

The sea wall is whole again

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The harbour wall that has kept the winter swell out of the village since 1911 was reopened on Saturday, eighteen months after a storm took forty metres of it into the bay. Two hundred people walked its length behind the brass band, and the first boat through the gap was the oldest in the fleet.

The rebuilt section stands a metre higher than the old one. Its core is concrete, but the face is the original sandstone: divers recovered nine blocks in ten from the seabed, and the quarry above the village was opened for a month to cut the rest.



The bay from the new section of the wall.

What it cost

The work came to 2.4 million, a third of it raised by the village itself. The harbour dues will rise by four per cent a year until 2031 to repay the loan, a rise the fishing cooperative voted for without a single vote against.

Nothing was spent on the lighthouse, which needs a new lantern. The council has asked for tenders and expects to decide in the spring.

What comes next

The inner quay is next. Its timber piles date from the fifties and the survey gives them ten years at most. Plans go on show in the old customs house in March, and the council wants comments before the summer.

Until then the wall is open to walkers from dawn to dusk. The gate at the landward end is locked in any wind above force seven.