

yes we have National Costumes

We are a small group researching and re-creating the National Costumes of England and the British Isles.

In an ever-shrinking world, our costume heritage is historically and culturally important.

Many other countries wear a range of regional costumes which are accepted as 'National'. We wish to show that we have a lot more than Morris Dancers and Pearly Kings & Queens: these are festival as well as regional costumes.

As part of the research involved in re-creating a particular regional costume, it is impossible not to be fascinated by the working lives of the people of each community.



A Bondager of 1894

Our group has already re-created several costumes including:

• **BONDAGERS** – women field-workers in North Northumberland and the Scottish borders; employed under a yearly hiring system.

• **CULLERCOATS FISHWIFE –**

famous in America via the oil paintings of Winslow Homer

• **CANAL-BOAT PEOPLE** – the

women wore a distinctive and elaborate bonnet, both for work and 'Sunday best'. The Boatmen also had their own style of attire for Sunday's.



The Cullercoats Fishwife



Canal-Boat costume of 1890

to King George IV and regarded by Queen Victoria on a visit to Leith, 3 miles east of Edinburgh; and not a scrap of tartan in sight.

STAITHES – the Yorkshire fishing village famous for bonnets, (women not men).

ST. KILDA – tiny islands 110 miles off the West coast of Scotland - inhabited for over a 1,000 years and evacuated in 1930.

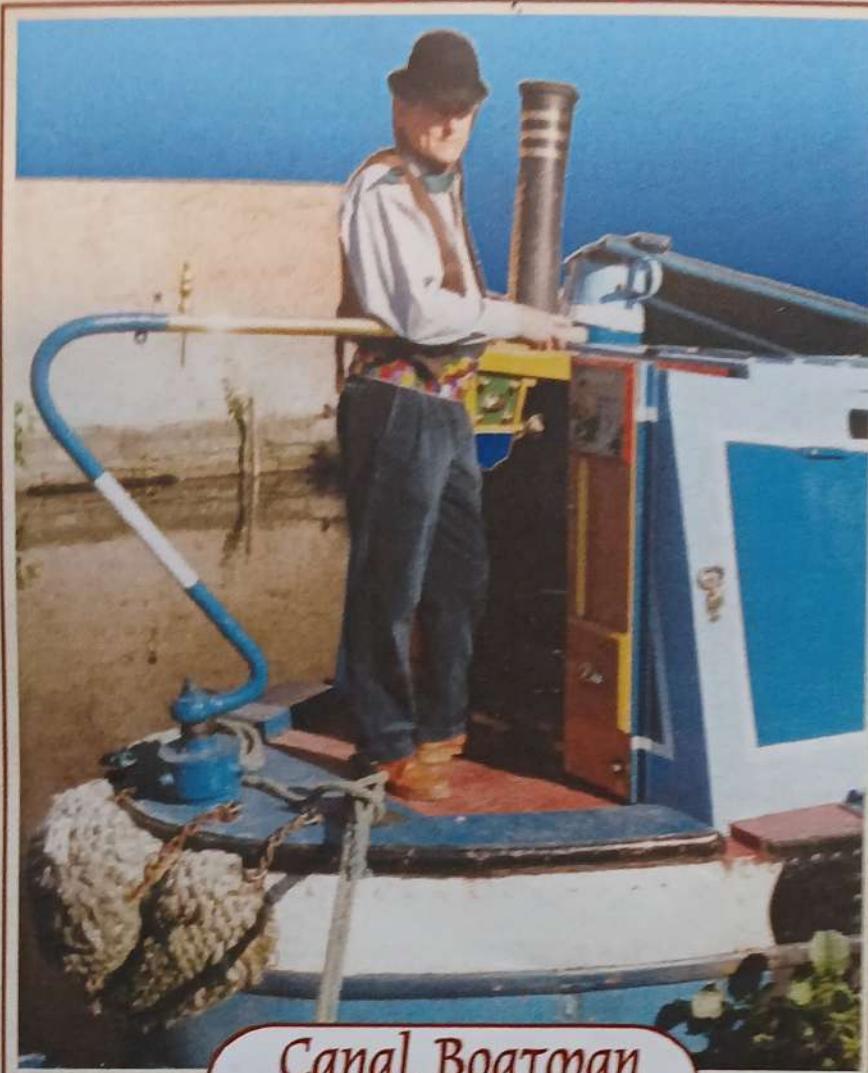
This is an on-going project and the following are some of those still being researched:

FISHERMEN & WOMEN OF ARAN AND GALWAY – an Irish costume featuring footwear called “Pampooties”.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND WRESTLERS – the original ‘men in tights’ with embroidery.

FILEY FLITHER PICKERS – to the delight of the local lads they ‘breeched’ their skirts to climb up and down the Yorkshire cliffs gathering bait.

NEWHAVEN FISHWIVES – known



Canal Boatman
in Sunday Best

‘Bishop Auckland Area Small Project Fund’ to make smaller versions of some costumes for children to wear on which we are currently working.

TENBY PRAWN SELLERS AND FISHWIVES .

a ‘real’ Welsh costume

TYNESIDE KEELMAN

— another local costume with a ‘blue-bonnet’ to go with the dimple in the chin!

WIGAN PIT-BROW

LASSIES — who actually went to London to show parliament their work dress was not unfeminine.

In 2004 we obtained a grant through the

Talks, Demonstrations and Displays

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