



Ness Book Fest 2022 Programme

Thursday 6th Oct:

19.00 – S G MacLean – Festival Launch! Live at the Junction Church

Join us for our opening event of the festival - a discussion with S.G. MacLean, writer of The Bookseller of Inverness, about her work.

S.G. MacLean (Shona) was born in Inverness and grew up in the Highlands where her parents were hoteliers. She has a PhD in History from the University of Aberdeen. She is the author of the Alexander Seaton and the Damian Seeker historical crime series, and has twice won the CWA Historical Dagger. The Bookseller of Inverness, her first standalone, is her 10th novel.

Friday 7th October:

15.00 - Ruairidh Maclean – Guided Walk

A guided walk with Ruairidh Maclean hearing Inverness stories from the Gaelic tradition.

The walk will be around an hour long starting from the Inverness Rugby car park. It will mostly be on flat ground, but please wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing for the changeable Highland weather.

19.00 – Helen Forbes – Junction Church

Helen Forbes is an author of Scottish crime fiction, living in her home-town of Inverness, in the Scottish Highlands. They have been writing novels and short stories for many years with much of their writing set in the Highlands and Islands and Edinburgh, although she has also written and published award-winning short stories set in the Antarctic and Italy.

Her debut police procedural novel, *In the Shadow of the Hill*, set in Inverness and South Harris, features Detective Sergeant Joe Galbraith. It was published by ThunderPoint Publishing in 2014.

Madness Lies, Book 2 in the DS Joe Galbraith series, set in Inverness and North Uist, was published in 2017. *Unravelling*, a standalone crime thriller, set in Inverness, was published by Scolpaig Press in July 2021. *Deception*, a dark tale of a relationship mired in deceit and lies, uplifted by a cast of interesting characters brought together in adversity, was published by Scolpaig Press in January 2022.

Her work in progress, *Queen of Grime*, features an Edinburgh crime scene cleaner with a deadly secret that is endangering her family. It is full of grime, gore and dark humour.

Poetry Day – 16.00 – 21.00 – Bike Shed

16.00 – Cinnamon Sisters. Online

Join the Cinnamon Sisters, a trio of poets who are published by Cinnamon Press - Jay Whittaker, Lynn Valentine and Leonie Charlton - for a feast of poetry in Scots and English: lively, accessible poetry rooted in landscape and the natural world, and touching on life's stink and honey.

16.30 – Butcher's Dog with Aoife Lyall – Bike Shed

Come join award-winning poet Aoife Lyall as she celebrates ten years of Butcher's Dog, one of the UK's foremost poetry publications, by discussing what she has learned as one of its contributors, editors, and reviewers.

Aoife Lyall is a poet, editor and reviewer. Her debut poetry collection *Mother, Nature* (Bloodaxe Books, 2021), was shortlisted for the Scottish First Book Award 2021. In 2020, she received generous National Lottery funding through Creative Scotland to write her second poetry collection. Lyall also works as an editor, mentor, and reviewer aoifelyall.com

18.30 – Poetry Slam – Bike Shed

Join us for an evening of poetry at The Bike Shed!

Poets will go head-to-head in a battle to be crowned the first NBF Poetry Slam Champion and book their place in the Scottish Finals in 2023.

Watch a diverse range of poets perform their work and be judged and scored on their performances with a champion of poetry emerging by the end of the night!

Saturday 2nd October:

10.30 – Meet the books – Inverness Library

'Meet The Books: Fraser-Mackintosh and his 19th century public relations machine' with Mel Mackay, about Fraser-Mackintosh, Victorian M.P. and antiquarian, and how he managed his image in the press including his close relationship with Inverness publisher Alexander Mackenzie.

12.00 – Ross Mackay – Inverness Library

An event for 3-6 year olds and their families. A reading of 'Daddy's Bad Day' by Ross MacKay followed by a playful interactive session

Daddy needs to wake up and start the day. There are so many exciting things to do but Daddy won't get out of bed - no matter what! Is Daddy being lazy or is he actually fighting very hard? This story has been created to help parents explain their mental health struggles to young children. The story draws on the writer's lived experience and research conducted with some of Scotland's leading parent charities. A brand-new picture book from award winning writer, Ross MacKay and illustrated by twice Kelpies award shortlisted artist, Catherine Lindow. Published by the independent family run Scottish publisher, Curly Tale Books.

14.00 – Journalist's Panel – Simpsons Garden Centre

Tomorrow's chip paper, or the first draft of history? Journalist panel: Val Sweeney, Tom Ramage, and Jane Cumming

Each week, journalists on local newspapers across the UK produce thousands of words, working to tight deadlines. Are their efforts merely destined to be recycled as a chip wrapper, or the lining of the hamster cage?

Or, is this literary form largely unrecognised and very much undervalued in creating the first draft of history, recording events as they happen and reflecting the issues of the day in a local community and perhaps providing a valuable resource for writers of fiction and non-fiction?

In an 'in-conversation' style event, a small group of local journalists with decades of experience between them chat about writing for newspapers and how every word counts. Drawing on anecdotes, they aim to give an insight into their work as wordsmiths.

It is an often-quoted saying in newspapers, that everyone has a story to tell. The journalists now tell their story.

16.00 – Catriona Murray – Simpsons Garden Centre

Doras Gun Chlàimhean: Murchadh MacPhàrlain, Bàrd Mhealaboist - new edition of the Gaelic Poetry & Song of Murdo MacFarlane

Through his songs and melodies the Gaelic poet and activist, Murdo MacFarlane, from Melbost in Lewis, encouraged young Gaelic-speaking islanders in the 1970s to have pride in their language and culture. Forty years on from MacFarlane's death in 1982 Doras gun Chlàimhean, Murchadh MacPhàrlain, Bàrd Mhealaboist, is a new volume of his writings, edited by the Glasgow-based broadcaster and writer, Catriona Murray. The book includes a Gaelic biography of MacFarlane, his Gaelic poems and songs with English translations, articles and letters, photographs and a CD of the poet singing a selection of his songs. The words of Bàrd Mhealaboist are as relevant in Scotland and beyond today as they were in the 1970s; it is timely to present a new generation of Gaelic speakers and a wider audience with his body of work.

Catriona Murray, brought up in Lewis, is a former chair of the Gaelic Books Council, the lead organisation supporting Gaelic writers and publishers, and raising the profile of Gaelic literature and books.

Chaired by BBC broadcaster and journalist Donald Morrison.

16.00 – Jeff Zycinski - Live at Eden Court

Join Jeff where he will discuss his career in radio, as a writer, and a journalist. Afterwards, there will also be a screening of the celebrated film 'All The President's Men'.

Jeff Zycinski is the former Head of Radio at BBC Scotland. A graduate of the Centre for Journalism Studies in Cardiff, Jeff began his career as a News reporter with Moray Firth Radio in Inverness before moving to Radio Clyde and then to the BBC. After leaving the BBC in 2018 he penned two memoirs – The Red Light Zone and Travels from my Twilight Zone – in which he recounted his upbringing in the east end of Glasgow, his teenage passion for radio and his subsequent career in broadcasting. He was described in The Scottish Review as ‘a supreme anecdotalist, an excellent journalist and a very accomplished writer.’ Jeff now manages the Partnerships for Wellbeing charity in Inverness and co-presents the Ways to Wellbeing podcast.

20.00 – Film: All the President’s Men - Eden Court

Perfectly rounding off Ness Book Fest 2022, this political thriller from 1976 tells the story of how “The Washington Post” reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the details of the Watergate Scandal. Directed by Alan J. Pakula and starring Robert Redford, Dustin Hoffman and Hal Holbrook amongst others this is an excellent opportunity to see All the President’s Men on the big screen.

School Events

Thursday 6th Oct:

Aoife Lyall – Secondary school workshop

Acclaimed poet Aoife Lyall will be leading a creative writing workshop for well-being for secondary school pupils.

A story tour of Scotland’s past – Primary school workshop

A free virtual event for upper-primary pupils, led by Barbara Henderson, Victoria Williamson, Lindsay Littleton and Joe Covenant. All authors of children’s books which are historical adventure fiction inspired by real events and people they will take pupils around Scotland with readings from their work amongst talks about their stories too.

Raghnaid Sandilands – Gaelic primary school workshop

Raghnaid Sandilands will be leading a Gaelic workshop for primary school pupils based on her latest book on local stories of Strathnairn.

Iain MacInnes – Gaelic secondary school workshop

Iain Macinnes has been a journalist with BBC Scotland for 15 years and will be using his experiences to lead a workshop with secondary school pupils via video. He will be looking at short-form story writing to inspire pupil's own writing and creativity whilst showing what careers may be available to pupils in the future.

He began his career as a reporter on the award-winning European current affairs show Eòrpa, before moving into daily news where he presented news programmes on Radio nan Gàidheal, and BBC Alba. For the last five years, Iain has been the BBC's Senior Journalist covering the Highlands and Islands. He also presents Reporting Scotland and other news programmes from Glasgow on a rotational basis.

Iain was brought up in Lewis, is a keen musician and lives with his wife and two daughters in Inverness.

Friday 7th October

9.15 – 9.45 – Primary Schools Read-in. Online

Join schools across Scotland to see how many pupils we can have reading at the same time. All your class needs to do is read together for 20 minutes within the half hour time slot! Register your interest by emailing nbfinverness@gmail.com with **Reading Record** in the subject line. #NBFrecord

Further Information:

Tickets: All events are free and all live in-person and Zoom events should be booked through **Eventbrite** (search for Ness Book Fest and the event title on www.eventbrite.co.uk). All other online events will be available to view on Ness Book Fest'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 or Box Office 01463 234234

Venues:

Inverness Library, Farraline Park, Inverness IV1 1NH

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

Simpsons Garden Centre, Culloden Road, Inverness IV2 5BA

Junction Church, Bank Street, Inverness IV1 1QU

The Bike Shed, Grant Street, Inverness IV3 8BN

Further information:

Email: nbfinverness@gmail.com

Ness Book Fest Facebook, Twitter & Instagram feeds

Website: www.nessbookfest.com

Donations:

In keeping with Ness Book Fest'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:

Ness Book Fest is grateful to the following sponsors and supporters:

