

2008

sees the 850th anniversary of the death of St Rognvald, the Viking Earl Rognvald (Kali) Kolsson who founded St Magnus Cathedral in honour of his uncle, the Viking pacifist, Magnus. Throughout the summer, a range of events celebrate this central and colourful figure in Orkney's history, and his finest creation, the magnificent St Magnus Cathedral.



JUNE



St Magnus Festival

Birsay Community Centre
Friday 30 and Saturday 31 May

Viking Re-enactment

Viking re-enactors demonstrate a range of domestic activities including tablet weaving and Viking shoe making, Norse living experiences and weapons.

St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall
Wednesday 11 June 7.30pm

Lindsay-Fischer Lecture How Old are the Stave Churches?

Dr Ola Storsletten

Organised by the **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** in conjunction with **Orkney Heritage Society** and the **Orkney Norway Friendship Association**.

Supported by the Strathmartine Trust.

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall
Thursday 19 June 7.00pm

Friday 20 June 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Riders of Sea Horses

A celebration of Rognvald's pilgrimage to the Holy Land, a story of adventure, romance and intrigue. Children from nine Orkney schools present a spectacular commemoration through drama, dance, music and art.

TALISMAN
ENERGY

Kirkwall

Sunday 22 June to Thursday 26 June

Goodwill visit from Stavanger Maritime Museum

Two sailing ships from the **Stavanger Maritime Museum** will visit Kirkwall at the height of Midsummer. The **Anna af Sand**, built in 1848, and the **Wyvern**, built in 1897 will be docked in Kirkwall for four days.

www.stavanger.museum.no

APRIL



Orkney Museum, Kirkwall

Saturday 29 March to Saturday 27 September

Orkney in the 12th Century: Rognvald and his Earldom

This exhibition tells the story of this remarkable man and the time in which he lived. Poet, warrior, pilgrim and diplomat, he is best remembered as Saint Rognvald, the builder of St Magnus Cathedral.

Museum open

April: Mon - Sat 10.30am - 12.30pm;

1.30pm - 5.00pm

May - Sept: 10.30am - 5.00pm

MAY



Orkney Museum, Kirkwall
May to September

Friends of St Magnus 50th Anniversary

The **Society of the Friends of St Magnus Cathedral** celebrates its 50th anniversary with this summer-long exhibition.

Museum open

April: Mon - Sat 10.30am - 12.30pm;

1.30pm - 5.00pm

May - Sept: 10.30am - 5.00pm

St Magnus Festival

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Stromness Parish Church

Sunday 22 June 5.00pm

St Rognvald Chapel, St Magnus Cathedral
Monday 23 June 4.00pm and 6.00pm

A Johnsmas Foy Poet, Warrior, Saint

The Johnsmas Foy presents a contemporary view of Rognvald's journey, brought to life by Orcadian and Icelandic voices through words, music and visual images.

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall
Wednesday 25 June 9.00pm

The Martyrdom of St Magnus

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' powerful chamber opera, inspired by **George Mackay Brown's** novel Magnus, launched the first St Magnus Festival in 1977. This compelling theatrical work returns to the Saint's own cathedral in a new production by **The Hebrides Ensemble**.

Kirk Green, Kirkwall

Friday 27 June 7.00pm and 9.30pm

Saturday 28 June 7.00pm and 9.30pm

MagFest presents Faring: Rognvald's return

A spectacular outdoor performance celebrating both St Rognvald and St Magnus Cathedral. **Kirkwall City Pipe Band** and Shetland's Guizer Jarl ('Kol Kalison') and his **Jarl's Squad** add to the spectacle. The show culminates in a thrilling aerial performance focusing on the Cathedral itself. Produced in partnership with London's **Circus Space**.

EventScotland
Regional Events Programme

TALISMAN
ENERGY



For details of all **St Magnus Festival** and **MagFest** events, visit www.stmagnusfestival.com
Festival box office:
+44 (0) 1856 871445.
Booking opens 5 May.

Scottish Arts Council

Scottish Arts Council
LOTTERY FUNDED



JULY

FREE

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall throughout July and August **Sails in St Magnus**

The Sails in St Magnus were specially commissioned for the nave of St Magnus Cathedral in 1993 as part of the St Magnus Festival. The heraldic sails, inspired by words by **George Mackay Brown**, celebrate the epic voyage of Earl Rognvald to Byzantium.

AUG

FREE

Kirk Green, Kirkwall Wednesday 13 August **St Magnus Fair**

The Fair is an annual event organised by the **St Magnus Fair Committee**. The funds raised help to ensure that St Magnus Cathedral is preserved for future generations.

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall Wednesday 13 August 2.00pm to Sunday 17 August 5.00pm

FREE

Our Cathedral: the Wonder and Glory of the North

As part of the St Magnus Fair, **Kirkwall Flower Arrangement Club** commemorates the St Rognvald anniversary with a display of floral art in St Magnus Cathedral. Collection in aid of the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Training Ship Thorfinn, Scapa Bay, Kirkwall Weekends of 23 - 24 August and 30 - 31 August 10.00am - 4.00pm

FREE

Orkney Amateur Radio Club Call sign GS8R

A 'special event' radio station based within metres of a site of Earl Rognvald's landings. This coincides with a similar operation by Arendals-Gruppen av Norsk Radio Relæ Liga, operating from a site near Earl Rognvald's birthplace at Bringsværd, near Grimstad, Norway. www.eu009.com

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall Saturday 23 August 12 noon **Riders of Sea Horses**

A second chance to see Orkney schools' celebratory production (see 19 and 20 June).

FREE

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall Sunday 24 August 11.15am **Rognvald 850 Commemorative Service**

Marking the 850th anniversary of the death of St Rognvald, the service will be conducted by Cathedral Minister Revd **Fraser Macnaughton**. The service includes musicians from Rognvald's home town of Grimstad in Norway, plus the premiere of a specially commissioned anthem for the Cathedral Choir and organ by Orkney-based composer **Gemma McGregor**.

SEPT

Orkney College, Kirkwall Friday 19 September **Rognvald 850**

A one day conference celebrating the life and literary genius of Earl Rognvald.

Speakers include **Professor Else Mundal** from the University of Bergen, **Brian Smith** from Shetland Archives and **Dr Donna Heddle**, Director of the UHI Millennium Institute Centre for Nordic Studies. The event includes a story-telling session from **Tom Muir** and a light buffet lunch.
www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk



Late
September
or early
October

Venue and date to be arranged Rognvald's Journey

A three-person performance based on Rognvald's journey as recounted in the Orkneyinga Saga, using storytelling, music and song. Will include performances for school children as well as a public performance and it will also be taken out to an island central to the story.

information

For information on any of the Rognvald 850 events within the programme, please contact **Tanya McGill**, Cultural Co-ordinator Manager, Orkney Islands Council on +44 (0) 1856 873535 or email tanya.mcgill@orkney.gov.uk

For information on travel and accommodation, contact **VisitOrkney** tel: +44 (0) 1856 872856
www.visitorkney.com

All information is correct at time of printing but organisers reserve the right to alter the programme as necessary.



www.rognvald850.org.uk

design: ia design cover image: Sails in St Magnus

ROGNVALD 850

APRIL to
SEPTEMBER
2008



LOTTERY FUNDED