

Coast

Saturday 17 April, 9am

Like the TV programme we will trace the British coastline through its stories but we'll be doing it using archive film from the silent days. With tales of great tempests, rough seas, daring rescues and tragic wrecks, of thronging docks, fishing ports and shipyards as well as scenes of a calmer nature, along the cliffs and beaches of our island home.

Bryony Dixon

Children on Beach (1898)

We don't know who made this - it may be Rhyl.

Rough Seas Breaking on Rocks (1902)

Hepworth version of this popular early genre was filmed in Dover

Devon Fishing Net Industry (1911)

Cartoonist Harry Furniss also made travelogues. This give a really authentic feel of the old South West, smocks and all.

Scenes in the Scilly Isles (1912)

Charles Urban's 'Urbanora' series was broadly an educational brand. Many of the films in the series were about local industries – here the commercial flower growing business of the Scilly Isles.

Yarmouth Suffragettes: Eclair Journal (1914)

Very short newsreel item showing the twisted metal of a burnt out pier – rumoured to be the result of an arson attack by suffragettes.

Doom of an Obsolete Coastal Fort: Topical Budget 693-2 (1924)

Does what it says on the tin - Kaboom!



Rough Seas around St Ives (c 1925)

Probably by Pathe showing Godrevy Lighthouse.

For Those in Peril: Topical Budget 993-2 (1926)

The Dungeness Lifeboat and crew.

Wreck in a Rough Sea on the South Coast:

Gaumont Graphic no 588

Spectacular shots of a wrecked ship being buffeted by a rough sea.

Flying Squadrons of Bempton Cliffs (1921)

One of several films shot at Flamborough Head showing the gangs of egg gatherers at their perilous (but profitable) work on the cliffside.

Harvest of the Sea (1922)

Very faded print by Grainger's Exclusives, showing trawlers at work – they follow the herring down from the Shetlands to Lowestoft – we see the harbour, the drifters at sea, the catch and the herrings girls, gutting and pickling the fish.

Lifeboat Film (1925)

Appeal film by the RNLI – we see demonstrations of launching the lifeboat at Whitby and a sea rescue.

Oysters in Again (1925) TB 731-2 625189A 51ft @ 20fps

Traditional opening of the Oyster season at Whitstable.

Wrecked on Rugged Rocks (1926) Gaumont Graphic 1623

Wreck of the SS Betsy Anna off Prawle Point in Devon

Channel Steamer sunk off Dover – Gaumont Graphic 1868

Newsreel item about a sunken French ferry, the *Ville de Liege* in Dover harbour after a storm.

A Cold Wind Doth Blow (c1925)

Unidentified film of harsh winter weather on coastal road. Men working to clear snow and ice.

Wreck of Emile Delmo (1928)

Actually the *Emile Delmas*, a French steamer which was wrecked in the huge storms of November 1928. Nearly all of the crew were rescued by the Brighton lifeboat.

Epic of the Sea: Topical Budget 847-1 (1927)

The British liner 'Empirestar', having rescued the crew of the Italian steamer *Principessa Mafalda* when it sank off Bahia, Brazil, arrives home to a heroes welcome.

Tragedy of the Sea (c1928)

Three seamen were drowned when this Belgian trawler was wrecked off Fleetwood Lincs.

Wreck of the Lochmoner (1927) Topical B 849-2 627677a 42ft @ 20fps

The liner *Lochmonar* broken in two at the Crosby lightship on Merseyside.

Heroines of the Cliffs: Topical Budget 743-1 (1925) 603212A 86ft @ 20fps

We return to Bridlington to see the intrepid Pudsey sisters abseiling down the sheer cliffs in pursuit of the highly prized gull eggs.

For Coastal Defence: Topical Budget 964-2 (1930)

Launch of the patrol boat SS Yorkshireman at Hull. This sea going vessel plied the north east coast for many years as the tourist industry developed there.

Lundy Island an Bristol Channel (1931) Pathe Pictorial

Cinemagazine item featuring views of Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel – population 16 and no licencing laws.

All Busy on the East Coast: Topical Budget 946-1 (1929)

Opening of the new herring season.

Plymouth Streets (1912)

Beautiful film of street scenes in central Plymouth showing the people and traffic of this bustling city. It look like an earlier type pf local film such as Mitchell & Kenyon made in the 1900s but although we don't know who made it we can date it by a bill board for a film – *Kings of the Forest* which is being advertised on a mobile hoarding – this was produced by Selig in 1912.

Cliff Farmers of the Faroe Islands (1928)

Well ok, so this isn't strictly speaking the British coast! But it's nearer to us than to Denmark and methods of farming were much the same as you might find in the Orkney's and Shetlands. Here we see more cliff culture – the local farmers lowering a cow down the overhang to the beach below and catching seabirds for food.

S.S. Olympic (1910)

The building and launch of the world's largest ship at Harland and Wolff in Belfast. *Olympic* was the first of three super liners in her class but unlike her sister ship *Titanic* had a long and illustrious career. This film was started in 1908 and made over the following two years till her launch in October 1910.

Great Western Ports (1929)

A promotional film by GWR for the new dock facilities of the south coast of England and Wales – this clip shows the vastness of the Cardiff docks.

Barbara's Secret (1923)

How to prevent your idyllic seaside cottage smelling of fish – with Lifebuoy Soap of course!

