



## Borders Book EVENT INFORI INFORI 13-16 JUNE 2024 Events are one hour long unreserved.

**HARMONY GARDEN · MELROSE · SCOTTISH BORDERS** 

### **BOOKING INFORMATION**

Tickets are available online, by phone and in person.

#### **ONLINE:**

www.bordersbookfestival.org

### **PHONE:**

Citizen Ticket: 0131 290 2112

Phone lines open: Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 4.00pm This is a call back service. To book tickets, please leave a message with your name and number.

For general enquiries please call the festival office on 01896 822644.

### **IN PERSON:**

There will be a box office on site during the festival (13 - 16 June): Harmony Garden, St Mary's Road, Melrose, Scottish Borders, TD6 9LJ

**Concession tickets (C)**, where applicable, are available to students, registered disabled (plus one carer/companion), registered unemployed, under 16s and Young Scot cardholders. Proof of entitlement will be required.

Free companion tickets are available for those who need a support person or aide to attend events – see details on page 9.

Responsible ticketing: We take the health and wellbeing of our audience, guests, volunteers and staff seriously, and have taken steps to keep everyone safe. This includes operating a paperless ticketing system, which brings the additional benefit of helping to reduce the festival's environmental impact. By working with ticketing partners Citizen Ticket, we go one step further; for every ticket purchased, a donation will go towards planting a tree right here in the UK.

For more details see www.citizenticket.co.uk/trees/

### **EVENT INFORMATION**

**Events** are one hour long unless specified. Seating is unreserved.

**Latecomers:** Events start punctually. Members of the audience might not be admitted after the beginning of events.

**Programme** details are correct at time of going to press. Borders Book Festival reserves the right to alter or cancel events. Tickets are non-refundable unless an event is cancelled. Please check the festival website **www.bordersbookfestival.org** for the latest news, special events and information.

**Visitors with additional needs:** For more details about access at the festival see page 9.

**Dogs** are permitted in the Orchard and Harmony Garden, if well behaved and kept on leads at all times. Please note that dogs are NOT permitted in the fruit and vegetable garden within Harmony Garden. This area will be clearly marked. Please clean up and dispose of any fouling in the general waste bins located next to the toilets.

**Assistance dogs** ONLY will be admitted to event venues.

Borders Book Festival is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in Scotland Reg. No. SC296476 Scottish Charity No. SC037347

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

**Honorary Patrons:** Catherine Hamilton, Rory Bremner, James Naughtie, Eleanor Updale

**Benefactors:** Paul & Clare Rooney, The Blackport Family, Richard & Catherine Burns

**Patrons:** The Duke of Buccleuch, The De Gier Family, Fiona & Ian Russell

**Supporters:** Sue & Rob Moffat, Ann & Maurice White, Alan Goodson, Gale Martin, Ian & Patricia Stewart

### **COVER ILLUSTRATION**

This year's festival artwork has been designed by artist Astrid Jaekel. Look out for her work in our programme, on posters, across our social media channels and various branded materials. To see more of her amazing work visit: www.astridjaekel.com



**PARKING:** Visitors are advised to park in Melrose town centre where the parking is in easy reach of the festival venues. There is also very limited parking for festival opers at the edge of the rugby pitch at Annay Road. This parking is weather dependent.

Although we do have some limited, disabled parking for Blue Badge holders only, we highly recommend using the drop-off point on Annay Road, where assistance from a member of the book festival team will be available. Restrictions will be in place on St Mary's Road from Mon 10 June to Mon 17 June and a diversion route from Abbey Street to Newstead will be in operation.





Welcome! Nearly 15,000 tickets were sold at last year's festival and in this programme you can see how our brilliant creative directors, Alistair Moffat and Paula Ogilvie, plan to build on that wonderful experience.

At the heart of our four days together is the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, with the award ceremony starting the celebrations on our opening night. The peerless Rory Bremner is back, too, this time teaming up with Fred MacAulay and, undeterred by the striking (as in lightning) conclusion to their gig last year, the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers are back as well. We can't wait!

Mixing it up is a consistent theme of the programming at the festival, so you will not be surprised to see the wide range of authors Paula and Alistair have brought together this year.

Louise Minchin takes us on adventures with Extraordinary Women, while explorer Benedict Allen leads the way into the Great Unknown. Suzanne Heywood recounts her childhood experiences travelling the world on the high seas and Robin Niblett joins us to highlight the geopolitical changes brought about by the rise of China.

A hundred years ago, in a very different world, Eric Liddell triumphed at the Paris Olympics. To mark the occasion, Sally Magnusson will have another Olympic hero, Allan Wells, and others, on hand to reflect on those magnificent events.

Back to the present day, modern Scottish poetry is showcased thanks to Len Pennie's Poyums, a collaboration with Earlston High School pupils brings us Sally Nicholls and Josh Silver, while in the children's programme we say hello again to Michael Morpurgo, and give a big shout out to the creative team from the Beano...

Helping us to bring all this together are our friends at Baillie Gifford, who return as Principal Sponsors, alongside our long-term funders Scottish Borders Council and Creative Scotland - thank you to each of them.

There's a wider roster of contributors without whom this literary extravaganza could not happen, of course. Amongst them, Knight Frank, Davidson Chalmers Stewart, Corney & Barrow and **Lochcarron of Scotland** have each notched up at least ten years of supporting us - thank you! Newly on board are Adam & Company and Clelands Volvo. Thanks to one and all!

And thank you again. That show must be about to begin, so you'd better get going - enjoy!

#### Michael Moore

Chairman, Borders Book Festival

#### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS, FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

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**MAJOR SPONSOR** 

### Baillie Gifford



#### **FUNDERS**





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### SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS



































Thanks also to: Advanced Signs Systems, The Border Studio, Dr David Summers Charitable Trust, Dynamite Initiatives, Fauhope Country House, Gannochy Trust, HR Creswick Charitable Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Live Borders, The Mainstreet Trading Company, Lloyd Smith Photography & Video, St Mary's School, StonehillSalt PR, Super Power Agency, Turtleton Charitable Trust and all our wonderful festival volunteers.

### **Harmony Garden**

### HARMONY GARDEN FESTIVAL **BOOKSHOP**

There's lots of space for browsing, buying and book signings and in the corner kids' area, children can sit and read. The bookshop's opening hours are 3.30pm on Thursday and Friday, 9.00am on Saturday and 10.00am on Sunday, closing late every day - plenty of time for shopping!

directly back into delivering the festival and our outreach



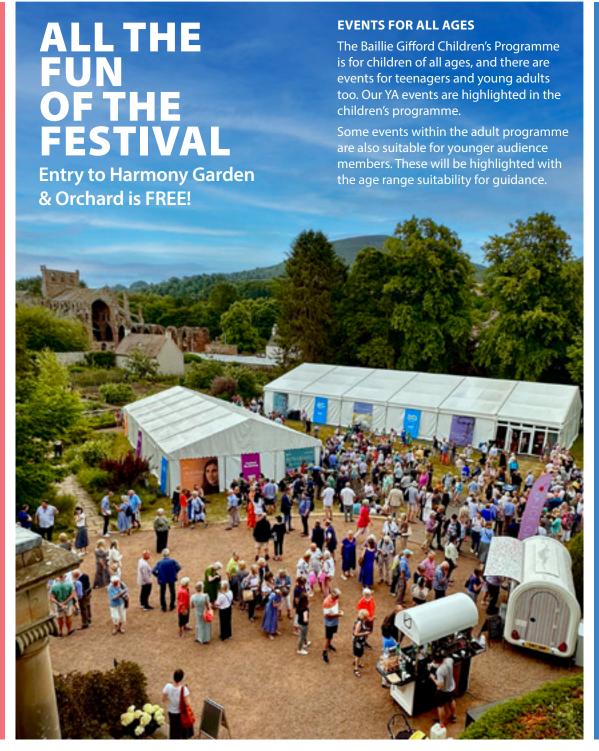
#### **Book Signings**

Most authors sign copies of their books immediately after their event in our bookshop. Copies of their books will be available to buy. There's no need to reserve a place for signings, simply turn up and join the queue.

#### **Drinking Water**

We have installed a public drinking-water station in Harmony Garden, and we encourage you to bring a reusable bottle to fill up during your visit. Reusable cups can also be purchased from the festival bookshop.

to the Refill scheme. You can top up your bottle free of charge from outlets displaying 'Free Tap



### **The Orchard**

#### **FOOD AND DRINK**

We'll have your taste buds tingling with some of the finest food and drink from across the Borders and beyond.

Under our giant stretch tent, **Sips Events** will keep you in good cheer with their finest beers, wines and craft gins.

This year's foodies will be spoiled for choice with the finest Scottish seafood from Alandas, a taste of Italy from Pizza Geeks, Americanstyle burgers and hotdogs from The Penny Bun and Wee Green, and sensational Greek wraps, gyros and halloumi fries from Greek Street Food

Also on site is a mouth-watering selection of waffles, crepes, ice creams and sorbets served by With a Cherry on Top and Over Langshaw Farmhouse Ice Cream.

If you are short on time between events, you can enjoy great artisan coffee from **Luckie** Beans, as well as alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks from the **Harmony Bar**.

You can find a full list and details on all our fantastic food and drink suppliers on the festival website.











The Heartland Market is back on Saturday and Sunday during the festival.

The market was established to celebrate the artisan makers and shakers of Galashiels and the surrounding area and offers shoppers a unique experience to buy directly from local creative artisan producers.

For more: www.theheartlandmarket.uk

#### **GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL**

#### **Travelling by Car**

Melrose is easily accessible by car and is less than five minutes' drive from the main A68 and A7 trunk roads. For how to find us and parking information see page 3

#### **Car Charging**

You'll find rapid charge points in Buccleuch Street car park, Melrose and a further seven charging points a five-minute drive away at Tweedbank Service Station, TD1 3DJ. National car charging websites will show additional charging locations nearby.

#### **Bike Racks**

We encourage eco-friendly transport options. A small number of bike racks are available on site at the festival. See our website for more details.

#### **Taking the Train or Bus**

The journey by train takes less than one hour from Edinburgh to Tweedbank Station - a handy 1.5 miles from the festival site.

If you fancy a nice 20-minute stroll to Harmony from the train, just follow the book festival signs to Melrose, but, if you'd rather catch a bus, they run regularly between Tweedbank and Melrose.

There are regular trains from Edinburgh Waverley (every 30 minutes at peak times), and you'll find a link to the ScotRail and Borders Buses timetables in the 'Getting to Melrose' section in the 'Festival Info' tab on www.bordersbookfestival.org

#### **MEDIA**

You might just come across a TV camera or a large microphone if you are attending the festival, so make sure you're camera ready - you might end

#### **Recording of Events**

A selection of the events taking place at Harmony Garden will be available to view later on demand. More details can be found on our website and by signing up to our mailing list for regular updates.

#### Photography & Video

The book festival employs a roving photographer and cameraman who wi



#### Bloom Media Project

Borders Book Festival is thrilled to announce an exciting project we are undertaking for young people aged 16 and above to engage in media production and storytelling. The initiative aims to empower young individuals with a passion for media, to refine their skills and gain practical experience. Keep your eyes open for our roving team throughout the festival.





From seating to parking - all the accessibility info you need in one place.

#### Sound enhancement in venues

We have a hearing loop system in our three largest venues: Harmony Marquee, Cullen Kilshaw Marquee and BSW Group Marquee. Simply set your hearing aid to 'T' for access.

#### Wheelchair access

All venues have wheelchair access. There is also extensive tracking across the festival site to ensure access is as smooth and level as possible.

### **Seating requests**

If you have a wheelchair, or you need to sit in a specific area (aisle, etc), we can reserve seats for you. At least two days in advance, please complete and submit the request form which can be found in the seating requests section of the accessibility page on our website. Due to limited space and high demand, we are unable to reserve seats for others in your group – we want to ensure our accessible seats are available for those who most need them.

### **Companion tickets**

If you need a support person or aide to attend events, they are entitled to a free companion ticket. These tickets should be booked at the same time you buy your own tickets.

#### **BSL** interpreted events

A selection of events will have a BSL interpreter. Look out for the BSL icon under events in the programme or online. If you are a deaf person and find your chosen BSL event has sold out, please email us at info@bordersbookfestival.org to enquire about ticket availability.

#### Toilets

We have toilets for everyone, including gender neutral and wheelchair accessible toilets plus baby changing facilities.

#### **Assistance dogs**

Assistance dogs are welcome to attend events. If you do need an assistance dog, please complete the request form in the assistance dog section of the accessibility page on our website at least two days before your event so that we can reserve appropriate seating.

#### **Hidden Disabilities Sunflower**

Wearing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyard discreetly indicates to our trained staff that you may need additional support or help as you navigate the festival site and attend events. Lanyards are available at the box office.

#### Accessibility parking

Although we do have some limited disabled parking for Blue Badge holders, we highly recommend using the drop-off point on Annay Road, where assistance from a member of the festival team will be available.

#### **Mobility scooters**

A small number of mobility scooters will be available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. The collection point is located next to the box office. If you wish to book these in advance, please complete the request form which can be found in the mobility scooters section of the accessibility page on our website at least two days before your planned visit.



### **FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE**

### **FAMILY EVENTS** YOUNG ADULT EVENTS \*\*

### THURSDAY 13 JUNE

Time	Event	Location	Page
5.30pm	The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	14
5.30pm	Sarah Rankin: Scottish Seasonal Food	BSW Group Marquee	15
5.30pm	Sarah Corbett & Gemma Cairney: The Art of 'Gentle Protest'	Buccleuch Marquee	15
5.30pm	Voices of Hawick Rugby	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	15
7.15pm	Patrick Grant	Harmony Marquee	16
7.15pm	Alan Johnson	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	16
7.15pm	Alistair Moffat: Between Britain	BSW Group Marquee	17
7.15pm	Clare Mulley: Agent Zo	Buccleuch Marquee	17
7.15pm	Borders Writers' Forum	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	17
9.00pm	David Nicholls	Harmony Marquee	18
9.00pm	James Holland	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	18
9.00pm	Natalie Haynes: Divine Might	BSW Group Marquee	19
9.00pm	Steven Veerapen: The Wisest Fool	Buccleuch Marquee	19

### FRIDAY 14 JUNE -

5.30pm	Louise Minchin: Fearless-Adventures with Extraordinary Women	Harmony Marquee	20
5.30pm	Rory meets John Kampfner	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	20
5.30pm	Nick Lloyd: The Eastern Front	BSW Group Marquee	21
5.30pm	A Celebration of Nan Shepherd with Kerri Andrews & Ellie Zeegen	Buccleuch Marquee	21
5.30pm - 7.00pm	Craftivism Workshop: Dream-making	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	21
7.15pm	Kate Humble	Harmony Marquee	22
7.15pm	Suzanne Heywood: Wavewalker	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	22
7.15pm	James Naughtie: Reflections	BSW Group Marquee	23
7.15pm	Women of Whisky	Buccleuch Marquee	23
7.30pm	The 'Why?' and 'How?' of Fiction Writing	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	23
9.00pm	Robert Peston: The Crash	Harmony Marquee	24
9.00pm	Rory Cellan-Jones	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	24
9.00pm	Nigel Toon: How Al Thinks	BSW Group Marquee	25
9.00pm	Billy Sloan: Stories from the Stars	Buccleuch Marquee	25
9.00pm	Tan Twan Eng	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	25

### **SATURDAY** 15 JUNE

Time	Event	Location	Page
9.45am	Supertato Silliness with Sue Hendra	BSW Group Marquee	44
9.45am	Vivian French: Bibi and the Box of Fairytales	Buccleuch Marquee	44
9.45am	Storytelling the Super Power Agency Way!	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	44
9.45am - 3.45pm	Knight School with Abbotsford	Abbotsford Tent	45
10.15am	Guided Dharma Meditation	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	26
11.15am	The Illustration Game with Tom Morgan - Jones	BSW Group Marquee	45
11.15am	Who Makes a Forest? and Who Makes an Ocean?	Buccleuch Marquee	45
11.15am - 11.40am	Bookbug Rhyme Session	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	45
11.50am - 12.15pm	Bookbug Rhyme Session	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	45
12.15pm	Robert Peston: How Do We Get Out of this Mess?	Harmony Marquee	26
12.15pm	Philippa Langley: The Princes in the Tower	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	26
12.45pm	Magic, Mystery & Adventure with Abi Elphinstone	BSW Group Marquee	46
12.45pm	Kevin the Orange with Alan Windram	Buccleuch Marquee	46
12.45pm	Emily Dodd: Surfing the Moon	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	47
2.00pm	Eric Liddell 100	Harmony Marquee	27
2.00pm	Robin Niblett: The New Cold War	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	27
2.15pm	Two Beano Eds Need You!	BSW Group Marquee	47
2.15pm	Sally Nicholls: Yours From the Tower **	Buccleuch Marquee	48
2.15pm	A Scoop of Stories: Sensory Stories and Crafts	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	48
3.45pm	Wes Streeting	Harmony Marquee	28
3.45pm	Alexander McCall Smith	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	28
3.45pm	Alistair Moffat: Highlands & Islands of Scotland	BSW Group Marquee	28
3.45pm	Caroline Eden: Cold Kitchen	Buccleuch Marquee	29
3.45pm	Josh Silver **	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	48
5.30pm	Janey Godley	Harmony Marquee	29
5.30pm	Howard Jacobson	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	30
5.30pm	Gelong Thubten: Handbook for Hard Times	BSW Group Marquee	30
5.30pm	Rosemary Goring	Buccleuch Marquee	31
5.30pm-7.00pm	Craftivism Workshop: A Heart for Your Sleeve	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	31
7.15pm	Rory Bremner	Harmony Marquee	31
7.15pm	Justine Picardie	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	32
7.15pm	Mark Billingham & Chris Brookmyre	BSW Group Marquee	32
7.15pm	Len Pennie: Poyums	Buccleuch Marquee	33
8.45pm -10.00pm	Live Music: archie	Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent	33
9.00pm	Val McDermid	Harmony Marquee	33
9.00pm	Suzi Ronson: Me and Mr Jones	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	34
9.00pm	Juano Diaz: Slum Boy	BSW Group Marquee	34
9.00pm	Amelia Dalton: Pages from my Passport	Buccleuch Marquee	34

### **SUNDAY 16 JUNE**

10.15am Somatic Yogic Movement & Breathwork Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 49 12.00pm Michael Morpurgo Harmony Marquee 49 12.00pm Anthony Seldon Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 35 12.00pm Gelong Thubten: Meditation Workshop BSW Group Marquee 35 12.00pm Nadine Aisha Jassat: Finding Our Hidden Stories Buccleuch Marquee 35 12.00pm Too Snappy to Wear a Nappy Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 50 12.00pm Charlie Higson Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 36 14.5pm Charlie Higson Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 36 14.5pm Charlie Higson Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 36 14.5pm Prof Richard Wiseman: The Secret World of Magic and Illusions 36 14.5pm Fiona Carswell: Boy Who Loves to Lick the Wind Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 51 13.15pm - 4.45pm Scribble and Scrawl Crawl Outdoors at Harmony Garden & Orchard 52 13.30pm James Naughtie Harmony Marquee 36 13.30pm Fun Lovin' Crime Writers in Conversation Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 36 13.30pm George Butler: Words and Pictures from the Ukraine Conflict Words and Pictures from the Ukraine Conflict 18 13.15pm - 4.Whale of a Time with Vivian French Buccleuch Marquee 32 13.15pm Robert Hardman: Charles III Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 38 15.15pm Robert Hardman: Charles III Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 39 15.15pm Robert Hardman: Charles III Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 39 15.15pm Poets Reclaiming and Renewing Place Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 52 15.15pm Poets Reclaiming and Renewing Place Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 39 15.15pm Poets Reclaiming and Renewing Place Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 39 17.00pm James Crawford: Scotland's Wild History Buccleuch Marquee 40 17.00pm James Crawford: Scotland's Wild History Buccleuch Marquee 41 18.30pm Anna Deacon & Vicky Allan: The Ripple Effect Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 41 18.30pm Anna Deacon & Vicky Allan: The Ripple Effect Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 41 18.30pm Live Music: Fun Lovin' Crime Writers 85 18.50pm Beitzleth Macneal: Victorian Gothic 80ccleuch Marquee 42	Time	Event	Location	Page
12.00pm Michael Morpurgo Harmony Marquee 49 12.00pm Anthony Seldon Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 35 12.00pm Gelong Thubten: Meditation Workshop BSW Group Marquee 50 12.00pm Nadine Alisha Jassat: Finding Our Hidden Stories Buccleuch Marquee 50 12.00pm Too Snappy to Wear a Nappy Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 50 12.00pm -4.30pm Knight School with Abbotsford Abbotsford Tent 50 14.5pm Clive Myrie Harmony Marquee 36 14.5pm Charlie Higson Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 36 14.5pm Prof Richard Wiseman: The Secret World of Magic and Illusions BSW Group Marquee 51 14.5pm Mike Nicholson: The Case from Outer Space Buccleuch Marquee 51 14.5pm Fiona Carswell: Boy Who Loves to Lick the Wind Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 51 3.15pm -4.45pm Scribble and Scrawl Crawl Outdoors at Harmony Marquee 36 3.30pm James Naughtie Harmony Marquee 37 3.30pm Fun Lovin' Crime Writers in Conversation Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 37 3.30pm George Butler: Words and Pictures from the Ukraine Conflict BSW Group Marquee 52 3.30pm A Whale of a Time with Vivian French Buccleuch Marquee 52 3.15pm Benedict Allen Harmony Marquee 38 5.15pm Robert Hardman: Charles III Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 39 5.15pm Robert Hardman: Charles III Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 39 5.15pm Poets Reclaiming and Renewing Place Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 39 7.00pm Michael Morpurgo: The Nation's Storyteller Harmony Marquee 40 7.00pm Jo Caulfield Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 40 7.00pm James Crawford: Scotland's Wild History Buccleuch Marquee 41 8.30pm Rory meets Fred MacAulay Harmony Marquee 41 8.30pm Anna Deacon & Vicky Allan: The Ripple Effect Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 41 8.30pm Anna Deacon & Vicky Allan: The Ripple Effect Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 41	10.15am	Somatic Yogic Movement & Breathwork	Cullen Kilshaw Marquee	35
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### **THURSDAY** 13 JUNE

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2024

# THE WALTER SCOTT PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL FICTION

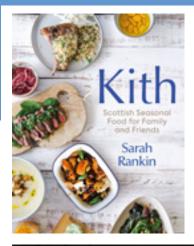




### The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 5.30pm | £8, £6

This year the prize came under the new management of The Abbotsford Trust, but the prize ceremony returns triumphant to Harmony Garden as ever! Start your festival-going with a feast of wonderful historical fiction, see a phalanx of literary stars reading from their work, and find out who has won the feted £25,000 prize in this opening gala event. At the time of going to press the shortlist has not been decided, but the lonalist includes such luminaries as Tan Twan Eng, Rose Tremain, Joseph O'Connor and Zadie Smith as well as exciting emerging authors from the UK, Ireland and the Commonwealth. Meanwhile, lovers of historical fiction can be inspired by a visit to Abbotsford, the extraordinary home of Walter Scott and the spiritual home of the prize.







### Sarah Rankin: Scottish Seasonal Food for Friends and Family BSW Group Marquee 5.30pm | £10, £8

MasterChef finalist and food writer Sarah Rankin is passionate about Scottish ingredients and feeding the people she

loves. Eating locally and seasonally allows us to make the most of the extraordinarily versatile produce that she loves so dearly. Her first and much-anticipated cookery book, *Kith*, showcases the best of Scotland's larder in a collection of practical dishes anyone can recreate at home for friends or family. Following the order of the seasons with specially commissioned photographs throughout, it is the perfect companion for any home cook looking to utilise their local larder.

### Sarah Corbett & Gemma Cairney: The Art of 'Gentle Protest'

Buccleuch Marquee | 5.30pm | £10, £8

Craftivism, or activism through craft, adopts a quiet approach to protest. It focuses on creating handmade gifts crafted with empathy and kindness, with politicians, business leaders or other decision-makers as their intended recipients. Since founding the Craftivist Collective in 2009, award-winning activist and author Sarah Corbett's 'gentle protest' approach has directly helped change hearts, minds, policies and laws around the world. She has collaborated with diverse organisations from Save the Children to The Climate Coalition and the Victoria and Albert Museum and enthusiasts of her work include Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai and the architect of the Paris Agreement, Christiana Figueres. Join Sarah in conversation with writer and broadcaster Gemma Cairney, as she shares some of the projects, stories and methods for your gentle protests in her lovingly produced The Craftivist Collective Handbook. This is a book for anyone who wants our world to flourish and is up for the adventure of becoming a thoughtful, loving changemaker.

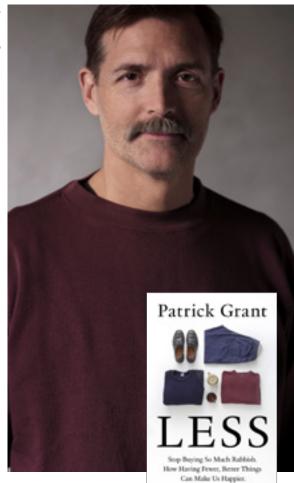


# Voices of HAWICK RUGBY

### **Voices of Hawick Rugby**

**Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent** | **5.30pm** | **£10, £8** Hawick Rugby Football Club is 150 years old in 2024 and in this celebratory volume the story of the most consistently successful rugby team in Scotland is told from many points of view. Memories from players - those that became British Lions and also those who only played junior rugby - supporters, volunteers, opponents, referees, journalists, and the legendary commentator,

volunteers, opponents, referees, journalists, and the legendary commentator, Bill McLaren are all included. Much more than a history, this is a story of part of the beating heart of a unique Borders community. **Ian Landles** and **Murray Watson** will join us.



### **Patrick Grant**

### Harmony Marquee | 7.15pm | £16, £14

To the title of his new book, Less, the judge of the BBC's Great British Sewing Bee has attached an informative subtitle: Stop Buying So Much Rubbish. How Having Fewer, Better Things Can Make Us Happier. After almost 20 years in fashion, Patrick Grant knows that he loves clothes, but he doesn't love the way they're made. Woven into his personal story he considers the crisis of the global fashion industry and explains how when it comes to wardrobe essentials, less is more, and that we should celebrate good quality and craftmanship, making things well and keeping them longer. He believes this could re-energise weaving and spinning skills here in Britain, cutting down on cheap imports. Put simply - love your clothes by buying fewer and buying better.

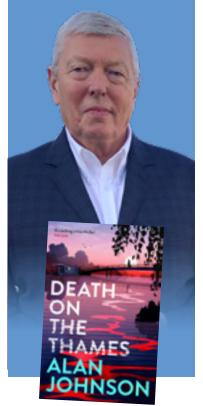
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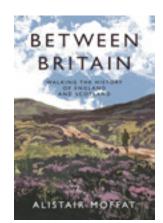
### LOCHCARRON

of SCOTLAND

### Alan Johnson Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 7.15pm | £14, £12

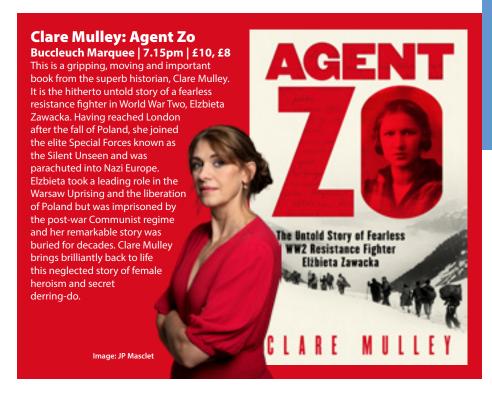
Death on the Thames is a superb new thriller from the former Labour Home Secretary turned bestselling novelist. It is 1999. As London prepares for the millennium, a serial rapist is stalking the banks of the River Thames. DC Louise Mangan is a junior officer in a maledominated world but she manages single-handedly. But that's only the beginning. This gripping story who-done-what unfolds. Reviewers have hailed the novel as 'a punchy thriller' and a certain bestseller. The former MP and cabinet minister brings all his unique, frontline political experience to enrich this





### Alistair Moffat: Between Britain BSW Group Marquee | 7.15pm | £14, £12

Between Britain is an account of a walk along the line of the border from Berwick Upon Tweed to Gretna and the Solway. Moffat moves through the history of England and Scotland's relationship with each other, visiting the sites of battles, treaties, castles and crossroads. The border is also the place where both nations define themselves, where saltires and St George's Crosses flutter by the roadside, where different jurisdictions collide and where cultural habits and accents meet. But as the story moves along the Tweed and then into the Cheviot Hills, it also looks at change as the identities of these often uneasy neighbours have sharpened and become more assertive in recent times. English nationalism, the most powerful force in British politics since the turn of the 21st century, and Scottish nationalism are compared as Moffat seeks to understand how these have changed – and why.





### Borders Writers' Forum: The Best of Borders Writing Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent | 7.15pm | £8, £6

The Borders Writers' Forum invites you to enjoy some of our best prose and poetry performances. Prepare to be transported to a variety of landscapes - historically, internally, physically, psychologically and metaphorically evoked by a careful selection of readings from both our published and up-and-coming writers. The local talent on your doorstep aims to inspire you to read our books and try your hand at some writing of your own. www.borderswritersforum.org.uk

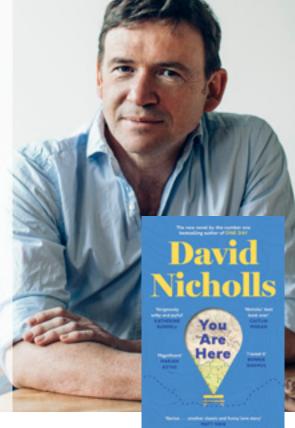
### **David Nicholls Harmony Marquee** 9.00pm | £16, £14

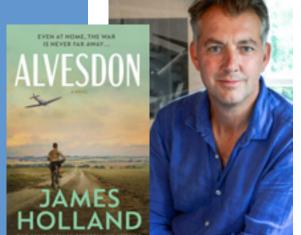
The recent Netflix series of One Day reminded a wider audience of what a wonderful writer David is and persuaded many to read his other novels. You Are Here is a love story that unfolds on a walk across the north of England - ten days in the Lakes, the Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors. It's the moving and atmospheric story of two lonely people, Michael and Marnie, both of them a little lost and wary of new company, But, over many miles, as they start to talk and share stories, the possibility of a new beginning opens up before them. You Are Here is David Nicholls at his very best: witty, unexpected, thoughtful, perfectly attuned to the motions of the human heart – and written in effortless, stunning prose. It is a novel of first encounters, second chances and finding the way home.

Sponsored by Knight Frank

Image: Mike Lawn

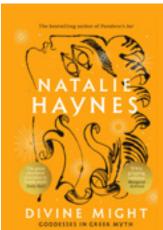






### James Holland **Cullen Kilshaw Marquee** 9.00pm | £14, £12

It is 1939. The shadow of war falls across Britain, affecting people and communities dramatically. In the little village of Alvesdon in Wiltshire, the lives of the Castell family, farmers for many generations, are profoundly changed. In this superb new novel, James Holland explores the fortunes of the Castells, from the outbreak of war until the Battle of Britain in 1940. James is also the author of acclaimed, bestselling histories of the Second World War such as The Battle of Britain, Dam Busters, Normandy '44 and most recently Brothers in Arms. His work was greatly enjoyed by the Borders Book Festival's founding chairman, Francis Hamilton. This session is dedicated to his



### Natalie **Haynes: Divine Might BSW Group Marquee** 9.00pm | £14, £12





### **Steven Veerapen: The Wisest Fool Buccleuch Marquee** 9.00pm | £10, £8

Steven Veerapen relates the lavish life of James VI and I, the first monarch to rule over the United Kingdom. He has long endured a mixed reputation. To many he is the gay king, the witch-burner, the smelly sovereign who never washed, the colourless man behind the authorised version of the Bible bearing his name, and the drooling fool with a thick Scottish accent. Steven's new biography offers fresh insights, laying to rest a welter of scurrilous rumour-mongering. What emerges is a portrait of James VI and I as his contemporaries knew him: a gregarious, idealistic man obsessed with the idea of family, whose personal and political goals would never match up to reality. This beautifully written account of a pivotal historical figure casts a fresh light on Jamie the Saxt.

### FRIDAY 14 JUNE

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### **Louise Minchin:** Fearless - Adventures with **Extraordinary Women**

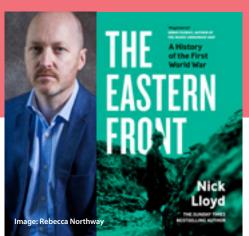
Harmony Marquee | 5.30pm | £16, £14 Louise, co-host of BBC Breakfast for many years, is a journalist known for her trademark intelligence and warmth. Now she has applied her formidable talents to her fascinating new book Fearless: Adventures with Extraordinary Women, in which she tells the stories of trailblazing women as she joins them on adventures which break down barriers, smash records and challenge stereotypes. Louise experiences freediving in the dark under the ice in Finland, swimming in the Arctic and cycling across Argentina. In these stories of courage, endurance and endeavour, Louise reminds us of how brave we can all be and how we should celebrate and be inspired by these fearless women.





### Rory meets... **John Kampfner Cullen Kilshaw Marquee** 5.30pm | £14, £12

John is a prolific and highly respected journalist, author and commentator. Former foreign correspondent at the Daily Telegraph in Berlin and Moscow, political correspondent for the FT and Newsnight, editor of the New Statesman, founder chair of the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate and the Creative Industries Federation. Somehow in that time he's written seven fascinating books: Inside Yeltsin's Russia, Robin Cook, Blair's Wars, The Rich, Freedom for Sale, Why the Germans Do it Better, and now In Search of Berlin. He joins his friend Rory Bremner for a wideranging interview about his many books, interests and the state of the world.



### **Nick Lloyd: The Eastern Front** BSW Group Marquee | 5.30pm | £14, £12

This is the second volume of Nick Lloyd's magisterial, landmark history of the First World War. Having dealt with the much better known events of the Western Front in Belgium and France, this new book tells the less well understood story of the war in the Balkans that was ignited as a struggle between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Serbia. The conflict sucked in Russia, Germany and Italy, and huge numbers, 16 million soldiers and 2 million civilians, were killed, wounded or maimed in enormous battles that sometimes ranged across a front that could be 100km in length. A beautifully structured, wonderfully well-written account from a historian at the peak of his powers.



### A Celebration of **Nan Shepherd** with Kerri **Andrews &** Ellie Zeegen **Buccleuch Marquee** 5.30pm | £10, £8 In Kerri Andrews' Wanderers

she shares a bequiling history of ten pathfinding women walkers, with figures including Dorothy Wordsworth and Virginia Woolf, who found walking essential to their sense of themselves, as people and as writers. She also spotlights the prolific walker and mountain writer Nan Shepherd, whose poetic

and philosophical works, including The Living Mountain have inspired a new generation of readers and writers. In this event, Kerri and actor and founder of Firebrand theatre company Ellie Zeegen discuss how Shepherd's experiences as author, teacher, hillwalker and lover helped shape Scotland's recent literary history and sparked their collaboration on the new play Nan Shepherd: Naked and Unashamed, which runs at Pitlochry Festival Theatre this summer.



### **Craftivism Workshop: Dream-making**

**Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent** 5.30pm - 7.00pm | £20 | Also suitable for Age 14+ It's easy to feel helpless and overwhelmed at the harm mindful craftivism (craft + activism) workshop you can move from being a world-worrier into an empowered changemaker. Facilitated by founder of the global Craftivist Collective, Sarah P Corbett. "This Dream-making project taps into this insight. It's designed to engage the creative, conscious, planning system in your brain - the prefrontal cortex - and help you consider how to join the dots and explore routes to a better future." Dr Charlotte Rae, neuroscientist at the University of Sussex.

All craft resources supplied and ethically sourced. No craft skills needed.

### **Kate Humble**

### Harmony Marquee | 7.15pm | £16, £14

Where the Hearth Is: Stories of Home is the wonderfully warming new book from the presenter of Springwatch and Autumnwatch. Feeling happy, healthy, productive and content in our homes – be they castles or caravans, flatshares or farms, fixed or temporary – is more important than ever as post-Covid society changes the way we work and live. Kate's new book will resonate with those who want to make the most of their lives where they spend most of their time. It is beautifully and empathetically written.

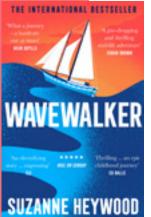


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Kate Humble

Where the

Hearth Is





### Suzanne Heywood: Wavewalker Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 7.15pm | £14, £12

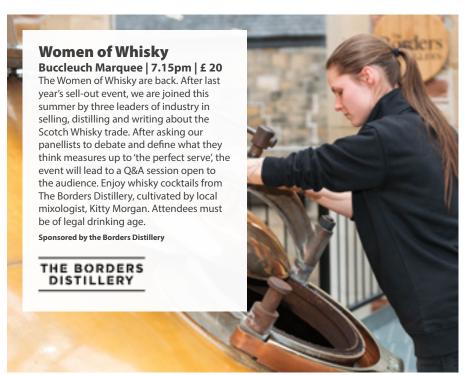
Aged just seven, Suzanne Heywood set sail with her parents and brother on a three-year voyage around the world. What followed turned instead into a decade-long way of life, moving through

storms, shipwrecks, reefs and isolation, with little formal schooling. No one else knew where they were most of the time and no state showed any interest in what was happening to the children. Suzanne fought her parents, longing to return to England and to education and stability. When she did return, she got into Oxford University, began to build her own life, and went on to become CEO of global investment company Exor. Suzanne was also married to the late Cabinet Secretary, Jeremy Heywood. Sarah Brown wrote, 'This is a jaw-dropping real life adventure on the high seas for a girl who just wanted normality and finally found her way back to it.' In conversation with Sarah Brown.



### James Naughtie: Reflections BSW Marquee | 7.15pm | £14, £12

James Naughtie is trying to get politicians who're now out of the game to reflect on their mistakes as well as their successes, and to pull back the veil on how important decisions were made. In the BBC Radio 4 series Reflections returning this summer, he creates living history through conversations with the people who were at the centre of events. The BBC's special correspondent, who hosted Today on Radio 4 for 21 years, takes us on a journey into the public memory. How does the past look now - and what didn't we know at the time? In conversation with Alistair Moffat.



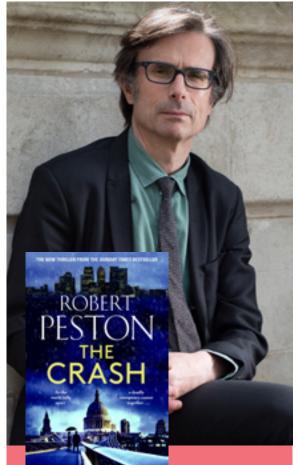




### The 'Why?' and 'How?' of Fiction Writing Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 7.30pm | £8, £6

What makes a writer write, and how do they go about it? Four local authors, who share a number of national and international awards for their writing, explain that extraordinary journey of the imagination that leads to a published book. Iona McGregor, Margaret Skea, Peter Flannery and Oliver Eade, all members of the Borders Branch of the Society of Authors will talk about their own journeys in Mainstream, Historical, Fantasy and Children's / Young Adults' Fiction.





### **Robert Peston: The Crash**

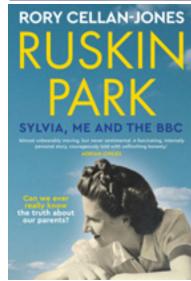
Harmony Marquee | 9.00pm | £16, £14

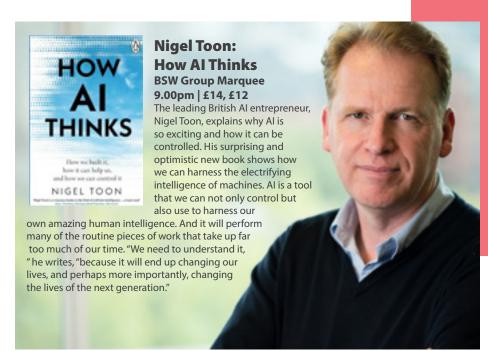
A follow-up to *The Whistleblower*, his excellent debut novel, *The Crash* sees the return of Gil Peck – a version of the young(ish) Robert Peston – and it is another gripping, intriguing story. London 2007. It is summer in the City: the economy is booming, profits are up and the stock market sits at near record highs. But Gil Peck is a lone voice worrying that it can't last. Deep in the plumbing of the financial system, he has noticed strange things happening that could threaten the whole economy. But nobody wants to hear it. When Gil gets a tip-off that a small northern bank has run out of money, everything changes. Sound familiar? Robert's wonderfully atmospheric thriller achieves that singular thing; fiction being as informative about how history happened as the bare facts. This is a brilliant, page-turning novel.

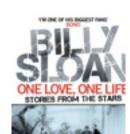
### Rory Cellan-Jones Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 9.00pm | £14, £12

From BBC Technology correspondent to freelance journalist and podcaster, Rory has changed direction again with Ruskin Park: Sylvia, Me and the BBC, a moving memoir about his unconventional childhood. All Rory knew was that he was the child of a love affair between two BBC employees. When Sylvia died, he found a file labelled 'For Rory'. Papers inside revealed her relationship with James Cellan Jones, a gifted director. The file also told much about the centrifugal force at the centre of all their lives – the BBC. On the file, Sylvia also wrote 'In the hope that it will help him understand how it really was.' Rory did, and has written an absorbing and poignant account of family and hidden lives.











**Buccleuch Marquee** 9.00pm | £10, £8 One Love, One Life is a very different sort of memoir. It recounts the adventures of the legendary music journalist and broadcaster, Billy Sloan. Billy tells how he skipped Christmas dinner to see The Sex Pistols at the peak of their notoriety and what it was like to interview Keith Richards and David Bowie. He met Grace Jones when she was in the bath, had candid conversations with Rod Stewart, a tour of the White House with Paolo Nutini, close

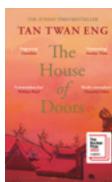
encounters with U2 and

**Billy Sloan:** 

the Stars

**Stories from** 

much more. Billy's memoir is brilliantly entertaining and searingly honest.





### Tan Twan Eng Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent

9.00pm | £10, £8 A former winner of the Walter Scott Prize, Tan Twan Eng returns to Melrose with his exquisite new novel The House of Doors. In 1921 at Cassowary House in the Straits Settlements of Penang, Robert and Lesley Hamlyn receive a visit from an old friend: Willie Somerset Maugham, one of the greatest writers of his day. But beleaquered by an unhappy marriage,

ill-health and business interests gone badly awry, Willie is struggling to write. As he prepares to leave, Lesley confides secrets of her own, including her relationship with a charismatic Chinese revolutionary and her connection to the case of an Englishwoman charged with murder. This drama of love and betrayal is based on real events. The session is dedicated to the memory of the Duchess of Buccleuch.

### SATURDAY 15 JUNE

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### **Guided Dharma Meditation**

Cullen Kilshaw Marquee | 10.15am | £12

Led by Yoga Ganesh's Braxton, this wellness session combines guided meditation alongside organic soundscapes. The reflections here will be on the symbiosis between sound and the 'eternal now' for inner calm. As a group we will practice slow, gentle breathing, before entering a mindful space through our organic sound bath. Suitable for both beginners and seasoned yogis. Bring warm clothing and your own yoga mat.



### **Robert Peston:** How Do We Get Out of this Mess?

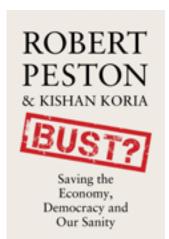
Harmony Marquee | 12.15pm | £16, £14



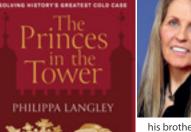
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Robert Peston and Kishan Koria's book Bust? is both a pithy and appropriate title, as they try to understand what has happened to Britain over the last two decades. Subtitled Saving the Economy, Democracy and Our Sanity, it relates an unprecedented sequence of problems: a pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, growing tension with China, the increasing resistance to globalisation and the unwelcome return of inflation and painful interest rates. The world as we know it has been shattered.

But despite this, Robert is optimistic and writes, "Confidence in our institutions has been undermined by leaders who have an uncomfortable relationship with the truth and an economy that has mainly served the richest. It's time to abandon pessimism and look for answers."









### **Philippa Langley:** The Princes in the Tower Cullen Kilshaw Marquee | 12.15pm | £14, £12

After her sell-out success at last year's festival with The Lost King, the story of finding Richard III's grave, Philippa returns with another riveting tale, The Princes in the Tower: Solving History's Greatest Cold Case. When Richard III seized the throne of England in 1483, the legitimate king, Edward V and

his brother, Prince Richard, were imprisoned in the Tower of London and then murdered. Or were they? Philippa has undertaken the first ever forensic investigation and pulled back the curtains of history to reveal an extraordinary story. 'We have discovered not just proof of life but overwhelming evidence...that not only did the Princes in the Tower survive but they went on to challenge Henry VII for the throne of England.' This is a brilliantly told, spellbinding and compelling story.



### The true story that inspired 'Chariots of Fire'

AN ADAM & COMPANY EVENT

### **Eric Liddell 100 Harmony Marquee** 2.00pm | £16, £14



It is 100 years since Eric Liddell won a gold medal at the Paris Olympics and as the games return to France, the festival celebrates his life and achievements. Sally Magnusson, the author of his biography, The Flying Scotsman, is joined by Allan Wells, winner of a gold medal for the 100m in 1980. He was asked if his win was dedicated to the last British winner. Harold Abrahams. "No, this is for Eric Liddell" was the reply. Eilidh Doyle, Olympic and Commonwealth medalist, is an ambassador for the Eric Liddell 100 programme and she joins Sally, Allan and Sue Caton, Eric Liddell's niece, in an event unique to the festival.





### **Robin Niblett:** The New Cold War **Cullen Kilshaw Marquee** 2.00pm | £14, £12

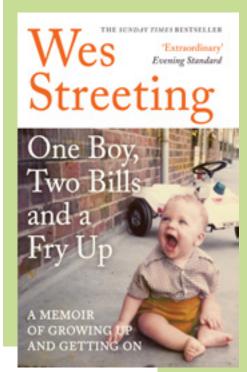
The New Cold War: How the Contest Between the US and China Will Shape Our Century is a fascinating - and chilling - new analysis. We have entered a new Cold War. The contest between America and China is global and unbridgeable, and it encompasses all faces of statecraft – economic, political and military. And it has its tinderbox: Taiwan. Both countries are working hard to make allies across the world. Hillary Rodham Clinton described this as "An illuminating book for the interested citizen as well as for those making policy."



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BORDERS BOOK FESTIVAL / 13-16 JUNE / 2024





### Wes Streeting Harmony Marquee 3.45pm | £16, £14 The prominent Labour MP and

The prominent Labour MP and Shadow Health Secretary has written an inspirational childhood memoir

that highlights the importance of family, the value of education and the difficulties of escaping the poverty trap that ensnares so many. One Boy, Two Bills and a Fry Up: A Memoir of Growing Up and Getting On is beautifully written. Wes grew up on a council estate in Stepney in East London and might well have ended up in prison rather than parliament. The book also points out the life-enhancing power of education. Encouraged by a series of inspirational teachers, Wes won a place at Cambridge University and found his political vocation as President of the National Union of Students. Elected in 2015, he has never forgotten where he came from and the lessons from his background inform everything he does in politics.



### Alexander McCall Smith Cullen Kilshaw Marquee

Marquee 3.45pm | £14, £12 At 24 Mouse Lane in the

heart of Edinburgh's New Town, Katie Donald is in the business of bringing lonely hearts together. The Perfect Passion Dating Company is the first in a new series by one of Scotland's very greatest

and most prolific novelists. Sandy McCall Smith has a passion for playfulness mixed with kindness and generosity of spirit – and he can also tell a rattling good story. As his heroine, Katie, brings people together, she learns profound lessons about her own desires. And in this she is aided and encouraged by her handsome neighbour, William Kidd. This lovely novel is also insightful, offering a glimpse inside the psychology of matchmaking and the search for love and compassion.



### Alistair Moffat: The Highlands and Islands of Scotland BSW Group Marquee 3.45pm | £14,£12

This sweeping new history of the Highlands, Hebrides and the Northern Isles by Alistair Moffat opens with the unique geological

drama of the landscapes which controlled where and how people farmed, hunted, fished and therefore lived. This epic book moves from Orkney as capital of Britain to the Highland Clearances and the romancing of the Highlands, telling us about the coming of the Gaelic language, the art of the Picts, Jacobitism and the heroism of the clans – and all in a new way. There are also some telling moments where stories of individuals enrich the book which ends with an upbeat sense of renewal ahead for the north.

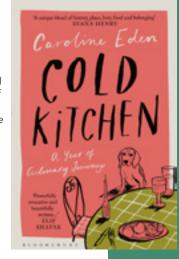




### Caroline Eden: Cold Kitchen Buccleuch Marquee 3.45pm | £10, £8

Caroline Eden's basement
Edinburgh kitchen is like a portal
to other worlds. With its union of
practicality and magic, a kitchen
offers an unlikely route out of the
ordinary, offering opportunities
to cook, imagine and create
ways back into other times and

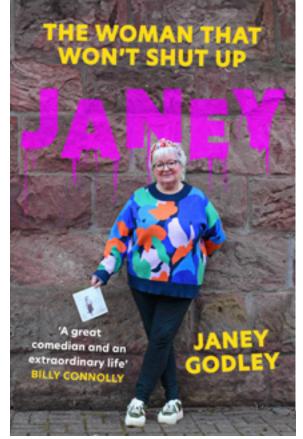
other places - Central Asia, Turkey, Úkraine, the South Caucasus, the Baltics and Poland. Join Caroline as she shares recipes from her travels, reflects on past adventures and contemplates the kitchen's unique ability to tell human stories. This is a hauntingly honest, and at times heart-breaking memoir with the smell, taste and preparation of food at its heart. And *Cold Kitchen* will warm your heart. It is a unique blend of history, place, love, food and belonging.



### Janey Godley Harmony Marquee 5.30pm | £16, £14



The comedy legend and national treasure shares her remarkable life with candour and humour as she faces. cancer head-on. In Janev: The Woman That Won't Shut Up, she reveals the impact on her of a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Defiance. Even though she was in treatment, a new tour went ahead. It was billed as Not Dead Yet. "Frank, get the door" became one of the very few funny lines to come out of the pandemic as Janey made the locked down nation laugh with her imaginative voice-overs of Nicola Sturgeon's press conferences. Finding humour in dark moments is only one of her talents. Inspiring, funny, open-hearted, Janey is a life force and her superb comedy gifts give us all so much. They confirm why we'll never want her to shut up.



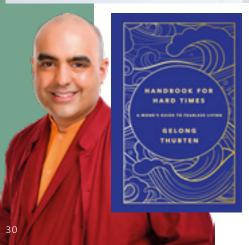






### Howard Jacobson Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 5.30pm | £14, £12

Howard Jacobson won the Booker Prize in 2010 for The Finkler Ouestion and he is widely regarded as one of Britain's very greatest novelists. What Will Survive of Us is an original homage to love in later life and a provocative look at infidelity, desire and what is left when we strip away every layer. 'A wonderfully wise, moving and heartfelt novel, a profound and vital book', wrote William Boyd. 'Let's pause to consider Howard Jacobson's comic elegance and precision...Just look at the way he makes the English language dance for us' said *The Spectator.* This is an unforgettable love story about romance, shot through with Jacobson's trademark wit and humour. It is Howard's first appearance at the Borders Book Festival and we are honoured to have him as our guest.



### Gelong Thubten: Handbook for Hard Times

BSW Group Marquee | 5.30pm | £14, £12 Subtitled A Monk's Guide to Fearless Living, the book explains how we can use meditation to lead a fearless life; one that is rich in compassion, forgiveness, acceptance and courage. The author, Gelong Thubten, ordained as a Buddhist monk at the Samye Ling monastery near Langholm after leading a wild life in New York. Having trained for thirty years, he wrote his first book, A Monk's Guide to Happiness, and it helped many to discover meditation and how it can alleviate the stresses and strains of life. In his new book, Gelong believes that hard times present an opportunity to discover our inner strength.



### **Rosemary Goring**

Buccleuch Marquee | 5.30pm | £10, £8

Rosemary Goring, the Literary Editor and columnist for *The Herald* and the *Sunday Herald*, has written a brilliant account of one of most famous queens in history. *Homecoming: The Scottish Years of Mary Queen of Scots* is a fascinating account of her childhood, and then her return to Scotland as an 18-year-old widow. After the death of her husband, Francis II of France in 1560, she attempted to take control of a nation riven by faction and at a turning point in its history as the Reformation established the Church of Scotland. Rosemary describes, beautifully and accurately, a tumultuous court and culture as she relates the downfall of Mary. In this evocative retelling, the young queen can be seen for who she really was.

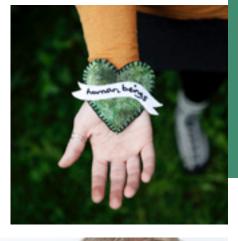
### Craftivism Workshop: A Heart for Your Sleeve

Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 5.30pm - 7.00pm | £20

Also suitable for Age 14+

Are you more of an eco-worrier than an eco-warrior? Come and stitch what you love onto a badge to keep as a catalyst for thought, conversation and social change. Join this multi-sensory, quiet and mindful craftivism (craft + activism) workshop supporting The Climate Coalition and learn about how this project has influenced politicians as well as how Christiana Figueres ended up wearing one at a very important meeting! Facilitated by founder of the global Craftivist Collective, Sarah P Corbett.

All craft resources supplied and ethically sourced. No craft skills needed.



### **AN ADAM & COMPANY EVENT**

### Rory Bremner

Harmony Marquee | 7.15pm | £16, £14

Over many years, Rory's contribution to the festival has been immense. Using his amazing powers of persuasion and his impeccable contacts, he has persuaded dozens of well-known folks to come to Melrose in the summer: John Cleese, David Frost, Victoria Wood, Michal Parkinson and many more. But these miracles are not his main contribution. Rory's gifts as an entertainer and his warmth as a man are what underpin everything. Audiences have rocked the marquees with laughter every year as his razor-sharp observations have translated into matchless wit and bravura humour.





### Justine Picardie Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 7.15pm | £14, £12

Justine Picardie's two bestselling biographies, Miss Dior: A Wartime Story of Courage and Couture and Coco Chanel: The Legend and the Life, offer uniquely authoritative accounts of two of the most complex and influential women of fashion. Miss Dior leads us deep into the relationship between the visionary designer Christian Dior and his beloved sister Catherine, a wartime heroine, who inspired his most famous perfume and shaped his vision of femininity. And in Coco Chanel, which was recently updated to coincide with the blockbuster V & A Chanel exhibition, Justine explores the dark mysteries hidden beneath the shimmering surface of a fabled fashion icon. This event is a must for anyone interested in fashion or 20th century history.





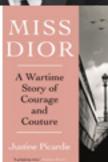
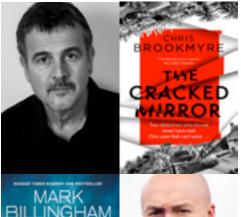


Image: Steve Best







### Mark Billingham & Chris Brookmyre BSW Group Marquee 7.15pm | £14, £12

Mark Billingham and Chris Brookmyre return to Melrose to discuss their latest works, including Mark's new Detective Miller novel *The Wrong Hands* and Chris's imminent mindbending mystery *The Cracked Mirror*. With that out of the way, matters literary will inevitably give way to smut, gossip, acrimony and abuse, possibly to a musical accompaniment.



### **Len Pennie: Poyums**

Buccleuch Marquee | 7.15pm | £10, £8

Writing predominantly in the Scots language, Len Pennie's inspiration often springs from the promotion of minority languages, from the survivors of domestic abuse and the de-stigmatisation of mental illness. *Poyums* is the debut collection from this performance poet sensation and it is about loving, learning, surviving, growing and giving. Len's voice is bold, unashamedly frank and unmistakably hers. *Poyums* announces a formidable new talent. Moving deftly between Scots and English, the collection is as approachable as it is affecting.

Supported by the Dr David Summers Charitable Trust



### Live Music: archie Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 8.45pm – 10.00pm | £10, £8

At only twenty, talented Scottish singer-songwriter archie is already making a name for himself. He's a classically trained musician with a passion for pop and jazz who writes songs that seize the heart. He has already worked with some of the biggest names in the industry, supporting Scottish singer Callum Beattie, chart-topping artist Professor Green and performing in iconic venues including the Barrowlands. Watch out world, here he comes, and you can see him here first as he wraps up our

Saturday night with some great music, including his latest tracks

Burning Out, Mayalyn and Olivia.



### Val McDermid Harmony Marquee 9.00pm | £16, £14

The Queen of Crime plunges into medieval Scotland for a journey of discovery, uncovering the real Lady Macbeth in her latest novel. A thousand years ago, when Scotland was young, a woman and her companions

are on the run. If the men hunting her find them, they will kill her because she is the only one who stands between them and their violent ambition. She is the first queen of Scotland, married to a king called Macbeth, and *Queen Macbeth* reveals the real story behind Shakespeare's infamous femme fatale, Lady Macbeth, Queen of Scotland. Val also shares her latest Karen Pirie thriller. In *Past Lying*, Edinburgh is the backdrop for a cold case where an author's manuscript appears to be the blueprint for an actual crime. As Karen digs deeper, she uncovers a spiralling game of betrayal and revenge, and unexpected twists...



BORDERS BOOK FESTIVAL / 13-16 JUNE / 2024





### Amelia Dalton: Pages from my Passport

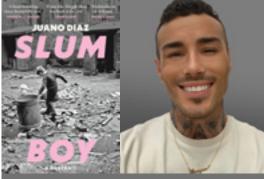
Buccleuch Marquee | 9.00pm | £10, £8 For ten years, Amelia Dalton owned a small ship running cruises to the remote island chains of Scotland's stunning West Coast, gaining her commercial qualifications as a captain. Now, fresh from touring the Scottish islands she takes on the world and sets out to create expedition holidays with a difference. From Norway to Madagascar, by campervan, taxi, boat and small plane, Amelia hunts down remote archipelagos, deserted beaches and tiny local museums. On the way she survives a hotel fire, a bomb in a palace, being stung by a scorpion and thrown into jail. Pages from My Passport is a splendid piece of travel writing - colourful, honest and great fun.



### Suzi Ronson: Me and Mr Jones Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 9.00pm | £14, £12

Me and Mr Jones: My Life with David Bowie and the Spiders from Mars by the stylist behind the Ziggy Stardust look is an electrifying peek behind the curtains in a legendary chapter of pop culture history. Suzi worked in a Beckenham hair salon when Mrs Jones came in for her weekly shampoo and set. She introduced her son,

David, and Suzi's life changed forever. Touring the world, she had a unique and up close perspective on one of the most beguiling stars of our time. Suzi was one of the only women in the room when it happened.



### Juano Diaz: Slum Boy BSW Group Marquee | 9.00pm | £14, £12

Celebrated visual artist and photographer Juano Diaz has written a beautiful and courageous memoir which reflects on his childhood in the 1970s Glasgow slums. being entered into the care system and how love for the mother he was forcibly taken from has shaped his life and identity. Soon after witnessing a drowning, his mother's addictions take over their lives, leaving him starving in their flat, awaiting her return. Before long, the four-year-old John (the name his mother used for him), is placed in a children's home, to be later adopted and raised within a loving but strict Catholic and Romany Gypsy community. With the pull of his roots proving too strong, John sets out to find his true identity, Juano Diaz, and how, against all odds, his unstoppable love for his mother sets him free. Andrew O'Hagan wrote, 'This is a heart-breaking story, beautifully told. I hope it finds a million readers.'

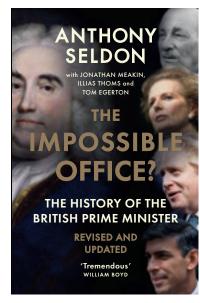
### SUNDAY 16 JUNE

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### Somatic Yogic Movement & Breathwork Cullen Kilshaw Marquee | 10.15am | £12

Led by Yoga Ganesh's Braxton, this session is a mixture of hatha, somatic flow and restorative yoga disciplines, alongside breathwork and accompanied by Indian soundscapes. Here we will look at the importance of combining breath/prana, life force and this ancient somatic practice. Suitable for both beginners and seasoned yogis. Bring warm clothing and your own yoga mat.





### Anthony Seldon

Cullen Kilshaw Marquee | 12.00pm | £14, £12

Anthony Seldon has updated his magisterial survey: *The Impossible Office? The History of the British Prime Minister*. Now it includes Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak. He discusses which of our prime ministers have been most effective and why. The book is also a celebration of the humanity, frailty, work and achievements of 57 remarkable individuals who averted revolution and civil war, leading the country through times of peace, crisis and war. 'An intelligent and insightful guide' said *The Observer*. 'Chockful of fascinating history' wrote *The Daily Express*. In conversation with Rory Bremner.

### Gelong Thubten: Meditation Workshop BSW Group Marquee 12.00pm | £12

Buddhist monk Gelong Thubten is regarded as one of the UK's most influential meditation teachers, working with many different organisations, including the United Nations. In this short, guided meditation session, he explains the benefits of meditation and how to practise it. There will be helpful advice on how to deal with a distracted mind during meditation and how to establish a habit of daily practice, as well as how to bring moments of mindfulness into a busy day. There will also be time for questions and answers. Thubten is the author of the Sunday Times bestseller A Monk's Guide to Happiness, and he will join us to discuss his latest book Handbook for Hard Times:

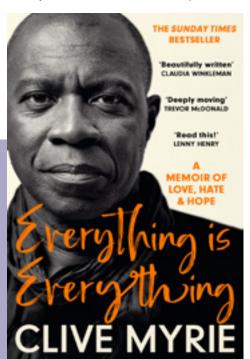


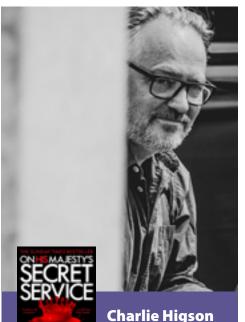


### **Clive Myrie**

### Harmony Marquee | 1.45pm | £16, £14

We all recognise him as one of the BBC's best, most objective, even fearless reporters, as well as the host of Mastermind. But behind the Clive Myrie on screen, there is another story. In Everything Is Everything, A Memoir of Love, Hate and Hope, we read of a man proud of his roots, but determined not to be defined by his background. As a Bolton teenager with a paper round. Clive read what he delivered and dreamed of being a journalist. In this beautifully written memoir, he tells how his family's history shaped his view of the world, and he introduces us to his Windrush generation parents and his deeper family. This memorable book is a superb blend of the personal and the professional and how each has intersected in Clive's life and career. It is a story of love and hate - but also of hope.





**Cullen Kilshaw** Marquee 1.45pm | £14, £12

As a writer and performer in The Fast Show. Charlie found fame – but comedy turned out to be only one of his talents. He wrote the phenomenally successful Young Bond series and now has a new bestseller. On His Majesty's Secret Service opens on 4th May - two days before the coronation of King Charles III – and the world's favourite spy has his work cut out for him. James Bond is sent at the last minute to thwart an attempt to disrupt the coronation by the deadly megalomaniac, Aethelstan of Wessex who is on a mission of his own to rule the United Kingdom and rewrite history. Can Bond stop him? Can 007 save King Charles? Charlie Higson is a wonderful storyteller with a superb sense of humour.



### **James Naughtie**

### Harmony Marquee | 3.30pm | £16, £14

In an annual event unique to Borders Book Festival, Jim reviews the political year that's gone and muses on the one to come. 2024 will be the year of elections – in Britain, the USA, India and elsewhere. Using all of his rich experience and speaking fluently, without a note, Jim peers into the future. Will Putin win in Ukraine? What will unfold in the Middle East? He understands the plumbing of our political system like no one else and can examine trends with a withering, objective eye. These sessions are memorable, magisterial, powerful and perceptive. And unmissable.











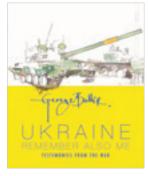


### **Fun Lovin' Crime Writers in Conversation**

Cullen Kilshaw Marquee | 3.30pm | £14, £12

Mark Billingham, Chris Brookmyre, Doug Johnstone, Val McDermid, Stuart Neville and Luca Veste set the scene ahead of their festival-closing gig by sitting down to talk about the books they write, the books they read, the music that inspires them and just how jammy they feel to be getting away with this.





### **George Butler:**

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### **Words and Pictures from the Ukraine Conflict**

BSW Group Marquee | 3.30pm | £14, £12 | Also suitable for Age 10+ While reporting on the war in Ukraine, award-winning artist George Butler has created a striking and intimate collection of testimonies and illustrations to introduce us to the people behind the headlines. His drawings were made not in a studio but in the missile-scarred streets of the cities and towns, and close to the front line. These powerful portraits of war and conflict are also a timely reminder of the humanity we all share and our universal need for peace. Remember Also Me: Words and Pictures from the Ukraine Conflict is a stunning, illuminating and sensitive look at stories that deserve to be told.

Image: Martin Hartley

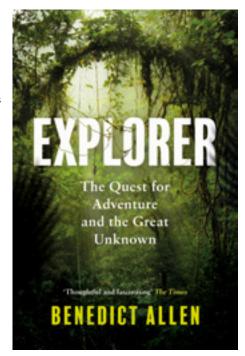


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### Benedict Allen Harmony Marquee 5.15pm | £16, £14

Benedict Allen is best known for his hair-raising expeditions conducted without a GPS, phone or any of the usual backup - but instead with the help of indigenous people. He is the only person in history to have traversed the 4500km Amazon Basin - during which he was shot at by Pablo Escobar, and later robbed and left for dead

by illegal loggers. In Explorer: The Quest for Adventure and the Great Unknown Benedict draws on over thirty years of adventures, from the remotest human settlements to the clouded mountains of New Guinea, to question what it is that drives us to explore, and the responsibilities that come with it. This is also the story of why he is still exploring.

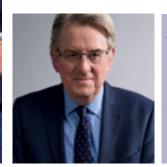


### Robert Hardman: Charles III



**BSL** 

Subtitled New King, New Court, the Inside Story, Robert Hardman's new biography became an instant bestseller. A brilliant insider's portrait of Charles III, it charts the first year of his reign, offering genuine insights, surprises and glorious detail found nowhere else. The book describes the vital role played by Queen Camilla, the king's relationship with his sons and his plans to reform the monarchy. Simon Sebag Montefiore wrote, 'Elegantly written by the most authoritative royal historian...it is deeply researched, impeccably sourced and filled with scoops and new details.' This is the definitive book.



age: Daily Mail



#### Image: Andrew Cawley



### Write On

### BSW Group Marquee | 5.15pm | £14, £12

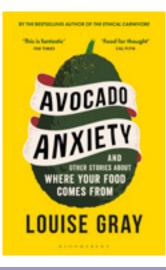
Alexander McCall Smith is the most prolific writer of fiction in Scotland and he is joined by Alistair Moffat, the most prolific writer of non-fiction in Scotland. They discuss the business of getting it all down on paper, how they work, what the differences between the genres are, where ideas come from – and where they go. Sandy and Alistair's output may be prodigious but both understand that the last page is also a beginning. Books need to be promoted and audiences engaged. And both will be happy to do the latter and will welcome questions.

### Louise Gray: Avocado Anxiety Buccleuch Marquee | 5.15pm | £10, £8



Louise Gray's fascinating, revealing new book is subtitled And Other Stories About Where Your Food Comes From. If

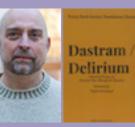
you have ever wondered why we can buy British strawberries in April, how far your green beans travelled in the journey to your kitchen or who picked your Fairtrade bananas, Louise can tell you. This riveting account of the stories behind the everyday makes sense of the complex food system we are all part of as it tracks the journeys of our five-a-day from farm to fruit bowl and discusses the impact that growing fruit and vegetables has on the planet. Is the avocado, symbol of clean eating, fuelling the crisis?











### **Poets Reclaiming and Renewing Place**

### Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent | 5.15pm | £8, £6

Three prize-winning poets give a snapshot of some of the most exciting poetry being produced in Scotland today. Former Scots Scriever Shane Strachan will read from his highly praised collection *DWAMS*. The 2023 Wigtown Prize Scots Poetry winner, Craig Aitchison, is currently working on a long poem about the River Tweed. Taylor Strickland won the 2023 Scottish Poetry Book of the Year for his collection *Dastram/Delirium*. All three poets strive to reclaim and renew place through heritage and language, yet with the desire to push beyond the limits of that language and heritage. These poets are sure to surprise, amuse and provoke.

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Supported by the Dr David Summers Charitable Trust





# The Funny Thing About Death

### Jo Caulfield Cullen Kilshaw Marquee 7.00pm | £14, £12

The Funny Thing About Death is a laugh-out-loud memoir of two unconventional sisters that is not afraid to ask big

questions about life and death, love and loss. Jo was about to go onstage at the beginning of a national comedy tour when she was told that her sister, Annie, had cancer. Not a great start, but the tour turned out to be a welcome distraction. As Jo reports back from various hotels and service stations, the sisters revisit their childhood and adolescence while navigating Annie's illness, learning through trial and error how to best behave when someone you love gets ill. Like her stand-up act, Jo's caustic wit and razor-sharp observations make her account of life with her sister, even in the worst of times, as entertaining as it is touching.



Over an immense career and with more than 150 books that have sold 35m copies, generations have had their imaginations lit by Michael Morpurgo's extraordinary gifts. With the wonderfully made play and film of Michael's *War Horse*, his work found a new and even wider audience. It all began at 3pm in a primary school in Kent. As a teacher, Michael used to read a story to his class. One afternoon, he could see their attention wandering. And so, he made up one of his own. In an event unique to the festival, Michael talks to Alistair Moffat.



### James Crawford: Scotland's Wild History

Buccleuch Marquee | 7.00pm | £10, £8
Wild History: Journeys Through Lost Scotland
explores more than 65 ruined and forgotten
sites all over the country, taking the reader
from the well-worn tourist trails to explore the
authentic, unfiltered traces of our shared past.
On beaches, on the summits of lonely hills,

in the eerie silence of a forest, James finds beautiful and poignant places marked by no plaques and only rarely noted on a map: prehistoric hillforts, abandoned bothies and boathouses. They are being reclaimed by nature. They are wild history. In this beautifully written book, James makes them come alive once more.

Sponsored by Borders Forest Trust

### Rory meets... Fred MacAulay Harmony Marquee | 8.30pm | £16, £14

A true national treasure, Fred has delighted audiences for over 30 years, at comedy festivals throughout the world and, closer to home, with annual shows at the Edinburgh Fringe and 18 years hosting Macaulay & Co on BBC Radio Scotland. A regular on all the top panel shows from Have I Got News for You to Mock the Week, Fred is a much loved and respected performer on the stand-up circuit. Not bad for a former accountant who started out as warm-up man for Rory Bremner's TV shows. Tonight Rory returns the favour as he hosts his friend for an unmissable hour of stand-up, stories and chat.





### Anna Deacon & Vicky Allan: The Ripple Effect

Cullen Kilshaw Marquee | 8.30pm | £14, £12

After the success of *Taking the Plunge* and a sell-out session at the Borders Book Festival in 2021, Anna Deacon and Vicky Allan return with a new book. Wild swimming has become immensely popular. From those who bathe in ice-cold sunrise waters, swim under a moonlit sky, enjoy a dip in the buff or simply want to find like-minded people to share the experience of menopause, mental health issues and more, there is a community out there for everyone. As Vicky and Anna swim their way around and through Britain, they find a wonderful, life-affirming ripple effect.



### **Live Music: Fun Lovin' Crime Writers**

BSW Group Marquee | 8.30pm - 10.30pm | £16, £14

Back by popular demand! Having temporarily put down their pens and picked up guitars, this crime-writing super-group – Mark Billingham, Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre, Luca Veste, Doug Johnstone and Stuart Neville – happily murder much loved songs by The Clash, Elvis Costello, The Beatles, Talking Heads, The Jam, Johnny Cash and many others currently considering legal action. Between them they've sold over 20 million books and won every major crime-writing award, but now they're rocking out on the stage instead of the page and performing roof-removing shows at major festivals worldwide. Murder on the dancefloor is guaranteed. www.funlovincrimewriters.com



### Elizabeth Macneal: Victorian Gothic

Buccleuch Marquee | 8.30pm | £10, £8

The Burial Plot is the brilliant new novel by the author of The Doll Factory. Set in Victorian London, it is a tense and gripping cat and mouse thriller. It is 1839, the cemeteries are full and there is money to be made from death. Bonnie and Crawford lead a life of trickery, surviving on ill-gotten coin and nefarious schemes. But one hot evening, their luck runs out. A man lies in a pool of blood at Bonnie's feet and now she needs to disappear. This remarkable novel is full of twists and turns, has a wonderfully pungent period atmosphere and it is set to be a bestseller. It is a masterclass in Gothic storytelling.



### Sat 15 & Sun 16 June

Box Office: 0131 290 2112 / www.bordersbookfestival.org

There is NO entry charge for adults accompanying children to our family events. Please note, however, that our events are ticketed, so remember to put your FREE adult ticket in the basket at the time of booking. Tickets must be booked in advance for all events.

#### **Accompanying Children to Events**

Children under ten must be accompanied to all events and everyone attending needs a ticket. Space is limited so we car admit ticket holders only.

#### Age Suitability

Ages in listings are for guidance only.

#### **Photography & Video**

Official photography and videos may be taken throughout the festival and used in further publicity. No unofficial photography or filming is permitted, and our official media team will be wearing book festival identification.

All accompanying adults go FREE!

### BAILLIE GIFFORD CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

### Saturday 15 June



### **Supertato Silliness** with Sue Hendra

BSW Group Marquee | 9.45am | £6 | Age 4+ Join Sue Hendra co-creator of the bestselling Supertato picture books, to celebrate the 10th Birthday of our favourite supermarket superhero. If you're looking for fun and giggles galore, this veggie adventure-fest is the family show for you. There will be stories, silliness and everyone will get a chance to make their own veggie super-hero to take home!

### Vivian French: Bibi and the **Box of Fairy Tales**

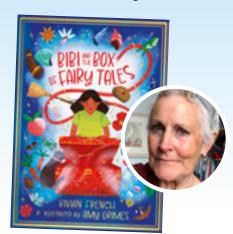
Buccleuch Marquee | 9.45am | £6 | Age 7 - 9 Do you like fairy tales? Bibi doesn't... until she goes on a magical journey, and meets a nervous giant, tricksy fairies, spiteful water sprites, and a marshmallow eating witch. Come and hear how Vivian wrote the story, draw some weird and wonderful characters, and make your very own concertina fairy tale map!



### **Storytelling the Super Power Agency Way!**

**Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling** Tent | 9.45am | £6 | Age 8 - 12

In this fun, high-energy interactive writing workshop, participants will work together with volunteers to craft a story from scratch, creating original characters and plots using the power of their imagination. We'll provide coloured pencils and markers to help bring characters to life on the page. Once the story reaches its climax, participants will separate and write their own ending.



### **Knight School with Abbotsford**

**Abbotsford Tent** 

9.45am - 3.45pm | FREE | All Ages

Join the Abbotsford team and make a shield inspired by Sir Walter's Scott's tales of medieval jousting and brave knights of old! Activities are run on a drop-in basis with all materials provided.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



### The Illustration Game with Tom Morgan-

**Jones** 

**BSW Group Marguee** 

11.15am | £6 | Age 7+ and Families Join illustrator Tom Morgan-Jones in this super, book-inspired rollercoaster of a game, where you will solve possibly the most dangerous riddle in the world, enjoy draw-alongs, and face trials of physical dexterity. Rounds include 'The Frog of Hopportunity', 'Lowbrow Highbrow Evebrow' and 'The Crash Hat of Who'. Find out about markmaking and how book illustration works while having a lotta lotta fun for all the family!



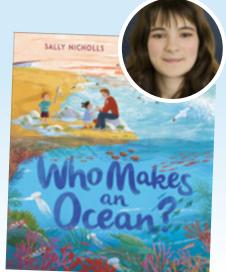
### **Bookbug Rhyme** Sessions

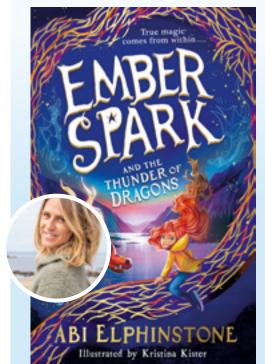
**Davidson Chalmers Stewart** Storvtelling Tent 11.15am-11.40am & 11.50am-12.15pm FREE | Babies & under 3s

Join Live Borders Libraries for fun-packed sessions of interactive songs and stories for babies and toddlers. No ticket required.

### Who Makes a Forest? and Who Makes an Ocean?

Buccleuch Marquee | 11.15am | £6 | Age 4+ A whistlestop, interactive session exploring ocean life, evolution, forests, environmentalism, and the creation of life on Earth itself! Come and learn about our beautiful planet, create some craft and listen to Sally Nicholls reading from her two books, Who Makes a Forest? and Who Makes an Ocean?





### Magic, Mystery and Adventure with Abi Elphinstone

BSW Group Marquee 12.45pm | £6 | Age 8 - 12

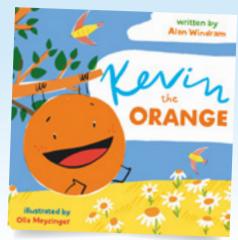
Rusty Fizzbang, vet to magical beasts, needs an apprentice. Ember Spark, looking for adventure, is his newest recruit, along with an unlikely friend called Arno. But keeping magical beasts a secret isn't an easy task, especially with arch-villain, Jasper Hornswoggle, hot on their heels... Join bestselling children's author, Abi Elphinstone, as she talks about her new book: Ember Spark & The Thunder of Dragons. Abi will be revealing where she finds her ideas – from shower gel bottles and street signposts to her own adventures in the Arctic and Mongolia – as well as showing kids how to plan their own stories, dream up titles and nail that opening line. This is an event that champions the joy of reading and writing while encouraging kids to be curious, courageous and kind.



### Kevin the Orange with Alan Windram

Buccleuch Marquee 12.45pm | £6 | Age 3 - 6 Kevin is an orange, who is really tired of being orange. So with the

help of his friend, Brian the Pear, Kevin tries being lots of different colours with hilarious consequences, only to find out that being the best version of yourself is the greatest thing of all. Join *One Button Benny* award-winning author Alan Windram with his fantastic new picture book *Kevin the Orange*, in this fun filled family event with sing-along songs, mixed fruit and veg dancing, stories and possibly even a bit of dressing up and some flying fluffy oranges.





### Emily Dodd: Surfing the Moon

Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent | 12.45pm | £6 | Age 7 - 9

Join CBeebies screenwriter and children's author Emily Dodd for a science show, rocket making workshop and a reading from her space themed book *Surfing the Moon*. Jack knows he's different from other kids – he doesn't think the way they do. Jack's love of the moon leads him on a courageous journey into the sea. This is a story about neurodiversity, finding new friends, facing your fears and following your dreams. There will be a short, fun craft activity time making some mini-rockets plus a competition to fire them through a hoop.

### Two Beano Eds Need You!

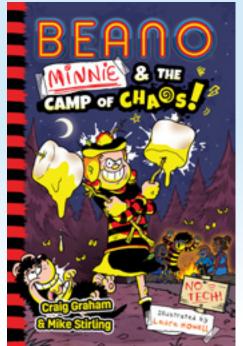
**BSW Group Marquee** 

2.15pm | £6 | Age 6+ and Families

Make a supersonic *Beano* comic in less than an hour... EEK! The fastest and funniest *Beano* comic workshop ever! *Beano*'s Directors of Mischief and Mayhem, Mike Stirling and Craig Graham reveal their top tips for creating laugh-out-loud stories and pictures, share jokes from their latest *Beano Boomic, Minnie and the Camp of Chaos, AND attempt the impossible - to write AND draw a hilarious <i>Beano* comic as fast as possible! They'll definitely need help, but that's where you – creative kids - come in!







### A Scoop of Stories: Sensory Stories and Crafts

Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 2.15pm | £6 | All Ages\*\*

Join storyteller Ailie Finlay from My Kind of Book for an inclusive session of sensory stories and crafts - with an ice cream theme! Sweet and splodgy stories and crafts with

sprinkles on top! \*\*Lots of joining-in fun for everyone but particularly suitable for children with additional needs and their friends and families. Event duration 50 minutes.





### Sally Nicholls: Yours From the Tower

Buccleuch Marquee
2.15pm | £8 Adult, £6 Child | Age 12+

1896. Tirzah, Sophia and Polly are best friends who've left boarding school and gone back to very different lives. Polly is teaching in an orphanage. Sophia is looking for a rich husband at the London Season. And Tirzah is stuck acting as an unpaid companion to her grandmother. In a series of letters, they share their hopes, their frustrations, their dramas ... and their romances. Can these three very different young women find happiness? Sally Nicholls talks about her latest novel, and the joys and challenges of writing historical fiction for young adults.

Please note this is a family event. Adults accompanying under 16s go free.





### **Josh Silver**

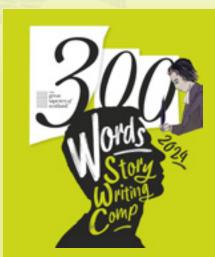
### Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent 3.45pm | £8 Adult, £6 Child | Age 14+

Josh Silver burst onto the YA scene in 2023 to widespread acclaim with his dark and thrilling debut novel *Happy Head*. When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo. The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the assessments become, until they fear there may be no escape. Join Josh as he discusses identity, mental wellbeing, the meaning of happiness - and what happens next in his nail-biting sequel *Dead Happy*.

Please note this is a family event. Adults accompanying under 16s go free

### BAILLIE GIFFORD CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

## Sunday 16 June



### 300 Words Story Writing Competition Awards

### Buccleuch Marquee | 10.30am | Free - ticketed | All Ages and Families

We're thrilled to share a new creative writing competition designed to carry on the legacy of The Great Tapestry of Scotland by celebrating the people's stories and engaging children with the Curriculum for Excellence. The competition is open to all children living in the Scottish Borders aged 7 – 15 and hundreds of talented voung writers have let their imaginations run wild with their awesome tales. Each story reflects the unique creativity and imagination of our young participants, and the winning story from each age group will be carefully selected by acclaimed author Alexander McCall Smith. Join us as the winners are announced, when exciting prizes and the chance for fame awaits!



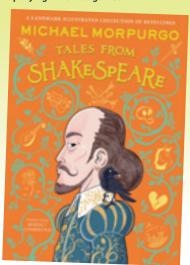
### Michael Morpurgo

Harmony Marquee 12.00pm Adult £8, Child £6 Age 7+ and Families

BSL

Much-loved storyteller Michael Morpurgo, creator of such popular stories as *War Horse* and *Kensuke's Kingdom*, invites a new generation of readers to discover the magic of Shakespeare. Join Michael as he shares his retellings of Shakespeare's plays, from *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet* to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Winter's Tale*, all beautifully written in his unmistakably warm, accessible and inimitable style. This is the perfect introduction to the Bard and an unmissable event. Michael is in conversation with Vivian French.

Please note this is a family event. Adults accompanying under 16s go free.





### Nadine Aisha Jassat: Finding Our Hidden Stories

Buccleuch Marquee 12.00pm | £6 | Age 9 - 11

Join award-winning poet and writer Nadine Aisha Jassat for an interactive session celebrating stories, words, and the people who make them - including us! Nadine will talk about her novels *The Stories Grandma Forgot (And How I Found Them)* and *The Hidden Story of Estie Noor*, alongside activities with children to have a go at storytelling, sharing a love of words from around the world, and creating poetry together.



### Too Snappy to Wear a Nappy

Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent | 12.00pm | £6 | Age 3 - 5

Join illustrator-author and musician Lillias Kinsman-Chauvet and venture into her hilarious picture book *Too Snappy to Wear a Nappy*. Expect a fun packed hour of snappy songs and crocodile crafts which will introduce your little ones in a gentle, playful, child–led way, to the potty and how they can be wild and nappy free!

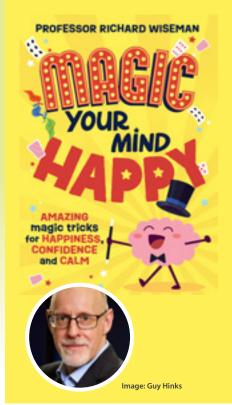
### Knight School with Abbotsford

**Abbotsford Tent** 

12.00pm - 4.30pm | FREE | All Ages
Join the Abbotsford team and make a
shield inspired by Sir Walter's Scott's tales
of medieval jousting and brave knights of
old! Activities are run on a drop-in basis with
all materials provided. Children must be
accompanied by an adult.



1.45pm | £6 | Age 9 – 11 and Families
Join psychologist and magician Prof
Richard Wiseman as he explores the
fascinating world of magic and illusion.
See some of the world's great optical
illusions, explore the secret psychology
of magic, find out why learning to
perform the impossible is good for
you, and discover how to transform
a tea towel into a chicken! A fun,
entertaining and interactive journey
into the spellbinding world of mystery
and magic.





# Mike Nicholson: The Case from Outer Space

Buccleuch Marquee 1.45pm | £6 | Age 7 - 9

Fancy an event spotting clues, unmasking villains, inventing gadgets, groaning at bad jokes and holding your breath in suspense? Then strap yourselves in and join Mike Nicholson as he blasts off with the Museum Mystery Squad on their latest adventure

### Fiona Carswell: The Boy Who Loves to Lick the Wind

Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling Tent | 1.45pm | £6 | Age 4 - 7

Join children's author Fiona Carswell as she shares her picture book, *The Boy Who Loves to Lick the Wind*, a joyful story about a very special playdate on the beach. Fiona - mother to two boys, one autistic and one neurotypical - explores issues of neurodivergence, difference and acceptance through her gentle, breeze-laden story of friendship and discovery. Expect lots of audience participation and beachy drawing – and to be licking the wind all the way home!







### **Scribble and Scrawl** Crawi

Outdoors at Harmony | 3.15pm -4.45pm | £6 | Age 7+ and Families Be inspired by the sights and sounds around Harmony House and flex your creative muscles on a drawing and writing workshop with the amazing award-winning duo, illustrator Jill Calder and children's author Justin Davies, as they lead you on a journey around the Borders Book Festival. This fun and informal walking tour is perfect for budding young illustrators and writers. Meet outside the Box Office Tent. Materials provided. This is an outdoor event – please dress for the weather!



### A Whale of a Time with **Vivian French**

Buccleuch Marquee | 3.30pm | £6 | Age 6 - 9



It's fun to write a poem It doesn't have to rhyme So come and have a go with me! We'll have a lovely... experiment with words!

Poetry is a fabulous

way to describe the world, to say how you're feeling... or just to have fun! What's more, anybody can write a poem. It's just words! Vivian has been playing with words ever since she was tiny... do come and join her and discover how you too are a poet!

### **Alison Murray: Sharky McShark**

**Davidson Chalmers Stewart Storytelling** Tent | 3.30pm | £6 | Age 2 - 5

Come along for some underwater storytelling fun with Sharky McShark and friends. There will be some crafty, messymaking time where you can create your own Crabby McClaw to take home.



### Travel in time with the Young Walter Scott Prize!

If you're aged between 11 and 19 and interested in writing and history, then the Young Walter Scott Prize is here to take you on an adventure! We are the UK's only creative-writing prize specifically for budding writers of historical fiction. Enter a short story of between 800 and 2000 words, and you could win a £500 travel grant, tickets to next year's Borders Book Festival, and the chance to see your story in print. The closing date for the competition is 31st October 2024.

Find out how to enter at www.ywsp.co.uk

















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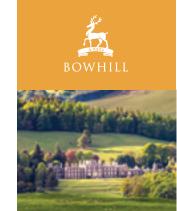
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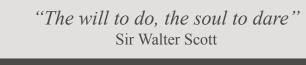
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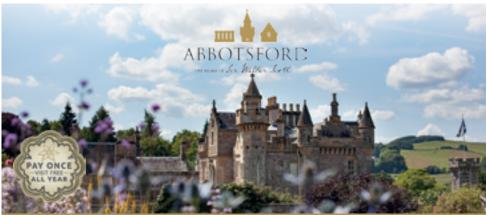
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For details of events, opening times and admission prices check the website www.scottsabbotsford.com

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