

Gunhild

“I’ve not been able to grow crops due to the frozen soil this has left me dependent on my livestock such as cows, chickens and sheep. Yet, my cows have stopped producing milk over the winter season. As a result of the freezing temperatures, my livestock are starting to die! This means I’ve been keeping my animals inside with my family to keep warm! It’s filthy and smelly inside my home!



Normally, I’ve let my children help out around the farm, but I’ve been keeping them inside as I’m worried that they will freeze or slip and fall. I’m doing all the work myself and I’m exhausted! Also, I’ve not been able to fish due to the frozen over lakes!”

Hillevi

“Luckily I have a large storage of corn which I grew throughout the summer. I’ve been able to grind this into flour to make bread. However, our stores will not feed everyone in this community; there is only just enough to make sure that my family survives until summer.

My normal methods of drying fruits and meats to help preserve it has been difficult due to the wet and moist temperatures. I’m also struggling to find dry wood to keep our fires going!”



Per



“With only a few strong men left in the settlement I’m struggling to complete the labour on my own. The hours are long searching for the right amount of material or wood for our boats and homes. I normally have to go far into the mountains, but I’ve been unable to due to the strong winds and snowfall.

To make matters worse, the amount of light in the day is shorter. All I could hope is that we hide away in our homes, wait for winter to pass over and hope that we survive”

Greta



“The last few months have been difficult. I have been struggling to be able to feed my family and keep them warm – especially the old folk like my mother.

I’ve not had the resources such as fresh yarn to make new clothes. My family’s clothes are decent but I need to weave more fleece’s and blankets to keep us warm at night. This is proving difficult without the resources”

Anders



“With no visitors to the village, I have found it impossible to continue my work as a blacksmith. Not only is there no-one to buy what I have made, but I can’t even make new tools to help the village farmers because I have no new materials!

Ulf, my son and apprentice, took the last of the iron ore from the mine last spring and we have not been able to find any more ore seams in the ground near us. We need a new source of metal.”

Tusse

“Over the last few winters, I have been looked on by many to provide food for the village. Yes, it is true that I have a skill for fishing and hunting, but my leg was injured last month when I led Ulf and Per to capture that whale. Now, I feel guilty because I need to rest. We need a larger community. I cannot continue to feed the whole village alone.”



Halfdan Ragnarsson



“Greetings and my Odin smile upon you, my fellows. I am Halfdan, son of the legendary Ragnar Lothbrok.

You have heard of him, yes? The legendary Ragnar who rose up from a simple farmer like yourselves to become a mighty warrior. The legendary Ragnar who has been causing so much strife to the Saxon kings in Britain.

My brothers and I are putting together an army. A huge army. An army like no-one has ever seen. An army with one purpose: to kill the Northumbrian King Ælle in revenge for murdering our father Ragnar.

We will destroy his towns and take his lands.

To do this, we need the help of every able body strong enough to swing an axe or shoot a bow.

I see the state of your village – it has seen better days for sure. Leave it behind and join me in battle. As a reward for your bravery, you will be given fertile, green land in Northumbria to make a new home for yourselves.

I want you to join my great army.”