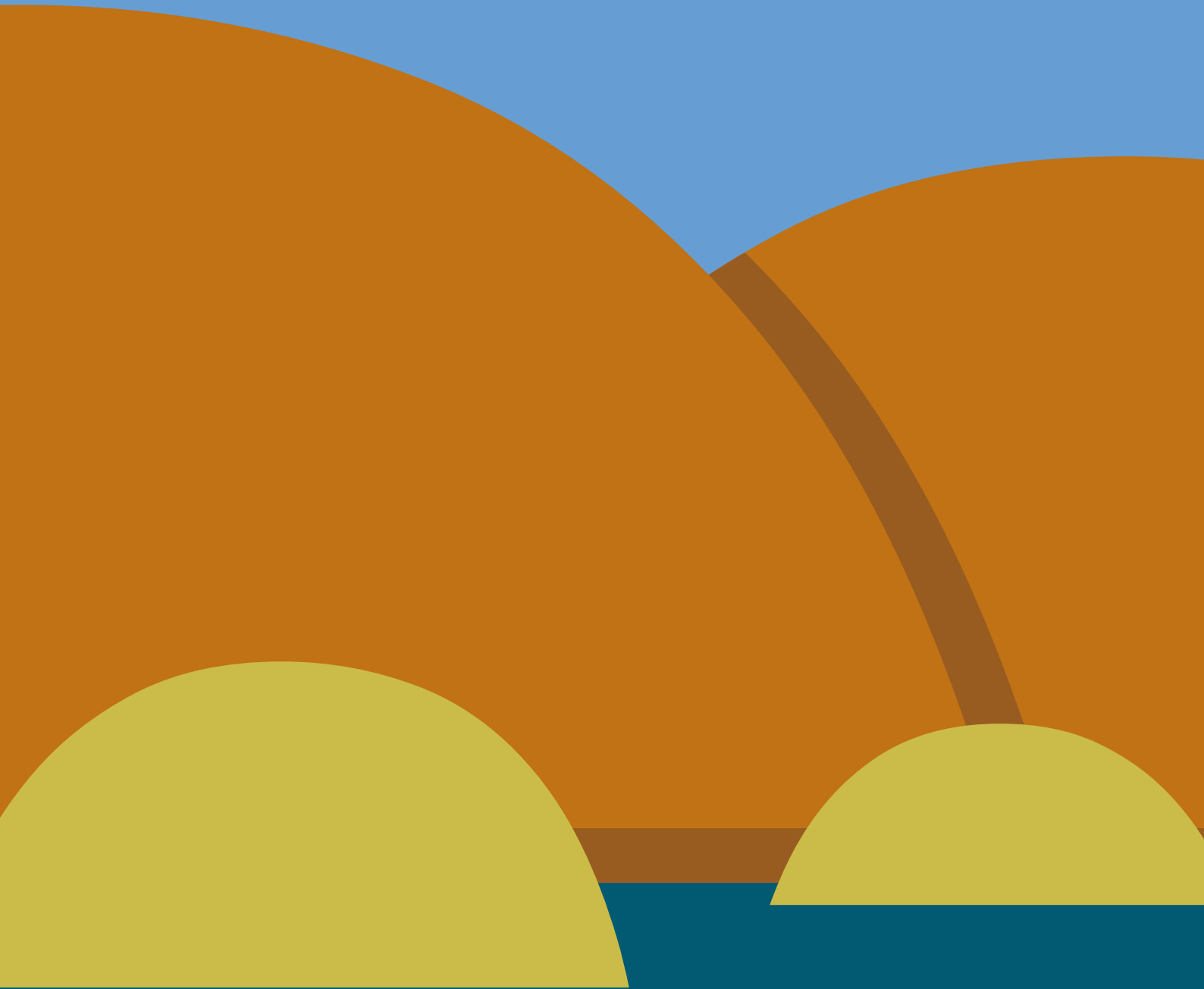


UBBF

2021



www.ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk

WELL, THIS IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR US!

We were so sorry that we couldn't all meet in person this year but hope that we managed to create a bit of Ullapool in our online sessions detailed in this programme. We commissioned a tune (a slow air) from a young local music student Gillie O'Flaherty and a group poem from Open Book Ullapool – both of which you will hear in the sessions.

For almost every event we have brought writer and chair together and had the sessions filmed by professional cameramen. Some of these took place in Ullapool, others in Glasgow, and one each on the Isles of Skye and Lewis.

The session with Fiona J Mackenzie has a welcome from our honorary president Chris Dolan and we gratefully thank Moira Dolan for filming this in their house. And the session with Donald S Murray has some end-of-festival words from Chris.

All the events have subtitling. (Note: there is a function on YouTube to switch off/on subtitles. On your screen there will be a small white box with the letters CC in it. Just click on it...)

And we *will* see you in person at next year's Ullapool Book Festival – 6-8 May 2022.

With warm wishes from the UBF team.

info@ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk

(emails to this address will only be dealt with from Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm)



FIONA J. MACKENZIE

Fiona J. Mackenzie lives on the Isle of Canna in the Inner Hebrides, where she is the Archivist for the National Trust for Scotland in Canna House, the home of the Campbell Collections of Folklore and Song. In 2018 Birlinn published *Eilean – The Island Photography of Margaret Fay Shaw* which was edited by Fiona. She has also produced a half-hour film *Solas* based around Margaret Fay Shaw's BBC broadcasts of the 1950s, with her films and images. The film will be screened as part of this event.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart



JIM CARRUTH

Jim Carruth grew up on his family's farm near Kilbarchan. He has published multiple collections and chapbooks attracting both praise and awards, including the McLellan Poetry Prize and the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award. His most recent collection *Bale Fire* came out in 2019 and, like its predecessor *Black Cart*, continues to explore the impact of change on farming communities. Jim is the current poet laureate of Glasgow.

Chaired by Chris Dolan

(filmed in Glasgow by Hamish Macleod)



PETER GEOGHEGAN

Peter Geoghegan is an Irish writer, journalist and broadcaster and investigations editor at the award-winning news website *openDemocracy*. He led *openDemocracy's* investigations into dark money in British politics that were nominated for a 2019 British Journalism award and the Paul Foot award. *Democracy For Sale* is the story of how money, vested interests and digital skulduggery have destroyed trust in democracy and fuelled the rise of populism in Britain and across the West.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

(filmed in The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool by Steven Gourlay)



LEELA SOMA

Leela Soma was born in Madras, India and now lives in Glasgow, Scotland. Her poems and short stories have been published in several anthologies, publications. She has published three novels and two collections of poetry. She has just been appointed the Scriever, 2021 for the Federation of Writers Scotland. Some of her work reflects her dual heritage of India and Scotland. She will talk about her latest novel ***Murder at the Mela*** set in Glasgow.

Chaired by Chris Dolan

(filmed in Glasgow by Hamish Macleod)



CHRIS DOLAN

Chris Dolan writes for stage, page, screen and radio. In 2019 Chris travelled and busked across Spain, repeating a (failed) trip when he was 16, following the footsteps of earlier writer-travellers, inc. Gerald Brenan in 1919 and Laurie Lee 1935/6. His new book – ***Everything Passes, Everything Remains: Journeys through Spain, Song and Memory*** – is about remembering (and mis-remembering). How we form narratives of our own lives, our communities and even our nations.

Chaired by James Robertson



LINDA CRACKNELL

Linda Cracknell is a writer of fiction, non-fiction and drama for whom landscape, place and memory are key themes. Following two collections of short stories, her novel, ***Call of the Undertow*** (2013) was set in coastal Caithness. Her non-fiction walking-memoir ***Doubling Back: Ten paths trodden in memory*** (2014) became a BBC Book of the Week. Her latest book is a novella of lives linked to a Perthshire woollen mill over two centuries: ***The Other Side of Stone*** (Taproot Press, 2021).

www.lindacracknell.com

Chaired by James Robertson

(filmed in The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool by Steven Gourlay)



TOM DEVINE

Clearance, Famine and Racism; the Western Highlands and Islands in the Victorian Era

This event will be based on Sir Tom Devine's recent bestselling book, *The Scottish Clearances: A History of the Dispossessed* 'Perhaps the most important work of history Devine has ever written.' (Neal Ascherson).

Sir Tom Devine is the Sir William Fraser Professor Emeritus of Scottish History and Palaeography in the University of Edinburgh. Among his numerous national and international accolades and honours, Sir Tom is the only historian of Scotland to be knighted 'for services to the study of Scottish history' and to receive the nation's supreme academic accolade, the Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Edinburgh from HM The Queen in 2001.

Chaired by James Robertson

(filmed in The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool by Steven Gourlay)



MIRIAM GAMBLE AND PETER MACKAY

Originally from Belfast, Miriam Gamble has lived in Scotland since 2010 and is a lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh. Her poetry collections are *The Squirrels Are Dead* (2010), which won a Somerset Maugham Award, *Pirate Music* (2014) and *What Planet* (2019), all published by Bloodaxe Books

Peter Mackay is a native Gaelic speaker born and brought up on the Isle of Lewis. He is a poet, broadcaster, journalist and a lecturer in Literature at the University of St Andrews. He has two books of poetry: *Gu Leòr / Galore* (Acair 2015) which was shortlisted for the Saltire Scottish Poetry Book of the year and Gaelic Book of the year, and *Nàdur De / Some Kind of* (Acair 2020), which was shortlisted for the Ruaraidh MacThòmais Prize and longlisted for the Highland Book Prize.

Chaired by Mark Wringe

(filmed in The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool by Steven Gourlay)





SUNWISE

There is a tradition of the first turn being made ‘sunwise’ on land or especially at sea.

Ian Stephen has arranged and linked traditions of a sunwise journey out from the Outer Hebrides, taking in St Kilda and North Rona. He retells these in collaboration with musician Mike Vass who performs a newly composed suite. Christine Morrison has made new artwork in response. A version was commissioned and filmed by the Scottish International Storytelling Festival and Toronto Storytelling Festival. A couple of extracts from that will appear in tonight’s version which was filmed on the Isle of Lewis at locations relevant to the journey.

Chaired by **Laura Cameron-Lewis**

(filmed at various locations on the Isle of Lewis by Ruaraidh Urpeth)



AMBROSE PARRY

Ambrose Parry is the pseudonym for a collaboration between Chris Brookmyre and Marisa Haetzman. Chris Brookmyre is the international best-selling author of twenty-five novels. Dr Marisa Haetzman is a consultant anaesthetist of twenty years’ experience. Both of the Ambrose Parry novels – *The Way of All Flesh* and *The Art of Dying* – were finalists for the McIlvanney Prize. A third novel *A Corruption of Blood* is due out in August. The couple are married and live in Glasgow.

Chaired by **Mark Wringe**

(filmed in The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool by Steven Gourlay)



DONALD S MURRAY

Raised in Ness, Isle of Lewis and living in Shetland, Donald S Murray is a Gaelic speaking poet, author and occasional dramatist. His novel *As the Women Lay Dreaming* (Saraband) was shortlisted for a number of national awards and won the Paul Torday Memorial Prize for 2020. His new novel, *In a Veil of Mist* (Saraband) was published in March to excellent reviews. “A moving portrait of a place and its people ... a quiet, sad but brilliant novel.” Antonia Senior, Times, Book of the Month in best historical fiction, March 2021.

Chaired by **Mark Wringe**

(filmed in Talla Dhùisdeil, Isle of Skye by Alasdair Mackay)

THANKS TAPADH LEIBH

Ullapool Book Festival thanks all our writers and chairs who have helped us deliver this online festival. Thanks also to the cameramen in various locations.

Ullapool Book Festival is so grateful to the following for their support.

FUNDERS LUCHD-MAOINEACHAIDH



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A massive thank you to our local sponsors – Ullapool Harbour Trust, Ullapool Bookshop, The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool News. Our gratitude is immense.

PRODUCTION

All the technical production work was done by Martin Gilligan.

Captioning by StageTEXT.

Additional design by Duncan Todd.

ON THE EDGE OF THE WEST

Beneath the wilds of the Fannichs,
the Dirie, Ben Gobhlach:

Ullapool, cooried in; sanctuary.
Where the skies rise further,

where the weather scores the west:
Summer Isles, Hebrides.

These houses painted white, a metropolis
whose streets you can count on your fingers

and the pier, its tongue stuck out,
licking salt from the air.

Here are friendly, welcoming people,
fish suppers, a ferry black and white,

flapping flags, silver sparkle, coconut broom –
Here, it's the scale of what blows through you

as the wind birls the islands,
sieving winter's thoughts from our heads

and all along Market Street, the bloom
of cherry blossom making a Japan of Ullapool.

Open Book Ullapool