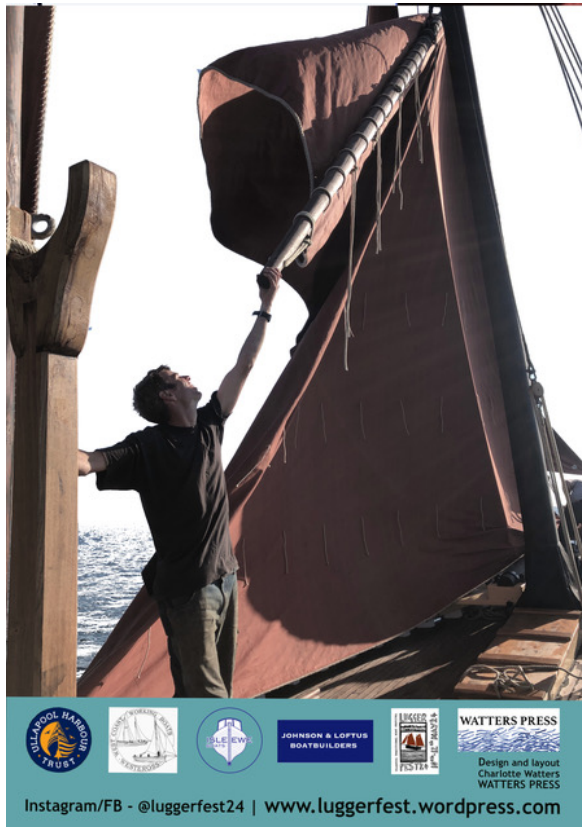


LUGGER FEST '24

10th - 12th May 2024

ULLAPOOL WESTER ROSS



LUGGER FEST

LUGGER FEST '24

Ullapool's inaugural maritime festival of Traditional Boats. 10th - 12th of May 2024

What is a Lugger ?

A lugger is a sailing boat defined by its rig. A lugsail is a nearly square sail set on a yard, a spar of wood that supports the head of sail and crosses the mast. There are three main types: **Dipping-lugs** were very common in working sailing boats. They offer the most power, but require a highly skilled and patient crew. To tack, you must drop the sail, pass the yard to the other side of the mast, and re-hoist. **Balanced-lug** sails have a boom at the foot of the sail as well as a yard at the head, and are distinguished by a tack that's positioned well forward of the mast, which assists with the balance. The **Standing-lug** is similar to the balanced lug, but the tack of the sail is fastened at or near the mast. The Scottish fishing fleets carried lugsails right up until the 1920s and 30s before the advent of the motor and the change in technologies and fishing.

Lugger Fest celebrates and values the history, heritage and use of traditional boats. Ullapool itself was founded as a Herring Port in 1788 and the fishing of the area and landings have been a vital part of its economy and culture through the years since.



Ullapool harbour during it's herring years



St. Vincent today Ullapool Harbour

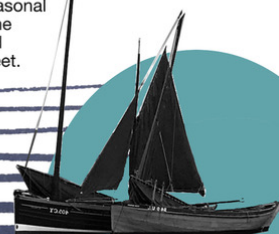
Lugger Fest

This festival is set in the heart of Ullapool, in this west coast fishing village. It is taking place on the water and ashore on the new 'Shore Quay', the beautifully developed and planned west section of Shore street opposite the commercial fishing harbour. These developments and the improvements to the harbour were completed in Summer 2023 and provide the perfect setting for this gathering. Organised with generous support from the Ullapool Harbour Trust and the collaborative efforts of two local boat yards—Johnson and Loftus Boat Yard situated on the shores of Loch Broom, just three miles south of Ullapool, and Isle Ewe Boats, a few lochs away, southwest in Loch Ewe. These yards collaborate on various projects and initiatives, including the establishment of West Coast Working Boats, a dedicated group focused on the restoration and construction of traditional working boats along the West Coast.

Admission to the festival is free, made possible through the invaluable support and contributions received. We deeply appreciate your support and your essential contributions to this event.

Ullapool Harbour

Ullapool was founded in 1788 by the British Fisheries Society, to exploit the boom in the flourishing herring fishing industry. Each season, vessels and herring gutters converged from across Scotland to capture and process the prized "silver darlings." However, the herring industry experienced a downturn in the 1930s, leading to a shift towards centralised processing on the East coast, though fishing activities persisted on the West coast. Accompanying the herring fleet were the resilient "herring girls," who followed the coastline of Britain. Herring catches were meticulously gutted and packed in salt-filled barrels. Today, Ullapool's harbour sustains a thriving local inshore shellfish fleet engaged in year-round prawn creel and trawl fishing, supplemented by seasonal hauls of crabs, lobsters, and scallops. Periodic bursts of whitefish landings coincide with the seasonal presence of haddock and Rockall for the Scottish trawl fleet, as well as hake and monkfish for the Spanish liner/netter fleet.



BOATS

We have a fleet of traditional boats from around the coast joining us at Luggar Fest. There some larger original boats and some smaller more recently built vessels here at the pier, showing that the traditional skills and knowledge of boatbuilding are very much alive continuing today. Some of the older boats in the fleet spent their working lives fishing under sail for herring and pilchards using the power of their enormous rigs to bring home tonnes of catch, a vital part of the economies and culture of their home ports.

Amongst others, here are a few of the vessels joining us for the weekend



BARNABUS Pilchard Driver | 38'6" LWL | Dipping Lug | built : 1881 St. Ives Cornwall

Barnabas is the only survivor from St Ives of the thousand-strong fleet of lug rigged seine and drift net fishing boats registered at Cornish ports at the end of the 19th c. She has come up to join us from Newlyn in Cornwall. She is sailed and managed by the Cornish Maritime Trust. On this Highland tour of hers she is coming to be fitted with new masts and spars made with local wood here at the Johnson and Loftus Yard in Loch Broom.



ST. VINCENT Zulu Herring Drifter | 49' LWL | Dipping Lug | built : 1910 Banff for Eriskay family

Restored : Johnson and Loftus Yard 2021-23
St. Vincent was built by W&G Stephen of Banff, for an Eriskay family. She is a Zulu, dipping lug-rigged herring drifter. She had a long fishing career, finally ending her commercial days in Lowestoft around 1984. She underwent extensive restoration at the J&L yard in 2021/23 and was relaunched in her original engineless condition in May last year.



CLAN GORDON Loch Fyne Skiff | 38' LWL | Standing Lug | built : 1911 Airdrishaig

Restored : Isle Ewe Boats , Loch Ewe 2021-23

Built in 1911 for Roderick Gordon of Kishorn, Wester Ross, CLAN GORDON fished mainly for herring in the Minches and at some time was fitted with an engine. In the 1950s, she moved to Gairloch (UL 240). In 2021 - 23 she underwent significant restoration at Isle Ewe Boats, situated in Loch Ewe. This was a project which ran in tandem with the St. Vincent . Restoring 2 west coast Herring boats to their original condition. She is one of the few Loch Fyne skiffs still afloat with her original lug sail rig.



AN SULAIRE Ness Sgoth | 33' | Dipping Lug | built : 1994 John Murdo Macleod | Stornoway |

A clinker built skiff with a dipping lug rig, An Sulaire was built as a full size replica in 1994 . The rig of is unusual in that the yard is longer than the mast, all of the rig fits comfortably within the boat as the mast was lowered when working with the lines. The boats were beach launched then when they were afloat they were loaded with ballast in the form of stones from the shore. During fishing the stone ballast would be replaced by the catch.



FAME Fifie | 19'6" | Dipping Lug | built : Circa 1910 Gardenstown Aberdeenshire

Fame has been a much loved boat of these waters for many years. She was owned and looked after by Ali Beag in Coigach before coming to Loch Broom where she lives now. She was originally a herring boat working off the East coast. She is 3/4 decked with 2 open wells where the catch would be stored. She has recently undergone a significant refit including a new deck.

BOATS

Amongst the fleet we have some boats designed by Iain Oughtred, who sadly died earlier this year. "Iain's works ... spring from subconscious recollection of the ancient first boat builders, where form truly followed function, honed by the truth of the sea." www.oughtredboats.com.



MURIEL Caledonian Yawl | 19' | Standing Lug with mizzen | Clinker Ply | built : 2008 | by Martin Johnson | Design: Iain Oughtred

Muriel has sailed on many Scottish lochs and Welsh tarns since she was built in the Midlands in '08. Designed by Iain Oughtred and inspired by Shetland Isles fishing boats, with their Norwegian roots. It is made with lightweight glued lapstrake marine plywood construction .



SULA Ness Yawl | 21' | Standing Lug | Built : 2024 | Angus Macinnes and Strathpeffer & District Community Rowing Club | Design: Iain Oughtred

Sula was launched at Storehouse of Foulis on 9 March 2024 after some years work by volunteer builders from the Strathpeffer & District Community Rowing Club working hard under the leadership of Angus Macinnes. A beautiful boat designed by Iain Oughtred "A thoroughbred's blend of ability and beauty"



BURRA Burra Boat | 16' | Standing Lug | built : circa 1960s | by Tommy Isbister | Burra Shetland

Burra is now owned by Joe Peach and is resident in Coigach. She was refurbished by Ali Beag and repaired by Nat Wilson to include a mast and sail.



JIG copy of a Wick boat | 12' | Standing Lug | built : circa 1990s | GRP | by Ken Lowndes | Polbain Jig is a GRP copy take from an old Wick built boat. Ken bought the original boat for £5 and sailed it for some years before deciding that it was beyond repair and set to making this glass fibre copy from the original. Ken has two rigs for the boat: lateen and what he calls the 'swinging lug'.



JULES Clinker Fifie | 18' | Standing Lug | built : 2009 | by Ian Richardson Stromness Orkney

Alasdair Grant of Isle Ewe Boats bought Jules from her original owners 2 years ago with learning to sail in mind. She has just undergone a winter refit at his yard in Loch Ewe, including new deck, new mast and set of sails ready for the Parade of Sail here at Luggar Fest.



TIKI Fifie | 19'6" | Dipping Lug | built : Circa 1910 | Gardenstown Aberdeenshire

Built by Padstow Sea Boats in 1992. this is a Padstow Lugge. She is 15' on deck 22' over spars. GRP hull with teak gunwales with solid wood spars. The design is based the traditional Cornish pilchard fishing boats, it features a practical working boat rig, including a jib and a boom-less standing lug mainsail.



IRIS JESSIE Oban Skiff | 18' 6" | Standing Lug | built : 2013 | by Adam Way | Lochgilphead

Druid is owned by her builder Adam Way. She is built from quality Scottish larch and oak using all copper and bronze fastenings. The Oban Skiffs based on a boat built in Oban in the 1880s but is similar to other fishing boat types which were common on the whole of the west of Scotland. Adam Way has built several of these boats and we are delighted that two of them are joining us here at Luggar Fest this weekend.



GYLEN Oban Skiff | 18' 6" | Standing Lug | built : 2013 | by Adam Way | Lochgilphead

Gylen was launched in Oban in 2023 built by A&R Way Lochgilphead. She is one of several Oban Skiffs built by Adam Way. The boat which the lines were taken from was retired from fishing but was still used in the Oban bay weekend regattas when she was over 50 years old.

This is a selection of the boats here this weekend. Thanks to all the crews who have made the effort to get here to join us in Ullapool this weekend, from far and wide.

EVENTS

TALKS

FRIDAY 10th May | 7 pm | In the Ferry Terminal
Talk by Tim Loftus and Q&A with Alastair Grant

** co-hosted with the Ulluminate Festival **

"In pursuit of the Silver Darlings" In the late 1800's the Scottish herring fishery was the largest in the world. Billions of fish were caught using highly evolved sailing boats. Clan Gordon and St. Vincent, built within a year of each other are two lucky survivors, representing two very different design pathways. By the end of last century the herring was commercially extinct in these waters, but rarer still are the luggers that caught them.

SATURDAY 11th May from 10.30 - 5pm In the Tent

"The history of the 1886 Oban Skiff Gylen"

By Stan Reeve Looking at the Builders and uses of the Skiff

A Social History of the Eriskay Fishing to 1914

By Liam Course Looking at the Socioeconomic history of the fishing industry in Eriskay and Lochboisdale in the Outer Hebrides during the latter half of the 19th century.

Barnabas and the Cornish Martine Trust

By the CMT an introduction to the 142 year old Barnabus and the CMT which looks after her.

Mandy Haggith and Ian Stephen Poetry and readings from 2 writers and sailors from either side of the Minch who will come together to read from their work

PARADE OF SAIL



The Boats will take to the water on Saturday afternoon in a grand parade of sail - A chance to see the fleet and the variety of rigs and sails which have gathered here this weekend. Think back to when the harbour would have been full of tan sails and spars during the herring boom.

MUSIC



FRIDAY 10th evening in the tent -
- Ruairidh MacLean AKA RuMac

YES! we are thrilled to have the immensely talented Ruairidh MacLean play on Friday Night . His new album is out now on <https://rumac.bandcamp.com/album/the-bloody-box>



SATURDAY 11th - The Ullapool and District Junior Pipe Band will play for the fleet as they set course for the **Parade of Sail**



Evening Ceilidh in the tent followed by ...

- A.D.A.M. - Mairearad Green and Mike Vass

A.D.A.M stands for: a day a month. Mairearad and Mike two brilliant musicians meet on this regular basis and have this year produced their first album under this name. The album is titled **"Every one wants to be like Mary"** and will be On Sale Soon...

ART



An Talla Solais Ullapool Visual Arts will be with us this weekend with a drop-in printmaking workshop on Saturday morning. Rachel Grant will be delivering this hands on workshop, suitable for all ages, which coincides with **PRESS GANG** the printmaking exhibition currently on in the An Talla Solais gallery on Market Street at the moment (from 10am - 5pm till the 12th May)

MARINE SCIENCE



WOSHH - West of Scotland Herring Hunt and WRFT The Wester Ross Fisheries Trust Exhibition, tells the story of the herring fishery with up-to-date news of spawning herring off Wester Ross in spring of 2024. This exhibition focusses on the ecology of the herring, and the rediscovery and recording of 'spring' spawning herring in the near Minch. Peter Cunningham of the WRFT will deliver a talk to accompany and present this new research



USS - Ullapool Sea Savers
**co-hosted with the Ulluminate Festival **

The Ullapool Sea Savers (USS) will have a Microscope Lab set up in our Marquee on Sunday 12th looking at plankton samples harvested from water in the harbour area .

FOOD

We will of course have the tea flowing and the cakes and home baking tiered up ready for Saturday in the tent. Lunch and dinner will be sorted with the food stalls: sea food, pizzas and ice cream from some fantastic local vendors. These will be on site at Shore Quay on Saturday and on Sunday we plan for some breakfast rolls and take away morning snacks. **Seafood Shack , Ockran Oysters, Oak and Grain Pizza, Jo Jos cafe, Tanera and Kipperland** - Kippers smoked and served on site over the weekend!



Kipperland
TANERA

GOINGS ON

STALLS AND EXHIBITIONS



We are delighted that we have support and input from **The Ullapool Museum** this weekend, they are displaying some of their herring fishing presentations with us.



Stitch it and Fix it Have a stall with us in the Shore Quay tent selling some of their bags and items made from industrial fabrics, sail cloths and canvases.



LUGGER FEST welcome stall will be in the tent on Shore Quay. Come and see what's on, check details of timings and what's on over the weekend. There will be relevant items for sale and opportunities learn more about the boats and the boatyards involved.

ON THE WATER- sunday



On Sunday we hope to be able to get on the water in some other craft. **KAYAK SUMMER ISLES** Will Copeskate of Kayak Summer Isles will be at the wee pier (east Shore Street) with his fleet of boats letting people have a chance to take a paddle in hand and experience the loch from sea level.



Lochbroom Sailing Club will be on the water as well on the Sunday offering people the chance to try sailing. Loch Broom Sailing Club is open to all with an interest in the sea and sailing.



Ullapool Coastal Rowing will also take to water with their St. Ayles Skiffs, the Iain Oughtred designed boat, built and rowed by Scottish Coastal Rowing Clubs up and down the coasts. Ullapool has 2 of these which they built - *Ulla* and *Cul Mor*



