Ragnhild Ljosland: The 12th Century Intruders’ Attitude to Maeshowe

I will invite you to an exploration of the attitude displayed by the group who entered Maeshowe in the 1150s. What did mound breaking mean in the 12th century? Is it significant that some of the intruders seem not to have been local residents? Which beliefs did the group hold about the mound? The presentation will use saga accounts of mound breaking and folklore material to discuss the Maeshowe inscriptions, especially Or Barnes 4, 8, 25, 26, 27, 28 (treasure story), Or Barnes 14, 24 (Jerusalem travellers), Or Barnes 20 (Gauk Trandilsson’s axe), and Or Barnes 23 (Loðbrók’s sons).