



SONS of NORWAY

August 2019
Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, fellow Norwegian Americans:

Have you been experiencing the wonderful results of all the rain we have had? I have been able to spend every evening on my patio without any mosquitoes. I'm not sure why that is, but I've really enjoyed it. Also, the flowers in the garden have benefited by it as well. The blooms are beautiful. Now let's pray for a happy harvest.

There will be a Sons of Norway leadership conference in Indiana Oct. 18-20. I will be attending, but I'd like to know if anyone would like to attend with me. The cost including registration, room and meals is \$320, but \$100 scholarships are available. I will attach some information if you're interested.

I have some sad news. Barb Ogne is looking for someone to replace her as treasurer. She has filled that position for many years and now feels it is time to turn that responsibility over to someone else. So we are opening that job up to volunteers. Please search your heart and see if you can find it in your heart to be treasurer. If we are going to maintain Norsemen of the Lakes, we will all need to do what we can to sustain it. Please let me know if you are game to fill this position.

262-949-9191 corlene121@gmail.com Corlene Bartels

Membership Committee News

On **July 13th**, we had a table at the Saturdays on the Square in Elkhorn. We had a nice poster board set up and also a bake sale. Several people were interested in the Lodge and we made another \$86 on the bake sale. A big thank you to Bill and Joye Kaul for helping and sitting through the hot day with me.

Remember the membership drive breakfast is planned for **Oct. 5th** at Perkins in Delevan. Reservations have been made; Greg Regan will attend and pay for the breakfast. It is imperative that we each bring at least one prospective member. So put it on your calendar and make an effort to find people who might be interested!!!

Oct. 19th is the Williams Bay Centennial, where we have reserved a table for recruiting. We need some people to sign up to man it. Please call me to volunteer as I cannot attend, and I think this could have terrific results in membership.

Outing to Stoughton: If you plan to go to Stoughton with me, give me a call so I know who is going. We will leave Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. and arrive about 10. We will tour the Opera house, museum, cemetery and Livreise Heritage Center. Lunch will be on our own. Join us for some fun, educational fellowship.



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| Gratulare Med Dagen | |
| Edith Hanstad | 2nd |
| Marguerite Hendrixson | 5th |
| Olav Bradley | 10th |
| Muriel Lund | 18th |

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Movie Review | 2 |
| EU Elections Affect Nor | 2 |
| Telemark Attractions | 3 |
| Kraken & Nykkjen | 3 |
| Oslo's New Trams | 4 |
| Norse Language in Eng..... | 5 |
| Lofoten Hiking Trails | 5 |

KALENDAR

- Aug. 21st outing to Stoughton. Call me to confirm, but we will meet at 9 in Frank's parking lot.
- Sept. 10th meeting at Advia Credit Union, Elkhorn. Guest presenter: Olga Fast & friends, Hardanger demonstration
- Oct. 5th, Membership Breakfast at Perkins, Delevan.
- Oct. 8th special meeting: genealogy workshop at Elkhorn Area Middle School
- Nov. 12th Advia Credit Union, Elkhorn. Guest presenter: Cheryl Schlessler, The Norway Building Rises Again
- Dec. 10th Christmas Dinner TBD

EU Elections Affect Norway

BY Gerard Taylor · JUNE 10, 2019



MOVIE REVIEW

Based on true events, **THE LAST KING** is set during the 1204 civil war that ravaged Norway. Aided by a rebel group, the Birch Legs (Birkebeiner), the Norwegian King fights for survival against the Church's Bishopsmen, who seek to supplant the throne. On his deathbed, the King welcomes a son, born in secrecy, as half the Kingdom wants him dead. Tasked with guarding the only remaining heir to the throne, two Birkebeiner warriors, Skjervald and Torstein, escape with the infant and must traverse treacherous landscapes to protect their future King.

This movie, based on true events and capturing the romance of the famous portrait, has it all: suspense, love, betrayal, warriors who can ski, and the beautiful landscapes that are Norway.

Available free on Amazon Prime in Norwegian with subtitles. Or at the library available on DVD in Norwegian or English, with or without subtitles.



Some of Europe's decisions matter to Norway even though it's not an EU member. Many electoral promises were made before the EU elections, but what exactly has the European Union Parliament decided? Here are examples that affect Norway.

Plastics are out As of 2021, many disposable plastic products, such as cutlery, plates, straws, and cotton swabs, are to be prohibited throughout the EU. The purpose of the ban is to reduce the amount of plastic waste in the sea. The European Commission presented the proposal. Following negotiations with the Council of Ministers and Parliament, a detailed bill was voted on and received a large majority in parliament.

Norway was inspired by the EU ban and has introduced a similar law, which will take effect next year.

Data protection In 2016, the EU's new data protection regulation (General Data Protection Regulation) was adopted and it entered into force in the EU member states on May 25 last year. GDPR is incorporated into the European Economic Area and therefore also applies in Norway.

GDPR imposes strict requirements on businesses and organizations in handling personal data from individuals. Among other things, visitors to websites must approve personal data being collected. Companies that break these rules risk millions in fines.

Equal pay for equal work From 2020, the EU Posting of Workers Directive (from 1996) will also regulate how long EU citizens can be on a time-limited job in another EU country. The new rules set a limit of 18 months. After this, the employee will be fully covered by the host country's labor market rules. The new regulations will in all cases also be introduced in the EEA and Norway.

New rules for truck transport Truck drivers who drive in another EU country must follow that country's labor market rules. This is part of the European Parliament's major roadmap that intends to reduce or prevent dumping of wages in the transport sector. Final negotiations still remain on this. Norway has (as part of the Road Alliance) been a driving force for this, along with other countries. Several countries in Eastern Europe have opposed the changes, as they will weaken their transport companies competing on wages in the west.

Concurrent mobile phone prices Since 2017, mobile customers have paid the same price as at home when they call, send an SMS, or use the internet on trips to EU countries and countries in the EEA. This is a matter that the EU Parliament would like to highlight among the nearly 1,000 bills that have been dealt with since 2014. The rule concerns most people in the EU and the EEA and not just individual companies or individual industries.

Copyright controversy

The EU's new rules on copyright on the internet have been discussed. The followers are looking forward to increased protection for authors, photographers, and artists' rights. Critics believe that the law limits the free flow of information on the internet.



Telemark is Packed With Attractions

BY David Nikel AUGUST 7, 2019

The birthplace of skiing, Telemark, is an historic inland region of southern Norway often skipped by international tourists yet known domestically for its vast forests, valleys, skiing, and rural churches.

The name is also used for one of Norway's counties that covers more than 5,500 square miles of the country's southeast corner. It encompasses small coastal towns and villages and stretches far inland almost to the southeast corner of the vast Hardangervidda National Park.

An historic region of Norway

While there is plenty to see along the coast and in the county's principal cities of Skien and Porsgrunn, I'm focusing on the historic inner region also known as Upper Telemark. A primarily agricultural area, the region has retained Old Norse customs for much longer than the rest of Norway. This might at least in part explain why the Telemark dialect has a Norse ring to it.

Winter sports fans will know the region's name because of the style of skiing. The graceful style known as Telemark skiing dates back to the times when skiing was a form of transport, and chair lifts were but a dream. The binding remains free at the heel, allowing you to move both up and down a mountain and use the same boots on slopes and backcountry skiing.

The Telemark Canal

The many hills, mountains, valleys, and lakes of the region mean the landscape is constantly changing, and there is always something different to see. Because the coastal area was home to important industries, including ironworks and sawmills, the beautiful 65-mile-long network of lakes and canals known as the Telemark Canal was constructed to ease industry

growth. It connected Dalen at the very heart of the region's interior with the port at Skien, at the time one of Norway's most important.

While originally built to help the timber trade flourish, the canal today operates primarily as a tourist attraction. Canal boats meander their way along the water at a leisurely pace—18 locks ensure there is no other option—allowing visitors to slow down and take in the scenery.

The canal has been lovingly restored and maintained, so much so that it is now a living heritage site. Many old walls and lock systems have been preserved in their original forms, and most locks are still operated by hand. Former lock-keepers' houses, smithies, sawmills, cottages, and old jetties are all visible on the banks of the canal. If you are a fan of "how things used to be" or you want to see the Norway your grandparents told you about, this is the place.

Return trips from Skien are popular, as they are typically combined with an overnight stop at Dalen. If time is tight, day trips are possible, but some bus travel will be needed.

The historic end point of the Telemark Canal, the Dalen Hotel, is one of the most picturesque accommodations in Norway. Many guests on boat trips from Skien choose to stay overnight here and enjoy a three-course dinner before returning the next day. Known as Norway's "fairytale hotel," the 19th-century accommodation also offers visitors spa treatments, croquet on the lawn, a piano bar, and even the chance to borrow a small rowboat. An overnight stay also allows the opportunity for a visit to the beautifully preserved Eidsborg Stave Church, a 4-mile drive away along a road that zig-zags up a forested mountainside.



Kraken is probably a creature most people will recognize. It's been used in several movies, like *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Clash of the Titans*, but originally, the Kraken belongs in the cold Norwegian Sea, where it was first said to be seen in the early 1700s. The first detailed description was made by the Danish writer and biologist, Erik Pontoppidan, in 1752. In old times, the Kraken was said to be in the shape of a huge crab, the size of an island, and many sailors and fishermen found themselves stranded on an island that had not been there minutes before. Later descriptions tell of a monster in the shape of an enormous octopus, which dragged ships down to the bottom of the sea.



Nöcken/Nyk/Nykkjen is a mysterious water creature, residing in fresh-water, lakes and deep ponds. He is, in Norwegian tradition, described as a dark monster with his eyes just above the surface, watching as people walk by. In Swedish tradition, he is a beautiful, young man, tricking women into jumping into the water, and then drowning them. He is a shapeshifter, and can change into a white horse, letting young children ride on his back and then jumping with them back into his pond. He is also said to be a talented musician, playing the violin so that the villagers can hear him at night. There were ways to protect oneself from him; you could throw a piece of metal into the water, like a needle or an iron cross, and so save yourself. If he had already attacked, you could overpower him by saying his name.

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Oslo's New Trams

Get a first look at the brand-new trams set to hit the streets of Oslo in the winter of 2020-21.

by David Nickel — July 16, 2019

Despite improvements in recent years, Oslo's tram network remains outdated. Many of the vehicles are slow, noisy, and expensive to maintain. But not for long! The new fleet of trams are more like the T-Bane carriages than the rickety old trams. The light blue exterior is retained, but that's where the differences end. Inside, you'll find a more spacious experience.

Accessibility a major plus

Whatever your opinion on the design, accessibility is a major improvement. The oldest of Oslo's trams have



narrow, steep steps to allow passengers on and off. The entryways on these carriages are much more spacious. Critical for wheelchair users and others who struggle with mobility, access will be at street level.



"It has been important to us that the new trams become an environmentally friendly means of transport with access available to everyone. Sporveien and Ruter have worked with various groups of travelers who have been involved in the design and adaptation of the new tram," said Sporveien's project manager Bjørn Bjune.

A big investment for the city

Sporveien has been given responsibility by Oslo municipality to buy 87 new trams at a cost of approximately NOK 4 billion. This 18-metre-long prototype is an exact replica of the new fleet that will be delivered ready for operation in the winter of 2020-21. The prototype has been developed for testing and quality assurance ahead of full production. The trams are being made by Spanish firm CAF.

"Those traveling with the new trams will experience a major upgrade compared to today. We are developing the next generation of trams. It is undoubtedly the most exciting project one can work on in Norway," said Bjune.

Modern touches

As with the new metro buses in Trondheim, Oslo's new trams will feature USB charging points. All travel information such as the upcoming stops will be displayed on digital screens.

Viking Words still used in the English Language

By Ian Harvey

When you think of "Old English," do you think about struggling through the Canterbury Tales or Beowulf? Old English, or Anglo-Saxon, was a language spoken by the Angles and the Saxons, the first two Germanic tribes to settle in the British Isles.

Why is it so hard, then, for modern English speakers to read Old English? In terms of grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary, Old English is much more like Dutch and German (to which it is related) than to modern English, according to Babel.

If you're wondering how that happened, it's because of the Norman French invasion in 1066. The influx of French rulers and nobility for the next 300 years led to a lot of French words filtering into the language we know as English. Today, almost 30% of the words in the English language come from French. Modern English is thought of as having West Germanic roots with a heavy French influence, but there is a missing piece of the language puzzle: The Vikings!

"Viking" really means a seagoing expedition in Old Norse. Vikings, then, were men from Denmark and Norway who spent their summers going to sea and colonizing and/or pillaging along the way. By the 870s, the Danes had largely given up the raiding and many had settled across Northern England. England even had Danish kings for about 30 years. The Norman invasion in 1066 put an end to Danish influence of English culture in most ways, but the Viking language persisted. There are many words in modern English that go back to those Viking settlers, according to Ancient Origins. Here are just a few of them.

WRONG: Even though you might hate to admit it, if you thought “wrong” was an entirely English word, you are mistaken. The word comes from the Old Norse “rangr,” which the Danes shifted to “vrang,” and in English eventually became “wrong.”

CAKE: These sweet baked treats get their name from the Old Norse “kaka,” which is what the Vikings used to describe a little cake.

UGLY: The Danes would describe someone who they thought wasn't at all attractive as “uggligr,” which came from the word “ugga,” which means “to fear.” “Ugly” literally comes from the idea of being scary looking – a definite advantage in a Viking warrior.



Codex runicus, a vellum manuscript from c. 1300 containing one of the oldest and best preserved texts of the Scanian law (Skånske lov), written entirely in runes.

The Viking influence is also felt in our days of the week. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday are sometimes attributed to the gods Tyr, Odin, and Freya, although really the sources are Tiw, Wodan, and Friga, who were the Anglo-Saxon versions of the same deities. Thursday, of course, is Thor's day. The similarity in the names here shows how closely related the groups were, even before coming to England.

A number of the words we use relating to war and violence also have their roots in the Viking's language, such as “gun,” which was “gunn” in Old Norse, which comes from the female name Gunnhildr and translates as war or battle. Clearly, the Norse were no strangers to headstrong women. We also get the words “club,” “slaughter,” “ransack,” and “scathe” courtesy of the Vikings. Probably one of the most well-known words in this area is “berserk,” which comes from “berskr,” a Viking warrior who would go into battle wearing animal skins instead of armor, and who was said to go into intense battle rages.

There are also plenty of words in English with Norse roots that refer to more civilized aspects of life, such as “husband” and “thrift” (which means prosperity in Old Norse). We have words related to society, such as “by-law” and “tidings.” There are even words that refer to the landscape around us that are still in use today, such as “dirt,” “muck,” and “mire.”

In many ways, the modern English language is more closely related to those in Scandinavia than many people think, and more closely related to their language than English is to Old English, which suggests that the Viking influence seeped its way into the language of the Anglo-Saxons, as well.

Some linguists even think that English should be reclassified as a Northern Germanic language, like the Scandinavian languages, instead of branding it as being Western Germanic, like German and Dutch. We really do still speak Viking.

Famous Lofoten Hike Re-opens With Sherpa-Built Steps

By David Nikel

One of Norway's most spectacular hikes is back open after three years of periodic closures and almost a million dollars of upgrades. Reinebringen is a mountain that towers over the village of Reine in the windswept Lofoten Islands. It's widely considered to be one of Norway's most beautiful viewpoints.



View from the Reinebringen hike in Lofoten, Norway

However, that beauty—shared around the world on social media—started attracting unsustainable numbers of tourists. Hundreds of daily hikers caused significant wear-and-tear to the mountain trail, which has claimed the lives of four people over a seven-year period.

The Moskenes municipality took the decision to begin work on a series of improvements, which involved long periods of closure. However, in 2018 they reported that more than 9,000 people ignored the warnings and used the trail throughout the hiking season.

Reinebringen back on the menu

Now after three years of partial closures, the trail has reopened as a stone staircase, although some work is still outstanding at the upper end of the trail.

Attracted by the natural scenery, American photographer Cody Duncan moved to Lofoten in 2016 and now leads photography workshops around the mountains. He traveled to Reinebringen to check out the improvements on the opening day and says the improvements were definitely needed. “The danger wasn't so much from slipping, but more from falling rocks. There are a lot of loose rocks on the upper parts of the mountain and with the large number of people on the trail, the risk of someone knocking rocks down onto you was high,” he says.

However, Duncan warns that while the improvements are welcome, they just shift the problem elsewhere. “The issue now is inade-

quate parking. The number of cars has long been a problem, but that will increase dramatically now the trail is back open." He adds that although local authorities opened a paid car park in Reine, its high cost means many drivers choose to park on the side of the road, often blocking in locals or other access points.

Government grants enable the improvements

The sherpa-built stone staircases up steep inclines and wooden walkways over marshland at Reinebringen have so far cost more than 7.1 million Norwegian kroner (\$830,000). This year's expenses are not included in that figure. Once the project is fully complete, the total is likely to be in excess of \$1 million.

The municipality of Moskenes led the improvements with grants from the Norwegian Environment Agency and the local business association, among others. Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment Ola Elvestuen said the



grants to improve hiking trails are proving a success. "We want to allow an increasing number of tourists enjoying Norwegian nature without leading to wear and tear, littering and rescue operations."

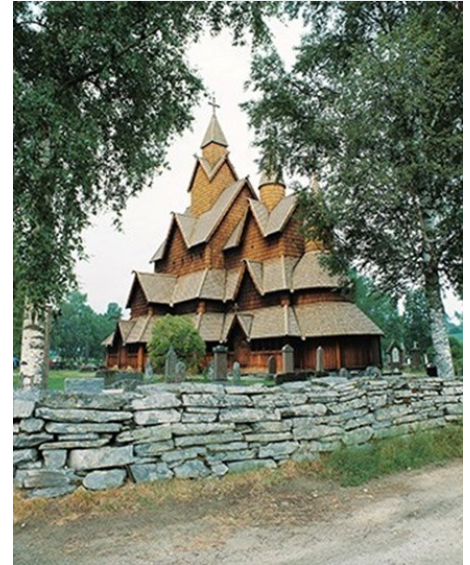
Rescue operations are being stretched in places such as Preikestolen, another famous hike which has recorded a record number of rescues this year.

Teams of sherpas used across Norway

In order to fix the problem at Reinebringen, local authorities hired a team of sherpas to build a stone staircase replacing most of the previous muddy trails. The Nepalese mountaineers have unique skills in building paths on steep terrain, so much so that many of Norway's municipalities have hired them in recent years.

(Cont.) Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Site

Norway's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Site includes hydroelectric power plants powered by waterfalls, along with transmission lines, factories, transport systems, and towns. The site demonstrates an outstanding record of life in the early 1900s, including technological, economic, social, aesthetic, and cultural factors. Also included is the famous Vemork plant, which produced the heavy water that the occupying forces planned to use to develop nuclear weapons during World War II. A new plant was built inside the mountain in 1971, allowing the original Vemork to become the Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum. Visitors can learn about the heavy water sabotage and the story of Norway's power and industrial adventure from the early 1900s.



The nearby town of Rjukan hit the headlines around the world in 2013 when they installed a set of giant mirrors on the mountain, at more than 2,400 feet above sea level. The mirrors gave the town—wedged at the foot of a deep valley—winter sunlight for the first time ever.

Notodden and Heddal Stave Church

On the shore of Heddals Lake, Notodden is the host of the renowned annual Notodden Blues Festival. But what brings most visitors to Notodden is what lies hidden a few miles away, one of Norway's most beautiful traditional churches. The remarkable Heddal Stave Church is a wonderful example of stave church architecture, the largest in all the country. Built in the early 13th century, the church has undergone two major restorations, most recently in the 1950s. There's an intriguing local legend about why the church was built, but I won't spoil the surprise here!

Buses run from Oslo and Bergen to Notodden, making it one of the easier parts of rural Telemark to reach without a car. The route from Bergen is particularly scenic, albeit slow. The church itself is 4 miles outside of Notodden, but it is easy to reach on the local bus service.