

Roger Quin

Brighthouse Bay Circular



Writers' Walks



Roger Quin

This part of Galloway is associated with one of Dumfries and Galloway's best kept literary secrets, the so-called 'Tramp Poet' Roger Quin.

Born in Dumfries, and educated in Dumfries Academy, he left his job as a railway clerk to wander and busk with concertina and flute through Galloway, the Borders and Glasgow.

He never wrote his poems down except in occasional letters to friends and it was these friends who persuaded him to publish his book 'Borderlands' a title which summed up his existence: the landscape he travelled in and "the borderland of being" where he suffered poverty and destitution.

He lived in Galashiels for a while but returned to Dumfries where he died in a Charity Home. Whilst wandering in Galloway he is reputed to have lived in 'Dick Hatteraik's cave' on Wigtown Bay, eating shellfish or food given to him by local farmers.

'One who, far from fashion's train,
Follows the call that bares him on,
In Nature's arms to soothe his pain;
In Yarrow's sadness lose his own.
Child of the Earth Mother, he
Has wandered far from street and mart;
And here- in her own sanctuary-
Creeps closer to the mother's heart.'



Brighthouse Bay
walkhighlands.co.uk



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5 ½ miles, moderate. Time 2 ½ hours

Woodland, Pastoral and coast walk with striking views.

