

Right -  
"The wave mirrors who  
I am." Easkey Britton  
in Puerto Rico, deeply  
committed to her  
shining path.

## Vince Ward

Surfboard shaper  
Brighton, Sussex, UK)

### *Still Stoked*

I cannot for one minute imagine my life without surfing and there probably hasn't been a day that has passed without me having thought about it in some shape or form. I became hooked on the sport in my late teens and now, in my 59th year, I really appreciate how the lifestyle and the activity of surfing has kept me in shape and focused. There is still nothing like a good surf session to clear the head, which I guess is even more important with today's pressures.

Having discovered it in the '60s, I moved to Cornwall and was fortunate enough to find work in the industry and to have been part of the surf scene in, arguably, its heyday. More especially, I met and surfed with many great people, some of whom have become lifelong friends.

One of the greatest pleasures has been to introduce my young son to it, to pass on some of my knowledge, love and vibe to him – from time to time, enjoying his company in the water.

Surfing has of course given me the opportunity to encounter many wonderful places and cultures that I may not have discovered had I not taken the path. However, in retrospect, my greatest discovery was Cornwall – living there for 15 years – still to this day it remains a very special place to me and although I now live on the South Coast, Cornwall is still my spiritual home. Who knows, the path may lead me back there some day. I hope to continue to enjoy surfing for many years to come – still stoked.



STEVE FITZPATRICK

## Easkey Britton

Pro surfer, student, artist, seeker  
(Co. Donegal, Ireland)

### *What's in a Name?*

From the liquid, aqueous womb, out into the ocean of the world. I was blessed to be born into the surfing path. Even my name was inspired by the ocean, a break on the west coast of Ireland, *lascaigh*, which has its origins in the Irish for 'fish'. My family must have really salty blood.

I found an old photo yesterday of my Dad dipping my feet in the sea before I could walk. He taught me and my sister to surf and I share his respect and love for the ocean. He's influenced my surfing, taking me out to the reefs when I was real young, sharing his immense wave knowledge. What a gift he gave me!

Surfing has taught me how to let go. Letting go of doubt and hesitation in life. When I drop down the face of a big wave it's like rushing headlong into my fears, facing them, becoming intimate with them. The wave mirrors who I am.

Surfing breaks barriers. The ocean does not discriminate. One day I met a warrior of the sea. Below an ancient castle a wave was firing, perfect, fun, spitting barrels. This King and I shared the same passion and stoke. We felt the absolute magic of this place, running across the rocks, plunging into the ocean. A double rainbow arced across the sky and into the sea as the first set began to loom. We shared a stoke that day that had nothing to do with achievements or contests, ability or talent. Just that same energy that pulsed through the ocean, pulsing through us. That was Kelly's first surf in Ireland and my first surf with him at Easkey, my namesake wave.

Deep peace of the running wave to you. *Beannacht* (blessing).

# *letting go*