

PERICLES

Coastal Interpretation Webinar



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 770564.

Myles Farnbank

Head of Guides & Training for Wilderness Scotland

Scotland Manager for Wilderness Foundation UK

Vice-chair Scottish Adventure Activities Forum (SAAF)

30 years experience as an international wilderness guide -
Mountain, sailing, sea kayaking, canoeing and wildlife guiding

Created UK's first Guide Training Programme in 2009

Active guide trainer throughout UK & internationally

Lecturer Adventure Tourism, Marine & Coastal Tourism &
Ecotourism

Sit on Cross-party Working Group Recreational Boating & Marine
Tourism - Scottish Parliament



Introductions

If everyone could introduce themselves
and give a brief reason for attending
today's webinar



What is Scottish Coastal Cultural History?

In break out groups - 15 minutes to note down anything that you feel is part of coastal Scotland's cultural history story.

You don't have to agree - go 'high low and wide'



Please agree someone in the group to scribe and feedback on the things you noted down

Overview - morning session

Context - Marine & Coastal Tourism
What is Interpretation?
Archaeology and brief history of the area
Boundary or Bridge - psycho-geography of the coast
Coastal Castles
Coastal food & Net Product
Whaling and seals
Commerce and Culture
Lost at Sea
Lighting the way



We are going to take a very wide view of coastal cultural history which will touch on most of the things you have shared.

Overview - afternoon session

Mystic Places - Folklore

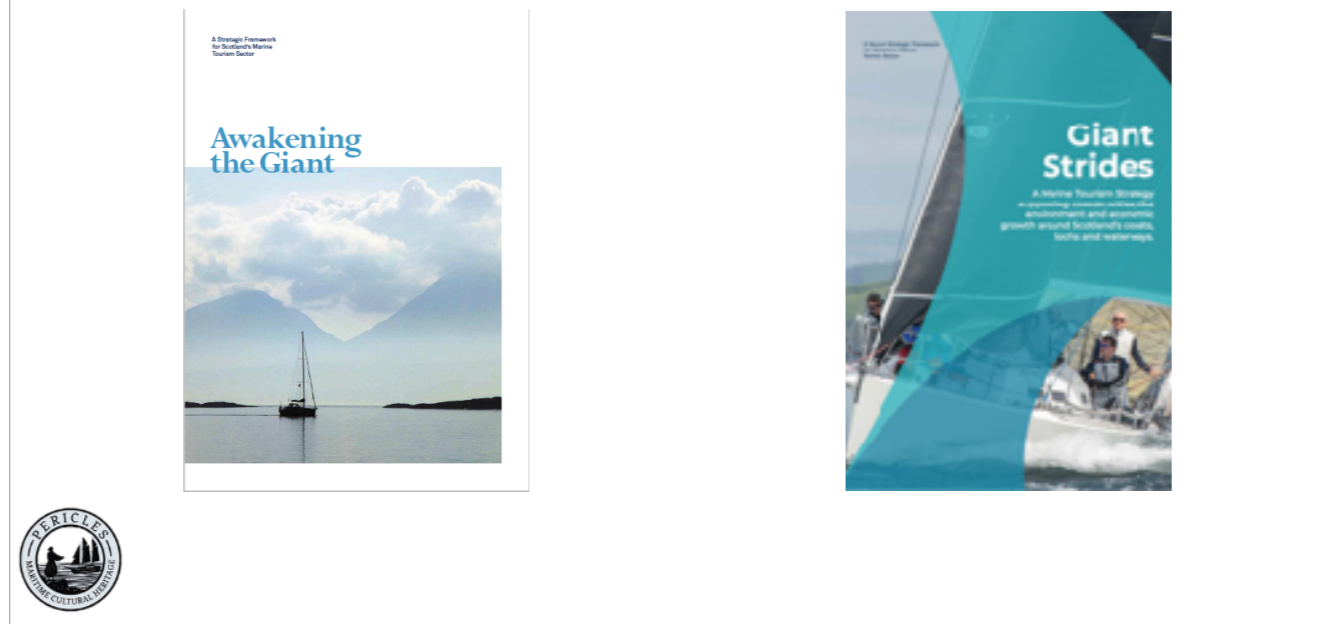
Coastal creations - art, music, poetry and prose

Crofters and Fisherfolk - Personal stories from Mallaig & Arisaig



We are going to take a very wide view of coastal cultural history which will touch on most of the things you have shared.

Scottish Marine Tourism Strategy



Scotland's Second Marine Tourism Strategy, 'Giant Strides 2020–2025' was officially launched in spring 2020. The new strategy represents the next evolution of the successful 'Awakening the Giant' strategy. However, Giant Strides takes a much broader view of marine tourism, its role within coastal and island communities and the significant benefits marine tourism can deliver for communities, the environment and the economy of Scotland. This is intended to be a strategy of influence and takes a partnership approach to strategic development.

The five-year plan aims to boost Scotland's reputation as a world-class sustainable marine tourism destination by meeting changing consumer, workforce, community and environmental needs and grow the industry's economic contribution to over £500 million by 2025.

Year of Coasts & Waters - 2020



As you watch this video please note any historical and cultural elements in the video.

What Is Interpretation?

“Interpretation is a mission-based approach to communication aimed at provoking in audiences the discovery of personal meaning and the forging of personal connections with things, places, people and concepts”

Sam Ham (2013) *Interpretation: Making a Difference on Purpose*





Whilst we will explore many parts of Scotlands coast we will share a range of aspects of this area between Ardnamurachan and Skye

Coastal Archeology

Paleolithic (pre-agrarian Old Stone Age)

Mesolithic - shell middens and worked flint

Bronze Age - burial cairns, Crannogs

Iron Age - vitrified forts



The earliest finds in Scotland have predominately been found close to coasts. In Ulva Cave in Mull a shell midden has been found dated to as early as 7650 BC.

In the area to the west of Fort William and including the small Isles Mesolithic hunter gatherers & Neolithic farmer/hunter gatherers – shell middens and worked flint.

Bronze Age – burial cairns Loch Shiel, Crannog on Loch na Eala

Iron Age – various forts eg An Dun, Loch Moidart and vitrified forts on Eilean nan Gobhar

Brief History of the area

Limited early Christian influence from monastic tradition coming from Ireland with St.Columba

Viking raids lead to area becoming part of the Kingdom of the Isles

C11th mainland becomes part of Scotland

C12th century Somerled Lord of the Isles possesses the area

1266 Treaty of Perth area becomes Scottish Crown dependency - Castle Tioram built

Clan Ranald formed and area given Ranald by John Lord of the Isles



Following raids by vikings, Moidart became part of the Kingdom of the Isles, a Norwegian dependency. It was in this period that Moidart acquired its name, from the Old Norse mod, meaning mud, and the Norse suffix -art, derived from fjord; the whole name thus means muddy loch, and refers to Loch Moidart in particular. In the late 11th century, Malcolm III of Scotland made a written agreement with Magnus Barelegs, the Norwegian king, which moved the border to the coast; Moidart thus became Scottish.

In the early 12th century, Somerled, a Norse-Gael of uncertain origin, came into possession of Moidart and the surrounding region; no reliable record explains how this happened, but at some point in the 1140s, David I of Scotland's control of the region had been eroded. In the middle of the century, Somerled launched a coup in the Kingdom of the Isles, which resulted in that kingdom joining his other possessions, as a single independent state. Upon Somerled's death, Norwegian authority was restored, but in practice, the kingdom was divided; the portion containing Moidart was known as Garmoran, and ruled by the MacRory, a faction among Somerled's heirs.

Following the 1266 Treay of Perth, Garmoran became a Scottish crown dependency – the Lordship of Garmoran – still ruled by the MacRory, until the sole MacRory heir was Amy of Garmoran. At around this time, Castle Tioram was built, in Loch Moidart, as the principal seat of the Lordship of Garmoran. Most of the remainder of the Kingdom of the Isles had become the Lordship of the Isles, ruled by the MacDonalds, whose leader, John of Islay, married Amy. After the birth of three sons, he divorced Amy and married the king's niece, in return for a substantial dowry.

As part of the arrangement, John deprived his eldest son, Ranald, of the ability to inherit the Lordship of the Isles, in favour of a son by his new wife; as compensation, he made Ranald the Lord of Garmoran.

However, at the end of the 14th century, on Ranald's death, his sons were still children, and Ranald's younger brother Godfrey took the opportunity to seize the Lordship of Garmoran. Furthermore, the heirs of Ranald's other brother Murdoch now made their own claim. This involved Godfrey's family (the Siol Gorrie) and those of his brothers in a great deal of violent conflict which is not described in much detail in surviving records.

Brief History of the area

1427 James I takes the area due to lawlessness

1469 area granted by James III to Lord of the Isles John, passed to Hugh of Sleat.

Clanranald heirs dispute charter

James IV granted area to leader of Clanranald John

1609 more lawlessness led to area being taken back by the crown from Donald John's grandson

After some imprisonment and agreeing to follow the king's law Donald regains the charter



However, at the end of the 14th century, on Ranald's death, his sons were still children, and Ranald's younger brother Godfrey took the opportunity to seize the Lordship of Garmoran. Furthermore, the heirs of Ranald's other brother Murdoch now made their own claim. This involved Godfrey's family (the Siol Gorrie) and those of his brothers in a great deal of violent conflict which is not described in much detail in surviving records.

In 1427, frustrated with the level of violence generally in the highlands, together with the insurrection caused by his own cousin, King James I demanded that highland magnates should attend a meeting at Inverness. On arrival, many of the leaders were seized and imprisoned. Alexander MacGorrie, son of Godfrey, was considered to be one of the two most reprehensible, and after a quick showtrial, was immediately executed. As Alexander had by now inherited Godfrey's de facto position as Lord of Garmoran, and in view of Ranald's heirs being no less responsible for the violence, King James declared the Lordship forfeit.

Brief History of the area

The Rough Bounds became a hotbed of Jacobite sympathy.

Finally leaving Scotland from Loch nan Uamh, he took seven prominent men with him, who became known as the *Seven Men of Moidart*

Moidart had no road access until the A861 was built, in 1966.

1988 before residents to have a connection to the mains electricity supply.

Strongly Gaelic-speaking area until the mid 20th century.

Training location for special operational units during World War II.



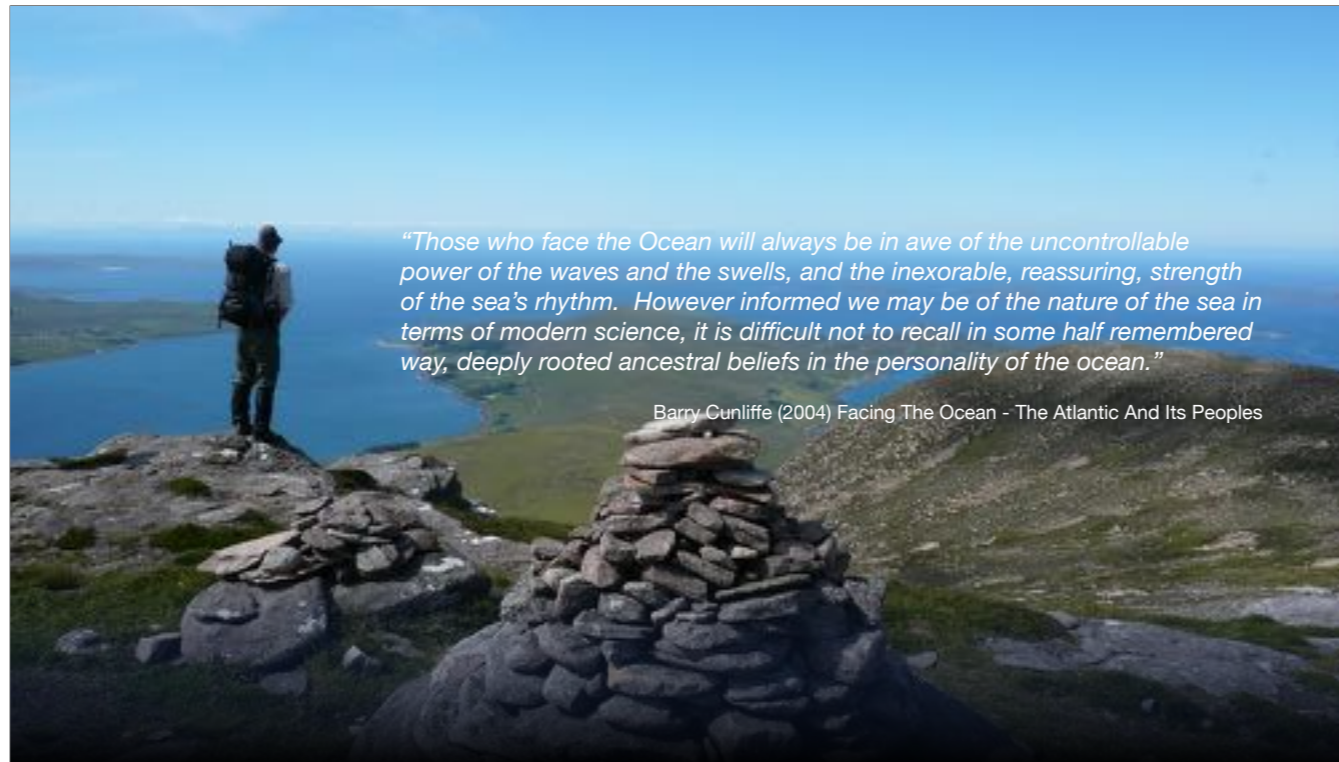
Failure of the Jacobite rising of 1745, the last part of Scotland where Bonnie Prince Charlie found sanctuary.

Seven Men of Moidart (the Second Duke of Atholl, Aeneas MacDonald – brother of the local Laird, Francis Strickland – an English squire, George Kelly – Irish Presbyterian minister, and three Irishmen serving as French soldiers); a commemorative row of beech trees was planted a century later.

Prior to 1966 accessed by a rough footpath or by a ferry running between Lochailort (at the north of Moidart) and Genuig (in the west).

– in the 1881 census, around 90% of the population were able to speak Gaelic and over a third unable to speak English, though by 2001 the share of Gaelic speakers had declined to under 15% of habitual residents.

Several SOE paramilitary training bases were sited in the area, and HMS Dorlin was established at Dorlin, and used for training of Royal Navy Beach Signals and Royal Signals sections.



"Those who face the Ocean will always be in awe of the uncontrollable power of the waves and the swells, and the inexorable, reassuring, strength of the sea's rhythm. However informed we may be of the nature of the sea in terms of modern science, it is difficult not to recall in some half remembered way, deeply rooted ancestral beliefs in the personality of the ocean."

Barry Cunliffe (2004) Facing The Ocean - The Atlantic And Its Peoples

Boundary or Bridge?

Coasts as liminal boundaries

Ease of travel

Kingdom of Dàl Riata

Vikings & The Kingdom of The Isles



For many a modern psychological sense of the coast is as a terminus or limit – a boundary.

Historically coastal zones were regarded as liminal environments in other words a threshold to cross in both directions. The sea was for many centuries as much a highway as a barrier.

Not so long ago land travel was slow and uncomfortable: as late as 1750 the coach from Edinburgh to London took 12 days. This sense of travel as hard work persisted well into the Industrial Age.

In the sixth century Dàl Riata took in the coast of western Scotland from Arran and Argyll to Lochaber and Skye as well as Antrim on the Ulster side. A kingdom made up of a scattering of islands, peninsulas and coastal glens makes no sense in modern terms, but the north channel back then was far less a challenge than the rugged interiors on either side.

So a psycho-geography determined by maritime links feels very different from our modern perspective.

Dal Riata was by no means the last of these sea spanning kingdoms with the marauding Vikings following on and their descendants establishing autonomous kingdoms in Orkney and Shetland. The Kingdom of the Isles (9th to the 13th centuries) extended all the way from the Outer Hebrides to the Isle of man. However, not until the 15th Century was this separate state fully absorbed into Scotland when Lord John Macdonald II surrendered his sovereignty to James IV.

Coastal Castles

Fortress or aid to commerce?

Quintessentially Scottish

Castle Tioram



Where do we find coastal castles? Often guarding harbour approaches or inshore sea lanes, yes as defence but also aiding commerce.

Castles go right the way back to the iron age vitrified forts (eg vitrified forts on Eilean nan Gobhar in the sound of Arisaig or brochs in the highlands and islands up and down the north and west coasts.

In modern times they are monuments and are quintessential aspects of the Scottish landscape. Often for some more appealing if they are ruined. They have been an important subject for artists since the sense of the gothic and sublime developed in the 18th Century.

Castle Tioram was the fortress of the Macdonalds of Clanranald who held the lands of Moidart and the Isles of Rum, Canna and Eigg. A fascinating history legend says that the castle was built by the slighted wife of John seventh lord of the isles, however archeology suggest that there was a simple fortress there from the 1200s so after the heyday of the Kingdom of the Isles.

In the 1660's the twelfth clan chief, John was a sadistic man who enjoyed terrorising the local population. He used to sit in the highest turret of the castle and using his favourite gun (nicknamed the cuckoo) he used to shoot at anything within range. Including several unfortunate clansmen coming to pay the rent to their mad Laird. In John's time a strange ghost of a large black frog was said to follow the chief everywhere until the day of his death.

Tioram was destroyed in 1715 on the orders of its last occupant. The chief Allan Mor of Clanranald was setting out to support the 1715 Jacobite rising but a seer had foretold his death at the imminent battle of Sheriffmuir. So he declared, "I shall never come back. It is better that our old family house be given to the flames than forced to give shelter to those who are about to triumph over our ruin"

He watched that castle burn before heading to sheriffmuir where he fell as prophesied.

In 1745 as a ruin the French allies hid artillery there, but they were unable to transport them on the invasion southward and 12 of these vital cannons were abandoned there.

Coastal food as necessity

Nomadic hunter gatherers

Seaweed and shellfish

Fowling

Crofting



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 770564.

Necessity is the mother of invention as they say.

As already touched on nomadic hunter gatherers valued the food resources of the coast, as evidenced by the shell middens left behind.

Seaweed was gathered and eaten very widely and is making a renaissance in recent times.

Lazy beds often fertilised by using seaweed.

Fowling young men abseiling 100's of feet down sheer cliffs to take eggs and birds themselves from Puffin, guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes, Fulmars and gannets among others. Guga (young gannets) have and still are traditionally taken from Sula Sgeir (Gannet Rock) 40 miles north of the butt of Lewis.

In earlier times seabirds were boiled down for their oil and used for lighting. Or a string might be passed through the body of a storm petrel where it could be lit to make a sort of lamp.

Land and sea were brought together through crofting following on from the clearances in 18th and 19th centuries. People dislodged from richer lands in the interior, settled along the coasts where they were more or less forced to supplement their agricultural efforts with fishing.

Net Product

Herring

Fishing ports created

Huge export industry

1880's over 7000 ships involved

Steam drifters arrived in 1900

Scottish Fisheries Museum - Anstruther



Over the centuries Scottish economic life moved from subsistence to a much more complex and specialised system. By the late medieval period a significant herring industry had emerged in the forth and Clyde. Boats and drift nets became an industry in their own right.

Peterhead was probably the first important centre for fishing on the east coast. It began expanding in the 16th century and by the end of the 18th was receiving government support as it produced turned out skilled and experienced recruits for the royal navy.

The early 19th saw Wick emerge as a major fishing port followed by Fraserburgh and Fife's East Neuk. By the 1850's the drifters were fast boats – good for getting the fish back to port where they would be processed by the so called fishwives, working in teams of three – two to cut and gut and one to pack the prepared fish into an ice barrel.

On the west coast Tobermory and Ullapool had been founded in 1788 specifically as fishing ports. Fish was cured in salt and exported on a massive scale to the west indies, Russia and the Baltic countries.

The fishing kept expanding by the 1880's over 7000 ships were involved. Steam drifters involved in 1900 with steam powered winches. However by the. Second half of the 20th century the industry imploded due to over fishing. Now there are quotas protecting fish stocks. The whole story is told in the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther.

Whaling

'Fish' Oil

Whalebone Corsetts

Jute manufacture

Scrimshaw



Cetaceans have been hunted since earliest times. Traditional method was to harpoon them or with big whales corral them and drive them into the shallows until they beached and where they were attacked by men with lances. The picture from 1891 shows a traditional caa or whalgrind.

Fish oil has been documented as in the 17th and 18th centuries but its reasonable to assume the practice was part of the economy of northern and western coasts for centuries before that. The oil from whole fish and livers was supplemented by oil from the blubber of cetaceans and apparently one source describes oil being obtained from otter fat!.

As an industry whaling took off in earnest in the middle of the 18th century. The main centre was Dundee, with a number of other coastal ports playing their part. Whalebone was the mainstay of the corset trade with the whale oil used for lighting and in jute manufacture, one of the other chief industries of Dundee.

With long hours at sea hunting whales many whalers passed the time by carving often elaborate scrimshaw from whalebone.

Basking Shark

Hunted for oil but also the skin used.

Hunting peaked in 1947 with 250 sharks landed in Scotland.

Hunted until 1994



According to a 1917 volume of The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, a basking shark liver is "very heavy, often weighing as much as one tonne" and yields a "pale yellow to orange yellow" oil.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the oil was used to fuel lamps before it was replaced by petroleum. Other uses, however, were found for the shark liver oil.

The oil contains squalene, a property that helped in the manufacture of industrial lubricants and, at the other end of the scale, cosmetics, perfume and artificial silk.

As well as the liver oil, the sharks were caught for their skin for leather and for making fishmeal to feed to livestock.

Most of the oil landed in the UK in the 1980s and 1990s was exported to Norway.

However, the rise of synthetic materials in the 20th Century made UK fisheries less profitable. The value of the livers fell from £550 per tonne in the 1970s to about £250 by the early 1990s.

Hunting reached a peak in 1947 when 250 sharks were landed. More than 100 were landed in the 1980s.

Seals

Hunted for meat

Traditionally used to make sporrans



The seal has long been hunted for its meat. Now both species are protected.

It was traditionally used for making sporrans giving the animal a special place in Scottish culture.

The Selkie we'll come to later.

Commerce & Culture

Ports for trade as well as fishing

Coal, salt & raw wool exports

Local trade - Puffers



Many of the east coast fishing ports doubled as ports for trade. Pittenweem exported produce from Sir John Anstruthers coal mines and salt pans.

Raw wool was exchanged for finished textiles.

The maritime trade to begin with was extremely local in character. The nature of the trade changed over time and from the 15th century larger ports like Leith were growing in importance. Timber, iron and luxuries from oranges to wine were all brought in through Scottish ports.

Much internal commerce also took place by sea and still does today. Given the nature of island communities and the inaccessibility of some mainland villages. The flat bottomed puffers which could be beached between the tides to unload their cargo were crucial in supplying communities with everything from coal to candles.

Lost at Sea

7500 shipwrecks of Scotlands coast

1588 Spanish Armada

Scarpa Flow



Many were working vessels in the wrong place at the wrong time.

After the Spanish Armada in 1588 several were wrecked off the Scottish coast, one found in Kinlochbervie in 2002 and the San Juan de Silencia is said to lie at the bottom of Tobermory harbour.

A dutch vessel was lost off mingary castle during the covenantar war in the 1640's and one of Cromwells warships was wrecked off Duart point, Mull in 1653. In 1690 HMS Dartmouth sank in the sound of Mull in the course of a mission to recruit the Clan Maclean to the Williamite cause.

Off Marwick Head on the northwetsren side of Orkney mainland Lord 'Your Country Needs You' Kitchener was lost when HMS Hampshire sank in 1916.

Just three years later the germans scuttled their fleet of 52 vessels in Scarpa Flow in Orkney. Most have been salvaged and scrapped but seven remain and are preserved as monuments.

Lighting the Way

Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh built in 1787

Bell Rock, Angus 1807-10

Skerryvore, Tiree tallest at 48m 1838-44



Wilderness Scotland
Wilderness Scotland
Wilderness Scotland

206 lighthouses in Scotland, Kinnaird Head Fraserburgh built in 1787 first to be built on Scottish mainland and now houses the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses.

Bell Rock was a feat of engineering being built on a partially submerged rock platform.

Many built by the Stevenson family

In 1900 all three lighthouse keepers disappeared from the Flannan Isles perhaps swept away by a wave – still an unsolved mystery.

Lunch



Lochaber No More

Farewell to Lochaber, and farewell my Jean,
Where heartsore wither I ha'e many a day been;
For Lochaber no more, Lochaber no more.
These tears that I shed they are a' for my dear,
And no for the dangers attending on wier;
Though borne on rough seas to a far distant shore,
Maybe to return to Lochaber no More.



Wilderness Scotland
Wilderness Scotland

'Lochaber No More' depicts a scene from the time of the Highland Clearances, Nicol treats the subject with a high level of emotional intensity. A man and a woman are aboard ship, bound for a new life in North America, Australia or New Zealand. She weeps inconsolably, while he gazes back wistfully at their homeland. The meagre belongings at their feet, notably their frail dog, poignantly evoke their desperate position. The title stems from both a traditional lament favoured by departing emigrants and a song by Scottish poet Allan Ramsay (1720) – father of the famous portrait painter of the same name – which tells of an enlisted Highlander's nostalgia for his home country.

Fast Castle from below - Rev. John Thomson of Duddingston



Fast Castle, which stands on a rocky cliff on the Berwickshire coast, was generally taken to be the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's imaginary castle, Wolf's Crag in the novel *The Bride of Lammermoor*. Thomson and Scott were good friends, and in 1823 Thomson presented the writer with one of his paintings of Fast Castle. He made at least eleven pictures of the castle from diverse vantage points and in different weather conditions. Here, the old castle ruin can be made out at the top of the cliff, tiny compared to the rugged rocks, menacing sky and rough sea. A few small boats seem vulnerable in the swell of sea, adding an underlying sentiment of uneasiness, mystery and danger.

The Storm - William McTaggart



McTaggart's energetic brush work and bold colour convey the power of the thunderous sky, lashing wind and turbulent sea. Man's vulnerability and courageous struggle in relation to natural forces are suggested through the tiny fishing vessel at sea and the launching of a rescue boat from the shore. Anxious families wait in the foreground. The figures are fully integrated into the landscape which was worked up in McTaggart's studio, but based on a smaller version painted out of doors at Carradale in Kintyre in 1883.

Jolomo



John Lowrie Morrison a contemporary landscape artist based in Tayvallich

John Cunningham - Sana Bay



John Cunningham was my partner Lorna's uncle and he is a well known and sought after Scottish landscape artist. This is Sana Bay, Ardnamurachan looking North towards Skye

Scottish Music with a Coastal Theme

In break out groups - 10 minutes to note down as much music 'born' or inspired by the Scottish Coast as you can. If its based around a specific place - bonus points!

Hopefully we will all have a playlist to take away at the end of this.



Please agree someone in the group to scribe and feedback on the things you noted down

Famous Locals

Fergie MacDonald
- Accordionist



Fergie Macdonald –Scottish accordionist who specializes in ceilidh music and plays the button key accordion. A trained physiotherapist and an international clay pigeon shooter, MacDonald is considered to be the man who popularised the West Highland style of traditional Scottish dance music. He was brought up in Moidart.

Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture



It was inspired by one of Felix Mendelssohn's trips to the British Isles, specifically an 1829 excursion to the Scottish island of Staffa, with its basalt sea cave known as Fingal's Cave. It was reported that the composer immediately jotted down the opening theme for his composition after seeing the island. He at first called the work To the Lonely Island or Zur einsamen Insel, but then settled on the present title. However, in 1834, the year after the first publication, Breitkopf & Härtel issued an edition with the name Fingalshöhle (Fingal's Cave) and this title stuck, causing some confusion.

(More) Lochaber No More

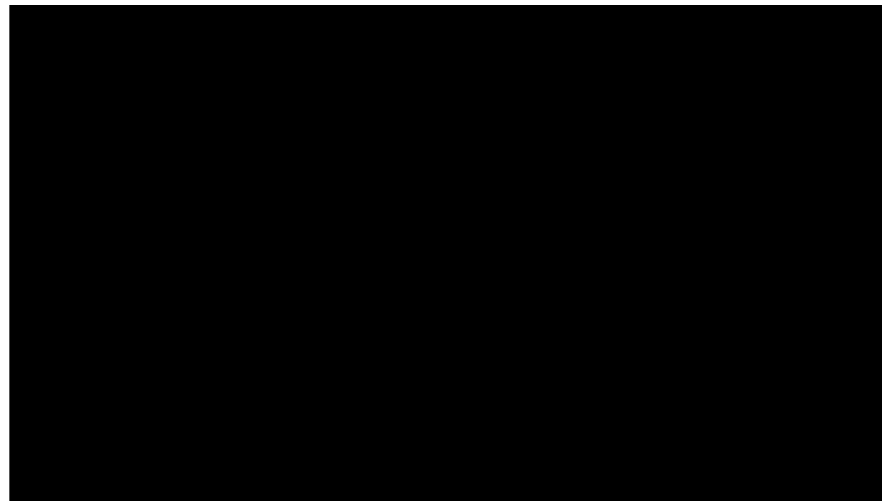


A modern version using the lyrics from Allan Ramsay's words from 1720.

Gairm a'chuain (Call of the Sea)



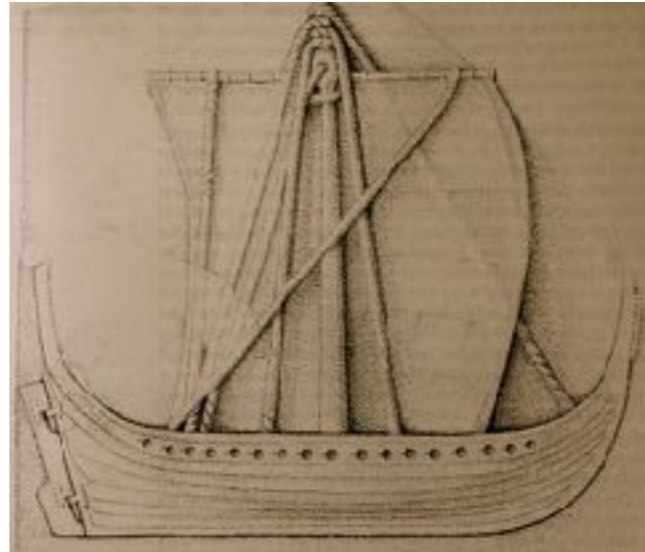
Skipinnish - Walking on the waves



Tidelines - Far Side of the World



Birlinn of Clanranald - Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair



Alasdair mac Mhaighstir Alasdair (lit. Alexander, son of the Reverend Alexander) (c. 1698–1770), legal name Alexander MacDonald, was a Scottish poet, lexicographer, political writer and memoirist. He was one of the most famous Scottish Gaelic poets of the 18th century. He served as a Jacobite military officer and Gaelic tutor to Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

Birlinn of Clanranald was published in Gaelic in 1776 and translated by Hugh MacDiarmid helped by Sorley MacLean in 1935. Extending to over 600 lines and divided into 16 parts it's an eighteenth century version of the great voyage poetry of the Gaelic bards a sea odyssey described words of awesome power.

Staffa - John Keats



This little known and unfinished poems written a few days after Keats visited Fingal's cave on Staffa in 1818

Sea Changes - David Daiches



David Daiches CBE (2 September 1912 – 15 July 2005) was a Scottish literary historian and literary critic, scholar and writer. He wrote extensively on English literature, Scottish literature and Scottish culture.

“Nach urramach an cuan”

How worthy of honour is the sea

