

Myth or monster? – the legend lives

No doubt you've heard the many tales and theories from scientists and enthusiasts, studied every grainy detail of the famous photographs, and maybe even the movie.

But the big question is, do you believe in the Loch Ness Monster?

The legend of the Loch Ness Monster is one of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries. It stirs the passion of locals and the imagination of the thousands of people who climb aboard Jacobite boats each year, watching every ripple on the Loch's surface in anticipation of a blip on the sonar that shows it's Nessie.

There are records of monster sightings dating back to St Columba's visit to these shores in the 6th century, and many more since. And with the arrival of the 20th century and the age of communication came a dramatic increase in sightings.

In 1933, Aldie Mackay, manageress of The Drumnadrochit Hotel, reported seeing 'an enormous creature with the body of a whale rolling in the water.'

The story gripped the public imagination and within a year, there were 50 monster sightings. The Daily Mail launched a search to find the beast, hiring big game hunter 'Duke' Wetherell to track Nessie down. Wetherell failed and was one of the conspirators behind the famous 'Surgeon's Photograph' that turned out to be an 8-inch model.

Though the hoaxes have been numerous, there have been many very honest sightings over the years, enough for the scientific community to join the search with submarines, sonar and all manner of vessels.

Nessie's fame continues to spread around the globe and in 2015, Chinese tourists gave her the new Mandarin name "Ni Si Hu An Ying" or "Loch Ness Shadow". So keep your binoculars to hand, have your cameras ready and keep watching our onboard sonar. Because we believe our worldwide star is out there, somewhere!

