

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.

*A group poem by
Open Book Ullapool
Commissioned by
Ullapool Book Festival
2021*

UBF

2022
6-8 May

WELCOME

Convalescing recently, I couldn't read. Only for a week or two but it felt like months. What was it I was missing? Escape from my situation, my body, my self? Well, yes. Entering other worlds is a release. Worlds with more, perhaps graver, cares and threats, but at least they're not our cares and threats. Not directly. Briefly becoming somebody else entirely – which is what great writing, and reading, can do – is simultaneously a liberation and an engagement with our own, and others' experience and existence. Life is lonely without a book.

Over the last two years since we last met in Ullapool we've all been in our sickbed, taking our medicine, in semi-confinement. If, on top of that, we couldn't read, then our worlds diminished, tightening around us, shrouding us.

At the time of writing this, there's an air of hope, a feeling that we're over the worst. That, this time, we will make it to Ullapool. And why does that thrill me so much? Shouldn't we just be happy with the book on our lap?

No. I want to talk about it. I want to hear readers and writers debate, confer, yak about stories and poems and songs and ideas. There's an intense intimacy in reading and writing, but there's also the joy of sharing what we loved, what we learned, what we want – need – to read and discover next.

In May we throw off these clammy sheets, get out into the brisk Highland spring, take a deep breath of Loch Broom breeze, blether over scones and drams. We're still here, we can still learn, find new things and people. Arise, take up thy book and talk!

Chris Dolan, Honorary President, Ullapool Book Festival

GUESTS

**365 – James Robertson, Aidan O'Rourke,
Kit Downes**

Leila Aboulela

Mark Billingham

Chris Brookmyre

Jan Carson

Fun Lovin' Crime Writers

Graeme Macrae Burnet

George Gunn

Doug Johnstone

Hannah Lavery

Val McDermid

Rhoda Meek

Stuart Neville

David Pratt

James Robertson

Triin Soomets

Luca Veste

Ian Williams

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN ULLAPOOL VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 6 MAY DIHAOINE 6 CÈITEAN

10am

WELCOME by **CHRIS DOLAN, ULLAPOOL BOOK FESTIVAL HONORARY PRESIDENT**

followed by

GRAEME MACRAE BURNET

Graeme is the author of four novels, *The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau*, *His Bloody Project*, *The Accident on the A35* and *Case Study*. *His Bloody Project* was shortlisted for the 2016 Man Booker prize, the LA Times Mystery Book of the Year and the European Crime Fiction prize and won the Saltire Prize for Fiction and the Vrij Nederland Thriller of the Year. His latest novel *Case Study* was published in October 2021 to wide critical acclaim. Hannah Kent called it “a novel a mind-bending brilliance.” The Bookseller described it as “a thrilling investigation into the nature of sanity and identity.” Graeme was named Author of the Year in the 2017 Sunday Herald Culture Awards and has appeared at festivals and events all over the world.

Chaired by Chris Dolan.

£10

Sponsored by Ullapool Bookshop

11.30am

A PLATFORM OF POETS

International poetry and discussion with George Gunn (Scotland), Hannah Lavery (Scotland), Triin Soomets (Estonia), Ian Williams (Canada). Read more about them on their individual events!

Chaired by Jim Carruth

£10

2pm

DAVID PRATT: PICTURES FROM THE FRONTLINE

Over a four-decade long career as an award-winning reporter and photographer covering the world's trouble spots, David Pratt has led an adventurous and dangerous life. He has chatted with voodoo worshipping gunmen in Haiti and hiked over the Hindu Kush mountains with Afghan guerrillas, interviewed Congolese warlords, and reported from the frontlines of conflicts as far afield as Somalia and eastern Ukraine. Among many accolades for his work, he has been named Journalist of the Year in the Scottish Press Awards, twice been Reporter of the Year and twice Feature Writer of the Year. His life reporting on wars around the world is currently the subject of a BBC Scotland documentary series. In a unique event for this year's festival, clips from all three films (Pictures From Afghanistan, Pictures From Iraq, Pictures From the Balkans) feature alongside a discussion about his life and work.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

£10

Sponsored by the Open University in Scotland

3.30pm

MARK BILLINGHAM, CHRIS BROOKMYRE, LUCA VESTE

Three crime writers who all play guitar in the band Fun Lovin' Crime Writers will talk about their writing.

Mark Billingham has also worked as an actor, a stand-up comedian and a TV writer. There TV series based on several of his novels. Chris Brookmyre was a journalist before becoming a full-time novelist. His novels have sold more than two million copies in the UK alone. Luca Veste, a former civil servant, actor & singer, is the author of the Murphy and Rossi series set in Liverpool.

They will chair themselves!

£10

6.30pm

JAMES ROBERTSON

James has written seven novels including *Joseph Knight* (2003), *The Testament of Gideon Mack* (2006), *And the Land Lay Still* (2010). The latest is *News of the Dead* (2021) which is long listed for this year's Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. His poetry is widely published in magazines, pamphlets and books. He has also produced four collections of short stories, most recently *365 Stories* in 2014. James co-founded the Scots language children's imprint Itchy Co; he is also general editor and a contributing author.

Chaired by Chris Dolan

£10

Sponsored by The Ceilidh Place

8pm

JAN CARSON

Jan Carson is a writer based in Belfast. Her first novel, *Malcolm Orange Disappears*, was published in 2014 to critical acclaim, followed by a short-story collection, *Children's Children* (2016), and two flash fiction anthologies, *Postcard Stories* (2017) and *Postcard Stories 2* (2020). Her second novel, *The Fire Starters* (2019), won the EU Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for the Dalkey Novel of the Year Award. She has won the *Harper's Bazaar* short-story competition and has been shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award and the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize. Her latest novel *The Raptures*, published in January, will cement Jan Carson's reputation as one of the most exciting and inventive writers of her generation. "An original work that's equal parts terrifying, hilarious and memorable" – The Times

Chaired by Mark Wringe

£10

10pm (until 11.30pm)

THE FUN LOVIN' CRIME WRITERS

Crime writing pals Stuart Neville, Mark Billingham, Doug Johnstone, Val McDermid, Luca Veste and Chris Brookmyre are a full-on, kick-ass band, murdering songs for fun to anyone who will listen. The band have proved a massive hit at literary and music festivals across the UK and internationally over the last five years (including Glastonbury). Be prepared to dance your socks off at this unique rock 'n' roll experience. **Beer and wine bar – no unaccompanied under 18s**

£14

Sponsored by Ullapool Harbour Trust

SATURDAY 7 MAY DISATHAIRNE 7 CÈITEAN

10am

LEILA ABOULELAH

Leila Aboulela was born in Cairo, grew up in Khartoum and moved to Aberdeen in her mid-twenties. She has written five novels the latest of which is *Bird Summons*. Leila's work has received critical recognition and a high profile for its distinctive exploration of identity, migration and Islamic spirituality. She has been Fiction Winner of the Scottish Book Awards, first winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing and her latest story collection, *Elsewhere, Home* won the Saltire Fiction Book of the Year Award. She has also been long-listed three times for the Orange Prize for Fiction.

Chaired by Mark Wringe

£10

Sponsored by The Ceilidh Place

11.30am

TRIIN SOOMETS

Born in Tallinn, Estonia in 1969, poet Triin Soomets is the author of 20 books, most recently *Pind ajajoone all (Surface below the timeline)*, 2021. She arrived on the Estonian poetry scene in the famous collection of female authors *Luulekassett '90*, published in 1991, featuring her book of poems *Sinine linn*. She has been a member of Estonian Writer's Union since 1999. Her work has been widely anthologized and translated into more than twenty languages and she has won many awards including the Estonian Cultural Endowment Award in 2014. She will read in her own language with translations into English.

Chaired by Jim Carruth

£10

2pm

DOUG JOHNSTONE, VAL MCDERMID, STUART NEVILLE

Three crime writers who are members of the band Fun Lovin' Crime Writers talk about their writing.

Doug Johnstone is the author of 13 novels. He's been an arts journalist for over 20 years and has also written short stories and screenplays. He is a songwriter and musician with six albums and three EPs released. Val McDermid has sold over 17 million books to date across the globe and has been translated into more than 40 languages. Stuart Neville, from Northern Ireland, is an award winning writer of 10 novels. He has also written review essays and book reviews.

Chaired by themselves...

£10

3.30pm

RHODA MEEK

Rhoda Meek lives on the Isle of Tiree and describes herself as a trainee crofter and builder of digital things. Rhoda will talk about her recent controversial essay *Let My Language Die With Dignity*. Her personal conclusion is this – "Gaelic as a living community language.... is dying. The illness is terminal. Gaelic as a language may survive, but Gaelic as a key to an entire culture, a way of being, an approach to life, a lens through which the world is seen: that is not going to make it."

This session will be in Gaelic. Non-Gaelic speakers will not miss out as there will be simultaneous translation into English through individual headsets.

Chaired by Mark Wringe

£10

6.30pm

GEORGE GUNN

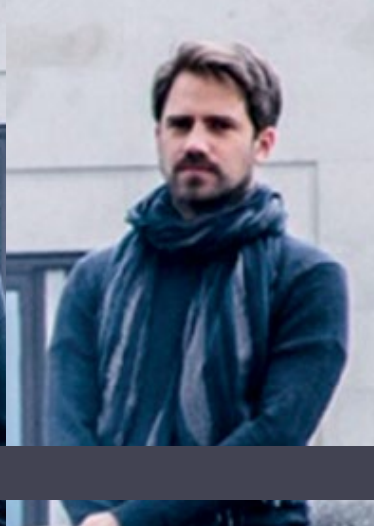
George is from Thurso, Caithness. In 2021 he published his 10th book of poems *Chronicles of The First Light* (Drunk Muse Press). His second novel *The Vinegar Wind* will appear in 2022. He has had over 50 plays produced for stage and radio, the latest are *Call Me Mister Bullfinch* (The Royal Lyceum Theatre commission) and *The Fallen Angels of the Moine* (Dogstar Theatre, tour 2022). He writes for the magazine Bella Caledonia. He is currently the Caithness Makar with Lyth Arts Centre. "George Gunn is a poet of energy and lyricism. Fearless." – Anne Macleod, Scotland On Sunday.

Chaired by Jim Carruth

£10



365



Leila Aboulela



James Robertson



George Gunn



Hannah Lavery



Rhoda Meek



Ian Williams

Credit Justin Morris



Jan Carson



Triin Soomets



David Pratt



Graeme Macrae Burnet



Fun Lovin' Crime Writers

Credit AmMcCredie

UBF

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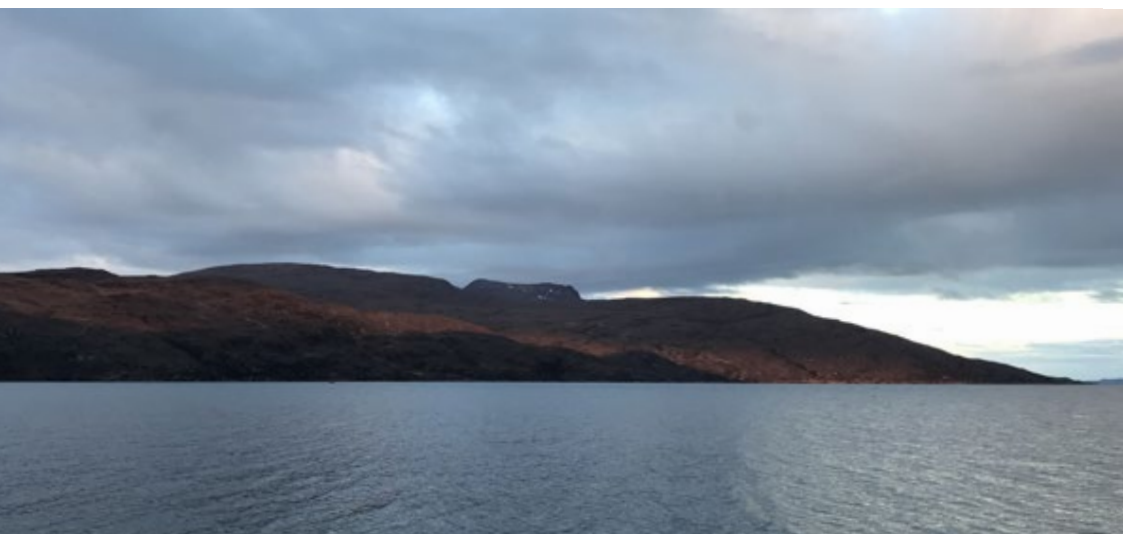


8.30pm

365 – JAMES ROBERTSON, AIDAN O’ROURKE AND KIT DOWNES

Words, music, the disarming drama of stripped-back storytelling. Bringing together two of the UK’s leading folk and jazz musicians with one of Scotland’s most celebrated authors, 365 is a sparse, evocative and bravely original collaboration. It began with the words. James Robertson wrote a short story each day for a year, each story containing exactly 365 words. Intrigued by the ritual and inspired by the potent atmosphere of the writing, Aidan O’Rourke – one of Scotland’s leading traditional musicians, fiddler of the folk supergroup Lau – decided to follow suit. He composed a tune every day for a year, each tune a response to one of Robertson’s stories. Now they perform a bespoke piece weaving together words and music. This show is about old myths, folk legends, everyday lives, hard truths, tender tales, the alchemic power of words and music. Pianist/harmonium player Kit Downes, a heavyweight of the European jazz scene, adds bold and kaleidoscopic harmonies.

£12



SUNDAY 8 MAY DIDÒMHNAICH 8 CÈITEAN

10.15am

HANNAH LAVERY

Hannah Lavery is an award-winning poet and playwright. Her pamphlet, *Finding Seaglass* was published by Stewed Rhubarb and her poem, *Scotland You’re No Mine* was selected as one Scotland’s Best Poems for 2019. *The Drift*, her highly acclaimed autobiographical lyric play toured Scotland as part of the National Theatre of Scotland’s Season 2019. In 2020, she was selected by Owen Sheers’ as one of his Ten Writers Asking Questions That Will Shape Our Future for the International Literature Showcase, a project from the National Writing Centre and the British Council. Her second lyric play *Lament for Sheku Bayoh* premiered at Edinburgh International Festival in 2021. She was also appointed Edinburgh Makar in November 2021 for a three year term. She is an associate artist with the National Theatre of Scotland and one of the winners of the Peggy Ramsay/Film4 Award 2022.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

£10

11.45 am

IAN WILLIAMS

Ian Williams’ first novel *Reproduction* won the 2019 Scotiabank Giller Prize and his first nonfiction work, *Disorientation*, was a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Award. His poetry collection, *Personals*, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize and his new collection, *Word Problems*, won the Raymond Souster Award. His short story collection, *Not Anyone’s Anything*, won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and his first book, *You Know Who You Are*, was a finalist for the ReLit Poetry Prize. He is a trustee for the Griffin Poetry Prize and was recently inducted into the City of Brampton Arts Walk of Fame. A tenured professor of English at the University of Toronto, Williams is the 2022 Visiting Fellow at the American Library in Paris.

Chaired by Chris Dolan

£10

TICKETING INFORMATION

TICKETS GO ON SALE AT 7PM ON MONDAY 21 MARCH

ONLINE

www.ticketsource.co.uk/ullapool-book-festival

PHONE

If you are unable to book online you can call Ticket Source on 0333 666 3366

A telephone service fee of £1.80 applies to all completed bookings. The Ticket Source box office service is currently available Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays)

TICKETING FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

One carer per wheelchair user. Contact us beforehand so we know to expect you. Then turn up **30 minutes before** event start time with the wheelchair user's ticket and we will accommodate both of them. No ticket required for the accompanying carer.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE CHECK THE START TIME ON YOUR TICKET

LATECOMERS

Latecomers cause disruption to authors and audience members and **will not be admitted** after the start of the session. Please make sure you arrive in time to be seated by the start time on your ticket. No refunds will be given to latecomers.

CONTACT US

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Ullapool Book Festival, 33 Seaforth Road, Ullapool IV26 2UY
info@ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk

INFORMATION FIOSRACHADH

* **There will be no books for sale at the festival.** However our sponsoring bookshops, The Ceilidh Place Bookshop and Ullapool Bookshop, will stock the writers' books. Buy them there and bring them along for signing. **Support independent bookshops.**

* All sessions last approximately 1 hour unless indicated otherwise.

ACCOMMODATION ÀITEAN-FUIRICH

For places to stay in Ullapool and for any other information on the area, visit the website of Welcome Ullapool www.ullapool.com or phone Ullapool Tourist Information Centre 01854 612486

FOOD BIADH

Teas/coffees/home baking will be in the marquee alongside the Village Hall – by Ullapool Fairtrade Group on Friday and by Gino's Cantina on Saturday. Between the two sessions on Sunday morning Ullapool Book Festival will be serving coffee, tea and their own homemade cakes to raise funds for next year's festival.

COLLECTION FOR MAGGIE'S

Throughout the weekend there will be collecting tins in the village hall for Maggie's, a charity providing free cancer support and information in centres across the UK and online. It has helped friends and family of the UBF community throughout the years.

ACCESS COTHROM

Ullapool Village Hall has disabled access and disabled toilet with a changing bench (but no hoist). The hall also has a hearing loop system.

If anyone requires assistance please speak to one of the committee/stewards. If you think you will need any other help contact us beforehand and we will sort it for you.

Ullapool has a Changing Places toilet situated at the rear of the ferry car park.

THANKS TAPADH LEIBH

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

FUNDERS LUCHD-MAOINEACHAIDH

Creative Scotland.

SPONSORS URRASAIREAN

Ullapool Harbour Trust, The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool Bookshop, The Open University in Scotland , The Ullapool News, The Highland Council, EDF/Lochbroom Community Council Fund



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