

Gavin Maxwell

Monreith Beach Circular

Writers' Walks



Gavin Maxwell

Maxwell's Otter and Monreith Beach Circular

6 miles. Flat.

Monreith is a small village where a small sculpture of an otter overlooks Luce Bay.

Gavin Maxwell's famous books about otters revolutionised the public's acquaintance with wildlife. Maxwell was a tortured individual, whose tragic relationship with the American poet Kathleen Raine, gave the book its name – 'The Ring of Bright Water'

'He has married me with a ring, a ring of bright water, whose ripples travel from the heart of the sea ...'
(The Marriage of Psyche)

This little area is full of myth and legend, stones and crannogs. The McCullochs of Myrton were honorary citizens of Fairyland, and Kirkmaiden commemorates the Irish St and Princess Medan, who pursued by an unwelcome suitor, chose to pluck out her own eyes. There is an extra special atmosphere here:

....You share
instead something of the deep unruffled
stillness of the water, the bluish haze
of bulrushes, the load line between the trees
and their reflections. Hold to that lightness
and see how easy it is to love at the White
Loch of Myrton, where you have no history
but this moment...

(Pilgrim: Tom Pow)