order of St Olav, which she had just received from His Majesty.

The second day included a visit to the Munch Museum, a reception held by the Anglo-Norse Society (celebrating its 60th anniversary) and lunch at City Hall. This featured a performance of traditional dances which included three of the King's grandchildren (Prince Haakon Magnus, Princess Märtha Louise and Miss Elisabeth Ferner). In the evening the British royals gave a dinner onboard Britannia to honour King Olav.

On Thursday the Queen and the Duke accompanied King Olav to Bjerke Animal Hospital, observing a minor operation on a horse and, following a visit to the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute and lunch at Skaugum, planted a tree at the British Embassy (cheered on by around 100 flag-waving children). The day concluded with a Government dinner at Akershus; Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland wore a gold brooch which she had received as a gift from the Queen.

King Olav and the British royals flew to Stavanger on the final day visiting Statoil, to learn about the oil company's activities, before a civic lunch at Hotel Atlantic. The royal party walked to Britannia, which had sailed from Oslo, stopping at the Cathedral and passing many cheering *rødruss.* King Olav then accompanied the Queen to the Shetland Islands, where they together opened a new oil facility.

The Queen and King Olav being greeted by *rødruss* on their visit to Stavanger in 1981. Photo credit: Alamy

2001 (Wednesday 30th May – Friday 1st June): Oslo

Prince Philip arrived some days ahead of the Queen, to attend the Heyerdahl Prize ceremony at Rådhuset. Her Majesty joined him for the State Visit which began with an inspection of the Guard at Slottsplassen, a wreath-laying ceremony at Akershus and a banquet at Slottet, where she spoke of the close ties to Norway: 'Your Majesty, we are proud of our kinship and common heritage with Norway. We are equally proud of the richness and diversity of our modern relationship. Our cultural ties are also strong. Our kinship and our common heritage now underpin a rich and diverse relationship as advanced industrial societies. This is what makes Britain and Norway such natural partners.'

King Harald greeting the Queen on Slottsplassen at the start of the State Visit in 2001. Photo credit: BBC News

Thursday began with a visit by the Queen accompanied by King Harald and Queen Sonja, to Bolteløkka School, where they met a class of foreign language-speaking children. They then continued to City Hall for a contemporary British design exhibition and walked to the Royal Navy flagship *HMS Illustrious*, moored in Oslo for a NATO mission. After an official lunch at Akershus, hosted by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, the Queen and Duke viewed British art at the Astrup Fearnley Museum and hosted a Return Banquet at the British Ambassador's residence.

Of the final day of the State Visit, our former Chairman (and then British Ambassador to Norway) Sir Richard Dales writes: 'Elizabeth and I went to the Royal Palace to escort the Queen and Prince Philip to the airport. We were ushered in to her suite, thanked for a successful visit and told that we were to be honoured. The Queen borrowed a sword from an equerry, who provided a chair for me to lean on (no proper stool!) while she tapped me on each shoulder; all very informal! She then gave Elizabeth a carriage clock from Asprey & Garrard with hers and Prince Philip's cypher.

Why do we Talk about Indigenous Rights?

By Else Grete Broderstad, Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Tromsø and Kirsti Strøm Bull, Professor Emerita of Law at the University of Oslo

Introduction

The Sámi people are the indigenous people in the Northern parts of Fennoscandia and the Kola peninsula. Estimated to number 80-100.000, Sámi make up joint cultural and linguistic communities across the state borders. These connections are rooted in ancient contact and use of lands, customs and historic rights. On the Norwegian side the traditional living area of the indigenous Sámi stretches from the north all the way down to the northern part of southern Norway. For the Sámi, traditional livelihoods have been and still are important, like reindeer herding, small scale fishing and farming. The Sámi share the same employment pattern as the rest of the population, being employed in the private and public sectors.

Like indigenous peoples worldwide, the Sámi have faced a long period of official assimilation when the culture and language were regarded as backwards and worthless, and a heavy-handed state sponsored a policy that was formally adopted prior to the mid-1800s and lasted for more than 100 years. This policy was inseparable from the emergence of the modern nation state. But from early on local and national Sámi resistance was mobilized against the cultural hegemony of the majority society. As pointed out by the Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission in their report to the Norwegian Parliament – the Storting – 1st June 2023, the processes of assimilation continue, and the effects are still evident. However, the state recognizes fundamental rights and principles relating to the Sámis as an indigenous people, a recognition rooted centuries back in time. Nevertheless, setbacks occur, and indigenous lands and waters are often the site for a clash between traditional use of renewable resources and large-scale economic development. The conflicts resemble those of of 40 – 50 years ago.

Age-old recognition

Sámi rights are not something new. Far back in time, Sámi use of land was acknowledged. Scholars have shown how the Sámi centuries ago were regarded as 'the oldest' and a separate people with formative rights. The most prominent illustration is the Lapp Codicil (LC), an appendix to the border treaty of 1751 between Norway and Sweden. LC should secure the

Sámi right to continue moving the reindeer across the border as they had done since time immemorial, many 100 years before the border was settled. The states' inclusion of the Sámi areas should not interfere with established rights of the Sámi. As a basis for the boundary negotiations, the border areas were documented and mapped through a series of judicial examinations with the Sámi, and the Commissioner responsible stated: 'The Lappish Nation was since ancient times a free people, until their neighbours, the Norwegian, Swedish and Novogord Russians forced them to become Taxable' (Boundary Commissioner Schnitler, 1742-45). Scholars have concluded that the LC was based on the same legal principles that many countries adhered to at that time, namely that gaining sovereignty over an area did not abolish existing private, individual, or collective rights. Later this became a story about lost lands, the right to grazing across the state border being gradually restricted. Norwegian authorities wanted to terminate the codicil and stop the cross-border reindeer herding. But the Codicil could not be terminated and is a valid international agreement between states.

The turn of the tide

During the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980s the conflict came to a head over the building of a hydro-electric power station on the Alta River in the county of Finnmark. Demonstrations, civil disobedience, and hunger strikes resulted in a national and international spotlight on Norway's dealings with its Sámi population. The protests spearheaded by the Sámi political movement in alliance with the environmental movement, paved the way for a new era making it impossible for the Norwegian authorities and society in general to ignore the Sámi presence.

The power station was built, but in the shadow of the actions, the government appointed a Sámi Rights Commission mandated to detail questions of rights to land and water, and issues of a more political character. The most prominent outcomes were the 1987-Sámi Act and the 1989-opening of the Sámi Parliament. The 1988 article of the Norwegian Constitution recognizes the responsibility of the Norwegian state to uphold and allow for the development of Sámi culture. This constitutional provision was on May 15th, 2023, revised by the Storting with the inclusion of the term Indigenous people. The provision now reads: 'authorities of the state shall create conditions enabling the Sámi people as an Indigenous people, to preserve and develop their language, culture and way of life.'

Since 1989 the Sámi Parliament has been the most prominent political institution for the Sámis. In every area dealing with Sámi languages, Sámi culture and livelihoods, the Sámi will be a permanent minority. That is why the legal protection is so fundamental.

Indigenous peoples, land rights and state compliance

Forty years of political and legal development has strengthened the right's situation of the Sámi, a development based on national and international law. Statutory revisions and consultations allow the Sámi as right holders to respond to and influence different processes. Still, the pressure on traditional livelihoods and Sámi land use is increasing. Much of this is caused by the needs connected to the green transition.

In October 2021, the Norwegian Supreme Court as a Grand Chamber, unanimously found that two wind power plants at Fosen, in the South Sámi area, violated the Sámi reindeer herders' rights to enjoy their culture under Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The development threatened the existence of reindeer husbandry at Fosen. License and expropriation decisions were therefore invalid.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy had given permission to build the wind turbines before the Sámi could try their case in court. When the Supreme Court handed down its verdict, the construction of the plants was finished.

Today, June 2023, it is unclear what will happen in the Fosen-case. The ministry states there is a need for a comprehensive investigation to find mitigating measures, combining reindeer husbandry with wind turbines. More than 600 days after the verdict, the wind turbines are still operating. The Sámi reindeer herders won an important victory in Supreme Court in October 2021, but so far, the verdict has had no consequences.

Final remarks

What we have emphasized is that Sami land rights are rooted far back in time. There is a line from the rights of the LC to current national law and international law protecting the Sámi as an indigenous people. This is also the foundation for the Norwegian state's official policy, namely that the state is founded on the territory of two peoples – the Sami and the Norwegians, as King Harald solemnly stated when he opened the third Sami parliament in 1997.

Domaine de la Senche

By Arnstein and Tove Hernes

We had always had a plan, or perhaps more precisely, a dream, of settling down in France when we retired from working in Norway. Having previously spent time as expatriates working in France, the whole family was francophone and well acquainted with the culture and language.

Gradually, the thought developed of buying a vineyard property to make our own wine. After visiting around 20 properties we finally found a place in La Livinière that fitted our requirements, mainly that of being in a lovely, small village with a bakery, a restaurant and a corner shop, all within walking distance. And of course, it needed to be a place where good wine is made. And La Livinière, in Languedoc, in the south of France, ticked all these boxes.

Part of the vineyard looking towards the house. Photo by the author

The village, with its 500 inhabitants, is dominated by wine production and has been so for centuries, since Roman times. In fact, the original name Lavineira means 'a place planted with wines'. The vines are situated predominantly on a limestone plateau, with some clay and silt, at an altitude of 150 to 300 meters, and scattered in the garrigue* and woods.

Historically, this part of France (Languedoc) used to make large volumes of very ordinary bulk wine. The majority of the winegrowers delivered their grapes to different co-operatives and were not too concerned about the quality of the grapes, as they were not selling the wine themselves. During the last 25-30 years this has changed dramatically. The importance of the co-operatives has declined and many young, quality-conscious 'vignerons' have started to make wine here. In addition, famous producers from Bordeaux and Burgundy have bought vineyards here as they see that this area has a lot of potential.

The increased quality of wine from this area, as well as the potential for further improvements were elements that led us to choose La Livinière. Further, the price of land for wine growing is still much lower than in Bordeaux and Burgundy.

We bought Domaine de la Senche, a small, boutique winery in the heart of the village La Livinière in the south of France in 2019. We took early retirement from our jobs as social worker and oil executive in Stavanger and moved to France.

Having lived the last 15 years in Norway and then settling down in the south of France to make wine was not obvious. However, we had prepared by taking the WSET Diploma in Wine and different wine making courses at the University of Bordeaux. Theory and practice are two different things, and we are happy to have had help from our part-time employee who already knew the Domaine when we arrived.

Domaine de la Senche was an up and running wine property when we took over, but we decided to make a few changes. In 2020 we started conversion to organic growing (BIO, i.e.no use of chemical fungicides, pesticides or herbicides) a process that takes 3 years. So, from 2023 our wines will formally be classified as organic. We also did extension work in the wine cellar and modified the range of our wines.

We harvest all our grapes by hand. During the month of September, we have friends from Norway, England and from the villages around coming to help with the harvest. We will usually be around 15 persons, start early in the morning and finish the day in time to join a well-deserved long lunch in the garden. On some of these days we have had people from 8 different nationalities joining and friendships have been formed by sharing the experience of being a grape picker.

From our 3.6 hectares of vines, we produce 12 000 bottles per year,

three different red wines, one white wine and one rosé wine. The grape varieties are Syrah, Grenache, Carignan for red wines and Cinsault/Syrah for rosé wine. In addition, there is a small production of a fruity white wine from Vermentino grapes. On average the vines are more than 20 years old.

Wines from left to right: Le Blanc de la Senche, Midi, Hibou, Cuvée Somi and Vieilles Vignes. Photo by the author.

We sell half of our production directly from the wine cellar to people coming for wine tasting or a guided tour, or simply passing by and wanting to have a look inside our cellar. Export is roughly 25%, mainly to the Scandinavian countries, the remaining 25% is sold to restaurants in the area or to 'cavistes'. While the Domaine previously exported to England this stopped after Brexit and the complicated regulation that followed, especially for a small producer like us.

In Norway, our wines are sold through the State Monopoly, *Vinmonopolet*. Two of our wines are available there, *Hibou* and *Cuvee Somi*, both red wines.

We are proud to say that both *Hibou* and *Cuvee Somi* recently won Gold Medals at the prestigious 'Concours Générale Agricole'competition in Paris.

As far as we know, there are no other Norwegians making wine in this area of France. There are, however, a couple of Englishmen who have vineyard properties here, one in the same village as us and one in a neighbouring village.

We have been very well received by the locals in our small village. Most people here are involved in wine - or winemaking in one way or another. The relationship between the different producers is very good, and we feel there is no element of rivalry or unhealthy competition between the producers. Indeed, some of the other'vignerons' have become good friends of ours.

In addition to getting hands-on experience for winemaking, we also have learnt how to produce olive oil, which was completely new to us. Our property has 200 olive trees and every year we make 300-400 litres of Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

After four years in La Livinière we are very happy we made the decision to retire, move to France and start making wine and olive oil. While having a busy life, we feel the quality of life is very good. We have not regretted our choice for a single day, and hope to be here for many years to come. And visitors from England, Norway and other countries are more than welcome to visit us in La Livinière and try our products.

* (Ed.) 'Garrigue' refers to the low-growing vegetation on the limestone hills of the Mediterranean coast, consisting of bushy, fragrant plants that grow wild there, such as juniper, thyme, rosemary and lavender.

Ambassador Wegger Strømmen's Farewell to the UK.

By The Ambassador

This summer marks the end of the term during which I have had the honour to serve as Norway's Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Despite the challenges of recent years, I leave convinced that relations between our two countries are in very good shape, and are continuing to develop and strengthen in many key areas.

Over the last four and half years we have had to adapt to a continually

changing environment. There have been the changes of political leadership in the UK, a new post-Brexit chapter in our bilateral relations, and the response to the Covid Pandemic. The Pandemic came to dominate our time here quite significantly, imposing a challenging and often unpredictable new situation for us all. With constraints on our personal and professional lives, we found ways to remain in touch and work together as best we could. However, I was reminded how much diplomatic work can only be done face to face, rather than through a computer screen. Travel restrictions at times have prevented me from travelling as widely in the United Kingdom as I would have liked. Maintaining Norway's relations with Scotland has been a priority, and I feel this has been well covered. My visits to the islands, especially the Western Isles and Shetland with its close connections to Norway through the sea, have been particularly memorable.

Ambasssador Wegger Strømmen. Photo credit: The Royal Norwegian Embassy

The UK and Norway continue to enjoy a close and strategically important relationship, with our common history and values. Maintaining the good neighbourly relations between our countries is more important than ever at this time of war in Europe. I was moved to meet Ukrainian soldiers being trained by Norwegian, British and other international armed forces in the UK as part of Operation Interflex recently. At a time when energy security and the green transition are at the forefront of our minds, trade and co-operation between Norway and the UK will only become more important in future. In recent years a comprehensive post-Brexit free trade agreement and a joint declaration have been signed, securing and underlining our mutual interests.

We have had regular opportunities to celebrate these bonds. We welcomed Their Royal Highnesses The Crown Prince and Crown Princess on their official visit to London this spring, when a business summit and the promotion of Norwegian literature, music and design were special focuses in the programme. When international travel restrictions began to relax and political visits restarted, the UK was on the top of many lists in Norway. Notable was the meeting between our heads of government in London in May last year.

It has been a privilege to be in this post during such a momentous time in the national life of the United Kingdom, from the Platinum Jubilee to the State Funeral of Her Majesty the Queen, and the recent Coronation of King Charles III. These profound events of the past year have provided us all with moments of reflection. There have also been the annual celebrations of Norwegian-British bonds, such as the lighting of the Trafalgar Tree for the 75th time last year. In many ways I feel the shared history of our countries is embodied in 10 Palace Green. It was a great pleasure to be able to move back into the Residence following its elegant refurbishment earlier in my term.

As Cecilie and I prepare to leave London, I would like to pay tribute to the Norwegian institutions here. As well as the Anglo-Norse Society, I am thinking of the Norwegian School, Sjømannskirken and KFUK-hjemmet. I greatly value the support which you offer to the rich personal connections between our countries.

Ski-Jumping on Hampstead Heath in 1950

ByWilliam Coles

In February 2020 I was cross-country skiing in Sørkedalen (northwest of Oslo municipality) with a Norwegian friend I had studied with. As the pandemic unfolded over the following weeks I found myself back in the UK, and on my twenty-fifth birthday the Prime Minister announced the national lockdown. For me, back in North London, the ski season was over. Although North London is hilly, it is no match for the rolling valleys of south-eastern Norway. But back in 1950, Hampstead Heath attempted to show the world how it could be a competitor to the slopes of Norway, albeit not very successfully.

In March of that year, as a joint venture between the British Ski Association and the Oslo Ski Association, an 18m high ski jump was built near the Vale of Health on the Heath. It certainly wasn't the eighth wonder of the world, but still thousands flocked to the Heath to see it. The sight

of the jump was daunting to some, but others were more cynical, with one commentator comparing it to the sort of structure one would see at a fairground.

The ski-jump on Hampstead Heath. Photo credit: The Sphere, April 1, 1950, British Newspaper Archive, British Library.

Even in 1950 snow could not be guaranteed. As a result, 45 tons of snow were imported from Norway in boxes lined with dry ice. This was the last time real snow was imported into the UK for a skiing event, and as the Heath was the place that allegedly gave CS Lewis the inspiration for the land of Narnia, it was perhaps an apt choice.

The competition ran for two days over 24-25th March. On the first day, 25 Norwegian ski jumpers competed. As well as taking part, the skiers were tasked with a little cultural diplomacy by promoting Norway as a travel destination. I wonder if any of them were able to utilise our Society for this purpose? On the second day, Oxford and Cambridge university teams competed against each other, with Oxford coming out on top.

Despite the Heath's beauty, its slopes aren't steep enough for skis and the artificial jump itself was a little crude. It was less than half the height of most modern ski jumps, and piles of straw were laid at the bottom to soften the crash landings. Presumably, this was to stop the jumpers flying into trees, or worse, into Hampstead Village itself. Interestingly, there used to stand a 'Norway House' in what is now Spencer Walk, off Hampstead High Street. It had become a boarding academy by the early 19th century, before being swept away in 1931 to make way for a garage.

Henrik Lindeman flying across the Heath. He was 13 at the time Photo credit PA Archive/PA Images.

Although the competition was certainly popular, with public transport overwhelmed and traffic brought to a standstill, it did not become a sporting tradition. It seemed that most people had not come for the skiing, though, since the BBC commented that the spectators were generally more interested at the sight of legs with skis on sticking out from piles of straw than the sport itself.

They attempted to replicate the event the following year, but in a rather typically British fashion, severe rain washed the snow away. While cultural diplomacy between the UK and Norway continues in other – and more successful – ways, this episode is perhaps one of the more eccentric attempts at it

The Oldest Ladies' Ski Club

By Ingrid Christophersen

In 1889 6 ladies from Steinkjer came together in order 'Paa bedste Maade at fremme Skiidræten blandt kvinder'. They decided on the name Skade for the club. Skade is the swiftest and most audacious skier of all Norse gods. She lives in the mountains, skis and hunts animals with a bow and arrow. She is married to the god Njord but has a son by Odin. For this reason, one of the ladies, an unmarried spinster, did not think the ladies ski club should sully its name by such immoral association. But Skade won the day!

So, Skade is the world oldest ladies' ski club, a distinction the ladies' ski club of GB thought it owned until we learned about Skade. We now call ourselves the oldest ladies' alpine ski club in the world.

Skade ladies organised outings and torchlight evening excursions. When the word went out that a torch-lit excursion to one of the larger farms outside the town was being organised, to include an enjoyable gathering in front of the fire, and dancing, Steinkjer men were not slow to sign up. The

At the centenary celebrations in 2023 for the Ladies' Ski Club when they were joined by Skade. The author is fifth from the left. Photo provided by the author.

ladies sewed their own beautiful ski suits, which were embroidered and colourful and I can just imagine the rather innocent and sweet tete-a-tetes that took place during those torch-lit evenings.

Anyone who had skied over 150 km during the winter was awarded a silver medal. That reminds me of my childhood in Nordmarka when the Norwegian Ski Federation awarded bronze, silver and gold for 100, 250 and 500 km skied during the winter. Our cards were stamped at any of the dozen chalets, restaurants or bothies scattered over this vast area which backs onto the capital, Oslo.

The Ladies' Ski Club – of GB – is the oldest ladies' alpine ski club in the world, and was founded in Mürren in Switzerland in 1923, by the leading lady ski racers of the day, led by Mrs Mabel Lunn, and encouraged by her husband, Arnold Lunn. Arnold Lunn was a hugely important alpine skiing innovator – he introduced the world to the slalom and persuaded the International Ski Federation – against a bit of Nordic resistance - to add alpine events to the Olympics.

One early member was Doreen Elliott, who in 1928 competed in the very first 'Inferno' race, finishing 4th despite spending 10 minutes climbing back up the slope to dig out a fellow racer after she fell, collecting her poles and generally looking after her.

In 1931 the 18 year old Esmé Mackinnon won the first World Alpine Ski Championships for Ladies. Her name starts the list of lady champions published by The International Ski Federation FIS. It was she who reached the end of the downhill at Lauterbrunnen to find a funeral winding slowly across her path. She politely stood aside and waited for it to pass and fortunately the timekeepers - equipped with hand timing in those days - stopped their watches until the procession passed.

Report from Florence Walker.

(Editor's note. Florence applied too late to receive a scholarship for her first year in Bergen, but she was awarded a grant, and was subsequently awarded the Dame Gillian Brown Scholarhip for her second and final year).

From arriving late to our initial flight, to discovering that the quarantine requirements had changed on the day of our journey, to experiencing persistent technical difficulties with the NHS app, it is difficult to see how my first journey to Bergen could have gone less as planned. My

partner and I arrived in the city exhausted, stressed, and burdened with heavy luggage - but we had made it, despite considerable setbacks. I suspect I will always remember the tram ride from the airport to Bergen sentrum: the joy of discovering Skyss' unique musical stings for each stop, the beautiful timber buildings sailing past, the irrepressible sense of excitement and relief.

Bergen quickly came to feel like home. The mountains cradling the city meant I always felt connected to nature, without sacrificing any of the convenience or liveliness of living in an urban centre. The city is extremely walkable, with broad streets and a communal feel when people take to their balconies in the summer. My partner and I soon discovered a beautiful walk route that led us around the harbour; the perfect way to unwind after a long day of studying. This was especially delightful during winter when the boats' rigging was festooned with Christmas lights. I also discovered a new love of mountain climbing - Løvstakken's scrambly route is a particular favourite.

Academically, the MA in Digital Culture proved energising and eye-opening. I was introduced to fields as diverse as game studies, digital ethnography, electronic literature, and animal-computer interaction. The course has definitively kickstarted my academic career. During the last two years I have: been invited to a data sprint with the Machine Vision in Everyday Life project (sadly cancelled due to a resurgence of COVID-19 cases), written a glossary entry on digital modernism for the Electronic Literature Directory, presented at my first academic conference, and worked as a Research Assistant with the MediaFutures research centre. The faculty, as well as my fellow students, were extraordinarily supportive. During my second year, I was given a desk in the Digital Culture masters reading room - a small group of regulars soon established itself, which made it a lovely place to work. I also took part in the Digital Culture fagutvalg (subject committee).


Florence on Løvstakken

The interest fostered most by the University of Bergen was the creation of electronic literature. After making two smaller artworks as part of weekly assignments, I chose to embark on a practice-based thesis. This consisted of three creative works exploring how digital artists and writers might use a 'fake desktop' interface to respond to the increasing datafication of Western society, alongside a written component documenting the works' theoretical background and the making process itself. Presenting this research at the 6th Nordic STS Conference in Oslo resulted in several exciting responses and opportunities (as well as the opportunity to see more of Norway). I am delighted to say that I achieved an A - equivalent to a Distinction - for this work.

I am extraordinarily grateful for the Anglo-Norse Society's support - it enabled me to make the most of this wonderful opportunity. I will soon be returning to the UK and taking a short break from academia. That said, I hope to eventually come back to Norway for PhD study, preferably with UiB's newly established Centre for Digital Narrative. I will make sure I continue practising my Norwegian in the meantime!

Suki-Mei Hannan's First-Year Report

After finishing my bachelor's degree in Film at Falmouth University during the pandemic, I spent 6 months off-and-on living in Trondheim with a friend, travelling between Norway and a recording studio internship in the UK. In those six months I came massively to appreciate both the city and its stunning natural surroundings, and found myself wanting to spend longer here, meeting new people and delving into what the city had to offer, rather than just visiting.

I studied for a BA in Film due to an interest in the subject and the theory, and a desire to explore a multifaceted medium that engaged with both narrative and technical skill sets. However, as my degree progressed, it became increasingly evident that I was being drawn more and more towards the audio world.

I knew that after my year of resting and internship work, I wanted to take a Masters degree, and while researching, found the Masters in Creative Music Technology at NTNU. The course combines music production with

programming, sound design, electronic music composition and acoustic engineering. The two year master's programme allows for deep exploration into the subject, and I was drawn to the scope and possibilities offered by the course, while also being granted an opportunity to continue to live in Trondheim and hopefully to become part of its music scene.

As I write this now I am struck by the degree to which I feel at home in this city, compared to when I applied for the course, unsure if my relevant but adjacent qualifications would be enough for admission. I have been welcomed by a wonderful cohort, with skilled and friendly lecturers who are able to give me extensive and knowledgeable feedback about my Masters project, an ambitious project requiring programming skills that I have been able to learn as a direct result of the course. The music scene has opened up to me, and I have been amazed by the density of talented musicians within the city (especially within the jazz scene). I have been able to befriend incredible drummers, singers, songwriters and technicians, all of whom are willing to help out others in the scene and make it possible for newcomers to find opportunities and collaborators. Trondheim has a sense of community within the music scene that is truly special and unique, and I feel lucky to now be a part of it.

Suki-Mei enjoying summer sunshine with Munkholmen in the background
Photo supplied by Suki-Mei

I have been able continue exploring the city and surrounding areas, taking a trip to Sunndalsøra to see the incredible waterfalls and mountains on the way, and regularly walking and skiing in Bymarka (if walking down steep hills while carrying my skis counts as skiing!). I was able to buy warm winter clothing as a result of the scholarship, without which I would have struggled in the -20 celsius cold spell we experienced before Christmas, and been less able to get outdoors in nature and go hiking. I have experienced wonderful art and sound installations, including one on the tram to Lian. I have celebrated my second17th of May, with far more extravagance than the first, having breakfast and partying with friends on a very wet and cold day, and I go to a weekly brunch with Arab food hosted by a coursemate and regularly attended by a good number of music technology students.

As a result of the support offered by the Anglo-Norse society I have been able to approach processing-heavy sound tasks and exams with ease due to the new laptop I was able to buy with the scholarship. Having good technology and software enabled me to produce better work and spend my time delving into the subject itself, rather than struggling with workarounds or restrictions. Receiving this scholarship was instrumental in my ability to complete a masters degree to the best of my abilities as a student from a low-income rural background with an ongoing cost of living crisis in the UK, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me.

Luke Simmons' First Year Report

Reflecting on the first year of my masters in Geology at the University in Tromsø, whilst basking under the rays of the glorious midnight sun, fills me with a bounding sense of accomplishment and achievement. It has been a true pleasure to be immersed into a progressive learning environment that has both challenged and supported me along my journey towards developing into an innovatively thinking geoscientist. Coexisting with thriving in a forward-thinking academic environment, has been an indulgence in the great Norwegian outdoors. To capture the magic of one year living a dream in a single report is a formidable task. Nevertheless, I shall rise to the challenge by sharing some of my key highlights with you, that I must sincerely thank the Anglo-Norse Society for supporting me with achieving!

Throughout the year, I have specialised in the Arctic Quaternary Geology, a period that spans the past 2.6 million years. Particularly of interest to me, is marine environmental and climatic reconstructions since the time of the last Glacial Maximum in the northern hemisphere (20,000 years ago). As part of this journey and through participation in a micropaleontology course in the autumn semester, I was fortunate enough to be able to seize a learning

opportunity of a lifetime. This was a trip on board the university research vessel the Helmer Hanssen, where we voyaged into southwest Barents Sea through fjords, over the continental shelf and out into the high seas and deep marine environment. The aim of the expedition was to familiarise ourselves with research techniques at sea, as well as the collection of sediment cores for future projects. Once back on dry land, we conducted labatory analysis on the sampled subsea floor sediments to reconstruct oceanographic variations and faunal diversity changes of the microfauna over the past 12,000 years. The sense of exploration in combination with scientific purpose was thrilling and rewarding to say the least.

During the 3 months of near darkness that characterised the polar night, the vibrant autumnal colours that welcomed me on my arrival Tromsø felt like a feint figure of my imagination. However, as the start of the spring semester marked the return of the sun, the magnificence of the mountains surrounding my new home was ever so pronounced. The ski touring season was here, and tours of the mountain tops became a part of my daily routine. To complement my adoration for this adventure and academically diversify my skillset, I chose to partake in a geohazard module in snow science and avalanche management in the Arctic. Throughout the course we delved into the fundamental principles of snow physics and applied this to understand avalanche dynamics. The course culminated with undertaking a hypothetical hazard assessment for a proposed tourism development in a small fishing village outside of Tromsø. This gave me a great insight into the fundamental role that geoscientists play in hazard mapping and management during the risk mitigation of dynamic and hostile inhabited environments.

Luke clearly enjoying the return of the ski-touring season. Photo supplied by Luke

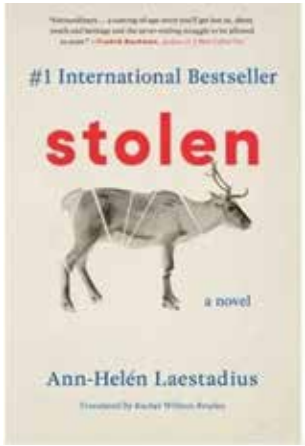
This summer I will embark on a journey further north to the High Arctic Archipelago of Svalbard, to conduct fieldwork for my thesis. The aim of the project is to investigate the Early Holocene warm period (10,000 years ago) using microfossils and lithological evidence to document changes in sea level and understand the coastal evolution of Western Spitsbergen. The project is in partnership with the University in Tromsø, the University Centre in Svalbard and the Norwegian Polar Institute. Collaboration between these organisations is contributing a diverse range of expertise and recourses towards the project's potential. The relevance of the project and its global context is significant, as the Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world and Svalbard is warming up to seven times faster! I am raring to investigate the evidence for warmer than present conditions to assess the extent to which these can be used as analogues for understanding the current and projected warming climate.

Editor's Summer Reading Suggestions

The first novel I would like to suggest is, *Stolen*, the English translation by Rachel Willson-Broyles of the contemporary Swedish novel by Ann-Helén Laestadius, which is described on the cover as the #1 International Bestseller.

Stolen is a coming-of-age novel set in northern of Sweden, where relations between the Sámi and local community are not good. At the start of the novel, Elsa, the protagonist of the novel goes to the corral where the reindeer are kept and sees the young man who has just killed Nástegallu, her reindeer calf. He sees her too, puts his finger to his lips and makes the sign of cutting his throat. He then leaves in his snowmobile. Many people guess that the culprit is Robert Isaksson, a troubled youth, but there is no proof as long as Elsa does not say anything, and because she is afraid she keeps her mouth shut. Furthermore the police are reluctant to act in such matters, for

though the Sámi have reported the slaughter of reindeer many times, the police regard reindeer as domestic animals, so killing them is not considered slaughter but 'stealing' (hence the title) and therefore not a serious crime.

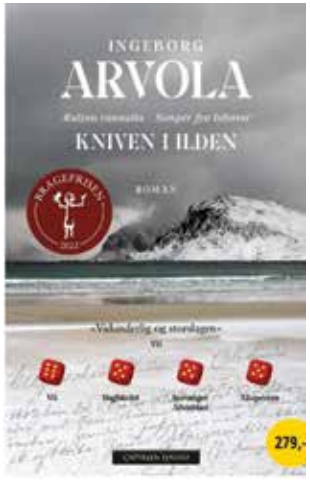


But this is not the only problem. The non-Sámi community looks down on the Sámi and their ways and would prefer them to continue in their traditional ways e.g by not using snow mobiles. But there are also tensions within in the Sámi community; for example, Elsa's mother is a *rivgu* - a non-Sámi woman from the town and has had difficulty learning Sámi, and though Elsa herself is good with the reindeer it is not considered acceptable for a girl or woman to become a reindeeer herder. As if these were not enough problems, the novel also touches on the problem of climate change, which makes the herders wonder how much longer they can continue their traditional way of life. In some cases this leads to depression and suicide.

Parts II and III of the novel are set 10 years on and Elsa is now a young woman who is prepared to take on the battle with the authorities; she also has supporters. Her first act of defiance is to dump the carcasses of two slaughtered reindeer in front of the police station, to photograph them and allow a journalist to put the story online. This brings repercussions not only for her in the form of violent anonymous text messages, but also or her young relative Jon-Isak in school (Sámi and Norwegain childen are educated in separate schools but share a playground). The conflict comes to a head with tragic consequences but the denouement is morally complex.

One of the striking things about this novel is the use of Sámi words in chapter headings and when referring to the colourful Sámi dress (*gákti*) and to family relation e.g *áhkku* and *áddjá* for grandmother and grandfather.

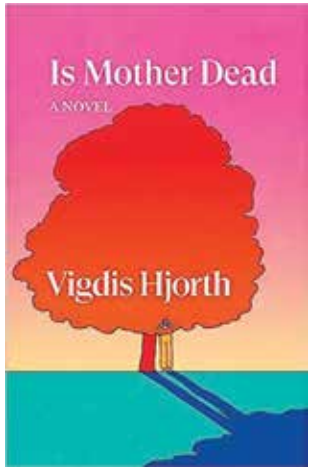
The second novel I would like to draw attention to is for readers of Norwegian, and is *Kniven i ilden* by the Norwegian novelist Ingeborg Arvola, who comes from Pasvik in the far north. The novel which is Norway's entry for the Nordic Council's Prize for Literature 2023 is an historical novel set around 1860. The protagonist, Brita Caisa Seipajærvi is a *kven,* i.e someone of Norwegian/Finnish stock and she is on her way from Finland to Norway with her two sons to start a new life, away from the shame she once faced



having to endure *kirketukt (*church discipline) for three Sundays in a row, for a liason with a married man.

She is a strong, positive woman, with healing powers (mainly for animals, she says) and her aim is to reach Pykeijä (Bugøynes), where the sea is said to boil with fish. She is not afraid of hard work and her sister says of her that she brings out the sunshine (*hun smiler solen fram*). She and her two boys meet many people on their way to Bugøynes, and at times it can be difficult to keep track of them, but a quarter of the way into the novel, Brita meets the man who is going to be her destiny. He too is married and at the end of the novel has to go to prison, but this points to a continuation, and indeed this is promised to be the first volume in a trilogy.

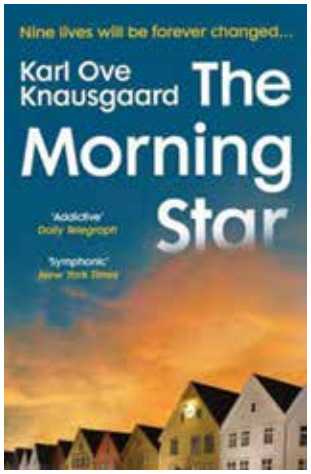
There is a new novel for the fans of Vigdis Hjorth, entitled *Is Mother Dead*, translated by Charlotte Barslund. In Norway Hjorth is controversial for using her own family in her novels, and indeed some of them have sued her. In an interview about this novel she raises the question of whether a mother can ever really die, as a primary carer can live on in us into adulthood, and this novel, she says, 'is my attempt to investigate this complicated, ambivalent dynamic between a mother and an adult daughter who have been estranged for 30 years'. The mother, who is an artist is back in Oslo after a long absence, preparing for a retrospective, the subject of which is motherhood and some of her paintings have brought about a dramatic rift with her daughter. The novel was longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2023.



A novel that I don't think has been mentioned before in the *Review is Clearing Out* by Helen Uri. Originally published in 2013, it is described as an autobiographical novel, in which the novelist sends her charcter to the far north to learn what she can about their Sámi ancestry. This is the result ot a

phone call from a distant relative who informs her that her grandfather was the son of a coastal (sjø) Sámi fisherman—something no one in her family ever talked about. When the novelist's character, Ellinor, goes to the north she meets a culture little known in her own and discovers a history richer and more alluring than rumour would have it, and through her persistence in approaching an elderly Sámi activist, and her relationship with a local Sámi man, Ellinor confronts a rift that has existed between two families for generations.

In the twelve years since Karl Ove Knausgaard finished his magnun opus *My Struggle* he has published seven works of non-fiction, but with the 666-page *Morning Star*, published in November 2020 he has returned to fiction. According to one critic it is a 'shaggy-dog story', divided into nine discrete chapters 'that are first-person accounts by different narrators, all of whom experience disturbances or strange happenings that coincide with the sudden appearance of a large brilliant star in the sky, which may be a supernova'. I have not read it, so leave it to those who have followed Knausgaard's career to do so and make up their own mind, as it has received mixed reviews.



I am on safer ground pointing to the latest Jo Nesbø novel *Killing Moon,* the thirteenth Harry Hole novel which was published in August 2022 and Gunnar Staalesen's *Bitter Flowers,* which was originlly published in 1991 but is now reissued in paperback. Hot off the press is Kjell Ole Dahl's *The Lazarus Solution*, which was published in May, and if you haven't caught up with it, *Little Drummer*, which was originally published in March 2022.

Happy summer reading

To Former Members of Anglo-Norse Oslo

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The domain produces four types of olive oil: Oliviere is soft & round,
Aglandau is fruity with aromas of almonds & green fruit,
while **Picholine** is more spicy, more intense & slightly bitter.
We also grow the **Lucque** variety that we use for the olives we eat *(not in the picture)*