



I am Lynn Jones: I am working on the 'Coast that shaped the world project' as the story gatherer for Arran. I am hoping that you can help me.

'Coast that shaped the world' is a 3 year project that plans to collect stories from across the West Coast of Scotland and make them accessible so that more people can discover why this amazing corner of the world is so special. The project spans from Wester Ross and Lewis in the north to Kintyre and Arran in the south.

The plan is to narrate four hundred stories (twenty stories from twenty west coast communities) online through an interactive app that will encourage locals and visitors to explore the roads less travelled across the west coast.

Led by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), the project is funded through NatureScot's Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, with match funding from CalMac and UHI.

People across the west coast are being asked to share their stories: their memories and histories, providing a selection of well-known stories as well as more quirky and intriguing tales. Each area has an allocated 'story gatherer' who aims to collect as many stories as possible over the next two months. At the end of the story gathering phase a selection process will involve local people to choose the 20 best stories from each area. The most intriguing stories will become part of an innovative and interactive exhibition to be installed in key locations across the west coast and will help celebrate 2022 as the 'Year of Scottish Stories'. Stories that are not in their areas top 20 will be held in the story bank and potentially used on social media and related projects.

Arran is well known for its stories and storytelling and as the local story gatherer for Arran I am hoping to find some untold gems to add to the Arran story bank. Many stories are already collected in the Arran Books but as the books are out of print and often difficult to locate it would be good to retell some of these stories making them accessible digitally. Many stories remain untold and undocumented and there is a danger that over time they could be forgotten. I am looking for a variety of stories. Nothing is too big or too small or too vague. Your story may be from your own memories or passed down through the years, they could be about Arran characters, places on the island or something that happened. They could be stories of folklore and legend or maybe recent stories of how our community has overcome challenges like the Big Snow of 2013 or the current pandemic.

Find out more about the project at www.coast.scot. You can contribute your stories from the website by clicking on a link, or you can just send them direct to me by email.

Lynn Jones

COAST Story Gatherer

Isle of Arran

e: arranstories@gmail.com

t: 01770 700542