

Programme of events

10am – 4pm

Cullercoats Watch House will be open featuring an exhibition on the history of art in Cullercoats. An artist in residence will be working on a contemporary piece throughout the day.

10am – 10.15am

Official opening followed by Cullercoats Primary School pupils singing “Cullercoats Bay”

10.15am – 11.45am

Artist workshop with Kathryn Wakeman and pupils from Cullercoats Primary School

12 noon – 12.45pm

“The Painter and the Fisher Girl” – memories of Maggie Jefferson by Susan Johnson

1.15pm – 2.45pm

Artist workshop with Kathryn Wakeman and pupils from Rockliffe First School

2pm – 2.45pm

“The Painter and the Fisher Girl” – memories of Maggie Jefferson by Susan Johnson

3pm – 4pm

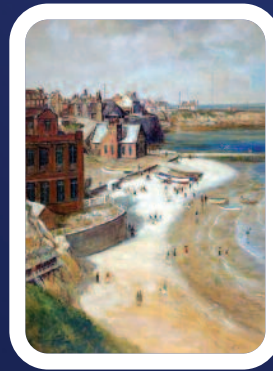
Cullercoats guided art walk (subject to availability on the day)

Refreshments will be available in the Watch House with all donations gratefully received for the upkeep of the building.

Cullercoats as an artists' colony

Cullercoats was known as an artists' colony and had a reputation among artists as being an inspiring place to both live and work.

The origins of the colony date back to the 1820s when Newcastle artists discovered the appeal and charm of Cullercoats. The breathtaking coastline and the character of the fishermen and fishwives soon became a subject of artists.



John Falconar Slater
Cullercoats 1910

Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

Take a look round the village and see for yourself what life was like with the Cullercoats Art Trail available in the Watch House or in the artist's workshop.

There is also signage outside the marquee and overlooking Cullercoats Bay next to the Adamson Memorial Fountain at the bottom of Marden Avenue.

Winslow Homer

CENTENARY

Cullercoats Watch House
Wednesday 29th September 2010
10am - 4pm



Winslow Homer is considered to be one of America's leading artists. He spent some time living and working in Cullercoats in 1881-82.

Today is the centenary of Homer's death. He died in Prout's Neck, Maine on 29th September 1910.



North Tyneside Council

The life and times of Winslow Homer

Born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1836, Winslow Homer was encouraged to take an early interest in art by his mother, an amateur watercolourist. Homer became one of the leading figures in the history of American art and was considered to be the nineteenth century's foremost exponent of realism.

After briefly working for a commercial lithographer he launched a career as a freelance illustrator. In 1859, Homer moved to New York and continued as an illustrator working as a war artist depicting scenes on the Union side during the Civil war.

After the war he made his first trip to Europe, spending time in France before returning to New York for 13 years. Homer's second trip to Europe in 1881 saw him settle in Cullercoats. It was here that he honed his technique in watercolour using the fisherwomen of the village and the seascape as a theme.

Homer returned to the United States in 1882 and settled in Prout's Neck, Maine where he died in 1910. Works by Homer are in the collection of many of the world's most prestigious galleries and museums.



Winslow Homer
On the Sands 1881
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC



Winslow Homer
Watching the Tempest 1881
Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Homer in Cullercoats

Why Winslow Homer chose to spend time in Cullercoats remains a mystery and there are various stories and theories as to the reason. Perhaps he stumbled upon Cullercoats by chance and was struck by the similarities to his native New England? Or maybe he met a fellow passenger on the Atlantic liner who was from or knew of Cullercoats.

Homer lived and worked in Cullercoats, lodging in the Hudleston Arms (later the Bay Hotel and now Winslow Court) and working in a studio on Bank Top, the site of the artist's workshop.

Homer was struck by the hard working nature of the Cullercoats fishwives and often hired them as subjects of his work. He admired their ability to work long days in such harsh elements and spent time observing them at work.

The period spent in Cullercoats was considered to be one of the most important of Homer's career. It is widely acknowledged that it was during his time in Cullercoats that he honed his technique in watercolour, a technique he was to use for the rest of his career.

