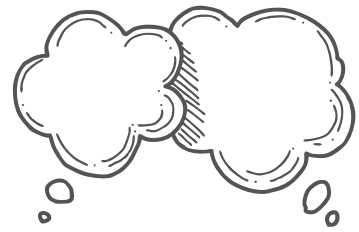


# ON REFLECTION



Memorialising... the Highland Fishwives

Fishing is often viewed as a male industry – but a great many women were involved in the work, especially to prepare and sell the fish. One key role was smoking the fish – this was a skilful task!

Now, you can design a memorial to celebrate these very special and hardworking women! Did you know, only around one fifth of public statues in the UK memorialise women?

1

## EXPLORE

Explore these objects on the site from Nairn Museum:

A fisherwife's skirt - fisherwives were expected to be very well presented and clean when selling fish – they wore a smart white bonnet and striped skirt.

- Why do you think looking clean and tidy was important?
- Why do you think it would be difficult for a Victorian fisherwife to stay clean and well turned out?

A creel - these were for carrying fish into the towns and countryside to sell. They could get extremely heavy when carried many miles! Women had to be inventive in order to carry them. A fishwife would hitch her skirt up to make a ledge to put her creel on.



2

## TRY IT YOURSELF

Practise carrying a heavy object (like their creel) in front of you, then try again with it balanced on your hip. Which is easiest?

To keep their husbands dry before a fishing trip, the fishwives would carry them on their shoulders through the water to their boats.

Try giving one of your friends a piggy back across the room.

Next, imagine trying to do it whilst walking through water. Mime what you would look like trying to keep them high in the air, away from the waves!

3

## TALK ABOUT IT

The term fishwife is sometimes used as a criticism to refer to someone being too loud and sounding ill-mannered.

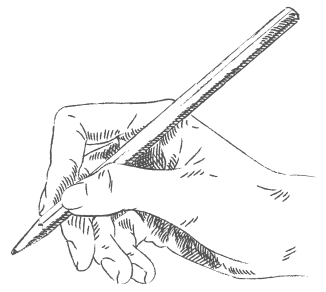
- Have you heard this term?
- When do you think the fishwives had to be loud?
- Do you think it's fair that this is how we most remember fishwives – as women with loud mouths?



4

## CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.



Who do you want to commemorate?

Why do you want to remember what happened to them?

What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?

What message could you write?

