

Wigtown
Book Festival

WIGTOWN BOOK FESTIVAL

27 SEPTEMBER-6 OCTOBER 2019



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“I fixed on Galloway as the best place to go”

– John Buchan, *The 39 Steps*

Whether you visit the festival every year or this is your first time, we wish you the warmest of Galloway welcomes.

Take a look at Lucy Cartwright’s beautiful cover illustration, and you will find words in the fields, pages in the trees and questions sprouting from the ground. It perfectly embodies this year’s Wigtown Book Festival.

Words flourish in few places as they do in Scotland’s National Book Town. So much of the culture and history of this beautiful part of south-west Scotland is written in its landscape, a central theme of 2019. And we hope that the seeds that we plant in our children’s and young people’s programmes will grow over the years to come.

As ever, our sincere thanks to everyone who has made this year’s festival possible – generous sponsors, dedicated funders and, especially, our volunteers (including Meg, above). You have done so much to nourish us all year. We hope you enjoy the harvest.

Adrian Turpin Artistic Director

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Wigtown Book Festival
11 North Main Street
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FESTIVAL 2019



Curlews by Spring Fling artist, Lisa Hooper

Writer-in-Residence

Over the summer, Spring Fling x Wigtown Book Festival writer-in-residence Ken Cockburn has been writing a sequence of poems about birds and the landscapes we and they inhabit. Starting at the arts and crafts open studio event Spring Fling, Ken has gone on to research place-names in Dumfries & Galloway which refer to birds – like Carrifran Burn (the raven's fort), Drumadryland (the wren's ridge) and Whauphill (the curlew's hill). The poems reflect the enduring importance of birds in our environment and imagination. He will be presenting several events at the festival as well as showing work in the Map House and the bird hide.



Welcome to WigWAM

Supported by The Holywood Trust, our young people's programme receives a fresh look and a new name for 2019. WigWAM is programmed by a dedicated team aged 13-20. For the first time, this year WigWAM events are included in the main body of listings and are open to all ages – from some of the best YA fiction to discussions and workshops.

Wigtown Book Festival 2019



Scotland's National Book Town

In the mid-1990s, it was suggested that a 'book town' on the model of Hay-on-Wye would be a good way to help regenerate a community in Scotland.

Six small towns with varying economic needs submitted bids. Half were from Dumfries & Galloway – Gatehouse of Fleet, Wigtown and Moffat. The others were Dalmellington, Dunblane and Strathaven. An international panel chose Wigtown.

The former county town of Wigtownshire had been at its lowest ebb. There were many empty and run-down properties, and the almost derelict County Buildings on the town square were threatened with demolition. Wigtown then had one of the highest levels of unemployment in Scotland, but the town boasted a beautiful setting and a rich history.

Now there are more than a dozen bookshops and related businesses here. In 1999 the new Scottish Parliament acknowledged Wigtown as Scotland's National Book Town and in the same year the first Wigtown Book Festival took place.

Perfect Pitch

Literary agent Jenny Brown will be on hand at the start of the festival for writers to pitch new work and seek advice. Jenny is one of Scotland's leading agents. Her clients include Shaun Bythell, Sally Magnusson and Malachy Tallack. She is particularly looking for narrative non-fiction.

To book and submit work, email boxoffice@wigtownbookfestival.com



PERFORMANCE 2019



Lowborn (Down the Chipper)

Kerry Hudson was destined for a life of poverty. Now a bestselling author and social activist, she dons a chip-shop apron to give an intimate one-woman performance of stories from her working-class childhood amid the sizzle of oil and the scent of vinegar. Featuring stories from *Tony Hogan Bought Me an Ice Cream Float Before He Stole My Ma* and *Lowborn*. With thanks to Delicious Fish & Chips. *Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept*



Fallen Fruit

In 1989 the Berlin Wall falls while a girl looks forward to life beyond communism; in 2019, Britain leaves the EU while Europe celebrates 30 years since the end of the Cold War. Katherina Radeva's one-woman show is inspired by growing up in Communist Bulgaria before moving to Britain aged 16. *Fri 4 Oct*



The Bride of Lammermoor

In September 1669, a tragedy occurred at Baldoon Castle, outside Wigtown. David Dunbar, heir to the estate, was found stabbed. His wife, Janet, daughter of the Viscount of Stair, went mad and died. The story would inspire Sir Walter Scott's novel and Donizetti's opera. To mark the 250th anniversary, this narrated concert intercuts the real story with live music. *Sun 6 Oct*

Undertakers

A Scottish comedy thriller following a turbulent day in the life of three undertakers. A rehearsed reading directed by Fraser Macleod and performed by Performance Collective Stranraer. *Sat 5 Oct*

Does My Mum Loom Big in This?

The mother of all confessional shows from the bestselling author and star of *The Fast Show* and *Two Doors Down*, Arabella Weir. *Does My Mum Loom Big in This?* is for everyone who's had a mother or been a mother, featuring hair-raising hilarious true stories from Arabella's dysfunctional childhood and her life as a single working mother. *Fri 4 Oct*



Take A Risk

In her new show, BBC Radio 4 presenter Timandra Harkness plays with risk, something humans tend to be very bad at assessing. *Take A Risk* will probably include graphs and gambling, songs, jokes and electric shocks. But we can't be certain. *Sat 5 Oct*

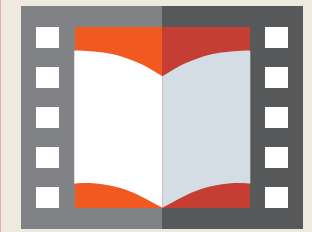
The Hidden

Somebody has gone missing. But there are clues hidden in library books, written on index cards, and on bookshop shelves. Your mission is to crack the mystery. Visible Fictions' sell-out interactive experience comes to Wigtown for the first time. *Fri 27 - Sun 29 Sept*



Unsupervised Adulthood

Director Drew Taylor and Performance Collective Stranraer unveil their new show, a physical comedy about the possibilities of mundane objects, office life, and when being an "adult" will ever start. *Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept*



BOOKSPIRED

A Book Town Film Festival

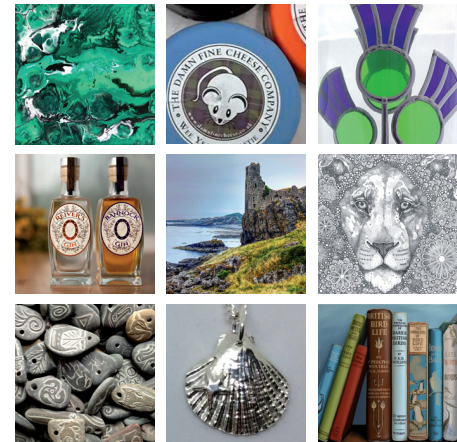
"Bookspired" is a new film festival within the book festival, which takes inspiration from some of this year's speakers and themes. Movies range from classics such as *Casablanca* and *The Snow Goose*, to the epic Gaelic feature film *Seachd: The Inaccessible Pinnacle* and *Hamish: The Movie*, the screen biography of the great poet, songwriter and folklorist Hamish Henderson. Most screenings will be introduced by writers and take place outdoors in the Bookshop Garden Cinema (bad weather excepting). Popcorn and hot drinks will be available. Bring your own blanket.



Angelou on Burns, 7.30pm, Wednesday 2 October



Hamish The Movie, 7.30pm, Friday 4 October



- A Work of Art • Bine Designs • Bladnoch Distillery Ltd
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Outside the County Buildings
Open 10am-5pm / 6.30pm at weekends
Stalls subject to change on a daily basis

For further information, please visit:
www.facebook.com/TheKistWigtown

VISUAL ARTS 2019



The Map House / Taigh nam Mapaichean

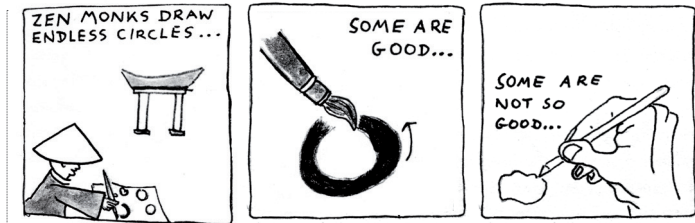
Situated at the former Bank of Scotland building on South Main St, The Map House is a new pop-up venue exploring Galloway's history – from its Celtic origins to the present day – through place-names and the medium of cartography. Leading Scottish illustrator Eilidh Muldoon (www.eilidhmuldoodles.com) will be among a number of artists taking inspiration from maps, while visitors will be encouraged to create their own, however idiosyncratic. There will also be a number of drop-ins and events, including a Day of Gaelic for all on Saturday 5 October.



Our cover star

This year's cover artist is Lucy Cartwright. Lucy graduated in illustration from Falmouth University in 2015. Her clients have since included the National Trust, Radio Times and Penguin Random House. Lucy takes inspiration from vintage prints and art deco posters, using limited and muted colour palettes. She has always loved the print process and this is reflected in her work, where she combines hand-print inspired layers with pen-drawn figures and puts them together using digital techniques. www.lucyroseeillustration.com.

wigtownbookfestival.com



Workshops

There are a number of workshops throughout the festival including Robert Twigger on Comics for People Who Can't Draw, Dekko Comics workshop, Rachel Hazell on bookbinding and Ruthie Redden on notebook-making. For a full updated list, go to our website.

Art & Design Fair

The "Artists and Makers" Art & Design Fair returns. Ten local professional artists will be selling their work throughout the 10 days of the festival.

Behind Machars Action,
26 South Main St.
Daily, 10am-5pm

Artist-in-Residence

We are delighted to link up again with the arts and crafts open studios event Spring Fling to host an artist-in-residence at this year's book festival. The 2019 residency is awarded to a developing artist, with their work to be presented during Spring Fling in May 2020.



Pots, Prints & Pages

Printmaker Pamela Grace is joined by potter Claire Dawdry and resident bookbinder Sarah Stewart in this exhibition exploring the works of three of the region's finest artisans. Printmaking and bookbinding workshops will accompany the exhibition throughout the festival.
Craigard Gallery, 13 North Main St. Daily, 10am-5pm



The Blash o God

The Blash o God is a collaboration by French-based artist John Campbell Henderson and Penpont poet Hugh McMillan inspired by the Buchanites, an 18th-century cult based in Dumfries & Galloway and led by the charismatic Elspeth Buchan. The installation combines poetry, video and art in a week-long exhibition. Expect the Second Coming, free love, mummification and Robert Burns.

The Map House, 21 North Main St.
Open daily Mon 30 Sept - Sun 6 Oct

Wigtown Book Festival 2019



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2019/20 PROGRAMME

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Pic credit: Matthew Hall

To find out more and book tickets see: www.dgartslive.org.uk

THEMES 2019

Key to the listings

The following symbols are found in the listings on pages 14-51. This is what they mean:



LOST PROVINCE

The ancient history of Galloway is written in its place names, which reveal an extraordinary variety of languages: Gaelic, Anglo-Saxon, Scots, Norse and Cumbric, the Brittonic language closely related to Old Welsh. The Lost Province celebrates the region's past as a melting pot, through new writing, translation, illustration, speaker events and even an archaeological survey.



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF Indigenous Languages

In the UN International Year of Indigenous Languages, we celebrate Scotland's own. Activities include two days of drop-in Gaelic events and the relaunch of Wigtown's Scots and Gaelic poetry prizes. We also ask why minority languages matter and welcome Celtic cousins from Galicia.



A series of events on the life agricultural, including the Yorkshire Shepherdess Amanda Owen and three of Galloway's finest farmer-writers. Plus put your wellies on and see behind the scenes on inspiring visits to three very different farms.



BOOKSPIRED

Supported by Screen Scotland, Bookspired is a mini-film festival within WBF19, where cinema and books meet. Films include *1984*, *The Snow Goose* and *Angelou on Burns*, Elly M Taylor's remarkable documentary about Maya Angelou's fascination with Scotland's national bard. *In association with Driftwood Cinema*



Wigtown Book Festival is part of A Year of Conversation 2019, a Scotland-wide collaborative project about the potential for conversation to make our lives better. Events include The Wigtown Feasts, a town-wide invitation to eat together.



From brewery tours to birding, cycling to botany, we encourage visitors to make the most of a trip to the festival by getting out of Wigtown and seeing some of the many other attractions that make Galloway special. We even provide ride shares.



Epic North is a short strand that takes a fresh look at Northern European epics, from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Finland and Scandinavia. Sessions include discussions of a key passage of the text. Book them all for a serious discount.



WigWAM is the new name for our young people's festival, programmed and run by a dedicated team of volunteers aged 13-25. For the first time this year, you will find WigWAM events in our main listings. And they are open to all ages – but free for under 26s.



Under 26? Go free

Did you know that if you are under 26, tickets to most events are free (except Big Wig children's programme and some food and drink events). Registered students over 26 are also able to buy tickets for £2 on the door from 15 minutes before the start, subject to availability. This concession is valid on production of ID from 10am-6pm.



WBF2019 PROGRAMME

11AM
Stephen Rutt
Wintering

County Buildings | £7

In the autumn of 2018, Stephen Rutt and his partner moved to a house near the Solway Firth. As they settled into their new home, thousands of pink-footed geese were also arriving on their way from the Arctic Circle. In the beautifully written *Wintering*, he traces the journeys and habits of the UK's five species of goose and the part these garrulous, surprising and cooperative birds have played in our culture. [001]

Sponsored by Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere

11AM
THEATRE **The Hidden**

Wigtown Library | £14

Somebody has gone missing. But there are clues to their disappearance, hidden in library books, written on index cards, and on bookshop shelves. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to crack the mystery, working as a team to rewrite history. **Visible Fictions'** sell-out interactive experience for small groups of teenagers and adults comes to Wigtown for the first time. [002]

12.30PM
Ursula Buchan
**Beyond The Thirty-Nine Steps:
A Life of John Buchan**

County Buildings | £7

The Thirty-Nine Steps is known around the world. But its author's life was as rich as fiction. Born in Glasgow's Gorbals, John Buchan was a scholar, war reporter, MP, minister of wartime propaganda and much-loved Governor-General of Canada, equally at ease with fur trappers and prime ministers. Ursula Buchan, the granddaughter of "JB", has drawn on newly discovered family papers to give a revealing new insight into his life, including the improbable love story at the heart of it. [003]

Supported by Barbara Moore

2PM
Richard Frazer
Travels with a Stick

County Buildings | £7
The way to Santiago de Compostela is one of the world's great pilgrim routes; almost 300,000 people officially complete it every year. Richard Frazer brilliantly tells the story of his own journey in all its ups and downs and considers why putting one foot in front of

another can change a life, for the secular and religious alike. The author is minister of Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh. He founded and chairs the Grassmarket Community Project, which helps the most vulnerable, and has been influential in the revival of pilgrimage in Scotland. [004]

2PM
THEATRE **The Hidden**

Wigtown Library | £14

Visible Fictions' acclaimed interactive mystery. Can you find the clues hidden among the shelves? See 11am for details. [005]

3.30PM
Fraser MacDonald
**Escape from Earth: A Secret
History of the Space Rocket**

County Buildings | £7

Fifty years after the Moon landings, *Escape from Earth* is the eye-opening story of the dawn of the space age in 1930s Los Angeles. A tale of spies, lies and sex-magic, with walk-on parts from Satanist Aleister Crowley and charlatan guru L Ron Hubbard, it rewrites the "missile men" legend. How did a bona fide communist come to run NASA's technology programme? What part was played by his research partner, a bed-hopping explosives-mad occultist?

John Bird, 5pm, Friday 27 September



Stephen Rutt, 11am, Friday 27 September

Fraser MacDonald, who teaches at the University of Edinburgh reveals all. [006]

Sponsored by *The Old Bank Bookshop*

AROUND THE FESTIVAL

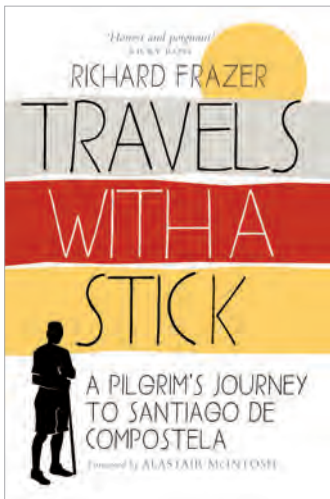


Stories for Strangers

Luke Winter writes stories for strangers he meets on the street – and he would like to write for you. Find him and his typewriter outside the County Buildings throughout the day. His latest book is *Stories for Strangers 3*, a collection of twenty new tales written in streets and fields around the world. It includes stories about taxidermy and feminism, stories that led to marriage proposals, stories for biker gangs in the desert in Texas, stories about toxic masculinity in English cathedral towns and stories about fairytales in Manhattan. www.storiesforstrangers.com



Fraser MacDonald, 3.30pm, Friday 27 September



Richard Frazer, 2pm, Friday 27 September



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FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

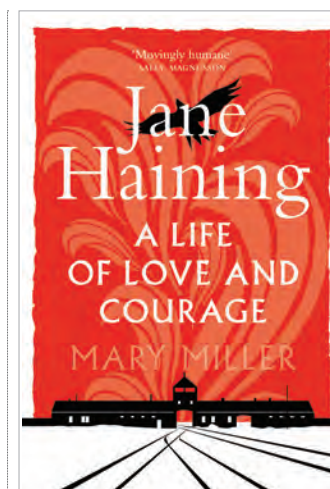


Ursula Buchan, 12.30pm, Friday 27 September

3.30PM
The Book Town Tour
 Meet by County Buildings | £5
 Join **Ben Please** of The Bookshop Band on a guided tour of Wigtown and its bookshops. Meet the booksellers and learn a little of how it became Scotland's Book Town. [007]

5PM
John Bird
The Chapter Catcher
 County Buildings | £7
 John Bird's life story is extraordinary. Homeless at the age of five, he would spend years in an orphanage, falling into petty crime and only later learning to read and write in prison. Yet he would go on to found the street newspaper *The Big Issue*, and in 2015 entered the House of Lords. Now Lord Bird wants to create a "revolution in reading", starting with a new magazine, *The Chapter Catcher*. He talks about the journey that inspired him. [008]
 Sponsored by Galloway Lodge Preserves

6.30PM
Mary Miller
Jane Haining: A Life of Love and Courage
 Festival Marquee | £9
 Mary Miller discusses her moving new biography of one of Scotland's great heroines. In 1932, Galloway farmer's daughter Jane Haining went to work at a Jewish school in



Mary Miller, 6.30pm, Friday 27 September

Budapest. When the Second World War broke out, she went back to Hungary to try to protect the school's children, a course of action that would lead to her arrest by the Gestapo and her death at Auschwitz. [009]
 Supported by R Barclay

6.30PM
Why Minority Languages Matter
 McNeillie Tent | £7
 There are roughly 7,000 languages in the world – but 95 percent of the world speaks just 300 of them. In our first event to mark the UN International Year of Indigenous Languages, publisher **Clive Boutle** sticks up for

the underdogs. Which are threatened? Which thrive? And why should we even care about linguistic diversity? Drawing on huge experience in the field, his global tour will surprise and amuse, changing the way you see minority tongues for ever. [010]

6.30PM
THEATRE **The Hidden**
 Wigtown Library | £14
Visible Fictions' acclaimed interactive mystery. See 11am for details. [011]

7.45PM
Festival Fireworks
 Mercat Cross, Town Square | free
 Kirkcudbright and District Pipe Band leads the way from the Mercat Cross to Bayview Nursery for fireworks over Wigtown Bay.
By kind permission of Bayview Nursery

8.30PM
Festival 21 Party
 Festival Marquee
 We've got the key in the door. Speakers, sponsors, Friends, volunteers, ambassadors and donors are warmly invited to celebrate. There will be cake. If you would like to support us, please phone 01988 402036 or write to mail@wigtownbookfestival.com. [012]
 Sponsored by Corney & Barrow

9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
 Well-Read Books | free
 Wind down with bedtime readings inspired by the festival's themes. Hot chocolate provided. [013]



Festival Fireworks, 7.45pm, Friday 27 September

AROUND THE FESTIVAL



Stories for Strangers

Luke Winter writes stories for strangers he meets on the street. And he would like to write for you. Find him by the County Buildings. www.storiesforstrangers.com



The Map House / Taigh nam Mapaichean

A pop-up venue exploring Galloway's history – from its Celtic origins to now – through place names and illustration. For details, see page 10. Former Bank of Scotland Building, 21 North Main St



Make Your Own Comics

Robert Twigger never learnt to draw formally. But that didn't stop him illustrating his book *Micromastery*. Join him for inspiration on turning your stories into graphic novels. Nature Room, County Buildings



Kerry Hudson, 10.30am, Saturday 28 September

9.30AM

Book Town Breakfast

Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
Who's on the sofa today with **The Bookshop Band**? [101]

9.30AM

RSPB Bird Walk

RSPB Crook of Baldoon | £5
Join ranger **Paul Tarling** of the RSPB's Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve, a rich breeding habitat for lapwing. [102]
Sponsored by RSPB

10.30AM

A Question of Inequality

Festival Marquee | £8
The UK is one of the most unequal societies in Europe and social mobility is declining. Why does it matter? And what can be done about it? Our three panelists have personal experience of the issue. Former Home Secretary turned memoirist **Alan Johnson** has written extensively about his journey from a London slum to the Cabinet table; **Lord Bird** founded *The Big Issue* after a troubled childhood and spells in prison; and **Kerry Hudson** has written one of the most talked about books of the year, *Lowborn*, a deeply personal exploration of poverty in Britain today. [103]



Erika Fatland, 4.30pm, Saturday 28 September

10.30AM

Esther Rutter This Golden Fleece

County Buildings | £7
Esther Rutter learnt to spin, weave and knit as a child. For this book, she spent a year with needles in hand unravelling Britain's history and culture through its wool, a journey that took her from Border mills to Parliament's Woolsack and the empty landscapes of the Highland Clearances. [S] [104]
Sponsored by Lucy Rose Illustration

10.30AM

Reading Epic 1: The Sagas

The Print Room | £7
In the first of a short series of events looking at Northern Europe's epics, **Nicholas Jubber** and critic **Stuart Kelly** look at the great Norse sagas, where history and legend meet. As well as putting the tales in context, they will invite participants to read and discuss a key passage from the texts. [105]

10.30AM

Alyshia Ford & Hannah Witton

Life Online: How To Survive and Thrive
The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
Grab a late breakfast and join Alyshia Ford (@psychotraveller), a travel writer, YouTuber and Instagrammer, and Hannah Witton (@hannahwitton), a YouTuber and author, for an open and informal discussion about the upsides and downsides of living your life online. [106]

10.30AM

THEATRE The Hidden

Wigtown Library | £14
Visible Fictions' sell-out interactive experience for small groups of teenagers and adults comes to Wigtown for the first time. See Friday 27 Sept 11am for details. [107]

12 NOON

THE INDEX ON CENSORSHIP EVENT

1984 at 70: How Has Orwell's Vision Aged?
Festival Marquee | £8
It is 70 years since George Orwell published *1984*. So how do our political and personal landscapes today compare to Orwell's dystopia? And can the book shed light on today's data-driven security and surveillance society? Our panel: **Dorian Lynskey**, author of *The Ministry of Truth*, an acclaimed new biography of *1984*; award-winning foreign affairs writer **David Pratt**;



Esther Rutter, 10.30am, Saturday 28 September



Chris McQueer, 12 noon, Saturday 28 September

LIVE SURTITLES

In association with the charity StageTEXT, we will again be providing live surtitles for people with hearing loss at events in the County Buildings on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September. Surtitled events are marked [S] in listings. To find out more go to www.stage-text.org. *Supported by the Castansa Trust*

and **Julia Farrington** of Index on Censorship. Chaired by **Magnus Linklater**. [108]
Sponsored by Ivie Fisher

12 NOON

Eunice Olumide

How to Get Into Fashion
County Buildings | £8 (U26 free)
Edinburgh-born supermodel, Eunice Olumide was signed to the catwalk when she was just 16. Since then she has worked all over the world for designers including Mulberry, Alexander McQueen and Harris Tweed, as well as collaborating with the V&A. Along the way, she has championed diversity in her industry and stood up for ethical fashion. She talks about a remarkable career. [S] [109]

12 NOON

Chris McQueer

HWFG
McNeillie Tent | £7 (U26 free)
Glaswegian Chris McQueer went from tentatively sharing stories on Twitter to winning a Saboteur Award for the best short story collection with *Hings*, earning a comparison to "Charlie Brooker on Buckfast". His follow-up, *HWFG*, answers life's burning questions: What happens when we die? Why are moths terrifying? What are ghosts like to live with? [110]

12 NOON

Aileen Ballantyne Taking Flight

The Print Room | £6
Former Wigtown Poetry Prize-winner Aileen Ballantyne launches her first full collection. Central to the book is a sequence of poems entitled "Lockerbie, Pan Am Flight 103", which takes the form of conversations with local residents and those affected by the terror attack on Pan Am Flight 103. Her new work builds on an earlier series of poems which won the prestigious Mslexia Poetry Prize in 2015. [111]

1.30PM
Steve Jones
Here Comes the Sun
 Festival Marquee | £8
 One of the UK's best-known scientists shows how life on Earth is ruled by our nearest star which nourishes and destroys all life. What connects the flow of solar energy through plants and that of wealth through society? How does the sun rule our memory and what effect do cloudy skies have on Scottish life expectancy? *Here Comes the Sun* dazzlingly links science, politics and culture. Steve Jones is a Senior Research Fellow at University College London. He gave the Reith Lectures in 1991 and presented a BBC TV series on human genetics and evolution in 1996. [112]
Sponsored by Craichlaw Estate



Brian Bilston, 3pm, Saturday 28 September

1.30PM
Peter Cave
The Myths We Live By
 County Buildings | £8
 The author of *The Myths We Live By* leaves few sacred cows unslain. Is democracy good? Or discrimination bad? What is the basis of human

rights? Are we morally obliged to help refugees? With philosophical arguments, he shows that the truth is often less obvious than we think. Join him for a mind-bending hour to challenge your most strongly held assumptions. Peter Cave lectures at New York University (London) and the Open University and wrote the bestselling *Can a Robot be Human?*. [S] [113]



Jon Day, 3pm, Saturday 28 September

1.30PM
Nadine Aisha Jassat
Let Me Tell You This
 McNeillie Tent | £7 (U26 free)
 A thrilling performer and distinctive new voice in UK poetry, Nadine Aisha Jassat presents her debut collection. *Let Me Tell You This* explores racism, the bonds between women and gender-based violence with a direct and intelligent lyricism. "Punchy, powerful," Jackie Kay. "I really like Nadine's poetry," Hollie McNish. [114]
Sponsored by Publishing Scotland

1.30PM
Southlight 26 Launch
 The Print Room | free
 Join us to launch the latest edition of Dumfries & Galloway's new-writing magazine, featuring poetry, prose, interviews and illustration. [115]



Steve Jones, 1.30pm, Saturday 28 September

1.30PM
Susi Briggs
How To Tell a Story
 The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 What does it feel like to step inside a story and discover a whole new world of characters and voices? Whether at school, at work or with friends, storytelling is a vital skill for daily life. Storyteller Susi Briggs shows the skills that will let you tell your important stories in your own magical way. [116]



Nadine Aisha Jassat, 1.30pm, Saturday 28 September

3PM
THE MAGNUSSON LECTURE
David Pratt
Witness to War
 Festival Marquee | £8
 In four decades as a reporter and photojournalist David Pratt has led an adventurous life – whether taking tea with Osama bin Laden, interviewing Congolese warlords, or reporting from the Arab Spring. He looks back and reflects on the new challenges facing correspondents. This annual lecture marks the life of Magnus Magnusson. Introduced by his daughter, **Sally Magnusson**. [117]
Supported by Faodail & Priory Antiques

3PM
Brian Bilston
Diary of a Somebody
 County Buildings | £8
Diary of a Somebody is the first novel from the unofficial poet laureate of Twitter. It is at once a love story, murder mystery and portrait of a life more ordinary. Bilston's weary fictional hero, Brian, seeks salvation in writing poetry. But when a fellow poetry club member goes missing, he becomes the number one suspect. Join the real Brian for wordplay, whimsy and conversation. [S] [118]

3PM
Jon Day
Homing
 McNeillie Tent | £7
 From the author of *Cyclegeography* comes an evocative defence of an unpopular bird, which may change your perspective on pigeons. After moving to suburbia Jon Day felt unsettled. So he built a backyard coop and joined a pigeon racing club. Combining memoir, science, philosophy and popular culture, *Homing* looks at how we connect with nature, asking why birds and humans regularly make for home – and whether we can learn from our feathered frenemies. [119]
Sponsored by Blairbuy Farm

3PM
PERFORMANCE **Lowborn**
(Down the Chipper)
 Chip van by County Buildings | £6
 Writer **Kerry Hudson** dons an apron to present a one-woman performance of stories from her working-class childhood. With a dash of salt and vinegar and lots of humour, she will take you into a world of council flats, feckless men and the determination – always – to escape. Based on her acclaimed books *Lowborn* and *Tony Hogan*

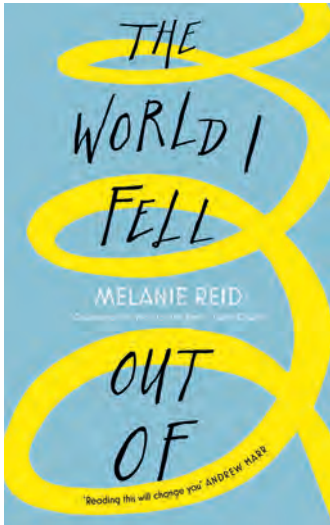
Bought Me an Ice Cream Float Before He Stole My Ma. 40 min. [120]
3PM
Hannah Witton
The Hormone Diaries
 The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 Sex education and body positivity vlogger Hannah Witton talks about all things hormonal. Her new book, *The Hormone Diaries*, covers a range of topics from endometriosis and the pill to pregnancy and periods, offering stories from a wide variety of people. Recommended 16+ [121]



Eva Moreda, 6pm, Saturday 28 September



Hannah Witton, 3pm, Saturday 28 September



Melanie Reid, 4.30pm, Saturday 28 September

4.30PM
Melanie Reid
The World I Fell Out Of
 Festival Marquee | £10

On Good Friday 2010, Melanie Reid fell from her horse, breaking her neck and fracturing her lower back. She was 52. Paralysed from the top of her chest down, she would spend almost a year in hospital alongside an array of similarly afflicted individuals. She talks about her remarkable account of her journey, a testament to the art of getting on with it which forms the backstory to her award-winning "Spinal Column" in *The Times Magazine*. [122]
Sponsored by Physgill Farms

4.30PM
Philip Marsden
The Summer Isles
 County Buildings | £7

From the author of the acclaimed *Rising Ground* comes the story of a sea voyage to the enticing Summer Isles, off Scotland's north-west coast. Philip Marsden's attempt to reach them sees him set out from Cornwall along the exposed coastlines of Ireland and Scotland,

22

following courses that have been traversed for centuries. He reveals the stories and songs, myths and legends he found, and their place in Celtic tradition. [123]

4.30PM
Erika Fatland
Sovietistan
 McNeillie Tent | £8

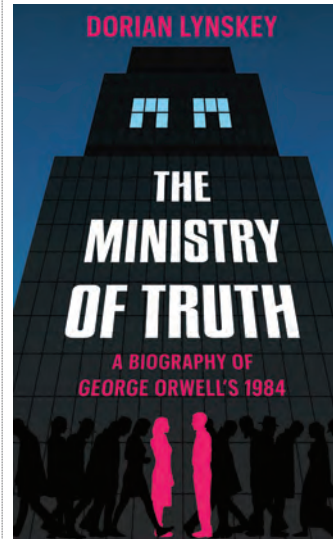
Social anthropologist and award-winning author Erika Fatland made a rare and unforgettable trip. *Sovietistan* records a personal odyssey, revealing how the modern states of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were shaped by their Soviet heritage and ancient histories. From bride snatching to toppling a dictator, from shrimp gathering to meeting survivors of the Osh massacre, hers is an eye-opening journey. [124]

4.30PM
Femi Oluwole & Eunice Olumide
How To Be an Activist
 The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 What does it mean to be an activist in 2019? How do you get your message heard? Femi Oluwole



Eunice Olumide, 12 noon, Saturday 28 September

became one of the most prominent figures in the Brexit debate after co-founding the youth-focused pro-Remain campaign group Our Future, Our Choice. He is joined by the model and activist Eunice Olumide, who campaigns for ethical fashion and Zero Waste. They talk about how – and why – to make a difference. [125]



Dorian Lynskey, 6pm, Saturday 28 September

5PM
Spring Fling at Home
 Craigarad Gallery,
 13 North Main St | free
 Drop in for refreshments with this year's Spring Fling artist-in-residence and find out what they'll be up to at the festival. [126]

5PM
 THEATRE **The Hidden**
 Wigtown Library | £14
Visible Fictions' acclaimed interactive mystery. See 11am, 27 September for details. [127]

5PM
Adrian Maldonado
Solving the Cold Case: Who Is Buried in Medieval Whithorn?
 St Ninian's Priory Church | £6
 During 2019, the Whithorn Trust has been scientifically testing human remains from one of the largest excavated cemeteries in medieval Scotland. Now the results are out and the National Museum of Scotland's Dr Adrian Maldonado reveals the outcome of the "Cold Case Whithorn" investigation. [128]

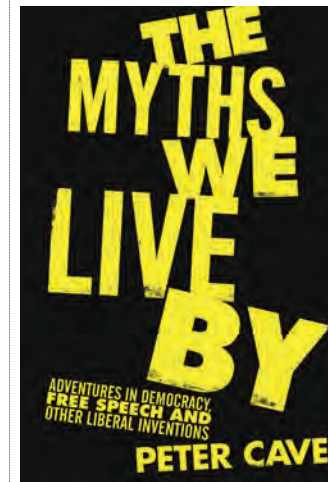
6PM
Alan Johnson
In My Life: A Musical Memoir
 Festival Marquee | £12
 The former Home Secretary turned bestselling author talks about his musical memoir, which transports the reader back into the world of dances and jukeboxes, heartfelt love songs and heartbreaking ballads. From Bing Crosby to David Bowie, he vividly brings to life the soundtrack of his life. [129]
Sponsored by Diana McMicking of Miltonise Farms

6PM
Dorian Lynskey
The Ministry of Truth
 County Buildings | £8
 In its 70th anniversary year of publication, Dorian Lynskey

Wigtown Book Festival 2019



Alan Johnson, 6pm, Saturday 28 September



Peter Cave, 1.30pm, Saturday 28 September

discusses the legacy of George Orwell's *1984*. His acclaimed new book, *The Ministry of Truth*, examines how Orwell's masterpiece has made its mark on every area of the world, from politics and language to culture, where it has influenced so much from David Bowie's *Diamond Dogs* to the launch of the Apple Mac. [S] [130]
Sponsored by Motarwise

6PM
Homage to Galicia
 McNeillie Tent | £6
 Galicia in north-west Spain, another land of bagpipes and kilts, is proud of its Celtic heritage. Half its population speaks Galego daily, and literature is thriving. We celebrate a unique culture with two of Galicia's finest writers, English PEN Award-winning novelist **Eva Moreda** (*Home is Like a Different Time*) and poet **Martín Veiga** (*Diary of Crosses Green*) and piper **Mano Panforreiteiro** provides a soundtrack – all washed down with Galician wine. [131]

7.30PM
 THEATRE
Unsupervised Adulthood
 The Print Room | £5 (U26 free)
 Set in every office in which anyone has ever done a dull day's temping, *Unsupervised Adulthood* is a new physical comedy about the possibilities of mundane objects, the desolation of the workplace and wondering when being an "adult" will ever start. Performed by **Performance Collective Stranraer**. Directed by Drew Taylor. [132]

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7.30PM

Small Language, Big Picture

Bookshop Garden Cinema | £7
Bookspired is our new film festival, which takes inspiration from the speakers and themes of WBF 2019. We open with a specially curated programme of short films celebrating small and endangered tongues. Funny, intriguing and often surprising, these shorts may change the way you see the world. The films are shown in a specially constructed, covered outdoor venue, so please dress for the weather. Popcorn and hot drinks available. Bring your own blanket. Cert 12A. [133]
 In association with *Driftwood Cinema*



7.30PM

The Wigwag Feasts

Various Venues | £24 including £2 donation to Social Bite (or host your own feast)
 As part of *A Year of Conversation*, this year we are inviting visitors and locals to share a meal with one another. We would love you to join one of the many simultaneous feasts taking place across the town. Together we hope they will form a great communal celebration. Choose one of the themed dinners or take pot luck. Alternatively, hold your own feast and let us know. For details, see panel (right).

9.30PM

Book at Bedtime

Well-Read Books | free
 Wind down with bedtime readings inspired by the festival's themes. Hot chocolate provided. [139]
 Supported by *Well-Read Books of Wigwag*



9.30PM

RSPB Bat Walk

Meet by County Buildings | £5
 A gentle walk in search of Wigwag's bats in the company of RSPB ranger **Paul Tarling**. [140]
 Sponsored by *RSPB*

THE WIGTOWN FEASTS



Nothing goes together like good food and good conversation; that's the idea behind the Wigwag Feasts. On the evening of Saturday 28 September, we are hosting a number of simultaneous suppers in houses across Wigwag, uniting Wigwag folk, festival visitors and authors over food. Collectively the aim is to create one giant celebration, a feast of feasts.

Some of the events (see right) are very lightly themed. We'll provide conversational prompts which you can choose to accept or ignore. Alternatively, you can choose "pot luck" and we will let you know where you are dining once you've booked.

None of the meals is a talk or a show: the point is simply to meet, greet and eat. Perhaps you will make a friend for life? Or have a conversation you've always wanted to but never had the chance?

Each supper will take place in central Wigwag and costs



£24 including a £2 donation to the homelessness charity Social Bite. (And if you'd rather informally host your own, that's great: we would love to know.) Bring your own bottle.

Themed suppers for which you can buy tickets are shown below. Please use the numbers in brackets when booking:

A Feast for the Mind
A philosophy supper [134]

A Feast for the Ears
A musical supper [135]

A Feast for the Eyes
A visual arts supper [136]

A Feast for the Tongue
An international supper [137]

Pot Luck
Supper with a local or any of the above [138]

#wigwagfeasts
 www.ayearofconversation.com



Jason Webster, 10.30am, Sunday 29 September

9.30AM

Book Town Breakfast

Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
 Which guests are on the sofa with **The Bookshop Band**? [201]



10AM

Festival Fun Run

Meet by County Buildings | free
 Join writers and other runners for the annual 5km fun run.

10.30AM

Magnus Linklater

Fitzroy Maclean's Scotland
Festival Marquee | £8
 Fitzroy Maclean's *Scotland: A Concise History* is a classic of its genre. Now former *Times* editor Magnus Linklater has brought it up to date, looking at the legacy of devolution, the 2008 crash and the rise of the SNP. He discusses whether Maclean's account has endured and how the nation might find clues to its future in its past. [202]

10.30AM

Jason Webster

Violencia: A New History of Spain
County Buildings | £7
 In a controversial new history, Jason Webster reveals Spain's colourful past. It's a tale full of blood, often shed over questions of national identity. From the Crusades to colonialism, fascism to the Cold War,



Magnus Linklater, 10.30am, Sunday 29 September

the Spanish have led where the rest of the West has followed – and today is no different. Jason Webster's previous works include *Duende*, *Andalus* and *Guerra*. [S] [203]
 Supported by *Alice*, *Flora*, *Sam* and *Olivia Stobart*

10.30AM

Richard Baines

The Modern Plant Hunter
McNeillie Tent | £7
 When he is not curating Logan Botanic Garden, Richard Baines is a plant hunter, seeking new species around the globe on behalf of

AROUND THE FESTIVAL

The Map House / Taigh nam Mapaichean

The Map House is a new pop-up venue exploring Galloway's history – from its Celtic origins to the present – through place names, maps and illustration. For details, see page 10.
Former Bank of Scotland Building, 21 North Main St

Perfect Pitch

Leading literary agent **Jenny Brown**, whose clients include Shaun Bythell, Sally Magnusson and Malachy Tallack, is on hand for writers to pitch new writing and seek advice. To book a slot and submit work, please email boxoffice@wigwagbookfestival.com
 10.30am-2.30pm | free



10.30AM

Sara Sheridan & Alan Windram

So You Want To Be a Children's Author?
The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 So you want to be a writer? Join author Sara Sheridan and publisher Alan Windram as they share their top tips on how to develop your characters, drive your story and take the next steps. [205]

11AM

THEATRE The Hidden

Wigwag Library | £14
Visible Fictions' acclaimed interactive mystery. See 11am, 27 September for details. [206]



Sarah Jane Douglas, 12 noon, Sunday 29 September

12 NOON
Sarah Jane Douglas
Just Another Mountain

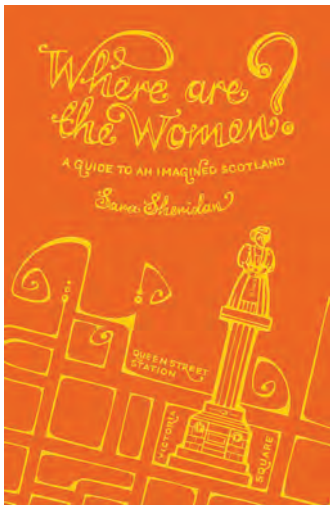
Festival Marquee | £8
 In 1997, Sarah Jane Douglas lost her mother to cancer. Distraught, she took solace in mountains, tackling all of Scotland's Munros and finally the Himalayan peak that had killed the man who would have been her stepfather. So when she was diagnosed with cancer herself, she treated it as "just another mountain". She talks about her inspiring memoir of maternal love, recovery and perseverance. [207]
Sponsored by Diana McMicking of C&D McMicking

12 NOON
Simon Reid-Henry
Empire of Democracy

County Buildings | £8
 Simon Reid-Henry's acclaimed history of the West begins at the height of the Cold War, as a new political and economic order replaced the post-war consensus. It would rip down the Iron Curtain; but arguably it would also lead to the Iraq war, financial crash, Trump, Putin and Brexit. Is democracy itself now under threat? Simon Reid-Henry is Associate Professor at Queen Mary University of London and Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo. [S] [208]

12 NOON
Tarquin Hall
The World of Vish Puri,
Delhi Detective

McNeillie Tent | £7
 Meet Vish Puri, Delhi's top private investigator. Bestselling novelist Tarquin Hall offers the lowdown on his portly, persistent and unmistakably Punjabi comic creation, who collars modern India's swindlers, love cheats and murderers, while shedding light on a fast-changing culture. "Beautifully written, amusing and intensely readable," Alexander McCall Smith. [209]



Sara Sheridan, 1.30pm, Sunday 29 September

LIVE SURTITLES

In association with the charity StageTEXT, we will again be providing live surtitles for people with hearing loss at events in the County Buildings on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September. Surtitled events are marked [S] in listings. To find out more go to www.stage-text.org.

Supported by the Castansa Trust



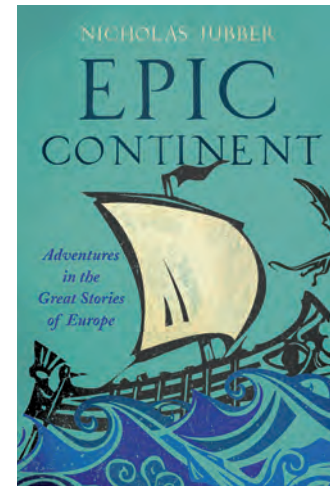
Femi Oluwole, 1.30pm, Sunday 29 September

12 NOON
Any Awkward Questions?

The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 Are you a person with a question that you worry about asking out loud? Vlogger **Hannah Witton** joins **Drew Taylor**, artistic director of Performance Collective Stranraer, to discuss the questions we all want the answers to. To submit a question before the event text anonymously 07500336356. 16+ only. [210]

1.30PM
The New
Generational Divide

Festival Marquee | £8
 Class was once Britain's great divide. Now, some say, it's age, as the era of affordable housing has given way to zero-hour contracts, student debt and renting-for-life, and the young face fallout from Brexit. We examine intergenerational fairness with economist-journalist **Dame Frances Cairncross**; co-founder of pro-EU advocacy group Our Future, Our Choice, **Femi Oluwole**; and assistant editor at *spiked*, **Ella Whelan**. [211]



Nicholas Jubber, 1.30pm, Sunday 29 September

1.30PM
Sara Sheridan
Where Are the Women?

County Buildings | £8
 Can you imagine a Scotland where women are commemorated in statues, streets, buildings, hills and valleys? Writer Sara Sheridan did and the result is this guide to a parallel world, where Arthur's Seat belongs to Triduana and the West

Highland Way ends at St Mary. Even Wigtown gets a makeover. [S] [212]
Sponsored by Hazel L J Smith Chartered Architect

1.30PM
 **Nicholas Jubber**
Epic Continent

McNeillie Tent | £8
 From the Odyssey to the Sagas, Europe's great epics have shaped how we think about ourselves with their takes on sex, class, nationhood, honour and fundamentalism. Award-winning travel writer Nicholas Jubber introduces a world of gods and emperors, dragons, knights and princesses, asking: what lessons do these ageless tales still offer in turbulent times? [213]
Sponsored by Galloway Heathers

1.30PM
 **Alyshia Ford**
Where Is She?

The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 Ever dreamed of travelling the globe, abandoning a conventional life to become a "digital nomad"? Sounds great? But what if you faced the darkest time of your life, far from home? For the first time, Alyshia Ford, the face behind @psychotraveller, reveals her full story. Her YouTube videos and blog posts have hidden a dark secret she was never ready to share until now. [214]

1.30PM
PERFORMANCE **Lowborn**
(Down the Chipper)
 Chip van by County Buildings | £6
 Writer **Kerry Hudson** heads to the chippy to present a one-woman performance of stories from her working-class childhood. For details, see p21. 40 min. [215]

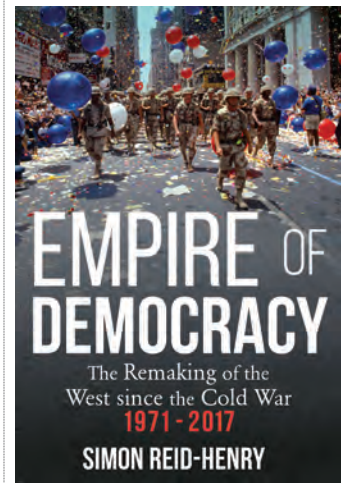
2PM
THEATRE **The Hidden**
 Wigtown Library | £14
Visible Fictions' acclaimed interactive mystery. See 11am, 27 September for details. [216]

3PM
Tom Devine
The 'Death' and Reinvention of Scotland

Festival Marquee | £9
 By the late 18th century, Scotland was prospering in the Union. But some believed this came at a cost: the anglicisation of the nation and the end of an ancient identity. Historian Sir Tom Devine looks at this "crisis" and reaches surprising conclusions about what really happened, then and since. [217]
Sponsored by Whithorn & District Business Association

3PM
Clare Hunter
Threads of Life

County Buildings | £8
 Clare Hunter discusses her *Sunday Times* bestseller, which offers history through a needle's eye. Described as a mixture of *The Hare with Amber Eyes* and *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, *Threads of Life* ranges widely from the political propaganda of the Bayeux Tapestry, to the Suffragettes and mothers of Argentina's disappeared. In doing so, she never misses a stitch. "Beautifully considered," Tracy Chevalier. [S] [218]



Simon Reid-Henry, 12 noon, Sunday 29 September

3PM
Natalie Haynes
Troy Story

McNeillie Tent | £7
The star of BBC Radio 4's *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics* unites ancient history and comedy for a tour of the Trojan War, the setting for her latest novel *A Thousand Ships*. She takes the untold stories of the women affected by the war and places them at the heart of one of the greatest tales ever written. [219]

3PM
MUSIC **The Galloway Consort**
Music of the Spheres

Sacred Heart, South Main St | £8
Interweaving Renaissance music and storytelling, The Galloway Consort imagines the lives of the most revered astronomers through the voices of the women in their lives – sisters, wives, lovers and servants. This newly written piece evokes the countries where they lived and worked, including a musical tribute to the early Islamic scholars of Andalucia whose work inspired many European discoveries. [220]
Supported by Jim Anderson



Shaun Bythell, 6pm, Sunday 29 September



Ghillie Basan, 4.30pm, Sunday 29 September

3PM
Rossie Stone

Dekko Comics Workshop
The Other Tent | £6 (U26 Free)
Rossie Stone from Dekko Comics shows how to turn studying into fun. After years of struggling with dyslexia, Rossie taught himself how to turn his school notes and exam revision into comic strips. Now he's going to teach you how you can do the same. [221]

4.30PM
Alice Morrison
My 1001 Nights

Festival Marquee | £8
When TV presenter, writer and adventurer Alice Morrison went to Morocco, it was to run the daunting Marathon des Sables. But, seduced by the country and its people, she made an apartment in Marrakech her home for a thousand and one nights, with surprising results. She talks about her joyful adventure. [222]

4.30PM
Ray Perman
The Rise and Fall of the City of Money

County Buildings | £8
Ray Perman's panoramic account of Edinburgh's life as a financial capital is bookended by disasters – the ill-fated Darien adventure that led to Scotland's Union with England



Natalie Haynes, 3pm, Sunday 29 September

and the 2008 collapse of the city's two largest banks. The centuries between were ones of financial innovation, as wealth turned medieval squalor into Georgian affluence. He considers the visionaries, speculators and spivs who made it happen. [S] [223]
Sponsored by Coburg Capital

4.30PM
Ghillie Basan
Spirit and Spice
McNeillie Tent | £7
Join Highland-based writer,

broadcaster, cook and food anthropologist Ghillie Basan as she applies her fascination with spices to the Scottish larder, often finding a fine dram to match. She talks about her life in food, shares her expertise and tells the stories behind the recipes, painting a rich picture of family life in one of Scotland's wildest corners. [224]

Sponsored by ReadingLasses Bookshop & Café

4.30PM
THEATRE
Unsupervised Adulthood

The Print Room | £5 (U26 free)
Unsupervised Adulthood is a new physical comedy about the possibilities of mundane objects, office life and when being an "adult" will ever start. Performed by **Performance Collective Stranraer**. [225]

4.30PM
Emily Tryon
Stop-Frame Animation Workshop

The Other Tent | £8 (U26 free)
Join film-maker Emily Tryon for this 90-minute stop-frame animation workshop. Using a variety of production methods you will learn how to create your own animated short films. Bring along a favourite piece of poetry or prose as inspiration for the group. [226]

6PM
Shaun Bythell
Confessions of a Bookseller

Festival Marquee | £8
Shaun Bythell runs The Bookshop in Wigtown. It should be an idyll for bookworms. Unfortunately, Shaun also has to contend with bizarre requests from people who don't understand what a shop is, home invasions during the Wigtown Book Festival, and his neurotic Italian assistant who likes digging for river mud to make poultices. He tells all about his new set of bestselling diaries. [227]
Sponsored by East Knockbren Farm

Wigtown Book Festival 2019

6PM
MUSIC
Donald S Murray
with Ceitlin Lildh

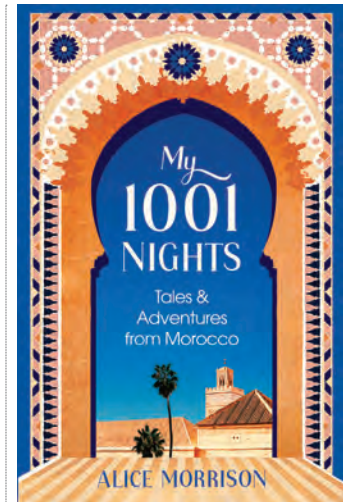
His People's Tongue
County Buildings | £6
Growing up, like many of his generation Donald S Murray had been dismissive of Gaelic. Two men altered that view: songwriter Murdo Macfarlane and the playwright and novelist, Norman Malcolm Macdonald. Using their words, music and those of other writers, he explains how his perception of his people's tongue changed. In Gaelic and English. With songs from Ceitlin Lildh. [228]

7.30PM
MUSIC **Ken Cockburn**
& The Bookshop Band

Birds and Beyond
The Other Tent | £6
For his Spring Fling x Wigtown Book Festival residency, Ken Cockburn has been thinking and writing about birds – and their place in our lives and landscape. He presents his new work, while The Bookshop Band presents a selection of songs inspired by feathered friends and other wildlife. [229]

7.30PM
Casablanca

Bookshop Garden Cinema | £7
Morocco-based travel writer



Alice Morrison, 4.30pm, Sunday 29 September

and adventurer, **Alice Morrison** introduces the 1942 classic, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, and explains why it became a key inspiration for her book *My 1001 Nights*. Part of *Bookspired*, a new festival exploring the link between books and film. Cert U. [230]
In association with Driftwood Cinema

9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
Well-Read Books | free
Hot chocolate and readings. [231]
Supported by Well-Read Books of Wigtown

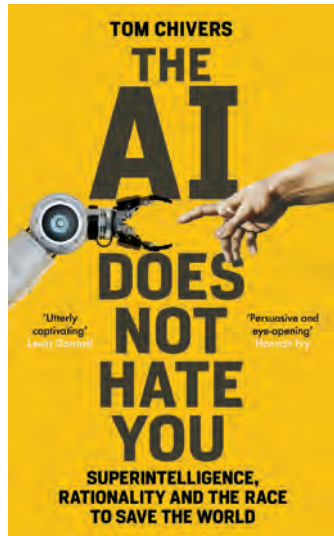


Casablanca, 7.30pm, Sunday 29 September

AROUND THE FESTIVAL

Perfect Pitch

Leading Scottish literary agent **Jenny Brown** invites writers to pitch new work and gives advice. To book, email boxoffice@wigtownbookfestival.com 10.30am-2.30pm | free



Tom Chivers, 1.30pm, Monday 30 September




Henry Hemming, 4.30pm, Monday 30 September

9.30AM
Book Town Breakfast
Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
Who's on the sofa with **The Bookshop Band** today? [301]

9.30AM
 **Kitchen Coos & Ewes**
Meet at County Buildings | £12 (U16 £5)

Get up close with the Beltex Sheep and feed the Highland Cows on the "Insta Coo" tour at High Airyolland Farm. Starts 10.30am. 90 min. [302]
Courtesy of Neale & Janet McQuistin

10.30AM
William Clegg
Under the Wig
County Buildings | £8
Leading murder case lawyer William Clegg QC revisits his most intriguing trials, from the acquittal of Colin Stagg and shooting of Jill Dando, to Nazi war crimes. In doing so he reveals his profession's secrets, from personal rivalries to pressures on the right to a fair trial. [303]
Supported by the Faculty of Advocates

 10.30AM
Reading Epic 2: Ossian – The Homer of the North
The Print Room | £7
Broadcaster and classicist **Natalie Haynes** joins critic **Stuart Kelly** to discuss James Macpherson's famous fake epic *Ossian*. [304]

12 NOON
Jim Muir
The Iran Crisis: Why – and What Next?
County Buildings | £7
Former BBC Middle East correspondent Jim Muir looks at the roots of the current crisis involving Iran arguing that the expansion of Iranian influence has been largely the result of actions taken by the US and its allies. How will it all play out? [305]

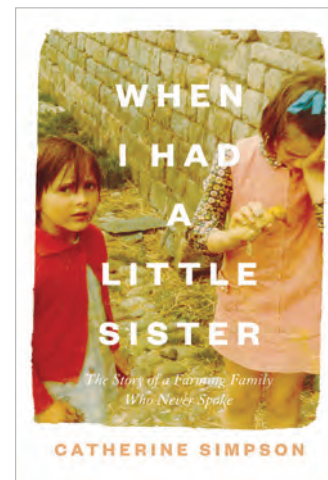


Leila Aboulela, 1.30pm, Monday 30 September

12 NOON
Norman Bissell
Barnhill
McNeillie Tent | £7
Who was the man behind *1984*? Norman Bissell discusses *Barnhill*, his novel about George Orwell's time on Jura. It reveals the author's private side – his love life, devotion to his son and declining health as he struggled to deliver his masterpiece. [306]

1.30PM
Tom Chivers
The AI Does Not Hate You
County Buildings | £8
Artificial Intelligence is set to transform society. But what if machines become smarter than us? It's something many technologists are seriously worrying about. Tom Chivers went to Silicon Valley to speak with them. He asks: Are we playing Russian roulette with our future? "Thrilling," Lewis Dartnell. [307]

1.30PM
Leila Aboulela
Bird Summons
McNeillie Tent | £8
On a Highland road trip, Salma, Moni and Iman are visited by the Hoopoe, a sacred bird from Muslim and Celtic fables. Dubbed a "Scottish-Arabic



Catherine Simpson, 3pm, Monday 30 September

Canterbury Tales", Leila Aboulela's new book is an enchanting portrait of three women seeking freedom by one of our finest writers. [308]

3PM
Donald S Murray
As the Women Lay Dreaming
County Buildings | £8
On 1 January 1919, HMY Iolaire sank in Stornoway Harbour, killing 200 men. Donald S Murray (*The Guga Hunters*) talks about his moving novel which shows how a


community can be instantly changed by a twist of fate. "Powerful and poignant," *The Sunday Times*. [309]

 3PM
Catherine Simpson
When I Had a Little Sister
McNeillie Tent | £7
Catherine Simpson talks about her riveting, unsentimental account of growing up in a near-silent farming household, and her quest to discover why her sister killed herself. Drawing on her sister's diaries, Simpson has turned grief into a moving addition to the literature of mental illness and rural life. [310]
Sponsored by Skate Antiques

4.30PM
Henry Hemming
Our Man in New York
County Buildings | £8
The story of the covert operation to bring the US into the Second World War. When MI6 sent William Stephenson to New York in 1940 to sway US public opinion, just 14% of Americans wanted to go to war. But fake news and dirty tricks won. Henry Hemming's books include the bestselling *M*, the biography of spy chief Maxwell Knight. "Revelatory," William Boyd. [311]
Sponsored by A B & A Matthews

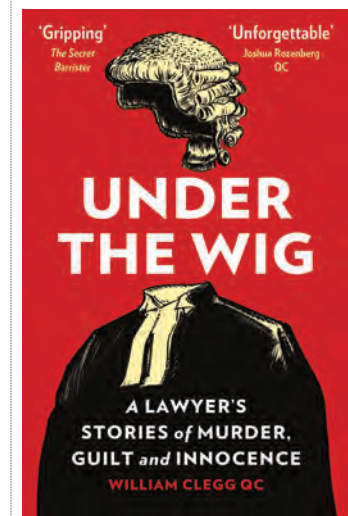
 6PM
In Search of Galloway's Lost Province
County Buildings | £6
Galloway is sometimes seen as a backwater. But in early medieval times it was a true cultural and linguistic crossroads, bringing together – in peace and in violence – Ancient Britons, Anglo-Saxons, Norse folk and Gaels. In this special event, **Professor Ted Cowan** and Galloway Gaelic expert **Michael Ansell** recreate a lost age. There will also be readings from new writing commissioned as part of the festival's *The Lost Province* project. [312]

7.30PM
Stuart Kelly's Literary Pub Quiz
Craft, 30 South Main Street | free
The infamous annual pub quiz returns. [313]

 7.30PM
Nineteen Eighty-Four
Bookshop Garden Cinema | £7
Michael Radford's 1984 version of Orwell's novel, starring John Hurt. Introduced by **Norman Bissell**, whose novel *Barnhill* tells the story of the book's creation. Cert 15. [314]
In association with Driftwood Cinema

7.30PM
THEATRE
A Substitute for Life
The Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £12.50
Are books a bloodless substitute for real life? Starring Tim Hardy, Simon Brett's new one-man play is inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's famous observation. 50 min; 14+. [315]

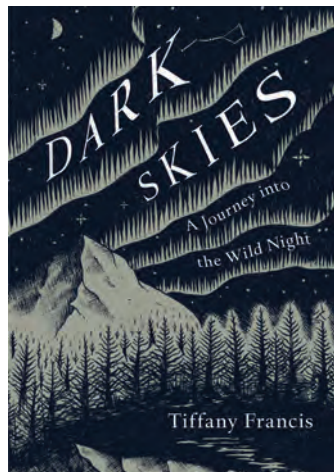
9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
Well-Read Books | free
Hot chocolate and readings. [316]



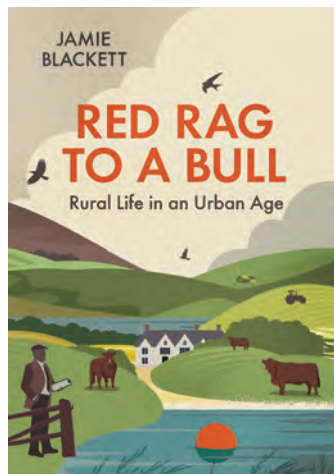
William Clegg, 10.30am, Monday 30 September

AROUND THE FESTIVAL

What Lies Beneath?
Graeme Cavers and AOC Archaeology are surveying two sites critical to the history of Wigtown and Whithorn. Join in or watch as the teams seek new insights. Directions to the sites are available from the box office or online.
Supported by Whithorn Trust and MGS Festivals Fund



Tiffany Francis, 3pm, Tuesday 1 October



Jamie Blackett, 6pm, Tuesday 1 October

9.30AM
Book Town Breakfast
Craft, 30 South Main St | £8
Who is on the sofa with **The Bookshop Band?** [401]

 10.30AM
Philip Walling
Till the Cows Come Home
County Buildings | £8
The bestselling author of *Counting Sheep* turns his attention to the relationship between humans and the cattle that have tilled our soils, borne our burdens and helped clothe us. It's the story of civilisation itself. Mixing personal stories and interviews with farmers, butchers and breeders, Philip Walling puts our bovine companions in a new light. [402]
Sponsored by Priory Veterinary Centre

12 NOON
Suzanne Fagence Cooper
To See Clearly: Why Ruskin Matters
County Buildings | £8
Born 200 years ago, John Ruskin was his age's greatest critic. But he didn't restrict his thoughts to art and architecture. Suzanne Fagence Cooper argues that Ruskin's ideas on work, leisure, beauty and truth still offer much. Dr Fagence Cooper is an honorary visiting fellow at the University of York. [403]

1.30PM
Sue Armstrong
Borrowed Time
County Buildings | £8
Before 2020, the number of people over 65 globally will become greater than the number of 0 to 4-year-olds. Yet still scientists can't agree why we age. Sue Armstrong set out to discover how we might age better. The speaker is an Edinburgh-based science writer. [404]

3PM
Doddie Weir
My Name's Doddie: The Autobiography
Festival Marquee | £12
Rugby legend Doddie Weir talks about his life-affirming autobiography, which details his remarkable career for Scotland and the Lions. Since revealing in 2017 that he has motor neurone disease, he has been a tireless campaigner for MND research, setting up the My Name's Doddie Foundation. [405]
Sponsored by The Bookshop

3PM
Tiffany Francis
Dark Skies
County Buildings | £8
For her book *Dark Skies*, author Tiffany Francis crossed Europe to learn more about our connection to the night sky – a journey that took her from feeding foxes on a south London estate to night-swimming in



Doddie Weir, 3pm, Tuesday 1 October

the Gulf of Finland. She considers how darkness has shaped our culture, permeating folklore, science, geography, art and literature. [406]
Sponsored by 3b construction

4.30PM
Denise Mina
Conviction
Festival Marquee | £8
The multiple award-winning author of *The Long Drop*, Denise Mina presents her compelling and original new thriller. *Conviction* features a strong female protagonist who is obsessed by true crime podcasts and decides to investigate one of the unsolved crimes herself. Do not try this at home. "The woman who may be Britain's finest living crime novelist," *Daily Telegraph*. "Entirely compulsive," Ann Cleeves. [407]
Sponsored by Well-Read Books of Wigtown

4.30PM
Christopher Andreae
Archie Sutter Watt: A Galloway Artist
McNeillie Tent | £7
Archie Sutter Watt is one of Dumfries & Galloway's best loved artists, renowned for his evocative landscapes and still-lives. Author Christopher Andreae discusses the work and influence of the painter who came to the region on a visit but stayed more than 50 years. [408]
Sponsored by Craigard Gallery

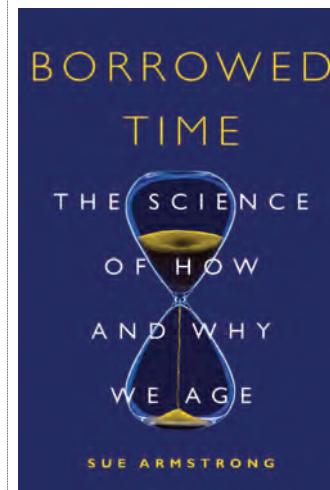
 6PM
Jamie Blackett
Red Rag to a Bull
County Buildings | £8
When Jamie Blackett returned from the Army to run an estate on the Solway Firth, he found a fast-changing countryside. He recounts how he found his feet as a farmer, observing Dumfries & Galloway's wildlife, people and peccadilloes. He also looks at the challenges facing a fragile way of life and



Harry Baker, 6pm, Tuesday 1 October




Denise Mina, 4.30pm, Tuesday 1 October




Sue Armstrong, 1.30pm, Tuesday 1 October

the directions rural Scotland may take after Brexit. [409]
Sponsored by Creebridge Veterinary Centre

 6PM
Harry Baker
I Am 10,000
The Other Tent | £7 (U26 free)
World Slam Champion Harry Baker is 10,000 days old. Celebrate with him. From winning a Battle of the Bands competition with a Jay-Z maths homage, to his prime number poetry TED talk watched online by millions, his love of language and logic has got him through literal marathons and seen him rap battle in front of Ice Cube. "The greatest performer on Earth," BBC Radio 1. [410]

7.30PM
Josh Sutton
A Childhood Feast
The Old Manse, 9 Harbour Rd | £30
Join Josh Sutton, the author of *Food from Childhood*, for a three-course meal inspired by his (Famous) *Five Go Feasting* recipe book. He talks about how what we eat in our early days can define the rest of our lives. [411]

 7.30PM
The Snow Goose
Bookshop Garden Cinema | £7
Natural history writer **Stephen Rutt** introduces the 1971 adaptation of Paul Gallico's magical novella. Part of *Bookspired*, a new festival linking books and film. Cert U. 90 min. [412]

7.30PM
THEATRE
A Substitute for Life
The Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £12.50
See 7.30pm Monday 30 Sept for details. [413]

9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
Well-Read Books | free
Hot chocolate and readings. [414]

AROUND THE FESTIVAL

What Lies Beneath?
Join the archaeologists surveying two key sites in Wigtown and Whithorn. For details, see Tues.

The Map House / Taigh nam Mapaichean

The Map House is a pop-up venue exploring Galloway's history – from its Celtic origins to the present – through place names, maps and illustration. For details, see page 10.

dreadful mistakes. Professor Gareth Williams of Bristol University sets the record straight. "Truly superb," Matt Ridley, *The Times*. [502]

10.30AM
Five Kingdoms Tour
Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn | £8
It's brew day at Five Kingdoms, so-called because England, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Wales and Scotland are all visible on a clear day. Join the team at Scotland's most southerly brewery for a tour and a taste (also 1.30pm). 80 min. [503]

By kind permission of Five Kingdoms Brewery

12 NOON
Sinéad Gleeson
Constellations
County Buildings | £8
How do you tell the story of a life in a body, as it goes through sickness, health, motherhood? That's what Sinéad Gleeson has done in her extraordinary collection of essays *Constellations*. She talks to **Peggy Hughes** about one of the year's most acclaimed books. "Astonishing," Kate Mosse. "Magnificent," Eimear McBride. [504]

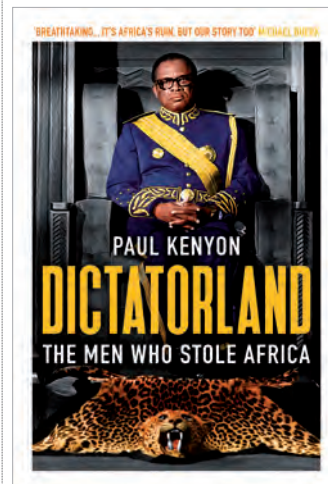
1.30PM
Jenni Calder
The Burning Glass: A Life of Naomi Mitchison
County Buildings | £8
As well as writing more than 70 books, Mitchison was a socialist, feminist and tireless campaigner for sexual freedom, whose activism took her from the USSR to her adopted Botswana. In the revised version of her classic biography, Jenni Calder examines one of Scotland's richest literary lives. [505]

1.30PM
Alan Trotter
Muscle
McNeillie Tent | £6
In a hard-boiled city of crooks and rackets lurk a pair of toughs. They're

the kind of men who act without thinking. Until one night, over poker, they encounter a pulp writer with ideas and an unscrupulous private eye. Part Chandler, part Italo Calvino, Alan Trotter's brilliant debut novel opens up like a set of Russian dolls. "Pulp fiction made intelligent," *Sunday Telegraph*. [506]

1.30PM
Five Kingdoms Tour
Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn | £8
See 10.30am. [507]

3PM
Paul Kenyon
Dictatorland: The Men Who Stole Africa
County Buildings | £8
Paul Kenyon tells the incredible stories of the leaders who stole Africa's wealth from its people: fantasists, despots and crooks. Amid the violence and excess, he also shows the dark secrets of Western greed and complicity. The author is a BAFTA-winning journalist and author who made his name confronting criminals in his own BBC1 show, before becoming a reporter for *Panorama*. "Breathtaking," Michael Buerk. [508]



Paul Kenyon, 3pm, Wednesday 2 October

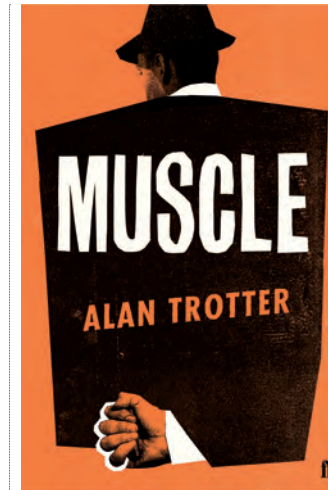


Sinéad Gleeson, 12 noon, Wednesday 2 October

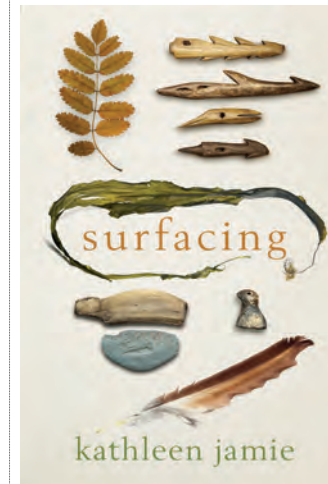
3PM
Karen Campbell
The Sound of the Hours
McNeillie Tent | £7
Tuscany, 1943. As 17-year-old Vittoria falls in love with a black American soldier, her country is torn in two. Should she side with her Scots-Italian father or her Fascist mother? The Dumfries & Galloway-based author of the acclaimed *After the Fire* introduces her thrilling new novel. [509]

4.30PM
Peter Robinson
Many Rivers to Cross
County Buildings | £8
In the 26th instalment of his internationally bestselling series, Peter Robinson's DCI Banks (portrayed by Stephen Tompkinson on TV) faces Eastern European sex traffickers while solving a murder close to home. Discover what drives this curious, compassionate cop. [510]
Sponsored by The Steam Packet Inn

4.30PM
Ricky Monahan Brown
Stroke
McNeillie Tent | £7
In 2012, within 48 hours, 38-year-old Ricky Monahan Brown lost his job and suffered a massive haemorrhagic stroke. Doctors gave him a 5% chance of surviving in a non-vegetative, non-paralysed state. *Stroke* is his witty, engaging memoir, also a love letter to his wife. [511]
Sponsored by SW Audio



Alan Trotter, 1.30pm, Wednesday 2 October



Kathleen Jamie, 6pm, Wednesday 2 October

6PM
Arthur Anderson
Wheels Rolling at Eight
Festival Marquee | £8
Growing up on a Wigtownshire farm, Arthur Anderson went to the *Scotsman* at 16, before becoming a farming journalist and producer on the BBC's *Landward*. From getting lost in Papua New Guinea to playing snooker with a frozen goose, it was nothing Galloway life couldn't prepare him for. [512]
Sponsored by Galbraith

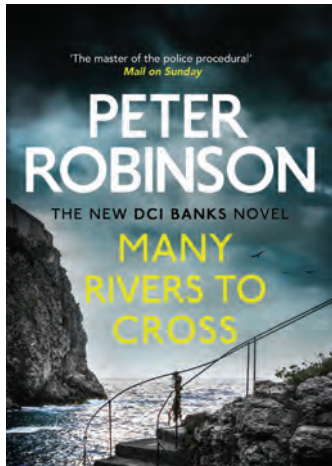
6PM
Kathleen Jamie
Surfacing
County Buildings | £8
Kathleen Jamie is winner of the Saltire Book of the Year and the Costa Award for Poetry. She talks about her new book, *Surfacing*, which blends memoir, cultural history and travelogue, exploring how the changing natural world alters our sense of time. [513]

7.30PM
The Stables Supper
Home Farm, Garlieston | £38
Join us in Galloway House's former stables for a farm supper. [514]

7.30PM
Angelou on Burns
County Buildings | £7
In 1996, producer **Elly Taylor** made a documentary about parallels between the lives of Robert Burns and the great African-American writer Maya Angelou, bringing Dr Angelou to Ayrshire. She introduces it and talks to Burns scholar **Valentina Bold**. [515]

7.30PM
THEATRE
Author, Composer, Soldier-of-a-Sort
The Swallow Theatre | £12.50
See 7.30pm Thursday 3 Oct. [516]

9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
Well-Read Books | free
Hot chocolate and readings. [517]



Peter Robinson, 4.30pm, Wednesday 2 October

9.30AM
Book Town Breakfast
Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
Daily chat show with **The Bookshop Band**. Who's on the sofa? [501]

10.30AM
Gareth Williams
Unravelling the Double Helix: The Lost Heroes of DNA
County Buildings | £8
Did James Watson and Francis Crick really "discover" DNA? Not exactly. The true story unfolds like a detective story, full of heroes and villains, brilliant deductions, false leads and

AROUND THE FESTIVAL

What Lies Beneath?

Graeme Cavers and AOC Archaeology are surveying two sites critical to the history of Wigtown and Whithorn. Join in or watch the teams seek new insights. Dr Cavers will be revealing results in an event at 6pm. Directions to the sites are available from the box office or online.

Supported by Whithorn Trust and MGS Festivals Fund

9.30AM

Book Town Breakfast

Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
Daily chat show with **The Bookshop Band**. [601]

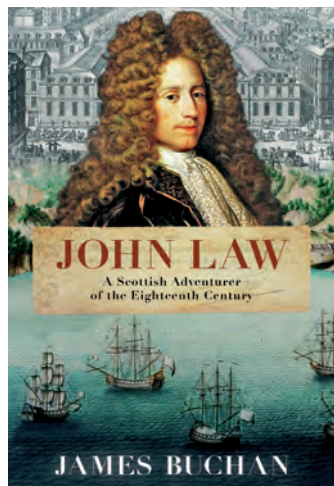
10.30AM

Andrew Lownie

The Mountbattens

County Buildings | £7

Louis was last Viceroy of India, supreme Allied commander of Southeast Asia in the Second World War and matchmaker to the Queen; Edwina was once Britain's richest woman. Together they knew everyone, from Salvador Dali and



James Buchan, 4.30pm, Thursday 3 October



Matthew Parris, 1.30pm, Thursday 3 October

Grace Kelly to Charlie Chaplin and the Duke of Windsor. Prize-winning biographer Andrew Lownie offers a nuanced portrayal of two very unusual people and their complex marriage, marking the 40th anniversary of Lord Mountbatten's assassination by the IRA. [602]

10.30AM

Away with The Belties

The Old Place of Mochrum | £7

Belted Galloway cattle are a Galloway icon, and nowhere has greater associations with them than the Old Place of Mochrum, whose former owner Miss Flora Stuart worked tirelessly to save the breed. This farm visit will bring you close up with these beautiful beasts and their history, in the company of today's herd manager **Helen Ryman**. Includes refreshments. [603]
By kind permission of David & Catherine Bertie

12 NOON

Matthew Sturgis

Oscar: A Life

County Buildings | £7

Oscar Wilde was a paradox: a socialite who died almost alone, the natural wit who wanted to write tragedy, and a snob who saw through society's pretence. In the first major biography in thirty years,



Lisa Ballantyne, 1.30pm, Thursday 3 October

Matthew Sturgis has drawn on a wealth of new material placing the playwright afresh in the context of his age. "Page-turning," *Sunday Times*. "Sumptuous," Craig Brown. [604]
Sponsored by Hillcrest House

12 NOON

Reading Epic 3: The Táin

The Print Room | £7

In the third of our sessions looking up close at great Northern European epics, **Stuart Kelly** turns his critical attention to the Irish Táin. Set in the

first century, it tells of the war that the Connacht Queen Mebh wages against Ulster only to face the wrath of the young hero Cuhullin. [605]

1.30PM

Matthew Parris

Fracture

Festival Marquee | £9

Drawing on his BBC Radio 4 series *Great Lives*, the *Times* columnist Matthew Parris explores the theory that genius crawls from the wreckage of a fractured childhood. By exploring the lives of eminent historical figures, from Freddie Mercury to Marie Curie, he seeks to locate the pivotal experiences that unlocked their brilliance. Without these early traumas and hardships, the gifts they possessed may have lain dormant – depriving us of some of the most remarkable talents we have ever known. [606]
Sponsored by Andrew Plunkett Steel Buildings Ltd

1.30PM

Lisa Ballantyne

Little Liar

McNeillie Tent | £7

The Richard and Judy Book Club bestselling author of *The Guilty One* talks about her new novel, a nail-biting ride of "he said / she said" between a teacher and his pupil. An edgy psychological thriller about two families torn apart by one betrayal, it considers the fine line between guilt and innocence. "Sophisticated, suspenseful, unsettling," Lee Child. [607]

3PM

Rosemary Goring

Scotland: Her Story

County Buildings | £8

Join us for an hour of Scotland's story through the eyes of its women, a cast that spans from the Maid of Norway and Mary Slessor to Elaine C Smith and Judy Murray. The former *Herald* literary editor has drawn on an array of material,

including tax rolls, court records, diaries and memoirs. She shares some highlights and talks about the joy of unearthing the distaff half of history too long ignored. [608]
Sponsored by Simpsons Bakery

3PM

James Kingsland

Am I Dreaming?

McNeillie Tent | £7

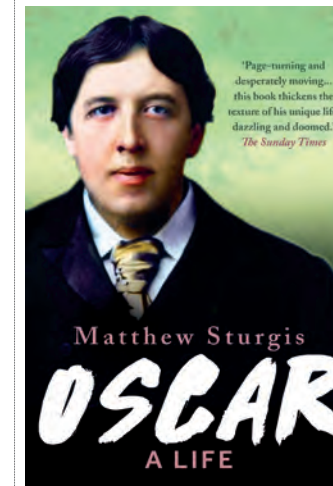
Can humans be rebooted, just like computers? Can we alter hard-wired thought patterns and become more aware through virtual reality, meditation, psychedelic drugs or even video games? Drawing on the latest research in neuroscience and clinical psychology, medical journalist James Kingsland provides a scientific travel guide to altered states of consciousness, showing ways we can improve our mental health and wellbeing. [609]
Sponsored by The Pheasant

3PM

Logan Botanic at 50 Special Tour

Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan | £7

A guided tour of Logan Botanic Garden, where southern hemisphere exotics thrive on the Scottish Riviera.



Matthew Sturgis, 12 noon, Thursday 3 October



Andrew Lownie, 10.30am, Thursday 3 October

In its 50th anniversary year, see how Logan has developed as one of the quartet of gardens of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to be "Scotland's most exotic garden". The visit includes a chance to go behind the scenes with the curator. [610]
*By kind permission of Logan Botanic Garden
Sponsored by Visit South West Scotland*

4.30PM

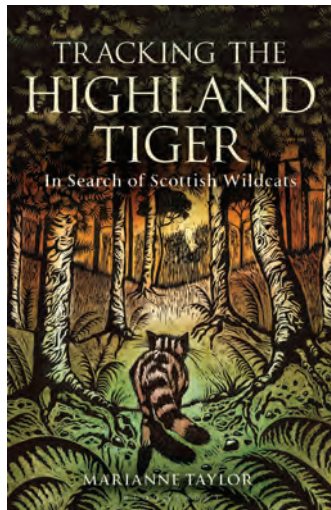
James Buchan

John Law: A Scottish Adventurer of the Eighteenth Century

County Buildings | £7

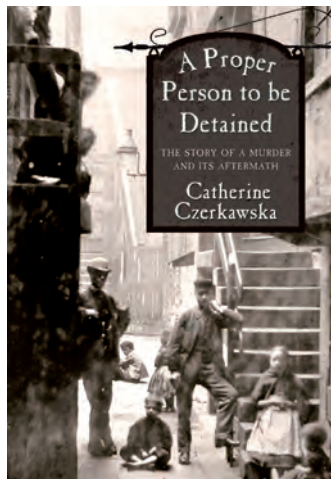
James Buchan tells the mesmerising story of the financier who rose from humble Scottish origins to control the purse-strings of Europe's most powerful nation. Law rescued France from its costly wars and the extravagances of the Sun King, but at the cost of a stock-market crash that laid the groundwork for the revolution. His biographer sets the record straight about the life of a figure often seen as a crook, a rake and a madman. "One of our finest writers," John Burnside, *The Times*. [611]
Sponsored by Penkiln Sawmill Co Ltd

4.30PM
Marianne Taylor
Tracking the Highland Tiger
 McNeillie Tent | £7
 Once our forests were full of lynxes, wolves and bears, all hunted by man to extinction. Now only the distinctly tiger-striped Scottish wildcat runs free, green eyes glinting in the undergrowth. Marianne Taylor, author of *The Way of the Hare*, explains how it survived and faces new threats, not least the dilution of its genes by its domestic cousins. [612]
Sponsored by Vogue Windows



Marianne Taylor, 4.30pm, Thursday 3 October

6PM
Catherine Czerkawska
A Proper Person to be Detained
 County Buildings | £7
 Ayrshire-based novelist Catherine Czerkawska introduces her new non-fiction work, which details the murder of her great-great-uncle in Leeds on Christmas night 1881. The book explores how one terrible incident would affect the women of her family for generations and reveals the prejudice faced by 19th-century Irish immigrants. [613]



Catherine Czerkawska, 6pm, Thursday 3 October

6PM
Graeme Covers
What Lies Beneath? – Hidden Wigtownshire Revealed
 Whithorn Roundhouse | £5
 Archaeologist Dr Graeme Covers has been leading two site surveys at the festival, seeking information about Wigtown Castle and the 6th-century religious settlement at Whithorn. Come and hear what the team discovered. [614]
Supported by Whithorn Trust and MGS Festivals Fund



Seachd, 7.30pm, Thursday 3 October

7.30PM
MUSIC
Jess Morgan & Nels Andrews
Books and Songs
 The Print Room | £6
 Nels Andrews is a literary songwriter from Santa Cruz, California. Jess

Morgan pens gutsy British folk. Join them for an evening of music and stories to warm the heart of anyone lost in the digital age. [615]

7.30PM
The Midge
A Storytelling Evening
 The Other Tent | £5
 The Midge is The Moth's smaller, cheekier (and completely unaffiliated) cousin, an evening of true tales that welcomes all tellers. Come and just listen or, better still, spin a yarn yourself. [616]

7.30PM
Seachd: The Inaccessible Pinnacle
 Bookshop Garden Cinema | £7
 A rare chance to see this BAFTA-nominated Gaelic feature from 2007. A young man's visit to his dying grandfather leads him on an epic journey through Gaelic history and legend towards a fearful mountain. "Visually breathtaking," BBC. Part of *Bookspired*, a new festival exploring where film and books meet. In Gaelic with English subtitles. Cert PG. [617]
In association with Driftwood Cinema

7.30PM
THEATRE
Author, Composer, Soldier-of-a-Sort
 The Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £12.50
 A celebration of the friendship between the First World War poet and composer, Ivor Gurney, and Marion Scott, the musician and critic to whom he sent his poems from the trenches. A tale of friendship triumphing over war, illness and despair interweaves poetry, letters and songs. 60min; 12+.
 "Heartbreaking," *The Stage*. [618]

9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
 Well-Read Books | free
 Wind down with bedtime readings inspired by the festival's themes. [619]



Mark Boyle, 12 noon, Friday 4 October

AROUND THE FESTIVAL

Latha Gàidhlig / A Day of Gaelic
 Today and tomorrow we will be celebrating Gaelic language and culture at the Map House with a range of events and activities including music, visual arts, bilingual discussion and storytelling. To see what's on, go to our website or the box office – or simply pop in.
The Map House / Taigh nam Mapaichean, 21 North Main St.

9.30AM
Book Town Breakfast
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
The Bookshop Band chat show. [701]

10.30AM
Leo McKinstry
Attlee and Churchill
 County Buildings | £8
 Few political rivalries have been as dramatic as that between Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee. Temperamental opposites, they were thrown together by war, forging a partnership that transcended party lines. Historian and journalist Leo McKinstry, author of the bestselling *Spitfire and Hurricane*, reveals fresh insights about two of the 20th century's great leaders. [702]

10.30AM
Cycling The Lost Province
 Meet by County Buildings | £7
 Join expert **Colin Mackenzie** for a cycling tour, looking for Wigtownshire's ancient history in its linguistically varied place names. Helmet and hi-vis vest essential; bring your own bike! 2 hours approx. [703]

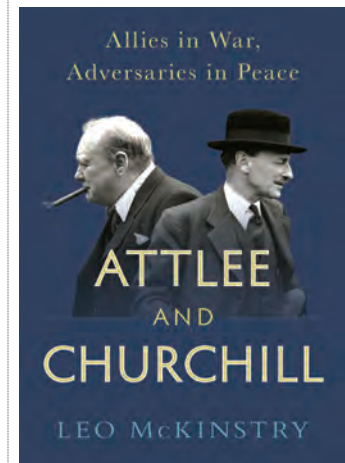
12 NOON
Mark Boyle
The Way Home: Tales from a Life without Technology
 County Buildings | £8
 What does it mean to be human as boundaries between man and machine blur? Mark Boyle tried to find out, embracing life with no running water, car or electricity. The former business graduate, who once lived without money for three years, talks about his remarkable life on a Galway smallholding. [704]

12 NOON
Fred Freeman
Hamish Henderson: A New Voice
 McNeillie Tent | £6
 Poet, songwriter, soldier, radical, folklorist, intellectual: Hamish Henderson was one of Scotland's great cultural figures, whose influence was acknowledged by, among others, Nelson Mandela, Bob Dylan and

Samuel Beckett. In this illustrated lecture to mark Henderson's birth 100 years ago, Fred Freeman, Professor of Scots Language and Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland puts his life and work in context. [705]

1.30PM
Trevor Royle
Facing the Bear
 County Buildings | £8
 If the Cold War had escalated, Scotland would have been a terrifying theatre of warfare. In his fascinating new book, *Facing the Bear*, broadcaster and author Trevor Royle explains why Scotland was central to NATO's strategy against the USSR and how Cold War values helped shape Scotland's political landscape. [706]

1.30PM
Anna Levin
Incandescent: We Need to Talk about Light
 McNeillie Tent | £6
 Seen from space, our world is getting brighter. But is brighter better? Journalist Anna Levin reveals her fraught relationship with artificial lighting, probing its impact on nature, the built environment, and health. What, she asks, are the risks of messing with nature's rhythms? [707]



Leo McKinstry, 10.30am, Friday 4 October

1.30PM
 **A Galloway Hill Farm**


Slongaber Farm | £6
 Join the inspiring conservationist, farmer and author **Patrick Laurie** on the moor to hear about his work on a traditional upland farm in the Galloway hills to protect fragile populations of black grouse, grey partridges and rapidly declining wading birds like curlews and lapwings. [708]
Supported by Miss Judy Brown

3PM
Leah Hazard
Hard Pushed
 County Buildings | £8

No sleep for 20 hours, no food for 10, and a ward full of soon-to-be mothers: midwife Leah Hazard talks about her bestselling memoir of life on the NHS frontline. From camaraderie to desperation, from heart-wrenching grief to the pure, perfect joy of a newborn, she brilliantly conveys the drama of the maternity department. [709]

3PM
Hugh McMillan & Robert Campbell Henderson
Elsbeth Buchan and the Blash o God
 McNeillie Tent | £6

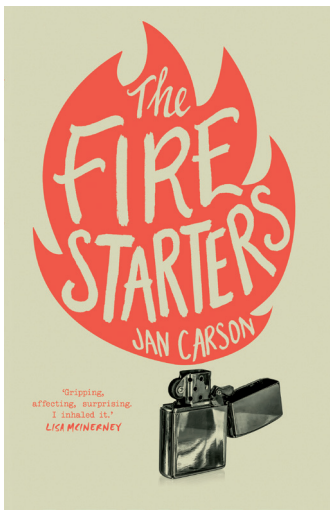
Poet Hugh McMillan and artist Robert Campbell Henderson discuss their collaboration at this year's festival, "Elsbeth Buchan and the Blash o God", which is inspired by an 18th-century Galloway-based cult. Warning: this event may include discussion of infanticide, the second coming, free love, mummification and Robert Burns! [710]

4.30PM
 **Brexit – How Do We Heal the Wounds?**
 Festival Marquee | £7

Whatever the outcome of Brexit, the UK will remain divided. This event is not about re-fighting the



Amanda Owen, 6pm, Friday 4 October



Jan Carson, 6pm, Friday 4 October

battle – it's about healing wounds and finding common ground. Is this even possible? Our super civil panel includes: **Gavin Esler**, former *Newsnight* presenter and – lately – arch-Remainer; broadcaster, writer and Leaver **Timandra Harkness**, whose credits include BBC Radio 4's *How To Disagree: A Beginner's Guide to Having Better Arguments*; and political commentator **Iain Macwhirter**. [711]
Sponsored by Torhousemuir Farming Company Ltd

4.30PM
Polly Clark
Tiger
 County Buildings | £7


Polly Clark's fascination with tigers began in her teens, with a job at Edinburgh Zoo. To research her second novel, *Tiger*, she travelled to the forests of Siberia, learning to track Amur tigers at temperatures of -35°C. She talks about how her experiences influenced her thrilling new book, which asks how close a human can come to inhabiting the mind of another species. "Passionate, remarkable, uplifting," *The Guardian*. [712]
Sponsored by S Cronnie, Butchers

4.30PM
 **Reading Epic 4: The Kalevala**
 The Other Tent | £7

One of the greatest stories you've probably never read, *The Kalevala* is the Finnish national epic. Woven together from oral tales in the 19th-century, it inspired Tolkien, Sibelius and, arguably, Finnish independence. Critic **Stuart Kelly** considers what it offers today's reader. [713]
Sponsored by citybothy.com



Trevor Royle, 1.30pm, Friday 4 October

6PM
 **Amanda Owen**
Adventures of the Yorkshire Shepherdess
 Festival Marquee | £9

She is an author, social media star and mother – but, most famously, Amanda Owen is a shepherdess. Her family starred in ITV's *The Dales*, and her books *The Yorkshire Shepherdess* and *A Year in the Life of the Yorkshire Shepherdess* were bestsellers. She explains how a girl from urban Huddersfield came to run a 2000-acre hill farm, overseeing a flock of 1000 sheep, nine children, 120 cows, eight horses and seven dogs. [714]
Sponsored by Peter & Lesley Murray Farmers

6PM
Jan Carson
The Fire Starters
 McNeillie Tent | £6

One of Northern Ireland's most exciting writers talks about *The Fire Starters*, winner of the EU Prize for Literature 2019. Set in Belfast 16 years after the Troubles, the novel tells the story of two fathers facing a crisis during a summer of deep social unrest. It's a stirring look at parenthood, love, sacrifice, magic and wonder. [715]

Wigtown Book Festival 2019

6PM
 **THEATRE** **Fallen Fruit**

The Print Room | £6 (U26 free)
 Katherina Radeva's acclaimed one-woman show inspired by her pre-1989 Bulgarian childhood. As the Berlin Wall falls in 1989, a girl looks forward to life beyond communism. In 2019, Britain leaves the EU while Europe celebrates 30 years since the end of the Cold War. [716]
Supported by DG Arts Live

7.30PM
COMEDY **Arabella Weir**
Does My Mum Loom Big in This?
 Festival Marquee | £8

The mother of all confessional shows from the bestselling author and star of *The Fast Show* and *Two Doors Down*. A show for everyone who's had a mother or been a mother, featuring hair-raising hilarious true stories from Arabella's dysfunctional childhood and life as a single working mother. [717]
Sponsored by Creebridge House Hotel

7.30PM
 **Hamish: The Movie**

Bookshop Garden Cinema | £7
 Writer **Kevin MacNeil** introduces and takes questions on his 2016 documentary about the great Hamish Henderson, renaissance man and father of Scotland's folk revival. Part of *Bookspired*, a new festival where

film and books meet. In Gaelic with English subtitles. Cert PG. [718]
In association with Driftwood Cinema

7.30PM
THEATRE
The Turn of the Screw

The Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £13.50
 A young governess arrives to take care of her new charges. But is there something dark at work in Bly House? "Wonderful," *The Times*. [719]

9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
 Well-Read Books | free
 Hot chocolate and readings. [720]



Leah Hazard, 3pm, Friday 4 October



Arabella Weir, 7.30pm, Friday 4 October

AROUND THE FESTIVAL



Latha Gàidhlig / A Day of Gaelic

Today we are celebrating Gaelic language and culture at our venue, The Map House, with a range of events and activities including music, visual arts and bilingual storytelling. To see what's on, visit our website, ask in the box office – or simply pop in. *The Map House / Taigh nam Mapaichean, 21 North Main St.*



The Dark Inside

In 1977, NASA's Voyager spacecraft began its journey into the cosmic void. It carried a golden disc with music and sounds representing Earth's civilisation. Drop by for a few minutes or stay longer to listen to some of the contents plus other sounds of space assembled by sound artist **Stuart McLean**. *County Buildings, Martyrs' Cell | free*

9.30AM

Book Town Breakfast

Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
The Bookshop Band chat show. [801]

9.30AM

Spring Fling Bird Walk

Meet by County Buildings | £5
A gentle stroll with the RSPB's **Paul Tarling** and Spring Fling x Wigtown Book Festival writer-in-residence **Ken Cockburn**, who has been writing about birds. [802]

10.30AM

Gavin Esler

Brexit without the Bullshit
Festival Marquee | £7

Brexit without the Bullshit is not about the Brexit you were told you were getting. It's about the one that is arriving. Will it boost jobs? Or wreck the NHS? Or cause food shortages? Broadcaster and journalist turned Change UK candidate Gavin Esler sets out how the most momentous change in Britain for decades will affect everyday life. [803]

Sponsored by Montpelier Chartered Accountants

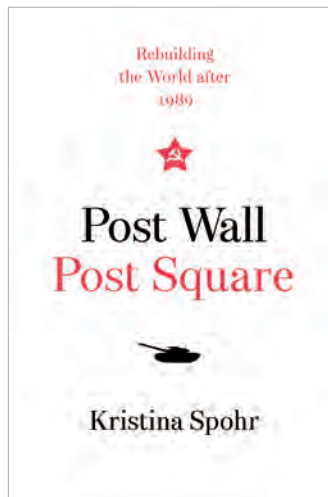


10.30AM
THE WHITHORN LECTURE

Dr David Parsons

The Riddle of the Runes

County Buildings | £7
Whithorn's runic inscriptions have puzzled people for generations. The University of Aberystwyth's Dr David



Kristina Spohr, 12 noon, Saturday 5 October

Parsons has examined them afresh and found new evidence for Anglo-Saxon runes in the Galloway Hoard. What might they tell us about the people who once trod this land? [804]

Sponsored by The Whithorn Trust



10.30AM

Yasmin Rahman
All the Things We Never Said: Mental Health and the Power of Friendship

The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
Yasmin Rahman's powerful debut novel tells the story of three girls struggling with anxiety and depression, and the bond they form through a sinister website called MementoMori. Join the author as she talks about the book's themes and the experiences that inspired her to write it. [805]



10.30AM

Ruthie Redden
Craft Workshop: The Right Note
Kaos Café | £6 (U26 free)
Get crafty with artist Ruthie Redden. In this fun session you will learn how to create your very own notebook. Materials provided. Numbers limited. [806]

wigtownbookfestival.com



Ruth Davidson, 3pm, Saturday 5 October



Kirsty Wark, 12 noon, Saturday 5 October

12 NOON

Kirsty Wark
The House by the Loch
Festival Marquee | £10

From the bestselling author of *The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle*, and one of the most trusted names in British news, comes *The House by the Loch*, inspired by Kirsty Wark's childhood memories and, in particular, by her father. Set in the Galloway countryside, it tells a story of love, loss, and three generations

Wigtown Book Festival 2019

of family secrets that refuse to stay buried. [807]

Sponsored by Dumfries & Galloway Life

12 NOON

Kristina Spohr
Post Wall, Post Square

County Buildings | £8
It has been 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Why did Europe achieve a peaceful democratic revolution – including Germany's reunification – while China brutally suppressed dissent? And how did the pivotal years of 1989-1992 create a blueprint for today's troubled times? Kristina Spohr is an Associate Professor at LSE. [808]



12 NOON

THE STANZA SERIES
Gerda Stevenson

Quines
McNeillie Tent | £6
Poet and actor Gerda Stevenson reads from her tribute to Scotland's women. Featuring monologues in Scots and English, *Quines* charts the contributions made by some remarkable women from ancient times to the 21st century: singers, politicians, a fish-gutter, queens, a marine engineer, scientists and even a whole football team! [809]

12 NOON

Not the Write Sort – Where Are the Working Class Writers?

The Print Room | free
Do you have to be privileged to write? Is an elitist culture denying readers talented voices? Novelist and poet **Natasha Carthew** is proud to describe herself as a working-class writer and is campaigning for the publishing industry to be more inclusive. She talks to **Mairi Kidd**, Head of Literature, Languages and Publishing at Creative Scotland, about why and how the system needs to change. [810]



12 NOON

David Owen
All the Lonely People

The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
When Kat is targeted by a group of alt-right campaigners, she is forced to delete her online presence. But, as she gradually disappears from the internet, she finds that she is also fading away in real life. Owen's third YA novel explores trolling, cyber bullying and loneliness in a connected world. [811]

Sponsored by Crosbie McLeod



Yasmin Rahman, 10.30am, Saturday 5 October



Gavin Esler, 10.30am, Saturday 5 October

1.30PM
Jackie Morris
The Lost Words
 Festival Marquee | £8
 When writer and illustrator Jackie Morris heard about the removal of words such as kingfisher, bramble, and acorn from a junior dictionary, she had to act. The result was *The Lost Words*, her CILIP Kate Greenaway award-winning, beautiful collaboration with Robert Macfarlane. She talks about our relationship to the natural world under threat, a subject she has also written about in the introduction to the lost childhood classic *The House Without Windows*. Musical support is provided by **Beth Porter** of *The Lost Words: Spell Songs* project and **The Bookshop Band**. [812]
Sponsored by Merrick Real Estate



Jackie Morris, 1.30pm, Saturday 5 October

PHOTO: DIVINA JELLEY

1.30PM
Edoardo Albert & Paul Gething
Warrior
 County Buildings | £7
 1400 years, 206 bones, one extraordinary story: *Warrior* is the gripping tale of a skeleton found in an Anglo-Saxon graveyard in Northumberland. Who was he?

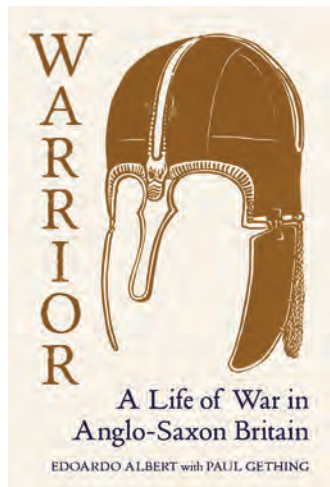


Wilson McLeod, 3pm, Saturday 5 October

How did he get there in an age of religious fervour, battling tribes and terrible bloodshed? Historian Edoardo Albert and Paul Gething, lead archaeologist on the Bamburgh Castle dig, talk about their dazzling new book, destined to become a classic of its genre. [813]
In memory of Peter Wareing

1.30PM
Peter Irvine
Scotland the Best at 25
 McNeillie Tent | £7
 Twenty-five years ago, Peter Irvine brought out the first edition of *Scotland the Best*, now established as the essential guide to Scotland's tourism riches. As the new edition appears, he talks about how the nation has changed and how it might change still, arguing that the future of tourism is likely to be in the "unspoilt" places such as the Solway Firth and the Galloway Hills. [814]

1.30PM
The WigWAM Mental Health Discussion
 The Other Tent | free
 Writers **Yasmin Rahman, David Owen** and **Paula McGuire** lead an open and honest discussion about mental health, exploring in particular the theme of loneliness



Edoardo Albert & Paul Gething, 1.30pm, Saturday 5 October

and isolation among young people. Audience members will be invited to speak and ask questions, but participation is not mandatory. [815]

3PM
Ruth Davidson
Yes She Can
 Festival Marquee | £10
 Ruth Davidson became leader of the Scottish Conservative Party in 2011, just six months after becoming an MSP. *Yes She Can* combines the revealing story of her own rise with



Peter Irvine, 1.30pm, Saturday 5 October

her conversations with 17 mould-breaking women in fields as diverse as science, politics, the military, business and sport. They share the highs and lows of their journeys to the top, and impart lessons learned on the way. [816]

3PM
Wilson McLeod
An Ubhal as Àirde: The Highest Apple
 County Buildings | £8

Join us for the launch of the first comprehensive anthology of the Gaelic literature of Scotland, spanning the early Middle Ages to the present, featuring English translations alongside more than 200 original texts. From love to war, work to romance, all life is here. Co-editor Wilson McLeod discusses their selection and considers how Gaelic culture has been perceived through the ages. [817]

3PM
Keggie Carew
Quicksand Tales
 McNeillie Tent | £8
 Ever been talked into buying a camel? Or become a burglar by mistake? Or accidentally drugged

a friend on a blind date? Winner of the Costa Biography Award, Keggie Carew has an unerring instinct for making a hash of things – and an enviable talent for turning embarrassment into gold. Join her as she shares her most humiliating, uncomfortable, funny, true, terrible and all-too-relatable moments. [818]
Sponsored by Five Kingdoms Brewery

3PM
Ali Sparkes
Writing Workshop: You Said What?
 The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 What's the *last* thing you'd do on a bus with strangers? Talk to anyone, of course! But not in Ali Sparkes' high-speed, high-comedy dialogue workshop. Join the award-winning children's author to see how your characters would react with others in a crisis. With the emphasis very much on fun, expect to join in and share your scribblings. [819]

4.30PM
Kamal Ahmed
The Life and Times of a Very British Man
 Festival Marquee | £9
 Kamal Ahmed, BBC editorial

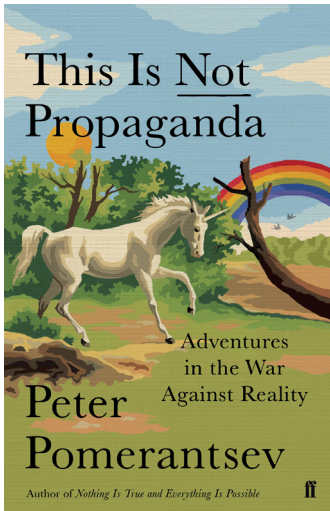
director and former economics editor, is half English, half Sudanese. He describes his childhood as "very British" in every way – except that he's "brown". His sparky memoir of growing up mixed race in the 1970s is both a highly personal story and a chronicle of Britain's changing attitudes to race. He explains why, despite it all, he remains optimistic about the future. [820]
Sponsored by Fig & Olive Cafe



Keggie Carew, 3pm, Saturday 5 October



Kamal Ahmed, 4.30pm, Saturday 5 October



Peter Pomerantsev, 4.30pm, Saturday 5 October

4.30PM
Peter Pomerantsev
This Is Not Propaganda:
Adventures in the War
Against Reality

County Buildings | £7
 The world's most powerful are lying and, when information is a weapon, everyone is at war. Peter Pomerantsev has travelled the world to offer a guide to the disinformation age of hacks, bots, Putin, trolls and Trump which seeks to erode long-established values. He talks about how we can reimagine our politics and ourselves in an age when truth has been turned topsy-turvy. [821]

4.30PM
 THE STANZA SERIES
Jenny Lindsay
This Script

McNeillie Tent | £6
 Jenny Lindsay is one of Scotland's most accomplished spoken-word poets. Her second collection, *This Script*, interrogates sexual politics, gender, feminism and the culture wars. She invites us to question the schisms in our 'isms' and how we age in a gendered world. "Defiant. Eloquent. Inspiring," *Scotsman*. [822]

46

4.30PM
Natasha Carthew
Wild Writing Workshop
 Meet by County Buildings | £10
 Join writer Natasha Carthew for a (weather-permitting) outdoor workshop on wild writing. Natasha has written all her books outside, mainly in the fields and woods near her house in Cornwall. The author of *Only the Ocean* and *All Rivers Run Free* will show how the natural world can stimulate new ideas. 90 min approx. [823]

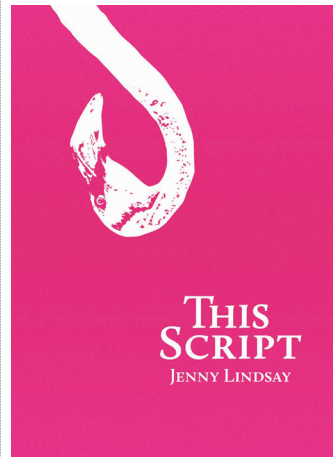
4.30PM
The Big Draw-Off
 The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)
 Back by popular demand, the Draw-Off encourages the audience to join in as our panel of artists battle it out to see who can win the prizes for the Most Crazy, Most Creepy and Most Creative drawings. [824]

6PM
Carol Drinkwater
The House on the Edge of the Cliff
 Festival Marquee | £9
 Carol Drinkwater became a household name as Helen Herriot in *All Creatures Great and Small*.



Carol Drinkwater, 6pm, Saturday 5 October

But she has developed an equally impressive career on the page. Her "Olive" memoirs, which tell of her life on an estate in Provence, have sold more than a million copies and been followed by a series of epic novels. They include her latest, *The House on the Edge of the Cliff*, a tale of love and betrayal from 1960s Paris to the present. She talks footlights, farming and fiction. [825]
 Sponsored by Galloway House Estate



Jenny Lindsay, 4.30pm, Saturday 5 October



6PM
Wigtown Poetry Prize 2019

Bladnoch Distillery | free but ticketed

In association with StAnza and the Scottish Poetry Library, Wigtown Poetry Prize celebrates great writing from across the globe. Join us for a drinks reception as we celebrate at the newly refurbished Bladnoch Distillery. **John Burnside** announces the overall winner while **Kevin MacNeil** and **Gerda Stevenson** reveal their choices in the Scottish Gaelic and Scots categories respectively. There will also be awards for the Alastair Reid Pamphlet Prize and the Dumfries & Galloway Fresh Voice category. [826]
 Supported by The Gaelic Books Council and the Saltire Society

6PM
The Cold War Legacy

County Buildings | £8
 This November marks 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginning of the end of the Cold War. We look at the legacy of those events – political, economic and social. A wounded Russia. A united Germany. A lone US superpower. Freedoms won but in some cases at a cost. Our panel: **Kristina Spohr** is the author of *Post Wall, Post Square*, a history of the global exit from the Cold War; **Allan Little** is a former BBC special correspondent, who reported on the break up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s; **Trevor Royle** is a journalist and author specialising in international affairs and defence. [827]
 Sponsored by Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press

6PM
WINE TASTING **Nina Caplan's Library Lock-in**

Wigtown Library | £12
 Louis Roederer award-winning wine writer Nina Caplan (*The Wandering Vine: Wine, the Romans and Me*) invites you to a wine-tasting with a difference. Four wines from around the world. Four books. Four wine-loving writers in competition. And one library after hours. What could possibly go wrong? Strictly limited numbers, so early booking is advised. [828]
 Supported by Lorna & Pete McCall

7.30PM
COMEDY
Timandra Harkness
Take A Risk

McNeillie Tent | £6
 In her one-woman show, BBC Radio 4 presenter Timandra Harkness plays with risk, something humans are very bad at assessing. *Take A Risk* will probably include graphs and gambling, songs, jokes and electric shocks. But we can't be certain. [829]

7.30PM
A Good Year

Bookshop Garden Cinema | £7
 Russell Crowe stars in Ridley Scott's 2006 adaptation of Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence*. A banker inherits a vineyard in Provence. Cert 12. [830]
 In association with Driftwood Cinema

7.30PM
THEATRE
The Turn of the Screw

The Swallow Theatre | £13.50
 Henry James adaptation. See 7.30pm Friday 4 Oct for details. [831]

7.30PM
PERFORMANCE
Undertakers

The Print Room | £5 (U26 free)
 Grant Robson's play is a Scottish comedy thriller following a turbulent day in the life of three undertakers. This rehearsed reading is directed by **Fraser Macleod** and performed by members of **Performance Collective Stranraer**. [832]

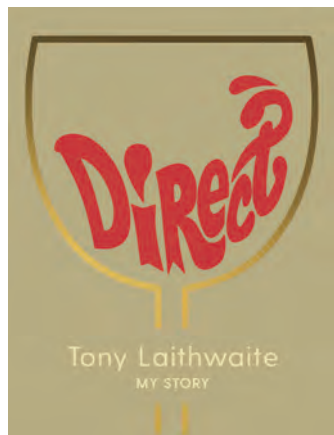
8.45PM
The Festival Ceilidh
 Festival Marquee | pay what you can
 Join us for an evening of celebration and dancing to the **Cask Strength Ceilidh Band**. All welcome. [833]
 Sponsored by Merrick Real Estate

9.30PM
Book at Bedtime
 Well-Read Books | free
 Hot chocolate and readings. [834]

9.30AM
Book Town Breakfast
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £6
 The last in our daily chat show. [901]

10.30AM
 THE STANZA SERIES
John Burnside
The Music of Time
 County Buildings | £7
 Our collective memory of the 20th century was defined by its poetry. In the first history of its kind, acclaimed poet, author and academic John Burnside brings together poets from times and places as diverse as Tsarist Russia, 1960s America and Ireland during the Troubles, to show how they shaped and were shaped by their age. [902]
 Supported by Claire & Mark Urquhart

10.30AM
Selina O'Grady
In the Name of God
 McNeillie Tent | £6
 Why are the post-Christian and the Islamic worlds as tolerant or intolerant as they are? Drawing on history and literature, the author of *And Man Created God* looks at the interlinked histories of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish faiths, persecutors and persecuted, offering an essential guide to understanding religion today.



Tony Laithwaite, 12 noon, Sunday 6 October



Geoffrey Robertson, 1.30pm, Sunday 6 October

Selina O'Grady was a producer on the BBC1 series *Heart of the Matter*, presented by Joan Bakewell. [903]

10.30AM
Rachel Hazell
The Travelling Bookbinder Workshop
 The Print Room | £8
 Rachel Hazell – aka the Travelling Bookbinder and author of *Bound* – will teach a small group how to produce a trilogy of books in a fabulously foolproof way, filling them with found words. 90 min. [904]

12 NOON
Tony Laithwaite
Direct!
 Festival Marquee | £8
 In the 1960s, a student from Bolton took a job washing bottles in Bordeaux. So began a 50-year affair with wine. Tony Laithwaite CBE's wonderfully engaging and deliciously direct memoir is a love letter to France and the grape, but most importantly to the wonderful characters he met on his unlikely journey to becoming Britain's most successful wine merchant. Join him for an hour of vintage tales from the vineyard and the boardroom. [905]
 Supported by Stephen & Caroline Colliston



Paula McGuire, 1.30pm, Sunday 6 October

12 NOON
Jemma Neville
Constitution Street
 County Buildings | £7
 Jemma Neville's incisive debut looks at global human rights through the stories of her neighbours on a single street in Leith. She talks about why their tales of courage, perseverance and vulnerability reveal so much about the connected world we live in, and makes a passionate case that human rights are too

important to be left to lawyers and politicians alone. Neville is Director of Voluntary Arts Scotland. [906]
 Sponsored by Shennanton Sawmill

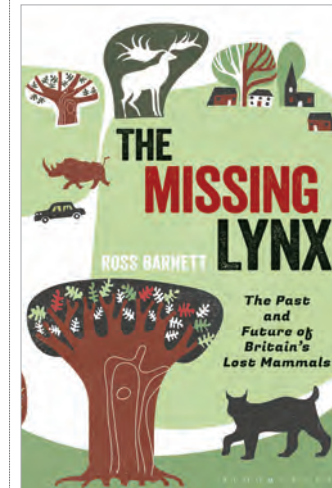
12 NOON
Mairi Kidd
Warriors & Witches & Damn Rebel Bitches
 McNeillie Tent | £6
 Take a girl growing up in Scotland in 2019: where might she find Scottish women to inspire her? *Warriors & Witches & Damn Rebel Bitches* has the answers. Join author, Gaelic broadcaster and Creative Scotland Head of Literature Mairi Kidd for a wickedly amusing hour that draws inspiration from writers, rulers, mathematicians, suffragists, astronomers, artists and even Maw Broon. [907]

12 NOON
Ken Cockburn
A Poet at the Bird Hide
 Wigtown Harbour | free
 This year's Spring Fling x Wigtown Book Festival writer-in-residence has been drawing inspiration from the birds that we see around us every day. He reads from new work and talks about his experiences during the project. [908]

1.30PM
Geoffrey Robertson
Rather His Own Man
 Festival Marquee | £8
 In his revealing and very funny memoir, Geoffrey Robertson QC recalls battles on behalf of George Harrison and Julian Assange, Salman Rushdie, Mike Tyson and the Sex Pistols – and those against General Pinochet and Mrs Thatcher. How did a pimply comprehensive schoolboy end up founding the UK's leading human rights practice and become a first line of defence for troublemakers around the world? The legendary barrister spills the beans. [909]



Mairi Kidd, 12 noon, Sunday 6 October



Ross Barnett, 3pm, Sunday 6 October

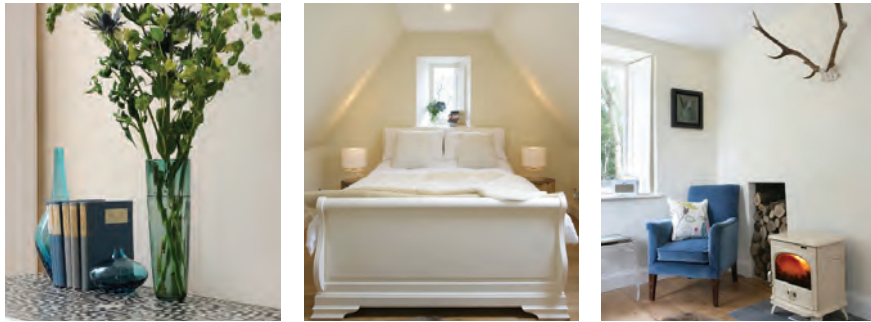
1.30PM
Rab Wilson & John C Brown
Oor Big Braw Cosmos!
 County Buildings | £7
 Which Scotsman inspired Einstein's Theory of General Relativity? Which planet is one-third made of diamond? Discover the answers to these questions and more from the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, John C Brown, and poet Rab Wilson, NTS Scriever in Residence at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. They talk about their unique guide to the universe, which unites science and art to convey the beauty of our cosmos. [910]

1.30PM
 THE SCOTTISH PEN EVENT
Bernard & Ciara MacLavery
Place and Peace
 McNeillie Tent | £6
 Culture flows where it will: so how will it fare in a world of new borders? Father and daughter writers, whose lives have taken them between Northern Ireland and Scotland, consider place and belonging. Bernard MacLavery's novels include *Cal*, *Grace Notes* and *Midwinter Break*. Poet Ciara MacLavery's most recent pamphlet was *Past Love in the Museum of Transport*. Introduced by **David Manderson** of Scottish PEN. [911]



Rachel Hazell, 10.30am, Sunday 6 October

GALLOWAY HOUSE ESTATE



Four beautiful holiday cottages on a coastal estate in Galloway.
Perfect for beachcombers, bird-watchers and bookworms

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1.30PM

Paula McGuire

Must Try Harder

The Other Tent | £6 (U26 free)

After 30 years of social anxiety and panic attacks, Paula McGuire decided to turn her life around. Her heartwarming and insightful book tells the story of how she "bit the bullet" and trained in all 17 Commonwealth Games sports and to be an astronaut, as well as trying to swim around Britain despite a terror of water. [912]

3PM

Denzil Meyrick

A Breath on Dying Embers
County Buildings | £6

Before writing his first bestseller, *Whisky in Small Glasses*, Denzil Meyrick was a police officer and a distillery manager in Campbeltown. In his new DCI Jim Daley novel, the luxury cruiser Great Britain arrives in Kinloch harbour on a tour promoting the UK to businessmen. But a missing crew member and the death of a local birdwatcher threaten to upset the global trade party. "You'll have a blast with these," Ian Rankin. [913]

3PM

Ross Barnett

The Missing Lynx

McNeillie Tent | £6

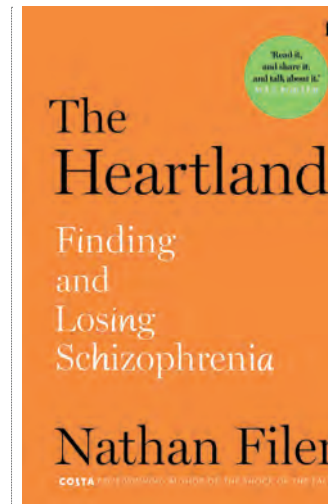
Using the latest science, palaeontologist Ross Barnett recreates Britain 15,000 years ago, home to lions, lynx, bears, wolves and bison. He asks: Where did they go and why? Might they come back? And, if it's possible, should we bring them back? As the world faces a "sixth extinction", *The Missing Lynx* is a timely investigation of these disappearances. [914]

3PM

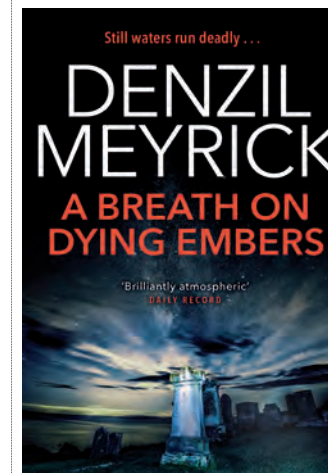
MUSIC **Off the Wing**

Sacred Heart, South Main St | £6

Off the Wing is a gloriously random collection of words and music about the birds and bird lore of Scotland, as seen through the nation's poetry,



Nathan Filer, 4.30pm, Sunday 6 October



Denzil Meyrick, 3pm, Sunday 6 October

literature, and traditional music. Featuring voice, harp and guitar, the piece is performed by **Gael Gals Productions**, who in 2016 brought the wonderful George Mackay Brown appreciation *Beside the Ocean of Time* to the festival. [915]

4.30PM

Nathan Filer

The Heartland

Festival Marquee | £7

Former mental health nurse Nathan

Filer won the Costa Book of the Year Award for his bestselling debut novel, *The Shock of the Fall*, about a young man suffering from schizophrenia. In this work of non-fiction, he returns to the subject, debunking myths. He explains why the very language we use to describe mental illness should give us pause for thought. [916]

4.30PM

Dumfries and Galloway: People and Place, c 1700-1914

County Buildings | £7

For Dumfries & Galloway, the 200 years from 1700 were a time of profound, industrial, agricultural and social change. The co-editor of a unique new study, **Ted Cowan**, Emeritus Professor of Scottish History at Glasgow University, reveals a wealth of fascinating new detail about everyday lives. He is joined by fellow contributors **John Burnet**, who focuses on food, and **Jo Miller**, who shares her research into – and offers examples of – the region's music and song. [917]

Sponsored by W A Barclay

6PM

MUSIC **The Bride of Lammermoor**

Festival Marquee | £8

In September 1669, a terrible tragedy occurred at Baldoon Castle, just outside Wigtown. David Dunbar, heir to the estate, was found brutally stabbed to death. His wife Janet, daughter of the Viscount of Stair, went mad and died. The story would inspire the novelist Sir Walter Scott's *The Bride of Lammermoor* and the opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*. To mark the 250th anniversary, and the end of the festival, this narrated concert intercuts the real story with Donizetti's glorious music performed live. In association with **Classical Musicians Scotland**. [918]

Sponsored by Rosemary and David Bythell
Supported by Dr James Hunter

John McNeillie ▶ Wigtown County Buildings

Wigtown Book Festival Opening Times:

Monday to Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday - No services but library will be open as a quiet zone

Library



Book Bug Session

every morning 10.00am - 10.45am
(Monday - Friday in front tent)

Bring along your favourite Teddy Bear



Local History Drop In

Every afternoon 1.30pm - 3.30pm
(Monday - Friday in Library)

Reading | Quiet Zone
Public PCs | Children's
Treasure Hunts and
colouring.

Reminiscing Sessions

(In Library as part of
Dementia Friendly Facility)

Tuesday & Thursday 11.00am - 12.00noon

FREE Scone, Tea & Coffee

Please bring along any old photos or
memorabilia you have at home

Due to the Festival, not all normal services
may be available, please telephone
01988 403329 for information.



**FREE
FOR
U26**

WigWAM stands for Wigtown: Words, Art, Media, and is the young people's strand of Wigtown Book Festival. Formerly known as Wigtown: The Festival (WTF), the programme has developed since 2012 to include year-round events such as Hooked, a young readers and writers day in Dumfries, and a series of discussions on hot topics ranging from the environment to mental health and politics to gender identity. Follow our social media pages to find out more.

Our 2019 programme

WigWAM is a festival for young people, by young people, curated by a team of volunteers aged 14-20. Whether you love to craft, immerse yourself in theatre or write; want to have your voice heard, learn how to be an activist or simply read a good book – we hope you will find something to entice you. With events from YouTuber **Hannah Witton**, blogger **Alyshia Ford**, and poet **Harry Baker**; workshops in notebook making, comics and animation; and discussions about mental health, awkward questions and surviving life online, new knowledge, lively discussion and entertainment awaits.



And don't just stop at the WigWAM logo - there are loads of events across the main programme for young people to enjoy – for free.

For the first time this year, WigWAM events appear in the main listings. Look out for the logo. Most sessions are open to all ages – but if you are under 26 they are free. To find out more about WigWAM or join the planning team, contact our Young People's Assistant on andy@wigtownbookfestival.com or send a message on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Thank you

We are grateful to The Holywood Trust for their continuing support to help our young people to grow and to thrive, and to our planning team: Abby, Andy, Edana, Eilidh, Elliot, Helena, Katie, Kirsty, Lara, Liam, Lucy, Owen and Siobhan for their hard work, passion and creativity to curate and deliver this year's programme.

Dumfries & Galloway



@wigwambookfest



@wigwambookfest



Wigwam Book Festival

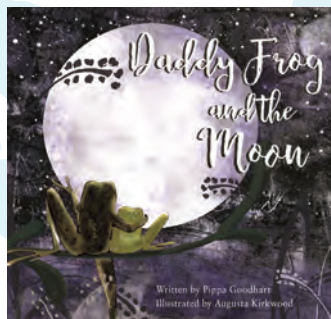


Big Wig

Entertaining & inspiring events for our youngest festival-goers

★ Fri 27 Sept ★

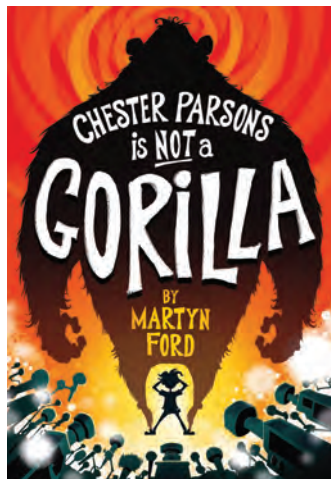
Caterpillar Party
Church Hall, Lochcroft Lane
4.30pm | Free but ticketed | Family
Join children's storyteller and author
Renita Boyle to celebrate the
50th birthday of *The Very Hungry
Caterpillar*. Fancy dress optional. [C01]



Pippa Goodhart & Augusta Kirkwood,
10.30am, Saturday 28 September

★ Sat 28 Sept ★

Pippa Goodhart & Augusta Kirkwood
Daddy Frog and the Moon
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
10.30am | £4 | Ages 3+
Daddy Frog is determined to show
Baby Frog how much he loves
her. Nothing seems to be enough,
except perhaps the moon. [C02]



Martyn Ford, 3pm, Saturday 28 September

Alan McClure
Callum and The Mountain
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
10.30am | £4 | Ages 9+
It's a quiet village. Pretty walks,
peaceful library, exploding school,
talking dogs. Callum and his friends
are in for a summer adventure. [C03]

Stuart Reid
Gorgeous George
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
12 noon | £4 | Ages 8+
George spends his life getting his
home town of Little Pumpington
out of the latest jam. From bogies
to baddies, bagpipes to bums, and
farting to false teeth, his life is an
endless adventure. [C04]

Shalla Gray & Saffanna Al-jbawi
Big Bill the Beltie Bull
In English & Arabic
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
12 noon | Free but ticketed | Family
Join Big Bill the Beltie Bull as he goes
to his local agricultural show and
becomes the prize bull. Author and
illustrator Shalla Gray is joined by
translator Saffanna Al-jbawi. Suitable
for non-English speakers. [C05]
In partnership with Open Book

Horrible Histories
With Cold Case Whithorn
Whithorn Dig, Whithorn
1pm-4pm | Free | Family
Dig up a skeleton as part of
#coldcasewhithorn and see how
archaeologists find out about
medieval diseases and death. [C06]

Emily Dodd
Crime Squirrel Investigators
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
1.30pm | £4 | Ages 4+
Rosie's secret hazelnut store has
been ransacked and her best friend
Charlie agrees to help her find the
naughty nut thief. Learn about the
different ways animals eat nuts as
you investigate! [C07]
Sponsored by Allan McDowall Electrical Ltd

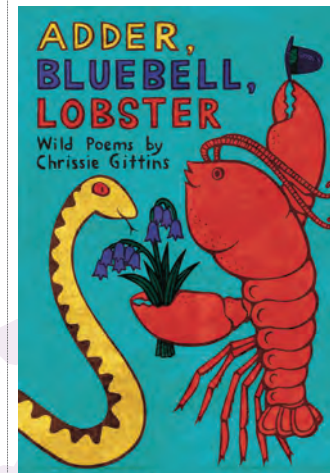
Victoria Williamson
The Boy with the Butterfly Mind
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
1.30pm | £4 | Ages 10+
Jamie Lee just wants to live with his
mum and be normal, but his ADHD
isn't making it easy. Elin Watts
wants to be perfect in the hope her
dad will come back. When the two
families collide, their lives spiral out
of control and the pair discover they
are more alike than they'd admit.
Perhaps there's no such thing as
normal or perfect. An inspiring story
of acceptance. [C08]

Theresa Breslin & Kate Leiper
**An Illustrated Treasury of
Scottish Castle Legends**
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
3pm | £4 | Ages 6+
The stunning third book in the
much-loved Scottish treasures
range, illustrated by Kate
Greenaway Medal-longlisted artist
Kate Leiper and written by Carnegie
Medal winner Theresa Breslin. Join
the duo for legends from the castles
of Scotland. [C09]

Alan Windram & Saffanna Al-jbawi
One Button Benny
In English & Arabic
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
3pm | Free but ticketed | Family
Benny is a special robot. A single
red button sits in the middle of his
stomach. Benny has never known
what the words "Only Press In An



Theresa Breslin & Kate Leiper, 3pm,
Saturday 28 September



Chrissie Gittins, 4.30pm, Saturday 28 September

Emergency" mean until one day he
is forced to find out. Suitable for
non-English speakers. [C10]
In partnership with Open Book

Martyn Ford
Chester Parsons Is Not a Gorilla
The Print Room
3pm | £4 | Ages 9+
When Chester Parsons learns he
can mind jump, he becomes the
latest global wonder. But when he
leaps into the brain of Tito the gorilla
his body disappears and he can't
jump back! Will he be stuck forever?
Martyn Ford brings his mind-
boggling, hilarious and thought-
provoking new book to life in this
lively, interactive workshop where
you can create your own story. [C11]

Gabby Dawnay & Alex Barrow
A Song for Bear
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
4.30pm | Free but ticketed | Ages 4+
One day Bear decides to sing with
the birds – he knows every tune. But
as hard as he tries, when he opens
his mouth it comes out wrong. A
heart-warming tale about learning to
love our differences. [C12]
*Sponsored by Nyah, Haydn, Ross,
Sally, Issi, Orla and Ernie*

Chrissie Gittins
Adder, Bluebell, Lobster
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
4.30pm | Free but ticketed | Ages 7+
Watch out for bossy Beetroot. Be
enchanted by a Bluebell witch's
thimble and spot a dive-bombing
Lark or a cute Great-Crested Newt.
From Adder to Wren, Chrissie
Gittins' poems celebrate animals,
birds and plants and their beautiful
names. [C13]

Day tickets

Big Wig family tickets are
available for £25 per day. A
day ticket permits entry for
up to five family members,
including a maximum of
two adults. To guarantee
availability for specific
events, day ticket holders
must also reserve seats.



Investment managers

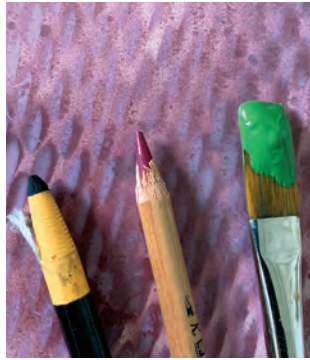
★ Sun 29 Sept ★

WORK SHOP

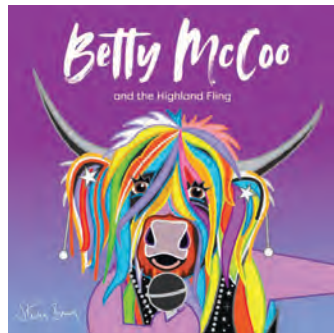
Friendly Dragons & Feisty Princesses

With Sarah Stewart

Church Hall, Lochancroft Lane
10am-2pm | Free unticketed | Family
Drop in to help artist Sarah Stewart create a dragon mural using your handprints and other printed textures. Make your own princess crown or dragon mask to wear at tonight's Princesses and Dragons Tea Party. [C14]



Vivian French, 4.30pm, Sunday 29 September



Shirley Husband, 10.30am, Sunday 29 September

Shirley Husband Betty McCoo and the Highland Fling

Wigtown Primary, The Hall
10.30am | £4 | Ages 4+
Betty McCoo is everybody's favourite auntie, a real disco diva who dreams of becoming a star. She loves to sing, but when she enters a talent show at Glasgow's famous King's Theatre, she gets a terrible attack of the jitters. Luckily for Betty, the fun-loving McCoo family is there to support her and save the day! [C15]
Supported by Isla & Mia

WORK SHOP
Rossie Stone Dekko Comics: Learning Your Way

10 → 13 Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
10.30am | £4 | Ages 9-12
Ever found schoolwork difficult or boring? Make it as fun as your favourite computer game. Whether that means turning your maths homework into a comic, your English revision into music, or using your favourite Netflix series to make history more interesting, learn how the creator of Dekko Comics found techniques to help him get his first grade 'A'. [C16]

ACCESS **A Multi-sensory Story Adventure**

With the Arts End of Somewhere

Wigtown Primary, The Yurt
10.30am | Free but ticketed | Family
Dumfries Arts Award Programme Performers present a tale with a range of multi-sensory props, songs and joining in. Suitable for children with additional needs. A portable changing places toilet is provided. Numbers limited. Lasts 30 min. Also see 1.30pm. [C17]
Supported by PAMIS and the Theatre Royal, Dumfries

Georgia Byng Molly Moon

Wigtown Primary, The Hall
12noon | £4 | Ages 9+
Molly Moon is no ordinary orphan. When she finds a mysterious old book on hypnotism, she discovers she can make people do whatever she wants. The film based on the six-book series was released in 2015. Follow Molly and her fabulous pug, Petula, on their adventures. [C18]

Artie's Tartan Tales

Wigtown Primary, The Hall
1.30pm | £4 | Family
Classic songs and stories from *The Train to Glasgow* to *Three Little Pigs* from The Singing Kettle creator, Artie Trezise. An action-packed show for all the family. [C19]



Rossie Stone, 10.30am, Sunday 29 September



Emily Ilett, 1.30pm, Sunday 29 September



Debi Gliori, 3pm, Sunday 29 September

10 → 13 **Emily Ilett**

The Girl Who Lost Her Shadow

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
1.30pm | £4 | Ages 10+
On the morning of Gail's birthday, she watches her shadow slip under the kitchen door. As she follows it, the adventure takes her to unexpected places and she learns she's not the only one looking for something that is missing. [C20]

ACCESS **A Multi-sensory Story Adventure**

With the Arts End of Somewhere

Wigtown Primary, The Yurt
1.30pm | Free but ticketed | Family
A tale with a range of multi-sensory props, songs and joining in. For full details also see 10.30am. [C21]
Supported by PAMIS and the Theatre Royal, Dumfries

Debi Gliori

The Bookworm

Wigtown Primary, The Hall
3pm | £4 | Ages 3+
Perfect for any child who has ever wanted a pet of their own. A funny and light-hearted tale of Max's pet worm who suddenly grows spikes and breathes smoke! Dragons don't exist, do they? [C22]
Sponsored by Shennanton Sawmill

WORK SHOP **Lucy Button Juggling Meteorites**

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
10 → 13 3pm | £4 | Ages 9+
Make your own meteorites, learn to juggle and enjoy a tune with musician and juggler Lucy Button. 90 min. Numbers limited. [C23]
Funded by DG Science Festival

Vivian French hosts

The Princesses and Dragons Tea Party
Church Hall, Lochancroft Lane
4.30pm | £4 | Family
Celebrate the launch of *The*



ACCESS **Spirit of Stories**

Wigtown Primary, The Yurt
Sat 28 Sept 10.30am-4.30pm | Free drop in
Sun 29 Sept 11.30am-1pm and 2.30pm-4.30pm | Free drop in
Stories are everywhere and they help connect individuals and communities to their history, art, culture, nature and the land. Multi-sensory stories open a gateway for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Whether it is a personalised multi-sensory story about a real-life event, a legend or a soothing tale that supports rest and relaxation, those with profound and multiple learning disabilities can connect through the senses. Drop into the PAMIS yurt for a multi-sensory storytelling experience and enter the world of Oona and the Giant and Baba Yaga. There will also be time for a relaxing story with Koshi Bells and singing bowls. You can stay after it and make a sensory collage based on the story, to take away. [C25]



Dragon's Breakfast by dining with author and sublime storyteller Vivian French. Princess Persephone Stephanie Tiffany Jane is bored and hates being a princess. When orphan Billy appears at the palace, the two escape to find adventure – but will they ever return from Bullion Island? No-one else ever has. [C24]
Supported by Sadie & Leo

Bookbug Rhymetime

The Other Tent outside County Buildings
10.15am-10.45am, Mon 30 Sept – Fri 4 Oct
Songs, rhymes and stories for the youngest festival-goers.
Supported by D&G Libraries [C26]



★ Mon 30 sept ★



Alison Page
The Tattoo Toorie
Church Hall, Lochancroft Lane
6pm | Free but ticketed | Ages 4+
When a special invitation arrives from the Royal Family, Corrie's courage is put to the test. As the day of the Festival Tattoo nears, Gran and Papa design a plan. [C27]

Vivian French
The Steam Whistle Theatre Company
The Print Room
6.30pm | Free but ticketed | Ages 9+
Dark and deadly deeds, piratical plots and little orphans. The adventure of a family theatre-troupe struggling to avoid financial ruin, but will their plans be foiled by Olio Sleevey? Eccentric characters, an exuberant plot, and a final twist. [C28]
Sponsored by The Old Bank Bookshop

★ Thur 3 oct ★

Vivian French
The Spectacular Revenge of Suzi Sims
Church Hall, Lochancroft Lane
4.30pm | Free but ticketed | Ages 8+
Sports Day is Suzi Sims' favourite event of the year and she can't wait to run in the 100 metres. But the new supply teacher Miss Grit has it in for Suzi, while her running rival, Barbie, is Miss Grit's class favourite. Can Suzi power through and win the race? A comical and quirky revenge tale about school bullies from award-winning author Vivian French. A dyslexia friendly event. [C29]

Sponsored by Curly Tale Books



★ Fri 4 oct ★



Robert the Bruce and the Spider
Told by Renita Boyle
St Ninian's Cave, Whithorn
4.30pm | Free but ticketed | Family
Defeated in battle, Robert the Bruce retreats to a lonely cave where he spots a tiny spider that refuses to give up on trying to spin its web. Inspired by its determination, King Robert returns to lead his army to victory at the Battle of Bannockburn. Join author and storyteller Renita Boyle for a retelling of this defining moment in Scottish history. [C30]
Meet at car park. 30 min walk to and from cave. Please wear suitable sturdy footwear for wet path and pebbly beach.
Supported by Thomas

★ Sat 5 oct ★

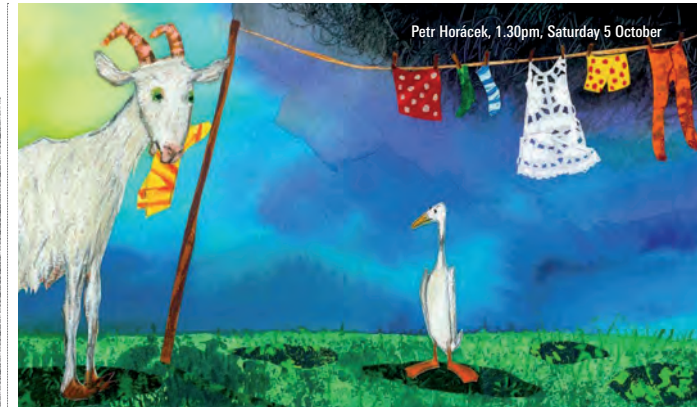
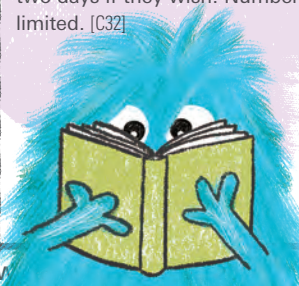
DG Funkyfaces

Wigtown Primary School
10am-4pm | Free | Family
What will you be? Beautiful butterfly or magical unicorn, fierce tiger or deadly snake, superhero or book character? Celebrate the last weekend of the festival by having your face painted. [C31]



10-13 Vivian French & Eilidh Muldoon

A Beginner's Guide to Zines
Church Hall, Lochancroft Lane
10am-4pm | Free but ticketed | Ages 10+
Come and create your own illustrated zine over a two-day workshop with author Vivian French and illustrator Eilidh Muldoon. Spectacular sci-fi, hideous horror or amazing adventure ...you decide!
Participants can work towards a Bronze Arts Award over the two days if they wish. Numbers limited. [C32]



Timothy Knapman

Dinosaurs, Diggers, Pirates and Big Bad Bogeys

Wigtown Primary, The Hall
10.30am | £4 | Ages under 6
There's something for all our youngest festivalgoers in this delightful event with best-selling picture book author Timothy Knapman. Enjoy sparkling pirates, big bad bogeys, delightful diggers and a band of havoc-wreaking dinosaurs brought to life. [C33]
Supported by Aaron, Kyran and Harry

Angela Proctor

Thumble Tumble and the Goblin Pirates
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
10.30am | £4 | Ages 8+
When her friend is captured, Thumble Tumble joins an unlikely pirate crew on a terrifying voyage. Pursued by menacing monsters, can she find the key to unlock the magical chest, and what deadly treasures lie inside? [C34]

Ali Sparkes

SWITCH

Wigtown Primary, The Hall
12noon | £4 | Ages 6+
How would YOU like to be a spider? Or a grasshopper? Or a lizard? Josh and Danny are SWITCHED into creepy crawlies and reptiles across 15 hilarious adventures with

bonkers but brilliant scientist Petty Potts and her highly dangerous SWITCH spray. You'll never look at a gecko the same way again... [C35]

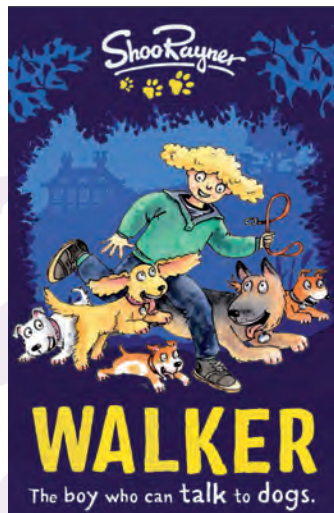
Alasdair Hutton & Will Gorman

Mustard and Pepper
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
12noon | £4 | Ages 4+
While the children play hide and seek in the gardens of Abbotsford, Anna loses her necklace. Her brothers and sister take it in turns to try and find it with the help of their dogs. But will it ever be the turn of the two little Dandie Dinmont's Mustard and Pepper? [C36]



Angela Proctor, 10.30am, Saturday 5 October

★ Sat 5 Oct ★



Shoo Rayner, 1.30pm, Saturday 5 October

Petr Horáček
Silly Geese, Grumpy Ducks and Greedy Goats

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
1.30pm | £4 | Ages under 5
Did you know a fly can talk, an elephant can sit in a bath, and a goat can eat your pants? Join the picture book author and illustrator of *Silly Suzy Goose*, *A New House for Mouse*, *Grumpy Duck* and *The Greedy Goat* as he tells stories and draws pictures. [C37]

Sponsored by *Curly Tale Books*

Shoo Rayner
The Boy Who Can Talk to Dogs
The Print Room

1.30pm | £4 | Ages 5+
Walker has a special gift – he can talk to dogs! Can he and his canine friends rescue puppies from a terrible TV star? And will Walker be able to convince his Mum that he deserves a dog of his own? You can doodle a dog with Shoo on Sunday. See 10.30am. [C38]

Sponsored by *Allan McDowall Electrical Ltd*

Kristina Stephenson
Why Are There So Many Books About Bears?

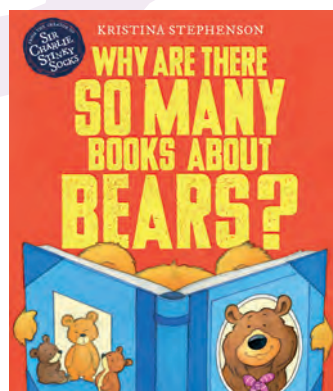
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
3pm | £4 | Ages 3+
The author of *Sir Charlie Stinky Socks* introduces a host of hysterical new characters, each based on a great mind from history. Meet William SNAKEspeare, Albert SWINEstein, Mary SHELLey and others as we compare the most famous bears in literature. With dressing up, live drawing, music, songs, and puppets. [C39]

Gareth P Jones
Mystery Makers

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
3pm | £4 | Ages 7+
A one-man show where you, the audience, help The Fictional Detective to write, direct and star in a brilliantly plotted whodunnit. Twists, turns, drama, danger and herrings of every colour, expect rapping, ukulele playing and laughter. [C40]

Shalla Gray

Charlotte's Woolly Yarn
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
4.30pm | £4 | Ages 3+
When Charlotte the lamb loses her fleece she goes on a delightful journey around south west Scotland in search of her woolly coat. You might just recognise some of the places she visits. [C41]



Kristina Stephenson, 3pm, Saturday 5 October



★ Sun 6 Oct ★

DG Funkyfaces

Wigtown Primary School
10am-4pm | FREE | Family
What will you be? Beautiful butterfly or magical unicorn, fierce tiger or deadly snake, superhero or book character? Celebrate the last weekend of the festival by having your face painted. [C42]



10-13 Vivian French & Eilidh Muldoon

A Beginner's Guide to Zines
Church Hall, Lochancroft Lane
12noon-4pm | FREE but ticketed | Ages 10+
Day 2. For full details see panel Sat 10am.
Come and create your own illustrated zine over a two-day workshop with author Vivian French and illustrator Eilidh Muldoon. Spectacular sci-fi, hideous horror or amazing adventure...you decide! Numbers limited. [C43]
Sponsored by *Craigard Gallery*

Free Sunday



Big Wig Family Fun, 3-5pm, Sunday 6 October

ZooLab

Wigtown Primary, The Hall
10am-12noon | FREE drop in | Family
Get up close with the curious creatures of ZooLab. [C44]

Shoo Rayner

Shoobedoodling Cats & Dogs
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
10.30am | FREE | 7+
Draw talking dogs and ninja cats in this hour-long masterclass for all the family. Pick up a pile of drawing and illustration skills from the author and illustrator of *Walker – The Boy Who Can Talk to Dogs*, *The Ginger Ninja* and *Dragon Gold*. No experience necessary. [C45]

Book Town Bookshelf

Cherry Dashper, Heather Kate Molloy & Hazel Stevens
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse
12noon | FREE but ticketed | Family
A showcase of new work by authors living in Dumfries & Galloway. Join Cherry, Heather and Hazel as they tell their newest tales and invite you to join in with crafts and games at the end. [C46]

Renita Boyle

Strange Visitor
Wigtown Primary, The Hall
1.30pm | FREE | Family
The twitchy tale of a wily old woman, wide-eyed cat, wild weather and the weird arrival of a very strange visitor. A trad Scots story re-told in English and Scots by Renita Boyle and illustrated as a graphic novel by Mike Abel. [C47]

Big Wig Family Fun

Wigtown Primary
3pm-5pm | FREE unticketed
Join Big Wig for an afternoon of stories, songs, crafts and games. Bring your own blanket and nibbles to enjoy during an afternoon of family fun. [C48]

Big Wig Children's Festival is supported by

Jayne Baldwin, Renita Boyle, Joyce Cochrane, Grace Crichton, Matt Kitson, Marie McCann, Kelly Milven, Cora Sharp, Sarah Stewart
Big Wig is illustrated by Claudia Bolt and designed by Krista Robertson
The Big Wig programme is curated by Anne Barclay

Window Spotting

Follow the map around the town centre and find the fruit that's been nibbled by the Very Hungry Caterpillar in each window. Maps available from the Box Office, 11 North Main Street, Wigtown Library and Wigtown Primary School foyer.

Aged 10-13?

10-13 Not sure what's for you? You'll find events with a 10-13 badge across all programmes. The ages on listings are just a guide unless we've specified a restriction.

Ticketing Policy

Under-12s must be accompanied by a ticket-buying adult. Under-2s who do not need a seat are free. Ages in listings are for guidance only. Even if an event is free, it is still advisable to book.

Photography

Photographs are taken during the festival for future publicity. Please advise the steward at events if we may not photograph your family or give the photographer a thumbs down and they will know not to take a picture.

super accessible

access Hearing and telling stories is an experience that everyone can enjoy. Whether you're a reluctant reader, have a reading disability or additional support needs, you can enjoy Big Wig too. Look out for the icon.

Booking Information

It is possible to book securely online, in person or by phone. Identifying numbers are provided for each event in listings to make booking easier.

BY PHONE

During office hours: **Tel 01988 403222**

IN PERSON

Our box office is at
11 North Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HN.
 Opening hours are:
 In advance of the festival: **Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm**
 During the festival: **Daily 9am-6.30pm**

ONLINE BOOKING

Via our website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at
www.wigtownbookfestival.com

Payment can be made by:

CASH, CHEQUE, CREDIT/DEBIT CARD



Conditions Wigtown Festival Company does not exchange or refund tickets. WFC reserves the right to alter the programme or substitute speakers without prior notice if circumstances dictate. If the ticketed event proceeds but not as advertised, WFC will exchange your ticket(s) for another event of similar value but does not offer a refund. If an event is cancelled outright WFC will offer a full refund.



Festival office

Wigtown Festival Company offices, including the Festival Box Office are located at 11 North Main Street, Wigtown. For opening hours and details of how to book, see panel (above). Our friendly staff and volunteers will be happy to try to answer any queries that you may have.

Concessions

Subject to availability, visitors under-26 can attend events in the main programme (excluding food and drink events) for free. Book in advance by phone or at the box office. ID may be requested on collection. Not available online. Registered students over 25 and the wageless can buy tickets for £2 on the door for main programme events from 15 minutes before the start, subject to availability. This



concession is valid, on production of ID, from 10am-6pm. Certain exclusions apply. Free tickets are also provided for carers.

Accessibility

Visitors with particular access needs are invited to contact us on 01988 403222. An access map can be found on our website or is available from our office. The County Buildings Main Hall, Festival Marquee, McNeillie Tent and Print Room are equipped with induction loops for people with hearing difficulties. StageTEXT surtitles will be provided in the County Buildings, Main Hall, on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September.

Become a Wigtown Book Festival Friend

As a registered charity, Wigtown Book Festival relies on the generosity of our supporters to develop our activities each year. Please help us by becoming a Festival Friend. This year's fee is £25 per person or £35 per household. Renewal information will be sent out in June each year. Benefits include:

- **10% discount on all ticket bookings***
- **An invitation to the festival launch party on Friday 27 September**

You can also become a Friend for Life for £250, which receives 10% discount and the additional benefit of a pair of free tickets to an event of your choice every year and two pairs in the first year. To become a Friend, Friend for Life or find out about other ways of supporting Wigtown Book Festival, please visit our website: www.wigtownbookfestival.com or phone the office on 01988 402036.

***excluding tickets sold on behalf of other organisations**

wigtownbookfestival.com



Around Wigtown



Our venues

Our main venues are: the County Buildings; the Festival Marquee, with main entrance on North Main Street opposite the box office; The Print Room, just round the corner from the box office on New Road; and the McNeillie Tent, which is located in the garden behind The Old Bank Bookshop. Our young adult venue aimed at 13-25s is The Other Tent located outside the County Buildings. Most children's events take place at Wigtown Primary School on New Road and Wigtown Parish Church Hall on Lochancroft Lane. All the above venues are within five minutes' walk of one another.

Festival Bookshop

The Festival Bookshop is situated within the Festival Marquee. It hosts book signings and contains books by all the writers appearing at the festival. In advance of the event, some titles are also available at our shop, 11 North Main Street which is open 10am-5pm on weekdays and 10am-6.30pm at weekends during the festival.

The Kist

"Kist" is an old word for treasure chest. Situated in front of the County Buildings, The Kist is the place to find art, crafts, food and drink, and homeware from Dumfries & Galloway and beyond. Open 10am-5pm (6.30pm weekends). Wigtown's weekend market also runs from 10am-4pm.

The Swallow Theatre

A magical venue, located in beautiful countryside about 20 minutes' drive from Wigtown, The Swallow is Scotland's smallest theatre. It will be presenting three different shows during the festival. For full details, please see www.swallowtheatre.co.uk.

RSPB Crook of Baldoon

Wigtown Book Festival is delighted to have the RSPB as an associate sponsor. Visit the RSPB nature reserve at the Crook of Baldoon, just outside Wigtown, which offers a panorama of saltmarsh, mudflats and hills. Go to www.rspb.org.uk for details or visit the RSPB stand in The Kist.

Wigtown in Bloom

The team that keeps Wigtown blooming will be serving teas to raise funds in the Baptist Church on Saturday 28 Sept, 10am-4pm.

Church service

Following the conclusion of the festival, Wigtown's churches will hold a joint service in the Festival Marquee at 7.30pm on Sun 6 Oct. All welcome.

Environment

The festival is committed to reducing its environmental impact. Please consider ride-sharing or public transport and place used brochures and waste material in the bins provided. Reusable thermos cups and water bottles welcomed. Washing stations available.

Gatehouse of Fleet Music Society
fundraising concert in aid of



the Dumfries & Galloway Youth Orchestra (DGYO)

Performance by Sirocco Winds
Sunday 29 September 2019
7.30pm

Gatehouse of Fleet Parish Church DG7 2JE

Tickets £10 contact Treasurer at gofmussoc@gmail.com

The Gatehouse of Fleet Music Society appreciates the help and support received from:



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BOX OFFICE : 01988 850368

VISITING the FESTIVAL



Travel & Accommodation

Situated in the Machars area of Galloway in south-west Scotland, Wigtown is located where the River Cree estuary meets the Solway Firth, with a view towards the Galloway Hills.

By car (postcode DG8 9HN)

Head for Newton Stewart from all directions, taking the turn-off for Wigtown (A714) at the A75 roundabout. Please allow at least two and a half hours from Glasgow, three hours from Edinburgh, two and a half hours from Carlisle, an hour and a quarter from Dumfries, and 45 minutes from Stranraer or Cairnryan.

By rail

Edinburgh trains stop at Lockerbie; from London Euston change at Carlisle for Dumfries. Onward travel is possible from both towns by bus (see below). From Glasgow, the nearest stations are Stranraer and Barrhill. Buses from Barrhill village are limited, so please check before you travel. Scotrail offers group discounts. Visit www.scotrail.co.uk/tickets/group-discounts for further information.

Wigtown Book Festival 2019

For local taxis:

Marys Taxi: 01671 403035

McLeans Taxis: 01671 404131

Swift Cars: 07927 843602

Accommodation

For places to stay:

www.booktownscotland.com

www.wigtownbookfestival.com

www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk

www.visitsouthwestscotland.com

Camping

The campsite is back, offering visitors the chance to sleep out under some of the darkest skies in Britain within a couple of minutes' walk of the festival site. £12 per pitch per night. Basic portable toilet and shower facilities. Tents only. Pre-booking is essential. Please contact the box office. Caravan site details can be found on our website.



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e: info@callypalace.co.uk



Fernhill Hotel

Portpatrick

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46a Hanover Street, Stranraer DG9 7RP Tel: 01776 889035

Email: jsimpson@montpeliergalloway.co.uk
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VISITING *the* FESTIVAL

Food & Drink

Festival Café

The Festival Café is on the first floor of the County Buildings. Open 9.30am-7.30pm at weekends (10am-7.30pm weekdays), it serves snacks, light meals, tea and coffee.

Beltie Books and Café

(see listing right)

Bladnoch Inn

Main Street, Bladnoch, DG8 9AB
Tel: 01988 402200; Daily 12pm-11pm

Café Rendezvous

2 Agnew Crescent, DG8 9DS
Tel: 01988 402074
Mon-Sat 9am-8pm; Sun 10am-6pm

Cobwebs

31 South Main Street, DG8 9HG
Tel: 01988 402097
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 11am-9pm,
Tue 11am-5pm

Craft Hotel & Restaurant

30 South Main Street, DG8 9HG
Tel: 01988 403236
Daily 9am-9pm; Bar open until midnight

Delicious Fish and Chips

Wigtown Square, DG8 9HL
Tel: 07724244224
Sat 28 & Sun 29 Sept, Tues 1 Oct

Galloway Bar

24 South Main Street, DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402431
Mon-Thur 2pm-11.30pm; Fri 2pm-1am;
Sat 12pm-1am; Sun 12.30pm-11.30pm

The Green Room

(see listing right)

Melba Café,

Bladnoch Distillery, Bladnoch, DG8 9AB
Tel: 01988 402605; Daily 10am-4pm

The Pop-Up Bar

4 North Main Street, DG8 9HN
Mon-Fri 12pm-9pm;
Sat & Sun 12pm-10pm

ReadingLasses Bookshop & Café

(see listing right)

Shoots & Leaves Café

(see listing right)

Bookshop Directory

At The Sign of the Dragon

St Ninians, New Road, DG8 9JL
Tel: 01988 403446
Daily 11am-6pm

Beltie Books and Café

6 Bank Street, DG8 9HP
Tel: 01988 402730
Daily 9am-5pm

The Book End Studio

23 North Main Street, DG8 9HL
Tel: 01988 402403
Opening times vary

The Bookshop

17 North Main Street, DG8 9HL
Tel: 01988 402499
Daily 9am-7pm

Byre Books

24 South Main Street, DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402133
Mon-Sat 10am-4pm;
Sun 11am-4pm

Craigard Gallery

13 North Main Street, DG8 9HL
Tel: 07903044929
Daily 10am-5pm

Curly Tale Books

18 North Main Street, DG8 9HL
Tel: 01988 402896
Daily 10am-5pm

Faodail

7 North Main Street, DG8 9HN
Tel: 07880 359943
Daily 9am-5.30pm

Fountain Stone - Studio & Shop

26 Bladnoch, DG8 9AB
Tel: 01988 402923
Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm;
Sat-Sun 10am-2pm

For further information, please visit: www.wigtown-booktown.co.uk

The Green Room

19 Bank Street, DG8 9HR
Tel: 07511 469321
Daily 9am-9pm

Number 11

North Main Street, DG8 9HN
Tel: 01988 402036
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm
Sat-Sun 10am-6.30pm

The Old Bank Bookshop

7 South Main Street, DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402111
Daily 9am-7pm

The Open Book

2 High Street, DG8 9HQ
Tel: 01988 402010
Daily 9.30am-5.30pm

ReadingLasses Bookshop & Café

17 South Main Street, DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 403266
Daily 10am-5pm

Shoots & Leaves Bookshop & Café

20 South Main Street, DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402249
Daily 9am-9pm

WebbooksUK.com Ltd

Online sales only
Tel: 01988 402190
www.webbooksUK.com

Well-Read Books of Wigtown

1-3 Agnew Crescent, DG8 9DS
Tel: 01988 402873
Daily 10am-7pm

The Wigtown Emporium

1 High Street, DG8 9HH
Tel: 01988 402100
Daily 10am-5pm

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VISITING *the* FESTIVAL

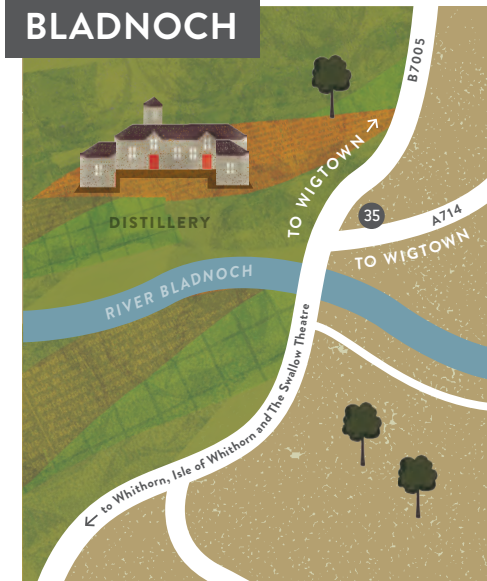
- 1 Festival Marquee
- 2 The Print Room
- 3 Children's Festival (including The Hall, The Treehouse & The Yurt)
- 4 The Bookshop (including Garden Cinema)
- 5 The Old Bank Bookshop
- 6 Well-Read Books
- 7 County Buildings (including Main Hall, Festival Café, Library, Nature Room, Kaos Café & Prayer Room)
- 8 The Kist
- 9 The Other Tent
- 10 McNeillie Tent
- 11 The Map House (former Bank of Scotland)
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- 15 Baptist Church
- 16 Wigtown Market
- 17 Number 11 (including box office)
- 18 Craft
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- 22 Byre Books
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- 36 The Pop Up Bar

- Allsorts, 15 North Main St
- Bayview Nursery, 19 Bank St
- Briars Engravers, 12 North Main St
- The Biggest Little Store in Town, 30 North Main St
- The Co-operative, 31 North Main St
- S Cronnie Family Butcher, 2 North Main St
- Dalston Pharmacy, 20 North Main St
- Hippidippies, 25 South Main St
- Low Vennel Garage, Low Vennel
- Machars Action, 26 South Main St
- Moonbeams and Magic, 11 High Vennel
- Post Office, 27 South Main St
- PS Carpets, 1 Duncan Park
- Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Court
- Studio N, 14 North Main St
- Traditions, 32 North Main St
- Wigtown Community Shop, 32 South Main St
- Wigtown Motor Company, Duncan Park

WIGTOWN



BLADNOCH



Parking

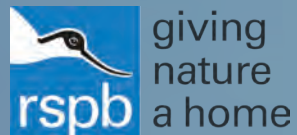
Town centre parking is limited. Extra parking is within close walking distance and disabled parking is provided during the festival. It is shown on the map. Please follow the signs to the Old Showfield (Southfield Park) when you enter Wigtown.

Venues outside Wigtown

Maps showing directions to events at venues outside town (listed below) are available from the box office. Most are around 15-30 minutes' drive from Wigtown. Please contact the box office if you need help with transport. Car share is encouraged.

Bladnoch Distillery	1.3 miles	(DG8 9AB)
RSPB Crook of Baldoon Reserve	3.5 miles	(DG8 9AF)
Home Farm	Garlieston 8.6 miles	(DG8 8HF)
The Swallow Theatre	8.9 miles	(DG8 8DR)
Whithorn Visitor Centre	10.8 miles	(DG8 8NS)
St Ninian's Priory Church	10.9 miles	(DG8 8PY)
Old Place of Mochrum	11.2 miles	(DG8 9RS)
St Ninian's Cave	13.8 miles	(DG8 8JU)
Five Kingdoms Brewery	14.6 miles	(DG8 8LL)
High Airyolland	New Luce 26.6 miles	(DG8 0AV)
Logan Botanic Gardens	31.7 miles	(DG9 9ND)
Slongaber Farm	Glenkiln 51.4 miles	(DG2 9UE)

Wigtown Festival Company is limited by guarantee with charitable status. Charity number SC037984



The heart of Galloway hosts wonderful wildlife. Visit Wood of Cree the largest ancient oak woodland in southern Scotland. Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre within Wigtown County Buildings gives information about the local area. Get out in the fresh air at Crook of Baldoon, for seas of thrift, waders and geese. Events all year – see websites below.

RSPB Scotland Wigtown Office
26, South Main Street, Wigtown,
Wigtownshire, DG8 9EH.
Phone 01988 402130

www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/c/crookofbaldoon/index.aspx www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/w/woodofcree/index.aspx

PHOTO: MARK HAMBLYN / RSPB IMAGES

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FESTIVAL TEAM

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Volunteers


Heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, too numerous to list here individually. Without them, the festival would not happen.

2019 brochure

Design **Krista Robertson**
 Photography **Colin Tennant**
 Cover illustration **Lucy Rose Illustration**
 Festival logo **Lucy Roscoe**

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wigtownbookfestival.com

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