



# WIGTOWN BOOK FESTIVAL

21-30 SEPTEMBER 2018



20

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Judy Murray at last year's festival  
© Colin Tennant

# Scotland

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## WELCOME

In May 1998, when Wigtown became the national Book Town, Google was a twinkle in its founders' eyes, Scotland's Parliament didn't exist and the UK was championing European expansion. What a difference two decades make. And what a difference Book Town status has made to Wigtown, as then-and-now pictures tellingly show.

A book town, or festival, cannot live on books alone. It needs individuals with vision and energy. Wigtown is blessed to have them in spades and, through a collective act of imagination, they've touched people way beyond Galloway – as this year's guests of honour from South Africa's (Wigtown-inspired) book town demonstrate.

As we celebrate 20 years, we want to thank everyone who has been part of Wigtown's story, locals and visitors alike, and to offer an especially warm welcome to anyone visiting for the first time. Here's to 2038!

Adrian Turpin Artistic Director

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**Wigtown Book Festival**  
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Tel: 01988 402036  
[wigtownbookfestival.com](http://wigtownbookfestival.com)

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Afternoon Tea - Lunch - Dinner - Golf - Short Breaks - Curling - Weddings - Groups - Events

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Four times a year, Britain's most prestigious literary magazine brings you the best new fiction, reportage, memoir, poetry and photography from around the world.

Purchase tickets to any Wigtown Book Festival event and receive a 50% discount on a year's digital subscription to *Granta*. That's four new issues, plus over 140 back issues in the archive, for just £6.

**GRANTA**  
THE MAGAZINE OF NEW WRITING

# FESTIVAL 2018

## Twenty vision

It's our birthday and we're going to celebrate.

This year's programme includes a series of events marking our 20th festival and the 20th anniversary of Wigtown becoming Scotland's Book Town. Look out for the logos in the event listings.

We'll be looking afresh at how the town reinvented itself as a literary destination following the closure of the local distillery (now happily back in operation) and of the creamery in Bladnoch, and we'll be gathering together some of the key players in that process of regeneration.

The 2018 festival also welcomes the founders of Africa's first book town, the small farming community of Richmond in South Africa's Karoo desert, who took their inspiration from reading about what was taking place in this corner of Galloway, half a world away.

Finally, we consider how Scotland and the world has been transformed since 1998, and we take a peek into the future: what will be discussed at Wigtown Book Festival 2038? Should we fear or embrace the next two decades of change?



1996



2018

## THIS YEAR'S THEMES

### OUT & ABOUT

#### Out & About

From sleeping in the Galloway Forest Park and sailing on the Solway, to bat-watching and stargazing at the harbour, WBF18 offers a host of opportunities to get out and about. We're passionate about what this corner of Scotland has to offer and encourage you to take time to explore the area around Wigtown. There are lots of things to do outside the festival too, many of which can be found at [www.booktownscotland.com](http://www.booktownscotland.com).



#### Year of Young People

2018 is Scotland's Year of Young People, which aims to inspire the nation through its young people and create opportunities for them. We're supporting it through WTF, our free festival within a festival run by 13-25 year-olds. Did you know that if you're under 26, you can get tickets to most events in the main programme for free, whether you are a student or not?



#### Big Wig

Introducing Big Wig, the new face of Wigtown's children's book festival, which has had a 20th-anniversary makeover. Drawn by the illustrator Claudia Boldt, the legendary beast is large, hairy, friendlier than the related Yeti, and (above all) inquisitive. It can usually be found in the forest land of Wigtownshire. Some people even claim that the ancient settlement of Wigtown takes its name Big Wig, though this cannot be verified.



# FESTIVAL 2018



## VISUAL ARTS

### If These Walls Could Talk

If a town could speak, what might it say? To celebrate Wigtown's 20 years as a Book Town, Astrid Jaekel has been commissioned to turn building facades in the town square into giant canvases, enlisting the help of writer Jessica Fox.

Old stories, rumours and myths about the Book Town and its surrounds will be brought to life in the visual form of outdoor wallpaper. Grab a map to guide you around this playful large-scale, installation and learn the history of the town, told from a bricks-and-mortar point of view.

Astrid Jaekel was Spring Fling Artist in Residence at the 2013 book festival, where she was responsible for the *Windows of Wigtown* project, which spectacularly filled the panes of the County Buildings with stories of local people. She currently teaches illustration at Edinburgh College of Art.



### Beyond the Ice

In late 2017 and early 2018, Saskia Coulson and Colin Tennant (who has photographed the festival for a decade) travelled to the bottom of the world to capture the pristine beauty of Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. This exhibition of photography and film is the result of months exploring rugged landscapes and unpredictable seas, and documenting the extraordinary behaviour of the wildlife. The images capture awesome beauty, but also remind us of our fragility in the face of climate change.

4 North Main Street. Daily 10am-5pm

wigtownbookfestival.com



### Picture Hooks

An exhibition of artwork by emerging illustrators who have been mentored by their more established colleagues as they create a picture book. The show includes work by Kirsti Beautyman (mentored by Helen Stephens), Hlin Davidsdottir (mentored by Ross Collins), Anders Frang (mentored by Steve Anthony), Hazel Dunn (mentored by Patrick Benson) and Rachel Everitt (mentored by Debi Gliori).

Craigard Gallery, 13 North Main Street. Daily 10am-5pm



### Kirkcudbright Festival of Light

Take a walk around Wigtown's town square as darkness falls to get a hint of the installations that will illuminate Galloway's Artists' Town during its first Festival of Light from 5-14 October.

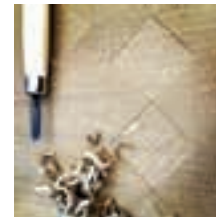
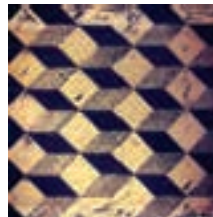
### Marbling

An exhibition of work by artist Gina Lawson. Marbling workshops for adults and children will take place in the marquee throughout the festival. Applegarth Garden, Harbour Road. Daily 10am-5pm.

### Miniature Books

Beautifully illustrated and bound miniature books, all less than three inches tall, many less than one inch, all perfectly legible.

Wigtown Society of Friends Meeting Room, off South Main Street. Mon 24-Sat 29 Sept. Daily 10am-4pm.



### Editions: The Process of Print

How are prints made? This new show, curated specially for Wigtown Book Festival, explains. Printmaking and bookbinding workshops will accompany the exhibition throughout the festival.

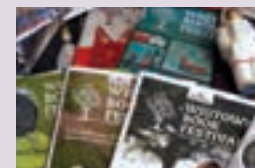
Craigard Gallery, 13 North Main Street. Daily 10am-5pm

Wigtown Book Festival 2018

## The Museum of Book Town Curiosities



County Buildings, Nature Room | free Throughout the festival, we will be collecting exhibits for this temporary museum which will, in a very roundabout way, tell the story of the Book Town and festival. We welcome objects and stories alike - sublime and ridiculous, wonderful and weird. Our curators will be in the Nature Room every day to receive submissions: look out for the timetable. We'll also post the best of our finds online.







# THE 2018 PROGRAMME



Charles E McGarry, 5pm, Friday 21 September

11AM

**Ted Cowan****Arctic Failure: John Ross of Stranraer, 1818**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
Wigtownshire's John Ross should have been the man to discover the Northwest Passage. But his 1818 expedition turned back after he was misled by a mirage, appearing to show mountains in his way. Ted Cowan, Glasgow University's Emeritus Professor of Scottish History, considers the life of Galloway's most successful

10

"failure", whom some believe inspired the creation of Baron von Münchhausen. [001]  
*Sponsored by W A Barclay*

12.30PM

**John Gray****Seven Types of Atheism**

Festival Marquee | £9

One of Britain's leading philosophers talks about the importance of atheism in the modern world, revealing a tradition, in many ways as rich as religion itself, and deeply entwined with what is often crudely seen as its "opposite". John Gray is Emeritus Professor of European Thought at the London School of Economics. His major books include *Straw Dogs*, *Black Mass* and *The Silence of Animals*. [002]

2PM

**Angus MacDonald****We Fought for Ardnish**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

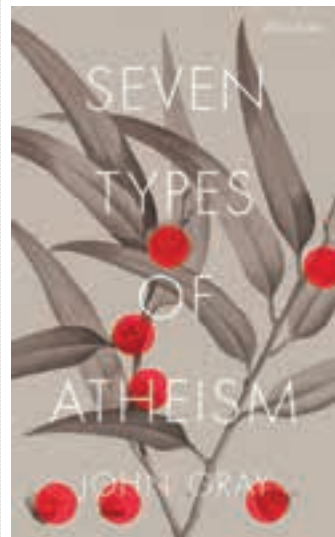
Sent on an alpine mission in the second world war, a young Lovat Scout falls for a French-Canadian special forces operative. When she is captured he fears the worst, until a posting to Canada leads to remarkable news. A former soldier turned entrepreneur and now novelist, Angus MacDonald talks

about his stand-alone follow-up to the popular *Ardnish Was Home*. [003].  
*Supported by R Barclay*

**A Book Town Tour**

Meet by County Buildings | £5

Join us on a guided tour of Wigtown and its bookshops, meet the booksellers, and learn a little of how it became Scotland's National Book Town. Surprises await. [004]  
*Sponsored by The Biggest Little Store in Town*



John Gray, 12.30pm, Friday 21 September

wigtownbookfestival.com

3.30PM

**Nicola Sturgeon****A Life in Books**

Festival Marquee | £12

"Books are amongst my very favourite things in life," says Nicola Sturgeon. But which books and what has Scotland's First Minister learned from them? From Muriel Spark to John Boyne, she reveals the texts that have inspired and shaped her. **Damian Barr**, author of *Maggie and Me* and host of the Literary Salon at The Savoy, tries to read between the lines. [916]

3.30PM

**Alan Taylor****Appointment in Arezzo**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

Muriel Spark's wily masterpieces have been the subject of a year of celebration. But what was the woman who gave birth to them really like? Her friend, the journalist Alan Taylor, tells all in his charming, indiscrete and affectionate memoir. [005]  
*Sponsored by The Bookshop*

5PM

**Isabel Hardman****Why We Get the****Wrong Politicians**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

Politicians are consistently voted

Wigtown Book Festival 2018



Isabel Hardman, 5pm, Friday 21 September

the least trusted professional group by the UK public. Why? Isabel Hardman, assistant editor of *The Spectator* and presenter of BBC Radio 4's *The Week in Westminster*, lifts the lid on the strange world of UK politics, asking how we end up with representatives with whom we are so unhappy and what can be done to change things. [006]

*Sponsored by Merrick Real Estate*

5PM

**Charles E McGarry****The Shadow of the Black Earl**

McNeillie Tent | £7

Crime wave strikes south-west Scotland. Dapper psychic police inspector Leo Moran recovers from a bereavement at a Galloway stately home. But a budding romance is disrupted by his visions of a missing local girl and the discovery of an ancient evil. Charles McGarry talks about his delicious mystery series embracing the finer things in life. [007]



6.30PM

**MUSIC****Louis de Bernières & The Bookshop Band****A Birthday Concert**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £9

To celebrate the festival's 20th birthday, and 20 years of Scotland's

Book Town, award-winning novelist and musician Louis de Bernières (flute, mandolin, guitar and clarinet) teams up with **Ben Please** and **Beth Porter** of The Bookshop Band for an hour of musical magic. [008]

*Sponsored by SW Audio*

6.30PM

**Stuart Kelly****The Minister and the Murderer**

Wigtown Parish Church | £7

In 1969, James Nelson confessed to murder, served a prison sentence, then applied to be ordained as a minister in the Church of Scotland – titillating the tabloids and dividing national opinion. Stuart Kelly discusses his remarkable account of the affair. Part detective story, part memoir, it is also a moving meditation on what it means to forgive and a fascinating alternative history of the Kirk. [009]  
*Supported by the Faculty of Advocates*

8PM

**Festival Fireworks**

Mercat Cross, Town Square | free

The Kirkcudbright and District Pipe Band leads the way from the Mercat Cross to Bayview Nursery for fireworks over Wigtown Bay. [010]  
*By kind permission of Bayview Nursery*



8.30PM

**Twentieth Birthday Party**

Festival Marquee

Speakers, sponsors, Friends, volunteers, ambassadors and donors are warmly invited to celebrate. To become a Friend, phone 01988 402036 or write to mail@wigtownbookfestival.com. [011]  
*Sponsored by Corney & Barrow*

9.30PM

**Book at Bedtime**

The Open Book | free

Wind down with bedtime readings inspired by the festival's themes. Hot chocolate provided. [012]

11



**9.30AM**  
**Book Town Breakfast**  
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
 Who's on the sofa today with  
**The Bookshop Band**? Coffee  
 and pastries provided. [101]

**9.30AM**  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**A Wigtown Walk**  
 Meet by County Buildings | £5  
 Take a walking tour through Wigtown's  
 past in the company of local  
 historian **Donna Brewster**, author  
 of *The House That Sugar Built*. [102]

**10.30AM**  
 THE MAGNUSSON LECTURE  
**Edward Stourton**  
**Auntie's War**  
 Festival Marquee | £12  
 The BBC is a unique institution. Love  
 it or hate it, it has reflected our lives  
 and told our stories, no more so  
 than during the second world war.  
 Broadcaster, columnist and author  
 Ed Stourton offers a love letter to a  
 golden age of radio and considers

**10.30AM - 4PM DROP-IN**  
**The Bookbinder**  
 County Buildings,  
 Nature Room | free  
 A former production manager  
 at Glasgow's Citizens Theatre,  
**Christian Ribbens** began book-  
 binding as a hobby. Now he  
 lovingly repairs antique volumes  
 for clients around the UK. Drop  
 in for a chat as he demonstrates  
 his rare craft. [103]

LIVE SURTITLES

In association with StageTEXT,  
 we are providing live subtitles  
 for people with hearing loss  
 on Saturday 22 and Sunday  
 23 September in the County  
 Buildings, Main Hall. Surtitled  
 events are marked [S] in listings.  
 www.stagetext.org.  
 Supported by the Castansa Trust



Finlay Wilson, 10.30am, Saturday 22 September

the origins of today's broadcast  
 culture. The annual lecture celebrates  
 the life and reflects the interests  
 of the academic and broadcaster  
 Magnus Magnusson. [104]  
 Supported by Faodail & Priory Antiques

**10.30AM**  
**Finlay Wilson**  
**Kilted Yoga: Yoga Laid Bare**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 "Apparently there is something  
 about the recipe of beards, kilts,  
 butts and the Scottish Highlands  
 that just works," says Finlay Wilson.  
 It appears so. His video of a yoga  
 session in a Perthshire forest has  
 been downloaded more than 50  
 million times. Not bad for a man who  
 once struggled to stand because  
 of the pain in his legs. Join him for  
 some basic poses as he talks about  
 his triumph over adversity. [S] [105]  
 Sponsored by Five Kingdoms Brewery

**10.30AM**  
**Claire Askew**  
**All the Hidden Truths**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 Pre-publication, poet Claire Askew's  
 debut novel won the Lucy Cavendish  
 Fiction prize and was subject of a  
 fierce auction. *All the Hidden Truths*  
 begins with a school shooting in  
 Edinburgh. We know who did it. But  
 why? Askew brilliantly portrays three  
 women seeking answers. A moving  
 study of forgiveness, empathy and

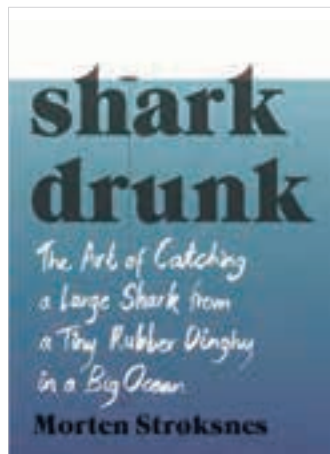


Imogen Hermes Gowar, 12 noon, Saturday 22 September



Edward Stourton, 10.30am, Saturday 22 September

wigtownbookfestival.com



Morten Strøksnes, 12 noon, Saturday 22 September

how the world reacts in the face of a  
 violent tragedy. [106]

**10.30AM**  
**Undiscovered Treasures**  
 The Print Room | free  
 What hidden treasures lie in  
 Stranraer Museum? For this little  
 book, writers were invited to  
 examine and respond to some of  
 the fascinating artefacts. Come and  
 hear what they discovered. [107]  
 Supported by C Barr

**12 NOON**  
**Sue Black**  
**All That Remains**  
 Festival Marquee | £8  
 Professor Dame Sue Black is one of  
 the world's leading anatomists and  
 forensic anthropologists. She talks  
 about her gripping – and strangely  
 life-affirming – account of a career  
 staring death in the face, from war  
 crime investigations in Kosovo to  
 the Indian Ocean tsunami. [108]  
 Sponsored by ReadingLasses

**12 NOON**  
**Imogen Hermes Gowar**  
**The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 Shortlisted for the Women's Prize  
 for Fiction, *The Mermaid and*

Wigtown Book Festival 2018

*Mrs Hancock* marks the arrival  
 of a wonderful new voice. Set in  
 1780s London, it's a rollicking tale  
 about desire and ambition. Join us  
 for a conversation ranging from  
 mermaids and madams to the  
 importance of optimism. [S] [109]

**12 NOON**  
**Morten Strøksnes**  
**Shark Drunk**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
*Shark Drunk* is the true story of  
 two men in a very small boat on  
 the trail of a very big fish. It's also  
 a tale of obsession, enchantment  
 and adventure, and a love song to  
 the sea. Multiple award-winning  
 Norwegian writer Morten Strøksnes  
 talks about his acclaimed book. A  
 BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week.  
 "Deserves to be read widely,"  
 James Rebanks. [110]  
 Sponsored by Vogue Windows

**12 NOON**  
**Hugh McMillan**  
**Heliopolis**  
 The Print Room | £7  
 The poems in Hugh McMillan's new  
 collection range from his kitchen  
 table to Greece, St Petersburg and  
 Mars. An audience favourite since  
 his appearance at the first Wigtown  
 Book Festival in 1999, he continues  
 to find the universal in the local and  
 the local in the universal. [111]



Sue Black, 12 noon, Saturday 22 September

**1.30PM**  
**Louis de Bernières**  
**So Much Life Left Over**  
 Festival Marquee | £8  
 In his major new novel, *So Much  
 Life Left Over*, Louis de Bernières  
 transports readers to 1920s Ceylon,  
 where Rosie and Daniel have moved  
 with their daughter to start a new  
 life. But in precarious interwar  
 times, little is straightforward.  
 The author deploys his trademark  
 blend of humour and tragedy  
 to craft a story as captivating as  
*Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. "Richly  
 enjoyable... it is written with such  
 vitality," Allan Massie. [112]  
 Sponsored by Caird Leisure Ltd



Louis de Bernières, 1.30pm, Saturday 22 September



**1.30PM**  
**Suzanne O'Sullivan**  
**Brainstorm: Detective Stories from the World of Neurology**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 Neurologist Suzanne O'Sullivan's first book, *It's All in Your Head*, won the Wellcome Prize. In *Brainstorm*, she turns her attention again to the oddity of our brains. From a man who sees cartoon characters running across the room, to a girl who turns into a ragdoll when she thinks of moving, O'Sullivan's case studies show the infinite complexity of "the universe's most complex structure". [S] [113]  
*Supported by Barbara Moore*

**1.30PM**  
 GRANTA BOOKS AND STORY MACHINE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT  
**Whiskey & Ink**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 A brilliant, funny and moving one-woman show based on *New Yorker* essayist Leslie Jamison's book *The Recovering: Intoxication and Its Aftermath*. Welcome to an AA meeting like no other, as famous writers including Stephen King, Jean Rhys and David Foster Wallace discuss whether literary greatness really exists at the bottom of a bottle.



Mick Kitson, 4.30pm, Saturday 22 September

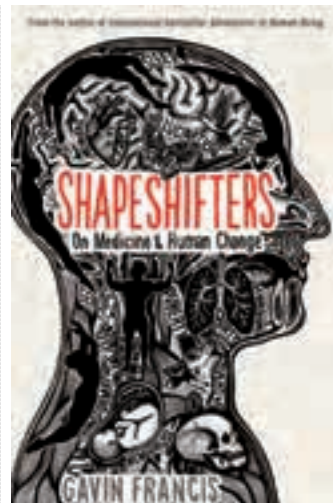


Europe's Future, 3pm, Saturday 22 September

**Jessica Pidsley** plays Leslie Jamison, trying to make sense of it all. [114]

**1.30PM**  
**Southlight 24 Launch**  
 The Print Room | free  
 Join us to launch the new edition of Dumfries & Galloway's new-writing magazine, featuring poetry, short stories, essay and opinion. [115]

**20 3PM**  
**Europe's Future**  
 Festival Marquee | £8  
 What will Europe look like in twenty years' time? Will the EU resemble a United States of Europe or was Brexit the canary in the coalmine? By 2038, will divergent national economies, fears about mass immigration and right-wing populism have put paid to the dream of "ever closer union"? In this discussion, we listen to expert voices from across the continent. Our panel includes **Richard Lewis** from the Institute of European Studies in Brussels; **Marie Rosenkranz**, research associate at the Berlin-based think tank, the European Democracy Lab; and **Dr Marco Siddi** of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. Chaired by the political commentator and former *Scotsman* editor, **Iain Martin**. [116]  
*Supported by Royal Bank of Scotland*



Gavin Francis, 6pm, Saturday 22 September

**3PM**  
**Miranda Kaufmann**  
**Black Tudors**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 Think you know the Tudors? Think again. Shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize, *Black Tudors* uncovers extraordinary tales of free Africans living in Renaissance Britain. Their life stories challenge traditional narratives about slavery, revealing our island's multicultural history. Miranda Kaufmann is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of London's Institute of Commonwealth Studies. [S] [117]

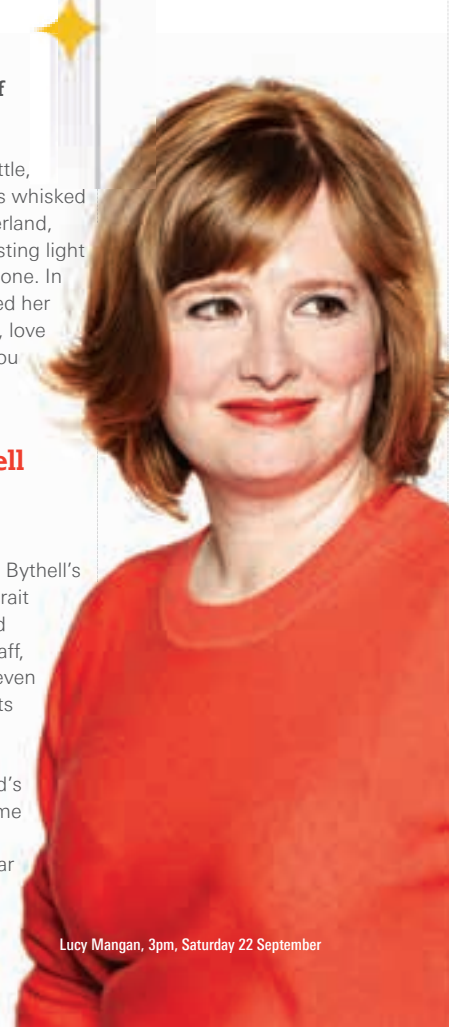


Charlotte Higgins, 4.30pm, Saturday 22 September

**3PM**  
**Lucy Mangan**  
**Bookworm: A Memoir of Childhood Reading**  
 McNeillie Tent | £8  
 When Lucy Mangan was little, stories were all. As she was whisked away to Narnia and Wonderland, new worlds opened up, casting light on the complexities of this one. In *Bookworm*, she has revisited her childhood reading with wit, love and gratitude and invites you to do the same. [118]

**20 4.30PM**  
**Shaun Bythell**  
**The Diary of a Bookseller: One Year On**  
 Festival Marquee | £8  
 Wigtown bookseller Shaun Bythell's diary paints a hilarious portrait of one grumpy secondhand bookseller, his mutinous staff, infuriating customers and even more annoying cat. Since its launch at the 2017 festival, it's been translated into 18 languages, hit New Zealand's bestseller charts and become a cult Russian hit. He talks about his memoir and a year to remember. [119]  
*Sponsored by Galloway Lodge Preserves*

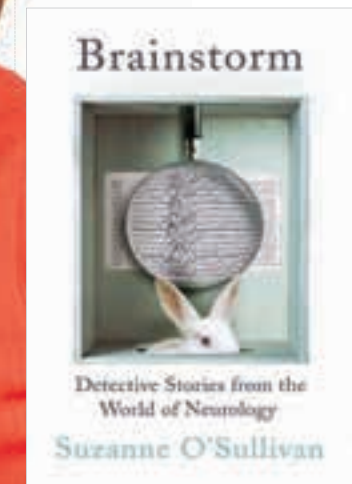
**4.30PM**  
**Charlotte Higgins**  
**Red Thread: On Mazes & Labyrinths**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 Charlotte Higgins explores our ancient fascination with mazes and labyrinths, looking on their significance in mythology, literature and life. The speaker is chief culture writer of the *Guardian*. Her previous books include the acclaimed *Under Another Sky: Journeys in Roman Britain*, which was shortlisted for awards including the Samuel Johnson (now Baillie Gifford) Prize for non-fiction. [S] [120]



Lucy Mangan, 3pm, Saturday 22 September

**4.30PM**  
**Mick Kitson**  
**Sal**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 Sal is the tale of two half-sisters, Sal and Peppa, who run away to the Galloway Forest to escape their troubled home. Beautifully told in the older girl's voice, it's a story of physical and mental survival, as well as sisterly love. Journalist turned teacher Mick Kitson talks about why, fed up with the curriculum, he set out to write something he would want to teach, and how he found inspiration in south-west Scotland. [121]  
*Sponsored by Xtrastep Ltd*

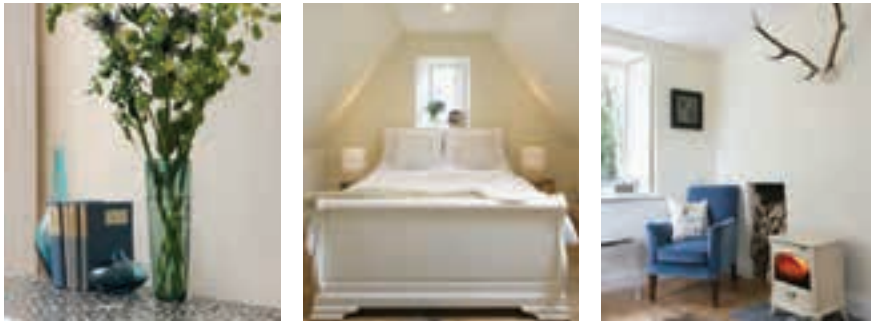
**6PM**  
**Gavin Francis**  
**Shapeshifters**  
 Festival Marquee | £7  
 Award-winning writer and doctor Gavin Francis knows that to live means to change, as we grow, heal, learn and age. He looks at the transformations that trace the arc of human life, from inevitabilities, such as puberty or menopause, to milestones like pregnancy. Drawing not only on case studies, but on history, art, literature and myth, he shows that humanity's essence is mutability. [122]



Suzanne O'Sullivan, 1.30pm, Saturday 22 September



## GALLOWAY HOUSE ESTATE



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

[www.gallowayhouseestate.co.uk](http://www.gallowayhouseestate.co.uk)

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Wigtown Festival Company



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](http://www.facebook.com/TheKistWigtown)



[wigtownbookfestival.com](http://wigtownbookfestival.com)

Saturday 22 September



Steve Bonham, 7.30pm,  
Saturday 22 September

6PM

### Ken Ilgunas

#### This Land Is Our Land

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
America was once a continent of uninterrupted horizons. Now more than a billion acres of pasture and woodland, and swathes of coastline, are closed to the public. An obsessive hitchhiker and roamer, Ken Ilgunas looks back to the unrestrained 19th-century and discusses how Scotland's right-to-roam law is inspiring a new US movement. [123]  
*Sponsored by Visit South West Scotland*

6PM

### The Five-Foot Shelf Live

McNeillie Tent | £6  
If you only had a five-foot bookshelf to contain all the knowledge required for a full and happy life, what books would you put on it? **Ian Sansom** and **Conor Garrett** offer a live version of their BBC Radio 4 show, enlisting help from special guests. Bring your own essential read. [124]



7.30PM

### Astrid Jaekel Open Studio

County Buildings, Nature Room | free  
Join artist Astrid Jaekel and writer **Jessica Fox**, whose *If These Walls Could Talk* project is spectacularly transforming the streetscape of



Ken Ilgunas, 6pm, Saturday 22 September

Wigtown at this year's festival. Meet and mingle. Refreshments provided. [125]

7.30PM

### MUSIC Steve Bonham

#### Gone To Look for America

The Print Room | £6  
Inspired by a chance remark from a singer-songwriter appearing with Billy Bragg, "vagabond philosopher" Steve Bonham set off on a literal and metaphorical exploration of myth, music and the moonshine of America. The outcome is a funny, moving, idiosyncratic collection of words and songs. [126]

7.30PM

THEATRE

### Gulliver Returns

Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £13.50  
Lil's husband, Lem, has lost himself in *Gulliver's Travels*. Whatever the cost, she must find a way to drag him out of his fantasy. Dawn State Theatre magically rips up and reassembles Jonathan Swift's satirical masterpiece. 75 min. [127]



8.30PM

### Wigtown's Got Talent

Festival Marquee | £6

The 20th-anniversary edition of the annual talent show brings new faces and some blasts from the past. Visitors, locals and authors are invited to compete for the Golden Pencil. Do you have a talent that could entertain, amuse or amaze? If so please ring 01988 403222 or email [claire@wigtownbookfestival.com](mailto:claire@wigtownbookfestival.com). To celebrate 20 years, one hundred tickets are available free. Only obtainable in person from the box office. First come, first served (max 2 per household). [128]  
*Sponsored by 3b construction*

9.30PM

OUT & ABOUT

### RSPB Batwalk

Meet by County Buildings | £5  
A gentle walk in search of Wigtown's bats in the company of RSPB ranger **Paul Tarling**. [129]  
*Sponsored by RSPB*

9.30PM

### Book at Bedtime

The Open Book | free  
Bedtime stories and hot chocolate in a friendly atmosphere. [130]

#### Free for under 26s

Festival-goers who are under 26 can get free tickets to almost all events in the main programme. Book by phone or at the box office. Just bring proof of age on collection.


Wigtown Book Festival 2018



**9.30AM**  
**Book Town Breakfast**  
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
 Who's on the sofa today with **The Bookshop Band**? Coffee and pastries provided. [201]

**10AM**  
 **OUT & ABOUT**  
**Festival Fun Run**  
 Meet by County Buildings | free  
 Join writers and other runners for the annual 5km fun run. [202]

**10.30AM**  
 THE WHITHORN TRUST LECTURE  
**David Clarke**  
**The Myth of Scotland's Dark Age**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 Why is Scotland so often absent from studies of Britain and Europe in the early medieval period? The Keeper of Archaeology at the National Museums of Scotland, David Clarke, sheds light on an age that is far less "dark" than was once assumed. [S] [203]

 **10.30AM - 4PM DROP-IN**  
**The Bookbinder**  
 County Buildings, Nature Room | free  
 A former production manager at Glasgow's Citizens Theatre, **Christian Ribbens** began book-binding as a hobby. Now he lovingly repairs antique volumes for clients around the UK. Drop in for a chat as he demonstrates his rare craft. [204]

#### LIVE SURTITLES

In association with StageTEXT, we are providing live subtitles for people with hearing loss on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September in the County Buildings, Main Hall. Surtitled events are marked [S] in listings. [www.stagetext.org](http://www.stagetext.org).  
*Supported by the Castansa Trust*



Helen Pankhurst, 12 noon, Sunday 23 September

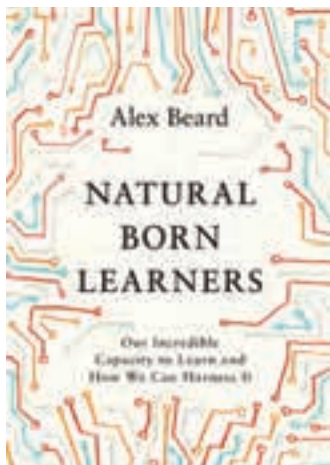
**10.30AM**  
**Dean Nelson**  
**The Indian Art of Problem Solving**  
 McNeillie Tent | £6  
 What do the Indian mission to Mars, the world's cheapest car and the hybrid bullock-cart Enfield motorbike have in common? They're all examples of *jugaad*, the Indian art of the rough-and-ready quick fix. Dean Nelson, former south-east Asia correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Times*, talks about a philosophy of life that has transformed India, and which offers inspiration to us all. [205]

**12 NOON**  
**Helen Pankhurst**  
**Deeds Not Words**  
 Festival Marquee | £8  
 A hundred years since women got the vote, Helen Pankhurst – great-granddaughter of suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst and a leading women's rights campaigner – charts how women's lives have changed since and offers powerful arguments for the way forward. [206]  
*Supported by Judith Brown*

**12 NOON**  
**Tom Pow**  
**Barefoot: The Collected Poems of Alastair Reid**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 For the first time, the poems of the late Alastair Reid have been



Tom Pow, 12 noon, Sunday 23 September



Alex Beard, 1.30pm, Sunday 23 September

collected in one place. Tom Pow, Reid's friend and the editor of this new volume, talks about the life and work of a Galloway original – *New Yorker* writer, intimate of Borges and Neruda, nemesis of Robert Graves (whose girlfriend he eloped with) and itchy-footed citizen of the world, never happier than when travelling light. [S] [207]  
*Supported by Anne Brown*

**12 NOON**  
 MAN BOOKER PRIZE AND STORY MACHINE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT  
**Michael K**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 A live show based upon *Life and Times of Michael K* by J M Coetzee, winner of the Man Booker Prize in 1983. In a war-torn country, Michael K leaves home to seek safety. As he walks, he asks whether we can live a life of dignity when lies, division, and repression surround us? Featuring film and performance, this is a powerful staging of a classic novel by one of the era's best writers. [208]

**12 NOON**  
**Alan & Susan Windram**  
**Children's Publishing Surgery**  
 The Print Room | £5  
 For most writers, the publishing industry remains a tough nut to crack and publishing for children is no different. Alan and Susan Windram, the team behind Little Door Books, offer guidance on how to take your idea from the drawing board to the bookcase. [209]

 **1.30PM**  
**PANEL**  
**The Changing Face of Scotland**  
 Festival Marquee | £9  
 In 1998, Wigtown became Scotland's Book Town and the Scotland Act established a devolved parliament in Edinburgh. Two

decades of transformation have followed. So has the nation lived up to Alasdair Gray's exhortation, etched into the stone of Holyrood: "Work as if you live in the early days of a better nation"? Who better to ask than writers? Our panel includes novelists **Candia McWilliam** (*Debatable Land*) and **James Robertson** (*And the Land Lay Still*) and children's author and illustrator **Vivian French** (winner of the Scottish Book Trust Outstanding Achievement Award). Chaired by **Stuart Kelly**. [210]  
*Sponsored by ReadingLasses*



Edward Wilson-Lee, 1.30pm, Sunday 23 September

**1.30PM**  
**Alex Beard**  
**Natural Born Learners**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 We are what we learn: education predicts future wealth, happiness and even longevity. So what's the magic formula for getting it right? Educational expert Alex Beard searched the globe for answers, finding out what really happens at Finnish schools, taking lessons from a robot and visiting South Korea's exam factories. His discoveries are likely to surprise you. [S] [211]  
*Sponsored by Five Kingdoms Brewery*

**1.30PM**  
**Edward Wilson-Lee**  
**The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 Edward Wilson-Lee discusses the remarkable life of Hernando Columbus, son of Christopher, and his creation of the first great universal library in the age of printing. An explorer himself, who spent a year shipwrecked off Jamaica, Hernando associated with Thomas More, Erasmus, and Ferdinand and Isabella. He was also almost entirely responsible for his father's legend. [212]  
*Sponsored by Ast & Red*



Andy Goldsworthy, 4.30pm, Sunday 23 September



3PM

## Peter Ross

### The Passion of Harry Bingo

Festival Marquee | £8

Shortlisted for the Orwell Prize in 2015, Peter Ross returns with more unlikely dispatches from contemporary Scotland (and the odd foray across the border). One of life's great observers, he has the knack of capturing others with humour and empathy – from herring queens and drag queens to Harry Bingo himself, still following Partick Thistle in his nineties. [213]

3PM

## Aida Edemariam

### The Wife's Tale

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

Aida Edemariam discusses her acclaimed book about her Ethiopian grandmother. Aged eight, Yetemengu was married to a clergyman. Her long life spanned Ethiopia's most tumultuous years, encompassing Fascist occupation, Allied bombardment, Haile Selassie, famine, revolution and civil war. This inspiring, often heartbreaking story, offers a multilayered portrait of a fascinating nation. [S] [214]

3PM

## Stephen Norris

### The Galloway Hills

The Print Room | £6

The Galloway Hills are the forgotten jewel in Scotland's mountain and treasure house. Journalist Stephen



Muriel Spark's Women, 4.30pm, Sunday 23 September

Norris explains their unique charms and launches the second of his guides to the range, which covers Minnigaff. [215]

3PM

MUSIC

## The Galloway Consort

### Fragments

Sacred Heart, South Main St | £7

"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication", Leonardo da Vinci. The Galloway Consort return with another concert of renaissance music and text. Move into a gentler sound world of viols and recorders, renaissance guitar and the soft tones of 16th-century chanson and madrigal. [216]

4.30PM

## Andy Goldsworthy

### Leaning into the Wind

Festival Marquee | £9

Internationally renowned sculptor, environmentalist and photographer Andy Goldsworthy has magically transformed landscapes around the world, from his Dumfriesshire home to San Francisco, New York and Rio. He talks about his remarkable body of work, the subject of German director Thomas Riedelsheimer's visually spectacular new film *Leaning Into the Wind*. (See 7.30pm for film details.) [217]

Sponsored by Galloway House Estate

4.30PM

## Muriel Spark's Women

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

Nowhere was Muriel Spark's genius for displaying the contradictions and complexities of human emotion greater than in her depiction of her own sex. From *The Abbess of Crewe* to *The Girls of Slender Means*, we celebrate the witty, ingenious, inspiring, vain and self-deluding heroines of one of Scotland's greatest writers. Our panel includes author and critic **Lesley McDowell**; intellectual historian and Professor of English Literature, Durham University, **Patricia Waugh**; and **Gail Wylie**, former secretary of the Muriel Spark Society. [S] [218]

Sponsored by Physgill Farm

4.30PM

## Matt Hopwood

### A Human Love Story

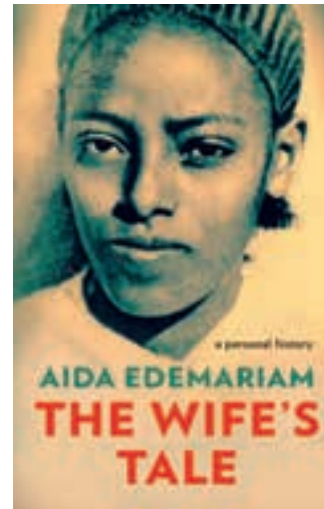
McNeillie Tent | £7

Matt Hopwood travelled more than 1,500 miles on foot across the UK to get people to tell him their stories of love in all its forms, while relying on strangers' kindness for shelter. He talks about what he found and how weaving a web of connection is a powerful tool for change. "A delicately woven tapestry of human life," Clare Balding. [219]

wigtownbookfestival.com



Clare Balding, 6pm, Sunday 23 September



Aida Edemariam, 3pm, Sunday 23 September

6PM

## Clare Balding

### Animals, Children and other Rambles

Festival Marquee | £12

She's a former amateur jockey, broadcaster, bestselling memoirist and champion of rambles everywhere. Now Clare Balding has turned her hand to writing for children – with predictably impressive results. A first-class raconteur, she talks about her latest adventures on page and path. [220]

Sponsored by Fight for Sight

Wigtown Book Festival 2018

6PM

## Malachy Tallack

### The Valley at the Centre of the World

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

Set on the rugged west coast of Shetland, in a community faced with extinction, *The Valley at the Centre of the World* is a tale of love and grief, family and inheritance, rapid change and an age-old way of life. Malachy Tallack, author of *60 Degrees North*, talks about his acclaimed first novel. [221]

Sponsored by Five Kingdoms Brewery

6.30PM

## Diary of a Bookseller Live

The Bookshop | £7

Shaun Bythell's warts-and-all account of bookselling brought to life. Find music, humour and surprises among the shelves. With **The Bookshop Band**. [222]

7.30PM

FILM

## Leaning into the Wind

Newton Stewart Cinema | £6

Sixteen years after his *Rivers and Tides* documentary, director Thomas Riedelsheimer offers another vibrant tour through the work of the environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy (see 4.30pm). 97 min. [223]

Sponsored by Craigard Gallery

7.30PM

## It Shouldn't Happen to a Book Festival

The Print Room | £6

Exploding dinner tables, missed flights and the author who ended up in the cells: we take a lighthearted romp through some of the mishaps of festivals past. [224]

7.30PM

THEATRE

## Gulliver Returns

Swallow Theatre,

Ravenstone | £13.50

See Sat 22 Sept, 7.30pm. [225]

8.30PM

MUSIC

## The Bevv Sisters

Festival Marquee | £8

The classic sister act, who have worked with everyone from Eddi Reader to Peggy Seeger, run the gamut from high-energy golden oldies to soulful self-penned ballads. [226]

Sponsored by SW Audio

9.30PM

## Book at Bedtime

The Open Book | free

Stories and hot chocolate. [227]



Peter Ross, 3pm, Sunday 23 September



Malachy Tallack, 6pm, Sunday 23 September



Nina Caplan, 1.30pm, Monday 24 September

9.30AM

**Book Town Breakfast**

Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
Which guests are on the sofa today with **The Bookshop Band**? Coffee and pastries provided. [301]

10.30AM

**Damian Le Bas****The Stopping Places**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
Inspired by his great-grandmother's Romani stories, Damian Le Bas journeyed round Britain to discover the old stopping places known only to travellers. He talks about his quest to square the circle between the romanticised Gypsies of old and their much-maligned descendants. "A pure delight," *Sunday Times* [302]  
*Sponsored by Motorwise*

12 NOON

**Donald S Murray****The Dark Stuff**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
Donald Murray grew up playing, then working, on the moors of Lewis. The author of the classic *Herring Tales* discusses his masterful exploration of Europe's peatlands, a love letter to a threatened landscape

22

that has haunted the continent's art and folklore and influenced its history. [303]

*Sponsored by RSPB*

12 NOON

**Emma Healey****Whistle in the Dark**

McNeillie Tent | £7

The author of the Costa Award-winning *Elizabeth Is Missing* discusses her bestselling new novel, a compelling mystery exploring the emotional minefield of family life. When a 15-year-old girl is found after vanishing for four days, she will not say what happened. Can her distraught mother find out? [304]  
*Sponsored by S Cronnie Family Butchers*

1.30PM

**Duncan Barrett****Hitler's British Isles**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
Only one part of the UK experienced life under German rule – the Channel Islands. Drawing on more than 100 interviews of islanders, *Sunday Times* bestselling author Duncan Barrett reveals a tale that is equally terrifying and inspiring, and offers a vision of what Nazi Britain might have been like. [305]



Emma Healey, 12 noon, Monday 24 September



James MacMillan, 6pm, Monday 24 September

1.30PM

**Nina Caplan****The Wandering Vine**

McNeillie Tent | £9 (inc tasting)

What did the Romans ever do for us? Well, there's wine. Nina Caplan took a meandering journey from Britain to Rome, exploring European culture and Jewish identity through a shared love of the grape. She discusses her vintage blend of travelogue, wine-writing and memoir and invites the audience to share a bottle. [306]  
*Sponsored by The Pheasant*

3PM

**Anthony Adeane****Out of Thin Air**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

Iceland 1974: two men vanish. Six suspects admit murder. Yet their confessions are false. Why? Anthony Adeane talks about his compelling true-crime classic, played out against extreme weather and strange folklore, where over eighty per cent of people believe elves might exist. [307]

4.30PM

**Susan Calman****Sunny Side Up**

Festival Marquee | £12

Comedian Susan Calman danced into the UK's hearts on *Strictly Come Dancing*, but how did it



Susan Calman, 4.30pm, Monday 24 September

change her life? She talks about her "Calmanifesto of Happiness". [308]  
*Sponsored by Cally Palace Hotel*

4.30PM

**Guy Stagg****The Crossway**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

In 2013, Guy Stagg made a 10-month, 5,500 kilometre pilgrimage from Canterbury to Jerusalem. Though a non-believer, he began the journey after suffering several years of mental illness, hoping the ritual would heal him. He talks about his acclaimed account of his adventure. [309]

Wigtown Book Festival 2018



Isla Dewar, 4.30pm, Monday 24 September

4.30PM

**Isla Dewar****It Takes One To Know One**

McNeillie Tent | £7

The bestselling author of *Women Talking Dirty* introduces her newest novel about a single mother in 1970s Edinburgh who takes a heartbreaking job at a missing persons bureau owned by a man abducted as a baby. [310]  
*Sponsored by The Steam Packet Inn*

6PM

**James MacMillan****Notes on a Life**

Festival Marquee | £8

Since his requiem *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie* boldly announced his talent at the Proms in 1990, Sir James MacMillan has established himself as Scotland's greatest living classical composer – whose work includes a mass for the Pope at Bellahouston Park, a cello concerto for Rostropovich and a fanfare for the Scottish Parliament. He has also been a critic of Scotland's cultural establishment, defender of the place of religion in secular society and a vocal foe of sectarianism. [311]

7.30PM

**FILM The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**

The MUGA | £6

A magical outdoor screening of the 1969 version of Muriel Spark's classic starring Maggie Smith. Cert: 12. 116 min. [312]

7.30PM

**A Persian Supper**

The Old Manse, Harbour Rd | £30

Join us for a gourmet supper Iranian style with poet **Marjorie Lotfi Gill**, who will be talking about her experience of growing up in Tehran and fleeing the Iranian revolution, the starting point for her new collection, *Refuge*. [313]

7.30PM

**Diary of a Bookseller Live**

The Bookshop | £7

Shaun Bythell's memoir brought to life. See Sun 23 Sept, 6.30pm. [314]  
Repeated at 8.30pm tonight. [315]

7.30PM

**THEATRE****The Time Machine**

Swallow Theatre,

Ravenstone | £14.50

HG Wells' classic reinterpreted. See Tue 25 Sept, 7.30pm. [316]



Damian Le Bas, 10.30am, Monday 24 September

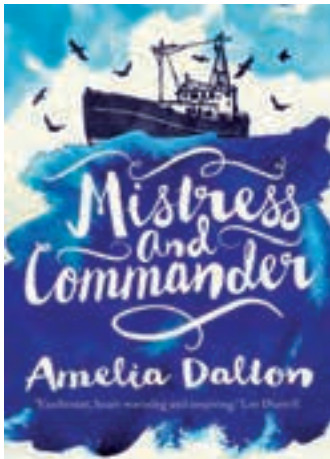
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9.30AM  
**Book Town Breakfast**  
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
 Music and chat from **The Bookshop Band** and guests. [401]

10.30AM  
**Amelia Dalton**  
**Mistress and Commander**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Weary of a life of grouse moors and hunt balls, Yorkshirewoman Amelia Dalton naively threw herself into converting a Scottish deep sea trawler into a holiday cruiser. But what began as a nautical love affair became a battle to stay afloat, as she



Amelia Dalton, 10.30am, Tuesday 25 September

11AM  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**Canoe Adventure**  
 Meet at Old Place of Mochrum | £14  
 Join adventurer **Robert Twigger** for a canoe and kayak trip round the islands in Mochrum Loch. Robert is the author of 11 books including *Voyageur: Across the Rocky Mountains in a Birchbark Canoe* and *Micromastery*. Equipment provided; dress for the conditions. [402]  
*By kind permission of Mochrum Estate*

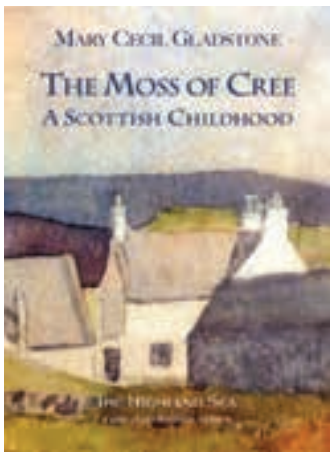
faced suspicious fishermen, red tape and grumpy engineers. She shares her entertaining account of hi-jinks, Highlanders and the high seas. [403]

12 NOON  
**Walter Reid**  
**Five Days from Defeat**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £6  
 For the Allies in the first world war, victory was anything but a foregone conclusion. In March 1918, Germany launched one of the conflict's most ferocious offensives, splitting the French and British, and driving the latter back towards the Channel ports. Walter Reid talks about his insightful account of one of history's great "what if?" moments. [404]

12 NOON  
**Mandy Haggith**  
**The Walrus Mutterer**  
 Whithorn Roundhouse | £6  
*The Walrus Mutterer* tells the story of a young woman in Iron Age Scotland who meets an Ancient Greek explorer after she is abducted by traders. Mandy Haggith introduces her thrilling new novel in the Iron Age-appropriate setting of Whithorn's Roundhouse. [405]

1.30PM  
**Karen Lloyd**  
**The Blackbird Diaries**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £6  
 Who hasn't been captivated by a blackbird on the lawn? In *The Blackbird Diaries*, Karen Lloyd – author of *The Gathering Tide* – shares the everyday magic of garden wildlife, as seen from her Lake District home. Winner of a Lakeland Award. [406]

3PM  
**John Boyne**  
**A Ladder to the Sky**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Born in Ireland in 1971, John Boyne is the author of numerous bestselling books



Mary Gladstone, 6pm, Tuesday 25 September

for adults and children, including *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and 2016's critically acclaimed *The Heart's Invisible Furies*. He introduces his new novel, *A Ladder to the Sky*, the tale of a thieving novelist who will stop at nothing to get to the top of his profession. [407]  
*Sponsored by Penkiln Sawmill Co Ltd*



John Boyne, 3pm, Tuesday 25 September

4.30PM  
**Stuart Cosgrove**  
**Memphis 68**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £6  
 Broadcaster Stuart Cosgrove talks about the second part of his dazzling non-fiction trilogy. *Memphis 68* tells the story of a crucial moment in US history through the music of Southern Soul. It's a tale defined by the deaths of Otis Redding and Martin Luther King, played out against the soundtrack of Stax records. There's even a walk-on role for a young Black Panther, Samuel L Jackson. [408]  
*Sponsored by Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press*

4.30PM  
**Oliver Thomson**  
**Zealots**  
 McNeillie Tent | £6  
 In the 1630s, a small group of religious zealots gathered in St Andrews. Through their plotting, they would unleash half a century of bloody holy wars, in Scotland, Ireland and England, that would transform those nations' fortunes. Oliver Thomson talks to **Stuart Kelly** about his fresh take on an age of civil strife. [409]



Karen Lloyd, 1.30pm, Tuesday 25 September



Stuart Cosgrove, 4.30pm, Tuesday 25 September

6PM  
**Mary Gladstone**  
**The Moss of Cree:**  
**A Scottish Childhood**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Mary Gladstone talks about the second part of her Highland Sea series, which tells the story of her childhood on a dairy farm by the River Cree. A tale of poachers and tramps, terrifying teachers and natural dangers, it conjures a life of freedom of which today's children can only dream. [410]  
*Sponsored by Craichlaw Estate*

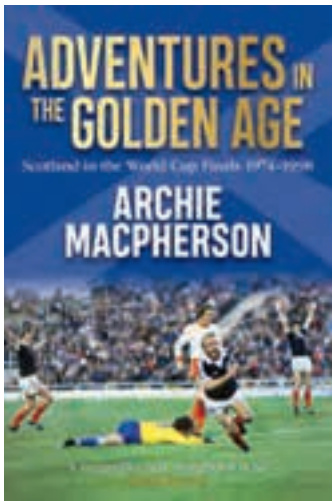
7.30PM  
**Archie Macpherson**  
**Adventures in the Golden Age: Scotland in the World Cup Finals 1974-1998**  
 Festival Marquee | £9  
 The voice of Scottish football, Archie Macpherson covered all 18 of Scotland's World Cup matches from 1974 to 1998. He shares his brilliantly entertaining account of a golden age, from Brazil to Peru, managerial rages to nocturnal antics, and that last painful evening in France. "A magnificently insightful read" Craig Brown [411]  
*Sponsored by James Hyslop Plumber*

7.30PM  
**FILM**  
**The Happy Prince**  
 County Buildings, Supper Room | £6  
 Rupert Everett directs and stars in this fresh new take on Oscar Wilde's last days. Cert 15. 105 min. [412]

7.30PM  
**20 Stuart Kelly's Literary Pub Quiz**  
 Craft, 30 South Main St | free  
 The infamous pub quiz takes its theme from our 20th-anniversary celebrations. [413]

7.30PM  
**THEATRE**  
**The Time Machine**  
 Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £14.50  
 A Victorian time traveller finds warnings in the future. Dryad Productions' radical interpretation of the HG Wells' classic. [414]

9.30PM  
**Book at Bedtime**  
 The Open Book | free  
 Wind down with bedtime readings and hot chocolate. The perfect end to the day. [415]



Archie Macpherson, 7.30pm, Tuesday 25 September



9.30AM

## Book Town Breakfast

Craft, 30 South Main St | £5

Music and chat with festival guests, hosted by **Jessica Fox**. [501]

10.30AM

## Nicholas Blincoe

**Bethlehem: Biography of a Town**  
Festival Marquee | £7

Nicholas Blincoe lived in Bethlehem for over 20 years. He takes us down the stone streets he knows intimately, spanning 11,000 years of history with tales of traders, crusaders and refugees, myth and religion. And he looks at how the "little town" survives today, a hostage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, surrounded by Israeli settlements. [502]

12 NOON

## Andrew J McCulloch

**Dumfriesshire: A Frontier Region**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

Dumfriesshire has always been a gateway to Scotland for immigrants



12 NOON

OUT & ABOUT

## A Pocket Pilgrimage – St Ninian's Cave

Meet Glasserton Old Kirk | £5

To mark the publication of a new guide to the ancient Glasgow-Whithorn pilgrimage route, join us for a gentle walk from Glasserton Old Kirk to St Ninian's Cave, near the Isle of Whithorn, in the company of **Sara Maitland**, author of *Gossip from the Forest*. Bring a picnic. Approx 2 hours. [503]



Christopher Baker,  
1.30pm, Wednesday 26 September

and invaders, from the Beaker people to the Anglo-Normans, such as Robert the Bruce's forebears. From the Wars of Independence to an era of peace after 1701, Andrew McCulloch offers the definitive guide to Galloway's neighbour. [504]

Sponsored by Creebridge Vet Centre

12 NOON

## Robert J Harris & Anthony O'Neill

**Castle Macnab & The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Seek**  
McNeillie Tent | £7

Robert J Harris's novels daringly bring back to life the characters of John Buchan; in *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Seek*, Edinburgh-based Australian Anthony O'Neill offers a sequel to Robert Louis Stevenson's most famous tale. Two authors talk about stepping in the footsteps of their famous inspirations. [505]

1.30PM

## Christopher Baker

**The Monarch of the Glen**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
*The Monarch of the Glen* is perhaps Scotland's most iconic work of art. But why? Christopher Baker, director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery and acting director of the Scottish National Gallery,



Paul French, 3pm, Wednesday 26 September

tells a fascinating story. He talks about Sir Edwin Landseer's work in the context of the 19th century, the artist's meteoric career, and the painting's often controversial afterlife. [506]

Sponsored by Hazel J L Smith Chartered Architect

3PM

## Paul French

**City of Devils: A Shanghai Noir**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
Shanghai in the 1930s could have given Chicago a run for its money. Before the Japanese invaded, the city was a haven for outlaws from

all over the world – pasts could be forgotten, names invented, fortunes made and lost. Paul French, author of the bestselling *Midnight in Peking*, talks about his latest true-crime history. [507]

3PM

## Julia Muir Watt

**Whithorn: An Economy of People**  
McNeillie Tent | £7

In 2012 and 2013, Julia Muir Watt interviewed 29 people, including the poet Alastair Reid and the writer and editor Andrew McNeillie, about life in Whithorn from the 1920s to the 1960s. She talks about her book, which reveals a community changed almost beyond recognition. [508]

Supported by Mary Nicholson

4.30PM

## Richard Emerson

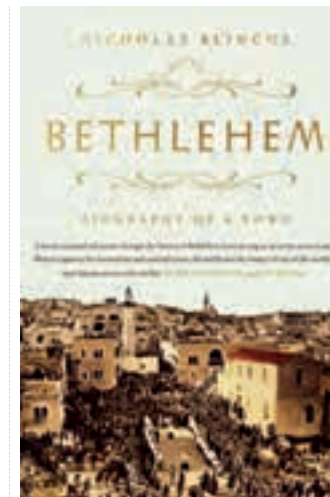
**Rhythm and Colour**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
The Colourist John Duncan Fergusson is a key figure in Scottish art history. But his lover Margaret Morris had equal claim to fame in their lifetime. A suffragette, impresario and avant-garde dancer who challenged conventional attitudes to sexuality, she helped put the Côte d'Azur on the map, cultivating a circle that included Ellen Terry, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, F Scott Fitzgerald, James Joyce, Pablo Picasso and Ernest Hemingway. Art historian Richard Emerson talks about his compelling new book. [509]

4.30PM

## Polly Pullar

**A Richness of Martens**

McNeillie Tent | £7  
Wildlife writer for *Scottish Field* magazine, Polly Pullar gives a rare glimpse into the life of the much misunderstood pine marten and offers a passionate portrait of one of Scotland's richest habitats, the oakwoods of Ardnarmurchan's Atlantic seaboard. [510]



Nicholas Blincoe, 10.30am, Wednesday 26 September



## 6PM The Making of The Book Town

County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
In 1998 Wigtown became Scotland's Book Town after winning a competition. In this special, celebratory event, we use photographs and recordings as we bring together some of the key figures in the town's transformation. We also ask: what will the next two decades hold for this unique national institution? [511]

Supported by Allan & Sandra McDowall

6.30PM

OUT & ABOUT

## Forest Adventure

Meet 11 North Main St | £25 (including camp supper)  
Join writers and adventurers **Robert Twigger** (*Big Snake*) and **Ken Ilgunas** (*Trespassing Across America*) for a sleepover at Culsharg Bothy in Galloway Forest Park. Learn about night-time navigation and swap tales round the campfire. A unique experience. Bring equipment including a sleeping bag and waterproof clothing and expect to walk in the dark. Over-18s only. [512]

7.30PM

FILM

## From Scotland with Love

County Buildings, Supper Room | £6  
Virginia Heath's joyful film brilliantly edits together Scottish film archive to create a tale of love and loss, work and play, accompanied by the transcendent music and lyrics of King Creosote. Cert: U. 76 min. [513]



## 7.30PM Stables Supper

Home Farm, Garlieston | £38  
Join us for a three-course supper. This year's guests of honour are **Darryl David** and **Peter Baker**, who set up South Africa's Book Town. [514]

7.30PM

## THEATRE The Power Behind the Crone

Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £12.50  
Professor Artemis Turret (Alison Skilbeck) sets out to refute the adage that "there are no good parts in Shakespeare for older women". 60 min. [515]

9.30PM

## Book at Bedtime

The Open Book | free  
The perfect end to the day. [516]



Robert J Harris, 12 noon, Wednesday 26 September



**9.30AM**  
**Book Town Breakfast**  
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
 Music, chat and coffee with  
**Jessica Fox** and guests. [601]

**10.30AM**  
**Darryl David & Peter Baker**  
**Inspired by Wigtown:**  
**South Africa's Book Town**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Inspired by Wigtown, literature professor Darryl David and Canadian vet Peter Baker had a dream: to create a book town in South Africa. They tell how the plan transformed the run-down little sheep town of Richmond, in the Karoo desert. [602]  
*Sponsored by Colin Tennant Photography*

**10.30AM**  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**Mark Williams**  
**A Festival Forage**  
 Meet Garlieston Car Park | £20  
 A guided walk with Scotland's only foraging tutor, Mark Williams of Galloway Wild Foods. [603]  
*Supported by Jack Oliver*

**12 NOON**  
**Bobby Duffy**  
**The Perils of Perception**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 How much tax do the rich pay? Is society becoming more violent? When people are asked fundamental questions about society, their

**12 NOON**  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**Sailing Adventure**  
 Meet Garlieston Harbour | £20  
 Sail from Garlieston to Portyerryrock Bay and return, splitting the journey between dinghys and a 30ft yacht. Poet **Stuart Paterson** will offer some insights into the lore of the Solway Firth. Includes light refreshments and instruction. *150 min approx.* [604]



Olga Wojtas, 4.30pm, Thursday 27 September

answers tend to be habitually wrong. Bobby Duffy, chairman of Ipsos Mori's Social Research Institute, offers an entertaining trip through the perception gap. What he says will transform the way you engage with the world in a "post-truth" era. "Mandatory reading," Steven Pinker. [605]

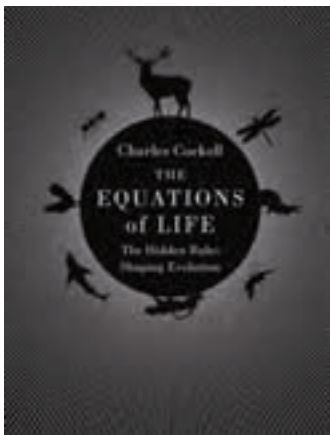
**12 NOON**  
**August Thomas**  
**Liar's Candle**  
 McNeillie Tent | £6  
 August Thomas's acclaimed thriller has been compared to John Le Carré. It tells the story of an intern at the US embassy in Ankara who accidentally knows too much after a terror attack: can she escape both the CIA and Turkish security? An American graduate of Edinburgh University's creative writing course, Thomas draws on her life in Turkey as a Fulbright Scholar. [606]

**1.30PM**  
**Emma Bache**  
**Reading Between the Lines**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 The UK's leading handwriting expert, Emma Bache believes penmanship can't help but reveal our deepest selves: no wonder in Japan all CVs

still have to be written by hand. She gives a crash course in what to look for, offers celebrity examples and invites audience participation. [607]

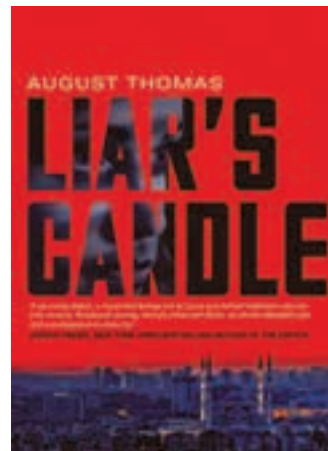
**3PM**  
**James Jauncey**  
**Tales of Don Roberto**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Known as Don Roberto, JRB Cunninghame Graham was an adventurer. In Argentina, he was a gaucho, in Mexico a buffalo hunter, and once he was held to ransom by a Moroccan sheikh. Along the way, he founded the Scottish Labour Party with Keir Hardie and later became founding president of the SNP. James Jauncey invites us to meet his extraordinary ancestor. [608]

**3PM**  
**Amanda Thomson**  
**A Scots Dictionary of Nature**  
 McNeillie Tent | £6  
 From an owl's call on a summer's evening ("huam") to walking in wet mud ("splorloch"), Scots has a myriad of words relating to nature. Amanda Thomson, a lecturer at Glasgow School of Art, was determined to preserve them. She reveals her stroll through the undergrowth of language. [609]  
*Sponsored by East Knockbrec Farm*



Charles Cockell, 4.30pm, Thursday 27 September

wigtownbookfestival.com



August Thomas, 12 noon, Thursday 27 September

**4.30PM**  
**Charles Cockell**  
**The Equations of Life**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 How come gazelles have legs not wheels? Why is life based on carbon not silicone? What would an alien look like? Charles Cockell, professor of astrobiology at Edinburgh University, explains why evolution took the paths it did and what forces created our natural world. [610]

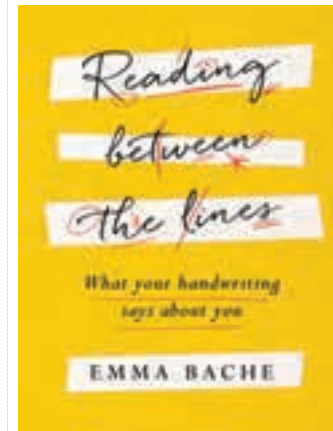
**4.30PM**  
**Olga Wojtas**  
**Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Golden Samovar**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 Olga Wojtas introduces her hilarious homage to Jean Brodie. Shona, a time-travelling Morningside librarian who's also a martial artist, linguist and hater of Muriel Spark's most famous work, is sent to 19th-century Russia on a secret mission. [611]  
*Sponsored by Publishing Scotland*

**6PM**  
**Cameron McNeish**  
**There's Always the Hills**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Cameron McNeish embodies Scotland's love affair with the outdoors. For forty years, he has

written and broadcast on his passion, which has taken him from his beloved Cairngorms to the Himalayas, and brought him face to face with legends such as Sir Chris Bonington and Tom Weir. He reveals the ups and downs of a life lived in the wilds. [612]  
*Sponsored by Merrick Real Estate*

**6PM**  
**THEATRE**  
**The Flames**  
 The Print Room | £5  
 The Flames is a Glasgow-based theatre company offering people over 50 the chance to take to the stage professionally. Everyday stories are transformed through film, music and performance as they offer a fresh take on ageing. [613]

**7.30PM**  
**PANEL**  
**Love in the Countryside**  
 Festival Marquee | £7  
 Finding rural romance may not be easy but it is often funny. Described as *Bridget Jones's Diary* meets *All Creatures Great and Small*, **Maura McElhone's** *Falling for a Farmer* charts her journey from wide-eyed townie to silage widow. She joins Wigtown Show Secretary **Richard Oxley** and Dumfriesshire farmer **Christine Crosbie**, whose quests for love in the countryside were featured in the BBC2



Emma Bache, 1.30pm, Thursday 27 September



Cameron McNeish, 6pm, Thursday 27 September

show of the same name. [614]  
*Sponsored by Creebridge House Hotel*

**7.30PM**  
**THEATRE**  
**The Power Behind the Crone**  
 Swallow Theatre,  
 Ravenstone | £12.50  
 See Wed 26 Sep, 7.30pm. [615]

**7.30PM**  
**The Midge**  
**Travellers' Tales**  
 Up the Garden Path, Pop Up Bar | £5  
 The storytelling evening returns with true tales from abroad – from Gap-year hell to holiday heaven. Tell yours or simply listen to others. [616]

**8PM**  
**FILM**  
**The Eyes of Orson Welles**  
 County Buildings, Supper Room | £6  
 Mark Cousins' beautiful new documentary offers a ravishingly original portrait of the great showman through his drawings and paintings. Cert 12A. *115 min.* [617]

**9.30PM**  
**Book at Bedtime**  
 The Open Book | free  
 The perfect end to the day. [618]





Richard MacLean Smith, 4.30pm, Friday 28 September

**9.30AM**  
**Book Town Breakfast**  
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
 Music and chat from **The Bookshop Band** and guests.  
 Who's on the sofa today? [701]

**10.30AM**  
**Julian Baggini**  
**How the World Thinks: A Global History of Philosophy**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Why have different parts of the globe inspired such diverse philosophies? How might we reconcile the traditions of, say, Ancient Greece, China and the Islamic world? Julian Baggini went on the road to find out. He offers a wide-ranging map of human thought and argues that, by exploring how other cultures conceive reality, we can lose our certainties and take a step to greater understanding. [702]

**10.30AM**  
**Cally Phillips**  
**JM Barrie's Echoes of War**  
 McNeillie Tent | £6  
 During the first world war, JM Barrie wrote four short plays about how the conflict was experienced on the home front, published in 1918 as *Echoes of War*. As the Peter Pan Moat

Brae visitor attraction in Dumfries prepares to open, Cally Phillips explores a lesser-known side of the writer. [703]

**12 NOON**  
**Louis McGuffie Commemoration**  
 By County Buildings | free  
 unticketed  
 Please join us for a ceremony to unveil a memorial to Sergeant Louis McGuffie VC of Wigtown, exactly 100 years after the action for which he received the Victoria Cross. See also 4.30pm.

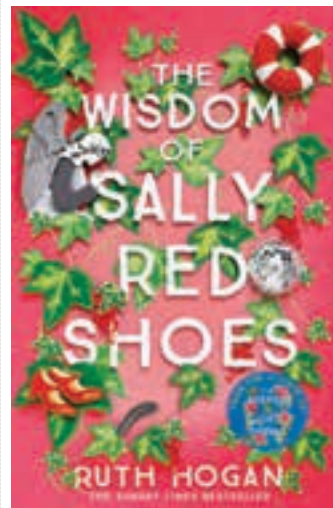
**12 NOON**  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**Crafty Gin Distillery Tour**  
 Wigtown Road, Newton Stewart | £7  
 This special tour of Wigtownshire's state-of-the-art distillery includes a chance to explore the flavours of the signature Hills & Harbour gin. [704]

**12 NOON**  
**Alison Belsham**  
**The Tattoo Thief**  
 McNeillie Tent | £6  
 In 2016, Alison Belsham won a pitching event at the Bloody Scotland festival with what would become *The Tattoo Thief*. One of the year's most anticipated debuts, her exhilarating novel is a high-concept thriller about a young policeman



and a tattoo artist with a secret. With a serial killer playing his victims to collect their skin art, the unlikely pair are forced together. [705]

**1.30PM**  
**Tristan Gooley**  
**Wild Signs and Star Paths**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 Bestselling writer and explorer Tristan Gooley has led expeditions on five continents, spent time with the Tuareg, Bedouin and Dayak in some of the remotest places on Earth and pioneered a renaissance in the art of natural navigation.



Ruth Hogan, 3pm, Friday 28 September

A brilliant communicator, in this illustrated talk he reveals how we can rekindle our "sixth sense" and create a life-changing new relationship to the outdoors. [706]  
*Sponsored by Miltonise Farms*

**1.30PM**  
**Recording War**  
**"Little is known..."**  
 The Print Room | free  
 For the Recording War project, local writers were invited to respond to exhibits in Annan and Dumfries museums that told the story of the first world war. Hear their work on a special day of remembrance for Wigtown. The project was led by **Vivien Jones**, whose poem in the Imperial War Museum's 100 Writers exhibition will also be read. [707]

**3PM**  
**Rose George**  
**Nine Pints**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Blood is a waste product and a commodity pricier than oil. It heals yet transmits deadly infections. Many faint when they see it, but each of us has roughly nine pints. From ancient bloodletting to state-of-art synthetic plasma, Rose George will change the way you see the very stuff of life. [708]

**3PM**  
**Ruth Hogan**  
**The Wisdom of Sally Red Shoes**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 Selected for the Richard and Judy Book Club, Ruth Hogan's debut novel, *The Keeper of Lost Things* sold more than a million copies. She introduces her new book, another tale of friendship and redemption. Crushed by a personal tragedy, Masha swims underwater to escape the world. But a chance meeting with two women, including mysterious bag lady Sally Red Shoes, offers hope. [709]  
*Sponsored by Galloway Heathers*

**Wigtown Book Festival 2018**



**3PM**  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**Anne Crone**  
**Uncovering Scotland's Iron Age**  
 Whithorn Roundhouse | £6  
 Join archaeologist Anne Crone in Whithorn's reconstructed Iron Age roundhouse. She talks about how wetland excavations help reveal the period, drawing on her work at Black Loch, near Monreith, and at Cults Loch, near Castle Kennedy, which are the subject of a new book, *A Lake Dwelling in Its Landscape*. The talk will be followed by a walk to the Iron Age fortified site at Rispaan Fort (4km round trip approx). [710]  
*Sponsored by The Priory Vet Centre*

**4.30PM**  
**Mike Morley & Jack Hunter**  
**Louis McGuffie VC: Wigtown's War Hero**  
 Festival Marquee | £8  
 On 28 September 1918 in Belgium, Wigtown's Louis McGuffie singlehandedly entered a series of enemy dugouts to take more than 25 prisoners. Tragically he was killed by a shell a few days later, to be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. One hundred years to the day after his heroic actions, historians Mike Morley and Jack Hunter tell his story. [711]  
*Sponsored by Stair Estates*

**4.30PM**  
**Richard MacLean Smith**  
**Unexplained: Supernatural Stories for Uncertain Times**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
 Based on the "world's spookiest podcast" of the same name, *Unexplained* is a book of 10 real-life mysteries that defy reason – from demonic possession in 1970s Germany to reincarnation in Middlesbrough. Richard MacLean Smith looks beyond the simple thrill of the uncanny to ask: what do they reveal about human experience? [712]  
*Sponsored by Krista Robertson Design*



Sarah Churchwell, 6pm, Friday 28 September





Please come and visit us at the John McNeillie Library at the Wigtown County Buildings for more information

# Bookbug Sessions

We will also be running extra Bookbug sessions throughout the week and we've increased our opening hours for the week of the festival.

Check the listings to see what's on and when.



Ruth Jones, 6pm, Friday 28 September

Robin Ince  
I'M A JOKE AND SO ARE YOU

On the Seven Deadly Sins  
KENNETH BAKER

6PM  
**Ruth Jones**  
Never Greener  
Festival Marquee | £9

Ruth Jones is best known for starring as the incorrigible Nessa in the BBC1 comedy *Gavin and Stacey*, which she co-wrote with Jamie Goldacre. Her first novel, *Never Greener*, was a *Sunday Times* chart-topping novel. Witty and warm, it follows a successful actress who meets a married man with whom she once had an affair. Are life's second chances worth taking? "Unputdownable", JoJo Moyes. [713]

6PM  
**Sarah Churchwell**  
Behold America: A Partial History of America First and the American Dream  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

President Trump promised to revive the "American Dream" by putting "America First". But what do those terms mean? And what does their fascinating history reveal about attitudes to capitalism, democracy and race in the US? Sarah Churchwell is Professor of American Literature and Chair of Public Understanding of the Humanities at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. "Enormously entertaining," *Sunday Times*. [714]  
Sponsored by Park Cottage

7.30PM  
**Robin Ince**  
I'm a Joke and So Are You  
Festival Marquee | £7

Robin Ince is a comedian. And, for years, in BBC Radio 4's *The Infinite Monkey Cage*, he's popularised science. Who better to put together this funny and thoughtful guide to the mind, which taps into the insights of comics, neuroscientists and psychologists. [715]  
Sponsored by Bellis Consultancy

7.30PM  
**Kenneth Baker**  
On the Seven Deadly Sins  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

In a lavishly illustrated talk, former Home Secretary Kenneth Baker explores how the Seven Deadly Sins have shaped history from Ancient Greece to today's secular world. [716]  
Sponsored by Cally Palace Hotel

7.30PM  
**PERFORMANCE**  
**Brave New Words**  
McNeillie Tent | free

**Jenny Lindsay** of Flint & Pitch hosts a special evening of the Dumfries-based spoken word event Brave New Words with music from **Waitress for the Bees** (novelist Emma Hooper). [717]

7.30PM  
**THEATRE**  
**The Picture of Dorian Gray**  
Swallow Theatre, Ravenstone | £13.50  
See Sat 29 Sep, 7.30pm. [718]

8PM  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**Harbour Stargazing**  
Meet by County Buildings | £5

Dark skies and moon rise with expert **Elizabeth Tindal**. [719]

9.30PM  
**Book at Bedtime**  
The Open Book | free

Stories and hot chocolate. [720]





Ayesha Hazarika, 10.30am, Saturday 29 September

**9.30AM**  
**Book Town Breakfast**  
 Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
 Coffee. Pastries. **The Bookshop Band.** Guests. What more could you want? [801]

**10.30AM**  
**Mike Morley**  
**Wigtown Warriors**  
 Festival Marquee | £7  
 Over 240 people with Wigtown connections served their country in the first world war. More than 80 were killed. Wigtown resident Mike Morley has been delving in the archives and shares stories of sacrifice and bravery. [802]  
*Sponsored by J B Costley Builders*

**10.30AM**  
**Ayesha Hazarika**  
**Punch and Judy Politics: An Insiders' Guide to Prime Minister's Questions**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £6  
 Now a broadcaster and stand-up comedian, former Westminster political adviser Ayesha Hazarika spent five years prepping Ed Miliband for Prime Minister's Questions. She offers a hilarious, insightful guide (written with Tom Hamilton)

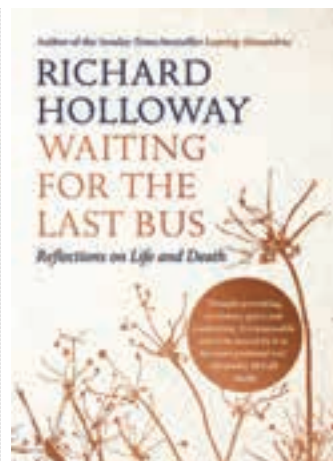


Patrick Gale, 12 noon, Saturday 29 September

to politics' most famous bear pit, and spares nobody's blushes in the process. "That rare thing: a genuinely informative, funny and original book on politics," Andrew Marr. [803]

**10.30AM**  
**Emma Hooper & Kirsty Logan**  
**Our Homesick Songs & The Gloaming**  
 McNeillie Tent | £6

Two island novels of magic and mermaids by two huge talents, from Canada and Scotland respectively. Emma Hooper's *Our Homesick Songs* is a haunting tale of a fading Newfoundland fish town and a boy who will do anything to save his family. In Kirsty Logan's fishy love



Richard Holloway, 1.30pm, Saturday 29 September



Mike Morley, 10.30am, Saturday 29 September

story *The Gloaming*, the inhabitants of Mara's island are doomed to end their days turned to stone on a cliff. [805]  
*Sponsored by Craft*

**12 NOON**  
**Patrick Gale**  
**Take Nothing with You**  
 Festival Marquee | £8

Born in 1962 on the Isle of Wight, son of the prison governor, Patrick Gale is one of Britain's best-loved and bestselling novelists, an astute and sympathetic observer of human nature whose works include *Rough Music* and the BBC drama *Man in an Orange Shirt*. Set partly in the Borders, *Take Nothing With You* charts a collision between childish hero worship and messy adult love lives. "A wonderful, wonderful read," Stephen Fry. [806]  
*Sponsored by Portequip*

**12 NOON**  
**Jo Swinson**  
**Equal Power: And How You Can Make It Happen**  
 County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
 As a former Minister for Women, and an MP who took maternity leave only to be betrayed by her Tory "pair" in a crucial vote, deputy Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson knows more than most about gender, power and politics. She talks about why inequality between the sexes is so persistent and what can be done to change the status quo. [807]  
*Sponsored by citybothy.com*

**12 NOON**  
**John Connell**  
**The Cow Book**  
 McNeillie Tent | £7  
 John Connell discusses his number one bestseller in Ireland. *The Cow Book* tells how he unexpectedly returned from Australia to run his family farm in County Longford. Set over a calving season, it's an

**Wigtown Book Festival 2018**



Jo Swinson, 12 noon, Saturday 29 September



John Connell, 12 noon, Saturday 29 September

**12 NOON - 3PM**  
**Meet the Agent**  
 County Buildings, Museum | free (book in advance)  
 Literary agent **Jenny Brown** will be on hand for writers to pitch new work between 10.30am and 1pm. To reserve a slot, and submit work, please email [boxoffice@wigtownbookfestival.com](mailto:boxoffice@wigtownbookfestival.com)  
 Booking essential. [808]

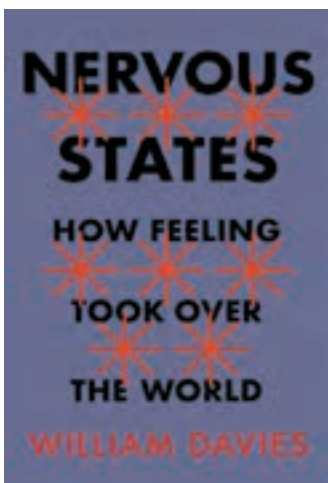
account of farming, faith and family, depression, healing and joy, but it's also the story of the cow itself through history. "Gripping," Roddy Doyle. "Vivid and sharply observed," Colm Toibin. [809]  
*Sponsored by Montpelier Chartered Accountants*

**12 NOON**  
**The Reading Development Event**  
 The Print Room | free  
 Almost 40 percent of children find learning to read difficult. Join us to discuss the challenges faced by those with dyslexia, which will also highlight tools and support networks to break down some of the barriers. Our panel includes **Dr Jeremy Law**, University of Glasgow, School of Interdisciplinary Studies; **Lucy Juckes**, co-founder of Barrington Stoke publishers; and **Rossie Stone**, director of Dekko Comics. [810]



Alex Johnson, 6pm, Saturday 29 September





William Davies, 1.30pm, Saturday 29 September

1.30PM

**Richard Holloway****Waiting for the Last Bus**  
Festival Marquee | £8

Radical, joyful and moving, *Waiting for the Last Bus* is an invitation to reconsider life's greatest mystery. The former Bishop of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway has spent a lifetime at the bedsides of the dying. He reflects on the most important lessons we can learn from death. "Thought-provoking, revelatory, grave and comforting," Alexander McCall Smith. [811]

*Sponsored by Galbraith*

1.30PM

**William Davies**  
**Nervous States**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
Why do we no longer trust experts? What lies behind today's populist upheavals? William Davies, author of *The Happiness Industry*, looks to the past to explain the present. He argues that, as many of the basic assumptions on which the modern world was founded vanish, fear is driving us to rely on feelings not facts. The author teaches political economy and sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. [812]

36

1.30PM

**Andrew Miller****Now We Shall Be Entirely Free**  
McNeillie Tent | £7

The Costa Award-winning author of *Pure* and *Ingenious Pain* introduces his stunning historical novel, the tale of a traumatised soldier, back from the Napoleonic Wars, whose search for peace in the Hebrides turns into a nail-biting hunt to the death. "One of our most skilful chroniclers of the human heart and mind," *Sunday Times*. [813]

1.30PM

OUT &amp; ABOUT

**Natalie McIlroy****Pippins Revisited Walk**

Meet by County Buildings | free  
In 2014, environmental artist Natalie McIlroy planted 31 Galloway Pippin apple trees in gardens around Wigtown. Hear about the project, visit some of the trees and listen to their owners' stories. [814]

3PM

**Sally Magnusson****The Sealwoman's Gift**  
Festival Marquee | £8

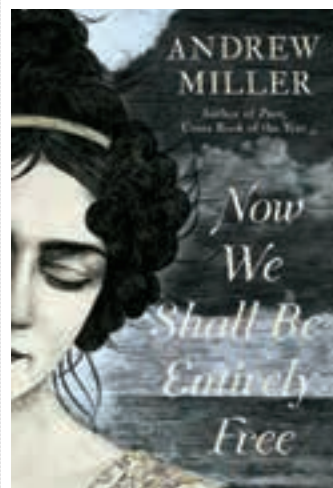
In 1627, Barbary pirates raided the coast of Iceland and abducted some 400 people. Among the captives sold into slavery in Algiers were a pastor, his wife and children. In her bestselling take on the story, writer

and broadcaster Sally Magnusson tells of Ásta, the pastor's wife who endures her changed circumstances with the one thing she brought from home: the stories in her head. [815]  
*Sponsored by A B & A Matthews*

3PM

**Ed Vulliamy****When Words Fail**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
As a journalist reporting from conflict zones, Ed Vulliamy knows the power of music to say what words can't. He talks to **Allan Little**, whom he worked beside in Bosnia, about his account of 16 life-changing concerts,



Andrew Miller, 1.30pm, Saturday 29 September



Ed Vulliamy, 3pm, Saturday 29 September



Sally Magnusson, 3pm, Saturday 29 September

from Jimi Hendrix at the Isle of Wight Festival, to the Bataclan in Paris and the siege of Sarajevo. He asks: would the world be a better place if we listened more and talked less? [816]  
*Sponsored by Simpsons Bakery*

3PM

**The Whithorn Way**

McNeillie Tent | £6

Explore the legend, lore and landscape of the 143-mile westerly pilgrimage route to the medieval shrine of St Ninian. **Julia Muir Watt** discusses her new guide, *Walk the Whithorn Way*, with writers **Jessica Fox** and **Sara Maitland**, who have been stepping out on the trail. [817]

3PM

THE BIG BANG EVENT

**Is Reality Discovered or Invented?**

The Print Room | £6

Join us for a taste of Wigtown's Big Bang, our winter celebration of science. The *Guardian's* **Max Sanderson** enlists the help of BBC Radio 4 science presenter **Timandra Harkness** and **Professor John Brown**, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, to chew on science's biggest philosophical question. Do the laws of maths, on which all scientific theories are based, underpin nature? Or are they invented to describe an ultimately unknowable reality? [818]

Wigtown Book Festival 2018

4.30PM

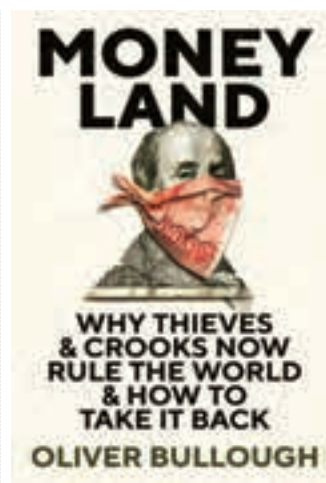
**Ann Cleeves****Wild Fire**

Festival Marquee | £8

A former probation officer, bird-observatory cook and auxiliary coastguard, Ann Cleeves is now one of the UK's leading crime writers. Her books have sold more than five million copies worldwide and spawned two much-loved TV adaptations, *Shetland* and *Vera*. She discusses her life in writing, the final book of the Shetland series, *Wild Fire*, and the sweet sorrow of saying farewell to its hero, Jimmy Perez. [819]  
*Sponsored by Ferry Fish*



Ann Cleeves, 4.30pm, Saturday 29 September



Oliver Bullough, 4.30pm, Saturday 29 September

4.30PM

**Oliver Bullough****Moneyland**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £8

Investigative journalist Oliver Bullough takes us on a trip to Moneyland, a realm of the lawless, stateless super rich. He argues that lax attitudes to money-laundering are undermining the West's stability, explains the true cost of a Britain that is "open for business" whoever the customers, and introduces us to the kleptocrats and their awful children. [820]  
*Sponsored by Coburg Capital Ltd*

4.30PM

**David Clark****Cicely Saunders:****A Life and Legacy**

McNeillie Tent | £7

Born 100 years ago, Dame Cicely Saunders revolutionised care for the dying, opening the world's first modern hospice in 1967. David Clark discusses his study of a remarkable nurse, social worker, physician and writer, who succeeded in the face of a complex private life and others' scepticism. Professor Clark is the Wellcome Trust Investigator at the University of Glasgow, School of Interdisciplinary Studies. [821]

37





Arabella Weir, 6pm, Saturday 29 September

4.30PM

PERFORMANCE

### Lord Fox: A Fable

Cruggleton Church | £8

Created for the Edinburgh International Book Festival by songwriter **Kirsty Law**, author **Kirsty Logan** and contemporary harpist **Esther Swift**, *Lord Fox* reimagines the traditional folk tale of seduction, curiosity and revenge. Join them on a dark journey that may leave you questioning the stories we are told. [822]

### 6PM Arabella Weir Does My Bum Still Look Big in This?

Festival Marquee | £8

In 1998, the actor, comedian and writer Arabella Weir published her first book, *Does My Bum Look Big in This?*. Its title inspired by her *Fast Show* catchphrase, the novel presented the diary of an "ordinary, insecure woman in her thirties". So how does the world look two



Davy Zyw, Saturday 29 September, 7.30pm

decades on, with the wisdom of age, and in the age of social media and #metoo. Have things really changed? She offers a hilarious hour of conversation with broadcaster **Clare English**. [823]  
Sponsored by Galloway Chillies

6PM

### Tom Devine

**The English in Modern Scotland**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7

How have Scots reacted to the settlement of many thousands of English people among them in the last half-century? This is only one of the questions considered by the nation's leading historian in this talk based on his recently published *New Scots: Scotland's Immigrant Communities Since 1945*. [824]  
Sponsored by Wigtown Pharmacy



6PM

### Alex Johnson

**Book Towns: Forty-Five Paradises of the Printed Word**  
McNeillie Tent | £7

There are more than 40 official and semi-official Book Towns around the world, from the original Hay-on-Wye to Jimbocho in Japan and Selfoss in Iceland, not forgetting Wigtown itself. Alex Johnson talks about his beautiful new book which celebrates the stories of these havens of literature. [825]  
Supported by ScottishPower Energy Networks

6PM

### Wigtown Poetry Competition 2018

The Print Room | free

Join us for readings and refreshments as **Christine De Luca** announces the winner of Scotland's international poetry prize while **Angus Peter Campbell** and **Jenny Lindsay** reveal their choices in the Scots Gaelic and Scots Language Categories respectively. [826]  
Supported by The Gaelic Books Council and the Saltire Society

7.30PM

### Davy Zyw

**A Festival of Fizz**

County Buildings, Main Hall | £10  
As former Italian wine buyer for Tesco, Davy Zyw has bought more prosecco than anyone on the

planet. The former sommelier at Le Gavroche and author of *I Love Champagne* and *101 Champagnes and Other Sparkling Wines* will lead you through an entertaining hour's tasting. Bubbles included. [827]

7.30PM

### Donald Smith

**The Irish Hoard**

The Print Room | £6

Join one of Scotland's top storytellers for a boisterous hour as he launches the first of his "Treacherous Times" novellas, a satirical take on "a Scotland in the grip of Brexit malaise". Set in Wigtown and Whithorn, *The Irish Hoard* tells of a surprise archaeological discovery that leads to mayhem and skulduggery. Donald Smith is the founding director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre. [828]



The Festival Ceilidh, 8.45pm, Saturday 29 September

7.30PM

THEATRE

### The Picture of Dorian Gray

Swallow Theatre,  
Ravenstone | £13.50

"What does it profit a person if they gain the whole world and lose their

own soul?" An original adaptation by Box Tale Soup (*Northanger Abbey*, *Manalive!*) of Oscar Wilde's haunting story of vanity, debauchery and scandal. 70 min. [829]

8.45PM

### The Festival Ceilidh

Festival Marquee | £6

Join us for an evening of celebration and dancing to the sounds of the Cask Strength ceilidh band. Whether it's your first ceilidh or your hundredth, everyone is welcome. [830]  
Sponsored by Crafty Distillery

9.30PM

### Book at Bedtime

The Open Book | free

Wind down with bedtime readings and hot chocolate. A perfect end to the day. [831]

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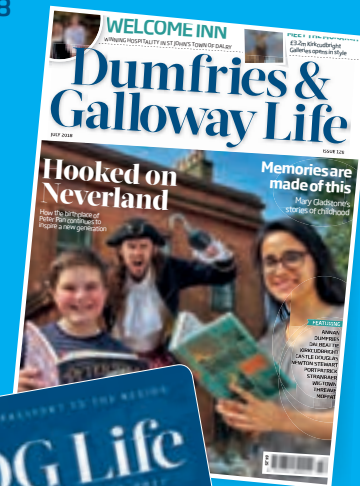


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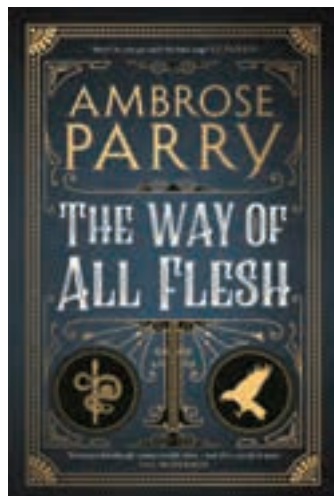




9.30AM  
**Book Town Breakfast**  
Craft, 30 South Main St | £5  
Conversation and music from **The Bookshop Band** and guests. [907]

10.30AM  
**David Hayman**  
**Scotland's Slavery Story**  
Festival Marquee | £8  
An actor, director and founder of the humanitarian organisation Spirit Aid, David Hayman has also become known for his impassioned documentaries on the nation's history. He discusses the latest, made for the BBC, in which he has looked at Scotland's role in the slave trade, from contributions to its abolition to the huge industrial profits from human misery, which helped found so many of our institutions. [902]  
*Sponsored by Hillcrest House*

10.30AM  
**Peter Dorward**  
**The Human Kind**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
What does it mean to be a GP and know you are bound to fail many patients over the years, to misunderstand and be



Chris Brookmyre & Marisa Haetzmann, 12 noon, Sunday 30 September



James Crawford, 12 noon, Sunday 30 September

misunderstood? In *The Human Kind*, Peter Dorward reveals the ethical dilemmas that doctors encounter every day in their surgeries, and truthfully recalls his own failures, from the tragic to the humorous. He talks about his moving and humane book with journalist **Allan Little**. [903]

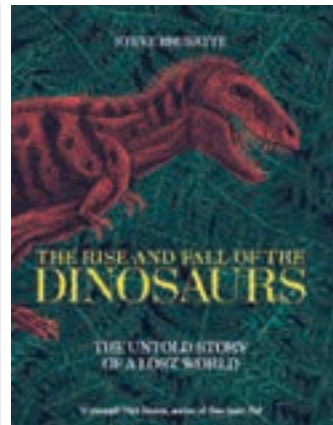
10.30AM  
**Jessica A Fox**  
**Three Things You Need To Know About Rockets**  
McNeillie Tent | £7

First published in 2012 and now optioned by a major Hollywood film company, Jessica Fox's comic memoir told the story of how, on a whim, she gave up her job working for Nasa in Los Angeles to work in a Wigtown bookshop and find love. In this re-released and revised version, she frankly reveals what happened next, as romantic fantasy met romantic reality. [904]

*Sponsored by Carslae Farm*

12 NOON  
**Chris Brookmyre & Marisa Haetzman**  
**Ambrose Parry: The Way of All Flesh**

Festival Marquee | £7  
Ambrose Parry is the pseudonym of award-winning crime-writer Chris Brookmyre and consultant anaesthesiologist, Dr Marisa



Steve Brusatte, 3pm, Sunday 30 September



Peter Dorward, 10.30am, Sunday 30 September

wigtownbookfestival.com

Haetzman. The husband-and-wife team has created a new historical mystery, set in the feverish underworld of 1840s Edinburgh, a city of medicine, money and murder. Prepare to be surprised and amused in this immersive event. [905]

*Sponsored by Andrew Plunkett Steel Buildings Ltd*

12 NOON  
**James Crawford**  
**Scotland from the Sky**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £8  
Historian turned TV presenter James Crawford tells the story of the nation from above. For his beautiful book, based on the 2018 BBC TV series, he draws on Historic Environment Scotland's vast archive of aerial photography. He also takes to the sky himself, revealing treasures invisible at ground level and how much the landscape has changed, for good or ill, in the name of progress. [906]  
*Sponsored by Blairbuy Farm*

12 NOON  
**Madeleine Black**  
**Unbroken**  
McNeillie Tent | £7  
At the age of 13, Madeleine Black faced more physical and emotional trauma than most people do in a lifetime. Violently gang raped and abused, she spent years tormented by psychological demons. Now a psychotherapist working in Glasgow, she talks about *Unbroken*, her remarkable memoir of how she came not only to rebuild her life but to forgive. "A powerful testament to forgiveness, by an author who has suffered greatly," Alexander McCall Smith. [907]

12 NOON  
**A Poet's Party**  
The Print Room | £6  
At the first Wigtown Book Festival, the late Alastair Reid shared a stage with **Christine de Luca** (now Edinburgh Makar) and **Tom Pow** (who has recently edited Reid's

Wigtown Book Festival 2018

collected verse). We reunite two of our most respected poets, who are joined by a third, 2018 Gaelic Prize judge **Angus Peter Campbell**. Their readings reflect on the passing of time and friends absent and present. [908]

1.30PM  
**Tom Devine**  
**The Scottish Clearances: A History of the Dispossessed**  
Festival Marquee | £8  
The landscape of Scotland today came at a heavy price. In a major new work, Professor Sir Tom Devine has told the story of the destruction of entire communities and 300 years of large-scale emigration from both Highlands and Lowlands. He talks about his reassessment and challenges some of the myths around these epic upheavals. [909]  
*Sponsored by Wigtown Motor Company*

1.30PM  
**Mark Cocker**  
**Our Place**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
Can we save Britain's wildlife before it is too late? Acclaimed author and activist Mark Cocker – author of *Crow Country* – went on a mission to find out, from Norfolk's flatlands



Mark Cocker, 1.30pm, Sunday 30 September



Madeleine Black, 12 noon, Sunday 30 September

to the flow country of Caithness and Sutherland. He charts the history of the environmental movement in the UK and asks why the British love the countryside so fiercely, yet inhabit one of the most denatured landscapes on Earth. [910]  
*Sponsored by Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere*

1.30PM  
**PANEL**  
**The Future of Technology**  
McNeillie Tent | £7

Since the birth of Google in September 1998, technology has transformed our lives. We look at the social consequences of living through a digital revolution and ask what the next 20 years may bring, from AI and robots stealing our jobs, to new conceptions of privacy, leisure, intelligence and selfhood. Should we be excited or afraid? Our panel includes: **William Davies**, author of *Nervous States* and editor of a new volume, *Economic Science Fictions*; **Timandra Harkness**, presenter of BBC Radio 4's *FutureProofing*; and leading Scottish science fiction writer, **Ken MacLeod**. [911]





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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

3PM  
20TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE  
**Allan Little**

**1998 and All This**  
Festival Marquee | £8  
Allan Little considers the challenges that the world order has faced since 1998. Drawing on his career as a reporter, from Bosnia to Baghdad and Congo, he considers history's tendency to make fools of us all, and asks whether liberal democracy as we've known it is doomed. Born in Wigtownshire, Allan Little is a BBC special correspondent and



Allan Little, 3pm, Sunday 30 September

chair of Edinburgh International Book Festival. [912]  
*Sponsored by I Fisher*

3PM  
**Steve Brusatte**

**The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs**  
County Buildings, Main Hall | £7  
What if much of what we think we know about dinosaurs is wrong? One of a new breed of dinosaur "hunters", Edinburgh University's Dr Steve Brusatte presents his bestseller, which tells a new story of how these magnificent beasts ruled Earth for 150 million years. "Thrilling," *Sunday Times*. [913]  
*Sponsored by Shennanton Sawmill*

3PM  
**Isabel Losada**

**Sensation: Adventures in Sex, Love and Laughter**  
McNeillie Tent | £7  
Join the author of the bestselling *The Battersea Park Guide to Enlightenment* as she brings her customary blend of humour, curiosity and honesty to the subject of sex. Irreverent, open-minded and



Isabel Losada, 3pm, Sunday 30 September

funny, *Sensation* is the story of the author's year-long quest to find out how to make our sex lives better. "I want to learn this stuff," Russell Brand. [914]

3PM  
**Stuart Paterson**  
**Here Is the Weather**

**The Print Room | £6**  
In 2017, Stuart Paterson was appointed BBC Scotland's Poet in Residence, responding to the network's output. He reads from his work and talks to **Asif Khan**, director of the Scottish Poetry Library, about how the individual poems originated. [915]

4.30PM  
**OUT & ABOUT**  
**MUSIC**

**Live from The Birdhide**

Wigtown Harbour | £5  
Celebrate the end of the festival with an outdoor concert at Wigtown Harbour. **Waitress for the Bees** (Canadian novelist Emma Hooper) joins Ben Please and Beth Porter of **The Bookshop Band** for an hour of verbally dexterous folk melodies beside the Solway Firth. [917]



Jessica Fox, 10.30am, Sunday 30 September



# Big Wig

Entertaining & inspiring events for our youngest festival-goers

★ Fri 21 Sept ★

**ACCESS** Alan Gibbons  
Dream Team

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
4pm | Free | 8+  
Coach Ayo takes the team to the library for some research to help improve their game. To their surprise, the past really does hold the key to making this season work. Suitable for reluctant or dyslexic readers. [C02]



Ross Montgomery, 11.30am, Saturday 22 September

as he talks about his hilarious *Mr Gum* series and his new book *Natboff! One Million Years of Stupidity*, set in Mr Gum's hometown. [C04]  
*Supported by Aaron, Kyran & Harry*

**Ross Montgomery**  
Space Tortoise

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
11.30am | £3.50 | 3-7  
A lonely tortoise longs to reach the stars and find other animals to play with. Using things he finds in the bin, he makes a spacesuit and sets off to find the rocket at the other end of the park - but is it really a spaceship? [C05]  
*Supported by Hamish & Evan*

**10-13** Christopher Lloyd  
What On Earth?

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
11.30am | £3.50 | Families 7+  
Journey around the earth in wonder

as we explore the story of the planet, from history to nature, science to Shakespeare. These award-winning timeline wallbooks unfold the key moments in the history of the world with facts and beautiful illustrations. [C06]  
*Supported by Eloise & Natasha*

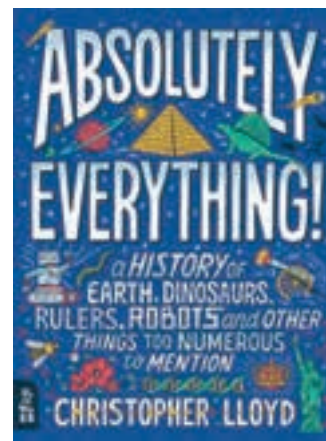
**Lari Don & Nataša Ilinčić**  
The Treasure of the Loch Ness Monster

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
1pm | £3.50 | 5-7  
Ishbel and Kenneth need to save their family from going hungry, so when they remember an old tale about treasure under Urquhart Castle, they



Andy Stanton, 10am, Saturday 22 September

wigtownbookfestival.com



Christopher Lloyd, 11.30am, Saturday 22 September



Shirley Husband, 4pm, Saturday 22 September

set off across Loch Ness. Can they reveal the monster in the depths? [C07]  
*Sponsored by Curly Tale Books*

**Barbara Mitchelhill**  
No 1 Boy Detective series

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
2.30pm | £3.50 | 6+  
Damian Drooth is one of a kind. A clean-up-the-world hero. Help Damian solve the mysteries of ghosts, dog snatchers, forged football tickets and graffiti. Criminals beware! [C08]  
*Supported by Holly & Arthur*

**Jarvis**  
Tropical Terry

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
2.30pm | £3.50 | 3+  
Terry feels dull compared to the dazzling tropical fish in Coral Reef City until his friends help him make

a flashy costume. A heart-warming comedy of self-esteem, learning to love your own scales and take pride in what makes you different. [C09]

**Shirley Husband, Maurice Hynds & Steven Brown**

Nan McCoo and the Birthday Bother  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
4pm | £3.50 | 4-8

Nan McCoo is an amazing granny who always tries to keep the clan happy. She wants to surprise Chloe McCoo for her birthday, but there's a problem - naughty Davy McDug. A delightful tale in Scots that will make you feel like part of the family. [C10]

**WORK SHOP** Alan Windram  
From Inspiration to Publication

**10-13** Wigtown Primary,  
The Treehouse  
4pm | £3.50 | 8+

Alan Windram understands the tricky process of taking a creative idea to publication. Let him equip you with the knowledge to develop, pitch and publish your bestseller. Perfect for young writers and illustrators. [C11]  
*Sponsored by Allan McDowall Ltd*

## Day tickets

Children's Festival family tickets are available for £20 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.



➤ Spot the World Books

Follow the map around town and find the world books in each window. Maps available from the Box Office, 11 North Main Street, Wigtown Library and the Children's Festival foyer.

➤ Bookbug Rhymetime

Songs, rhymes and stories for the youngest festival-goers. County Buildings, Library Daily 10.15am-10.45am. Supported by D&G Libraries.

➤ Aged 10-13? **10-13**

Not sure what's for you? You'll find events with a 10-13 badge across Big Wig and WTF 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.

➤ 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.



★ Sun 23 sept ★



WORK SHOP

### Mossyard Farm Pottery

Wigtown Primary School  
10am-4pm | pottery ranges  
£4-£15 | family drop-in

Pick your own ceramic character, plate, mug or tile and create your own design with the help of **Amy McConchie**. [C12]

### 10 ➔ 13 Cathy Cassidy

**The Lost and Found series**  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
10am | £3.50 | 9+

Sometimes you need to get lost in order to be found. From the author of the best-selling *Chocolate Box Girls*, *Love from Lexi* is the story of a girl whose mother goes missing, while *Sami's Silver Lining* tells the tale of a Syrian refugee trying to build a new life in England. [C13]  
*Supported by Ellie*

### Kate McLelland

**Isla and Pickle**

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
11.30am | £3.50 | 3-7

Isla loves Pickle, the miniature Shetland pony who lives in her neighbour's field. They have lots of fun together, but sometimes the mischievous twosome get into a spot of trouble. [C14]  
*Supported by Isla & Mia*

### 10 ➔ 13 Mark Lowery

**Charlie and Me:**

**421 Miles from Home**

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
11.30am | £3.50 | 9+  
Martin and Charlie journey 421 miles from Preston to Cornwall to see the dolphin that made last year's family holiday so special. But it's not the only reason they are making this very special journey. Expect humour, adventure and heartbreak. [C15]



Mark Lowery, 11.30am, Sunday 23 September



Vivian French,  
1pm, Sunday  
23 September

### Vivian French

**Billy Hippo Learned To Swim**

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
1pm | £3.50 | Under 5

Billy Hippo hates water. It's too cold, too scary and too wet. It takes two cheeky frogs and a big surprise to persuade Billy that swimming might be fun. A gentle and humorous tale from the 2018 Scottish Book Trust Outstanding Achievement Award-winner. [C16]  
*Sponsored by The Old Bank Bookshop*

### Gareth P Jones

**The Daily Joker**

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
1pm | £3.50 | 7-11

Gareth thinks he's so funny that he's written a rib-tickling joke for every day of the year. Join him for an hour of laugh out loud tricks, groanworthy gags, funny songs and silly games. [C17]

### Chae Strathie

**Mack and the Missing Cheese**

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
2.30pm | £3.50 | 3+  
Mack, the cat detective, and his trusty assistant Squeak try to solve the mystery of the missing cheese. A hilarious new picture book from the 2018 Bookbug Picture Book Prize-winner. [C18]

### 10 ➔ 13 Peter Brown

**The Wild Robot**

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
2.30pm | £3.50 | 9+

An enchanting and thought-provoking story from the *New York Times* bestseller Peter Brown. When robot Roz awakes alone on a remote island, she has no idea how she got there. She learns from the island's unfriendly animals, until her past comes back to haunt her. [C19]

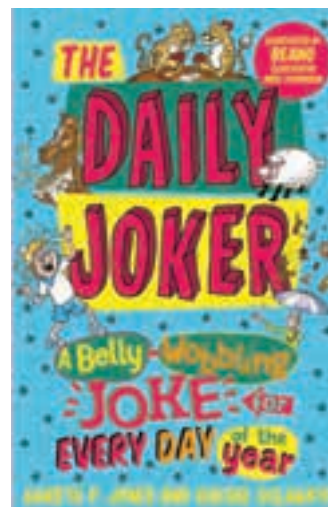
### Big Wig's Book Case

Wigtown Primary, The Hall

4pm | Free | Family

**Cherry Dashper, Moira Shields,** and **Amanda Sunderland** celebrate their new books. [C20]

wigtownbookfestival.com



Gareth P Jones, 1pm, Sunday 23 September



Peter Brown, 2.30pm, Sunday 23 September

### 10 ➔ 13 Ross Mackenzie

**The Elsewhere Emporium**

Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
4pm | £3.50 | 8+

Sequel to the Blue Peter Award winner *The Nowhere Emporium*, Daniel and Ellie face their darkest fears to save the legendary Emporium and each other. Be transported into a magical realm where imagination is power and anything is possible. [C21]  
*Supported by James & Molly*

Wigtown Book Festival 2018

★ Mon 24 sept ★

WORK SHOP

### Astrid Jaekel

**Stained Glass**

The Culture Club

10 ➔ 13 4.30pm | £3.50 | 10+

Learn how to create your own papercut design and give it a stained-glass window effect with coloured cellophane. *Lasts 90 mins*. [C22]  
*Supported by Helena*

### Susi Briggs & Nip Nebs

**Toon Trail**

Meet at The Print Room

5.30pm | £3.50 | Family

An interactive story trail with Nip Nebs himself. Search for pixies on a sprinkle icy draps on speeder webs! Nip Nebs is a Scots language picture book for children. A melodic imagining of an ancient Scottish sprite also known as Jack Frost. [C23]

ACCESS

### Vivian French

**The Fiendish Revenge**

of Leroy Jones

The Print Room

7pm | Free | 8+

Leroy Jones thinks his name is ridiculous and is determined to keep it a secret. But bossy Amy Strundle has other ideas. Will Leroy get his revenge, and is it really a dish best served cold? Suitable for reluctant or dyslexic readers. [C24]

★ Tues 25 sept ★

WORK SHOP

### Gina Lawson

**Marbling**

Applegarth Garden,

Harbour Rd

4pm | £3.50 | 3+

Learn how to marble by making your own bookmark and suncatcher. Create your own design – the only limit is your imagination. Perfect for children of all ages. Old clothes advisable. [C25]

★ Wed 26 sept ★

### Puppet Anima!

**Adventures from the Odyssey**

The Culture Club

11.30am | £3.50 | 3-5

Full of magic and monsters, Ancient Greece comes to life. Join Odysseus on his journey and visit the first ever Olympic Games. Interactive storytelling and puppetry with Carolynne Latham and her friendly dog. [C26]  
*Supported by Thomas*

★ Thur 27 sept ★

### Time to Turn In

**Bedtime Stories**

Wigtown Library

7pm | £3.50 | Family

Put on your pyjamas and bring your favourite cuddly toy for bedtime songs and stories. [C27]  
*Supported by Dumfries & Galloway Library Services*

★ Fri 28 sept ★

ACCESS

### Marie Louise Cochrane

**Storytime with Mrs Mash**

The Culture Club

11am | £3.50 | 3-7

Scrumptious stories, catchy songs and food-themed fun with Mrs Mash the Storytelling Cook. *Lasts 45 mins*. [C28]  
*Supported by Ernie, Issi, Naya, Ross & Sally*

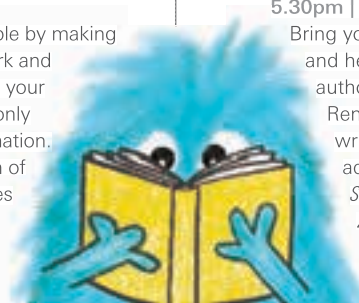
### Renita Boyle

**Big Wig's First Adventure**

The Print Room

5.30pm | £3.50 | Family

Bring your imagination and help children's author and storyteller Renita Boyle to write Big Wig's first adventure. [C29]  
*Supported by Abigail, Zoe, Cohen & Edison*





★ sat 29 sept ★



Jen Campbell & Katie Harnett, 1pm, Saturday 29 September

## ZooLab

Wigtown Primary School  
10am-12noon | Free | Family  
Get up close with the curious creatures from ZooLab. [C30]

## Barry Hutchison

**Magna Cow**  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
10am | £3.50 | 3-7  
Magna Cow has mysterious magnetic powers that cause her to mess up the other cows' fun, but when disaster strikes, she saves the day. [C31]

## 10→13 Julia Jarman

**The Time-Travelling Cat**  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
11.30am | £3.50 | 9+  
Topher takes in a stray cat and calls her Ka, but he becomes concerned about her mysterious absences. Ka is leading a double life. When Topher follows her back through time, he finds himself in some trouble. [C32]

## access Ailie Finlay & Marie Louise Cochrane

**A Multi-sensory Story Adventure**  
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
11.30am | £3.50 / Carers Free | Family  
Intriguing tactile props and interesting smells await, with stories, songs and joining-in. Particularly suitable for children with additional needs. Numbers limited. *Lasts 40 mins.* [C33]

## Jen Campbell & Katie Harnett

**Franklin's Flying Bookshop**  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
1pm | £3.50 | 3+  
Franklin the dragon would love to read stories to people, if only they weren't so scared of him. Then he meets Luna and together they hatch a plan to share their love of reading by opening a flying bookshop! Author Jen Campbell and illustrator Katie Harnett present the adorable pair and introduce the second book *Franklin and Luna Go to the Moon.* [C34]

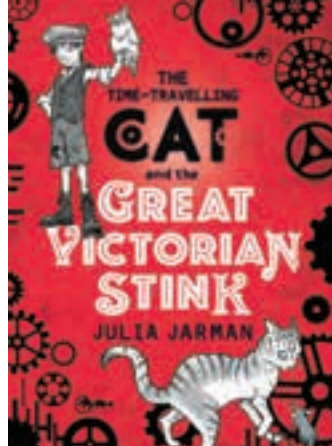
## Gill Arbuthnott

**A Secret Diary of the First World War**  
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
1pm | £3.50 | 7-10  
Step into the boots of 14-year-old soldier James Marchbank and find out what the first world war was really like. Blending facts with fascinating fiction, this new series brings the most exciting and crucial moments of WWI alive. [C35]



Elizabeth Ezra, 2.30pm, Saturday 29 September

Gwen Millward, 2.30pm, Saturday 29 September



Julia Jarman, 11.30am, Saturday 29 September

## Gwen Millward

**Tiger Lily**  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
2.30pm | £3.50 | 3+  
Lily gets lost with a lovable, but very naughty, Tiger. They have lots of fun stomping, jumping and going wild until the Tiger goes too far. [C36]

## 10→13 Elizabeth Ezra

**Ruby McCracken: Tragic Without Magic**  
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
2.30pm | £3.50 | 8+  
When Ruby's parents move the family to the Ordinary World, she thinks her life is over. Until one day Ruby receives a mysterious message which appears to be the answer to her magic-deprived life. [C37]

## Illustrator Consequences

Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
4pm | £3.50 | Family  
A Big Wig-twist on the classic game of consequences. What creatures will our team of illustrators reveal? Bring your imagination. [C38]

*Guest programmed by Vivian French*

# Free Sunday



Ariel Killick, 10am, Sunday 30 September

## ★ sun 30 sept ★

## DG Funkyfaces

Wigtown Primary School  
10am-4pm | **FREE** | Family  
Celebrate the final day of the festival by having your face painted like your favourite character. Who will you be? Perhaps Mack the cat detective, Mr Gum, Magna Cow, the Loch Ness Monster, Wild Robot Roz or Big Wig himself? [C39]



## Theatre Fideri Fidera

**Oskar's Amazing Adventure**  
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
10am | **FREE** | Family 2-8  
Oskar leaves the snowbound house on top of the mountain to try to find a friendly animal to play with. But where are all the animals? This original play for young children mixes storytelling, physical theatre, clowning, puppetry, music and song to tell the tale of a puppy's search for friendship. *Lasts 45 mins.* [C40]

Wigtown Book Festival 2018

## 10→13 Ariel Killick

**Graffiti Workshop**  
Wigtown Primary School  
10am-12noon | **FREE** | 10-13  
Combine Celtic with Contemporary in a unique bilingual Gaelic Graffiti Art workshop. Explore your creativity and express yourself responsibly with markers, spray paints, complex Celtic stencilling and Hip Hop themes. [C41]

## Sandy McKnight

**Wheedleneeps**  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
11.30am | **FREE** | Family  
This dark tale of Wheedleneeps the Brownie is inspired by local folklore. When the animals are blamed for taking crops from the farmer's field, he has no choice but to take responsibility for his actions. *Lasts 45 mins.* [C42]

## Tracey Corderoy & Steven Lenton

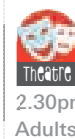
**Shifty McGifty**  
Wigtown Primary, The Hall  
1pm | **FREE** | 5+  
Edinburgh International Book Festival favourites bring the misadventures of Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam to Wigtown. Shifty and Sam find themselves in the magical streets of Paris but Cunning Sly has stolen the spectacular gingerbread Eiffel Tower they have baked for an important exhibition. Will they catch him in time? *Guest programmed by Catherine Jones* [C43]

## WORK SHOP Ariel Killick

**Adventures with the Gaelic Tree Alphabet - Dàna-Thursan ri Aibidil nan Craobhan**  
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
1pm | **FREE** | 7+  
An Gille Dubh – The Guardian of the Trees – is saddened by the clearing of his beloved forest and leaves to share his tale. Lie and dream among the stars under a magical Gaelic spell. [C44]

## Jean Edmiston

**Storytelling**  
Wigtown Primary, The Treehouse  
2.30pm | **FREE** | Family  
Traditional and original folktales for all ages. There may be wolves and howoooooling. *Lasts 45 mins.* [C45]



**James IV Science King**  
Whithorn Trust, DG8 8NS  
2.30pm | Children £3.50, Adults £5 | Family £15

James IV was a very great king, lover of science, art, music, people. See a group of actors and wastrels recount the magnificent deeds of his life, dentistry, alchemy, pilgrimage. [C46]

## Family Fun

Wigtown Primary  
2.30pm-5pm | **FREE**  
Celebrate the end of the festival with lots of family fun: tell tales with **Renita Boyle**; make masks with **Hazel Stevens**; create a stick man with **Elizabeth Tindal**; and boing on the bouncy castle. [C47]

## Children's Festival Planning 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





# wtf. 2018

## wigtown: the festival

www.facebook.com/wigtownthefestival  
@WigtownTheFest #WigtownTheFest

Curated by Wigtown's young adult team, this programme of entertaining, thought provoking and creative events is aimed at under 25s, though everyone's welcome. Come and read, write, make, discuss and be inspired.

Supported by



FRI 21 SEPT

### 10-13 State of Play

4pm-8pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Join **Iain Nisbet** and **Alasdair Rutherford** for a laid-back evening of role-playing, fast thinking card games and exciting board games with links to the real-world and fantasy-based fiction. Whether you are an experienced player or just starting out come along and have a go. [W01]

### Festival Fireworks

8.15pm | Wigtown Square | Free  
Come and watch the festival start with a bang! Kirkcudbright and District Pipe Band leads the way for fireworks over Wigtown Bay. [W02]

By kind permission of Bayview Nursery

SAT 22 SEPT

### Survival School

10.30am | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

What essential skills do we need to survive in the wild? Join **Mick Kitson** to explore the outdoors and see how resourceful you can be in finding warmth and shelter. Lasts 90 mins. [W03]

### Dungeons and Dragons

1pm-4pm | Church Hall | £5 / U26 Free

Join dungeon master **Gabe Kenny** in a Lovecraftian tale of excitement and adventure. No experience required. Numbers limited. [W04]

### You Learn Something New Every Day

12.30pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Writer and explorer **Robert Twigger** says that regularly learning a small skill is the key to happiness. Test his theory. Come and write. [W05]



Mick Kitson, 10.30am, Saturday 22 September



John Young, 2.30pm, Sunday 23 September

### Alex Wheatle's Home Boys

2.30pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Four friends run away from their children's home. In the woods they feel a sense of freedom, yet the forest has its own power and what happens will affect the four boys' lives forever. Inspired by personal experience. Powerful and moving. [W06]



### Ready, Set, Write

4pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

This autumn, young people will create large pieces of visual art, inspired by the written word. Poet and novelist **Claire Askew** hands you the tools to write your response to their work. Poem, diary extract or short story – it's up to you. Lasts 90 mins. [W07]



SUN 23 SEPT

### Nicky Singer's Survival Game

11.30am | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Your instinct is everything. Could you survive with only your identity papers and a gun with no bullets? As **Mhairi Ann** explores the world, an unlikely companion changes her life. [W08]



WTF vs Guests, 4pm, Sunday 23 September

### Spellslinger

1pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

As young magician **Kellen** faces his toughest challenge, his magic disappears. Is the mysterious dark stranger his only hope? A gripping fantasy series from the acclaimed **Sebastien de Castell**. [W09]



Sebastien de Castell, 1pm, Sunday 23 September

### John Young's Farewell Tour of an Eternal Optimist

2.30pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Connor Lambert is determined to show the world that his cancer doesn't define him and forms an unlikely friendship with fellow juvenile, **Skeates**. Police chases, wild parties and an imprisoned father will have you on the edge of your seat. [W10]

### WTF vs Guests - Let the Game Show Begin

4pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Victors for two consecutive years, the WTF team take on new challengers in a battle to retain their title. This year you can help take on festival guests in a popular TV game show extravaganza or support your chosen side from the audience. [W11]

SUN 23 SEPT

### Love Simon

6.30pm | The Print Room | £5 / U26 Free

Life becomes complicated for 17-year-old **Simon Spier** when he falls in love with one of his classmates online. The trouble is, he doesn't know their identity and he hasn't told his family and friends that he's gay. Cert PG-13. 110 mins. [W12]

FILM

Nicky Singer, 11.30am, Sunday 23 September



TUE 25 SEPT

### Rutendo Tavengerwei's Hope Is Our Only Wing

5.30pm | The Print Room | Free

In the face of adversity, **Shamiso** and **Tanyaradzwa** form an unlikely friendship. Confronting her fear of loss, **Shamiso** opens herself up to more heartache by befriending someone who's ill, while she tries to find out what happened the night of her father's death. [W13]

FILM

### Blade Runner

7pm | The Culture Club | Free

**Harrison Ford** stars in the 1982 sci-fi thriller. Four fugitive replicants escape back to earth but there's a blade runner in pursuit. Cert R. 117 mins. [W14]





# wtf. 2018

wigtown: the festival



Escape Rooms, 10am-6pm, Saturday 29 September

WED 26 SEPT

THEATRE

## Fox and the Hound Theatre presents Blackout

7pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free  
James chooses a destructive path to cope with bullying. He spirals out of control but is forced to face up to the consequences of his actions when he wakes in a cell. Followed by a Q&A. Contains swearing and teen/adult themes. [W15]

THUR 27 SEPT

## The Red Line

5.30pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

**Jenna Reid** plays new music with words by **Debi Gliori** as they give their response to stories of refugees who are making Scotland their safe haven. [W16]  
*Guest programmed by Debi Gliori*

SAT 29 SEPT

## Wake up to Yoga

9.45am | The Culture Club | Free  
Unwind, relax and destress with **Jessica Fox**. Lasts 45 mins. [W17].



WTF Team 2018

## Escape Rooms

10am-6pm | Wigtown Primary | £10 / U26 Free

Escape the 1950's Asylum. Quick wits, fast thinking and sound problem-solving skills are needed before the time runs out and the nightmare really begins... [W18]

## Spoken Word and Performance Poetry

11am | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free  
Take your first steps in generating ideas, having fun with words, writing, and battling those nerves as we write poetry for performance with **Jenny Lindsay**. No previous experience necessary. Sharing optional. Lasts 90 mins. [W19]



Astrid Jaekel, 11am, Sunday 30 September



Julian Baggini, 11am, Saturday 29 September

## Julian Baggini's Real You

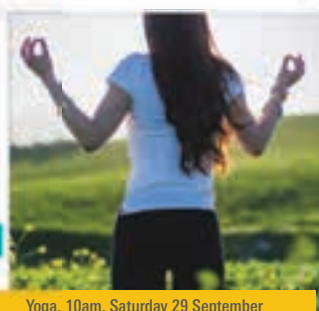
1pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Who or what is the real you? Delve head first into the philosophy of some of life's big questions as we explore some fundamental and mind-blowing ideas. You might leave the room with a different outlook on life and those around you. [W20]

PANEL

## Mental Health Laid Bare

2.30pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free  
Stripped back and relaxed, this intimate panel discussion explores what mental health really means today. Our guests **Amy Conway**, **Jenny Lindsay** and **John Connell** explore stereotypes, impacts and definitions of the different types of mental health across all genders and ages. They also take a look at what help is out there when you know where to look. [STRICTLY 14+] [W21]



Yoga, 10am, Saturday 29 September



Mental Health Panel, 2.30pm, Saturday 29 September

WORK SHOP

## Everyone Can Write

2.30pm | Church Hall | Free

Author **Shalla Gray** believes anyone can write a story. Learn the rules of writing and then push the boundaries as you start your own best-seller. Lasts 90 mins. [W22]

10-13

## The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle

4pm | Wigtown Primary | Free  
Reema will never call this strange country home – Syria is her home and it's a million miles away. Caylin looks after her mum and steals so she can eat. The two can't imagine being friends, until a shared secret brings them together. **Victoria Williamson** introduces her uplifting debut novel. [W23]

## A Life in Comics

4pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Underground comic veteran **Jim Stewart** discusses comics and self-publishing in Scotland. Followed by an audience Q&A. [STRICTLY 18+] [W24]

THEATRE

## Amy Conway's Super Awesome World

7.30pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

As the darkness stirs, stretches its poisonous form and flexes its claws, Amy steps back into the immersive world of gaming as she embarks on



SUN 30 SEPT

## The Dreaded Draw Off

4pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

The WTF classic is back and better than ever. Sketch along with visiting illustrators and test your skills and speed. And there's a twist – this year's theme is horror! [W28]



Victoria Williamson, 4pm, Saturday 29 September

## Fairy Tales are for Everyone

1pm-3.30pm | The Culture Club | £5 / U26 Free

Fairy tales can be bright and breezy, or dark and scary. They can be set in the past, the present, or the future. Come and create your own tale in pictures and words with help from **Debi Gliori** and **Vivian French**. Deep and dangerous? Merrily magic? The choice is yours... [W27]



Vivian French, 1pm, Sunday 30 September

SUN 30 SEPT

WORK SHOP

## Repeat, Repeat!

11am | County Buildings, Nature Room | £5 / U26 Free

**Astrid Jaekel** demonstrates how to create a seamless repeating pattern and shows you how to design and make your own using a variety of lo-tech printmaking. All you need to bring is an object that inspires you. [W26]



## 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](http://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.

## 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 £20 to celebrate our 20th anniversary. Renewal information will be sent out in June each year. Benefits include:

- **20% discount on all ticket bookings\* (20th anniversary special)**
- **An invitation to the festival launch party on Friday 21 September**

You can also become a Friend for Life for £250, which also receives 20% discount this year (normally 10%), 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/supporters](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/supporters)** or phone the office on 01988 402036.

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

### Festival office

Wigtown Festival Company offices, including the Box Office, are located at 11 North Main Street, Wigtown. For opening hours and details of how to book, see panel (left). 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 statement can be found on our website or is available from our office. The County Buildings Main Hall, Festival Marquee and McNeillie Tent are equipped with induction loops for people with hearing difficulties. StageTEXT surtitles will be provided in the County Buildings, Main Hall, on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September.

### Environment

The festival is committed to reducing its environmental impact. Please help by considering ride-sharing or public transport during your visit and by placing used brochures and waste material in the recycling bins provided.

**[wigtownbookfestival.com](http://wigtownbookfestival.com)**



## Around & About



### Our venues

Our main venues are: the County Buildings; the Festival Marquee, which has been reconfigured this year so the main entrance is now 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 Culture Club located outside the County Buildings. Most children's events take place at Wigtown Primary School. All the above venues are within five minutes' walk of one another.

### Festival Bookshop

The Festival Bookshop is situated beside 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 four different shows during the festival. For full details, please see [www.swallowtheatre.co.uk](http://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](http://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 22 Sept, 10am-4pm.

### Church service

Following the conclusion of the festival, Wigtown's churches will hold a joint service in the Festival Marquee at 6.30pm on Sun 30 Sept. All welcome.

### Charity

Our chosen charity, Fight for Sight, funds medical research into the causes of blindness. Please consider supporting them. [www.fightforsight.org.uk](http://www.fightforsight.org.uk)





## Well-Read Books of Wigtown

Wide-ranging selection of second-hand adult, YA and junior readers fiction, history, biography, transport and travel.

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# Festival of Light

5-14 Oct '18

Ten days of performances, art installations and illuminated experiences. Celebrating the inspirational light of Kirkcudbright.



EventScotland

For the latest news and information visit [www.kirkcudbrightlight.com](http://www.kirkcudbrightlight.com)



## 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 a 20% discount on group bookings of 10 or more on some journeys, by booking 3 weeks prior to travel. Telephone 03448 110141.

#### By bus

Several operators including National Express (08717 818181) run buses from Dumfries to Newton Stewart, from where you can pick up local services to Wigtown. Please visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables) for details.

#### Contacts

National Rail Enquiries:  
**03457 484950**

Journey planning:  
[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

For ferries:

[www.stenaline.co.uk](http://www.stenaline.co.uk)  
[www.poferries.com](http://www.poferries.com)  
[www.aferry.co.uk](http://www.aferry.co.uk)



For local taxis:

**Marys Taxi: 01671 403035**

**McLeans Taxis: 01671 404131**

**Swift Cars: 07927 843602**

#### Accommodation

For places to stay:

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

[www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk](http://www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk)

[www.visitsouthwestscotland.com](http://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.



*Davy Brown*  
Artist



*Davy Brown at The Kist -  
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# VISITING *the* FESTIVAL



## 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.

## Bookshop Directory

### At The Sign of the Dragon

St Ninians, New Road, DG8 9JL

Tel: 01988 403446

wigtowndragon@gmail.com

www.atthesignofthedragon.co.uk

Daily 11am-6pm

### Beltie Books and Café

6 Bank Street, DG8 9HP

Tel: 01988 402730

shop@beltiebooks.co.uk

www.beltiebooks.co.uk

Daily 9am-5pm

### The Book End Studio

23 North Main Street, DG8 9HL

Tel: 01988 402403

houston1974@hotmail.com

Opening times vary

### The Bookshop

17 North Main Street, DG8 9HL

Tel: 01988 402499

mail@the-bookshop.com

www.the-bookshop.com

Daily 9am-7pm

### Curly Tale Books

18 North Main Street, DG8 9HL

Tel: 01988 402896

mail@curlytalebooks.co.uk

www.curlytalebooks.co.uk

Daily 10am-5pm

### Byre Books

24 South Main Street, DG8 9EH

Tel: 01988 402133

info@byrebooks.co.uk

www.byrebooks.co.uk

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm;

Sun 11am-4pm

### Craigard Gallery

13 North Main Street, DG8 9HL

Tel: 07903 044929

sarahlstewart@live.com

www.craigardgallery.co.uk

Daily 10am-5pm

### Faodail

7 North Main Street, DG8 9HN

Tel: 07880 359943

Daily 9am-5.30pm

### Number 11

North Main Street, DG8 9HN

Tel: 01988 402036

Daily 9am-5pm

### The Old Bank Bookshop

7 South Main Street, DG8 9EH

Tel: 01988 402111

oldbankbookshop@gmail.com

www.oldbankbookshop.co.uk

Daily 9am-7pm

### The Open Book

2 High Street, DG8 9HQ

Tel: 01988 402010

theopenbookwigtown@gmail.com

Daily 9.30am-5.30pm

### ReadingLasses

Bookshop & Café

17 South Main Street, DG8 9EH

Tel: 01988 403266

readinglasses@hotmail.com

Daily 10am-7pm

### Shoots & Leaves

Bookshop & Café

20 South Main Street, DG8 9EH

Tel: 01988 402249

shootsandleaves@gmx.com

Daily 9am-10pm

### WebbooksUK.com Ltd

Online sales only

Tel: 01988 402190

voglerbook@gmail.com

www.webbooksUK.com

### Well-Read Books of Wigtown

1-3 Agnew Crescent, DG8 9DS

Tel: 07850 154 029

wigtownwellreadbooks@gmail.com

Daily 10am-7pm



## Food & Drink

### Festival Café

The Festival Café is on the first floor of the County Buildings. Open 9.30am-6pm at weekends (10am-5pm weekdays), it serves snacks, light meals, tea and coffee.

### The Kist

Situated outside the County Buildings, The Kist sells local, regional and national food, drink, visual arts and crafts. Open 10am-6.30pm at weekends (10am-5pm weekdays).

Other places to eat and drink include:

### Beltie Books and Café

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

### 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  
Daily 11am-10pm. Evening booking advisable.

### 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  
Tue 4pm-7pm

### 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

### ReadingLasses

17 South Main Street, DG8 9EH. Tel: 01988 403266  
Daily 10am-7pm

### Shoots & Leaves Café

20 South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9EH. Tel: 01988 402249  
Daily 9am-10pm

### Up The Garden Path, Pop Up Wine Bar

24 Lochancroft Lane, DG8 9JA.  
Access through The Bookshop,  
17 North Main Street  
Mon-Fri 12pm-9pm; Sat & Sun 12pm-10pm

## 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.

## Outside Wigtown

### Venues

Maps showing directions to events at venues outside town (listed below) are available from the box office. Most of these venues are around 15-30 minutes' drive from Wigtown. Wherever possible, we will help find transport (usually car-share) to events outside Wigtown. Please contact the box office. Printed directions for drivers are also available, while postcodes for sat-nav are given below.

### Postcodes

<b>Crafty Distillery</b> 6.2 miles	(DG8 6AS)
<b>Newton Stewart Cinema</b> 6.9 miles	(DG8 6NL)
<b>Garlieston Harbour</b> 8.4 miles	(DG8 8BB)
<b>Galloway Home Farm</b> 8.6 miles	(DG8 8HF)
<b>The Swallow Theatre</b> 8.9 miles	(DG8 8DR)
<b>Cruggleton Church</b> 10.4 miles	(DG8 8HL)
<b>Whithorn Visitor Centre</b> 10.8 miles	(DG8 8NS)
<b>Old Place of Mochrum</b> 11.2 miles	(DG8 9RS)
<b>Glasserton Old Kirk</b> 13.4 miles	(DG8 8JU)



## WIGTOWN

- Venue
- Book Shop
- Restaurant
- Information
- Disabled Parking
- Festival Parking
- Toilet
- Festival Camping



- 1 Festival Marquee
- 2 The Print Room
- 3 Wigtown Parish Church
- 4 The Bookshop
- 5 Up the Garden Path, Pop Up Bar
- 6 Children's Festival (including The Hall & The Treehouse)
- 7 County Buildings (including Main Hall, Festival Café, Library, Nature Room & Supper Room)
- 8 The Kist
- 9 The Culture Club
- 10 McNeillie Tent
- 11 ReadingLasses Café & Bookshop
- 12 Sacred Heart Church
- 13 The Open Book
- 14 The Old Manse
- 15 Baptist Church

- 16 Wigtown Market
- 17 Number 11 (including box office)
- 18 Craft
- 19 At the Sign of the Dragon
- 20 Book End Studio
- 21 Curly Tale Books
- 22 Byre Books
- 23 Festival Bookshop
- 24 Shoots & Leaves
- 25 Beltie Books & Café
- 26 The Old Bank Bookshop
- 27 Craigard Gallery & Books
- 28 Well-Read Books of Wigtown
- 29 Café Rendezvous
- 30 Galloway Bar
- 31 Bladnoch Inn
- 32 Cobwebs

- 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
- 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



tel: 01988 403222  
wigtownbookfestival.com



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