

Wigtown
Book Festival

WIGTOWN BOOK FESTIVAL

26 SEPTEMBER - 5 OCTOBER 2025



a 10-DAY
CELEBRATION

in Scotland's
National
Book Town

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on our website
For details
see p33

First words

THIS IS HELLO and farewell. After twenty festivals, 2025 will be my last, leaving a Wigtown-shaped hole where my heart is. I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the event over the past two decades – staff, volunteers, supporters and writers. It has been a joy and a privilege to be part of your story. It's easy to forget how improbable the idea of Wigtown as a cultural centre would have seemed before the creation of the Book Town in 1998. Its success – and that of the festival – has been an extraordinary act of collective faith and imagination. Long may it continue!

Adrian Turpin Creative Director

WE ARE INCREDIBLY grateful for the support of all our funders, sponsors and donors, who make everything possible. As Adrian departs for pastures new, we'd also particularly like to applaud his dedication over two decades, backed by our tireless trustees, staff and volunteers. Whether this is your first or twenty-seventh festival, we hope his inspiringly eclectic programme shows why Wigtown Book Festival is so special. Happy browsing and, most importantly, the warmest of Wigtown welcomes.

Cathy Agnew Chair

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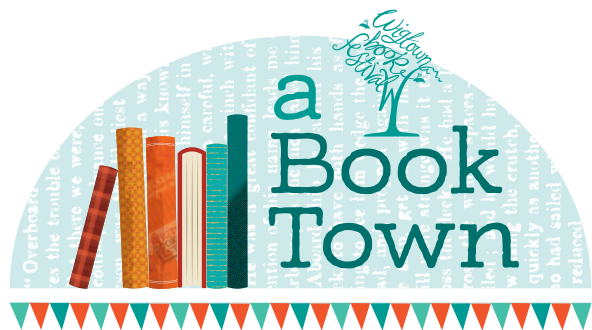
Wigtown Book Festival
26 South Main Street
Wigtown
DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402036

[wigtownbookfestival.com](https://www.wigtownbookfestival.com)

Scan here
for our full
programme

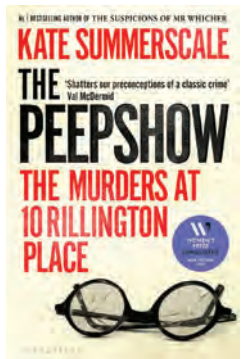


Charity No. SC037984



BOOKSHELF

With more than 200 events over 10 days, this year's festival is as rich and varied as the contents of Wigtown's bookshops



◀ Kate Summerscale

The Peepshow: The Murders at 10 Rillington Place
SUN 28 SEP 4.30PM
Revealing the lives of the victims of the 10 Rillington Place murders, Kate Summerscale sheds new light on our fascination with true crime – and offers a new solution to the infamous case.



▲ Nicola Sturgeon

Frankly
MON 29 SEP 7.30PM
The former first minister is in conversation with broadcaster Gavin Esler about her deeply personal memoir, which retraces her steps from working-class Ayrshire to Bute House.

Steve Bunce ▶

Around the World in 80 Fights: A Lifetime's Journey to the Heart of Boxing
MON 29 SEP 3PM
This white-knuckle autobiography from the voice of UK boxing explores the good, the bad and the ugly of the sport that he's spent four decades covering around the world.

UP FRONT

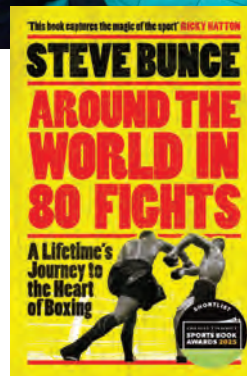


◀ Julie Wilson Nimmo & Greg Hemphill

Jules & Greg's Wild Swim
SUN 5 OCT 4.30PM
The couple that swims together stays together. The *Balamory* star and the *Still Game* co-creator talk about their lives in comedy and their passion for taking the plunge across Scotland.

Len Pennie ▶

poyums annaw
SAT 27 SEP 6PM
When the British Book Awards winner first came to prominence during lockdown, Scotland knew it had found a powerful new voice: defiant, tender, angry and trailblazing. A poet who redefines what poetry is and who it is for.



John Suchet ▶

In Search of Beethoven
MON 29 SEP 4.30PM
In a love letter to the composer, Suchet draws on his life as a foreign correspondent and news anchor to show how Beethoven's music has inspired and consoled him.



◀ Louise Minchin

Isolation Island
FRI 3 OCT 6PM
Ten strangers. A remote Scottish island, and a reality TV show. What could possibly go wrong? The broadcaster talks about her debut novel inspired by Agatha Christie.



◀ Reeta Chakrabarti

Finding Belle
SAT 27 SEP 7.30PM
The BBC journalist and news anchor on her debut novel, a tale of mothers, daughters and family betrayal, set against the backdrop of Mombasa, Kolkata and Britain.



▼ Frances Wilson

The Enigma of Muriel Spark
MON 29 SEP 1.30PM
One of our most original biographers explores the novelist's formative years: a tale that encompasses espionage, attempted murder, blackmail and religious mania, but above all blossoming genius.



RORY CELLAN-JONES



▲ Rory Cellan-Jones

Sophie From Romania
SAT 27 SEP 1.30PM
From an isolated Romanian barn to a life in London: the broadcaster and author of *Ruskin Park* tells the heartwarming story of how Sophie the rescue dog learned to trust the world.

▲ Robin Ince

Normally Weird and Weirdly Normal: My Adventures in Neurodiversity
WED 1 OCT 6PM
In this thoughtful exploration of his own anxiety, ADHD and neurodiversity, one of our smartest comedians reminds us all that it's OK to be different.



COMPLETE
DAILY EVENT
LISTINGS
BEGIN ON
PAGE 16

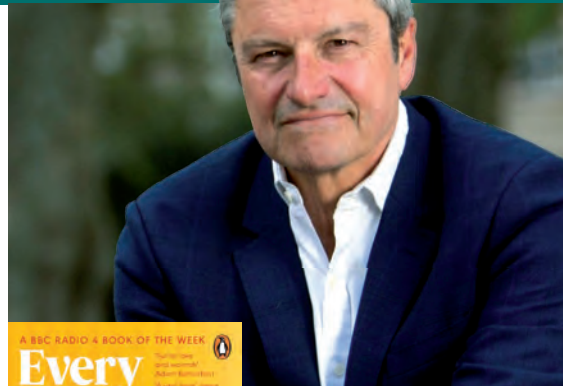


a Book Town BOOKSHELF

THE STATE WE'RE IN

Gavin Esler ▶
Dead Cats, Strategic Lying & Truth Decay
SAT 27 SEP 10.30AM
In the UK and US alike, political bad faith and collapsing trust in institutions threaten democracy. Gavin Esler and ex NPR chief of staff Chris Turpin ask what can be done.

◀ Jeremy Hunt
Can We Be Great Again?
WED 1 OCT 7.30PM
The former chancellor of the exchequer and foreign secretary takes issue with those who argue that Britain's decline is inevitable. In an age of uncertainty and fear, the global community needs the UK more than ever.



◀ Kathryn Faulke
Every Kind of People
SUN 28 SEP 12 NOON
Faulke's joyful and funny bestselling memoir explores the life-changing impact of care work on recipients and carers alike, and the extraordinary drama to be found in everyday lives.



▲ Horatio Clare
We Came by Sea
SAT 4 OCT 3PM
When the author of *The Running Sky* set out to write about the small boats crisis, he found a story nobody was telling, about quietly heroic British people caring for vulnerable strangers.

IN COLD BLOOD

▼ Graeme Macrae Burnet
Benbecula
FRI 26 SEP 7.30PM
The Booker Prize-nominee returns to the historic rural Scotland of *His Bloody Project* for a tale of madness and murder based on a historic case in the Hebrides.



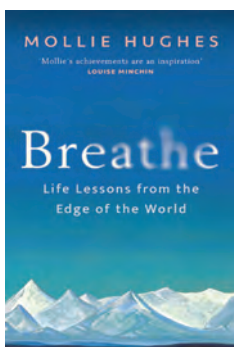
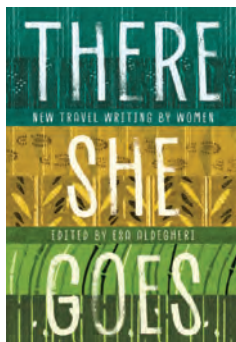
▲ Ajay Close
What Doesn't Kill Us
MON 29 SEP 6PM
Inspired by the Yorkshire Ripper killings, the winner of the Saltire Prize for Fiction 2024 asks how much relations between the sexes have changed since the 1970s – and how much they haven't.

▼ Nina Allan
A Granite Silence
WED 1 OCT 3PM
In her exceptional new novel, Allan takes the true tale of the 1934 murder of a nine-year-old Aberdonian girl and imagines the aftermath, asking: "Who gets to tell a story and why?"



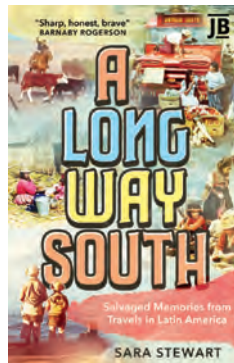
PATHFINDERS

▼ Esa Aldegheri
There She Goes
FRI 3 OCT 3PM
Join some of the contributors to this inspirational new anthology which celebrates women on the move, highlighting themes of adventure, joy and female travel's unique challenges.

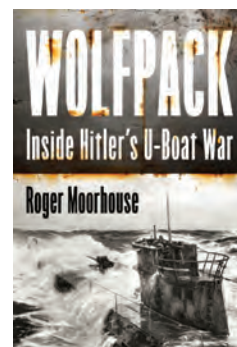


▲ Mollie Hughes
Breathe: Life Lessons from the Edge of the World
SAT 4 OCT 12 NOON
Mollie Hughes has climbed two faces of Everest and skied to the South Pole. She tells Louise Minchin about the life lessons learnt along the way.

▼ Sara Stewart
A Long Way South
TUE 30 SEP 1.30PM
From coups and kidnappings, to ill-advised romance and brief encounters with Ronnie Biggs and Bruce Chatwin, Stewart's 1970s Latin American travelogue is an instant classic.



WARRIORS



▲ Roger Moorhouse
Wolfpack: Inside Hitler's U-Boat War
FRI 3 OCT 10.30AM
Nearly 3,000 allied ships were sunk by U-Boats in WW2 and 30,000 German submariners died – three-quarters of those deployed. The historian recounts the untold story of the underwater war.

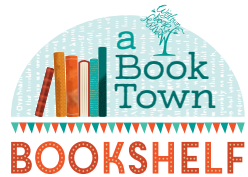
▼ Iain MacGregor
The Hiroshima Men
SUN 5 OCT 10.30AM
The historian talks about his nuanced and deeply humane account of the development of the atomic bomb and its consequences, including new Japanese perspectives.



Richard Wallace ▶
Chanel's War: Escape From France
SAT 27 SEP 12 NOON
How did Coco Chanel evade the Allies when Paris fell, despite clear evidence of Nazi collaboration? The former *Daily Mirror* editor reassesses the fashion icon's war years.

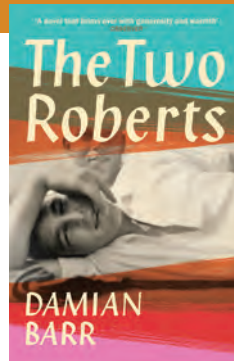
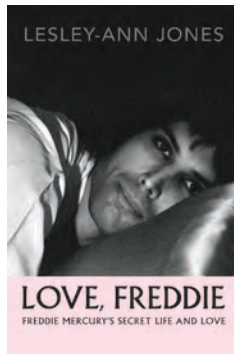
▼ David Price
How to Build a Spitfire
SAT 4 OCT 10.30AM
When David Price decided to build a replica Spitfire in his garden, his wife wasn't entirely pleased. He tells his story alongside that of the RAF's quest to create a war-winning fighter jet.





ART & MUSIC

▼ **Lesley-Ann Jones**
Love, Freddie
MON 29 SEP 12 NOON
Few people knew Freddie Mercury kept a diary. On his death in 1991, he left 17 notebooks. When biographer Lesley-Ann Jones gained access to them, little did she guess the secrets inside.



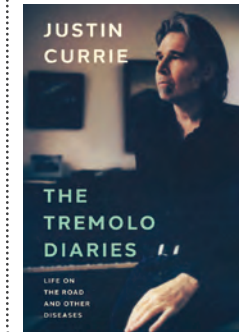
◀ **Damian Barr**
The Two Roberts
SAT 4 OCT 4.30PM
The author of *Maggie and Me* discusses his novel about the love between working-class painters Robert MacBryde and Robert Colquhoun, now largely forgotten stars of the art world in the 1940s.

▲ **Eleanor Chan** ▶
Duet: An Artful History of Music
FRI 3 OCT 6PM
The classically trained musician and art historian talks about her bracingly original history of music which focuses on how humanity has attempted to capture visually the essence of sound.



▲ **Christopher Baker**
Lady Agnew
MON 29 SEP 10.30AM
The former curator at the National Galleries of Scotland tells the story behind one of its best-loved paintings. Who was Gertrude Vernon? And why does John Singer Sargent's portrait resonate for so many?

▼ **Justin Currie**
The Tremelo Diaries
FRI 26 SEP 6PM
While touring America in 2022, the Del Amitri frontman discovered that he had early-onset Parkinson's. He talks to fellow sufferer Rory Cellan-Jones about a life-changing diagnosis and the unique musical memoir it inspired.

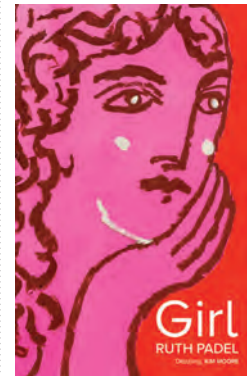


POETRY

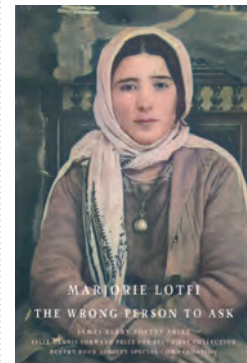


▲ **Erica McAlpine**
Small Pointed Things
SAT 27 SEP 4.30PM
Poignant and funny in equal measure, with hints of Wordsworth, Frost and Marianne Moore, McAlpine's poems often address human concerns by comically reimagining them through the lives of plants and animals.

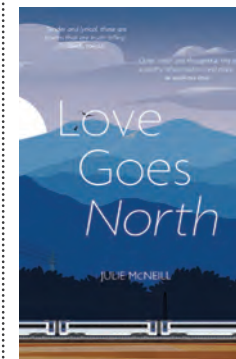
▼ **Ruth Padel**
Girl
SAT 4 OCT 4.30PM
One of the UK's most gifted poets presents a portrait in verse of two iconic female figures – the Virgin Mary and the Cretan snake goddess – unravelling millennia of myth men have woven around girlhood.



▼ **Marjorie Lotfi**
The Wrong Person To Ask
WED 1 OCT 4.30PM
Addressing themes of exile and displacement, Marjorie Lotfi's debut, *The Wrong Person to Ask*, won the 2024 Forward Prize for Best First Collection. She will read from it and new work relating to her Iranian heritage.

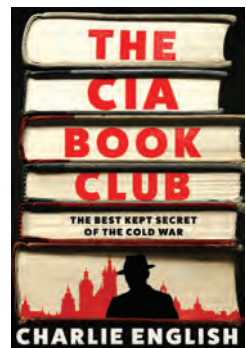


▲ **Julie McNeill**
Love Goes North
SUN 28 SEP 4.30PM
Julie McNeill invites you to take the slow train with her. *Love Goes North* is ideal for poetry enthusiasts, travel lovers, and anyone captivated by the stories that unfold and human connections made on the road.

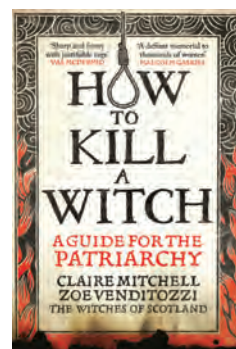


HISTORY MAKERS

▼ **Lucy Hughes-Hallett**
The Scapegoat
THUR 2 OCT 12 NOON
The Baillie Gifford Prize-winning biographer recounts the meteoric rise and fall of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, lover of James I and power behind the throne at the Stuart court.

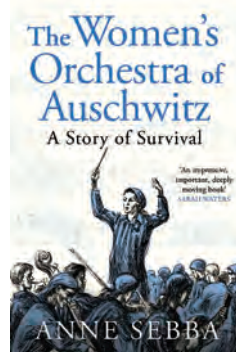


▲ **Charlie English**
The CIA Book Club
SUN 28 SEP 1.30PM
The former *Guardian* International Editor talks to Gavin Esler about the astonishing story of the 10 million books that US intelligence smuggled across the Iron Curtain, from George Orwell to Agatha Christie.



▲ **Claire Mitchell & Zoe Venditozzi**
How to Kill a Witch: A Guide for the Patriarchy
SUN 28 SEP 3PM
The campaigners and writers offer an impassioned analysis of Scotland's witch trials. Why did the patriarchy go to such lengths to silence women?

▼ **Anne Sebba**
The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz
TUE 30 SEP 10.30AM
In 1943, SS officers in charge at Auschwitz ordered that an orchestra should be formed among female prisoners. With exquisite care, Sebba tells its members' stories.



▲ **Luke Pepera** ▶
Motherland
SAT 27 SEP 3PM
A ground-breaking exploration of African culture and identity, as the author traverses 500,000 years of history to connect with his heritage. "A wonderful debut by a talented and exciting young historian", Peter Frankopan.



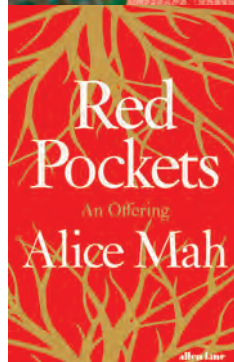
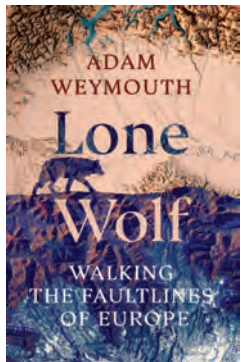
ECO STORIES

Rose George ▶
Every Last Fish

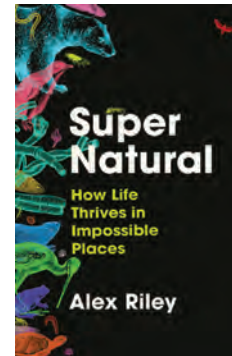
FRI 3 OCT 1.30PM
 Rose George's book is both an eye-opening investigation into the dark places of the fishing industry – legal and illegal – and a celebration of our planet's strange and beautiful underwater worlds.

◀ Adam Weymouth
Lone Wolf

SUN 5 OCT 12 NOON
 The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year relives his epic walk across the Alps in the footsteps of a wolf, illuminating Europe's wild places as they face political and environmental change.


◀ Alice Mah
Red Pockets

TUE 30 SEP 12 NOON
 Beset by eco-anxiety, Mah decided to visit her family ancestral village in China. This powerful memoir by the Glasgow professor of environmental studies asks: What do we owe past and future generations?


▲ Alex Riley
Super Natural

THUR 2 OCT 10.30AM
 Riley's awe-inspiring portrait of how life finds a way in the harshest circumstances takes us from arid deserts and frozen seabeds to the ruins of Chernobyl and Himalayan peaks.

FRESH VOICES

▼ Michael Pedersen
Muckle Flugga

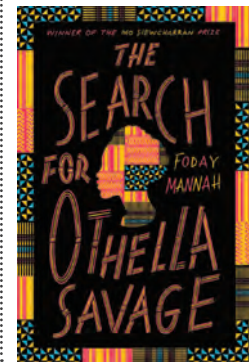
FRI 26 SEP 4.30PM
 The Edinburgh Makar and Neu Reekie co-founder kicks off the festival with his debut novel. A lighthouse keeper's life implodes when a writer arrives on a remote island.


▲ Lauryn Hamilton Murray
Heir of Storms

SAT 27 SEP 4.30PM
 The 25-year-old debut author grew up in Edinburgh writing stories about "sad girls, secrets and storms". Now her epic "Romantasy" series is the talk of YA publishing.

▼ Foday Mannah
The Search for Othella Savage

SUN 28 SEP 12 NOON
 A tale of religious and political corruption spanning Scotland and Sierra Leone, the Glasgow school teacher's compelling crime debut has already picked up many admirers.



BEHIND PALACE WALLS

▼ Fern Riddell
Victoria's Secret: The Private Passion of a Queen

SAT 27 SEP 3PM
 The cultural historian and broadcaster sheds new light on the passions of Queen Victoria and presents new evidence that her relationship with her Scottish manservant, John Brown, was physical.


▲ Rosemary Goring
Exile: The Captive Years of Mary, Queen of Scots

TUE 30 SEP 3PM
 From the moment she stepped onto English soil in 1568, Mary became the captive of her cousin, Elizabeth. Goring revisits her tragic story and asks: "Did it have to be this way?"


▲ Andrew Lowrie
Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York

THUR 2 OCT 4.30PM
 Lord Mountbatten's biographer discusses his explosive exposé of the Duke and Duchess of York, which reveals the secrets and scandals behind their extravagant lives and troubled marriage.

Grant Harrold ▶
The Royal Butler

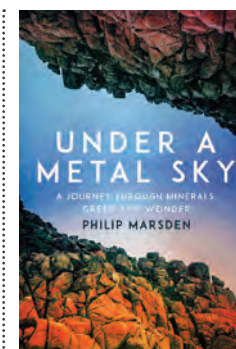
SAT 4 OCT 6PM
 He was a boy from an Airdrie housing estate who grew up obsessed with the monarchy. So how did Grant Harrold end up as a butler to King Charles and all-round etiquette expert?



OUR MATERIAL WORLD

▼ Clare Hunter
Making Matters: In Search of Creative Wonders

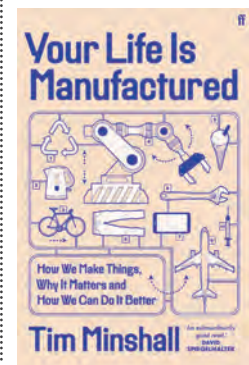
WED 1 OCT 1.30PM
 As children, we made things and it made us happy. So why not as adults? Hunter celebrates the joy of the handmade in all its wonderful variety and encourages us to get crafty again.


▲ Philip Marsden
Under a Metal Sky

SAT 4 OCT 12 NOON
 Starting in tin-rich Cornwall and moving East across Europe, the travel writer brilliantly explores how our species' need and greed for minerals has determined the course of human history.

▼ Tim Minshall
Your Life Is Manufactured

SAT 4 OCT 6PM
 Where does "stuff" come from? A wonderfully illuminating and entertaining tour behind the scenes of the world of manufacturing will change the way you see everyday objects for ever.



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THINK PIECES

▼ Suzanne O'Sullivan

The Age of Diagnosis

SAT 4 OCT 4.30PM

Compassionate and nuanced in her judgements, the neurologist discusses the dangers of overdiagnosis, from ADHD to long Covid. "I cannot say enough good things about it," Chris van Tulleken.



▲ Tiffany Jenkins Strangers and Intimates The Rise and Fall of Public Life

THUR 2 OCT 3PM

Gleefully hopping from Ancient Greece to the digital present, Jenkins considers how history has considered the idea of "a private life" – and argues that the very concept is now in mortal danger.

▼ Alexander Douglas

Against Identity

SUN 28 SEP 4.30PM

The St Andrews-based philosopher offers a timely broadside against our obsession with building perfect identities, arguing that wisdom lies in embracing the uncertainty of who we – and others – are.



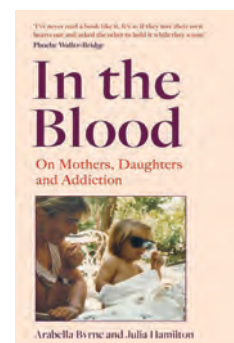
FIRST PERSON

▼ Helen Lederer

Not That I'm Bitter

TUE 30 SEP 6PM

The comedian's howlingly funny memoir about being a woman stand-up in a man's world. "The third funniest woman in the world", Dawn French



▲ Julia Hamilton In the Blood: On Mothers, Daughters and Addiction

SUN 28 SEP 10:30AM

Written with her daughter, the novelist Julia Hamilton's acclaimed memoir traces how alcoholism has run through generations of women from one upper-class family.



▲ Kristie De Garis Drystone: A Life Rebuilt

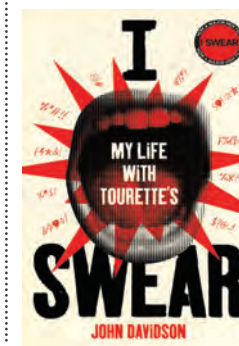
SAT 27 SEP 1.30PM

In an unflinching and unexpectedly funny memoir, the photographer and writer reveals how drystone walling helped her to confront her demons after she moved to rural Scotland.

▼ John Davidson I Swear: My Life With Tourette's

SAT 4 OCT 1.30PM

Born in Galashiels in 1971, John Davidson was 10 when his tics first appeared. The campaigner gives a unique insight into what it's like to live with a severe form of Tourette's.



the 2025 Programme

26
SEP

FRIDAY

4.30PM

Michael Pedersen
Muckle Flugga
County Buildings | £750
The Edinburgh Makar and bestselling author of *Boy Friends* brings his debut novel about a stranger's arrival on a remote island. [001]

6PM

Justin Currie
The Tremolo Diaries
Festival Marquee | £14
The Del Amitri frontman tells Rory Cellan-Jones what it's like to be a musician living with Parkinson's Disease. [002]

Lorna Gibb
Rare Tongues
County Buildings | £750
Remarkable stories of the world's rarest languages, and why preserving them matters. [003]

7.30PM

Graeme Macrae Burnet
Benbecula
County Buildings | £9
The author of *His Bloody Project* presents his new novel, inspired by a notorious 19th-century murder in the Hebrides. [004]

8.30PM

Festival Fireworks
North Main St | FREE
The traditional pipers' procession and fireworks over Wigtown Bay.

9PM

The 2025 Festival Party
Festival Marquee
We invite speakers, sponsors, volunteers and Friends to celebrate the start of the 2025 festival. To become a Friend, visit wigtownbookfestival.com. [005]

Book at Bedtime
New Chapter Books | Pay What You Can
Themed readings and hot chocolate with Renita Boyle.



YA
Young Adult events are open to all. Free for U26



CHANGE THE STORIES
Original narratives about climate and the environment



POETRY FOR TEA
Put a little verse in your afternoon



SCOTTISH DEBUT NOVELISTS
Discover Scottish fiction's inspirational new voices

27
SEP

SATURDAY

9.30AM

Kriss Nichol
Wigtown Women's Walk
Meet at Foggie Toddle Books | £750
Discover the stories of Wigtown's remarkable women from history. [006]

10.30AM

Gavin Esler & Chris Turpin
Dead Cats and Truth Decay
Festival Marquee | £12
The ex BBC *Newsnight* presenter and former chief of staff of America's National Public Radio (NPR) compare notes on how loss of trust is eroding democracy. [007]

Gillian Shirreffs
Elephant
McNeillie Tent | £750
Using her texts, emails, photos and other "found" writing, Shirreffs creates a brilliantly original account of her cancer diagnosis and treatment. [008]

William Rowlandson
Spaceship Earth and the Origins of "Sustainability"
County Buildings | £750
An interactive seminar exploring the 1970s origins of today's idea of "sustainability". 80 min. [009]

12 NOON

THE JAMES MIRRLEES LECTURE
Sir John Kay
Why (Almost) Everything We Are Told About Business Is Wrong
Festival Marquee | £12
The acclaimed economist on why big business faces a crisis of legitimacy. [010]

Richard Wallace
Chanel's War
County Buildings | £9
How did fashion designer Coco Chanel escape Paris in 1944? Was she really a Nazi spy? [011]

Pip Thornton
Page Against the Machine
McNeillie Tent | £750
The ever-entertaining creator of the show *Evil Google Sells Your Words* asks how we can fight back against AI. [012]

Miranda Moore
A Beautiful, Terrible Thing
YA Central | U26 FREE (£750) | 13+
After Cara's brother dies in a crash, she finds comfort with Nathan. But her new love has a deadly guilty secret. [013]

1.30PM

Rory Cellan-Jones [BSL]
Sophie from Romania
Festival Marquee | £12
From an isolated barn in Romania to life in London, the heart-warming story of how Sophie the rescue dog learnt to trust the world. [014]

Kristie De Garis
Drystone
County Buildings | £9
Perthshire-based writer Kristie De Garis on how drystone walling helped her confront her demons, and how she came to live with both her ex-husbands. [015]

SAUNA by the SQUARE

New for 2025. Visit our mobile sauna at the back of ReadingLasses. Steam away your aches and pains and look out for *Hot Takes*, our occasional series of special events. Tickets from £8 per person with group bookings on request. For more info and how to book, please see online.



Chris Barkley
The Man on the Endless Stair
McNeillie Tent | £750
A keenly anticipated debut finds a literary murderer stalking residents of a remote Hebridean island. [016]

THEATRE

One-Man Poe
The Swallow Theatre | £15
Edgar Allan Poe's gothic horror brought to life by Threedumb Theatre. 60 min. 12+. (Also at 4.30pm & 7.30pm) [017]

3PM

Fern Riddell
Victoria's Secret
Festival Marquee | £12
New revelations about Queen Victoria's relationship with her servant, John Brown. [018]

Luke Pepera
Motherland
County Buildings | £9
The Oxford University historian takes a journey through 500,000 years of African culture and identity. [019]

David Quantick
And Other Stories
McNeillie Tent | £750
One of Britain's funniest writers talks about writing for TV and

radio, and his unique collection of short stories. [020]



Clare Furniss
The Things We Leave Behind

County Buildings | U26 FREE (£750) | 13+
Furniss's Carnegie Medal-shortlisted YA dystopia imagines London as the epicentre of a future refugee crisis. [021]

Renita Boyle
Wild Words: Wee Wings
Wigtown Birdhide | £750
Find wellbeing in wild places with soothing songs, stories and poems. All welcome. [022]

4.30PM

PANEL
The New Politics [BSL]
Festival Marquee | £9
Will Reform really reshape the face of politics, south and north of the Border? Former BBC Scotland political editor Brian Taylor leads the discussion. [023]

Graeme Macrae Burnet
The Gorski Trilogy
County Buildings | £9
The final instalment of the French-set literary thrillers finds Inspector Gorski contemplating a case of matricide. [024]



Erica McAlpine
Small Pointed Things
McNeillie Tent | £750
Oxford-based poet who has been compared to Marianne Moore. [025]



Lauryn Hamilton Murray
Heir of Storms
County Buildings | U26 FREE (£750) | 13+
The much talked-about YA novel has been described as an epic "Romantasy", with a dash of *The Hunger Games*. [026]

THEATRE

One-Man Poe

The Swallow Theatre | £15
See 7.30pm. [027]

6PM



Len Pennie poyums annaw

Festival Marquee | £9
The bestselling performance poetry sensation fresh from her British Book Awards win. [028]

James Braxton

Adventures in Antiques
County Buildings | £9

More real and imagined tales of skulduggery and serendipity in the antiques trade from the *Antiques Road Trip* expert. [029]

7.30PM

Reeta Chakrabarti [BSL]

Finding Belle
Festival Marquee | £12
The BBC newsreader on her debut novel, a tale of mothers, daughters and family betrayal, set against the backdrop of Mombasa, Kolkata and Britain. [030]

Wigtown's Got Talent: The Final Edition

The Merse | £9
Returning for one last time (again), the talent contest welcomes authors, locals and visitors. Who will win the Golden Pencil? [031]

THEATRE

One-Man Poe

The Swallow Theatre | £15
Edgar Allan Poe's gothic horrors brought to life by Threedumb Theatre. (Also at 1.30pm & 4.30pm.) [032]

9PM

Book at Bedtime

New Chapter Books | FREE
Themed readings and hot chocolate with Renita Boyle.

28
SEP
SUNDAY

9AM

Wigtown Wild Swim

Rigg Bay, Garlieston DG8 8HF | FREE

Join *The Art of Wild Swimming* author Vicky Allan for an invigorating morning plunge.

10AM

Choir in a Day

The Merse | Pay What You Can
It doesn't matter if you've never sung before, learn songs with Beth Porter of The Bookshop Band for a performance at 6pm. 3 hours. [036]

10.30AM

Julia Hamilton In the Blood

County Buildings | £7.50
Remarkable joint memoir about a mother and daughter facing alcoholism. "I've never read a book like it," Phoebe Waller-Bridge. [033]

Brian Taylor's Sunday Papers

McNeillie Tent | £7.50
The former BBC Scotland Political Editor and guests take a jaunt through the morning press. [034]



William Rowlandson An Introduction

to Deep Ecology
County Buildings | £7.50
Interactive seminar exploring the implications of the philosophical idea of "Deep Ecology". 80 min. [035]

11AM

u3a

Sorbie Tower Tour
Sorbie Tower | FREE
Explore the ancient seat of Clan Hannay with Steve Hanna and

members of the u3a. (Also Fri 3 Oct.) [037]

12 NOON

Kathryn Faulke [BSL]

Every Kind of People
Festival Marquee | £9
Faulke discusses her uplifting and funny bestselling memoir about life as an NHS careworker. What does "care" really mean? [038]

Lesley-Ann Jones & David Quantick

We're With the Band
County Buildings | £7.50
The music biographer and comedy writer relive their respective roles in the golden age of British music journalism. [039]



Foday Mannah The Search for Othella

Savage
McNeillie Tent | £7.50
Award-winning debut thriller based on a true story and set among Scotland's Sierra Leonean community. [040]

Stephen Rutt

Immersed: Stories on
the Saltmarsh
Meet County Buildings | £9
Join the award-winning nature writer for in-situ readings and stories about Wigtown's saltmarsh. 90 mins approx; dress for mud. [041]



Y A Catriona Child Fade Into You

County Buildings | U26 FREE (£7.50)
This musical coming-of-age story combines Nineties and Noughties nostalgia with a killer soundtrack. [042]

1.30PM

Charlie English
The CIA Book Club
Festival Marquee | £12
The story of how the CIA

smuggled millions of books across the Iron Curtain. Chaired by Gavin Esler. [043]

Alastair Santhouse

No More Normal
County Buildings | £9
A leading neuropsychiatrist compassionately considers how we define mental health in a world that increasingly medicalises unwelcome feelings. [044]

Milo Allan

Murray Hall
McNeillie Tent | £7.50
Historical fiction based on the remarkable true story of Murray Hall, a trans man in New York at the turn of the 20th century. [045]

Anne Brown Essay Prize 2025

Bladnoch Distillery | FREE
Discover the winners of Scotland's leading essay prize and celebrate with a dram. Transport from Wigtown available on request. [046]

3PM

Zoe Venditozzi & Claire Mitchell

How To Kill a Witch
Festival Marquee | £9
The podcasters and campaigners seeking justice for nearly 4,000 women accused of witchcraft in Scotland from 1563 to 1736. [047]

James Hanning

The Bookseller of Hay
County Buildings | £9
The strange life of Richard Booth, King of Hay, who founded the UK's first Book Town. [048]



David Farrier Nature's Genius

McNeillie Tent | £7.50
Nature's extraordinary ability to adapt, and what it can teach us as we confront climate change. [049]

YA Becki Jayne Crossley Tart

County Buildings | U26 FREE (£7.50) | 16+
Heartwarming friends-to-lovers queer romance about finding yourself. Libby's life is upended when a video of her "cheating" on her boyfriend goes viral. [050]

4.30PM

Kate Summerscale [BSL]

The Peepshow
Festival Marquee | £12
The author of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* turns her attention to the 10 Rillington Place murders. [051]

Alexander Douglas

Against Identity
County Buildings | £9
In the age of identity politics, the St Andrews philosopher discusses the wisdom of escaping the self and the group. [052]



Julie McNeill Love Goes North

McNeillie Tent | £7.50
A train trip north to Glasgow inspired McNeill's love letter to journeys and the people at their end. [053]



YA Xena Knox Buzz Club

County Buildings | U26 FREE (£7.50) 16+
A bold, funny and spicy YA novel about female empowerment and finding your buzz. [054]

6PM

Gavin Esler

Eight Books to Understand
the World
Festival Marquee | £12
The broadcaster discusses his career and picks his top books to navigate the world. [055]

A Conversation with Charles Dickens

McNeillie Tent | £7.50
Back from the dead, courtesy of AI, the great novelist talks to Stuart Kelly. Philip Ardagh voices Dickens. [056]

Choir in a Day

The Merse | Pay What You Can
Our scratch "choir in a day" (see 10.30am) performs songs learnt under Beth Porter of The Spell Songs Ensemble. [057]

8PM

Robert Twigger's End of the World Survival Guide [BSL]

The Bunker | £10
In this interactive show, the explorer advises how to prep for the apocalypse – zombie, nuclear or other. [058]

29
SEP
MONDAY

9.30AM

The Morning Show

Wigtown Ploughman | Pay What You Can
Start the day with a little music and chat. 45 min.

10.30AM

Christopher Baker [BSL] Lady Agnew

County Buildings | £9
A former curator with the National Galleries of Scotland tells the story of one of the nation's best-loved paintings. [059]

Natalie Fergie

25 Library Terrace
McNeillie Tent | £7.50
The new novel from the author of *The Sewing Machine* follows residents of one Edinburgh house over a century. [060]

10.30AM

Local Writers Spotlight

The Open Book | **FREE**
Dumfries & Galloway writing showcase. For daily line-ups, see listings online. [061]

12 NOON

Lesley-Ann Jones [BSL] Love, Freddie

Festival Marquee | **£9**
How the Queen singer's intimate diaries revealed a shocking true story, by the writer who unearthed it. [062]

Victoria Whitworth

The Book of Kells
County Buildings | **£9**
Who made the most famous and ornate of medieval manuscripts? In this illustrated talk, the art historian traces its roots to Scotland. [063]



Sounds of the Saltmarsh

Wigtown Birdhide | **FREE**
Join sound artist Andrew Deakin for an audio-illustrated talk about the soundscape of the saltmarsh which he has been recording this autumn. [064]

1.30PM

Frances Wilson Electric Spark

County Buildings | **£9**
One of Britain's foremost biographers explores the early years of the novelist Muriel Spark. [065]

u3a

Plant Care and Propagation

Low Cotland | **FREE**
A practical event demonstrating seed sowing, propagation by cuttings and simple division. [193]

SAUNA by the SQUARE

New for 2025. Visit our mobile sauna at the back of ReadingLasses. Steam away your aches and pains and look out for *Hot Takes*, our occasional series of special events. Tickets from £8 per person with group bookings on request. For more info and how to book, please see online.

3PM

Steve Bunce

Around the World in 80 Fights
Festival Marquee | **£9**
The voice of boxing in the UK and his deeply personal account of a lifelong love affair with the fight game. [066]

Miranda Kaufmann

Heiresses
County Buildings | **£9**
The author of *Black Tudors* returns with compelling stories of nine women enriched by Caribbean sugar and slavery. [067]



Natalie Jayne Clark The Malt Whisky Murders

Bladnoch Distillery | **£7.50 (inc whisky)**
Bodies in a barrel scupper a couple's dream to own Scotland's first women-owned distillery. Savour this spirited new crime caper over a dram. [068]

4.30PM

John Suchet

In Search of Beethoven: A Personal Journey
Festival Marquee | **£14**
The former news anchor and foreign reporter on his relationship with the great composer. [069]

Olga Wojtas

Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Uncharted Island
County Buildings | **£9**
For her latest adventure, Wojtas's Muriel Spark-inspired time-travelling librarian is transported to an inhospitable island. [070]



Charles Lang The Oasis

McNeillie Tent | **£7.50**
One of Scotland's most exciting young poets explores class, climate and the pull of Glasgow. [071]

6PM

Alistair Moffat

Glasgow: A New History
Festival Marquee | **£9**
A revelatory reappraisal of Scotland's biggest city. [072]

Steven Parissien

Another Round?
County Buildings | **£7.50**
The cultural historian explores Britain's post-war history through 12 alcoholic beverages. Mystery drink included. [073]

Ajay Close

What Doesn't Kill Us
McNeillie Tent | **£7.50**
Winner of 2024's Saltire Award for Fiction is set in West Yorkshire at the time of the Ripper murders. [074]

7.30PM

Nicola Sturgeon [BSL] Frankly

Festival Marquee | **£14**
The former first minister talks to broadcaster Gavin Esler about her political memoir. [075]

Robert Twigger's End of the World Survival Guide

The Bunker | **£10**
See Sun 28 Sep, 8pm. [076]

30
SEP

TUESDAY

9.30AM

The Morning Show

Wigtown Ploughman | **Pay What You Can**
Festival-related music and chat to start the day. 45 min.

10.30AM

Anne Sebba

The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz
Festival Marquee | **£12**
The renowned biographer tells the story of the musicians who survived the Holocaust performing in horrific conditions. [077]



Chris McQueer Hermit

McNeillie Tent | **£7.50**
One of Scotland's most talented young authors presents his stirring debut novel about incel culture. [078]

Local Writers Spotlight

The Open Book | **FREE**
See Mon 29 Sep, 10.30am. [079]

12 NOON

Alistair Moffat

To See Ourselves
Festival Marquee | **£9**
The historian's personal history of Scotland post-war, a time of immense social change. [080]



Alice Mah Red Pockets

McNeillie Tent | **£7.50**
This extraordinary memoir explores how eco-anxiety took the author from her ancestral village in China to Cop 26 and beyond. Mah is Professor of Urban and Environmental Studies at the University of Glasgow. [081]

1.30PM

Sara Stewart

A Long Way South
County Buildings | **£9**
Featuring encounters with Bruce Chatwin and Ronnie Biggs, Stewart's account of a volatile 1970s Latin America is an instant travel classic. [082]



Emma Cowing The Show Woman

McNeillie Tent | **£7.50**
A beautifully evoked historical novel about the first all-female circus act. [083]

u3a

Kilsture Forest Ramble
Meet main car park | **FREE**
A guided walk through the broadleaf and conifer wood. [194]

3PM

Rosemary Goring

Exile: The Captive Years of Mary, Queen of Scots
County Buildings | **£9**
Exploring Mary's arrival in England to her execution. [084]



Dominic Hinde Drifting North

McNeillie Tent | **£7.50**
Scotland pioneered "fossil capitalism". Hinde's memoir and travelogue asks: can the lessons of the past point the way to a more sustainable future? [085]

4.30PM



Paige McLanahan The New Tourist

County Buildings | **£9**
The award-winning US journalist on how tourism is shaping the world, for better or worse. [086]



Alessandra Thom Summer Hours

McNeillie Tent | **£7.50**
A gothic tale of infatuation and guilt among three female friends, set in Edinburgh [087]



Hugh McMillan Colin Goes to Carlisle

County Buildings | **£7.50**
Welsh epic, *The Goddodin*, brought crashing into the 21st century by one of our finest and funniest poets. [088]

6PM

Helen Lederer

Not That I'm Bitter
Festival Marquee | **£12**
The comedian's howlingly funny memoir about being a woman stand-up in a man's world. "The third funniest woman in the world", Dawn French [089]

Jean Hammond

Agnes: A Life
County Buildings | **£7.50**
Hammond's novel is inspired by her grandmother, Agnes Nicholson, following her from the hill sheep farm of Castle Creavie to the Western Front and beyond. [090]

8PM

Stuart Kelly's Literary Pub Quiz

Wigtown Ploughman | **£10 a team**
Test your literary smarts with authors and festival-goers. [091]

01
OCT

WEDNESDAY

9.30AM

The Morning Show

Wigtown Ploughman | **Pay What You Can**
See Mon 29 Sep, 9.30am.

10.30AM

Ian Carter

Wild Galloway
County Buildings | **£7.50**
A naturalist's unique portrait of a Galloway Glen, from the Solway to the hilltops. [092]

10.30AM

Robert Twigger's End of the World Survival Guide

The Bunker | £10

See Sun 28 Sep, 8pm. [093]

Local Writers Spotlight

The Open Book | FREE

See Mon 29 Sep, 10.30am. [094]

12 NOON

Jonathan Mullard

Forgotten Forests

County Buildings | £9

Britain's first senior officer for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty traces the forgotten history of 12,000 years of British woodland. [095]



David Clark

Epiphanies and Robberies

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

A series of art thefts in south-west Scotland unites three strangers. A feelgood story laced with questions about sustainability, rural life and friendship. [096]

1.30PM

u3a

Writers' Question Time

County Buildings | Pay What You Can

How to grow and tend the best words. Do you have a question for our panel of writers? [097]

Clare Hunter

Making Matters: In Search of Creative Wonders

McNeillie Tent | £9

The *Sunday Times*-bestselling author offers a hymn to the power of making things and its effect on our happiness. [098]

3PM

James Bailey

The Meaning of Life

County Buildings | £7.50

Heartbroken and unemployed, Bailey wrote to 100 famous people asking: "What's the

meaning of it all?" He reveals what he found. [099]

Nina Allan

A Granite Silence

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

A mesmerising blend of speculative fiction and detective story reconstructs the notorious 1934 child murder that shocked Aberdeen. [100]

4.30PM

Graham Robb

The Discovery of Britain

County Buildings | £9

A quirkily erudite history of Britain – as seen from a bike saddle – focuses on the paths less travelled. [101]

Heather Parry

Carion Crow

County Buildings | £7.50

From a provocative voice in Scottish fiction comes a stylish Gothic fairytale. A mother locks her daughter in the attic. [102]



Marjorie Lotfi

Iran and Other Stories

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

The winner of the Forward Prize for Best First Collection 2024 on displacement and exile. [103]

6PM

Robin Ince

Normally Weird and Weirdly Normal

Festival Marquee | £12

A powerful personal exploration of anxiety, ADHD and neurodiversity from one of our most accomplished comedians. [104]

THE WHITHORN TRUST EVENT

Adrian Maldonado

Cold Case Reopened

County Buildings | £9

Since 2019, Whithorn's Cold Case project has challenged conventional wisdom about

Whithorn's Christian origins. So what do we now know? [105]

7.30PM

Jeremy Hunt

Can We Be Great Again?

Festival Marquee | £14

The former chancellor of the exchequer asks whether Britain is doomed to inevitable decline. [106]

MUSIC

The Bookshop Band

Banned Books

The Merse | £10

Inspired by the V&A's *Oz* magazine archive, the Wigtown-based duo explore forbidden literature in song. [107]



9.30AM

The Morning Show

Wigtown Ploughman | Pay What You Can

Festival-related music and chat to start the day. 45 min.

10.30AM



Alex Riley

Super Natural

County Buildings | £9

Extraordinary account of how life thrives in impossible places and what it says about the biodiversity crisis. [108]

Nicholas Sinclair-House

Fault Lines: A Neurocriminologist's Guide to Blame

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

Curious cases that will challenge your idea of right and wrong. [109]

Local Writers Spotlight

The Open Book | FREE

See Mon 29 Sep, 10.30am. [110]

12 NOON

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

The Scapegoat

County Buildings | £9

The life of the charismatic Duke of Buckingham, power behind the thrones of James I and Charles I. [111]

Ewan Morrison

For Emma

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

A high-concept thriller about a father who seeks revenge on big tech after his daughter is killed in a secret AI brain chip experiment. [112]

1.30PM

Nicholas Jubber

Monsterland

County Buildings | £9

A hair-raising and often hilarious tour of the world's monsters, which took him across ten countries and four continents. [113]

Jim Phillips

Coalfield Justice

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

A remarkable oral history shed new light on the 1984-1985 Miners' Strike in Scotland. [114]

Renita Boyle

Wild Words: Wee Wings

Wigtown Birdhide | £7.50

Song, stories and readings on National Poetry Day. [115]

3PM

Tiffany Jenkins

Strangers and Intimates

County Buildings | £7.50

How has the idea of a "private life" changed over centuries and can it survive the 21st century? [116]

Dan Richards

Overnight: Journeys,

Conversations and

Stories After Dark

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

An original and surprising

exploration of the nocturnal world and the workers who inhabit it. [117]

4.30PM

Andrew Lownie

Entitled: The Rise and Fall

of the House of York

County Buildings | £9

An explosive exposé of the scandals haunting the Duke and Duchess of York. [118]



Fabrice Renaud

The Blue Economy

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

The Glasgow University environmentalist on how new thinking about ocean and coastal environments is changing ideas about sustainability. [119]



Colin Bramwell

Fower Pessoas

County Buildings | £7.50

A bold reimagining of the great Fernando Pessoa's poetry by an exciting next-generation Scottish poet. [120]

6PM

Julian Evans

Undefeatable: Odesa in

Love and War

County Buildings | £9

Evans' memoir is a love letter to the Ukrainian city he has known for 30 years. "A modern classic," William Boyd. [121]

Tricia O'Malley

Love's a Witch

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

She's hexed. He's vexed – a feud that spells disaster for Scotland's most magical town: the *New York Times*-bestselling "Romantasy" author launches her Scottish Charms series. [122]

Duo Dorado

Viva Vivaldi

Sacred Heart Church | £12

Music by the Venetian maestro,

u3a@WBF2025

We're thrilled to partner with Wigtownshire u3a, part of the UK-wide member organisation that provides opportunities for older adults to learn, share skills and socialise in an informal setting.

As well as free ticketed u3a events throughout the week, they are offering a day of drop-in taster sessions at The Merse on Thursday 2 October, including Literature, Astronomy, French, Play Reading and Table Tennis for Adults. Details at wigtownbookfestival.com. You can also visit the u3a information point during the festival.

his contemporaries and followers on violin and harpsichord, with lively spoken introductions. 120 min with interval. [123]

7.30PM

Bold Spirit: Tales of Galloway

Bladnoch Distillery | £12 (inc whisky)

A unique evening of storytelling, celebrating Galloway's bold spirit and sense of mischief. Bladnoch whisky and surprises included. Free transport provided. [124]

SAUNA by the SQUARE

New for 2025. Have a steam at our mobile sauna at the back of ReadingLasses. Tickets start from £8. For more information including how to book, see our website.

7.30PM

Ian Macpherson

The Everlasting Book Tour
The Merse | £9

The hilarious cautionary tale of how an award-winning Irish stand-up became a full-time comic novelist. "The originator of the most influential joke of all time", Stewart Lee. [125]

9PM

Robert Twigger's End of the World Survival Guide

The Bunker | £10
See Sun 28 Sep, 8pm. [126]

Book at Bedtime

New Chapter Books | Pay What You Can

Themed readings and hot chocolate with Renita Boyle.



9.30AM

The Morning Show

Wigtown Ploughman | Pay What You Can

Festival-related music and chat to start the day. 45 min.

10.30AM

Roger Moorhouse

Wolfpack: Hitler's U-Boat War 1939-1945

Festival Marquee | £9
An extraordinary history of Germany's U-Boat crews told through personal testimonies. [127]

Janet Brennan-Inglis

Barholm Castle: The History of a Home
County Buildings | £7.50

The highs and lows of restoring a 16th century Galloway castle and its garden. [128]

Mairi Kidd

Everything You Wanted to Know About Gaelic Literature But Were Afraid To Ask

McNeillie Tent | £7.50
The perfect guide for anyone who's ever wanted to explore Gaelic writing's richness but doesn't know where to start. [129]

Local Writers Spotlight

The Open Book | FREE
See Mon 29 Sep, 10.30am. [130]

11AM

u3a

Sorbie Tower Tour
Sorbie Tower | FREE
See Sun 28 Sep, 11am. [131]

12 NOON

Lucy Ash

The Baton and the Cross
County Buildings | £9
Shortlisted for the Orwell Prize, a compelling history of Russia's Orthodox Church from pagan times to Putin. [132]

Mollie Hughes

Blue Scotland
McNeillie Tent | £7.50
The adventurer's guide to exploring and enjoying Scotland's wild waters. [133]

Renita Boyle

Wild Words: Wee Wings
Wigtown Birdhide | £7.50
See Sat 27 Sep, 3pm. [134]

1.30PM

Rose George

Every Last Fish
County Buildings | £9
What fish do for us – and what the international fishing industry is doing to them. [135]

Gerry Cambridge

The Ayrshire Nestling
McNeillie Tent | £9
The prize-winning poet's memoir of raw adolescence and

finding meaning in nature has been compared to *Kes*. [136]

3PM

George Robertson

The Future of Defence
Festival Marquee | £12
The former Nato secretary general and leader of the UK Strategic Defence Review on new threats to the West. [137]

Esa Aldegheri

There She Goes
County Buildings | £7.50
This new anthology of travel writing by women changes the rules of what it means to be an adventurer. [138]

Magi Gibson & Ali Whitelock

The Magi & Ali Poetry Show
McNeillie Tent | £7.50
Two opinionated Scottish poets riff on the state of modern poetry, what they love, and what they'd love to change. [139]

4.30PM

Ambrose Parry

The Death of Shame
Festival Marquee | £9
Victorian Edinburgh's dark secrets vividly recreated by husband and wife novelists Chris Brookmyre and Marisa Haetzman. [140]

Peter Marshall

Storm's Edge
County Buildings | £9
The Wolfson Prize-winner's new history of Orkney puts the islands at the centre of the world map. [141]

Imogen Stirling

Past / Present / in Progress
McNeillie Tent | £7.50
Work in progress and old favourites from the poet Benjamin Zephaniah called "a lyrical genius". [142]

6PM

Louise Minchin

Isolation Island
Festival Marquee | £9
The former BBC anchor on reality TV, Agatha Christie and her debut thriller set on a Scottish island. [143]

Eleanor Chan

Duet
County Buildings | £9
A strikingly original history of music told through the visual arts. [144]

Robert Twigger's End of the World Survival Guide

The Bunker | £10
See Sun 28 Sep, 8pm. [145]

7.30PM

Wigtown Poetry Prizes 2025

County Buildings | £10 (price includes pamphlet and refreshments)
Revealing the 2025 winners of Scotland's most prestigious poetry prizes. [146]

MUSIC

Things Found in Books

The Merse | £10
Yvonne Lyon and Boo Hewerdine play songs from their new album inspired by things people have left in books at Culzean Castle's secondhand bookshop. [147]

THEATRE

The Silence of Snow

The Swallow Theatre | £15
Acclaimed one-man show about *Hangover Square* author Patrick Hamilton. 70 min. (Also Sat 4 Oct 1.30pm & 7.30pm) [148]

8PM

Dan Richards & Elizabeth Tindal

Overnight Live
Meet County Buildings | £12
Author Richards and Dark Skies

Ranger Tindal bring to life his book about what happens after dark. A unique night walk with music and readings. (Also Sat 4 Oct 8pm.) [149]

Spaghetti Western Supper

Venue TBC | £30 (inc supper)
Join director-writer Jessica Fox for a relaxed evening of Sicilian food and music, and find out the tales of how Sicilian pioneers helped colonise America's west, the subject of her new film project. [150]

9PM

Book at Bedtime

New Chapter Books | Pay What You Can

Themed readings and hot chocolate with Renita Boyle.



9.30AM

The Morning Show

Wigtown Ploughman | Pay What You Can
See Mon 29 Sep, 9.30am.

10.30AM

David Price

How To Build a Spitfire
Festival Marquee | £9
One man's obsessive attempt to build a replica Spitfire in his garden – and Britain's race to create the war-changing WW2 fighter. [151]

Louis D Hall

In Green
County Buildings | £7.50
A remarkable non-fiction debut in the spirit of Patrick Leigh Fermor. Inspired by Don Quixote, Hall trekked 110 days across Europe on an Arabian horse called Sasha. [152]

A Conversation with AI about Love

McNeillie Tent | £7.50
Can Artificial Intelligence really have insight into the deepest human emotions? In this experiment, Stuart Kelly interviews an AI live on stage about love. [153]

WORKSHOP

Mairi Kidd & Lucy Ribchester (Re)Writing Women of the Past

Venue TBC | £15
The historical novelists lead this half-day session which looks at areas such as defining period and writing "into gaps". No experience needed. 4 hours inc break. [154]

12 NOON

Mollie Hughes

Breathe: Life Lessons from the Edge of the World
Festival Marquee | £9
Hughes has ventured into some of Earth's wildest places, from the peak of Everest to the South Pole. She talks to broadcaster Louise Minchin about some of the life lessons her trips taught her. [155]

WIGTOWN



Our special day for Young People aged 13+ features interactive workshops, music, theatre and talks. Supported by The Holyrood Trust, and hosted by the performance poet Imogen Stirling, it's open to individuals and organisations in Dumfries & Galloway and includes lunch and goody bags. And the best thing is it's all free. What are you waiting for? To sign up or find out more, contact morgan@wigtownbookfestival.com.

12 NOON

Philip Marsden

Under a Metal Sky
County Buildings | £9

How the greed for minerals shaped history and fuels today's geopolitics. [156]

Elaine Thomson

Hawthorn
McNeillie Tent | £7.50

An exquisite new Scottish ghost story. A Victorian map-maker is confined to a haunted house. [157]

Somhairle MacLain & Niamh Mackinnon

Scotland's Digital Storytellers
County Buildings | £7.50

Two of Scotland's brightest young influencers discuss how their stories have gone global. [158]

1.30PM

John Davidson

I Swear
Festival Marquee | £12

At 16, he became famous overnight following a BBC film, *John's Not Mad*, about living with Tourette's. He's now an ambassador for the condition. [159]

Caro Giles

Unschool
County Buildings | £9

Searing memoir about the author's attempt to home-educate her daughters after the system failed to meet their special needs. [160]

Ann Shukman

44 Days in Prague
McNeillie Tent | £9

How the Runciman Mission led to Czechoslovakia's betrayal and the start of WW2 by Runciman's granddaughter. In conversation with David Shukman. [161]

Southlight Magazine 38

County Buildings | **FREE**
New writing from south-west Scotland and beyond. [162]

THEATRE

The Silence of Snow

The Swallow Theatre | £15
See Fri 3 Oct, 1.30pm. [163]

3PM

Horatio Clare

We Came By Sea

Festival Marquee | £12

The untold story of how ordinary Britons have reacted to the small boats crisis. [164]

Denise Mina

The Good Liar

County Buildings | £12

An expert witness faces an ethical dilemma. Mina's thrilling novel explores how far we'll go to protect our families. [165]

Hanna Johansson & Agnes Lidbeck

Stories from Sweden

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

Introducing two of Sweden's brightest literary talents. Set on a Greek island, Johansson's *Antiquity* explores the female gaze; Lidbeck's *Supporting Act* considers the roles women are expected to play. [166]

u3a

Therapeutic Photography Walk

Venue | **FREE**

Join NHS psychotherapist Mark Wheeler's guided session. [195]

4.30PM

Damian Barr

The Two Roberts

Festival Marquee | £12

The *Maggie & Me* author on the love between painters Colquhoun and MacBryde, darlings of the post-war art scene. [167]

Suzanne O'Sullivan

The Age of Diagnosis

County Buildings | £9

The bestselling neurologist asks if medical diagnoses sometimes do more harm than good. [168]



Ruth Padel

Girl

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

Padel's new collection offers a questioning look at girlhood and its archetypes. [169]

Robert Twigger's End of the World Survival Guide

The Bunker | £10

The explorer and author explains how to prep for the apocalypse. [170]

6PM

Grant Harrold

The Royal Butler

Festival Marquee | £12

How a boy from an Airdrie council estate became butler to King Charles III. [171]



Tim Minshall

Your Life Is Manufactured

County Buildings | £9

A mind-boggling guide to how everyday objects are made, by the head of Cambridge University's Institute for Manufacturing. [172]

7.30PM

THEATRE

The Silence of Snow

The Swallow Theatre | £15

One-man show about the life of author Patrick Hamilton. See Fri 3 Oct, 1.30pm. [173]

8PM

Dan Richards & Elizabeth Tindal

Overnight Live

Meet County Buildings | £12

See Fri 3 Oct, 8pm. [174]

8.30PM

The Festival Ceilidh

Festival Marquee | £7.50

Let your hair down with an evening of traditional Scottish dancing. No experience necessary! Music from Stroma. [175]

05 OCT

SUNDAY

10.30AM

Iain MacGregor

The Hiroshima Men

County Buildings | £9

The quest to build the atom bomb and the fateful decision to use it, told through the lives of four very different men. "Written with moral clarity and tremendous verve", Fergal Keane. [176]

Gerard McKeever

Regional Romanticism

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

The untold story of how writers reimagined Dumfries & Galloway between 1770 and 1830. [177]



WORKSHOP

Annaliese Avery

Journal Your Way to You

YA Central | U26 **FREE** (£7.50)

Join the journal-obsessed author for fabulously inventive ways to organise your thoughts and achieve your dreams. [178]

12 NOON

Lamorna Ash

Don't Forget We're Here Forever

Festival Marquee | £9

A spellbinding personal odyssey around Britain to discover why so many young people are turning to Christianity in uncertain times. [179]



Adam Weymouth

Lone Wolf

County Buildings | £9

Weymouth's epic walk across the Alps in the footsteps of a wolf throws unique light on Europe's wild places at a moment of political and environmental change. [180]

Jenny Lindsay

Hounded

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

Lindsay's powerful account of the cost of being caught in the middle of the "gender wars". [181]



Josh Silver

Traumaland

County Buildings | U26 **FREE**

(£7.50) | 16+

The award-winning YA author's dark thriller is perfect for *Black Mirror* and Holly Jackson fans. [182]

1.30PM

Allan Little

Which Way to the War?:

Reporting the Collapse of the

post-Cold War World

Festival Marquee | £12

The BBC Special Correspondent makes sense of the dangerous new world order [183]

Bijan Omrani

God Is an Englishman

County Buildings | £7.50

Why England – and Britain – owes an enormous debt to its decaying Christian heritage. [184]

Mairi Kidd

Poor Creatures

McNeillie Tent | £7.50

Kidd's monstrously entertaining novel traces *Frankenstein's* origins to Mary Shelley's Dundee childhood. [185]



Manjeet Mann

Roar

County Buildings | U26 **FREE**

(£7.50) | 12+

When a middle-class Delhi girl is accused of witchcraft, she joins a gang of pink-saried vigilantes to seek revenge. [186]

3PM

Peter Ross

Upon a White Horse

Festival Marquee | £7.50

The author of *Steeple Chasing*

directs his unique gaze to the ancient monuments of Britain and Ireland. [187]

Karen Campbell

This Bright Life

County Buildings | £7.50

A 12-year-old Glasgow boy from a chaotic background makes a single bad choice. Can his life ever be put back together again? Campbell's new novel is a triumph of insight and compassion. [188]

John Connell & Patrick Laurie

Book Town Squared

McNeillie Tent | Pay What You Can

Launching an annual creative collaboration between Wigtown and fellow Book Towns worldwide. Two exceptional writers, from Galloway and County Longford, Ireland, explore rural life under threat in each others' communities. [189]



Annaliese Avery

The Wycherleys

County Buildings | U26 **FREE**

(£7.50) | 13+

A debutante witch defies the rules of magic. Cue family secrets, generational curses and extortion but, most of all, forbidden romance. [190]

4.30PM

Julie Wilson Nimmo & Greg Hemphill

Jules and Greg's Wild Swim

Festival Marquee | £14

The *Balamory* star and *Still Game* co-creator invite you to take the plunge with them. [191]

Shaun Bythell

Diary of a Bookseller

at the Festival

County Buildings | £7.50

The Wigtown bookseller turned author has the final word about this year's festival and festivals past. [192]

FIND YOUR RHYTHM



Big Wig



Entertaining & inspiring events for our youngest festival-goers

★ Sat 27 Sept ★

10.30AM

Story Consequences

Vivian French & David Melling

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 5-105

Vivian French will turn your wildest ideas into mind-bending tales while David Melling draws eccentrically awesome pictures. [C01]

12 NOON

Coorie Doon

Jill Calder

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 5+

Step into the dreamy world of *Coorie Doon* by Jackie Kay, illustrated by Jill Calder. Meet Shona's animal friends, then create your own picture book with unicorns, cats and corbies. [C02]

Firebloom

Justin Davies

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 10+

Stormcliff's jellyfish festival is in trouble – the jellies are missing. So Tom Smuck sets off on an adventure to find them. Learn jellyfish facts and try Stormcliff fortune-telling with shells. [CXX]

1.30PM

Ruffles

David Melling

Wigtown Primary | **FREE** but

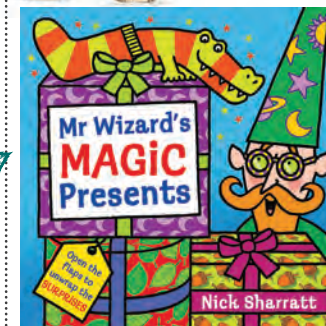
ticketed | 2+

Meet Ruffles the playful pup, who loves digging, puddles and his best friend, Ruby. [C03]



Justin Davies, Saturday 27 September, 12 noon

Philip Ardagh & David Melling, Sunday 28 September, 12 noon



Nick Sharratt, Sunday 28 September, 10.30am

My Name Is Samim

Fidian Meikle

Wigtown Primary | **FREE** but ticketed | 10+

Samim is forced to flee to a new country. Join the author to explore themes of displacement, belonging and empathy. [C04]

3PM

Uncle Pete and the Undersea Adventure

David C Flanagan

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 6+

Uncle Pete's plane is lost in the Arctic – again! He and TM take the Squirrel Submarine to find it, while an inventive octopus adapts the aircraft to work under the waves. [C05]

Scribble & Scrawl Crawl

Jill Calder & Justin Davies

Meet Wigtown Primary School

| £3 | 7+

Love drawing or writing? Join illustrator Jill Calder and author Justin Davies for a creative walking tour of Wigtown. Fun prompts provided, just bring your imagination. 90 min. [C06]

4.30PM

Tales from the Ocean

Chae Strathie

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 5+

From the icy depths of the Antarctic to tropical coral reefs, meet Seal, Small Penguin, Seahorse and Hermit Crab as they explore their ocean home. [C07]

★ SUN 28 SEPT ★

10AM

Scribble & Scrawl Crawl [BSL]
Jill Calder & Justin Davies
Meet Wigtown Primary School
| £3 | 7+
See Sat 27 Sep, 3pm. 90 min. [C08]

10.30AM

Magic Mix-ups and Super-silly Museums
Nick Sharratt
Wigtown Primary | £3 | 4+
Join Nick Sharratt for a museum tour like no other. Explore weird and wonderful exhibits and enjoy his magical new book. [C09]

12 NOON

Do You See the Tiger?
Philip Ardagh & David Melling
Wigtown Primary | **FREE** but ticketed | 4+
This whimsical tale celebrates hidden magic in everyday life as Penny spots a tiger on a rainy subway ride. [C10]

WORK SHOP

Riverskin
Mike Edwards
Wigtown Primary | **FREE** but ticketed | 10+
Discover the magical world of *Riverskin* and craft your own mythical poems and stories. [C11]

1.30PM

My Dog Max
Alan Dapré
Wigtown Primary | £3 | 3-6
Dog-loving Ava crafts a pup from junk, but finds real magic at the shelter with Max, a big-hearted rescue dog. [C12]

Spectacular Scottish Women
Rose Reilly
Wigtown Primary | £3 | 7+
The inspiring story of how Rose became the only Scot to win a football World Cup final – for Italy!



Jill Calder & Justin Davies, Sunday 28 September, 10am



Mike Edwards, Sunday 28 September, 12 noon



Zoolab, Sunday 5 October, 11.30am



Rose Reilly, Sunday 28 September, 1.30pm

Hers is just one of the stories featured in the book *Spectacular Scottish Women*. [C13]

3PM

Robots and Oranges
Alan Windram
Wigtown Primary | £3 | 3-6
One Button Benny meets *Kevin the Orange* as we sing, dance and dodge the flying fuzzy oranges. [C14]

ACCESS

Blitzers
Alastair Chisholm
Wigtown Primary |

£3 | 9+

All the kids want a new gadget, the Blitzer. But when Danny's breaks, he discovers that the makers are hiding a deadly secret. Can he expose their wrongdoing? Dyslexia-friendly. [C15]

4.30PM

Our Book Town
Vivian French & Astrid Jaekel
Wigtown Primary | **FREE** but ticketed | 8+
An interactive workshop to reinvent your home town. The only limit is your imagination. [C16]

★ TUE 30 SEPT ★

10.30AM

Bookbug
County Buildings | **FREE** | 0-5
Stories, songs and rhymes for the youngest festival-goers. 30 min. Also Thur 2 Oct at 10.30am. [C17]
In partnership with D&G Libraries

★ FRI 3 OCT ★

10.30AM

Pondemonium
Renita Boyle
County Buildings | **FREE** | 0-5
Hop on in for stories, songs and sensory play. [C18]

★ SAT 4 OCT ★

10.30AM

WORK SHOP

Scots Language
Rab Wilson
Wigtown Primary | **FREE**

but ticketed | 8+

Write and talk in proper broad Scots as we name the creatures, and start your own story. [C19]

WORK SHOP

Betty & Archie Finding Friends
Jayne Baldwin

Wigtown Primary | **FREE** but

ticketed | 3-6

Betty and Archie play hide-and-seek on the farm, but their friends are too good at it. Join them to search for bees, rabbits and mice. [C20]

12 NOON

My Granny Went to Scotland and She Brought Back...

Mike Nicholson

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 3-6
Granny is back from Scotland with shortbread, tartan and a Highland cow! Her suitcase spills wilder gifts by the minute. [C21]

All Together Now

Michaela Morgan
Wigtown Primary | £3 | 7+
In this playful poetry collection, Michaela Morgan's clever rhymes and Nick Sharratt's bold illustrations invite readers to hunt treats, meet monsters and perform a show. [C22]

1.30PM

Sandy Fin: Operation Splash Landing
Martin Stewart

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 7+
When Portwhistle Bay's Museum of Seaside Stories is in peril, it's up to ocean explorer Sandy Fin to save it and put slippery Albo Start in his place. [C23]

3PM

Luna Loves Gardening

Joseph Coelho

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 3-6
Luna's garden adventure reveals how plants link cultures. A touching story of seeds, stories, and community bonds from the former Waterstones Children's Laureate. [C24]

Star

Michaela Morgan

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 7-12
From Afghan refugee to football star and Unesco Champion for Girls' and Women's Education, Nadia Nadim's journey proves that courage and dreams conquer all. [C25]

4.30PM

Shona the Vet

Catherine Stables

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 3-6
Fly with Shona the Vet on exciting adventures, including a daring cow rescue in Wigtown. Bring your bear to our Teddy Vet Clinic. [C26]

WORK SHOP

ACCESS

Turning Schoolwork into Comics

Rossie Stone

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 8+
Join the creator of Dekko Comics, for a fun workshop on turning study notes into entertaining comic stories – perfect for unconventional learners. [C27]

★ SUN 5 OCT ★

10AM

Story Creators
ZooLab

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 3-7
Help Norm the millipede find his tale. Choose his path while learning about teamwork and meeting the animals. 45-55 min. [C28]

11.30AM

The Zagaro

ZooLab

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 3-7
Venture into a deep, dark wood, meet real creatures and create your own monster, the Zagaro. 45-55 min. [C29]

1PM



Climate Crusaders

ZooLab

Wigtown Primary | £3 | 8-16
Team up with nature's coolest creatures and learn biodiversity hacks, fix ecosystems and become a planet protector. 55 min. [C30]



Alastair Chisholm, Sunday 28 September, 3pm

2PM - 4PM

Big Wig's Family Fun Day

Wigtown Primary | **FREE** |

Family

Pack a picnic and bring your imagination for an afternoon of fun on the bouncy castle and under the parachute. [C31]

EXPLORE 2025

Sauna by the Square

New for 2025. Visit our sauna behind ReadingLasses. Steam away your aches and look out for Hot Takes, an occasional series of special events. Tickets from £8. Group bookings available. Details online.

u3a

This year we're delighted to partner with Wigtownshire u3a. For more information about u3a taster sessions throughout the festival, including a day of activities at the Merse on 2 October, please see online.

Change the Stories

Our returning Change the Stories strand showcases fresh writing and thinking about the climate emergency and other associated ecological threats such as biodiversity loss.

YA Delegate Day

Open to individuals and groups from Dumfries & Galloway, our creative day for young people aged 13+ takes place on Saturday 4 October and features workshops, music, theatre and talks. To book a place or find out more, email morgan@wigtownbookfestival.com.



VISITOR INFORMATION



Event listings

This brochure offers an overview of the festival. To discover more about individual events, including comprehensive listings and speaker biographies, visit our website.

Festival venues

Most venues are within a short walking distance. See the map on p36-37 for details, including information about parking and events out of town.

Accessibility

Access guide

Visitors with particular access needs are strongly invited to contact us on 01988 403222. An access map is also available from the office. To download

our accessibility guide, please go to wigtownbookfestival.com/visit/accessibility.

BSL signing, subtitling and induction loops

We are offering British Sign Language (BSL) signing for a number of events from 27-29 September. See [BSL] in listings for details. We will also be experimenting with AI subtitling throughout the festival. The Festival Marquee, County Buildings and McNeillie Tent are equipped with induction loops.

Streaming

We recognise that not everyone is in a position to attend in person. A selection of events will be available for live

streaming. For information, please see our website.

Food & Drink

Places to eat and drink are listed on p37. Pre-booking for evening meals is advised. Catering vendors will be located outside the County Buildings each weekend.

The pop-up Festival Café is located in the Supper Room on the first floor of the County Buildings, serving light lunches, snacks and drinks. It will be open 9.30am-5pm at weekends and 10.30am-5pm weekdays (12 noon-5pm Fri 26 Sep). For additional hours, please see the festival website.



Travel to Wigtown

Wigtown is in the Machars peninsula in Dumfries & Galloway. Journey time by car is approximately 2.5 hours from Glasgow and 3 hours from Edinburgh. The nearest railway stations are Barrhill (from Glasgow and Ayr), Dumfries (from Carlisle) and Lockerbie (from Edinburgh).

Useful websites to find out about travel, accommodation and other local attractions are: visitsouthwestscotland.com, wigtownbookfestival.com, scotlandstartshere.com

Sustainable transport

We want to help visitors to the festival travel more sustainably where possible. Our Sustainable Travel guide (bit.ly/4IQBBL7) provides up-to-date information about planning your journey using electric vehicles, buses, trains and bikes. For shared transport from and to Dumfries railway station, please contact the box office and we will be happy to advise on times when cars or our festival minibus may be travelling.

Scan here for more information about sustainable transport



HOW TO BOOK

The easiest way to book is online. Tickets are also available on the door (subject to availability).

Online

Secure ticketing via wigtownbookfestival.com 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In person

Visit our box office at **26 South Main St, Wigtown DG8 9EH**

Our staff and volunteers will be happy to try to answer any queries you have.

Opening hours

Before the festival:
Mon-Sat 10am-4pm
During the festival:
Daily 9am-6.30pm

By phone

During office hours on **01988 403222**.

We accept **CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS, CASH AND CHEQUES.**



Concessions

Subject to availability, under-26s can attend most festival events for free (excluding Big Wig). Booking via the box office only. ID may be requested at the venue. Registered students and the wageless can buy tickets at most events for £2 on the door from 15 minutes before the start, subject to availability. Carer tickets are free and can be purchased by contacting the box office in person or on 01988 403222.

EXPLORE

Wigtown

Scotland's National Book Town



Scotland's National Book Town is open all year round with 15 independent bookshops and a quarter of a million books to choose from. Regular events include readings, workshops and the annual Spring Festival.

facebook.com/associationofwigtownbooksellers

WIGTOWN'S BOOKSHOPS

"When I have a little money,
I buy books; and if I have any
left, I buy food and clothes,"

— Erasmus

A Book Town can't exist without its bookshops. Wigtown's are a national treasure, little temples to serendipity, full of books you never knew you needed to read before browsing. More than 250,000 titles line their shelves. Laid end to end, they would stretch to Dumfries. Please support our businesses by giving them your trade. Each book you buy makes Scotland's National Book Town stronger and more sustainable.

At The Sign of the Dragon

St Ninians,
New Road,
DG8 9JL
Tel: 07908 360901

Book End Studio

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

Books & Bakes

6 Bank Street
DG8 9HP
Tel: 01988 402730

The Bookshop

17 North Main Street,
DG8 9HL
Tel: 01988 402499

Byre Books

24 South Main Street,
DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402133

Faodail

7 North Main Street,
DG8 9HN
Tel: 07500 965565

The Festival Bookshop

11 North Main Street,
DG8 9HN
Tel: 01988 402036

Festival Box Office & Shop

26 South Main Street,
DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402036

Foggie Toddle Books

18 North Main Street,
DG8 9HL
hello@foggietoddlebooks.co.uk

New Chapter Books

25 South Main Street,
DG8 9EH
Tel: 07938 650944

The Old Bank Bookshop

7 South Main Street,
DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 402111

The Open Book

2 High Street, DG8 9HQ

ReadingLasses

Bookshop & Café
17 South Main Street,
DG8 9EH
Tel: 01988 403266

Well-Read Books of Wigtown

1-3 Agnew Crescent,
DG8 9DS
Tel: 01988 402873

The Wigtown Emporium

1 High Street,
DG8 9HH
Tel: 01988
402100



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.

Friends of Book Town

By becoming a Friend, you can support the festival and get a variety of perks at the autumn event and in Wigtown all year round. Prices start at £40. Full details on the website or from the box office.



WIGTOWN ON THE MAP

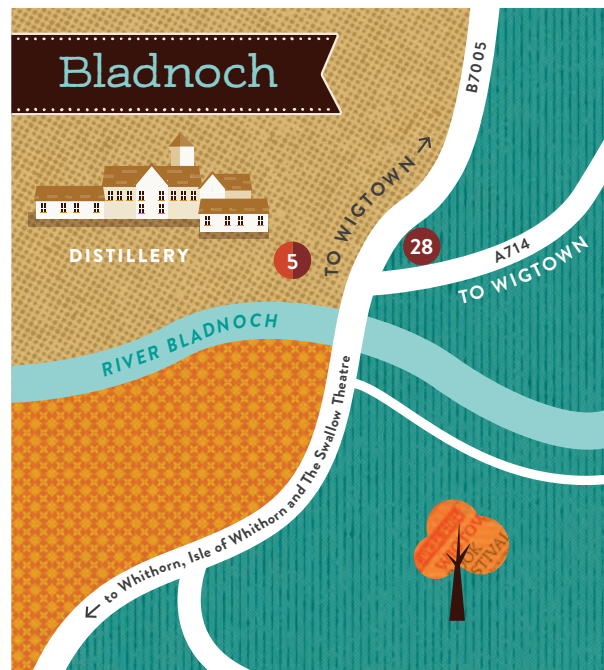
Parking

Town centre parking is limited. Please follow the signs to the festival car park at the Old Showfield (Southfield Park) when you enter Wigtown. Disabled parking and electric charging facilities can be found in the old Lorry Park opposite the County Buildings on South Main Street.

Venues outside Wigtown

Please see below for postcodes of events taking place outside Wigtown. Most are around 15-30 minutes' drive away. Car sharing is encouraged. Please contact the box office should you need help with transport.

Bladnoch Distillery 1.1 miles	(DG8 9AB)
Kilstore Forest 3.7 miles	(DG8 9DD)
Low Cotland Nursery 0.9 miles	(DG8 9BT)
Rigg Bay, Garieston 8.8 miles	(DG8 8HF)
Sorbie Tower 7.8 miles	(DG8 8AG)
The Swallow Theatre 8.9 miles	(DG8 8DR)



- | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Box office | 8 New Chapter Books | 17 Books & Bakes | 26 Well-Read Books |
| 2 Festival Marquee | 9 The Open Book | 18 Book End Studio | 27 The Wigtown Emporium |
| 3 County Buildings
[including Main Hall, Festival Café, The Hub,
Library, Nature Room, The Martyrs Cell,
information point & toilets] | 10 ReadingLasses Bookshop & Café
[including Sauna by the Square] | 19 The Bookshop | 28 Bladnoch Inn |
| 4 McNeillie Tent
[including u3a Information Point] | 11 Sacred Heart Church | 20 Byre Books | 29 Café Rendezvous |
| 5 Bladnoch Distillery
[including Café Melba] | 12 The School | 21 Faodail | 30 Cobwebs |
| 6 The Bunker | 13 Wigtown Birdhide | 22 The Festival Bookshop | 31 The Frying Scotsman |
| 7 The Merse | 14 Wigtown Ploughman | 23 Festival Shop | 32 Galloway Bar |
| | 15 YA Central, 12 North Main St | 24 Foggie Toddle Books | 33 North Street Deli |
| | 16 At the Sign of the Dragon | 25 The Old Bank Bookshop | 34 Pop Up Bar |

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Nina Allan	22	Justin Currie	16	Robin Ince	22	Alastair Moffat	20, 21	Gillian Shirreffs	16
Vicky Allan	18, 19	Alan Dapr�	30	Tiffany Jenkins	23	Miranda Moore	17	Ann Shukman	26
Anne Brown Essay Prize	19	John Davidson	26	Hanna Johansson	26	Roger Moorhouse	24	Josh Silver	27
Philip Ardagh	19, 30	Justin Davies	29, 30	Lesley-Ann Jones	18, 20	Michaela Morgan	31	Nicholas Sinclair-House	22
Lucy Ash	24	Kristie de Garis	17	Nicholas Jubber	23	The Morning Show	19, 21, 22, 24, 25	Sorbie Tower	18, 24
Lamorna Ash	27	Delegate Day (YA)	25	Miranda Kaufmann	20	Ewan Morrison	23	Spaghetti Western Supper	25
Annaliese Avery	27	Alexander Douglas	19	Sir John Kay	17	Jonathan Mullard	22	Catherine Stables	31
James Bailey	22	Duo Dorado	23	Stuart Kelly	19, 21, 25	Mike Nicholson	31	Sara Stewart	21
Christopher Baker	19	Mike Edwards	30	Mairi Kidd	24, 25, 27	Tricia O'Malley	23	Martin Stewart	31
Jayne Baldwin	31	Charlie English	18	Xena Knox	19	Bijan Omrani	27	Imogen Stirling	24, 25
Chris Barkley	17	Gavin Esler	16, 19, 20	Charles Lang	20	Suzanne O'Sullivan	26	Chae Strathie	29
Damian Barr	26	Julian Evans	23	Agnes Lidbeck	26	Ruth Padel	26	Nicola Sturgeon	20
Big Wig Fun Day	31	David Farrier	19	Jenny Lindsay	27	Steven Parissien	20	John Suchet	20
Bookbug	30	Kathryn Faulke	18	Allan Little	27	Heather Parry	22	Kate Summerscale	19
The Bookshop Band	18, 22	Natalie Fergie	19	Local Writers Spotlight	20, 21, 22, 24	Ambrose Parry	24	The Swallow Theatre	17, 18, 25, 26
Renita Boyle	16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 30	Festival Ceilidh	26	Marjorie Lotfi	22	Michael Pedersen	16	Brian Taylor	17, 18
Colin Bramwell	23	Festival Party	16	Andrew Lownie	23	Len Pennie	18	Alessandra Thom	21
James Braxton	18	David C Flanagan	29	Yvonne Lyon	25	Luke Pepera	17	Elaine Thomson	26
Janet Brennan Inglis	24	Jessica Fox	25	Iain MacGregor	27	Jim Philips	23	Pip Thornton	17
Christopher Brookmyre	24	Vivian French	29	Ian Macpherson	24	Beth Porter	18, 19	Elizabeth Tindal	25, 26
Steve Bunce	20	Clare Furniss	17	Graeme Macrae Burnet	16, 17	David Price	25	Robert Twigger	19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26
Jill Calder	29, 30	Rose George	24	Alice Mah	21	David Quantick	17, 18	u3a	18, 22, 23, 24
Gerry Cambridge	24	Lorna Gibb	16	Adri�n Maldonado	22	Quiz	21	Zoe Venditozzi	19
Karen Campbell	27	Caro Giles	26	Foday Mannah	18	Rose Reilly	30	Richard Wallace	17
Ian Carter	21	Rosemary Goring	21	Philip Marsden	26	Fabrice Renaud	23	Adam Weymouth	27
Rory Cellan-Jones	16, 17	Marisa Haetzman	24	Peter Marshall	24	Lucy Ribchester	25	Victoria Whitworth	20
Reeta Chakrabarti	18	Louis D Hall	25	Erica McAlpine	17	Dan Richards	23, 25, 26	Wigtown Poetry Prize	25
Eleanor Chan	25	Julia Hamilton	18	Paige McClanahan	21	Fern Riddell	17	Wigtown's Got Talent	18
Catriona Child	18	Lauryn Hamilton Murray	17	Gerard McKeever	27	Alex Riley	22	Frances Wilson	20
Alastair Chisholm	30	Jean Hammond	21	Hugh McMillan	21	Graham Robb	22	Rab Wilson	31
Horatio Clare	26	Steve Hanna	18, 24	Julie McNeill	19	George Robertson	24	Julie Wilson Nimmo	27
Natalie Jayne Clark	20	James Hanning	19	Chris McQueer	21	Peter Ross	27	Alan Windram	30
David Clark	22	Grant Harrold	26	Fidian Meikle	29	William Rowlandson	16, 18	Olga Wojtas	20
Milo Clenshaw	19	Greg Hemphill	27	David Melling	29, 30	Stephen Rutt	18	ZooLab	31
Ajay Close	20	Dominic Hinde	21	Denise Mina	26	Alastair Santhouse	19		
Joseph Coelho	31	Mollie Hughes	24, 25	Louise Minchin	25	Sauna	17, 20, 23		
Emma Cowing	21	Lucy Hughes-Hallett	23	Tim Minshall	26	Anne Sebba	21		



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

2025 brochure
Design & artwork **Krista Robertson**
Festival logo **Lucy Roscoe**
Big Wig illustration **Claudia Boldt**



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