

ULLAPOOL – THE BOOK FESTIVAL THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The opposite of a book festival
is not a book-burning,
it is indifference. Let them hear
us sing the difference. Love's words
are louder, brighter than flames. Listen
I have watched Love's sweat-earned words
plunge readers' hands into
soft sweatpalmed lyrical hugs,
become part of an always us.
I have seen words introduce someone
to Love. Love is a work of art.
Novel. Novella. Epic. Poem. Story.
Love is an inveterate writer of letters,
emails and txts. I love Love, whose hair
is cut like a haiku, whose mind is epic
as a novel, whose hands are bright and
restless as a bookmark. I love Love.
Love is an us, Love shows us
life is an us. Listen, may this always
be the festival that loves
to make a difference. This festival
reminds us we belong with Love's words
which, like village halls and ceilidh
places, are physical and inwardly
permanent parts of an us. Let us give
thanks to that which brought us to an us,
let us never forget that the opposite
of a book festival is not a book-burning,
it is indifference. Let us make a difference.

Kevin MacNeil

UBF

2023
5-6 May

JOHN INNES (1940 – 2022)

We were deeply saddened to hear in November of the death of John Innes who was one of the dedicated volunteers at the festival. One of the kindest of men, he would turn his hand to anything – he had an unerring eye for spotting what needed doing before anyone else noticed that it needed done.

John's dedication, warmth and all-round goodness will be sorely missed. This, the 19th and final Ullapool Book Festival, is dedicated to his memory.

WELCOME

Forget any goodbyes, we've got a wonderful weekend ahead of us, and about as entertaining and engaging a literary festival as you could hope for.

Where will this year's Ullapool conversation take us? For nearly two decades now it has got us thinking – and reading, and re-reading – in surprising and valuable ways.

There can be no doubt that the past will be on our minds. Who we are and how we got here. We kick off with Scotland's most important and insightful historian. Along the way we have extraordinary stories of WWII and how it reached into every corner of our country. There are memories of fathers and childhood, a sad but beautiful reflection on youthful friendships. How our personal histories continue to shape and nourish us.

We'll ponder too on the more recent history of pandemics and governments' reactions to them – events that still affect and concern us. Everything passes and everything remains.

The Ullapool Book Festival has always looked towards tomorrow, even while examining yesterday. And it has always looked outwards. We have journeys throughout Scotland, fiction from India, reflections on Algeria from Scottish shores, analyses of Russia and Ukraine. Plus a very welcome visit from another old friend and one of our age's most valiant and shrewd human rights activists. In English, Gaelic, Shetlandic, Scots...

And of course we have music and fun. Music inspired by the flora and fauna of Scotland's forests, to poetry from one of our most loved and acclaimed writers along with jazz guitars. And fun from lockdown in Falkirk. So many connections, echoes, overlapping perspectives... That doesn't come from nowhere. It's the result of years of experience, programming, reading, planning. And baking.

There's no goodbye at all here, but a see you soon, at the next UBF (©) event. And that can wait till Saturday night. Right now we can all just get stuck into what is bound to be another memorable, thoughtful and hugely enjoyable Ullapool Book Festival. Onwards!

Chris Dolan, Honorary President, Ullapool Book Festival



OUR GUESTS

Janette Ayachi
Linda Bauld
Alan Bissett
Hazel B Cameron
Puja Changoiwala
Tom Devine
Gavin Francis
Jeane Freeman
Kirstin Innes
Doug Johnstone

Christine De Luca
Màrtainn Mac A' Bhàillidh
Donald S Murray
Hamish Napier
Don Paterson
Michael Pedersen
Patsy Reid
Angus Roxburgh
Raja Shehadeh
Graeme Stephen

OUR CHAIRS

Chris Dolan
James Robertson

Ruth Wishart
Mark Wringe

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN ULLAPOOL VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 5 MAY DIHAOINE 5 CÈITEAN

10am

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

followed by

TOM DEVINE

Sir Tom Devine is Sir William Fraser Professor Emeritus of Scottish History and Palaeography in the University of Edinburgh. He has also held Professorial Chairs at Aberdeen and Strathclyde, of which he was Deputy Principal. He was knighted in 2015 by HM Queen Elizabeth II 'for services to the study of Scottish history', the only historian ever to be so honoured. For the opening event of the final festival he will deliver a talk on *The Origins of Tartanry? A Puzzle from the Scottish Past*.

Chaired by James Robertson

£10

Sponsored by The Open University in Scotland

11.30am

CHRISTINE DE LUCA AND DONALD S MURRAY

Two fine island writers. **Christine** (from Shetland, now living in Edinburgh) will talk about her latest novel *The Trials of Mary Johnsdaughter*. **Donald** (from Lewis, now resident in Shetland) will discuss his most recent novel *The Call of the Cormorant*.

Chaired by Mark Wringe

£10

2pm

HAZEL BUCHAN CAMERON

Hazel Buchan Cameron is a Scottish writer and poet and was the first Writer-in-Residence at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Her latest work, which she will talk about today, is a book of essays by Scottish writer, traveller and botanist, Isobel Wylie Hutchison (1889–1982), *Peak Beyond Peak* (Taproot Press, 2022).

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

£10

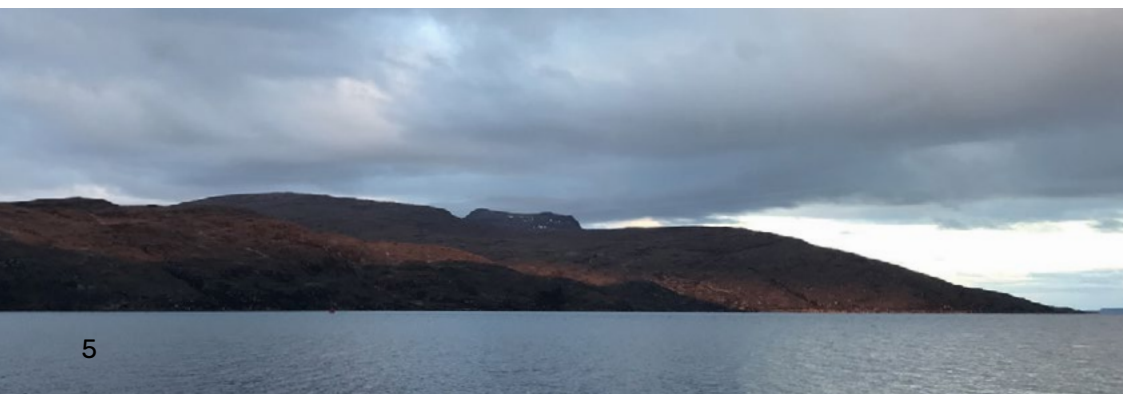
3.30pm

PUJA CHANGOIWALA

Puja Changoiwala is an award-winning journalist and author of three books. Puja's reportage has been published across the likes of BBC, CNN, The Guardian, The Washington Post, National Geographic and Al Jazeera. She will talk about her latest fiction book *Homebound*. Things were going well for Meher and her family until the Indian government announced the world's largest coronavirus lockdown. As Covid-19 cases in their Mumbai slum soar, Meher and her family realize that they have no choice but to leave for their village in Rajasthan. With the ban on public movement, it becomes clear that they would have to walk the 900 kms, facing barbaric police officers, searing heat, wild beasts and indifferent deities. A deeply moving story about family, survival and relentless hope, *Homebound* brings to the page the stark realities of those who have remained too long without a voice.

Chaired by James Robertson

£10



6.30pm

HAMISH NAPIER AND PATSY REID

Music and words. Hamish Napier and Patsy Reid will perform Hamish's award winning album *The Woods* (2020 Album of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards) inspired by the flora and fauna of Scotland's native forests.

Hamish Napier is a Scottish folk multi-instrumentalist and composer inspired by the heritage and nature of his native landscape of Strathspey. Hamish plays wooden flutes and piano, and is joined by Patsy Reid (fiddle). Hamish's music is innovative, incorporating sounds from jazz, electronica and classical music, while also celebrating and respecting Scotland's rich musical heritage. Humorous, engaging and heart-warming, Hamish's performances are often interdisciplinary, incorporating poems and stories about nature and folklore.

£10

7.45pm

KIRSTIN INNES AND DOUG JOHNSTONE

Kirstin Innes is the author of the novels *Fishnet*, which won the Guardian's Not The Booker Prize in 2015, and *Scabby Queen* (nominated for the 2020 Scottish Novel of the Year) and she has written both fiction and documentaries for Radio 4. Kirstin is currently working on the script for a large-scale musical and her third novel, *Semiprecious*, which tells the story of a village over a thousand years.

Doug Johnstone is the author of fourteen novels, most recently *Black Hearts* (2022). *The Big Chill* (2020), was longlisted for the Theakston Crime Novel of the Year. Several of his books have been bestsellers and three, *A Dark Matter* (2020), *Breakers* (2019) and *The Jump* (2015), were shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Novel of the Year. His latest novel *The Space Between Us* is due out in mid-March. It is a first-contact thriller set in the Scottish Highlands, a book about connection and our place in the universe.

Chaired by Mark Wringe

£10

Sponsored by The Ceilidh Place

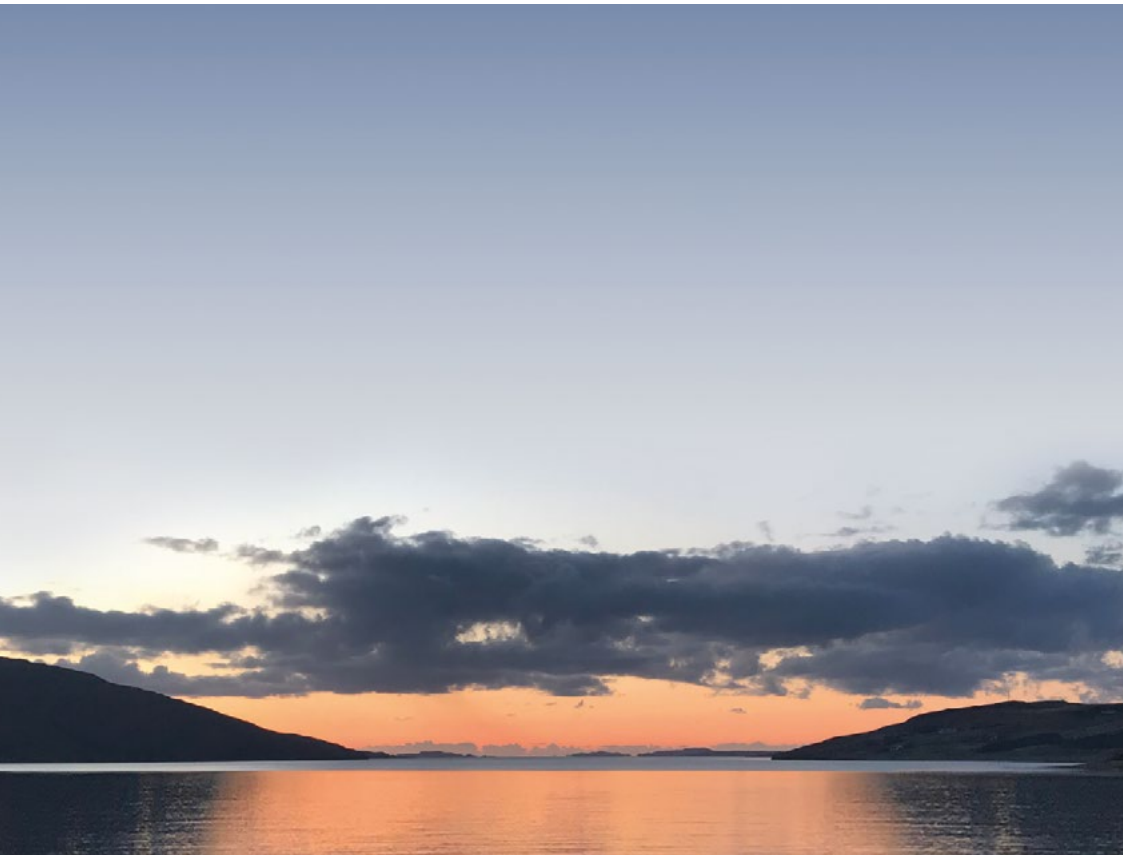
9.15pm

MOIRA IN LOCKDOWN – written and performed by Alan Bissett

In this third and final instalment of what is now *The Moira Trilogy*, Falkirk's hardest woman, Moira Bell, faces her toughest challenge yet: surviving a pandemic with only vodka, fags and her BFF Babs on Zoom. Take that, Bear Grylls!

Journey through the highs and lows of lockdown with writer-performer Alan Bissett, returning as Moira, as she lusts after Joe Wickes, rages at Cummings and grows her own weed (might as well 4, seeing as the f**kin world's ending, eh Babs?). She's 'the most charismatic character to appear on a Scottish stage in a decade' (*The Scotsman*) but this time she canny even leave the hoose!

£10



SATURDAY 6 MAY DISATHAIRNE 6 CÈITEAN

10am

ANGUS ROXBURGH

Angus Roxburgh has had a long career as a BBC correspondent in Moscow and Europe, as well a short spell as a media consultant to the Kremlin. His book on Putin *The Strongman* has become ever more pertinent following the invasion of Ukraine and he is able to give an insightful view of the man who runs Russia today.

Chaired by James Robertson

£10

Sponsored by Ullapool Harbour Trust

11.30am

MICHAEL PEDERSEN AND JANETTE AYACHI

Michael Pedersen is a prize-winning poet and author with two poetry collections under his belt and a third due for release. His rave-reviewed prose memoir, *Boy Friends*, described '*as a love letter to friendship*', was published in 2022. *Janette Ayachi* is based in Edinburgh, born in London, with Scottish & Algerian heritage. She's a regular on BBC Scotland arts programmes & has published work in a broad range of anthologies. Her debut poetry book *Hand Over Mouth Music* (Pavilion) won the Saltire Poetry Book of the Year Literary Award 2019.

Chaired by Chris Dolan

£10

2pm

LINDA BAULD, GAVIN FRANCIS AND JEANE FREEMAN

Professor Linda Bauld OBE is the Bruce and John Usher Chair in Public Health in the Usher Institute, College of Medicine, University of Edinburgh and Chief Social Policy Adviser to the Scottish Government. For the past 25 years she has led studies to prevent or treat the main modifiable risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases. She has also been involved in research on Covid-19 and



Alan Bissett



Angus Roxbrugh



Christine De Luca



Don Paterson



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Linda Bauld



Màrtainn Mac A' Bhàillidh



Michael Pedersen



Patsy Reid



Puja Changoiwala



Raja Shehadeh



Tom Devine

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worked extensively with the media during the pandemic.

Gavin Francis is a GP between Edinburgh, Orkney and Sutherland, and the author of eight prize-winning books of non-fiction. His account of the first 18 months of the Covid pandemic ***Intensive Care: a GP, a Community, & a Pandemic*** was a notable book of the year in The Herald, Scotsman, Financial Times, Observer, Irish Times, and New Statesman. **Jeane Freeman** was an SNP MSP and Government minister for 5 years until 2021. She was Health Secretary during the Covid pandemic and played a key role in leading the Scottish Government's response and actions to this major public health threat. Since retiring from elected politics, she has worked with both the University of Glasgow and Queen Margaret University.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

£10

3.30pm

MÀRTAINN MAC A' BHÀILLIDH

Martin Baillie is an architect and has extensive experience of major public projects in Glasgow; he also has first-hand experience of residential development in the Highlands through his time working in Skye. However, he now works as Adult Learning Manager at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and lives on a croft in the north of Skye. Martin was one of the course developers who created the Scottish Gaelic course on Duolingo and in his role at SMO is responsible for the ongoing development of both the Duolingo and SpeakGaelic courses. Martin is also a volunteer organiser with the Scotland-wide, independent grassroots advocacy group Misneachd which he helped establish in 2016. Martin leads Misneachd's campaigns highlighting the impact that the rural housing crisis has on Gaelic speaking communities, work which recently led him to contribute to Breannán Ó Beaglaoich's RTÉ programme on housing, 'The Man with the Moving House'.

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

Gaelic Translation by Muireall Urchardan (Muriel Urquhart)

Chaired by Mark Wringe

£10

6.30pm

RAJA SHEHADEH

Raja Shehadeh is a lawyer and writer and the founder of the pioneering Palestinian human rights organisation Al Haq. Shehadeh is the author of several acclaimed books including the Orwell Prize-winning ***Palestinian Walks***. His most recent book is ***We Could Have Been Friends My Father and I***. Last November he was honoured by the Royal Society of Literature by being named one of twelve writers around the world as an international writer of the RSL. He lives in Ramallah, Palestine.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

£10

Sponsored by the Ullapool News

8pm

DON PATERSON AND GRAEME STEPHEN

Don Paterson is the author of numerous works of poetry and non-fiction; his writing has won many awards, including the Whitbread Poetry Prize, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, the Costa Poetry Award, all three Forward Prizes, and the T. S. Eliot Prize on two occasions. He was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2009; he is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the English Association and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and for many years taught at the University of St Andrews, where he is now Emeritus Professor of Poetry. For most of his life he has also worked as a jazz musician and composer. **Graeme Stephen** has been playing guitar since the age of 9. Today he leads and contributes to a multiple of musical projects in Scotland and overseas, playing a wide array of styles from free improvised jazz to Scottish folk. Stephen's peerless improvisational skills and talent for composition makes him one of Scotland's most exciting and prodigious musical talents.

£10

Sponsored by Ullapool Bookshop

TICKETING INFORMATION

TICKETS GO ON SALE AT 9AM ON SATURDAY 11 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 £2 applies to all completed bookings. The Ticket Source box office service is currently available Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays).

TICKETING FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

One carer per wheelchair user. 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 CUIRIBH FIOS THUGAINN

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.

ACCESS COTHROM

Ullapool Village Hall has disabled access and a 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

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Ullapool Harbour Trust, The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool Bookshop,
The Open University in Scotland, The Ullapool News.



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