

Transcript
Wild for Scotland Podcast
Episode 63: An Ode to Rain - A Social Club Preview
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Did you know that the most common way people find out about new podcasts is from friends and family? And the second most common way is actually from social media. That's why we would love it if you could tell your friends about Wild For Scotland on social media.

If you hear something you like in this episode, we'd love it if you could take a screenshot of your podcast app and share what you like about it with your friends and family on your Instagram stories.

And don't forget to tag us at Wild for Scotland so we can say thank you.

[main theme tune]

Hello there and welcome to Wild for Scotland,
a podcast full of immersive travel stories from Scotland.
I'm your host and storyteller-in-chief, Kathi Kamleitner.

Wild for Scotland helps you connect with Scotland
Its people, wildlife landscapes and histories.

In every episode, I either whisk you away on a beautiful adventure,
Or introduce you to inspiring locals and their stories.

In between, I share my top tips for your own Scotland trip,
And how to follow in my footsteps.

So, lean back and enjoy -
Let's travel to Scotland!

[main theme tune end]

I am back today with another update from the Wild for Scotland headquarters. I hope you enjoyed our last couple of episodes - revisiting the women's history walks in Glasgow and the story about my trip to Fife. I really enjoyed working on that one because I had so many

lovely recordings from my trip - although I did find it difficult to pick exactly which clips to use. There's always too much that lands on the cutting floor.

At least when it comes to the episodes that land on the main feed. I actually shared some of the full conversations I recorded in Fife with our Patreon community, the Wild for Scotland Social Club. Just to give them a sense of all the gold I get from my interview partners and how it then shows up in the final episodes I share with you. It's a real glimpse behind the scenes, and a chance to hear more about the topics I cover on the show.

Speaking of our Patreon, today I wanted to share an example of the kind of exclusive bonus content we produce for our Patreon members with you today. I told you all about our three new membership categories back in January, so you might remember that everybody joining as a Merry Dancer or Unicorn gets access to monthly bonus content in video or audio format.

Earlier this year, I produced a short video about a hike I did in the Trossachs, so that's a little tricky to share here. So, the example I picked for you today, is our bonus episode from last November.

It's a short piece I wrote in response to an episode idea that Fran came up with during one of our production meetings. I never quite managed to make a full episode about it, but it fitted so well with the water theme of our last season, I enjoyed having a bit of fun with the idea.

The reason I'm sharing this with you today, is to show you what you can expect from being a member of my Patreon community, the Wild for Scotland Social Club. Bonus episodes like these are just one of the benefits we include for our members, so head to patreon.com/wildforscotland to see all our membership levels and the benefits that come with them.

And now, this is 'An Ode to Rain'.

From time to time I take visitors from Germany or Austria on a private walking tour of Glasgow. They're usually keen to see more of the city, but they're also interested in my life here. What brought me here, and what keeps me after so many years in Scotland.

One thing they always ask is how I deal with the constant rain.

Mind you, it rarely ever actually rains when I do my walking tours of Glasgow. I'm just lucky like that.

Or maybe it is fate, so I can say, "*well, it's actually not that bad.*"

But that is only half the story...

Rainfall, downpour, drizzle, sprinkle, lashing, cats and dogs.

How many ways can you think of to say that it's raining?

When I went to uni still, and rode my bike from the East End of Glasgow to the West End every day I used to love the rainy days. Pull up my overtrousers, gloves on, put my head down and cycle right into it.

The rain felt like life hitting my face and I couldn't help but laugh as I let the bike run down the hill.

Rain back home usually means it's pouring. But here in Scotland, it can rain and shine, literally at the same time. I look up, wondering where the raindrops are coming from only to see blue sky and sunshine above my head. The rain clouds are some way off, at an angle, only the wind carrying its gifts of life.

The basic word for rain in Gaelic, is simply *uisge* - the same word as for water. There's no difference.

Rain is water and water is life. And the water of life? Well, that's a story for a different day...

There is light rain and heavy rain - *fras, tuil agus smugraich uisge*.

You never know whether it's gonnae last 3 weeks or 3 minutes.

I wake up in the morning, rain beating against my bedroom window and an hour later, I sit in the garden sipping my morning coffee in the sunshine. Mind you, I had to bring out a dry chair.

And after the rain comes *turadh* - the break in the clouds I've been waiting for.

Quickly, come out of hiding and continue on your way, until it is time to duck again, find shelter, and watch the raindrops fall to the ground.

Without the rain, Scotland would be dry and cold. It keeps the hills green and the flowers blooming. It keeps the stills running and the drafts coming. It keeps the spirits up and life moving.

How I deal with the constant rain, you ask? Try to imagine a Scotland without it and you'll soon realise that without a cloud, there's no silver lining.

And that's it for today. I'll be back soon with an archaeology-inspired adventure to the Scottish Borders on our main feed, and of course the bonus episode for our Patreon members in March.

If you like what you heard today, consider joining our Patreon community, for more exclusive bonus content, glimpses behind the scenes, social spaces to connect with other Scotland fans and a direct line to me to ask questions about the podcast, Scotland or anything else.

You can join the Wild for Scotland Social Club on patreon.com/wildforscotland

Until next time, when travel to a new place in Scotland.