

EVERGREEN FORUM FALL 2023

A JOURNEY OF TRAVEL AND DISCOVERY

LYNNE CULLINANE

Tuesdays starting September 26 through October 31 for six sessions | 10:00 a.m. - noon
VIRTUAL | DISCUSSION | MAXIMUM 15

Overview

Author Philip Marsden's subtitle for his compelling book *The Summer Isles* is "A Voyage of the Imagination." His destination is a group of islands in far northwestern Scotland, a journey he is making, and he says, "in memory of someone I loved." His plan is to sail alone on an old wooden sloop, "Tsambika," from his home in Cornwall up the west coast of Ireland and even farther north up the west coast of Scotland. The Summer Isles are so far north that they are rarely visited and sparsely inhabited. Even in summer, the North Atlantic challenges even very experienced sailors. Managing the sloop alone compounds the challenges. Occasionally he meets someone who sails with him, if only briefly. Mostly he sails alone.

His book is a vivid description of this journey. He also writes about people he meets each night when he anchors in an Irish or Scots port, those he meets in villages and towns, and himself. Although these are isolated places, they have long been inhabited. Artists, writers, and musicians live alongside people whose roots stretch over generations and centuries. Marsden shares their stories, their values, their humor, and their wisdom.

Participants will join the author as they read his book and discuss their reactions to it. It is a fascinating account of danger, beauty, discovery, history, botany, folklore, and more.

Philip Marsden's works of fiction and non-fiction are available in 15 languages. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. *The Summer Isles* invites the reader on a voyage of charm, beauty, peril, and, yes, imagination.