CoScan
Confederation of Scandinavian Societies

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For immediate release

Cat Jarman receives the CoScan 2024
International Nordic Person of the Year Award

The bio-archaeologist Dr Cat Jarman has received the 'International Nordic Person of the Year Award' from CoScan, the Confederation of Scandinavian Societies in the UK. The award recognizes Dr Jarman for her contribution to Viking Studies through her highly accessible groundbreaking research, her numerous acclaimed publications, and her work in public engagement.

The award was made during a seminar led by Dr Jarman and hosted by the Ambassador of Norway, His Excellency Tore Hattrem, at his residence in London on 28 May 2024. Dr Jarman chaired a fascinating afternoon of presentations involving four UK-based academics (Professor Judith Jesch, Dr Jane Kershaw, Professor Clare Downham, and Dr Tom Booth), in the presence of sixty guests.

Presenting the award, the President of CoScan, Nick Archer, spoke of Cat Jarman's impressive scholarship, enthusiasm and communication skills that have served to keep Viking Studies at the forefront of Anglo-Scandinavian interest in the UK and made her such an obvious candidate for the award in 2024.

About Cat Jarman

Dr Jarman is a bioarchaeologist and field archaeologist specialising in the Viking Age. She uses forensic techniques like isotope analysis, carbon dating, and DNA analysis on human remains to untangle the experiences of past

people from broader historical narratives. Dr Jarman is the editor of *British Archaeology* magazine and contributes to numerous television documentaries as a presenter, on-screen expert, and historical consultant. She presents the popular history podcast *The Rabbit Hole Detectives* with Richard Coles and Charles Spencer.

Dr Jarman is the author of two books, Sunday Times bestseller *River Kings - A New History of the Vikings from Scandinavia to the Silk Roads*, which was The Times' History Book of the Year for 2021 and most recently *The Bone Chests – Unlocking the Secrets of the Anglo-Saxons*, a Times and Sunday Times Book of the Week. Both books are published by William Collins.

About CoScan

CoScan was founded in 1950 and supports and represents all the major Anglo-Scandinavian societies in the UK, as well as friends of the Nordic countries living in the UK. It has a combined membership of many thousands of people and it acts as a coordinating body for cultural exchange between the UK and Ireland on the one hand and the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, on the other. The embassies of the Nordic countries are its patrons.

Each year, CoScan makes a 'Nordic Personality of the Year Award' to mark the achievement of **outstanding** merit by an individual, body or group related to one of the five Nordic countries, and who have caused the British and others outside the region to view the Scandinavian countries with ever-increasing affection and respect.

Previous recipients of the award include Norwegian chess champion Magnus Carlsen, Swedish astronaut Christer Fuglesang, Swedish diplomat Hans Blix, Swedish philanthropist Lisbet Rausing, and presenter Sandi Toksvig, the Norwegian Scandi-noir writer, Jo Nesbø, and the Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson.

Speaking of the award Cat Jarman has said:

“I’m honoured and very grateful to CoScan for giving me this award. I’ve long been passionate about sharing my love for archaeology and the Viking Age. This recognition demonstrates the enduring and widespread interest in understanding the intricate relationship between Britain and the Nordic countries, which dates back almost two millennia!”

Contact

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