



There is a public sculpture near the harbour in Eyemouth, a North Sea coastal town in Southern Scotland. It tells of the events on 'Black' Friday the 14th of October 1881. On that day in the sea off Eyemouth there occurred Britain's worst ever fishing disaster, in which one hundred and eighty nine fishermen died; and seventy-eight women, one hundred and eighty-two children lost their husbands, fathers and brothers. Many of those women and children saw their men being drowned. In 2016, artist Jill Watson was commissioned by Eyemouth's 125 Memorial Association to make this bronze sculpture to honour the women and children who witnessed the disaster and who rebuilt the town.

*"The sculpture has been the culmination of 10 years work by the community, with 3 similar but much smaller sculptures in other communities affected by the same disaster and a trail of bronze markers in between and along the whole coast. The amount of historical and family research carried out by the artist with the community has been remarkable, involving consultations and meetings of many kinds. Previous memorials honoured the lost men and town, Jill Watson's honours those who were left behind and had the hard work of rebuilding the community. They choose not to have their children looked after by others out of the community. The result has been an inspiration to the next generation as well as to residents and visitors, many of whom are descendants from all over the world."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extract from Eyemouth's application for Scottish Civic Trust award.