

Last Of The Puffermen - Keith McGinn

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For any fan of the exploits of Para Handy and the motley crew of the Vital Spark, this memoir is not to be missed. Keith McGinns capers on the puffers off Scotlands West Coast are funnier than Neil Munros tales at times, but they are also sadder too. The thing is, all of these stories are true. McGinn worked on those puffers, man and boy, for nearly 40 years and this is his story. He was there. Neil Munros tales are classics and part of Scottish comic folklore, but they are a hundred years old. There have been faux tales published in recent times that have attempted to recreate Munro, but this is the real McCoy or rather, the real McGinn. There have also been various books and histories of the puffer trade but what has been lacking in them is the real story of the men who worked on these famous little Scottish ships. The story from their perspective is not known to many. They were men who could tell the tale of what it was really like to deliberately beach the boats, to discharge a coal by shovel and bucket, to sail the Minches in the dead of winter and occasionally repair to the pub for some relaxation. The puffer trade came to a sad end in 1994 but from 1966 until then Keith McGinn saw the trade through to its demise. He began as a deckhand on one of the traditional 66-ft classics and ended his career as a master on a 600-tonne coaster all the while taking the necessities of life to the remote Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Keith McGinn does not glamourise this life but his story is full of tales of good humour and the special camaraderie of the puffermen. Nor does he minimise the tragedies and dangers of a life at sea in some of the most treacherous waters in the world. This is a tale well told, and well illustrated with rarely seen pictures of the puffers at work, by someone who has a gift for telling it the way it really was. Author: McGinn, Keith Publisher: Neil Wilson Publishing Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: Last of the Puffermen Pages: 00144 (Encrypted EPUB) On Sale: 2011-06-21 SKU-13/ISBN: 9781897784990 Category: Biography & Autobiography : Personal Memoirs

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