

MYTHS, FOLKLORE &

Greeting the Wind

It was the custom of Carmarthen coraclers at the beginning of each fishing season, or when a new net was going to be used, to lift their nets up into the air so that the wind was greeted, and the nets were blessed. A custom that has been going on the banks of the Towy for thousands of years.

Many years ago, the preacher of the town's Catholic Church had protested strongly against the practice. He insisted that they stop the custom because it was pagan.

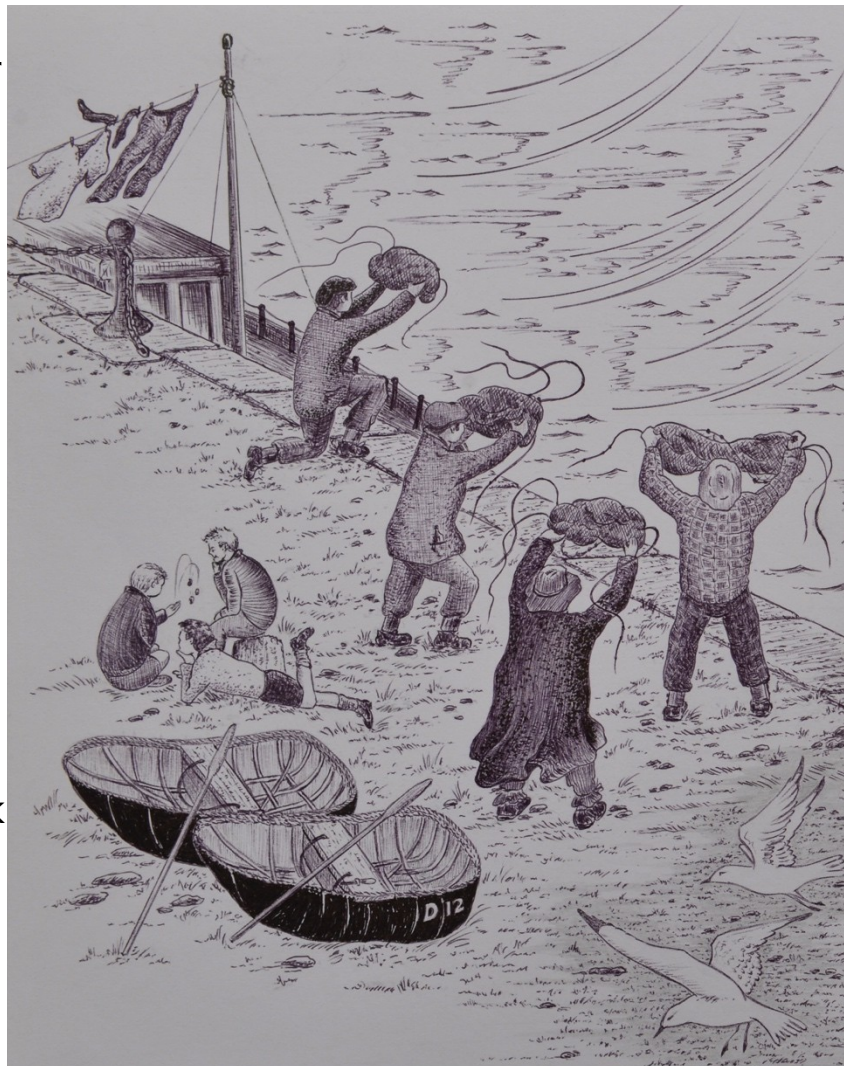
So, the priest went down to the quay in his ecclesiastical cloak to bless

Superstitions

The coraclers had strong feelings about their nets. For example, no woman was allowed to step over the top of the net. If it happened it would make the net useless for the night. Another net would have to be used.

Thinking about it now, this is strange about the superstars' superstitions: when they were making their nets, even though there was no girl to step over it, they were neatly weaving their children's hair - girls or boys - into a strand (net lines) their nets, for luck

When weaving their nets, coraclers were always tying bits of their children's hair, girls or boys, into lines of their nets for luck.



Spitting on the back

For good luck when a coracler was leaving his home to go fishing his wife would spit on the back of his coat for luck.