



Hardanger Nyheter

SONS OF NORWAY

HARDANGER LODGE 7 #109,
KELOWNA BC

Read about.....

50-ØRE'S JOURNEY

NORWAY'S NATIONAL GEMSTONE

A VIKING WOMAN'S BURIAL

THE FOREST FINNS

* The Norwegian Vikings were more barbaric than
the Danish Vikings

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

These houses are in Norway, covered in moss, the heat never leaves, the cold only because it doesn't enter. This engineering was carried out by the ancient Viking inhabitants.

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GLORIA

God Paske!

What a wonderful time of the year - the outdoor scenery begins to green and the temperatures climb higher. In our community, we have seen the ball diamonds become busy over 'spring break' while the hockey season is into play-offs. More walkers and bicyclists are out in full force when the winds are calmer and the sun is shining. I have not checked for pussy willows yet, but I hope they will be out for Easter.

We often hear of Norwegian traditions at Easter – the colour yellow, pussy willows, baby chicks, heading to the mountains and reading crime novels. I was uncertain as to origin of the 'crime novel' tradition and did a little checking. I will provide some information I found.



IT ALL STARTED WITH FAKE NEWS

*In February 1923, two Norwegians, Nordahl Grieg and Nils Lie, wrote a crime novel about the looting of a train to Bergen. The book was called *The Bergen Train Was Robbed in the Night*.*

*Their next step was to get people to buy the book. They came up with a brilliant plan and one that may have been the origin of fake news (15 years before Welle's "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast). They advertised in the newspaper, *Aftenposten*, by putting the title of the book on the front page. The headline convinced thousands of readers that the iconic train had actually been looted! It soon became the most popular Easter book in Norwegian history and is considered the beginning of *Påskekrim* (Easter Crime).*

In 1923 Easter fell on the 1st of April so in the book the police initially believed the robbery was an April Fool's prank and took their time responding. This allowed the criminals to make their exit skiing across the mountains undetected.

*The authors of *The Bergen Train* knew Easter was a time when Norwegians took the opportunity to head off to mountain cabins (or *hyttes*) for relaxation, settle down by the fire, and not think about work. And what better to way to get their minds off work than a crime novel.*

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PÅSKEKRIM I DAG (EASTER CRIME TODAY)

Norwegians typically get a full week for Easter break and they spend it at the cabin, skiing, and reading with family. These days, a Påskekrim novel is a traditional part of any Easter trip to the country, along with an orange, and a Kvikk Lunsj (a chocolate bar similar to the Kit-Kat). The tradition of a Kvikk Lunsj bar is so strongly associated with Påskekrim that a crime novel was written that had a cover so similar to the candy bar's wrapping that the publisher was sued.

Tine milk carton with Easter comics

Each year a milk company, Tine, joins in the spirit of Påskekrim by printing crime-related cartoon strips on the side of their milk cartons. Publishers plan around this intense season of reading and TV stations, NRK and TV2, show murder mysteries during this holiday.

As we gather with family and friends to share the resurrection and renewal of life, enjoy some time with nature. Maybe check online for some sites who have held "Chick Holding Stations" in the past – Kelowna's Farmers' and Crafters' Market, downtown Kelowna markets, Vernon night market, Vernon Farmers' Market, Rock Creek Fall Fair, and Salmon Arm Fall Fair grounds. They allow children and adults to hold these wonderful, cute little chicks.

Have a super spring. Hope to see you at the next Hardanger Lodge meeting!

Fraternally,

Gloria Benazic, President

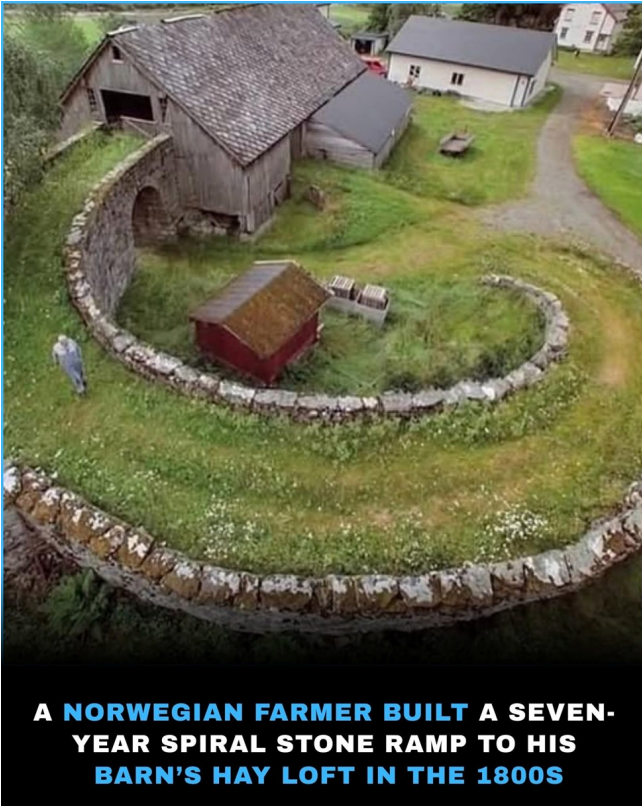
April 15th.

**Our Lodge Easter event will be held at
1560 Bertram St. at 7:00 pm**

Egg Smorgasbord

Bring a favourite egg dish





A NORWEGIAN FARMER BUILT A SEVEN-YEAR SPIRAL STONE RAMP TO HIS BARN'S HAY LOFT IN THE 1800S



In the 1830s, the Swedish Navy planted 300,000 oak trees for future ship production. However, by the time the trees were fully grown 150 years later, they had little use for them, as modern warships are constructed using metal.

50-ØRE'S JOURNEY

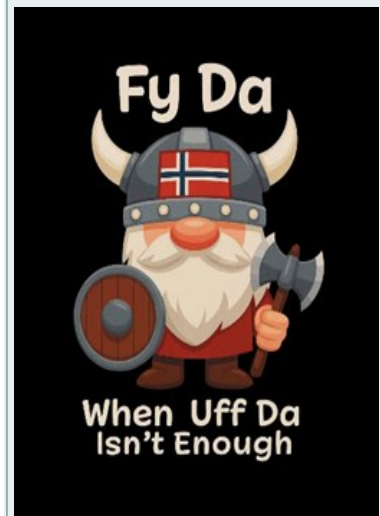
Since the first 50-øre coin (then made of silver) was minted in 1877, hundreds of millions of such coins have circulated in Norwegian homes and shops. But 135 years later [in 2012], this has stopped.



The 50-øre coin, which has existed in 10 different versions, will no longer be able to be used for payment. In 2011, it was decided that after May 1, the 1-krone will be the least valued legal tender in Norway. Then, only Norges Bank will accept the little brown coins. Filled up on 50 øre People who have lived a little may remember that they could get quite a lot of candy for 50 øre a few decades ago. However, in the early 20th century people could make themselves a whole meal for fifty øre – which was probably fine, since many had an hourly wage that did not exceed 50 øre. No longer in circulation Trond Eklund, Director of Cash Payments at Norges Bank, explains why the 50-øre coin, which was produced at Kongsberg, will soon die. “The reason is that it is no longer in circulation. We issue 15 to 20 million 50-øre coins each year. The shop returns the change, but the customers put them aside or put them in a jelly jar,” he says. In recent years, 50-øre coins worth up to 10 million kroner have been issued by Norges Bank, but that is no longer the case. Inflation is the reason why the coins are slowly but surely dying out. So now the 50-øre coin will suffer the same fate as the 25-øre (1982), 10-øre (1991), 5-øre (1982), 2-øre (1973) and 1-øre (1973).

"Å ta det for god fisk"

Translation To take it as good fish
 Meaning: To believe something someone said without doubting them



A VIKING WOMAN'S BURIAL

Hidden beneath a ploughed field on the rugged island of Senja in northern Norway, archaeologists have uncovered one of the most moving and informative Viking Age graves ever found. In an extraordinary burial that dates back to between AD 900 and 950, a woman was laid to rest inside a sewn boat alongside a small dog placed thoughtfully at her feet, offering a remarkable glimpse into human-animal relationships over a thousand years ago.

This boat burial is unusual not because Vikings buried their dead at sea, but because this woman's grave included her dog as an apparent companion into the afterlife. The burial was discovered initially in 2023 by metal detectorists who unearthed two oval brooches typical of Viking women's dress. Subsequent excavation by specialists from the Arctic University Museum of Norway revealed the full extent of the boatshaped grave, the human remains and the complete skeleton of a small dog, laid respectfully at her feet.

Alongside the skeletons were a suite of grave goods that tell us much more about her life and status. Textile tools such as a spindle whorl and a whale-bone weaving sword hint at her role in managing clothing production, a vital and respected craft in Viking society. An iron sickle and a whetstone suggest involvement in agricultural activities and daily practical tasks. Together these items paint a picture of a well-respected woman in her community, someone whose skills were central to both economy and culture.

Boat burials are among the most distinctive Viking funerary traditions, usually reserved for people of significant rank or esteem within their community. The presence of the dog raises fascinating questions about the nature of emotional bonds in early medieval Scandinavia. While animals appear in some burial contexts, a carefully placed companion animal in such a ritual setting is comparatively rare, indicating that dogs may have held a more cherished place in Viking life than we sometimes imagine.

Strange Fact: In the Viking Age, some graves included animals not as food for the journey but as symbolic protectors or companions, and in one Icelandic burial horses and dogs were placed together as if to guard the soul in the next world.

In February 2020, the Cherokee Nation made history by becoming the first Native American tribe to place traditional heirloom seeds in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway. The tribe secured nine rare seed varieties that date back to before European settlement in North America. Among them was the sacred Cherokee White Eagle Corn, a crop deeply connected to Cherokee culture, history, and traditional food systems.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, often called the "Doomsday Vault," protects important crop seeds from around the world in case of disasters such as war, climate crises, or global food shortages. By preserving these seeds there, the Cherokee Nation ensured that their ancestral crops would survive even in the face of global catastrophe.

For the Cherokee people, this effort is about more than agriculture—it is about protecting heritage, identity, and food sovereignty. Safeguarding these seeds helps keep centuries-old traditions alive while ensuring that future generations can continue growing and sharing the foods that have sustained their community for generations. 🌱

The Forest Finns are one of five national minorities in Norway and have been so since Norway ratified the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities in 1998.

The Forest Finns came from the east across the Karelian Isthmus and settled in Savolax in the eastern part of what is today Finland. From the 13th century until 1809, Finland was part of the Swedish "kingdom". They practiced the land-intensive agricultural form of slash and burn. The lack of land led to the Forest Finns migrating eastwards along the conifer forest belt in the second half of the 16th century. First to central Sweden and then on to Norway. The first Swedish forest Finns had state support to build and burn, and the Swedish king enticed with tax-free years for the new clearings, but towards the middle of the 17th century this changed. This was one of the reasons for the increasing movement towards Värmland and Norway.

Finn settlement in Norway began around 1640 and ended a generation later in 1670. In the years after 1670, it was about densification within the established areas. Very few of the Forest Finns in Norway were born in Finland, only a dozen of the 1,200 forest Finns who were registered in the Finnemantallet in 1686 stated this. The rest were born in Sweden.

The Finns settled over large parts of the eastern region - along the Swedish border from northern Østfold to Trysil, but also as far west as Hadeland and the Drammen area. The migration ended where the coniferous forest belt stops. In the areas along the border between Norway and Sweden, which were eventually called the Finnskogene, the Forest Finn population became so significant that the language was in use in some places until the middle of the 20th century.

The Forest Finns Flag



The Forest Finns Flag

The Forest Finns got their own flag in December 2022.

Green describes the importance of the forest for the Forest Finns' slash and burn farming culture.

Yellow stands for rye

Red stands for fire and the sacred tree roe. A color which, together with black, is also found in the flags of Savolax and Tavastland.

Black stands for the soot from the slash and burn and the sooty walls of the smoking rooms, drying houses, and saunas.

The shape of the black field is an old symbol of fertility, used in the Forest Finn culture.

The rye was planted in the ashes after the slash and burn around midsummer - a necessary action for the East Finns' expansion, food intake and new clearing during the first settlement period.

The summer solstice most often occurs on June 21, and there is also the fertility link in the flag and its strong symbolism for Forest Finn culture.

In case you haven't heard:

The Digitization of Norway has its sights set on becoming the world's most digitized country by 2030. While that date seems far away, the work has already begun. This initiative is part of a new national digitization strategy that was created to set clear goals to achieve the digital Norway of the future. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre points to three main benefits that will result from this strategy: a simpler and safer everyday life, a more competitive business sector, and a more modern public sector. The digitization initiative is a response in part to other factors, including a growing elderly population with a shrinking work force. Despite this, work tasks will continue to grow and the need to remain competitive in the global market will continue. The strategy contains five core measures that planners say are vital to its success. Included in these measures are offering high-speed broadband services, education and training, building infrastructure around AI, faster processing, and safeguards in digital marketing and use.

Norway's National Gemstone

Pioneering Sandagersnorway's national gemstone

Norway has two stones commonly referred to as its national gemstone, depending on whether you are looking for its

official national stone or its most **culturally iconic gem**:

Larvikite (Official National Stone): Designated as the national stone of Norway in 2008 by the [Norwegian Geological Society](#), larvikite is a unique variety of monzonite known for its shimmering blue, silver, and grey "Schiller effect" (iridescence). It is almost exclusively found in the Larvik region and is a major Norwegian export, often used in architecture and counter-

tops.

Thulite (Traditional National Gemstone): Often cited as the national gemstone, [Thulite](#) is a rare pink variety of zoisite first discovered in Telemark, Norway, in 1820. Its name is derived from the mythical island of "Thule," believed by ancient Greeks to be Scandinavia. It is highly prized for its vibrant rosy to deep-red color, which comes from manganese.



Norwegian Vikings possessed more weapons and sustained more weapon-related injuries than their Danish counterparts. "The risk of dying from violence was significantly higher in Norway than in Denmark," researcher says.

A 2024 study conducted by researchers from the University of Oslo, NTNU, and the University of South Florida suggests that **Norwegian Vikings were significantly more violent and "barbaric" than their Danish counterparts**. While long considered similar in their brutality, new analysis of skeletal remains shows that Norwegian Viking society was far

more decentralized and prone to fatal internal violence compared to the more organized, hierarchical Danish society.

Violent Mortality Rates: Over 33% of investigated Norwegian Viking skeletons showed signs of previous injuries, and 37% showed evidence of violent death (usually by sword or axe). In contrast, only about 6-7% of Danish skeletons showed signs of violent death.

- **Interpersonal Violence:** Norwegian skeletons exhibited many cut wounds and weapon injuries, suggesting widespread interpersonal combat, blood feuds, and murders [Cont'd on Pg. 8](#)

DA YOKES ON YU

Lar's friend Ole stopped by for a visit one day.

"How's it going vit your marriage, Ole? Is da hon-eymoon over yet?"

"Vell, da marriage is doing fine." said Ole. "And Lena she treats me yust like a Greek god."

"Dat's great," said Lars. "How do you get treated like a Greek God, Ole?"

"Vel, you see, Lars, every night da wife serves me a BURNT OFFERING!" replied Ole.

Ole was having eye trouble, so he went to see the optometrist. "Put this little gadget over your left eye, Ole," said the optometrist. "Now over the right eye, over the left eye. No, Ole, I said left eye. Now right . . . No Ole, your right eye!" Completely confused, Ole just looked at the optometrist. "Now, Ole," the optometrist continued, "just remember which is your left hand. OK, Ole, cover your right eye . . . No Ole, that's your left eye!" Finally in exasperation, the optometrist took a brown paper bag, cut a hole in it, put it over Ole's head, and moved the hole back and forth from the left eye to the right eye. "Now, Ole," asked the optometrist, "How is that?" "Vell, Doc, I guess it's all right," said Ole. "But I vas vishing I could have some wire rims like Sven."

After traveling through Sweden last summer, I noticed that they had something written on the bottom of their soft drink bottles, "Åpnas på andra sidan" (Opens on the other end).

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Organized vs. Chaotic Violence: Violence in Denmark was more controlled and, in many cases, state-sanctioned; the few violent deaths found were often executions, such as decapitations. More weapons in Norwegian graves

"Norwegian skeletons display numerous cut wounds. Far more Norwegian skeletons showed signs of cuts and blows compared to Danish ones," says Bill.

The differences are substantial. Over a third of the Norwegian skeletons show evidence of deadly violence, whereas only 6 per cent of the Danish skeletons do.

The quantity of weapons found in Norwegian Viking graves was significantly greater – fifty times more.

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH VIKING SOCIETIES WERE DIFFERENT

The researchers highlight that this significant disparity stems from the distinctly different societies of Norwegian and Danish Vikings.

The Danes had a more organised society, with larger construction projects and specific societal roles.

"In Denmark, there was a greater emphasis on the interests of society," says Bill.

Additionally, the Danes had more executions, indicating that their violence was more organised.

Reference:

Bill et al. [Violence as a lens to Viking societies: A comparison of Norway and Denmark](#), *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, vol. 75, 2024. DOI: 10.1016/j.jaa.2024.101605

The study suggests that the higher levels of violence in Norway were tied to a deeply ingrained, decentralized warrior culture, whereas the more organized Danish society could control violence more effectively.

The researchers concluded that the differences were profound enough to treat Norway and Denmark as distinct societies rather than a singular Scandinavian entity.