New Books Scotland

SPRING/SUMMER 2017
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Welcome to the latest showcase of Scottish writing and publishing 2017. There is an energy and dynamism in the current scene – from small presses discovering new talent and taking the risk on significant debuts, well-established writers at the height of their storytelling powers, newly revitalised children’s books and young adult imprints, to the latest in crime fiction. The energy, brewing for some years, and finding new outlets and new audiences, is reflected in this selection of new and upcoming books (fiction, non-fiction, and children’s books) being offered for rights sales.

As the support body for the book publishing industry in Scotland we are keen to see the writers and publishers find new audiences internationally, and our activities – international fellowship, Translation Fund, translator residencies, book fair stands, funding, and marketing, including the BooksfromScotland.com site – are designed to help their efforts in achieving just that. Here are the books you might want to keep an eye out for this year...
Books from Scotland

BooksfromScotland.com welcomes you to the wonderful world of Scottish books.

Championing the very best of Scottish books from classics through to the latest publications and from print books to e-books, we help you discover exciting new reads. We carefully curate a dynamic selection for you in exclusive monthly magazine-style issues and you can browse a wide range of books across fiction and non-fiction on the site. When you find a book that you like the sound of and you want to read more, we provide links so you can easily buy the book from your retailer of choice.

You can sign up online to our fortnightly e-newsletter via the homepage and get in touch with us on Twitter and Facebook. We’d love to hear from you.

Promoting and supporting Scottish publishers and authors since launching in 2005, Books from Scotland is owned by Publishing Scotland. For more visit BooksfromScotland.com

Publishing Scotland

Publishing Scotland is the network, trade and development body for the book publishing sector in Scotland. We represent a wide range of publishers and suppliers – both print and digital. The 100+ membership includes major publishers such as HarperCollins, Canongate, Edinburgh University Press and Witherby as well as the publishing divisions of the National Galleries of Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and the National Museums of Scotland. Other members are part of the network category and include companies and organisations affiliated to the publishing sector such as the Society of Authors in Scotland, the Booksellers Association, Nielsen Book, agents, designers and freelance editors.

We act as the voice and network for publishing, to develop and promote the work of companies, organisations and individuals in the industry, and to co-ordinate joint initiatives and partnership.

Our Aims

— To develop and promote the work of companies in the publishing sector to an international audience
— To foster public understanding of the unique value of books and other published materials in the cultural and political life of the nation
— To promote the status of publishing in Scotland
— To run a first-class skills and training programme for the sector
— To develop a comprehensive network of publishers, content creators and service providers to allow access to key markets, information and opportunities
— To provide members with useful current information on trade conditions, government activities and policies and other matters of concern
— To stand as a framework within which publishers from all sectors can work together to advance their particular and common interests; to serve as an authoritative voice for Scottish-based publishing, at home and overseas
New titles

Fiction
**The Uncommon Life of Alfred Warner in Six Days**

*Juliet Conlin*

Approaching 80, frail and alone, a remarkable man makes the journey from his sheltered home in England to Berlin to meet his granddaughter for the first time. He has six days left to live and must relate his life story before he dies in order to save his granddaughter’s life.

Wonderfully written, the novel is a tour de force of evocative storytelling set against the backdrop of WW2 and post-war Britain that lingers long after the final page is turned. Woven together by three different narratives, Alfred Warner’s compelling life story takes the reader on an amazing journey from the 1930s to the present day, spanning three generations and two countries.

At the centre of Alfred’s life is the inherited gift of hearing voices, an ability which has proved both a curse and a blessing.

Juliet Conlin was born in London and grew up in England and Germany. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from Lancaster University and a PhD in Psychology from the University of Durham. She works as a writer and translator and lives in Berlin. She writes in both English and German. Her debut novel *The Fractured Man* was published by Cargo in 2013. She is currently working on her third novel, *Exile Shanghai*, set in a Jewish ghetto in 1940’s China.

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**The Cardinal’s Man**

*MG Sinclair*

17th-century France. It is more than 100 years until the French Revolution but France is already a turbulent nation. The Thirty Years’ War has spread across Europe fostering alliances and enemies, and internal threats from peasants to the nobility are beginning to emerge. Presiding over this fragile state is the King, Louis XIII, and his chief minister Cardinal Richelieu who is feared and loathed in equal measure.

Meanwhile in impoverished rural France an unlikely hero emerges: Sebastian Morra, who is born into abject poverty and with terrible deformities. Yet, through a mixture of chance, guile and courage, he journeys from these inauspicious beginnings to an unlikely position of influence within Richelieu’s inner circle.

*The Cardinal’s Man* gives a fascinating insight into this precarious period of French history and, in Sebastian, provides us with an endearing and sharp-witted companion whose triumph over adversity is both highly entertaining and inspiring.

The only child of two writers, MG Sinclair grew up in a world that revolved around literature. Breaking the family tradition, he rebelled and joined the corporate world, where he enjoyed stints as a copywriter at M&C Saatchi, then in marketing at American Express and Westminster Council. However, unable to escape the inevitable, he has now completed his debut, a historical novel inspired by a trip to the Prado in Madrid.
**The Gingerbread House**
Kate Beaufoy

Away from the city, with no distractions, the Gingerbread House seems like the perfect place to start work on a novel. That’s what former advertising copywriter Tess thinks when she goes there to live with Eleanor, her aged mother-in-law. But Eleanor is suffering from dementia, and caring for her proves tougher than Tess could ever have imagined: feeling increasingly isolated, her only comfort is wine o’clock and weekend visits from her husband. Meanwhile her teenage daughter Katia is helpless to intercede; in the end she can only watch as things fall apart and a tragedy surfaces even closer to home.

*The Gingerbread House* is a deeply moving novel – a compassionate and occasionally wickedly funny tale of a family’s struggle with dementia.

‘Gripping, heartbreaking, funny, surprising – *The Gingerbread House* is all of these and a lot more.’ – Roddy Doyle

‘Moving, honest, and darkly comic, *The Gingerbread House* confronts an issue that has been taboo for too long.’ – Marian Keyes

Kate Beaufoy has an MA in French and English Literature from Trinity College Dublin. As Kate Thompson she has had a dozen novels published, including the Number One bestseller *The Blue Hour*, which was shortlisted for the RNA Award. Kate has contributed to numerous publications and broadcast media in both Ireland and the UK. A former actress, she was the recipient of a Dublin Theatre Festival Best Actress Award. She lives in Ireland.

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**Not the Only Sky**
Alyssa Warren

Big Bend, South Dakota, population 500, 1988. Eight-year-old Tiny Mite lives in a ramshackle farmhouse next to her grandfather’s crashed airplane and the pine tree where she trains as a spy. ‘Goddamn’ is her favourite word. She lives with Bee, her apocalypse-obsessed grandmother, and Luvie, her hard-drinking great-aunt. And then there’s her mother Velvet, beautiful and desperate, still in love with her high school boyfriend who she left to have a brief fling with Tiny Mite’s absent father.

One night, Tiny Mite hears a cry, but it’s not what she imagines. And nothing will ever be the same.

Six years later, Clea won’t let anyone call her Tiny Mite anymore. Luvie has fallen in love, and Bee’s health is failing. Velvet is gone and nobody, except Bee, will even mention her name.

Containing a wonderfully engaging and eccentric cast of characters, this is the story of mothers and daughters, people bound by blood and geography, moments captured and lifetimes lost, and things never quite turning out as expected.

Alyssa Warren spent a muddy, scruffy, happy childhood in the creeks and abandoned homesteads of South Dakota, before completing a BA in English Literature at the University of California, and an MA at the University of Sydney, Australia. She has taught creative writing and modern British literature at the Universidad San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador, and has served as a contributing editor for *Surface* magazine, covering art, design and fashion. She is a printmaker and photographer based in East London, where she lives with her husband and three sons.
**Mary’s the Name**  
*Ross Sayers*

‘When me and Granpa watched James Bond films, he told me not to be scared because people didn’t have guns like that in Scotland. That must’ve been why the robbers used hammers.’

Orphaned Mary lives with her grandpa, but after he is mixed up in a robbery at the bookies where he works, they flee to the Isle of Skye. Gradually, Mary realises that her grandpa is involved. And the robbers are coming after him – and their money.

Mary’s quirky outlook on life, loss, and her love of all things Elvis, will capture your heart. Full of witty Scots banter, *Mary’s the Name* will have you reaching for the hankies, first with laughter, then with tears.

Heart-warming and heart-breaking, this darkly comic debut is from a fresh voice set to become Scotland’s answer to Roddy Doyle.

Ross Sayers writes contemporary fiction which explores friendship, family ties and morality with humour, unique character voices and pared-back prose. He graduated from the University of Stirling in 2014, with a BA in English Studies, and graduated again in 2015 with an MLitt in Creative Writing.

His stories and poems have featured in magazines such as *Quotidian* and *Octavius*, and his short story, *Dancin*, is currently used on West College Scotland’s Higher English course.

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**Nailing Jess**  
*Triona Scully*

Welcome to Withering, a small town with a big problem in the north of modern, matriarchal Britain. Here the women wear the trousers while the men hold the handbags. Literally.

There’s a serial strangler on the loose and the bodies of teenage boys are piling up on maverick DCI Jane Wayne’s patch.

She needs to urgently catch ‘The Withering Wringer’, but it’s not going to be easy. Demoted for her inappropriate behaviour, she must take orders from a man – and not just any man – an ugly menimist that refuses to shave.

Still, at least she can rely on her drug stash from a recent police raid to keep her sane.

Triona Scully is Irish-born, but lives in Edinburgh. Describing herself as unapologetically apathetic, she enjoys long walks on the beach. Her interests include: current affairs, gender inequality, crime shows, Netflix, crime shows on Netflix, reading and writing.

*Nailing Jess* is Scully’s debut novel, where she takes the classic crime genre and turns it on its head with a deliciously absurd comic twist.
For My Sins
Alex Nye

The year is 1586, and Mary Stuart is sitting in an English prison cell at the end of her life, stitching her tapestries, haunted by the ghosts of her past – including John Knox, Bothwell and Darnley, the husband she was accused of conspiring to murder.

Darnley’s murder became a mystery crime which remains unsolved to this day. Only Mary can tell the true version of events, whilst quietly stitching her braid and entertaining the ghosts.

She has been Elizabeth’s reluctant ‘guest’ for 18 years, but she still has her supporters, most notably a young nobleman, Anthony Babington. As her needle weaves in and out of the fine linen, she plots Elizabeth’s downfall. Her life before was marked by murder, conspiracy and intrigue in the dark Scottish courts of Renaissance Europe and, for Mary, it is not over yet. She confides in her servants secrets which, until now, have never been told.

Alex Nye is already an award-winning children’s author. For My Sins is her first historical novel for adults. Alex has lived in Scotland since 1995 where she finds much of her inspiration in Scottish history. Her first children’s novel, CHILL, won the Scottish Children’s Book of the Year Award in 2006.

Unspeakable
Dilys Rose

Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital city, in the late 17th century: a place of political turmoil, religious repression, suspicion and moral panic. Thomas Aikenhead, a student at the College of Edinburgh, loves to talk. But the walls have ears and friends can be false. The all-powerful Kirk has a great thirst for sin, and horrid blasphemy is a capital crime. This is a novel based on the life and times of the last person in Britain to be tried and executed for blasphemy, from an award-winning writer at the height of her powers.

‘Dilys Rose is one of the finest prose writers around. In this vividly atmospheric novel she portrays the complexity of life in 17th-century Edinburgh in rich detail, bringing to life the unforgettable character of Thomas Aikenhead with subtlety and deep humanity.’ Anne Donovan, author of Gone are the Leaves and Buddha Da

Dilys Rose lives in Edinburgh and is director of the online Masters programme in Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh. Dilys’s fiction includes Our Lady of the Pickpockets (1989), Red Tides (1993), War Dolls (1998), Pest Maiden (1999), Lord of Illusions (2005), Selected Stories (2005) and Pelmanism (2014). She also writes poetry and drama and, more recently, text for music. Awards for her work include The Macallan/Scotland on Sunday Short Story Award, Canongate Prize, Society of Authors’ Travel Award, two Scottish Arts Council Awards and the McCash Poetry Prize.
**All the Galaxies**  
*Philip Miller*

John Fallon is a disillusioned journalist on a failing Glasgow newspaper. After a second failed independence referendum, Scotland is in turmoil, having broken into a number of autonomous city states. Roland, his son, has gone missing after a student protest turns into a violent clash with the newly militarised police.

In outer space, a boy is wakened in the afterlife by his spirit guide, his beloved childhood dog, Kim. Kim takes the boy on a journey to the planets where the dead go, where he hopes to find his long-dead mother. Meanwhile, Fallon, searching for his son, uncovers a trail that leads to beleaguered city leader, Parry, and his shadowy advisor, Norloch.

As the boy and his dog make a shocking discovery that requires an impossible choice, Fallon discovers that a great deal more is at stake than the future of one nation. In *All the Galaxies*, Miller presents a mesmerising morality tale that proves both a compulsive page-turner and unforgettable emotional journey.

*Philip Miller is an award-winning journalist and writer. He is Arts Correspondent for the *Herald*, and has twice been named Arts Writer of the Year. His poetry has been published in print and online. His first novel, *The Blue Horse*, was published in 2015 to much acclaim. He lives in Edinburgh.*

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**A Woman of Integrity**  
*J David Simons*

Dumped by her agent and finding herself to be on the wrong side of 50, film star Laura Scott’s career is on the slide. But when she is offered the starring role in a one-woman play about the life and loves of Hollywood silent screen actress turned pioneering aviator, Georgie Hepburn, Laura has an opportunity to halt the downward spiral. Georgie is someone Laura has admired since childhood. But, as she soon discovers, life for her idol was far from charmed. From the truth as to why Georgie’s movie career ends so suddenly and the dangers of her life as a wartime pilot, to her struggles for recognition as a photographer in 1950s Hollywood and her troubled search for love, Georgie’s life proves to be as epic as the 20th century itself.

Acclaimed author J David Simons’ *A Woman of Integrity* is a subtle and captivating exploration of the lives of two fascinating and complex women from two very different eras, both fighting for love, happiness and creative fulfilment in an often unforgiving world.

*J David Simons is a Scottish-born author whose novels include *The Credit Draper* (2008), *The Liberation of Celia Kahn* (2011), *An Exquisite Sense of What is Beautiful* (2013) and *The Land Agent* (2014). His work has been shortlisted for The McKitterick Prize and he is a former recipient of a Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship. *A Woman of Integrity* is his fifth novel.*
**Flesh of the Peach**

**Helen McClory**

An intense journey into and out of rage and grief, via sex and violence, following 27-year-old artist, Sarah Browne, and set mostly in the American Southwest. In New York, the ending of Sarah’s recent relationship with a married woman has coincided with the death of her estranged, aristocratic mother, leaving her a substantial amount of money and an unrecognised burden of toxic grief. Rather than return home to England, she decides to travel by Greyhound to her mother’s cabin in New Mexico. There she’s drawn into a passionate relationship with Theo, a man whose quiet stability seems to complement her mercurial character.

But as Sarah’s emotional turmoil grows, there are warning signs that tragedy could ensue. In *Flesh of the Peach*, Helen McClory paints a beautiful and painful portrait of a woman’s unravelling, combining exquisite, and at times experimental, prose with a powerful understanding of the effects of unresolved loss.

Helen McClory has a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Glasgow. Her debut story collection *On the Edges of Vision* won the Saltire Society First Book of the Year Award. McClory is one of the most exciting literary talents to emerge from Scotland in recent years.

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**The Cure for Lonely**

**Jessica Thummel**

Winner of the Dundee International Book Prize. For a young transgender man, life in late 80s small town America requires one thing – escape. After getting fired from his job, Sam persuades his best friend Gwen, with whom he once had an all-too-brief fling, to leave her fiancé and run away with him to San Francisco.

On a road trip fraught with misadventure, Sam becomes increasingly aware he’s more comfortable living as a man than a woman and begins to experiment with this new identity. Arriving in San Francisco, the city of love, in the grip of the HIV epidemic, and needing money, Sam takes a job in a dubious AIDS clinic, finding himself drawn to its patients, including the luminous Magdalene.

As Sam, and the less-than-reliable Gwen, negotiate the community of leathers and strippers, misfits and oddballs, he begins to get a clearer idea of who he is, who he might be and where love might be found. But as his vision of the future becomes clearer can Sam make peace with the past, and at what cost? *The Cure for Lonely*, Jessica Thummel’s award-winning debut, is a stunning portrait of one man’s struggle to break free of the bonds that life has bestowed and reach out for what is rightfully his.

Jessica Thummel was raised in Dodge City, Kansas. Her stories and essays have been published in *Granta, Day One* and the *Paris Review Daily*. She holds a BA from Metropolitan State University of Denver and an MFA from the University of North Carolina Wilmington.
**Wait for Me, Jack**
Addison Jones

Set near San Francisco, this warm and funny novel follows the fortunes and failures of Jack and Milly for 60 years. They marry in 1952 and, typical of post-war couples, shift up a class. Optimistic and full of plans, they see themselves living the American Dream. Through the years they cling to each other despite having little in common. But the clinging doesn’t always preclude infidelity or disappointment, and the social changes they live through impact on their relationship in complex and surprising ways. Ultimately, though, what holds them together is stronger than what pulls them apart.

This is a love story that tells the truth – or one or two truths – about love and marriage.

Addison Jones is the author of four novels and a collection of short stories, all written under the name of Cynthia Rogerson. Her short stories have been broadcast, anthologised, short-listed and included in literary magazines.

She holds an RLF Fellowship at Dundee University, and supervises for the University of Edinburgh’s creative writing programme.

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**The Devil in the Snow**
Sarah Armstrong

All Shona wants is a simple life with her young son, and to get free of Maynard, the ex who’s still living in the house. When her teenage daughter goes missing, she’s certain Maynard is the culprit. Her mother, Greta, is no help as she’s too obsessed with the devil. Her Uncle Jimmy is fresh out of prison and has never been entirely straight with her. Then there’s the shaman living in her shed. Shona soon discovers that the secrets she buried are as dangerous as the family curse haunting her mother.

Sarah Armstrong’s short stories have been published in magazines and anthologies, and she teaches Creative Writing for the Open University. She lives in Essex with her husband and four children.
Good News, Bad News
WHS McIntyre

Life’s full of good news and bad news for defence lawyer Robbie Munro. Good news is he’s in work, representing Antonia Brechin on a drugs charge – unfortunately she’s the granddaughter of notorious Sheriff Brechin. His old client Ellen has won the lottery and she’s asked Robbie to find her husband Freddy who’s disappeared after swindling Jake Turpie, but he’s not willing to bury the hatchet – unless it’s in Freddy’s head. Robbie juggles cases and private life with his usual dexterity, but the more he tries to fix things the more trouble everyone’s in.

William McIntyre is a partner in Scotland’s oldest law firm Russel + Aitken, specialising in criminal defence. William has been instructed in many interesting and high-profile cases over the years and now turns fact into fiction with his string of legal thrillers, The Best Defence Series, featuring defence lawyer Robbie Munro.

The Health of Strangers
Lesley Kelly

Nobody likes the North Edinburgh Health Enforcement Team, least of all the people who work for it. An uneasy mix of seconded police and health service staff, Mona, Bernard and their colleagues stem the spread of the Virus, a mutant strain of influenza, by tracking down people who have missed their monthly health check.

Now two young female students are missing, raising question after question for the HET. Why were they drinking in a bikers’ bar? Who are the mysterious Children of Camus cult? And why is the German government interfering in the investigation?

Mona and Bernard need to fight their way through lies and intrigue, and find the missing girls – before anyone else does.

Lesley Kelly has worked in the public and voluntary sectors for the past 20 years, dabbling in poetry and stand-up comedy along the way. She has won a number of writing competitions, including The Scotsman’s Short Story award in 2008. Her first novel, A Fine House in Trinity, was longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize.
A Message from the Other Side
Moira Forsyth

When Catherine moves several hundred miles away from her sister, Helen says, ‘Phone calls aren’t enough’, but they make it easier to edit the truth. Helen can dismiss Gilbert and his enchanted factory as ‘weird’ when she’s never met him, and Catherine can think Helen foolish for loving the unreliable and dangerous Joe. Neither sees the perils concealed in what they have not told each other, or guesses at the sinister connection between their separate lives.

A Message from the Other Side is a novel about love and marriage, but even more about hatred and the damage people do to each other in the most ordinary of families.

Moira Forsyth grew up in Aberdeen, lived in England for nearly 20 years, and is now in the Highlands. She is the author of three previous novels and many short stories and poems published in anthologies and magazines. She worked for many years in Education, including teaching in a Young Offenders’ Institution in the North of England, then latterly in the Highlands as the strategic lead for government initiatives to assist young people to move on successfully from school. She has been with Sandstone Press since its inception in 2002.

The Curiosity Cabinet
Catherine Czerkawska

When Alys revisits the beautiful island of Garve after an absence of 25 years, she is captivated by the embroidered casket on display in her hotel. She discovers that it belongs to Donal, her childhood playmate, and soon they resume their old friendship. Interwoven with the story of their growing love is the darker 18th-century tale of Henrietta, kidnapped by the formidable Manus McNeill and held on Garve against her will. Despite the 300 years separating them, the women are strongly connected: their parallel lives are linked by the cabinet and its contents, by the tug of motherhood and by the magic of the Hebridean island itself. But Garve has its secrets, past and present. Donal must learn to trust Alys enough to confide in her and, like Henrietta before her, Alys must earn the right to belong. A novel sure to appeal to fans of Outlander.

‘Moving, poetic and quietly provocative.’ – Independent

Catherine Czerkawska is a multi-award-winning novelist and playwright based in Scotland. She has written plays for the stage, ITV and BBC Radio 4, and has published numerous short stories. She is best known for her historical novels set in Scotland, including The Jewel (2016), exploring the life of Jean Armour and her marriage to Robert Burns. The Curiosity Cabinet, re-releasing in 2017, was shortlisted for the Dundee International Book Prize and serialised on BBC radio.
2020
Kenneth Steven

In 2020, Britain is at breaking point, society on a knife-edge. Years of economic turmoil, bitter debates over immigration, and anger at the political elites have created a maelstrom, a dis-United Kingdom. The country is a bomb waiting to explode. And then one does. A major terrorist attack by homegrown extremists plunges society over the precipice into collective madness, with the forces of intolerance at war with the liberal mainstream. The battle is on for the soul of Britain.

This provocative literary thriller cleverly lays bare the true state of our nation in the 21st century with an all-too-plausible ‘what if?’ scenario. Told from the wildly differing perspectives of a myriad of voices from across the political and social spectrum, it is a parable for our times and a much-needed warning shot across the bows.

Kenneth Steven is a successful poet, novelist and children’s writer who has published some 25 books. His BBC Radio 4 documentary on the island of St Kilda won him a Sony Award. His previous novel, The Well of the North Wind (SPCK, 2016), is a spiritual tale set on sixth-century Iona, whilst Beneath the Ice (Saraband, 2016) tells the story of the Arctic Sami people.

Cross Purpose
Claire MacLeary

When Maggie Laird’s disgraced ex-cop husband suddenly dies, her suburban life is turned upside down. With the bills mounting, she takes on his struggling detective agency, enlisting the help of neighbour ‘Big Wilma’. And so an unlikely partnership is born. But the discovery of a mutilated body soon raises the stakes, and Maggie and Wilma are drawn into a world of sink estates, clandestine childminding and dodgy dealers. Cross Purpose is surprising, gritty, sometimes darkly humorous – a tale combining police corruption, gangs and murder with a paean to friendship, loyalty and how ‘women of a certain age’ can beat the odds.

Claire MacLeary lived for several years in Aberdeen, where Cross Purpose is set, but describes herself as ‘a feisty Glaswegian with a full life to draw on’. Following a career in business, she gained an MLitt with Distinction from the University of Dundee, and her short stories have been published in various magazines and anthologies. Claire is currently working on Burnout, the sequel to Cross Purpose.
Dog Fight
Michael J Malone

Kenny O’Neill, a villain with a conscience, returns in a hard-hitting thriller of exploitation, corruption and criminal gangs. When Kenny’s cousin, Ian, comes to the aid of a fellow ex-squaddie in a heap of trouble, he gets caught up in the vicious underground fight scene, where callous criminals prey on the vulnerable, damaged and homeless. With Ian in too deep to escape, Kenny has no option other than to infiltrate the gang for the sake of his family. Kenny is an experienced MMA fighter, as tough as they come, but has he found himself in the one fight he can never win?

‘A terrific read.’ – Martina Cole

Michael J Malone is the author of four previous crime novels starring DI Ray McBain and/or Kenny O’Neill: the Pitlochry Prize-winning Blood Tears, A Taste for Malice, Beyond the Rage and 2016’s Bad Samaritan. He is also the author of A Suitable Lie, and his thriller The Guillotine Choice is the amazing true story of an innocent man’s time in the notorious Devil’s Island penal colony.

Ed’s Dead
Russel D McLean

Meet Jen. She works in a bookshop and likes the odd glass of prosecco. And she’s about to be branded The Most Dangerous Woman in Scotland. Jen Carter is a failed writer with a rubbish boyfriend, Ed. That is, until she accidentally kills him one night. Now that Ed’s dead, she has to decide what to do with his body, his drugs and a big pile of cash. And, more pressingly, how to escape the hitman sent to recover Ed’s stash. Soon Jen’s on the run from criminals, corrupt police officers and the prying eyes of the media. Who can she trust? And how can she convince them that the trail of corpses left in her wake are just accidental deaths? A modern noir that proves, once and for all, the female of the species really is more deadly than the male.

‘A high-octane read.’ – Maxim Jakubowski

Russel D McLean is a crime fiction editor, reviewer and author with six previous novels to his name, five of them in the popular McNee series, published in several countries. He spent 10 years as a bookseller in Dundee and Glasgow whilst developing his writing and editing, and runs Glasgow’s Noir at the Bar with fellow author Jay Stringer.
**Errant Blood**  
CF Peterson

‘Everyone has skeletons. Sometimes it’s better to keep the cupboard locked.’

*Errant Blood* is a literary crime thriller by a startling new Scottish writer. The story follows Eamon Ansgar, war veteran and reluctant young laird of Duncul Castle, as he uncovers a plot involving people-trafficking, big pharma, the green energy boom, crypto-archaeology and the Latvian mafia...all during a rain-soaked winter in the Scottish Highlands. This is a book that explores some of our most troubling contemporary issues with a relentless pace, intricate plot, memorable characters and an epic finale. It is the first in a series set in and around the Highland village of Duncul.

CF Peterson was born in Inverness. He lived in Africa and worked in biochemistry before returning home to the Scottish Highlands where he runs a design and construction company. He is married and has five children.

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**A Rainbow in the Basement**  
Ian Donaldson

‘Magic is more than a word – something I discovered when I was 12.

It was the year I crossed an ocean.

My mother told me it was for the best. I saw it as an escape from hurt. I had a bone to pick with God.

True friendship is true love. I know that now. Though at first I didn’t believe it.’

Matthew Ellis flies in to Scotland to visit the neighbourhood of his childhood. He’ll fly back to America before the day is done.

So much happened during Matthew’s 12 years in Glasgow. Seeing Calvary. Torch ing a ship. And those lights... were they harbingers?

He has been carrying his glorious, unbelievable secrets ever since. Now he’s brought them home, uncertain of the welcome they will receive.

Ian Donaldson has always loved stories, whether hearing them in songs or finding them in books. David Bowie and Ray Bradbury became his two biggest influences.

Ian had a successful career in music with Scottish band H2O. Songs such as *I Dream to Sleep* and *Just Outside of Heaven* were hits around the world and the band appeared on Top Of The Pops. Ian has also performed in Four Good Men with members of Simple Minds and Big Country, touring North America and Europe. Ray Bradbury’s friend Donn Albright has written an afterword for Ian’s novel – H2O’s *Leonard* was inspired by Bradbury’s *The Pedestrian*. 
Darkest Thoughts
(Book 1 in the McIntyre road-trip thriller series)
Gordon Brown

Craig McIntyre’s mere presence can transform people’s darkest thoughts into action.

On an Iraqi street, McIntyre finds himself at the centre of an event that leaves several people dead. Ex-military, now a bodyguard, McIntyre has no idea how the people died. Others think he is responsible – the catalyst that caused the deaths. They have no issue with that. Far from it. They are intent on harnessing Craig’s dark talent for creating chaos and will let no-one stand in their way.

Who are McIntyre’s pursuers? What do they see in him that he cannot see in himself? And what will happen to him if he is caught? Worse, what will happen to those closest to him if he escapes?

As he struggles to come to terms with events, and with the possibility that he really is a vehicle for anarchy, can he stop his darkest thoughts turning to revenge?

Gordon Brown splits his time between Scotland, the USA and Spain. He appears at many book festivals and also helped found Bloody Scotland, Scotland’s International Crime Writing Festival. He also regularly chairs events.

Furthest Reaches
(Book 2 in the McIntyre road-trip thriller series)
Gordon Brown

Craig McIntyre’s mere presence can transform people’s darkest thoughts into action.

The US Strategic Petroleum Reserve has been destroyed by a white supremacist group. The attack has been hushed-up and time is of the essence if equal and global economic meltdown is to be avoided.

Having fled across America to evade capture by his nemesis, Senator Tampoline, McIntyre is now being ‘persuaded’ to work alongside him in the national interest.

As he is forced to apply his unique ability to salvage the situation, McIntyre struggles to determine who is working harder to thwart him: his allies or his enemies. It might be safer to stay ahead of both. But that would entail delving into the furthest reaches of his mind. It might also mean kidnapping the most powerful leader on the planet.
Deepest Wounds
(Book 3 in the McIntyre road-trip thriller series)
Gordon Brown

Craig McIntyre’s mere presence can transform people’s darkest thoughts into action.

McIntyre is much in demand with all the wrong people. Around the world, the graves of the famous – and infamous – are being disturbed. Meanwhile, in North America, while trying to escape bounty hunters from the Dark Web, McIntyre discovers that his details are linked to a clandestine government project. Could there be a link between the project and the graves? Is Craig the key to an explosive secret across the Atlantic in Scotland?

McIntyre needs time to figure out what’s going on and where he fits in. He hooks up with unlikely allies but even they may not be able to keep him beyond the reach of those determined to run him to ground.

Will McIntyre finally unravel the mystery of his past? Or is someone exploiting his deepest wounds for their own dark purpose?

The Oystercatcher Girl
Gabrielle Barnby

In the medieval splendour of St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, three women gather to mourn the untimely passing of Robbie: Robbie’s widow, Tessa; Tessa’s old childhood friend, Christine; and Christine’s unstable and unreliable sister, Lindsay. But, as secrets are gradually revealed, the past and present collide with unexpected and devastating results.

_The Oystercatcher Girl_ is a story of betrayal and redemption, and is as beautiful and secretive as the Orkney of its setting.

Gabrielle Barnby works in a variety of genres including short stories, poetry and children’s fiction. Gabrielle’s short stories and book reviews have been published widely.

In 2015 her collection of short stories _The House With The Lilac Shutters_ was published by ThunderPoint. In the same year she won The George Mackay Brown Short Story competition.
**The Wrong Box**  
Andrew C Ferguson

Simon English, corporate lawyer, heavy drinker and Scotophile, is banished from London after misbehaving with a young associate on the corporate desk. Then English finds himself acting for a money laundering racket that could put his career and his life on the line.

Manically funny, *The Wrong Box* is a chaotic story of lust, money, power and greed.

Andrew C Ferguson is a local government solicitor who lives in Fife. He is author of the non-fiction titles *Legacy of the Sacred Chalice, Common Good Law and Local Planning Reviews in Scotland*.

His short fiction has been published widely in magazines and anthologies, including *The Hope that Kills Us, Sporty Spec: Games of the Fantastic, A Mosque Among the Stars*, and *Nova Scotia: New Scottish Speculative Fiction*. His poetry has appeared in the magazines *Chapman, Brand, Iota, Word Salad Magazine, Gutter and Farrago’s Wainscot*. He is also a spoken word performer and musician.

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** Lies of the Land **  
Chris Dolan

Procurator fiscal Maddy Shannon awakens in her West End Glasgow flat to a hangover and several mysteries, starting with who’s the strange man in her bed? Shortly after discovering his identity, Maddy learns that the man’s boss has met with a gruesome end in his lavish office.

With a reputation for getting too close to her cases, Maddy tries to stand back from this one. But as the murders continue, she winds up in a race against the measured malevolence of an unknown killer. Maddy’s unorthodox meetings with DI Alan Coulter further complicate an increasingly unmanageable case whose roots may go back to one Maddy failed to win. The suspects pile up until they finally topple.

*Lies of the Land* is at once frightening and funny, earthy and insightful. It’s a love poem to Glasgow, a technicolour rendering of a city whose beauty lies in its many contradictory qualities.

Chris Dolan writes for page, stage and screen. Already winner of the Macallan short story prize, Dolan was shortlisted for the Saltire Society First Book of the Year Award in 1995 for *Poor Angels and Other Stories*. His first novel, *Ascension Day*, won the McKitterick Prize in 1999.

Vagabond Voices published *Redlegs* in 2012; *Potter’s Field*, Dolan’s first Maddy Shannon mystery, in 2014; and *Aliyyah*, his ‘Arabian night’, in 2015. His non-fiction books include *An Anarchist’s Story* and *John Lennon: The Original Beatle*. Dolan has written extensively for radio and television, both drama and documentary.
**A Happy Little Island**  
Lars Sund

The writer named the island Fagerö, and populated it with an assortment of likely and plausibly unlikely characters, and saw that it was good for his purposes. The people of Fagerö were often divided against each other but united in their appreciation of their happy little island.

Dead bodies began to arrive: hordes of them, washing ashore with no identification and no one to claim them. The remote island’s quirkeness becoming less restrained, Fagerö’s inhabitants had to face the unhappy truth that, even here, the world’s horrors and injustices could not be ignored.

This was prescient at the time of writing and is now sadly relevant. *A Happy Little Island* is an elaborate tale told with style and intelligence. The number and variety of Sund’s Dramatis Personae make Fagerö the perfect stage for an encounter between common humanity and the insularity and fear of change that affect all cultures.

Lars Sund was born in 1953 in the Swedish-speaking coastal town of Jakobstad, Finland. All eight of his novels were written in Swedish and five of them translated into Finnish. *A Happy Little Island* is the first to be translated into English. Claes Olsson made a film, *Colorado Avenue*, based on Sund’s books *Colorado Avenue* and *Lanthandlerskans son*. He has won prestigious literary prizes: Runeberg (1992); Kiitos kirjasta-mitali (1993), as well as the Lars Widding Award (1998). Sund, who studied English and Swedish literature at the Abo Akademi, the only Swedish-language university in Finland, now resides in Uppsala, Sweden.

**The Death of the Perfect Sentence**  
Rein Raud

A political thriller set mainly in Estonia during the dying days of the Soviet Union, but also in Russia, Finland and Sweden. It follows a group of young pro-independence dissidents who have an elaborate scheme for smuggling copies of KGB files out of the country, and whose fates are entangled, through family and romantic ties, with the security services who are tracking them. It describes the curious minutiae of everyday life, offers wry observations on the period through personal experience, and asks universal questions about how interpersonal relationships are affected when caught up in momentous historical changes.


He has translated Japanese thinkers and Dante’s *Vita Nuova* into Estonian. He teaches at universities in Estonia and Finland and has hosted a philosophical talk show on Estonian TV.
Pauls Bankovskis

As the First World War comes to an end, chaos takes over in much of Europe and even the victors sense that the old certainties have been lost in the massacre. In Latvia it appears that two centuries of Russian rule are coming to an end, but other powers and destabilising factors persist. Pauls Bankovskis’ novel examining this most important of years in his country’s history reveals how a new republic emerged from disorder and chance, gradually but also erratically. Painstaking in his research, he even walked himself the full length of the escape route to Finland taken by his protagonist. This is the story of a year and its far from unified people.

Two different Latvias, almost a century apart, one looking uncertainly to the future and the other uncomprehendingly to the past, inhabit very different eras and use each other to inform their own actions.

Born in Ligatne, Latvia in 1973, Pauls Bankovskis is a prolific writer and novelist. In a decade he has published ten novels, two short story collections, a children’s book and a work of non-fiction. His books have been translated into English, French, Russian, Finnish, Swedish, Czech and Lithuanian.

He studied glasswork at the Riga School for Applied Arts and philosophy at the University of Latvia (1992-1996).

Kathrine Sowerby

_The Spit, the Sound and the Nest_ is a novel in three parts set in distinct, unnamed locations over a winter, a day and a week. Each part centres on a small group of characters forced to depend on one another when faced with unexpected circumstances. In all the stories the past weighs heavily on the present.

_The Spit_ opens with runaway teens Felix and Luc lost on a dark, snowy night in a small town. A couple offers them work and a place to stay. By winter’s end the four face life-changing decisions. In _The Sound_, a woman who has chosen to live in isolation questions her decision when a girl shows up at her door dripping wet and carrying a newborn baby. In _The Nest_, sisters Alice and Edna struggle to make sense of adult lives and cruelties after the housekeeper tells them their parents have died in an accident.

Kathrine Sowerby is a writer and home educator living in Glasgow. She studied tapestry at Edinburgh College of Art before working as an English teacher in Slovakia and Lithuania. Her poems, stories and translations have been published widely in journals and anthologies, and she regularly collaborates with artist and poet Tessa Berring. She has an MFA from Glasgow School of Art, an MLitt in Creative Writing from Glasgow University and won a 2013 New Writers Award from the Scottish Book Trust. Her poetry chapbooks include _Unnecessarily Emphatic, Tired Blue Mountain and Margaret and Sunflower_.

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Vagabond Voices
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Contemporary
Literary Novel (in translation)
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Ten years ago, when The Scotsman ran Britain’s biggest short story competition, each year I used to pick what its theme should be. For the first one, I wanted to select a subject that was hardly ever covered in fiction, one that would guarantee an influx of freshly written and entirely original entries rather than tired old retreads dusted off from bottom-drawer oblivion.

I know, I thought. Let’s get everyone writing about Work.

Considering the fact that most of us work for a living, isn’t it odd so few writers write about it? Yet how many people do you know who would define themselves mainly in terms of their jobs? How many would move from one end of the country to the other – or even to another country altogether – for a better one? For how many people, is work – its gossip, politics, dreams – the most fulfilling part of their lives and its disappointments the source of their greatest regrets?

It’s only when you start thinking like this that you realise how little of real life fiction’s footprint actually covers. Of course, you will correctly point out, fiction depends on transformation while work relies on routine, which is probably why the world still awaits its first novel set in the office of a pensions actuary. And one reason we turn to fiction in the first place is precisely because we are creatures gifted with an imagination – Hogwarts, Xanadu, Borodino, the Culture – that the ordinary nine-to-five can’t match.

All the same, whenever I come across a novelist tackling an important subject I’ve never read anyone else attempting, and extending fiction’s footprint just that little bit further, I can’t help cheering them on. And among new Scottish releases, that’s precisely why I’m rooting for Jason Donald’s second novel.

Dalila charts the passage of its eponymous heroine, a 20-year-old Kenyan asylum-seeker, through the Home Office’s Kafkaesque bureaucracy, which sends her to Glasgow to await the results of her application. The novel is particularly well-researched: in the Noughties, when he was living in Ibrox, Donald taught English to asylum seekers for the best part of the decade. He has also done extensive voluntary work for charities working with refugees and those held in detention centres.
I’ve done none of that – indeed I’ve never even met an asylum seeker. But reading Dalila did what fiction is supposed to do: it turned a key in my mind and suddenly I was looking at a completely unfamiliar slice of life in a familiar city. I’ll give you an example. About half-way between Ibrox Stadium and the Glasgow Science Centre, there’s a spectacularly badly named building called Festival Court, where Dalila has to go to be assessed. It’s a real place, and used by asylum-seekers in real life, and now I’ve read the novel I can imagine, in a way I couldn’t before, what it must be like to go there, knowing that the person interviewing you there has the power to send you back to a place where your life could be at risk. That could happen right there and then. You might have turned up for that meeting at Festival Court, having picked up your children after school, fully immersed in everyday life in this new city, and they could be sent off to the detention centre with you, still in their school uniforms.

I’d never realised, in other words, that there was an office building in Glasgow that effectively was a border, just like the painted line you cross when you show your passport at the airport. I’d never thought of it like that – or to put it another way, I’d never read a novel that had made me feel empathy towards asylum seekers. Yet just as, in The Grapes of Wrath, the problems only really began when the Okies arrive in the supposed paradise of California, Dalila made me realise that it’s the same with asylum seekers arriving in Scotland. And this is, quite obviously, not a paradise at all but a cold place of purgatorial waiting, a limbo land where you can’t take any work, can’t understand the locals, have hardly any friends and even less money.

Mentioning Steinbeck’s classic brings me back to that business of fiction’s footprint. Thanks to Steinbeck, fiction opened up to our imaginations the lives of all of those who made the Grapes of Wrath journey west from the dustbowl states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and Missouri to California (300-400,000 in the whole of the 1930s). And thanks to books like Uncle Tom’s Cabin, another American migration – the journey of up to 100,000 slaves fleeing slavery in the southern states to find freedom in the north – opened up minds even further in the century before. Indeed, it would be easy to argue that there’s never been a more influential novel in history.

Europe’s migrant crisis is, however, on an altogether bigger scale. The numbers of migrants pushing into Europe – 1.2 million in 2015 alone – is vastly greater than the numbers of Okies heading west or slaves heading north combined. So where’s the great European migrant crisis novel?

Young adult fiction writers are streets ahead on this one. Michael Morpurgo’s Shadow and David Almond’s Jackdaw Summer are just two of those who have written about asylum seekers, but there are many more, and I’m glad of it: those Syrian children whose families have fled the civil war might find a greater degree of empathy in our classroom as a result. But apart from the partial exception of Chris Cleave’s 2008 novel The Other Hand, adult fiction seems to have given the subject a body swerve. Why?

‘Maybe it’s just because we want comfortable narratives about a world we already know,’ Jason Donald told me. ‘Certainly I did try to read novels about asylum seekers, not just to seek inspiration but to find out what the rest of the field was like. I struggled to find anything.’

He has, though, had the last laugh. Christopher Hampton, the Oscar-winning screenwriter behind such films as Dangerous Liaisons and Atonement, has already written a film script based on Donald’s novel. Dalila was Cape’s lead fiction title for January, and it comes with a back cover full of adoring quotes from Janice Galloway and Anne Donovan. I don’t doubt that it will do well. Because when fiction extends its range beyond its usual subjects, when an empathetic novelist shows us what we’ve been ignoring all those years, we’re all the better for it. I said earlier on that I’ve never met an asylum seeker. I have now.

Dalila by Jason Donald, published by Jonathan Cape, is out now priced £16.99. For more book reviews by David Robinson visit BooksfromScotland.com
I saw Auden once. He had only months to live and was sitting in an Oxford café looking out of the window with a bored expression; I was on my way to an interview at a college around the corner, an 18-year-old bundle of nerves and expectations. That’s all it was: a wordless glance through a café window before he went back to his coffee and newspaper. Though fictional, the Auden that Polly Clark gives us in her wonderful debut novel *Larchfield*, is far more vividly realistic than my own briefest of brief encounters with him.

The Auden it introduces us to is not much older than I was back then; it’s 1930, he has finished Oxford, and has just taken a teaching job at Larchfield, a prep school in Helensburgh. And though we are taken completely into his life in this repressive, bourgeois redoubt – ‘the Wimbledon of the north’ according to Cecil Day-Lewis, his friend and predecessor at the school – we only enter it through the mind of another poet. Dora Fielding – also English, also from Oxford, also isolated – has moved there nearly 80 years later, and the point about Dora’s mind is that she fears that she is losing it. Post-natal depression and neighbours from hell are pushing her further towards the brink. Finding out more about Wystan seems to be the only thing that can save her.

So we follow him into the closed, cruel worlds of the boarding school and Helensburgh polite society (‘You seem awfully nice in person’ Wystan is told at one party, ‘and I’m sure your next book will be much better’).

There are moments of escape, and we follow him there too – to brief holidays with his Christopher Isherwood where he makes the most of the soon-to-vanish freedom of Berlin’s gay clubs, and into a love affair with a working-class lad back in Scotland. And, of course, into poetry, although not quite as much as you would think considering that this is a book about two poets and written by a poet as well (Clark has three collections of poetry to her name and has been shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize).

The story-telling is layered, clever, captivating. But half-way through, Clark takes a huge risk with her parallel plots. She merges them. Dora wanders into Wystan’s world and the novel starts performing its magic. There’s the sheer wonder of turning back time when those worlds join; when they threaten to split, you can almost feel the cold wind of reality rushing in again, like those scenes in films (and possibly real life: you tell me) when people who are drunk or on drugs are suddenly drawn back into stone-cold sobering reality.

The meeting between Dora and Wystan is such a dazzlingly high-wire act that I needed to check with Clark whether mentioning it would be a spoiler. ‘Not at all,’ she says. ‘It’s a massive part of the book. And it needs to be real so the reader would wonder whether Dora actually met Wystan. The tension in the story is whether or not she stays in his world.’

Clark is the literature director of Cove Park, a writer’s retreat near Helensburgh, where she has lived for the last four years, as well as in the surrounding area for a further seven. Ever since she arrived – like Dora and Auden, from Oxford, where she had worked for a publisher – she had known about Helensburgh’s Auden connection, that the poet had taught at Larchfield for a couple of years and that his first major collection, *The Orators*, was written while he taught there. Her
daughter is a pupil at Lomond School, which is on the site of Larchfield. ‘Although the building in which Auden lived while he was there has been converted to flats, the façade is exactly the same, and in the photographs I’ve got of him with the boys, the background hasn’t changed. Helensburgh hasn’t altered too much either. I really didn’t need that much imagination.’

‘This was such a formative time in his life,’ she says, ‘yet nobody has really written about him in Helensburgh. But I didn’t want to write a biography, so for years I didn’t have any kind of hook on which to hang my knowledge of him. I used to wish it had been a completely different poet, someone I could relate to more – like Ted Hughes, say – because I didn’t think I had anything in common with Auden. He’s posh, he’s gay, I didn’t like his work so much – though I do now. I just didn’t see any connection.’

‘Then I realised we had everything in common. We were both outsiders. Neither of us could be ourselves any more, we were both hiding who we are.’ Or, as she explains on the proof (though not the finished) copy of the novel: ‘I couldn’t drive and became very isolated. When I had a baby, my ruin was complete. That’s when I first read Auden’s The Orators. And its poems changed my life.’

They are, I mention, fairly impenetrable too. ‘It’s a bonkers book,’ she agrees. ‘But if you are living in Helensburgh and in some sort of extreme state, it makes absolute sense. When I read it, I thought ‘This is somebody who is absolutely repressed, trying to talk about things they can’t talk about, and all their brilliance is squeezing out in all these funny directions.’ But there are Helensburgh landmarks all over in it – Loch Long, the ferry, the railway station – and when I came across them, the poems seemed to explode in my mind. And I just knew that if I had met Auden we would have been friends.’

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We are, I feel, getting to the core of why Larchfield works so well: ‘Dora isn’t me, but certainly it’s easy to imagine young mothers going off their rockers at such a time, when your whole sense of who you are is completely obliterated. I took things a lot further than my own experience of new motherhood. With her, I could let the madness leak out.’

And so the madness leaks, time spills, and readers no longer know for certain which decade they are actually in, only that everything is impeccably drawn, far more believable than it ought to be. To me, it’s like being able to go into an Oxford café, decades later, and sit opposite a bored-looking genius poet, and know – if not quite everything about him – at least enough to know the answers to many of my questions. No-one else, I reckon, could have written such a fine novel about Auden’s time in Helensburgh. And after Larchfield, I don’t think anyone else will even dare to try.

Larchfield by Polly Clark is published in March by riverrun, priced £12.99. For more book reviews by David Robinson visit BooksfromScotland.com
New titles

Non Fiction
101 Uses for Baler Twine
Frank Rennie

A must-have for country dwellers the world over who already know the astonishing number of ways, apart from baling hay, in which the ubiquitous baler twine can be used – and a recipe book of possibilities for the first time user.

Frank Rennie is a professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands who has written a number of books, mainly about online education and/or environmental issues. More recently he has produced some books for fun, including his photography, and a novel set in Bhutan. He lives in the Western Isles of Scotland, but his work has taken him all over the world.

A Stornoway Life – From Scotland Street to South Africa
Pat MacFarlane

The life and times of Pat MacFarlane as told in a series of self-penned essays and edited as a single volume by his niece Frances Murray. The book was launched to coincide with Pat’s 95th birthday and the essays include reflections on his early life growing up in Stornoway in the same house he still lives in, his war years in South Africa and tales of his many acquaintances in his iconic town centre shops.

Pat MacFarlane is a real Stornoway legend. A well-known figure in the community for over 90 years, he has seen his town through times of unimaginable change. Though still living in the house he was born in, Pat MacFarlane has seen the world in his long life, from Scotland Street, where he has always lived, to South Africa. But Stornoway will always be his home.
Rhenigidale – A Community’s Fight for Survival
Kenneth MacKay

The fascinating story of one community’s fight for survival. The village of Rhenigidale was cut off for many years from the rest of Harris, in the Western Isles of Scotland. Facing a multitude of obstacles and powerful adversity, one man, Kenneth MacKay, led the fight for a road to be built, to secure the future of his village.

This remarkable story - the daily troubles the village endured, the constant fight with the council, and, finally, the victorious day the road was opened – is a great read from cover to cover.

Kenneth MacKay was born and brought up in the small village of Rhenigidale in the Isle of Harris. He spent many years working as a postman, but his life’s passion was to ensure a road be built linking his remote village with the rest of the island. Facing many difficulties, but always with the support of the village, the Rhenigidale road was finally built. Rhenigidale is Kenneth MacKay’s first book.

The Going Down of the Sun/Dol Fodha na Grèine
Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

Over the past 160 years much has been written about the cocktail of circumstances that led to the Great War, the chaos and confusion of its battles, and – closer to home – that cruel conclusion on the Beasts of Holm on New Year’s morning 1919 when over 200 island sailors returning home from the Great War perished in the Iolaire disaster.

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis (The Ness Historical Society) was the first of its kind in the Isle of Lewis, and is a well-respected museum and place of cultural importance within the community. The Going Down of the Sun was compiled by Donald Alasdair Morrison, with editorial assistance from Annie MacSween and Iain Gordon MacDonald.
À Table: Whisky from Glass to Plate
Martine Nouet

Divided into three different sections with starters, main courses, and dessert/cheese, À Table: Whisky from Glass to Plate offers 60 seasonal recipes. In addition, each recipe recommends the best malt whiskies to accompany each dish. There is an introductory chapter devoted to the principles involved in the pairing of food and whisky, and guidance on how best to create harmony and balance through exploring the mood, colour and flavour of every season.

The mouth-watering images that accompany each recipe are by John Paul, a photographic specialist in gastronomy. Eric Obry, chef at Le Petit Gourmand in Speyside, has lovingly prepared each dish for the camera. Finally there is a whisky index that lists all the recommended whiskies (over 200). In his foreword, world-acclaimed whisky journalist Charles MacLean writes: 'Both a practical guide and an appetising armchair read, authoritative yet friendly, À Table is a delight and I commend it to you whole-heartedly.'

French-born Martine Nouet is an author and journalist who writes exclusively about food and spirits, and lives on the Isle of Islay. Martine has pioneered a new trend in the world of whisky: the sensory idea of pairing whiskies with a suitable food counterpart. She was bestowed the title of Master of The Quaich in April 2012. A globally sought after taster and commentator, Martine Nouet is regarded as one of the leaders in her field.

Wild Lewis – A’ Mhòinteach Mhòr
Frank Stark

A wonderful photographic safari of the largest island in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland – just a sample of the stunning wildlife that can be viewed at few other locations on the planet. This north-western corner of Europe, perched on the edge of the ocean, is a unique mix of geography and biodiversity that has inspired naturalists and poets for centuries. The bilingual text (English and Gaelic) gives an added richness to this visually impressive collection.

Frank Stark lives and works in Lewis and his camera travels with him everywhere. The result, a beautifully detailed collection of wildlife photographs, depicts the rich environmental heritage of the Isle of Lewis and sights frequently missed by the casual eye. Previously Frank has worked as White Tailed Eagle Officer with the RSPB in Lewis and Harris. He spent seven years with Scottish Natural Heritage and before that worked at Grimersta Estate in Lewis.
Unlocking French/Spanish/Italian with Paul Noble
Paul Noble

Ever tried to learn a language and found it too hard? Best selling language expert Paul Noble has a quick and easy way to get you back on track with his unique tried-and-tested method. Ideal for first-time learners or people who struggled in school, this book will help you absorb information quickly and efficiently, just like you did learning English as a child. Forget the way you used to be taught; this course guarantees you minimum effort and maximum success without the need for complex grammar rules or jargon.

Paul Noble is a genius, yet he still left school unable to speak a language – he found that the traditional learning methods left him feeling ‘confused, incapable and unable to really say anything’. Determined that there must be a better way to learn, Paul spent years devising his own unique method of learning languages which cuts out all of the grammar, all of the rote learning, and all of the stress. He began using his method to teach in his Language Institute and, hundreds of students later, he prides himself on never having had a student fail.

Railway Day Trips: 160 classic train journeys around Britain
Julian Holland

Fully updated essential guide to exploring Britain by train, Railway Day Trips is ideal for anyone planning or looking for inspiration for a rail journey. Each chapter incorporates a location map, route diagram and descriptive text on its history and geography, plus some of the highlights awaiting you at each destination. High-quality photographs illustrate every route throughout the book.

From a very young age Julian Holland has had a fascination with railways. He is a writer and photographer on many railway books, including the highly acclaimed and award-winning The Times Mapping the Railways (2011), Exploring Britain’s Lost Railways (2013) and Great Railway Journeys of the World (HarperCollins, 2014). As well as being passionate about train travel, Julian is a leading commentator in the media on railways.
Scotland the Best: 100 Places
Peter Irvine

Peter Irvine, bestselling author of Scotland the Best, has selected 100 extraordinary places that epitomise what is truly great about Scotland. This personal and diverse compendium is illustrated with beautiful and evocative images by some of Scotland’s best photographers. From wild glens to ancient buildings, remote islands to vibrant cities, this is Pete’s list of the places in Scotland that you really should visit in your lifetime.

Peter Irvine is Director of Unique Events, which produces many of the major public events in Scotland. He has been the Director of Edinburgh’s Hogmanay – the world’s leading New Year Festival – for over 20 years. His book Scotland the Best, now in its 12th edition, is Britain’s bestselling independent guide.

The Times Style Guide: An Authoritative Guide to English Usage
Edited by Ian Brunskill

Uncover the rules, conventions and policies on spelling, grammar and usage followed by the journalists, contributors and editors working on the Times newspaper. Assure or ensure? Affect or effect? Even the most accomplished writer will run up against these and many similar problems in the quest for clear, elegant and grammatical writing. The Times editors answer these and hundreds of other usage conundrums with a comprehensive collection of entries covering the quirky minefield of the English language. Although no literary straitjacket, this authoritative guide is the foundation of correct English usage for all Times journalists and contributors, and provides a benchmark style, the essential ingredient of all well-written English.
**A Wealthier, Fairer Scotland: The Political Economy of Constitutional Change**
Edited by Michael Keating

The ambition of the Scottish Government is to create a wealthier and fairer nation. Following the devolution acts of 1998, 2012 and 2016, it has extensive powers and resources to fulfil its ambition.

Written by 13 expert contributors, this book asks how this ideal can be achieved, given the range of powers available, economic constraints, institutions and public support. Looking at taxes, spending, inequality, welfare, childcare and more, it provides a realistic analysis of the opportunities and constraints facing a small, devolved nation.

Michael Keating is Professor of Politics at the University of Aberdeen, part-time professor at the University of Edinburgh and Director of the Centre on Constitutional Change. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and an Academician of the Social Sciences. He has published extensively on European politics, nationalism and regionalism.

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**Conceiving a Nation: Scotland to 900 AD**
Gilbert Márkus

*Conceiving a Nation* draws on the best and most recent research on Early Medieval Scotland. It describes the events and processes around the creation of Scotia as it emerged from the many ethnic and political groups living in what is now Scotland. This is a history not only of the ‘great events’ of the emerging nation, but a guide to the lives and motivations of the actors in this history, their cultures and laws, their beliefs and perceptions.

Gilbert Márkus has worked at the universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and St Andrews, teaching and researching in the fields of Early Medieval Scottish history, place-names, belief, culture and literature.
Global Migrations: The Scottish Diaspora since 1600
Edited by Angela McCarthy and John M MacKenzie

From the 17th century to the current day, more than 2.5 million Scots have sought new lives elsewhere. This book of essays from established and emerging scholars examines the impact since 1600 of out-migration from Scotland upon the homeland, on the migrants themselves, on the destinations in which they settled, and upon their descendants and ‘affinity’ Scots. It does so through a focus on the under-researched themes of slavery, cross-cultural encounters, economics, war, tourism, and the modern diaspora since 1945. In considering whether the Scottish factor mattered, Global Migrations spans diverse destinations including Europe, the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Hong Kong, Guyana and the British World more broadly.

Angela McCarthy is Professor of Scottish and Irish History at the University of Otago, New Zealand.

John M MacKenzie is Emeritus Professor of Imperial History at Lancaster University and holds honorary professorships at the universities of Aberdeen and St Andrews.

Time’s Witnesses: Women’s Voices from the Holocaust
Editor: Jakob Lothe
Translator: Anne Marie Hagen

‘If we had held one minute’s silence for each of the six million Jews who were murdered, we would have remained silent for twelve years.’ - Blanche Major

In Time’s Witnesses: Women’s Voices from the Holocaust, Blanche Major and nine other Jewish women testify about their horrific experiences in Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, Bergen-Belsen and other Nazi camps.

This book tells of humiliation, hunger, death and despair, but also of dignity, unity and hope – and an indomitable will to live. Each woman’s experience is unique yet their reflections share a common hope for reconciliation and understanding. They are a testament to the Nazi atrocities and a caution for the future. Theirs are stories the world must never forget.

This book was originally published in Norwegian as Kvinnelige tidsvitner by publisher, Gyldendal, in 2013.

Jakob Lothe is Professor of English Literature at the University of Oslo. His previous publications include Time’s Witnesses: Narratives from Auschwitz and Sachsenhausen (co-edited with Anette Storeide, 2006) and After Testimony: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Holocaust Narrative for the Future (co-edited with Susan Rubin Suleiman and James Phelan, 2012). Dr Anne Marie Hagen has a postgraduate degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Oslo (Cand.philol. 2003) and a PhD in English Literature from the University of Edinburgh (2015).
The Inner Power of Stillness: A practical guide for therapists and practitioners
Alexander Filmer-Lorch, Caroline Barrow, Maggie Gill

This research-based book seeks to illuminate the lost value of stillness for the practitioner and teacher, both as a person and a professional, in order to develop true therapeutic presence, mindfulness and meditation practice. It includes simple exercises to help clients build long-term memory of stillness as a foundation for successful meditation and mindfulness practice.

Alexander Filmer-Lorch has a background in dance and yoga and he offers mentoring programmes, comprehensive meditation-therapy courses and teacher training. Caroline Barrow runs the Upledger Institute courses and is a board member of the Cranio Sacral Society. Maggie Gill is a practitioner and teacher of Upledger Craniosacral Therapy.

Mindful Relationships: Seven Skills for Success – Integrating the Science of Mind, Body and Brain
Dr B Grace Bullock

This accessible and pragmatic book provides healthcare professionals, psychotherapists, HR professionals and lay people with tools from yoga, Buddhist and mindfulness traditions. It examines the cognitive and biopsychosocial impact of stress and explores the BREATHE model (the seven skills) – an evidence-based approach designed to cultivate healthy, harmonious and resilient relationships, organisations and social systems.

Dr B Grace Bullock (PhD, E-RYT 500) is a research scientist, psychologist, organisational innovator, acclaimed speaker, author, educator and science journalist, and a yoga and mindfulness expert.
**Mankind’s Great Divides**
*George R Mitchell*

In this ground-breaking new book, George R Mitchell travels around the most divided and war-torn countries on the planet. Gathering photographs, first-hand accounts of war and despair, and interviews with the people of these countries, George reveals what it’s really like to live in one of mankind’s great divides.

George R Mitchell was a professional dance teacher for 20 years, which took him to nearly 80 countries. In 1993, he participated in a dance exchange to Russia. Being present in Russia following the collapse of the USSR induced a fascination with borders and frontiers. This visit outside of the Western sphere gave him a taste for more, and he has since abandoned the dance world and travelled as far as his bank balance permits, and writes a weekly column for the *Press and Journal*. His first book provides an authentic approach outwith the influence of established foreign correspondents.

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**The Mountain Cafe Cookbook – A Kiwi in the Cairngorms**
*Kirsten Gilmour*

Legendary breakfasts to fuel days on the mountain, inventive zesty salads, indulgent and luxurious cakes – these are all hallmarks of Aviemore’s Mountain Cafe. Owner-chef Kirsten Gilmour draws on her Kiwi roots to turn out contemporary dishes with an antipodean love of fresh and bold flavours, and in her debut cookbook she shares her secrets and inspirations with you. *The Mountain Cafe Cookbook* is packed full of Kirsten’s irresistible recipes for the best-loved dishes and drinks at her Highland restaurant, alongside others drawn from her grandparents and influenced by her travels around the world. This is not difficult, fancy restaurant cooking, but gutsy, fresh, hearty food that will taste just as good from your kitchen as from hers.

‘A great big hug of a book, full of exciting favours and reliable recipes.’
– Sue Lawrence

Kiwi chef Kirsten Gilmour is the owner and head chef of the multi-award winning Mountain Cafe in Aviemore. She is a regular contributor to BBC Radio Scotland’s Kitchen Cafe.
The Story of Dementia
John Killick

This book presents the previously untold story of dementia. It takes on the medical establishment and speaks loudly and clearly of the unholy collaboration between drug companies, researchers, dementia organisations and doctors (ably assisted by the media) which keeps the negative view of dementia in the public eye, thereby actually contributing to the stigma they claim to be addressing. This book tells the hidden story of positive approaches, and those who have devoted their lives to finding alternative creative solutions to one of today’s greatest challenges.

John Killick was a teacher for 30 years, and has been a writer all his life. He has published books of his own poetry and books on creative writing. He began working with people with dementia in 1992, and has held a number of posts with nursing homes, hospitals, libraries and arts centres. He has edited six books of poems by people with dementia, and co-authored books on communication and on creativity. He has written many articles and book-chapters, and given many workshops in the UK and abroad. He has also made a number of broadcasts.

Nations and Nationalisms
Owen Dudley Edwards

Owen Dudley Edward’s compelling writing gives an insight into the crucial moments in which nations such as Ireland, Brazil, Belgium, Haiti and more became an independent nation after years of colonial oppression, and explores the motivations and events behind every single important and defining moment that lead to the nation’s union and liberation.

Owen Dudley Edwards (FRSE, FRHistS, FSA Scot) was born in Dublin in 1938, studied at Belvedere College (for reference to which, see James Joyce’s A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man), and University College, Dublin, then at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, subsequently teaching in the University of Oregon. He then worked as a journalist for a year in Dublin. He taught in the University of Aberdeen for two years (1966–68), and since then at the University of Edinburgh. He retired in 2005 but still gives occasional lectures.
Live Well. Eat Well. Be Well.
A Natural Guide to Healthy Living
Joanna Thomson

This essential guide to the Nature Cure as the foundation for healthy living and disease prevention is based on 50 years’ experience at the Kingston Clinic in Edinburgh. Originally devised over a century ago by the author’s grandfather, the Nature Cure lifestyle has helped people from all over the world regain and maintain good health naturally.

Embracing healthy living, mindfulness and clean eating, Nature Cure is the perfect antidote to the stresses of modern life. It is full of easy-to-follow dietary advice and suggestions for everyday exercise activities. With Joanna Thomson’s wisdom and experience to guide you, beat fatigue and disease and take control of your own health.

Joanna Thomson was born and brought up in Edinburgh. She is the granddaughter of the creator of the Nature Cure movement, and her father founded Edinburgh’s Kingston Clinic. Building on a lifetime of healthy living, and almost a century of family knowledge, Joanna attended a four-year Naturopathy course at the Edinburgh College of Natural Therapies. She now treats patients from her own clinic in Peebles, and is Registrar of the Incorporated Society of Registered Naturopaths, and Secretary and Treasurer of the Tait Vision Fund.

The Sky’s the Limit: The story of Vicky Jack and her Quest to Climb the Seven Summits
Anna Magnusson

The Sky’s the Limit is the account of Vicky Jack’s journey from the Munros of her native Scotland to the summit of the world’s highest peak. Her pilgrimage is full of trials as she battles through Antarctic storms, falls off Mount McKinley in Alaska, is shot at in Indonesia, and runs out of oxygen on Mount Everest; yet Vicky’s characteristic determination is never diluted as she strives towards her goal.

Anna Magnusson brilliantly captures Vicky’s sense of ambition, faithfully retelling this tale of inspiration, challenge and success. This story is both a reminder to all that it is never too late to chase a childhood ambition, and an encouragement to never give up on your dreams – no matter how out of reach they may seem.

Anna Magnusson is a writer, broadcaster and radio producer. In 2006 she published The Quarriers Story, a history of Quarriers Homes, once the biggest orphanage in Scotland, and now a leading care charity. She also edited The Time of our Lives (Rannoch Press, 2011), a collection of memories of wartime schoolgirls evacuated from Glasgow to Auchterarder. Anna is an award-winning radio producer and broadcaster who has made documentaries all over the world.
**Muddy Pearl**
ISBN: 9781910012376
176pp
Non-Fiction; Christian living; Digital; Computing
Stephanie Heald
stephanie.heald@muddypearl.com

**Digitally Remastered**
Guy Brandon

Communications technologies open up endless wonderful possibilities as well as many that are more sinister. Ultimately, the reality is that either we will master them or they will master us. A valuable book that unpacks the practical and spiritual significance of our technological choices in a way that aligns with our faith.

Guy Brandon is research director and main writer for the Jubilee Centre, Cambridge. Guy holds a degree, MPhil and PhD in Old Testament theology from Cambridge University, and is a trained counsellor. His books include *Just Sex* (IVP) and *Votewise* (SPCK). In the course of his freelance writing career Guy has worked on a number of blogs, film scripts, articles and white papers, and has also worked with various cryptocurrency platforms, communities and businesses, including Bitcoin, Nxt and Waves.

**Lead**
Karl Martin

Karl Martin explores the Gospel of John to draw lessons for leadership – leadership in Jesus’ way. Leadership in the way of Jesus is about humility, about investing your life in your team, about facing betrayal, about dying to self, about handing on, about succession. Ultimately, true leadership is not about seeing others serve your dream – it is about seeing others released into the dreams, the gifting and calling that the Lord has placed on their lives. This deceptively profound, honest and practical book gives great insight for leaders – challenge for younger leaders, encouragement for mid-life leaders, and refreshment for the mature leaders – and what may be some of the most significant lessons of their leadership life.

Karl Martin is Senior Pastor at Central Church, Edinburgh. He loves the Church of Jesus Christ and longs for her to become all that she is called to be – passionate, relevant, creative, different, missional and alive. Karl is committed to investing in younger leaders and the apprentice programme at Central is regarded as one of the best and most innovative internships of its kind. His first book was *Stand*, published by Muddy Pearl in 2013. He is married to Niki and he has four daughters.
**Nation in Transit**
**Phil Anderson**

In 2011, the borough of Thurrock in Essex stepped into the national spotlight when it came bottom of the national league table for life satisfaction. By 2015 that disaffection and anger had boiled over into political insurrection, and Thurrock led Britain out of the door of the EU with one of the highest ‘leave’ votes in the country. Starting from the underlying causes of the mass dissatisfaction that brought us to here, this book spells out a clear vision for what a post-Brexit Britain should look like. From unemployment to immigration, council estates to the banking industry, and local communities to the global environment, it takes a long, hard look at what really creates the conditions for people and communities to flourish. The answers combine radical political ideas with grass roots Essex reality; because if the solutions don’t work for ‘White Van Man’ then they probably won’t work at all.

Phil Anderson is a local politician from Thurrock in South Essex, branded by the national media as ‘Britain’s most Eurosceptic area’ and ‘the country’s capital of misery’. Phil won his council seat in Thurrock in 2010, and within a year of being elected found himself as opposition leader in one of the tightest marginal constituencies in the UK. Phil became the local Conservative party Chairman in advance of the 2015 general election, where Thurrock emerged as UKIP’s number one target. The Conservatives held the seat in what came to be seen as one of the key political bellwethers of the election.

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**A Perfect Chemistry: Photographs by Hill and Adamson**
**Anne M Lyden**

This book explores masterpieces from one of the most famous partnerships in the history of photography: that of Edinburgh duo David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson. Just four years after the new medium of photography was announced to the world in 1839, the pair were producing highly skilled portraits of key members of Edinburgh society. Over the next four years, until Adamson’s early death in 1848, they produced several thousand prints encompassing landscapes, architectural views, tableau vivant from Scottish literature and photographic reproductions of notable works of art, as well as portraiture. Their photographs of Newhaven fisherfolk are arguably among the first images of social documentary photography. This beautiful new volume features an essay from Anne M Lyden, International Photography Curator at the National Galleries of Scotland, along with images of around 100 masterpieces from the Galleries’ vast collection of Hill and Adamson’s photography.

Anne M Lyden is International Photography Curator at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh. She was previously Associate Curator of Photographs at the J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles where she curated many major exhibitions. She has previously written a number of publications, including *The Photographs of Frederick H. Evans* (2010) and *A Royal Passion: Queen Victoria and Photography* (2014, both Getty Publications).
**True to Life: British Realist Painting in the 1920s and 1930s**  
Patrick Elliott and Sacha Llewellyn

This book presents the very first overview of British realist painting of the period, showcasing outstanding works from private and public collections across the UK. Of the artists featured, many were major figures in the 1920s and 1930s but passed out of fashion as abstraction and Pop Art became the dominant trends in the post-war years. Recently their work has re-emerged and interest in them has grown. Inter-war realist art embraces a number of different styles, but is characterised by fine drawing, meticulous craftsmanship, a tendency towards classicism and an aversion to impressionism and visible brushwork. Featuring artists such as Gerald Leslie Brockhurst, Meredith Frampton, James Cowie and Winifred Knights, this book promises a fascinating discovery of this captivating period of British art.


Sacha Llewellyn is an independent writer and curator and Director of Liss Llewellyn Fine Art, with a particular interest in inter-war British Modernism. She co-curated *Alan Sorrell – A Life Reconstructed*, for the Sir John Soane’s Museum in 2013, and guest-curated the Winifred Knights survey exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery (2016). She has published widely on the artists of the British School at Rome.

**Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites**  
Edited by David Forsyth

In the summer of 1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie, grandson of James VII and II, landed on the Isle of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides. He would be the Jacobite Stuarts’ last hope in the fight to regain the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland. His story is one of enduring fascination – and now renewed global interest due to the *Outlander* books/TV series.

This book has been produced for the major new exhibition *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* to be held at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, 23 June–12 November 2017.

The exhibition will tell a compelling story of love, loss, exile, rebellion and retribution and will challenge many of the misconceptions that still surround this turbulent time.

As well as a catalogue showcasing the rich wealth of objects in the exhibition, the book has specially commissioned essays from eight experts in the field.

David Forsyth is Principal Curator of Medieval-Early Modern Collections in the Scottish History & Archaeology Department at National Museums Scotland.
Thinking Inside the Box
Jacob Aagaard

*Thinking Inside the Box* is the culmination of many decades of work. Jacob Aagaard has not only climbed the chess ranks to become a Grandmaster, but has taught others to do the same, both through personal tuition and through his many acclaimed books on chess improvement. In this book he distils the most important techniques and concepts that will enable the readers to take their game to the next level and ultimately achieve the Grandmaster title.

Praise for the author’s previous work:

‘I like the books *Positional Play* and *Strategic Play*. After I studied them, my pieces started to co-ordinate better.’ – GM David Navara

‘I really like Jacob Aagaard’s books; I always recommend them and use them myself.’ – GM Viktor Bologan

‘I give this book my highest recommendation.’ – GM Leif Erland Johannessen

Grandmaster Jacob Aagaard won the British Chess Championship at his first and only attempt. He is the only chess author to have won the Boleslavsky Medal as well as the ACP, *Guardian*, ECF and ChessCafe Book of the Year awards. He is a FIDE Senior Trainer, and his training material is used by amateurs and grandmasters alike.

Positional Decision Making in Chess
Boris Gelfand

*Positional Decision Making in Chess* offers a rare look into the mind of a top Grandmaster. In his efforts to explain his way of thinking, Boris Gelfand focuses on such topics as the squeeze, space advantage, the transformation of pawn structures and the transformation of advantages. Based on examples from his own games and those of his hero, Akiba Rubinstein, Gelfand explains how he thinks during the game.

*Positional Decision Making in Chess* was voted Book of the Year by the English Chess Federation in 2015.

‘I think this book has masses to teach any strength of player. ***** (5/5)’ – GM Matthew Sadler

‘This is an outstanding book, probably the best I’ve read this year... It’s jam-packed full of useful gems, little pieces of positional advice that probably just come naturally to Gelfand, but need to be dictated to and learned by the rest of us.’ – GM David Smerdon

Chess Grandmaster Boris Gelfand reached No. 3 in the world in 1990 and has remained at the elite level ever since. He has led the Israeli team to numerous medals at both European and World level. In 2012 he won the right to challenge for the individual World Championship, losing narrowly in the play-off. He continues to win chess tournaments ahead of the best players in the world, in many cases men half his own age.
My System
Aron Nimzowitsch

My System is perhaps the most famous and influential chess book ever written. Though controversial at the time, Nimzowitsch’s ideas have had a profound influence on modern chess thinking. Most chess masters will at some point have studied Nimzowitsch’s work, and not to have read My System is regarded by many as a shocking gap in a chess player’s education.

‘Since its publication approximately 80 years ago, My System has been one of the cornerstones of chess theory and instruction. It has been a major influence on the development of chess theory and praxis for most of the 20th century, and will continue to do so in the 21st. The re-release of Nimzowitsch’s extraordinary work, along with the additional material included by the publisher, makes the appeal and importance of this great book as relevant as it ever was.’ – Eugene Manchester, ChessCafe.com

Aron Nimzowitsch was one of the greatest chess players of the 1920s and 1930s, ranked just behind the famous World Champions Alekhine and Capablanca. His reputation as an author is higher still.

Chess Tactics from Scratch
Martin Weteschnik

Although Weteschnik’s original chess tactics book was a success, he was not completely satisfied with it and decided to restructure and rewrite it completely. Chess Tactics from Scratch offers a further upgrade, with three new chapters and an improved and enlarged puzzle selection to test the tactical chess skill that Weteschnik helps the reader develop.

‘It is reasonable that lower-rated players could indeed improve by hundreds of rating points after studying this book in detail. Club and tournament players will also benefit a great deal. This book distinguishes itself as one of the best tactical primers available.’ – Michael McGuerty, ChessCafe.com

‘This is a real gem, a masterpiece to be savoured. Every page and every word reflects the passion and immense love of the author for the subject matter.’ – Martin Eden, Soloscacchi

Martin Weteschnik is a FIDE Master and an experienced chess trainer. When he started working as a trainer in his local chess club, he quickly realised that even the stronger club players had great weaknesses in their tactical play. These players clearly needed a good book, but when Weteschnik looked for it he found nothing suitable, so he decided to write it himself.
How I Beat Fischer’s Record – Judit Polgar Teaches Chess 1
Judit Polgar

How I Beat Fischer’s Record is a highly personal book in which Judit Polgar describes her early moments of success and the chess ideas she needed to master in order to achieve them. This unique book is the first in a three-volume project, where one of the greatest chess players of our time transforms her personal journey to the top into a roadmap for everyone who ever wanted to better themselves in the game of chess.

English Chess Federation Book of the Year 2013 winner.

‘Books with a personal touch are often the most enjoyable, and the recently published How I Beat Fischer’s Record by Judit Polgar, the first in a trio of books on her career, is an excellent read. The games are annotated very well with a few key variations, and a lot of highly instructive comments.’ – GM Michael Adams

‘More brilliant stuff from Quality Chess. My Assessment: ***** (5/5)’ – IM Sam Collins

Judit Polgar is the strongest and most successful female player in chess history. In 1991, at the age of 15, she became the youngest Grandmaster the world had ever known. In 2005, she became the only woman in chess history to participate in the World Championship final.

Freedom Found
Sara Trevelyan

Sara Trevelyan was a qualified doctor who campaigned for penal reform. She fell in love with and married Jimmy Boyle, a convicted murderer who had become a famous writer and sculptor. For the first four years of their marriage he was in jail, visits were few and their life lived under the scrutiny of the media. In this intimate memoir, we learn why Jimmy admits, ‘If it hadn’t been for Sara’s courage, I might still be in prison.’

She is a sure-footed guide through the extraordinary life they were called to lead. Her description of their eventual divorce is without bitterness or resentment, rather a tale of forgiveness and compassion. She realised what a journey it took to understand and to live the quotation from Blake, ‘We are put on earth a little space, That we might bear the beams of love.’

Sara Trevelyan graduated as a medical doctor in 1977 at St Thomas’s Hospital in London. She married Jimmy Boyle when he was an inmate in the Barlinnie Special Unit in 1980. After working in hospitals and medicine briefly, she left to explore mental health in the community, conducting an action research project for the Scottish Association for Mental Health. She was the co-founder and director of The Gateway Exchange in Edinburgh for eight years and for the past 27 years has worked as a self-employed counsellor and psychotherapist. Sara lives and works between Edinburgh and Findhorn.
International Companion to James Macpherson and The Poems of Ossian
Edited by Dafydd Moore

James Macpherson’s ‘poems of Ossian’, first published from 1760 as Fragments of Ancient Poetry, were the literary sensation of the age. Attacked by Samuel Johnson and others as ‘forgeries’, nonetheless the poems enthralled readers around the world, attracting rapturous admiration from figures as diverse as Goethe, Diderot, Jefferson, Bonaparte and Mendelssohn. This International Companion examines the social, political and philosophical context of the poems, their disputed origins, their impact on world literature, and the various critical afterlives of Macpherson and of his literary works.

Dafydd Moore is Professor of 18th-century Literature at Plymouth University. He is widely published on Macpherson and Ossian, including Enlightenment and Romance in the Poems of Ossian (2003) and Ossian and Ossianism (4 volumes, 2004).

A Cromwellian Warship wrecked off Duart Castle, Mull, Scotland, in 1653
Colin JM Martin

This book records the excavation of the wreck of a Cromwellian warship, believed to be Swan, found off Duart Point in 1979. A 70-year programme of survey, limited excavation and research uncovered much of the lower hull and parts of the collapsed upper stern, revealing details of the ship’s construction as well as realities about the crew’s daily life.

11 chapters, including contributions from many of the experts involved, chart the project and explain the shipwreck’s historical background. Key finds from the site are carefully analysed and there is also a detailed study of the remains of one of the sailors. These finds reveal important information about early manufacturing processes, ship provisioning and metallurgy, while offering valuable insights into conservation techniques.

Including over 300 images, this is fascinating reading for maritime archaeologists and historians, and all those interested in sailing warships at a critical time in their development.

Colin JM Martin (PhD, FSA Scot, FRHistS, MCIfA) is a retired Reader in Maritime Archaeology at the University of St Andrews. He has investigated historic shipwrecks in Scottish and Irish waters, including the Spanish Armada wrecks La Trinidad Valencera (Donegal) and El Gran Grifón (Fair Isle). He is currently working on the maritime cultural landscape of Scotland’s western seaboard in collaboration with his wife, Dr Paula Martin.
The Pissing Evil: A Comprehensive History of Diabetes Mellitus
Robert Tattersall

Once a rare but rapidly fatal disease, the appropriately named ‘pissing evil’ is becoming one of the greatest healthcare burdens of the developed world. Its known history spans 3,500 years, from the writings of Ancient Egypt, through the peculiar Middle-Age theories of the ‘pisse prophets’, countless horrific remedies and the discovery of insulin, to the 21st century, in which we rejoice at the prospect of new treatments as we strive to prevent a devastating global epidemic. It is the story of millions of people united by a common malady, rich in social and cultural insights into our shifting relationship with the disease; it chronicles the experiences of those who suffered and endured, those who stood helplessly by, and the motivated yet fallible few who tried to help them. This book is for anyone interested in, or touched by, diabetes – including clinicians, scientists, historians and patients.

Professor Robert Tattersall dedicated his entire career as a hospital consultant to the wellbeing of his own patients, and as a researcher to that of millions of others worldwide. Not only was he involved in the discovery of maturity-onset diabetes of the young but he was also behind the self-monitoring revolution at the core of today’s patient-centred care. He has amassed a wealth of publications including the highly acclaimed book *Diabetes: The Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2009). This new history of diabetes, *The Pissing Evil*, is the version he always wanted to write to finally do justice to this staggeringly complex story.

Homo Passiens: Man the Footballer – The Missing Link in Human Evolution
Mike McInnes

This superbly crafted satire combines established fact with whimsy, the Big Bang Theory with Planet of the Apes, as world-renowned Scottish anthropologist, Professor Gordon P McNeil, explains his take on our anatomically peculiar human species, with our two-footedness, non-opposable big toes, flat-faces, large skulls and brains, and – as the title suggests – capacity for football. When humankind first stood upright and tottered about on two legs, every step forward was a kick… and the rest, as they say, is history. This glorious romp through the ‘ologies’ spans the Earth and the aeons to reveal our astonishing football past and present, from the archaeology of Orkney and the Forth Valley, the physics of the ‘mession’ particle that facilitates binding of ball and foot, the neurology of chanting and psychology of refereeism, to our robotic future – Robo passiens. Science fact, science fiction and football – a winning combination.

Retired pharmacist Mike McInnes ran his own pharmacy in Edinburgh for many years, and designed and built an award-winning steel-and-glass pharmacy that was the most successful community pharmacy in Scotland for many years. As a scientist, his work concerns sports physiology, brain energy supply and the shrinking human brain. As an author, his published books include *The Honey Diet* (Hodder, 2016). Mike is also a specialist in the field of football; he has been a Hibernian supporter from an early age, and was privileged to support their astounding 1950’s team. Gordon Smith is his all-time favourite player.
The Impact of Mental Health and Wellbeing on Effective Learning and Teaching: A Practical Guide for Those Responsible for Learners
Hugh Smith and Amanda McGrandles (Eds)

This practical, reflective two-volume book is aimed at all professionals responsible for teaching people of any age or background, from children to elderly adults, in schools and businesses, healthcare and higher education, or occupational or community settings. Mental health and behavioural problems are common among people from all walks of life, and don’t always come with a diagnosis. As well as offering support for those responsible for learners, the clinical and educational experts drawn together in this book aim to help readers recognise these problems, understand the contextual factors, and focus on optimising the learning experience of learners with diverse psychological and psychosocial needs.

Hugh Smith and Amanda McGrandles are experts in the fields of education and clinical psychology in different contexts, respectively. They were colleagues at the University of the West of Scotland and have collaborated on works such as Mental Health and Well-Being in the Learning and Teaching Environment (Swan & Horn, 2016). They are known nationally and internationally for their contributions to various publications, research and professional organisations, workshops and conference speeches. Hugh has particular expertise in education consultancy, knowledge transfer, effective learning and teaching practice; and Amanda in mental health, psychotherapy, clinical research, coping styles and environmental factors.

Mediterranean: A year around a charmed and troubled sea
17 countries and 14,000km by kayak, foot, rowboat and bike
Huw Kingston

On 26 April 2014 Huw Kingston kayaked from Gallipoli in Turkey to begin a 12-month and ultimately 17-country journey around the Mediterranean. He spent three months navigating the coastlines of Greece and the Balkans before walking along the European Alps. He then cycled across Southern France and Spain before returning to his sea kayak for the journey along the coast of Andalucia to cross the Strait of Gibraltar to North Africa.

Huw continued by bike across Morocco, through Algeria – under police escort – and into Tunisia. Ever-worsening circumstances in Libya forced an unexpected swap from bike to rowboat resulting in Huw rowing 1,500km day and night across the Mediterranean. It was his first time in a rowing boat. Kayaking the last 1,000km, he arrived back to Gallipoli in time for the Anzac Centenary.

His incredible journey is a fascinating story of adventure travel, endurance and the power of human kindness.

Huw has spent over 30 years enjoying travel by human-powered means in wild places across the world. He has numerous awards to his name including the Australian Geographic Spirit of Adventure Award 2015 and was named as one of Time Magazine’s 25 Worldwide Responsibility Pioneers. Huw is also an Ambassador for Save the Children Australia and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He is a regular contributor to a range of publications on adventure and travel topics, and runs the adventure company Wild Horizons.
**Dive Scapa Flow**

Rod Macdonald

*Dive Scapa Flow* has been THE definitive guide to diving the fabled wrecks of Scapa Flow, one of the world’s greatest wreck diving locations. This completely re-written and updated centenary edition is produced to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the scuttle of the 74 warships of the interned German High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow on 21 June 1919 – the greatest act of maritime suicide the world has ever seen.

Scapa Flow’s war graves – HMS Royal Oak, torpedoed at the beginning of WWII; HMS Vanguard, which blew up in a catastrophic magazine explosion in 1917; HMS Hampshire, which struck a German mine and sunk on 5th June 1916 north-west of Orkney carrying Lord Kitchener and his staff on a secret diplomatic mission to Russia – are off limits to divers today but their stories are recounted to preserve the memory of those that perished.

Rod Macdonald is one of the world’s pre-eminent shipwreck explorers and motivational speakers, and an international best selling author of a number of classic shipwreck diving books. These include *Dive Scotland’s Greatest Wrecks, Dive England’s Greatest Wrecks, Into the Abyss, The Darkness Below, Great British Shipwrecks, Dive Truk Lagoon* and *Dive Paulau – The Shipwrecks*. In 2015 he was inducted into the prestigious Explorers Club.

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**A Fieldworker’s Guide to the Golden Eagle**

Dave Walker

The Golden Eagle is generally thought to be a well-known and well-documented species. However, much of the available literature is not necessarily in a form that can readily be used in the field. *The Fieldworker’s Guide* questions the reliability of existing knowledge and promotes a better understanding of the species through improved fieldwork.

The author reviews all the elements of Golden Eagle ecology, from the species status, through the activities and roles of eagles of different gender, age and status, via territories, food and breeding, to habitat preferences, usage and even the influence of weather and observer activity on behaviour and observations. To provide a better understanding of what fieldworkers and birdwatchers are likely to encounter, the author reviews the month-by-month activity of all classes of Golden Eagle and the influences that affect how their ecology is understood.

Dave Walker has 37 years of active, year-round investigative fieldwork experience of the Golden Eagle. He is the author of the acclaimed *Call of the Eagle*. 
Money Talks
Bob Whittington

Money Talks is a fast-paced history of the humble British coin, the events which at times literally shaped it and the stories reflected in its creation. This illustrated story of British monarchs and history features over 60 images of coins and reveals the hidden stories behind coins and the background to designs. It is the story of Great Britain from the Iron Age to the present day and is a source of fascinating information.

Bob Whittington has written widely on current affairs, finance and history. His most recent book, In the Shadow of Power, tells the story of political spin and manipulation around the world down the centuries.

What a Life!
Ted Blackbrow

The author reveals how a mixture of cheek, boldness, and a large slice of luck enabled him to get some incredible images. What a Life! features some of the best of Ted’s photos, along with the entertaining, engaging and enlightening stories behind them.


From his humble beginnings in London’s East End, Ted Blackbrow went on to become one of the UK’s greatest press photographers. Thrown out of a good grammar school at 15, Ted embarked on a career that would see him photograph members of the royal family, Enoch Powell, The Beatles, Sean Connery, Elton John and Mick Jagger, to name just a few. Long before social media, his images were being shared all over the globe. His shots of sports stars, both famous and infamous, are unique and often gained exclusives for the Daily Mail.
A Pocket Full of Crumbs
Jan Sutch Pickard

‘It’s a terrible habit,’ Jan Sutch Pickard writes, ‘putting food into my pocket [...] The morsels go into my pocket – and later become food for the birds.’

This collection of poems can be compared to such crumbs – coming from many sources. Poems of strong and well-crafted connections – between communities in the West of Scotland and the West Bank Palestinian territories; between prayer and politics; between a lyrical delight in the natural world – and down-to-earth living, observed with warmth and humour.

Jan Sutch Pickard is a former Warden of Iona Abbey, a storyteller, liturgist and Methodist lay preacher. She has twice served as a peace monitor with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

Iona Abbey Worship Book
The Iona Community

The services and resources in the Iona Abbey Worship Book reflect the Iona Community’s commitment to the belief that worship is all that we are and all that we do, both inside and outside the church, with no division into the sacred and the secular. The material draws on many traditions, including the Celtic, and aims to help us to be fully present to God, who is fully present to us – in our neighbour, in the political and social activity of the world around us, and in the very centre and soul of our being.

Each year, thousands of visitors make their way to Iona and many are changed by their time on this small Hebridean island which has been a powerful spiritual centre over the centuries. The Iona Community believes that we are brought to Iona not to be changed into ‘religious’ people, but rather to be made more fully human. Our common life – including our services – is directed to that end.
**Open Our Eyes**  
Ann Gerondelis

Open Our Eyes is a welcome accompaniment to the Advent days of anticipating Christ’s birth. Follow its invitation of prophetic prayers and vibrant artwork to watch and wait for the coming of the Holy One. Open your eyes and heart to the wideness of God, and God’s gentle but persistent call for justice and mercy. Prayers and images are sequenced into weekly themes: *I am near, so near; I will lead you; I am yours;* and *I am with you always.*

Return to the book during other seasons as well, to be immersed in God’s presence and to hear God’s call anew.

Ann Gerondelis is an author, architect and design educator in Atlanta, Georgia, where she lives with her husband and two daughters. She is the founder of Sketch Prayers Studio, which explores questions of the role of sacred communities and the power of images in shaping perceptions of God’s holy imagination. Ann is a Friend of the Iona Community.

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**The Soft Petals of Grace**  
Thom Shuman

A collection of communion liturgies and other resources covering Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity and Transfiguration.

The ancient words of scripture become true and alive in us when we realise that the old couple called to new ministry are sitting on the bus next to us, that the children Jesus wants to bless are those on the news fleeing their war-torn country, that the folk hungry for healing and hope are our next-door neighbours. The stories and people in the Bible speak to us today – if we listen with our hearts and souls.

Thom M Shuman is the author of *The Jesse Tree: Daily Readings for Advent,* and *Gobsmacked: Daily Devotions for Advent,* and is a contributor to many Wild Goose anthologies. He lives in Columbus, Ohio and is an Associate member of the Iona Community.
**Winter**  
Ruth Burgess

*Winter* includes prayers, stories, responses, songs, poems, reflections, liturgies and meditations for the major Christian festivals of All Saints’, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, as well as for Remembrance, Blue Christmas, Christingle, New Year, Christian Unity and other occasions. The material is written by Iona Community members, associates, friends and others.

Ruth Burgess is the author of several other worship resource books for the various seasons and festivals, including *Candles and Conifers, Hay and Stardust, Eggs and Ashes, Fire and Bread, Bare Feet and Buttercups* and *Acorns and Archangels*. 
In February Canongate Books, based in Edinburgh and London, published a new edition of artist and AIDS activist David Wojnarowicz’s *Close to the Knives*, the ‘memoir of disintegration’ he published in 1991, a year before he died. This takes us right back to a time when, as he saw it, gay lives didn’t matter at all. He was sick and tired, he wrote in 1987, of going to funerals and memorial services of friends who had died of AIDS – as he was to do himself – realising that their loss had made no impact beyond the room in which the service was held.

‘I imagine what it would be like,’ he writes, ‘if each time a lover, friend or stranger died of the disease their friends, lovers or neighbours would take the dead body and drive with it in a car a hundred miles an hour and blast through the gates of the White House and dump their lifeless form on the front steps.’
That’s the side of Wojnarowicz – pronounced Wonna-row-vich – I want to concentrate on here. Olivia Laing’s *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone* gives an excellent portrait of his importance as an artist of the hidden side of late 1970s New York, of the squats in the empty buildings by the decaying Chelsea piers by the Hudson where the homeless could gather and gays could cruise, places of anonymous sex and casual crime, and enormous, unfettered freedom. Wojnarowicz’s paintings, film and photography fit neatly into Laing’s thesis about the loneliness and anomie of big city life, and as she writes in the introduction to *Close to the Knives*, his experience as teenage hustler and rent boy are key to the book’s vivid depiction of what it feels like to be an outsider in a homophobic world.

Wojnarowicz’s sheer rage, his insistence – against what was, in the 1980s, all the evidence to the contrary – that the lives of gay men dying from AIDS mattered is what makes him a revolutionary. The virus didn’t have a moral code, he insisted, and a society that thought it did was itself sick. Yet in 1987, when his mentor and former lover Peter Hujar was dying, in restaurants he would be asked to pay his bill by putting his money in a paper bag rather than just handing it over and thereby risk contamination with what Andy Warhol called ‘the gay cancer’.

Prejudice was viscerally real, ubiquitous, tangible: this was a disease for which there was no end in sight, and no promising lines of research, no organised, civilised way of treating those with the virus. How did we get from there to here? In looking back at the social revolution that has all but wiped out anti-gay prejudice, I couldn’t tell you whether it was music, showbiz or the mid-1990s onset of combination drug therapies to treat AIDS that mattered more.

Yet I have a feeling deep in my gut that when the recording angel finally gets around to doing the sums, David Wojnarowicz’s eyeball-blasting howl of rage will be found to be part of the answer too. Because he scraped off the stigma when it still hurt to do so. Because he insisted on not being silent about that stigma both in his life and in his death.

I’ve already quoted from an essay in *Close to the Knives* where he realised the importance of making each death count, of holding the government accountable. When he died, his friends gathered outside the East Village loft in which he had lived with Peter Hujar. Hundreds of people walked in silence behind a black banner on which angry capitals announced DAVID WOJNAROWICZ 1954-1992 DIED OF AIDS DUE TO GOVERNMENT NEGLECT, and at an appointed spot, read his work and burnt the banner. 8pm, 29 July, 1992 was, notes Laing, ‘the first political funeral of the AIDS epidemic’.

There’s a coda to this story of a dead revolutionary. In October that year, AIDS activists staged an even bigger political funeral along the lines Wojnarowicz had envisaged. At 1pm on 11 October, they met on the steps of the Capitol, before marching off to the White House. Hundreds brought along the ashes of their loved ones. They dumped them through a chain-link fence onto the White House. David Wojnarowicz’s ashes were among them. Is it really too sentimental to believe that it made a difference?

*Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration* by David Wojnarowicz and *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone* by Olivia Laing, both published in paperback by Canongate Books, are out now priced £10.99 and £9.99 respectively. For more book reviews by David Robinson visit BooksfromScotland.com
The Wages of Sin

by Kaite Welsh

The Wages of Sin began as my love letter to Edinburgh, long before I thought I’d live here again. It’s a strange sort of love letter, blood-spattered and angry, and at the start my narrator, Sarah Gilchrist, doesn’t even like it very much. Sarah is not in Edinburgh by choice – she’s been exiled by her rich family following a scandal that leaves her free to pursue the medical degree she’s always wanted – and the dreich weather and grey stone buildings reflect her state of mind at the start of the book.

As a student I had Classics lectures in a wing of the old medical school and every day I passed two plaques, one to Sophia Jex Blake, the first woman to study medicine at Edinburgh, and one to Arthur Conan Doyle who found his own literary inspiration there. Feminist history and Victorian crime – it was clear that the Venn diagram of my interests overlapped at the University of Edinburgh. The idea of a female medical student who investigated murders, bound by a corset and restrictive gender roles, began to take root.
I began the novel when I was living in London and missing Edinburgh like a lost lover – the kind you technically can live without, you’d just rather not. I crammed the book into the nooks and crannies of my life, writing on the Tube, at lunch, at night, and as I went about my life in 21st-century London, I felt the constant thrum of Victorian Edinburgh like an engine. It wasn’t until I was packing my things and signing the rental agreement on a flat in Leith that my soon-to-be-agent got in touch, proof if I needed it that moving home was the right thing to do. Once I lived here the book began to change subtly, my surroundings infusing my writing the way the smell of hops seep into my hair and clothes (and, confusingly, sofa cushions).

Wandering the Old Town in search for inspiration, I often find myself tugged down a particular wynd or side street where a plot point starts to develop. Oscar de Muriel, whose novels also take place in Victorian Edinburgh, once told me a story about successfully navigating the city armed only with a map from the 1880s. I’ve been known to give directions using landmarks that no longer exist and I’ve found myself purposefully striding to the clinic where Sarah meets Lucy, the woman whose death – and unhappy life – she finds herself avenging, only to remember that it doesn’t exist and I wouldn’t be qualified to work there if it did. As it happens, the place where I located the clinic is now a restaurant and looking around and saying excitedly ‘I’ve killed someone in here!’ will result in the waiter avoiding you for the whole evening. Sometimes, when I’m stuck or (more likely) procrastinating, I find myself avoiding entire areas of the city because I feel guilty that I’m not writing. Conversely, the best spaces for me to write are the places where I used to write my essays as a student. I have a specific table at Elephants and Bagels where I wrote 13,000 words one day – and got through an entire loyalty card thanks to a lot of coffee – and then there’s the National Library of Scotland’s archives that let me slice into the seedy underbelly of the city and dissect its contents. It’s easier to write near the university, it tricks my mind into forgetting what era I’m in.

I have three Edinburghs in my head – Sarah’s, with its carriages and slums, the Edinburgh of my student days seen through a haze of lectures, alcohol and ill-advised kisses, and my present life. There are places where these worlds intersect and places I go to escape, where the veil between the living and the fictional dead are stronger, but I always find myself coming back through the Cowgate or over George IV Bridge to the shadowed, solemn courtyard of the medical school, hunting out Sarah’s next mystery.

New titles

Children and Young Adults
**Little Terry Tiddlemouse and His Countryside Friends**

**Little Terry Tiddlemouse Time for Tea and Dressing Up**

**Author:** Joan Porter, **Illustrator:** Jessica Excell

These beautiful books could well become minor classics. The verse rolls off the tongue in an easy and memorable way, and introduces a host of characters from the countryside including Terry Tiddlemouse with brothers Snitch and Snatch, Fergus Frog who is too busy to drink tea from a cup so drinks it from the spout, and Hector Hog who without his spines would look a lot thinner. In the second volume, other friends are introduced such as Mollie Mole who blunders in the daylight but is nimble in the dark, or Roly-Poly who hums a tune so he is never lonely. Both books are a bedtime treat and, like the mice, children will want to huddle and cuddle into a mousey muddle! Jessica Excell’s illustrations add greatly to the charm of the book and children will also learn about the creatures who inhabit the countryside.

Joan Porter was born on the west coast of Scotland into a rural community and her appreciation of countryside creatures stemmed from this beginning. When she grew up she became a children’s nurse and this started her on her path to storytelling. Later, with her own daughters, the stories developed into verses and, later still, these were honed when Joan became a preschool playgroup leader. Joan now has Alzheimer’s. She lives in sheltered accommodation and is surrounded by her family. She was 85 years old when these two books were published in 2016.

Illustrator Jessica Excell gained her MA from Camberwell College of Arts in London and now lives in Suffolk.

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**Dare to Fall**

**Estelle Maskame**

There’s not much that MacKenzie Rivers is afraid of. In the small town of Windsor, Colorado, she is known for her easy-going, strong personality. Some would even say she isn’t afraid of anything. But MacKenzie knows that’s not true. She is afraid of losing those closest to her. Recovering from a family tragedy, MacKenzie is fully aware of just how big an impact death can have on those it leaves behind – and that is something she just can’t quite handle. From now on, MacKenzie is her own priority.

There are not many things that Jaden Hunter can make sense of. He doesn’t understand why it was his parents who lost their lives last year. He doesn’t understand why his teachers still insist on letting him skip assignments. He doesn’t understand why MacKenzie, the girl he was falling for last year, has suddenly distanced herself from him.

Too afraid to get wrapped up in Jaden’s world as he deals with the death of his parents, MacKenzie has stayed away from him best she can, until one night when they unexpectedly come face-to-face for the first time in months...

Now an international bestselling author, Estelle Maskame started writing at the age of 13 and completed her *DIMILY* trilogy when she was 16. With over 165K followers on Twitter, she has already built an extensive and loyal fanbase for her writing around the world, and rights for the *DIMILY* trilogy have been sold in 15 territories so far. Estelle won the Young Scot Arts Award in 2016, and was shortlisted for the Young Adult award at the Romantic Novel of the Year Awards. She is 19 years old and lives in the north-east of Scotland.
Children’s Map of the United Kingdom and Ireland
Illustrated by Steve Evans

This highly illustrated pictorial map is designed to take children on a journey of discovery around the United Kingdom and Ireland. Stunning illustrations are used to depict themes such as national emblems, customs, food, birds, animals, buildings and sports to help younger readers gain an understanding of peoples around the world.

Steve Evans has many years’ professional experience of collaborative practice with the major educational publishers, editors, in-house designers and authors. His creative practice includes illustration, logo design, cover design and full series design including online resources. His primary passion is for children’s illustration and this is demonstrated in his creation of the new Collins Picture Atlas alongside the accompanying World Map and, more recently, the Children’s Map of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Charlie’s Promise
Annemarie Allan

Would you break the rules or break your promise?

On the outskirts of Edinburgh, just before the outbreak of WW2, Charlie finds a starving German boy called Josef hiding in the woods near his home.

Josef can’t speak English and is desperately afraid, especially of anyone in uniform.

Charlie promises to help Josef find his Jewish relatives in the city. It’s a journey that will force them to face their fears, testing their new-found friendship, and Charlie’s promise, to the limit.

Annemarie Allan is from Edinburgh. Her first published novel, Hox, won the 2007 Kelpies Prize and was shortlisted for both the Scottish Children’s Book of the Year and the Heart of Hawick book awards. Her third novel, Ushig, a fantasy based on Scottish myths and legends, was shortlisted for the 2011 Essex Children’s Book Award.

Her novels and short stories range from fantasy and science fiction to historical and contemporary fiction, taking their inspiration from the landscape and culture of Scotland, both past and present.
**Fir for Luck**  
**Barbara Henderson**

Would you be brave enough to fight back?

When 12-year-old Janet’s village is under threat, she decides to take action. It’s a split-second decision that could cost her everything: her home, her family – even her life.

Can Janet save her village from being wiped out? Or will her family and friends be forced from their homes to face an uncertain future?

Based on real life events, *Fir for Luck* is a tale of the brutal Highland Clearances, when landowners cared more about sheep than people.

Barbara Henderson was born in Germany in 1971, but has spent all of her adult life in Scotland. She now splits her time between teaching and writing. Barbara won the Nairn Festival Short Story Competition in 2012 and was one of three writers shortlisted for the Kelpies Prize 2013. In 2015, wins included the US-based *Pockets Magazine* Fiction Contest and the Ballantrae Smuggler’s Story Competition.

Barbara lives in Inverness with her husband and three children, where she is currently working on another historical fiction novel for children.

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**Between the Lies**  
**Cathy MacPhail**

Judith Tremayne is missing. She hasn’t been online, nobody has heard from her. She simply appears to have vanished, until Abbie Kerr, a school nobody, receives a message: ‘I want to come home’.

Suddenly everyone knows Abbie’s name. The mean girls and the misfits alike are obsessed with Jude’s disappearance. Abbie finds herself at the centre of a whirlwind of secrets, rumours and lies. Why would popular, fun Jude be messaging loser Abbie? Why would Jude disappear? Can Abbie bring her home?

Award-winning author Cathy MacPhail authentically captures the voice and lives of teens – desperate to be seen, bombarded with online harassment yet obsessed with living their lives on social media. This tense thriller is packed with MacPhail’s trademark sharp dialogue and a series of sensational twists.

Cathy MacPhail is the award-winning author of over 30 children’s books including *Run Zan Run, Roxy’s Baby, Out of the Depths* and *Grass*. Her novel *Mosi’s War* was shortlisted for a Scottish Children’s Book Award, an award she’s won twice before, and a film adaptation of her novel *Another Me* was released in 2014. Cathy writes spooky thrillers for younger readers and challenging teen novels and is acclaimed for her unique ability to get to the heart of serious, topical issues through the stories of her feisty characters. She was born and brought up in Greenock, where she still lives.
**The Shapeshifter's Guide to Running Away**  
Lari Don

Molly expected to become human as she leapt through the air. Instead she stayed on all four feet. All four paws. Her curse was getting worse. Why has Molly suddenly lost control of her curse?

Molly never believed in magic, until she was cursed to become a hare every time a dog barked. Now she’s friends with a whole team of magical creatures all searching for a way to free her from her curse. Can the friends find the powerful Promise Keeper, controller of curses, and overcome the dark magic threatening them all?

Enter a world of amazing adventure, extraordinary friendship and brilliant magic in the second book of Lari Don’s breathtaking Spellchasers trilogy.

Lari Don has worked in politics and broadcasting, but is now a full-time writer and storyteller. She grew up in the north-east of Scotland, and lives in Edinburgh. She is the author of the four Fabled Beasts Chronicles novels and Rocking Horse War, and has written Mind Blind for young teens. She is also a prolific writer of picture books, including The Tale of Tam Linn and The Secret of the Kelpie. The Beginner's Guide to Curses is the first in this Spellchasers trilogy.

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**Artie Conan Doyle and the Gravediggers’ Club**  
Robert J Harris

One day Arthur Conan Doyle will create the greatest detective of all – Sherlock Holmes. But right now Artie Conan Doyle is a twelve-year-old Edinburgh schoolboy with a mystery of his own to solve.

While sneaking out to explore Greyfriars Kirkyard by night, Artie and his best friend Ham spot a ghostly lady in grey and discover the footprints of a gigantic hound. Could the two mysteries be connected?

These strange clues lead them to a series of robberies carried out by the sinister Gravediggers’ Club and soon they find themselves pitted against the villainous Colonel Braxton Dash.

Will Artie survive his encounters with graveyards and ghosts in the foggy streets of 19th-century Edinburgh – or will his first case be his last?

Robert J Harris was born in Dundee and now lives in St Andrews with his wife, sons and his dog. He is the author of many children’s books, including Will Shakespeare and the Pirate’s Fire, Leonardo and the Death Machine and Norse-god trilogy The World’s Gone Loki!

Harris brings the young Conan Doyle to life in this new series of ingenious detective stories full of twists, turns and clever reveals.
Isla & Pickle: Best Friends
Kate McLelland

Isla LOVES Pickle, the adorable miniature Shetland pony who lives in her neighbour’s field. The best friends have loads of fun together. They play and ride all over the island: dressing up, splashing in the sea and sharing snacks. But sometimes the mischievous pair gets into some trouble – Pickle loves to sneak out to visit Isla and thinks Dad’s flowers are yummy!

When Dad asks if Isla would like a pet, she knows exactly which animal she wants. But can Isla convince her dad that cheeky Pickle should come and live with them?

The first in a new series about a feisty little girl and her pet Shetland pony, who live on a Scottish island. Wee ones will giggle their way through Isla and Pickle’s light-hearted adventures. The illustrator of There Was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie brings the lovable pair to life in bright, humorous illustrations.

Kate McLelland is an accomplished illustrator and printmaker. She trained in illustration at Edinburgh College of Art. She is the illustrator of bestselling picture book There Was A Wee Lassie Who Swallowed A Midgie and the My First Scottish board book collection.

Museum Mystery Squad and the Case of the Moving Mammoth
Mike Nicholson

Some people think that museums are boring places full of glass cases, dust and stuff no-one cares about: wrong! In a hidden headquarters below the exhibits there’s a gang ready to handle dangerous, spooky or just plain weird problems: the Museum Mystery Squad. There’s no brain-twisting, totally improbable puzzle the Squad can’t solve.

In The Case of the Moving Mammoth, the Squad investigate the museum’s new star exhibit. There must be a reasonable explanation for a shifting stuffed prehistoric animal. Can they sift through the clues and unravel the puzzle before the museum faces a mammoth-sized problem?

Young readers will love the riddles, red herrings and big reveals jam-packed into this fun-filled series of mystery stories by Mike Nicholson. The interactive extras, from wacky facts and activities to zany illustrations by Mike Phillips, will keep amateur detectives entertained for hours.

Mike Nicholson won the Kelpies Prize for new Scottish children’s fiction in 2005. He is the author of many humorous children’s books including the Museum Mystery Squad series (for young readers) and the Thistle Street picture books. Mike lives in Edinburgh.
**The Bee**
Jean-Philippe Chabot

This book provides children with a fascinating insight into the life of bees. Captivatingly detailed illustrations reveal how these insects gather nectar and make honey, how they communicate with each other, build their hives and keep them clean, how they reproduce and rear their young and form new hives. We also learn about their cousins the wasps, who make their nests out of a kind of paper mâché, and we explore inside a termites’ nest. Twelve transparent overlay pages reveal further hidden surprises.

This is the latest title in the *My First Discoveries* series, a unique collection of highly illustrated information books for children aged 4 to 7 that aims to awaken children’s interest in the wonders of the natural, physical and human world around them.

Over a 20-year period, Raoul Sautai and Ute Fuhr formed a creative author-illustrator team co-producing over 10 titles for the *My First Discoveries* collection for Moonlight Publishing and Gallimard Jeunesse.

Raoul Sautai taught at the Art School in Le Havre from 1962 before becoming its director in 1988. He also worked for an advertising agency during this period and for a photo studio specialising in still life images.

Ute Fuhr graduated in visual and audiovisual communication from the Nice School of Decorative Arts in 1984. She produces audiovisual information programmes for the Musée D’Orsay in Paris, and works on advertising graphics.

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**The Impressionists**
Jean-Philippe Chabot

This illustrated art book for children aged 5 to 8 explains what Impressionism is and presents the favourite themes of the most distinguished impressionist artists (Courbet, Degas, Renoir, Monet, Pissarro, Sisley, Seurat, Cézanne and Van Gogh). Readers will look at the way they portray city and country life, the sea, summer and winter. This title forms part of the *My First Discoveries* series.

Jean-Philippe Chabot is a French author and illustrator who has collaborated on numerous children’s books for Gallimard Jeunesse. He is also the author of *Pablo Picasso* and *Vincent Van Gogh* by Moonlight Publishing and is an illustrator of graphic novels.
**My First Encyclopedia of How?**

Sophie Lamoureux

How do plants grow? How does the water get to your tap? How are babies made? How does an aeroplane fly? How did pirates attack their enemies?

This book provides clear and concise answers to many questions that children ask about the world around them. Divided into five sections (the natural world, the human body, urban life, everyday life and human history), the textual explanations are accompanied by more than 250 detailed and lifelike illustrations that help children visualise and contextualise the answers. Many of the larger illustrations are labelled, providing useful opportunities for vocabulary building. There is a quiz at the end of the book for children to check what they have learnt.

Sophie Lamoureux is a journalist and author specialising in non-fiction children’s books. She is the author of *My First Encyclopedia of Why?* and *My First Encyclopedia of How?*. 
With about 100 titles in the Kelpies range of tots-to-teens novels in print, Katy Lockwood-Holmes is hard-pressed to name a favourite. The head of publisher Floris Books says singling out a particular one is like selecting a preferred child. ‘We love them all in different ways,’ she says.

But fresh off being named the Saltire Society Scottish Publisher of the Year, there are some that stand out in what has been an impressive 12 months for Edinburgh-based Floris. Among the authors and titles which Lockwood-Holmes rattles off like the names of her kin is Ross Mackenzie’s *The Nowhere Emporium*, winner of the Blue Peter Best Story Award 2016. As the first Floris title to bag a high-profile UK-wide accolade, it has proven a step-up in terms of opening doors. ‘That has got a very special place for us at the moment, but of course there are always new ones coming along that you have high hopes for,’ she says.

Though best-known in Scotland for its Kelpies list – which it acquired in 2002 from Canongate – those titles make up just a quarter of the books published by Floris, which generates £1.2 million in annual revenues. With its roots in Christian publishing, the firm has a range of books focused on spirituality, health, education and well-being, many of which are based on the anthroposophical movement of Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner.

But the Kelpies have had the biggest hand in driving recent growth at Floris, which has chalked up revenue increases of about 50 per cent annually for the past five years since Lockwood-Holmes took the helm. Staff numbers have approximately doubled during that same period to 15, leading to the move to Floris’ offices in Edinburgh’s Robertson Avenue this month.

It’s a distant cry from the kitchen table where the firm began 40 years ago as the Christian Community Press founded by Christian Maclean, who still works as an editor at Floris. The firm moved from the early days of religious publishing to include books on all aspects of the life and thinking of Steiner, whose work before his death in 1925 covered everything from farming to alternative medicine.

He is also the inspiration of today’s Steiner Waldorf curriculum, which covers a network of more than 1,000 schools in 64 countries around the world. This connection drives the international element at Floris, which has strong sales in the US. In addition, about half of its books are translated into English from other languages. ‘Because of Steiner’s origins, a lot of what is written about him originates out of other countries in Europe,’ Lockwood-Holmes says.

From Steiner, Floris evolved into niche non-fiction topics such as astronomy and biodynamics. It then moved into children’s publishing at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 1986, when it bought the rights to two children’s picture books by Swedish illustrator Elsa Beskow.
Today Floris has more than 30 Beskow titles, as well as many other traditional European picture books. The opportunity to take over Canongate’s children’s list in 2002 was a natural extension from there.

Lockwood-Holmes joined the following year as the firm’s first head of sales and marketing, having spent the previous two years in New York with academic publisher Continuum International.

After graduating from Edinburgh University in linguistics, she landed her first job as a marketing assistant with Edinburgh University Press. From there she joined T&T Clark, the religious publisher based in Edinburgh that became part of Continuum. She had the opportunity to work with Continuum in London, but chose instead to go to the company’s New York office as its theology marketing manager. She and her husband lived there for two years before they came back to Scotland to start a family.

Her manager at Continuum met Floris founder Maclean on a business trip in Europe. He mentioned to Maclean that he had an employee looking to move back to Scotland, and from there her return to Edinburgh was agreed. Lockwood-Holmes was just the fifth employee at Floris in 2003, when revenues were hovering around the £300,000 mark. But the previous year’s acquisition would prove transformational for the business.

‘With hindsight it was quite a visionary thing,’ she says. ‘But it was a list that had not been invested in for quite some time. It took some work to bring it back to life.’

There were about 20 Kelpies books in print at the time of the deal, all aimed at 8 to 12-year-olds. Floris set about reissuing classics still suitable for the modern market, including Mollie Hunter’s *A Stranger Came Ashore* and *The Desperate Journey* by Kathleen Fiddler. Both remain best-sellers for Floris, and with the launch of the Kelpies Prize in 2005, the firm started sourcing new talent such as Lari Don and Janis Mackay with its annual award for unpublished Scottish children’s fiction. To date, more than 70 Kelpies have been added to the list, including recent titles such as *Thorfinn And The Awful Invasion* and *Spellchasers: The Beginner’s Guide To Curses*.

Floris initially focused on expansion in the ‘middle-grade’ age band traditionally targeted by Kelpies, and this helped it grow. After a couple of rounds of maternity leave to give birth to her daughters, Lockwood-Holmes was preparing to take over from Maclean, and the board that runs Floris as a trust was faced with a decision.

‘We could have just capped things there at that size, but I think there are real dangers in doing that,’ she says. ‘If you are on a natural growth trajectory, it can be damaging to try and artificially cap it. If you are not growing, there is a real risk you will go into decline.’

The list expanded into other age groups ranging from Wee Kelpies board books up to KelpiesTeen, pushing up revenues at their fastest pace yet. The common theme is the Scottish connection, be it the author, illustrator, characters, storyline or setting. ‘We try to be as flexible as possible, and take everything case-by-case,’ says Lockwood-Holmes. ‘If we really like something, we will find a way to publish it.’

As the head of Scotland’s largest children’s publisher, she is passionate about the ‘empowering’ effect of reading books in a familiar language and setting. Though not a requirement, many Kelpies stories take place in Scotland, and many of their authors are based north of the border.

‘It is really important that Scottish children can recognise themselves and where they live in the stories that they read,’ she says.

‘Children engage with books more if they are set in places where they live, and are written in a language that they recognise. That means they are more likely to read for pleasure, rather than doing it because they have to for school. That increases literacy rates, with all the knock-on benefits that we know come with that.’

That said, Lockwood-Holmes says there is no reason why an overtly Scottish book can’t be enjoyed by readers around the world. The Kelpies tag line – ‘Scottish books for children everywhere’ – leaves no room for doubt on that point, though Lockwood-Holmes concedes that the industry has ‘not quite cracked’ selling Scottish children’s books into North America in the same way that Ireland has.

As for those who might aspire to become a Kelpies author, it should come as no surprise that Lockwood-Holmes relies upon the input of her team which extends beyond the office to her daughters Meg, ten, and Jess, eight. ‘I use them for market research purposes,’ she says. ‘They are two of my harshest critics.’

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