



## NessBookFest 2021 Programme

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Sep:

#### **Cal Flynn – Secondary school workshop**

Award-winning Highland writer **Cal Flynn** is well-known for her literary nonfiction and long-form journalism. Her second book *Islands of Abandonment*, exploring the ecology and psychology of abandoned places, has been described as ‘Extraordinary’ and ‘A radical revisioning of what we mean by ‘nature’ and ‘wild’.’ Cal will deliver a creative writing workshop to Highland secondary school pupils online.

#### **Corrina Campbell – Primary school workshop**

Nairn-based primary school teacher, author and self-taught illustrator, **Corrina Campbell** has won great acclaim for her beautiful debut picture book *The Girl Who Stole The Stars*. Her fun, interactive story and workshop sessions are hugely popular and Highland primary pupils will enjoy this session with Corrina online.

#### **Catriona Lexy Campbell – Gaelic primary school workshop**

Working primarily in Gaelic, **Catriona Lexy Campbell** is a writer, theatre artiste and author of published novels, plays, poetry and children’s books. A sought-after leader of writing and theatre skills workshops for numerous organisations, Catriona seeks to enable participants to explore new ideas and express themselves creatively, in a warm and relaxed environment, and will be delivering an online workshop to Gaelic-medium primary pupils on her book *Òran mo Sheanar, My Grandfather’s Song*.

#### **Raghnaid Sandilands – Gaelic secondary school workshop**

**Raghnaid Sandilands** is a writer, Gaelic translator, cartographer and publisher, based in Strathnairn, where she co-founded Farr Conversations. She has translated numerous books into Gaelic, including *Asterix* and *Tintin*, and she will deliver an online workshop session on creating a graphic story to secondary school students of Gaelic.

## **19.00 - Lin Anderson – Festival Launch! Live at the Junction Church**

**Lin Anderson** is a Scottish author and screenwriter known for her bestselling crime series featuring forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod. Four of her novels have been longlisted for the Scottish Crime Book of the Year, with *Follow the Dead* being a 2018 finalist. Her short film *River Child* won both a Scottish BAFTA for Best Fiction and the Celtic Film Festival's Best Drama Award and has now been viewed more than one million times on YouTube. Lin is also the co-founder of the international crime writing festival Bloody Scotland, which takes place annually in Stirling.

NessBookFest is delighted to welcome Lin for a live, in-person event to launch the festival's adult programme, in which committee member Elaine Downs will join her to discuss her latest thrilling novel, *The Killing Tides*. Described by Scotland on Sunday as 'A fascinating examination of how police and journalists determine a horrifying truth' and 'A cracking story told at breakneck speed', this session will utilise Lin's gripping tale to explore the darkness and light of the Scottish psyche and the Scottish landscape.

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October:**

#### **9.15 – 9.45 – Primary Schools Read-in. Online**

Can we beat the 2019 record of 14200 pupils across 100+ primary schools reading at the same time? Join in the fun by having your class reading together for 20 minutes within the half hour time slot! Register your interest by emailing [nbfinverness@gmail.com](mailto:nbfinverness@gmail.com) with **Reading Record** in the subject line. #NBRecord

#### **14.00 - Moira Forsyth - Editing Workshop. Live at Inverness Archive Centre**

Highland-based **Moira Forsyth** is the author of five published novels, and her short stories and poetry have appeared in magazines and anthologies. Since 2002, as Publishing Director of Sandstone Press, she has selected, commissioned, and edited both fiction and nonfiction for Sandstone Press, including books which have won or been listed for the Booker Prize, the Man Booker International, the Wainwright Prize, the Betty Trask Award and others. Moira will deliver a workshop on Editing, a vital skill for all writers, which will be an in-person event with restricted numbers, lasting approximately 90 minutes.

## **16.00 - Aoife Lyall - Poetry. Live at Inverness Botanic Gardens**

Originally from Ireland, **Aoife Lyall** now lives in Inverness and is a poet, editor, reviewer, as well as a secondary school teacher of English. Rapidly gaining acclaim for her work, Aoife was awarded a Scottish Emerging Artist Residency by Cove Park in 2020 and has been a Guest Curator for the Scottish Poetry Library. Published in numerous journals and magazines, Aoife's recent debut collection *Mother, Nature* was published in 2021 by Bloodaxe Books and has been widely hailed as 'heart-rending', 'daring' and 'staggeringly tender'.

## **17.00 - Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones - Gaelic Poetry & Song. Online**

**Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones** was appointed Gaelic Crowned Bàrd 2019 -2021 at the Royal National Mòd in Glasgow in October 2019. Her latest collection of Gaelic Poetry and Songs '*The Seventh Wave*' was published by Acair in June 2021. Her first collection '*Red Lichen*' was published by Acair in 2016 and won second prize that year in the Donald Meek Award. She previously won the Wigtown Gaelic Poetry Prize in 2013; the Irish/Scots Gaelic Poetry Prize 'Choirnéil Uí Néill' in 2014; and a Scottish book Trust New Writer's Gaelic Award in 2011.

Sandy was awarded the Oban Times Gold Medal at the 2017 Mòd, and previously won various competitions for singing, clàrsach and composing. She is a Board member of the Gaelic College Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and former Board member of Bòrd na Gàidhlig. In her earlier career, Sandy was a senior executive in the United Nations and the Commonwealth and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (FCIL), accredited in poetry translation. She also speaks French, German, Spanish and Welsh.

## **20.00 - Robin Ince – The Importance of Being Interested. Online**

**Robin Ince** is a comedian, author, broadcaster, and a populariser of scientific ideas. The Guardian once declared him a 'becardiganed polymath' which seems about right. He is probably best known as the co-host of the Sony Gold Award winning BBC Radio 4 series *The Infinite Monkey Cage* with Professor Brian Cox. In addition, he co-hosts the podcast *Book Shambles* with Josie Long, *An Uncanny Hour* and *Science Shambles* with Dr Helen Czerski, all three of which are a part of *The Cosmic Shambles Network*, also a co-creation. Ince quickly abandoned science at school, bored by a fog of dull lessons and intimidated by the barrage of equations. Twenty years later, he fell in love with it and now presents one of the world's most popular science podcasts, meeting hundreds of the world's greatest thinkers each year.

In this online event, NBF Committee member Elaine Downs talks to Robin about his latest book, *The Importance of Being Interested: Adventures in Scientific Curiosity*. Robin reveals why scientific wonder isn't just for the professionals. The book features interviews with astronauts, comedians, teachers, quantum physicists, neuroscientists and more – as well as charting his own journey with science – *The Importance of Being Interested* explores why many wrongly think of the discipline as distant and difficult. From the glorious appeal of the stars above to why scientific curiosity can encourage much-needed intellectual humility, this optimistic and profound book will leave you filled with a thirst for intellectual adventure.

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October:**

### **14.00 - Pauline Mackay – Wild About Inverness - City Centre Outdoor Trail for Children. Live**

In 2005 Pauline set up a bookselling business specialising in languages for children. Then in 2007 she founded Ablekids Press to publish her own children's stories and develop educational resources in different languages. Best known for her *Wee MacNessie* series, over the past year Pauline has been developing several projects which have taken Ablekids Press in new directions. One of those is *Wild About Inverness – City Centre Outdoor Trail* which is the first in a series of trails exploring familiar city territory in an unfamiliar way. Since 2017 Ablekids Press has had a shop on Market Brae Steps and this location helped inspire *Wild About Inverness*.

Journey through the historic heart of Inverness and discover mythical, wild and domestic creatures hiding in plain sight! The trail begins on the Millennium Circle at the foot of Market Brae Steps, finishing on Castle Hill, and a printed copy of the trail map will be given to parents /carers at the start of this event.

The *Wild About Inverness* sticker book (aimed at 5 – 10 year-olds) is available to buy if wished and follows the route, using a variety of activities including mazes, counting, colouring-in and join-the-dots, with snippets of information and questions along the way and a four-page pull-out map and location guide.

## **15.00 - Ruairidh Maclean – From Columba to Lloyd George - Live online Lecture (Zoom)**

**\*\*CANCELLED DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES\*\***

NBF apologises for any disappointment caused. If it becomes possible to offer this event at a later date, we will post details on our NBF social media channels, local press and our website, so please do follow us there for future information. We thank you for your continued support.

**From Columba to Lloyd George: Inverness and Scottish-Irish relations over 1400 years.**

**O Chalum Cille gu Lloyd George: Inbhir Nis agus an Càirdeas eadar Alba is Èirinn thar 1400 bliadhna.**

It is now a century since Lloyd George and his UK cabinet met in Inverness to map out a future for Ireland, following decades of struggle and insurrection. Fourteen centuries prior to that, the Irish churchman, Calum Cille (St Columba), travelled to Inverness to meet the Pictish king, an event that was arguably of great importance in the Gaelicisation of Alba. In this lecture, author, broadcaster and storyteller **Ruairidh Maclean** gives an account of both events, according to written sources and oral tradition, and highlights the pivotal place of Inverness in bookending a long history of Scottish-Irish relations.

**Ruairidh** is the author of two books on the place names of Inverness, the second published this year. He has also given accounts of stories of Columba's travels to Inverness in his Gaelic children's book *Seachd Sgeulachdan às Inbhir Nis*. The visit of the UK cabinet to Inverness in September 1921 is a pivotal event in Ruairidh's award-winning novel *Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig* which is set in the period that led to the formation of the Irish Free State.

## **17.30 - Barbara Henderson – Scottish by Inclination. Live at the Junction Church**

Inverness-based **Barbara Henderson** is the author of historical novels *Fir for Luck*, *Punch*, *Black Water*, *The Siege of Caerlaverock* and *The Chessmen Thief* as well as the eco-thriller *Wilderness Wars*, and an ArtyNess columnist for a range of North of Scotland newspapers. Her energetic school visits have taken her across Scotland and beyond - and as a Drama teacher, she loves to get young people on their feet. Her latest book is the autobiographical *Scottish by Inclination*, a collection of profiles of EU citizens who have made their mark on Scotland, as well as reflections on Barbara's own three decades in Scotland.

## **19.30 - Brian Pendreigh – *Man in the Seventh Row*. Live at the Playhouse Cinema, Eden Court Theatre**

In **Brian Pendreigh's** novel *Man in the Seventh Row*, a fan of classic Hollywood movies finds himself being sucked into the action of movies with which he fell in love as a boy and young man in Scotland, films including *The Magnificent Seven*, *Blade Runner* and *Braveheart*. Is this real? Or in his head? And why is it happening? The true meaning of *Rosebud* is revealed only in the poignant final story at the end of the novel, which has been acclaimed by reviewers and writers, including Andrew Marr and Ian Rankin, and was selected as a Scotsman book of the week, a BookBub recommended read, and featured in Amazon's Literary Fiction bestsellers list.

**Brian** is an award-winning journalist and writer, formerly cinema editor on *The Scotsman*, *Radio Times* film critic and a regular contributor to the *Guardian*, *Sunday Times* and *Mail on Sunday*. He has written around a dozen books, including *Man in the Seventh Row* and a Portuguese-language version of *The Legend of the Planet of the Apes*. His presentation will be followed by a screening of **84 Charing Cross Road** but Brian will be available after his talk and also after the film to sign copies of his book.

## **20.00 - Film 84 Charing Cross Road. Live at the Playhouse Cinema, Eden Court Theatre**

Perfectly rounding off NessBookFest 2021, this classic 1987 British-American drama tells the story of New York bibliophile Helene Hanff, who writes to the London bookshop Marks & Co in search of titles she cannot locate elsewhere. When shop manager Frank responds, their correspondence marks the beginning of a long friendship. Based on a true story, the film stars Anne Bancroft, Anthony Hopkins and Judi Dench, and was directed by Mel Brooks.

### **Further Information:**

**Tickets:** All events are free and all live in-person and Zoom events should be booked through **Eventbrite** (search for NessBookFest and the event title on [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)). All other online events will be available to view on NessBookFest's YouTube Channel on the day of screening and for a period of one month after the festival. All YouTube screenings will be shared to our NBF Facebook page so do visit and follow us there.

For the film, book via [www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk) or Box Office 01463 234234

NBF suggest bringing cash if you wish to purchase authors' books at events.

### **Venues:**

Inverness Botanic Gardens, Bught Lane, Inverness IV3 5SS

Eden Court Theatre, Bishop's Road, Inverness IV3 5SA

Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness IV3 5SS

Junction Church, Bank Street, Inverness IV1 1QU

### **Coronavirus:**

Please note that all live in-person events will be held in a covid-safe manner according to guidelines. We would kindly ask audience members attending events to please wear a face covering if possible and adhere to safe distancing guidelines. Hand sanitiser will be available at live events.

### **Further information:**

Email: [nbfinverness@gmail.com](mailto:nbfinverness@gmail.com)

**NessBookFest** Facebook, Twitter & Instagram feeds

Website: [www.nessbookfest.com](http://www.nessbookfest.com)

### **Donations:**

In keeping with NessBookFest's ethos of #nobarriers, all events are free of charge. However, in order to secure a free-access festival in the future, we welcome donations should audience members feel inclined. Cash buckets will be present at live events and arrangements will also be in place for digital donations.

### **Funders:**

NessBookFest is grateful to the following 2021 sponsors and supporters:



