NEW BOOKS

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

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Hello and welcome to the Spring/Summer 2024 edition of New Books Scotland, our catalogue of the finest books being produced by Scottish publishers.

Scotland’s publishing sector is rich in the diversity of its output across all genres. There are books celebrating Scotland’s multi-faceted history and culture as well as titles that show their international outlook. Within this catalogue, you will find stories that will resonate with readers across the world. Alongside novels from household names such as Val McDermid (Polygon), Matt Haig (Canongate) and Alexander McCall Smith (Polygon), there are exciting up-and-coming authors with tales that are fresh, engaging and deserving of a wide audience, including debutants Genievieve Jagger (404 Ink), Andres N. Ordorica (Saraband) and Gillian Sherriffs (Into Creative).

Scotland’s genre writing talent continues to shine with new releases that display outstanding inventiveness within their categories. There is crime with a supernatural twist, surreal and satirical horror stories, and dazzling explorations of future worlds.

And many worlds are represented across many of Scotland’s non-fiction releases this season. The natural world is celebrated in books from Saraband, Historic Scotland and Whittles Publishing. The pitfalls and inspiration in entertainment are also explored in books from Canongate, Tippermuir Books and 404 Ink. And if you’re looking for lavishly-illustrated books celebrating art in its many forms, then you’re spoilt for choice by the National Galleries, Fruitmarket and Glasgow Museums.

Our children’s and young adult publishers continue to make a fantastic showing, with new titles from Floris Books, Barrington Stoke, Scotland Street Press and Little Door Books, while DC Thomson continue publishing their iconic brands. HarperCollins too have amazing activity books to keep young minds active.

Such quality and variety shows that Scotland’s publishing scene is as brilliant, bold and boundary-pushing as ever. For readers who are engaged and boundlessly curious, our excellent publishers have something for you all.
Publishing Scotland is the network, trade and development body for the book publishing sector in Scotland. It represents a wide range of publishers and suppliers – both print and digital. Publishing Scotland acts as the voice and network for publishing, to develop and promote the work of Scotland's publishers both nationally and internationally, to provide support and advice, and to co-ordinate joint initiatives to develop and strengthen the publishing sector in Scotland.

Scottish Books International works on behalf of the literature sector in Scotland and is dedicated to the international promotion of books, publishers, writers, festivals and organisations.

Scottish Books International aims to bring Scottish writers and writing to a global audience, taking a strategic and co-ordinated approach to showcasing and championing Scotland's writing. The service identifies and progresses opportunities to increase the visibility of writers, publishers, festivals and organisations, and builds relationships with key partners in Scotland and overseas.

Scottish Books International is a project jointly owned and managed by Publishing Scotland and the Edinburgh International Book Festival. It is supported by a steering group from the two organisations along with Creative Scotland and Jenny Brown Associates.

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Readers can stay updated through the monthly e-newsletter or through social media channels.
Queen Macbeth: Darkland Tales
Val McDermid

A thousand years ago in an ancient Scottish landscape, a woman is on the run with her three bosom companions – a healer, a weaver and a seer. If the men hunting her find them, they will kill her because she is the only one who stands between them and their violent ambition. She is no lady: she is the first queen of Scotland, married to a king called Macbeth.

As the net closes in on the queen, we discover a tale of passion, forced marriage, bloody massacre and the harsh realities of medieval Scotland. At the heart of it, one strong charismatic woman who survived loss and jeopardy to finally outwit the endless plotting of a string of ruthless and ambitious men. Her struggle won her a country. But now it could cost her life.

Val McDermid is a number one bestseller whose novels have been translated into more than forty languages, and have sold over nineteen million copies. She has won many awards, including the CWA Gold Dagger, the LA Times Book of the Year Award and the Cartier Diamond Dagger Award for outstanding achievement. She writes full-time and divides her time between Edinburgh and East Neuk of Fife.

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How We Named the Stars
Andrés N. Ordorica

Nerdy and shy, scholarship student Daniel de La Luna arrives at college nervous to meet his golden-haired, athletic roommate, whose Facebook photos depict a boy just like those who made Daniel’s school years hell. Sam Morris is not what he had imagined, though. As the two settle into college life they drink tequila under the stars, go on long runs through snow-covered hills, explore freshman nightlife, and inch closer until they find themselves in love.

But their blissful first year is over all too soon. Daniel’s summer in his ancestral homeland of México becomes a rollercoaster of revelations, before his life is brutally upended by the unimaginable.

How We Named the Stars is a tale of love, heartache and learning to honour the dead. Daniel and Sam will leave you forever changed.

Andrés N. Ordorica is a queer Latinx writer based in Edinburgh. Drawing on his family’s immigrant history and his own third culture upbringing, his writing maps the journey of diaspora and unpacks what it means to be from ni de aquí, ni de allá (neither here, nor there). He is the author of the poetry collection At Least This I Know. His writing has been shortlisted for the Morley Prize for Unpublished Writers of Colour, the Mo Siewcharran Prize and the Saltire Society’s Poetry Book of The Year. How We Named the Stars is his first novel.

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**Fragile Animals**

**Genevieve Jagger**

Struggling to deal with the familial trauma of her Catholic upbringing, hotel cleaner, Noelle, travels to the Isle of Bute. There, she meets a man who claims to be a vampire, and a relationship blooms between them based solely on confession. But as talk turns sacrilegious, and the weather outside grows colder, Noelle struggles to come to terms with her blasphemous sexuality. She becomes hounded by memories of her past: her mother’s affair with the local priest, and the part she played in ending it.

**Genevieve Jagger** is a queer writer and witch from Scotland. Deeply involved in the literary community, Genevieve is a co-editor for Witch Craft Magazine. Genevieve’s writing can be found across the web at such locations as, X-RAY Magazine, Expat Press, and Body Fluids Lit Mag. Additional to writing, Genevieve works as a tarot reader, dealing fortunes across Glasgow.

**Genevieve was raised Catholic, which has very much influenced the themes of her debut novel, Fragile Animals. She is a Scorpio, a sinner, and quite distinctly autistic. You can most often find her feeding magpies and crying over the smallness of all things.**

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**Brodie**

**Gillian Shirreffs**

In 1988, Sandra Galbraith runs her long, curious fingers over a bookshelf tightly packed with the titles of her favourite writer, Muriel Spark. She’s on a quest to find the perfect birthday gift for her niece, Violet, and plucks Brodie, a pristine, new copy of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, from a neat cluster of identikit books. Brodie adores Violet and, over the next two years, hidden in plain sight, learns family secrets of betrayal and a double life. When Violet leaves for university, her brother kidnaps Brodie to give to his uninterested love interest. On the thirty-year journey, Brodie passes through hands and lives and is witness to death, sex, and a wicked stepmother.

**Gillian Shirreffs** is a Glasgow-based writer who uses fiction to explore the world of illness. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2007. Her creative practice is driven by curiosity, invention, and the desire to illuminate the lived experience of MS. In 2021, she graduated with a Doctor of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing. In her thesis she explored the relationship between object and illness, with specific reference to MS. The creative element of her doctorate is *Brodie*, a novel narrated by an object.

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What Doesn’t Kill Us

Ajay Close

A killer stalks the streets of Leeds. Every man is a suspect. Every woman is at risk. But in a house on Cleopatra Street, women are fighting back.

It’s the eve of the 1980s. PC Liz Seeley joins the squad investigating the murders. With a violent boyfriend at home and male chauvinist pigs at work, she is drawn to a feminist collective. As the list of victims grows, women across the north are too terrified to go out after dark. To the feminists, the Butcher is a symptom of wider misogyny. Their anger finds an outlet in violence and Liz is torn between loyalty to them and her duty as a police officer. Which way will she jump?

By turns emotional, action-packed and darkly funny, What Doesn’t Kill Us reveals just how much the world has changed since the 1970s – and how much it hasn’t.

Ajay Close grew up in Yorkshire and, after her school years at a Sheffield comprehensive, studied at Cambridge. She worked at Granta before becoming a journalist and then a novelist. She is the author of six literary novels, of which her first, Official and Doubtful, was longlisted for the Orange Prize. Her novels are pacy, often political, page-turning, dealing with family and relationships under pressure, and can be read as thrillers.

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The Salt and the Flame

Donald S Murray

April 21, 1923. The SS Metagama is inching out of Stornoway harbour, bound for Canada. On board are Finlay and Mairead; they are young and hopeful, leaving behind a community that has been touched by tragedy to change their lives forever.

On the other side of the Atlantic, though, they face the realities of an uncaring industrial society. The effects of the Great Depression are inescapable, prejudice and division are rife, and though they remain bound by a shared past, their own lives soon diverge.

In an adopted country that is tense with both opportunity and loss, social progress and violent backlash, can Mairead and Finlay keep their promises to one another, to look only forward, and resist the constant pull of home?

A son of the Hebrides, Donald S Murray is a writer and poet whose work has been awarded The Society of Authors’ Paul Torday Memorial Prize, and has been shortlisted for both the Saltire Literary Awards and the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award. His critically-acclaimed books bring to life the culture and nature of the Scottish islands, and he appears regularly on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland.

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**The Life Impossible**

**Matt Haig**

When retired Maths teacher Grace is left a run-down house on a Mediterranean island by a long-lost friend, curiosity gets the better of her. She arrives in Ibiza with a one-way ticket, no guidebook and no plan. 

_The Life Impossible_ is a story of wild adventure, deep transformation and gloriously heart-warming characters. It shows how a new outlook can burst into life at any moment and change everything.

Matt Haig has written a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction. This includes the novels _The Humans, How to Stop Time_ and _The Midnight Library_, which has been a number one _Sunday Times_ bestseller and a number one _New York Times_ bestseller. He has also written a number of children’s books including _A Boy Called Christmas_, which was a major feature film, and most recently the non-fiction book for adults, _The Comfort Book._

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**The Winds of From Further West**

**Alexander McCall Smith**

Dr Neil Anderson has barely been in his new post at the University of Edinburgh for three months when he meets Kirsty. After no time at all, they move in together to a beautiful Georgian flat in the south side of the city and start their life together.

Everything seems to be working out well for Neil. But after a throwaway comment lands him in a difficult situation, his principles are put to the test. He ultimately has no choice but to rethink his career and his life. He leaves his job, Kirsty and Edinburgh far behind for the seclusion and remote beauty of the Isle of Mull off the west coast of Scotland.

No sooner has he started to piece the bits of his shattered life together when a ship comes into Tobermory harbour whose cargo – two wolf cubs – changes the course of his life yet again. These cubs divide opinion on the island and introduce Neil to Katie, a vet on the island, and soon love once again blossoms.

Alexander McCall Smith is the author of the highly successful _No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency_ series, which has sold over twenty-five million copies. Since then he has devoted his time to the writing of fiction and has seen his various series of books translated into over forty-six languages and become best-sellers throughout the world. These include the _44 Scotland Street_ novels, first published as a serial novel in the _Scotsman_, the _Isabel Dalhousie_ novels, the _Von Igelfeld_ series and the _Corduroy Mansions_ novels.

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**Bright I Burn**

*Molly Aitken*

In thirteenth-century Ireland, a woman with power is a woman to be feared. When a young Alice Kyteler sees her mother wither under the constraints of family responsibilities, she vows that she will not suffer the same fate. When she discovers she has a flair for making money, she soon builds a flourishing trade. But as her wealth and stature grow, so too do the rumours about her private life. By the time she has moved on to her fourth husband, a blaze of local gossip and resentment culminates in an accusation that could prove fatal.

Inspired by the first recorded person in Ireland to have been condemned as a witch, *Bright I Burn* gives voice to a woman lost to history, who dared to carve her own space in a man’s world.

*Molly Aitken* was born in Scotland in 1991 and brought up in Ireland. Her writing is inspired by the wild coasts and rolling hills of the country she loves. Her short fiction has appeared in *Ploughshares* and * Banshee*, and has been dramatised for BBC Radio 4. Her debut, *The Island Child*, was longlisted for the Authors’ Club Best First Novel Award.

**Rabbits**

*Hugo Rifkind*

Tommo has just started at a new school when his friend Johnnie’s brother is found dead in a Land Rover on a Perthshire farm. There’s a shotgun at his feet. Nobody seems clear about exactly what has happened, least of all Tommo, who is already struggling to navigate a new world.

His boarding school, a training ground for the Scottish elite, is spartan and brutal. A child of Edinburgh’s middle class, Tommo now finds himself invited into distant, empty, crumbling houses. It’s the early 1990s, though, and that elite is struggling for relevance. Alienated from the new Scottish mainstream, and running low on inherited wealth, his peers have retreated into snobbery and fatalism. Half-remembered military traditions mix with decadence and, in the countryside, an awful lot of small dead animals. And sometimes, not just animals.

*Hugo Rifkind* is a columnist, critic and leader writer for *The Times* and a presenter on *Times Radio*, having formerly been a columnist for the *Spectator*, *GQ* and the *Herald*. He is a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4’s comedy show *The News Quiz*, and an occasional guest on television shows that aren’t supposed to be funny at all. He was born and raised in Edinburgh, studied in Cambridge, and now lives in North London in a house where everybody else speaks German, including the dog.
Beyond Summerland

Jenny Lecoat

In the summer of 1945, a different kind of war has been unleashed on the island of Jersey: one of suspicion, accusation and revenge. With the common enemy removed, the islanders now begin to see each other for who they truly are. For all the heroism and sacrifice, there were those who walked a fine line in order to survive and now find themselves accused of being on the wrong side of history. Loved ones are still missing, some never to return, and the island and its people will never be the same again.

Jenny Lecoat was born in the Channel Islands, where her parents were raised under German Occupation, before moving to England as a teenager. An early career in comedy saw her nominated for a prestigious Perrier Award in 1986. She has also enjoyed a distinguished career as a journalist and screenwriter. A love of history and her island roots brought about her feature film Another Mother’s Son (2017), which starred Jenny Seagrove and John Hannah, as well as her first novel, The Girl from the Channel Islands.

Monumenta

Lara Haworth

Olga Pavic’s house has been requisitioned. The council will bulldoze it. Her home will become a monument to a massacre. But Olga cannot ascertain which massacre. Three different architects visit, each with a proposal to construct a different monument, to memorialise a different horror.

Olga can’t allow them to unearth the secrets held in this space, not until she reunites with her children for a final dinner. Her aspirational, distant daughter, Hilde, and her secretly queer son, Danilo, both reluctantly agree to fly back to Belgrade. Within an atmosphere of razor-sharp political surrealism, Lara Haworth spins a tender, magical story of familial love and loss.

Lara Haworth is a queer writer, filmmaker and a political researcher, specialising in the UK’s move to become carbon zero by 2050. Having turned an extract from Monumenta into a short story, she won a Bridport prize for it in October 2022. In the same year she won a prize for her poem ‘The Thames Barrier’ in the Café Writers Poetry Competition, wrote and narrated a major podcast, The Swimming Pool, for NTS radio and was commissioned to write a long autofiction feature, Mistakes are Pure Colour, for Extra Extra Magazine.
The Newspaper Man

David Belcher

Tony Moscardini has exchanged life in a rain-lashed Scottish city packed with incident for the sun-baked predictability of a small medieval hilltop town in rural Italy. He has given up onerous full-time employment in daily journalism and found fulfilment in photography and guerrilla film-making. More importantly, he has found what feels a lot like true love. And yet, if he’s being honest with himself, life in Castel di Colonia has also begun to feel a little bit dull.

So what will he find on his return to Glasgow for a weekend? Old foes? Long-forgotten disappointments? Fresh excitements? Overwhelming temptation? Will the happier new Tony yield to his pessimistic former self?

David Belcher is a critically-acclaimed cultural commentator, responsible for some of the best Glasgow ‘Herald Diary’ entries over a number of years. His writing has appeared in everything from the Sunday Post to Marxism Today, the Glasgow Herald to the Dundee Evening Telegraph, Architects’ Journal to the New Musical Express, the Radio Times to the Irish Weekly News. Over the last 30 years, he has DJ’d in assorted Glasgow clubs and bars that no longer exist. More regularly, he ran the monthly suburban vintage vinyl club nights Soul Bowl and Thank Funk It’s Friday.

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Somewhere Else

Jenni Daiches

‘This clean and comfortable house is something different. Rosa has lived in it for ten years, but there are times when it still seems unreal... when the sensation of another place hovers at the edge of her being and vanishes before she can capture and hold it.’

Rosa Roshkin is five years old when her family are murdered in a pogrom and she is forced to leave behind everything she knows with only a suitcase of clothes and her father’s violin.

An epic generational novel about womanhood and Judaeo-Scottish experience across two World Wars, the creation of Israel and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Jenni Daiches’s Somewhere Else explores today’s most difficult and urgent questions, not least of which, how to find identity in displacement.

Jenni Daiches was born in the USA and has lived in Scotland since 1971. She is the author of three previous novels and two collections of poetry. As Jenni Calder, she has published biography and literary and social history. She is a previous president and current trustee of Scottish PEN.

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**Lost People**  
**Margaret Elphinstone**

In a fractured dystopic future, the child Rue finds solace in the garden of a mysterious community. She has lost identity, family, home and people to war. Too much has happened for Rue to trust other people, but connection with the rest of the living world is not lost.

Adulthood requires a courageous journey through a landscape of despair, yet ultimately Rue finds hope of regeneration from unexpected sources. Recovery and restoration are beyond human abilities, but when we have done our worst, this planet will still sustain a living world, and that may include the lost people.

Margaret Elphinstone is the author of ten previous novels and two books on organic gardening. Her historical novels include *The Sea Road*, *Voyageurs*, *Light* and *The Gathering Night*. She really thought she would write no more novels, but then came *Lost People*.

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**Nocturne**  
**Christopher Rush**

Spanning the life of Frederic Chopin, *Nocturne* focuses particularly on his last years through the eyes of an extraordinary parade of well known names, Delacroix, Victor Hugo, Franz Liszt, George Sand, and the lonely and faithful Scottish woman, Jane Stirling, who loved him best of all.

Famous and feted, Chopin storms his way though Paris, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. His music becomes more beautiful, his love affairs wilder and his spending completely out of control. Chopin burns too bright and too fast against a background of unrest and revolution. The people who love him best can only watch helplessly as his flame threatens to burn itself out.

Christopher Rush graduated from the University of Aberdeen with a First Class Honours in English Language and Literature. He was awarded the Senatus Academicus Prize, the English Literature prize and the English Medal awarded to top scholar. Offered the Lucy Research Fellowship, tenable at Peterhouse, Cambridge, he elected instead to enter Scottish schools spending his career schoolmastering, mostly at George Watson’s College, Edinburgh, teaching English. He received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters conferred by his alma mater in 2014 in recognition of literary achievements.

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**Lost People**  
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The Queen’s Lender

Jean Findlay

George Heriot, jeweller to King James VI and I, moves with the Court from Edinburgh to London to take over the English throne. It is 1603. Life is a Babel of languages and glittering new wealth. The Scottish court speaks Danish, German, Middle Scots, French and Latin. King James gives Shakespeare his first secure position, and to calm the perfidious religious tensions, he commissions his translation of the Bible. George becomes wealthier than the king as he creates a fashion for hat jewels and mingle with Drummond of Hawthornden, Ben Johnson, Inigo Jones and the mysterious ambassador Luca Von Modrich. However both king and courtier bow before the power invested in their wives.

Jean Findlay is the author of Chasing Lost Time – the Life of CK Scott Moncrieff, Soldier, Spy, Translator published in 2014. She has a lifetime’s experience in literature as a playwright, journalist, author and – for the last ten years – as an independent publisher. Her first book was shortlisted for a Lambda Award in New York in 2016. For writing The Queen’s Lender, she won a Hawthornden Fellowship and a Lavigny International Fellowship. It was longlisted for the HWA Debut Crown Award for Historical Fiction.

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Alindarka’s Children

Alhierd Bacharevič, translated by Jim Dingley and Petra Reid

‘Bacharevic’s rich, provocative novel offers a kaleidoscopic picture of language as fairy-tale forest, as Gulag, as monument, as tomb, as everlasting life.’ – New York Times

‘Bacharevič’s novel blends the magic and darkness of a fairy tale with what is implicitly a manifesto on language and national identity.’ – Kirkus Reviews

In a camp at the edge of a forest children are trained to forget their language through drugs, therapy, and coercion. Alicia and her brother Avi manage to escape into the forest where they must fend for themselves in this dark, satirical fairy tale.

Alhierd Bacharevič weaves into the novel his own personal experience of growing up in a linguistically-torn country. In the 1990s he was the founder and vocalist of the first Belarusian-language punk band Pravakacjja (‘Provocation’). He is now a multi-award-winning author and his works have been translated into English, French, German, Czech, Ukranian, Bulgarian, Slovene, Russian, Polish, and Lithuanian.

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A Woman’s War against Progress
Allan Cameron

Rahvääma campaigns for the culture of a minority people living in the Siberian Forest. Her career, which takes her to the leadership of the movement twice, is full of reversals and distractions — including two unhappy marriages — and all this alienates her not only from her family but from the very people for whom she is battling.

To some degree this is a political novel, but much more than that it is a novel about political activism, its sacrifices, its perilous nature and its tendency in success to corrupt and undermine an activist’s sense of self.

‘It’s a majestic, always original work. ... Giving the novel the voice of a ‘First People’ opens a quite new way of feeling one’s way into that Soviet period. Well written, of course, and always striking in [its] social/political criticism. ... A Russian river of a novel’ — Neal Ascherson

‘... the readership [of] A Woman’s War against Progress ... will find their minds stretched, challenged and enlarged by the experience. It’s a remarkable achievement’ — James Robertson

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Also by Allan Cameron:
On the Heroism of Mortals 9781908251084
In Praise of the Garrulous 9781908251244
Things Written Randomly in Doubt 9781908251275

The Steam Catcher
Jim O’Sullivan

Gloucester 1915. Haunted by his father’s madness, Tom Casey flees home after being falsely accused of murder. He survives the First World War and the Irish War for Independence. But survival demands a heavy price: the loss of his beloved family and everything he was raised to believe in.

For Tom Casey, there isn’t a right or a wrong side, just the side he lands on.

Jim O’Sullivan is of Irish descent and was born in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. This is his first novel.

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Vagabond Voices / October 2023
Literary Fiction / 384pp
ISBN: 9781913212353

Rymour Books / February 2024
Historical Fiction / 300pp
ISBN: 9781739596071
Return to Shiaba
William Orr

Following the success of Shiaba, this novel follows the lives of two crofters struggling to come to terms with the Highland clearances. While Catherine spreads her wings to find new talents for survival within herself, her husband, Callum, uses his stubborn loyalty to the land of his fathers to face down the increasing wrath of a political system weighted against them.

Willie Orr’s achingly beautiful detail describes the purity of the crofters’ lives and faith and their bone-deep love of the land, which makes its loss more biting. We see the accentuated contrast between the rich complacency of the landowners and the desperate suffering of the poor, when charity came on condition of proper gratitude, with the obdurate Factor, in his nastiness and venality, abusing his power to rob helpless crofters.

Willie Orr worked as a shepherd in the West Highlands, including in the Ross of Mull, until a tractor accident forced a change in his life. Enrolling in Stirling University as a mature student, he graduated in Scottish History and published Deer Forest, Landlords and Crofters. He taught History in Oban High School and then worked for Sir Tom Devine on The Great Highland Famine. Returning to teaching in Oban, he became a counsellor for troubled children. In 2019 he published MICK, a novel about a cruelly fostered boy in the 1950s and The Shepherd and the Morning Star, a biography/autobiography. He lives near Oban in Argyll.

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The Other Side of the Island
David Frazer Wray

On a tiny Greek island, a goatherd living a solitary existence receives an unexpected gift that changes his life. A priest rediscovers his true vocation. A former shopgirl flees the city to reinvent herself as a colourful and mysterious grande dame.

The Other Side of the Island uncovers a world that is mostly hidden from the gaze of summer visitors. It is a world of fishermen and farmers, shopkeepers and odd-job-men, expats and migrant workers, wives and husbands. Their stories are, by turns, poignant, funny, tragic and thought-provoking. The island is us.

David Frazer Wray brings his intimate knowledge of island life to the fore in this witty and seductive book.

David Frazer Wray is a novelist and short story writer. After studying English at King’s College London, he moved to France and then the Netherlands before finally settling in Norway, where he has lived since 2004. During this time, he has worked variously as a teacher, journalist, musician, copywriter and translator. Now semi-retired, he is a co-founder and (unpaid) creative director of the Antiparos International Photo Festival in Greece.

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Also by David Frazer Wray:
A Fool’s Pilgrimage 9781914399961

Also by William Orr:
Shiaba 9781914399817
Return to Three Into One Does Go

Stephen Cashmore

A story of love and loss... and new love.

Tom Bradley is a young man in search of love when he joins the delightfully eccentric Exchequer and Audit Department unaware that his life is about to change forever. Ultimately, three women will guide his fate. From Britain, Malta and China, they will lead him through heartbreak and joy, tragedy and happiness.

Based on the author’s personal experiences, this novel took two decades to complete. Part fiction, part memoir, it’s filled with the joy and struggle of the human condition. Whether you weep at the scenes of unbearable sadness or laugh uncontrollably at unexpected humour, this is a book that will stay with you for a long time.

Stephen Cashmore is known for his short stories, and was shortlisted for the James White Award in 2019. Following early retirement, he trained and started work as a freelance proofreader and editor. For five years he was the training director of the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP), now the Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading (CIEP). During that time he created and co-wrote most of SfEP’s online training courses.

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Also by Stephen Cashmore:
Kindred Spirit 9781913746988

The Shadow of My Ancestral Tree

Nasha Solim

The Shadow of My Ancestral Tree speaks of many young women’s experiences, particularly the children of immigrant parents. It is a collection of poetry about life, which explores themes such as trauma, grief, heartbreak, politics, family, hope, feminism and race. Offering both an introspective and outward-looking perspective on these themes, this collection goes beyond the personal musings of the individual and highlights social issues affecting the collective.

These poems encourage change, turning stories of sorrow into stories of hope. The Shadow of My Ancestral Tree is a collection created to bring comfort and companionship to the voiceless whilst paying homage to those who broke their backs planting trees so the next generation could feel their shade.

Nasha was previously a music TV journalist and worked as a youth worker with disadvantaged youth. She is the child of Bengali immigrants and a first-generation Brit. Her varied experiences have inspired her debut poetry/prose collection, The Shadow of My Ancestral Tree. Writing as diverse as the Quran, A. Helwa, Rumi, Khaled Hosseini, Margaret Atwood, Elif Shafak, Rupi Kaur, Tupac, Santan Dave, Eminem, and Lauryn Hill have all inspired her work. Nasha is a social activist passionate about social change, politics and equity.

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**Once I Carried Three Crows**  
*Rachel Plummer*

Taking their cue from the natural world, science and science-fiction, the vivid and surreal poems of *Once I Carried Three Crows* present contemporary myths born from experiences such as the process of ageing, disability, intergenerational relationships, body image and sexuality. Here we find stories of the woman who married the North Sea, of ghosthouses and of birdhouses, of Iris, the first granny in space, and of the worm that eats memories along with ‘half a glass / of iced Chianti’.

Following on from *Wain: LGBT reimaginings of Scottish folktales* (Emma Press, 2019), this highly anticipated new collection for grown-ups proves Rachel Plummer to be one of the most original and exciting poets writing in Scotland today.

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**DWAMS**  
*Shane Strachan*

In a spectrum of voices across Scots and English, the poems in DWAMS concern themselves with the climate emergency and just transition, rising xenophobia, and with queer romance and sex, in a groundbreaking debut collection from North East Scottish writer and poet Shane Strachan.

‘I loved it: moving, angry, funny. DWAMS drills down into the profundities’ – Alan Warner

‘Look no further for an energy source for the next generation of Scottish poetry’ – David Wheatley

Shane Strachan was awarded Scots Champion at the 2023 Scots Language Awards following his year as the National Library of Scotland’s Scots Scribe writer-in-residence. His previous works include the novella Nevertheless (ama-Books), *The Shelter* staged with the National Theatre of Scotland, and multiple poems and stories in Gutter, New Writing Scotland, Northwords Now, Stand and various anthologies. His poetry has also appeared on BBC Radio 4, in Aberdeen Art Gallery and V&A Dundee. He holds a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Aberdeen where he now lectures in Creative Writing.

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Double Proof
Martin Stewart


2023. Albie, youngest son of the wealthy Dalziel family, vanishes. His desperate mother turns to Robbie Gould, a disgraced reporter with a reputation as a ‘psychic crimebuster’.

Broke and unemployed, Gould is in no position to turn down the job. He throws himself into a twisted chain of criminals, bent cops and Japanese gangsters, but when someone fires a shotgun through his door, he realises he doesn’t need supernatural powers to see how deadly the situation has become.

Martin Stewart’s Young Adult work was published in the UK and US by Penguin Random House and nominated for several national awards. His Middle Grade series, Bridget Vanderpuff, launched in 2023 with Zephyr. Martin’s work has been published all over the world and translated into multiple languages. A native of Glasgow, he now lives in Troon with his wife, two children and a very big dog. Double Proof is his adult fiction debut.

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Westerwick
George Paterson

When the country’s most wanted man inexplicably hands himself into the police, decades after absconding from the state mental institute, a young, but damaged lawyer is called back from his recuperation to interview him. As Thomas Leven is drawn into the complex, preternatural mind of Westerwick born serial killer Angus John MacMillan, what appeared a perfunctory task quickly proves to be anything but.

Delving deeper into the malign elements of MacMillan’s story, Thomas Leven starts to unravel, not only questioning his own faith but his sanity as he comes to the chilling realisation that true evil is all around. Set in Glasgow’s West End, and on the fictitious island of the title, Westerwick is a claustrophobic tale of the macabre, the mischievous and the malevolent, serving as both an urban gothic satire and a record of modern devily.

George is a writer, DJ and musician who, as a member of the bands White and DMP, released a number of well-received albums on the Poco Alto Label. His work can be found in a number of independent feature length and short films as well as providing the musical backdrop to the London stage production of the play, ‘ISM’. His debut novel, The Girl, The Crow, The Writer And The Fighter, was nominated for Bloody Scotland Crime Debut Novel of the Year 2022.

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**Bodysnatcher**  
**Carol Margaret Davison**

*Bodysnatcher* centres on the untold story of Helen McDougal, the partner of serial killer William Burke, in a visceral portrayal of love, sacrifice, and human depravity. Written by an author who won the 2019 Allan Lloyd Smith Prize for best edited collection devoted to Gothic Criticism and was shortlisted for both the J.I Segal Award and the Allan Lloyd Smith Memorial Prize, the novel is a product of rigorous archival research with 19th century features from *The Scotsman*. The narrative subverts the familiar premise of period crime and the working man’s struggle by highlighting the experience of working-class women. It also demonstrates the complicated relations between the Irish and Scottish during the period. Thematically, *Bodysnatcher* explores abusive relationships, religion, and class.

Carol Margaret Davison is an internationally renowned specialist in Gothic and Victorian literature and the series editor for Anthem Studies in Gothic Literature. Her monographs have been published by Palgrave Macmillan and Manchester University Press. She is the Director of the Sickly Taper website, the world’s largest and most comprehensive website devoted to Gothic bibliography. She is also a Professor of Literature at the University of Windsor (Canada) and the former Head of the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing.

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**Far na Slighe**  
**Shelagh Chaimbeul**

A summer’s day in June 2004. Four teenagers are walking on the Fife Coastal Path near St Andrews when one of them, Amy, finds an unusual bracelet. Twenty years later a new true crime series begins, *Fuaigladh Cheist*, which investigates suspicious and unexplained deaths. In the first program, Art Dawson is trying to find answers about the death of his sister, Joni, who fell while walking the Fife Coastal Path in June 2004. He has never believed the official verdict that it was an accident – what happened to her, and where is the priceless bracelet she was wearing?

As soon as Amy sees a picture of the bracelet on *Fuaigladh Cheist*, she recognises it. She had no idea that the jewellery was connected to the death of a young girl, and has no idea what to do with it now, especially with so many people looking for it.

Shelagh Chaimbeul is from Glasgow and writes fiction for adults and children in Gaelic. She was selected as the Scottish Book Trust’s Gaelic New Writer Awardee for 2022. She won Gaelic Literature Awards for Best Unpublished Manuscript for Children in 2020 and 2023 and her work has appeared in *New Writing Scotland, Northwords Now* and *Causeway/Cabhsair*.

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The Counterfeit Detective
Simpson Grears

An American professor discovers the diaries of John Ledbury, known as the counterfeit detective, a minor poet who, in Victorian London, is employed to reply to the mail that comes addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221b Baker Street.

Through the diaries he unearths a series of baffling unsolved murders. He travels through Scotland and England but he realizes that, in order to solve the mystery, he has to travel further, back through time itself.

A thrilling Gothic mystery set over two continents but focused on London in 1900.


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The Bone on the Beach
Fiona Gillan Kerr

A beautiful dead girl whose restless spirit haunts the hillsides and shores of the Scottish Highlands. A wealthy landowner and a trawlerman who disappear without a trace. A lonely young woman, running away from an obsessive lover, who finds a bone on a deserted, windswept beach – this is their story.

The narrative deftly switches between the points of view of Deirdre, the young woman whose death in 2002 is shrouded in mystery, and Meghan, a lawyer on sabbatical, who is drawn into the dark and twisted story surrounding the death some fifteen years later. The complex and dynamic Highland community, which seeks to protect its traditions and secrets even as it comes to terms with the history, ties the two narrative strands of the novel together.

Fiona Gillan Kerr was educated in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) at Berkhamsted School and Durham University. Alongside her partner, Fiona divides her time between the States and her Scottish home in the Highlands – a restored crofters cottage in a small village by the sea. The Bone on the Beach marks her publishing debut.

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Every Version Ends in Death
Aliya Chaudhry

Laana returns to her small hometown following the death of her grandmother and becomes obsessed with the local ghost story of Carolyn Hayward. Who was she? Why does every reference or local memory of her give conflicting information about her life, work, and the circumstances of her death?

Laana's research takes her on a whirlwind journey through her hometown’s history and reconnects her with old friends, prompting her to reflect on her own story and the ways she was and wasn’t there for those in her life.

Deliciously Gothic and fiercely feminist, *Every Version Ends in Death* is an anti-ghost story that forces us to reflect on grief, memory, death, hauntings, and ultimately how women’s stories are told.

Aliya Chaudhry is a fiction writer and journalist. As a journalist, she has covered music and internet culture for publications including Alternative Press, The Daily Beast, Kerrang!, MTV, NME, Slate, Stereogum, The Verge and VICE. She has lived in the United Kingdom, Pakistan, the United States and Kenya and is currently based in London. Her short story, ‘The Ghost of Creek Hill,’ an extract of what became *Every Version Ends in Death*, was previously published in Haunt Publishing’s May 2022 anthology *When Other People Saw Us, They Saw The Dead*. This is her first novel.

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This Is My Body, Given For You

Heather Parry

A girl suffering a bizarre menstrual aberration is exploited by those around her. A boy expresses his love for a non-human man by making himself animalistic. A girl abandoned by her community discovers the possibility of transmutation through cannibalism. A man struggles with his wife’s choices around her existence, and considers whether he should leave her alone in her semi-oblivion, or join her.

In *This Is My Body, Given For You*, Heather Parry places in our hands fifteen stories in which the body is something that can be changed, altered, and escaped from. With dripping blood, bruised tentacles, and seamed skin, Heather Parry’s debut short story collection will consume you.

Heather Parry was born in Rotherham and lives in Glasgow. She has won the Bridge Award for an Emerging Writer, Cove Park’s Emerging Writer Residency and the Laxfield Literary Launch Prize. In 2021 she was a Hawthornden Fellow and her first novel, *Orpheus Builds a Girl*, was released in 2022.

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Dakini Atoll

Nikhil Singh


‘Dakini Atoll is something like the love child of *Akira* and *Gravity’s Rainbow*’ – Steven Shaviro

‘Propulsive and mesmerising and wild and unique’ – Wole Talabi, *Shigidi*, *Incomplete Solutions*, Hugo & Nebula finalist

Nikhil Singh is a South African artist, writer and musician. His debut novel *Taty Went West* was published by Kwani? Trust in 2015, Jacaranda Books (UK) in 2017, and Rosarium (US) in 2018. The book was released with illustrations by the author, a self-produced soundtrack and was shortlisted for Best African Novel in the inaugural Nommo Awards. The author was invited to submit a story to *The Unquiet Dreamer*, a prestigious Harlan Ellison tribute, from PS Publishing in 2019. The story *The Re-Evolution of Cloud 9*, was also longlisted for Best Story in the 2020 Nommo Awards. The novel *Club Ded*, published by Luna Press Publishing (UK) in June 2020 was shortlisted for Best Novel in the 2021 British Science Fiction Association Awards and the 2021 Nommo Awards.

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Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature
Edited by Durre Shahwar and Nasia Sarwar-Skuse

Gathering brings together essays by women of colour across the UK writing about their relationships with nature, in a genre long-dominated by male, white, middle-class writers. In redressing this imbalance, this moving collection considers climate justice, neurodiversity, mental health, academia, inherited histories, colonialism, whiteness, music, hiking and so much more.

Durre Shahwar is a writer and the Co-Editor of Gathering, an essay anthology on nature, climate, the landscape by women of colour. She is currently working on her first sole-authored book. It is a narrative non-fiction book on the themes of language, identity, and belonging as a Pakistani-Welsh person.

Nasia Sarwar-Skuse is a writer and PhD candidate in Creative Writing at Swansea University. Nasia was awarded the Writers’ Bursary by Literature Wales in 2019. Her work has appeared in a number of publications.

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Second Nature
Susie White

In a hidden valley tucked into an unspoiled corner of Northumberland lies a naturalist’s garden, developed from scratch by award-winning gardener and author Susie White, her husband and friends. This is the story of how they created a remarkable oasis, a place as alive as it is beautiful.

Susie’s vision and passion unfold as she transforms a patch of untended ground into a wildlife-friendly haven, planted with flowering perennials, trees, herbs, vegetables, and a wildflower meadow. The spaces teem with life: owls and blackbirds, bats and mice, butterflies and bees, all drawn by pollen-rich flowers, ponds, and nesting sites. Second Nature takes us through the planning and construction, and describes how she designed the garden to blend harmoniously with her natural environment.

Susie White is a gardening and travel writer, broadcaster, wildlife photographer and lecturer. A lifelong and passionate gardener, she developed the garden at Chesters Walled Garden on Hadrian’s Wall in Northumberland. Since then she has created a garden from scratch in a hidden valley on previously uncultivated land. Beyond the garden, Susie is a regular contributor to the Guardian, BBC Countryfile, The English Garden, Homes and Gardens, and is garden columnist for My Weekly magazine. A member of the Garden Media Guild, and RHS speaker, she is the author of Gardens of Northumberland and the Borders.

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Atoms of Delight
Kenneth Steven

The short pieces in this collection, whose title pays homage to Scottish Renaissance writer Neil Gunn, invite readers to accompany Steven as he seeks out crystal-clear waters, a glimpse of an elusive bird, or pebbles polished by time and tide. Appreciative of the grace of silence and simplicity, he takes journeys that prompt introspection as we pause, breathe, and discover alongside him the transformative power of nature’s small gifts.

This is an evocative book that will inspire you to reflect on the joy that nature has brought into your life. As you set out on your own pilgrimages, you will discover the extraordinary that can be found in the everyday when you take the time to look for it.

Kenneth Steven is a widely published Scottish poet, novelist, essayist and translator who discovered his love for the natural world during his childhood; a reverence for the wonder of words soon followed. His writing, inspired mainly by the wild landscapes of the Highlands, has won many awards. His BBC radio documentary on the remote Atlantic island of St Kilda won a prestigious Sony Award, and he has written and narrated several series of the BBC Radio 3 Essays programme.

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Permaculture
Maya Blackwell

Permaculture is a way of farming, gardening, or managing land that emphasises a reciprocal relationship with nature. It’s a design process that works with wildness, not against it. And it’s an essential resource in the fight of our lives: tackling the climate crisis.

Here, permaculture practitioner and poet Maya Blackwell writes with expertise and personal experience of the transformative power of permaculture for both people and the planet. As well as tracing its evolution – from its roots in Indigenous societies to the important role it plays in urban allotments today – you will discover how the practice could nurture individual and collective wellbeing. There are opportunities throughout for reflection, creativity and connection.

Maya Blackwell is a poet and author from Devon. She grew up in a woodland-based New Age community and explores the themes she absorbed there – of community and nature – throughout her work. Her writing interests include permaculture, well-being, nature connection, grief, creativity, womanhood, and the ocean. She is a prolific spoken-word performer, has been published in Helicon Magazine for the University of Bristol, and is a graduate of the University of Plymouth, with a FD Honors in Creative Art Therapies Studies.

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Beautiful Beasts, Beautiful Lands
Mark Infield

When Lake Mburo National Park in Uganda was created in 1983, thousands lost their land and livelihoods. Three years later people reclaimed the land and set out to destroy the park and its wildlife. Reduced in size and settled throughout, the park seemed lost.

This was the challenge faced by Mark Infield on arrival in Uganda as a young conservationist. A programme of recovery over a 10-year period proposed and implemented by the author and colleagues in Uganda National Parks used community conservation approaches, and today the park is saved and visited by thousands.

Mark Infield has worked extensively in Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe on the design and delivery of sustainable nature conservation and natural resources management. He was Senior Advisor, Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment and Regional Director for Asia at Fauna & Flora International. He is currently Landscape Recovery Manager for Ashdown Forest, UK, is the author of Names of Ankole Cows and has several articles and papers published.

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Wild Places, Wild Encounters
Glen Cousquer

- Features carefully researched nature connection walks in and around Edinburgh
- Provides rich ecological and historical detail to help the reader learn to read the landscape
- Inspiration for returning through the seasons to better appreciate the nature Edinburgh and the Lothians has to offer
- A guide that helps the reader to enhance their own encounters with nature

This is a book about reconnecting to nature wherever we find ourselves living and the personal benefits that can ensue. In essence, it is essentially about reconnecting with and learning to relate to nature as explored in these wanderings through the green heart of Scotland’s capital city and the wild nature reserves of the Lothians. Nature is still there, all around us.

Dr. Glen Cousquer is a naturalist, photographer, outdoor educator, wilderness guide, International Mountain Leader and a lecturer in Conservation Medicine and One Health at the University of Edinburgh, where he supports professionals in learning how to collaborate across disciplines to seek optimal health for humans, other animals and the environment.

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Among the Layers of the Land
Frank Rennie

We all have some connection with the land, whether we simply walk on it or enjoy the view of a landscape. The personal connections with a place can go much deeper, however, such as engaging in farming or hill-walking. This book reflects on different ways of looking at the land, contrasting individual perceptions and divergent meanings that shape what we experience. Using a combination of creative writing that alternates non-fiction and short stories, our relationship with the land and the landscape is celebrated from different angles and viewpoints to uncover the layers of understanding that enrich our world.

Frank Rennie lives with his family in the crofting village of South Galson in the Isle of Lewis and is Professor of Sustainable Rural Development at the University of the Highlands and Islands. A natural scientist by training and inclination, he has also been closely involved in the community and cultural development of this region for forty years. He is also the author of *The Changing Outer Hebrides* which won the Highland Book Prize 2020.

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Hairy Foot, Long Tongue
David J Perkins

This introductory book explains bee biology and diversity complemented with beautiful drawings and photographs. It forms an essential companion to a field guide, an accessible and affordable alternative to a technical handbook.

Whether readers are interested ‘Springwatch-watchers’ or are intrigued after seeing all the press coverage of the problems bees are having in our current environment; or as a beekeeper or member of a citizen-science programme monitoring bee populations or a student on an environmental studies course needing an accessible background text on biology and evolution in bees – this is the perfect book.

Dr David Perkins is a former Wildlife Outreach Worker/Environmental Education Manager (and gardener) for Roots and Shoots, London where he also ran wildlife courses and events including beekeeping. As a Trustee for the Wildlife Gardening Forum he has contributed to running garden wildlife conferences including Wildlife Gardeners’ days at the London Wetlands Centre. He has also been in the design/construction teams for four medal-winning Chelsea Flower Show gardens.

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**Dangerous Animals of Southern and Eastern Africa**

**Jeff Williams and Patricia Goodwin**

This book provides a comprehensive, detailed, evidence-based review of the seven animals officially described as ‘dangerous’ by the professional association of Field Guides in South Africa. To this number the authors have added crocodiles. The text embraces the anatomical, physiological and behavioural aspects of the animals and aims to provide such up-to-date and evidence-based information as is available at the time of writing.

Describing and discussing the key features of each animal within one volume makes this valuable to all users, whether used in the bush, for study or general interest.

*Both Jeff and Patricia are FGASA-qualified Lead Trails Guides. FGASA is the recognised regulatory body for Field Guides in South Africa. Jeff is the author of *On Foot in the African Bush*. Patricia is an Advance Nurse Practitioner who currently runs her own business in aesthetic and wellness medicine.*

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**Across the Edge**

**Peter Clutterbuck**

- An astonishing story of risk, jeopardy, achievement and wonder
- Peter Clutterbuck recounts his lifelong experience and love of adventure as he crosses oceans, mountain ranges and continents
- Experience untouched and unexplored worlds of incredible beauty where nature rules with blizzards, huge unexplored glaciers, icecaps and the solitude of deep blue oceans

Peter’s thirst for adventure has taken him to 105 countries on all seven continents, including some of the most remote regions on the planet. Join him as he journeys across the edge, into a fascinating and often untouched world of staggering beauty – of glaciers 30 kilometres wide, endless seas of sand and crystal-clear starry nights.

*Peter is an adventurer, explorer, photographer and bestselling author. He has had a lifetime of experience living and working in harsh and remote parts of the world. Many of his adventures have featured in articles published in the media, including *The Alpine Journal*, *Yachting World*, *The Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Reuters*; and on TV: BBC, CNN, ESPN and many other major outlets. His work has also featured in 11 video productions.*

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Motorbiking Mountain and Steppe, Forever Eastward

Malcolm Dunkeld

Across Europe to Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and onward to Siberia, Japan and Australia, this is a work that is rich in many dimensions. In essence it’s a travel story about an eight-month, long and gruelling motorbike ride, but it contains so much more.

It’s a page-turning adventure story touched with humour and wit, a book that can be opened anywhere with the reader certain to find something interesting, surprising or amusing.

Malcolm Dunkeld began his trek in his mid-sixties in sober England and finished it in the Australian desert after a thundering crash. This book has it all!

Malcolm is a retired university lecturer and was a leader of architectural tours to many countries. Following retirement, the solo bike ride proved to be an uplifting experience as well as a wonderful journey of exploration and discovery.

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The Times Olympic Moments

Edited by John Goodbody and Robert Dineen

Pairing epic sports photography with articles from The Times and The Sunday Times archive, this volume brings together 100 of the most iconic moments from the history of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. From Harold Abrahams’s shock 100 metres victory in 1924 to Sarah Storey’s multi-disciplinary mastery, these instants have changed the course of sporting history and captivated generations of fans along the way.

Featuring the most stunning records, fiercest rivalries and most dramatic upsets, The Times Olympic Moments showcases the moments of heroism, triumph and controversy that continue to make the Games the centrepiece of the global sporting calendar.

John Goodbody has contributed to The Times and Sunday Times since 1985, winning awards in every decade. These included sports reporter of the year in 2001, sports story of the year in 2002 and being a member of the sports team of the year for 2012. He has covered 13 Summer Olympic Games.

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The Times World Cup Moments 9780008547844
The Times Rugby World Cup Moments 9780008587864
Victor and Barry’s Kelvinside Compendium

Alan Cumming and Forbes Masson

Victor and Barry are the epitome of the expression ‘big in the 80s’. Annoyingly, they were also a little big in the first bit of the 90s too, so that phrase doesn’t really pan out very satisfactorily; much like Victor and Barry themselves, in fact, who completely disappeared from the face of the Scottish showbiz scene in 1994 and were rumoured to have actually died on stage.

Alan Cumming and Forbes Masson reminisce about their hectic years as Victor and Barry through both beloved and never-before-seen photos, songs and musings in a scrapbook style compendium.

Alan Cumming is an mutli award-winning actor, writer, producer and performer of numerous productions including Hamlet, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Endgame, Cabaret, X2, The Good Wife, Schmigadoon! and many more. He collaborated with Forbes Masson in the 1980s to create comedy alter-egos Victor and Barry before adapting the characters for The High Life.

Forbes Masson is an Associate Artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company, known for his roles in classical theatre and musicals as well as his part in The Crown. He is also known for his comedy partnership with Alan Cumming. Masson and Cumming wrote The High Life, a Scottish situation comedy in which they play the lead characters, Steve McCracken and Sebastian Flight.

Neverland

Vanessa Kisuule

Why do famous musicians mean so much to us? What is the social and psychological function of fandom? How does the pop culture industry both reflect and exacerbate the worst aspects of our social norms? Why is it so hard to accept that the people we love, famous or not, can be capable of doing terrible things?

As conversations about abuse perpetrated by public figures become louder and we reach for moral absolutes, this book examines the nuances, unafraid to examine the ugly and contradictory impulses in all of us. Kisuule explores money, magic, religion, family, race, sex, queerness and the evergreen question of whether we can, or should, separate the art from the artist. With references to R Kelly, Michael Jackson, Britney Spears and others, this is both a love letter to the musicians we adore and an unflinching look at the costs of hero worship.

Vanessa Kisuule is a writer and performer based in Bristol. She has won over ten slam titles including The Roundhouse Slam 2014, Hammer and Tongue National Slam 2014 and the Nuoryican Poetry Slam. She has been featured on BBC iPlayer, Radio 1, and Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour, Blue Peter, Don’t Flop and TEDx in Vienna. She has appeared at an array of festivals and was Glastonbury Festival’s Resident Poet in 2019. She has published two poetry collections and her work was Highly Commended in the Forward Poetry Prize Anthology 2019. She has written for publications including the Guardian, NME and Lonely Planet and is the co-tutor for the Southbank New Poets Collective for 2021/2022. She was the Bristol City Poet for 2018–2020.
Fat Girl Best Friend
Sarah Grant

In *Fat Girl Best Friend*, Sarah Grant takes the reader on a pop culture voyage encompassing *Bridgerton*, *The DUFF*, *Encanto*, *Orange is the New Black*, *Pitch Perfect*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Shrek*, *Stranger Things*, to name a few. We all want to live our lives with oodles of Main Character Energy, but for some of us, we just don’t look like your average entertainment-thin Leading Lady. While we live in an age of body positivity, we are not seeing that reflected in the cinema or on TV. From Fat Monica to Fat Amy, plus size women in film/television are a rare commodity, and if we see ourselves represented at all, it’s not a pretty picture.

Through the lens of Female Friendship, Sarah Grant dives into the treatment of plus size women in film and television, and goes looking for that Main Character Energy we all know we deserve.

Sarah Grant is a working-class writer, filmmaker, and poet from Glasgow. She has made numerous BAFTA qualifying short films, and numerous comedy sketches for BBC Scotland, featuring body and sex positive female-fronted comedy (one of which won a Royal Television Society Scotland award) and gained tens of millions of views across digital and social media. Sarah is the co-writer of new BBC Scotland comedy 15-minute pilot, ‘STUNNERS’. Sarah is committed to body positive, sex positive and inclusive female-led stories.

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All the Violet Tiaras
Jean Menzies

For a period in time that gave us Sappho and the love affair of Achilles and Patroclus, the Ancient Greek relationship with queer folk is more complicated than at first glance. Tales as old as antiquity persevere, whether the goddess of love Aphrodite, Tiresias, the prophet who spent time as both man and woman, or the infamous Heracles. But, what can these ancient stories offer our contemporary world? Historian Jean Menzies dives into the world of queer retellings and the Greek myths being told anew by LGBTQ+ writers.

Jean Menzies is an ancient historian and author from Scotland. Jean completed her PhD in classics at the University of Roehampton in 2022, with a focus on gender, myth, and rhetoric in Ancient Greece. Meanwhile, her first novel, *The Flames of Albiyon*, is a sapphic adult fantasy about dragons and found family. She can usually be found online harping on about queer literature and ancient history over on her YouTube channel Jean’s Thoughts.

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Electric Dreams
Heather Parry

In the future, we’ll all be having sex with robots... won’t we? Roboticists say they’re a distracting science fiction, yet endless books, films and articles are written on the subject. Campaigns are even mounted against them. So why are sex robots such a hot topic? Electric Dreams picks apart the forces that posit sex robots as either the solution to our problems or a real threat to human safety, and looks at what’s being pushed aside for us to obsess about something that will never happen.

Heather Parry is a Glasgow-based writer, editor, and publisher. She is the co-founder and Editorial Director of Extra Teeth magazine, co-host of the Teenage Scream podcast and the Scottish Senior Policy & Liaison Manager for the Society of Authors, a trade union for writers. In 2021 she created the free-access Illustrated Freelancer’s Guide with artist Maria Stoian. Her debut novel, Orpheus Builds a Girl, was published in October 2022 and a short story collection, This Is My Body, Given for You, was published in May 2023.

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Happy Death Club
Naomi Westerman

Playwright Naomi Westerman was an anthropology grad student studying death rituals around the world when her whole family died, turning death from the academic to the deeply personal. She struggled with grief and talking about, particularly as a young woman, realising while death is everywhere in our culture, grief is harder to find in specialist ways. Happy Death Club provides a frank, touching and sometimes hilarious look at death, grief, and bereavement.

Naomi Westerman is a playwright and former anthropologist. As an anthropologist, Naomi studied death rituals around the world, also working on mental health and gender. She changed careers and became a professional writer in 2015, and since then her work has been widely performed at theatres in London and across the UK and internationally, including in the West End and off-Broadway. Her first TV series ‘The Faulty Elephants,’ a comedy-drama about the world’s first all-disabled criminal heist gang, is currently in development. She is a recipient of the Royal Society of Literature Award, the Michael Grandage Futures Bursary, the Derby Theatre / In Good Co Mid-Career Commission Award, and was a finalist for the Theatre Uncut Political Playwriting Award at the Young Vic.

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Blitzkrieg Bops
Alli Patton

What happens when aggressive, riotous punk music becomes the peacemaker? Chronicling a history of punks at war, *Blitzkrieg Bops* studies bands who have soundtracked a movement - including Pussy Riot, Stiff Little Fingers, National Wake, Wutanfall, Los Pinochet Boys, Rimtutitkui, The Kominas & more – creating music to overthrow corrupt governments, stomp out oppressive regimes, fight the establishment and, in turn, fight for their lives.

Alli Patton is a writer and music journalist based in the American South. A lover of music, the written word, and combining the two, her work can be found in *The Independent*, *Holler*, and *American Songwriter*. She believes, above all things, in the power music has to bring about change.

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Feeding the Machine
James Muldoon, Mark Graham and Callum Cant

*Feeding the Machine* tells the stories of the overlooked and underpaid individuals whose labour makes AI possible. In exposing the hidden global human workforce that contributes to AI, it interrogates how this work is often deliberately concealed and in doing so reinforces global inequities.

These practices are not new. Connecting the precarious conditions of AI workers today to longer histories of gendered and racialised exploitation, *Feeding the Machine* lifts the lid on the ways in which stable, well-paid and desirable jobs in the Global North are made possible by low-paid, dangerous work carried out by workers in the Global South.

James Muldoon, Mark Graham and Callum Cant work together at Fairwork, a project established to highlight the best and worst examples of how new technologies are being used in the workplace. Muldoon is a Reader in Management at the University of Essex, a Research Associate at the University of Oxford and the Head of Digital Research at the Autonomy think tank. Graham is Director of Fairwork and Professor at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford. Cant is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Essex Business School.

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Destination Time Travel
Steve Nallon and Dick Fiddy

That’s right, ticket holders, Destination Time Travel is your journey into the many worlds of the time travel tale — exploring its tropes, its rules, its devices, its science, its values, its plots, its characters and, most importantly, its enduring — and timeless — appeal.

Explore the world’s obsession with time travel in film and television. From the classics of Doctor Who and Back To The Future to the Netflix hit Dark, Nallon and Fiddy explore just what it is about time travel that makes us tick.

Steve Nallon is an actor, writer, voice artist and impressionist. He is known for his work as a voice artist on the show Spitting Image and for impersonating Margaret Thatcher on television throughout her time as Prime Minister and since. He has published work with Macmillan, Biteback, and Flametree, plus plays and comedy series broadcast by the BBC.

Dick Fiddy is a consultant with the British Film Institute. He is also a writer and a researcher who has contributed to many different publications such as Radio Times and has also been published by Bloomsbury. Fiddy has worked on Not the Nine O’Clock News, The Ballad of Johnny Vanguard and Dad’s Army & Beyond.

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Pink Camouflage
Gemma Morgan

Her husband found her by the roadside, delirious and choking on her own vomit. Gemma Morgan was 33, happily married with children, an outstanding army service record and a first-class international sporting career. But underneath she was a wreck, surviving on a cocktail of vodka, Valium and sleeping pills.

Misogyny, sexual abuse and toxic masculinity had been the daily realities of her Army career long before being deployed unarmed to the blood and mayhem of a war zone. Motherhood left her lost and alienated, a soldier who had deliberately suppressed her femininity with no idea how to cope. Together, these experiences triggered a mental health crisis that left her suicidal, battling PTSD, betrayed and abandoned by the institution to which she had devoted seven years of her life.

With the support of her family Gemma has since been on a long, hard and bumpy road to recovery. This is her story in her own words.

Gemma Morgan is an inspiring keynote speaker and leadership consultant with over 25 years’ experience across the military, business and elite sport. The founder of Morgan Eight Ltd, she is called upon for expert opinions on a range of subjects. Gemma began her career as an Army Officer and was the first woman to be awarded the Carmen Sword from HRH Princess Royal.

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Kabul: Final Call
Laurie Bristow

- A dramatic day-by-day account of the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021, the events that led to it, and the chaotic evacuation
- Recounted by the last British Ambassador to Afghanistan and one of the last civilians to leave in August 2021
- Reveals the challenges, difficult decisions and conditions in Kabul during the horrific final days and the evacuation from Kabul airport

This book tells the shocking and troubling inside story of the last days of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It offers a no-holds-barred insight into the looming collapse of Afghanistan as western military forces pulled out. It describes the horror of the chaotic evacuation from Kabul and pays tribute to the quiet heroism of the British soldiers and civilians on the ground, who brought over 15,000 vulnerable Afghans to safety, against impossible odds, in under two weeks.

Sir Laurie Bristow was the United Kingdom's last Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2021. He was previously Ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2016 to 2020, and Ambassador to Azerbaijan from 2004 to 2007. He is now President of Hughes Hall, Cambridge University, is a Distinguished Fellow of RUSI and Professor at London School of Economics and regularly writes and broadcasts on Afghanistan, Russia and geopolitics.

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To This Northern Shore
Jean-Luc Barbanneau

This is a wholly uplifting immigrant story that offers an unrivalled insight into what makes Britain special enough for a man to select it as his haven. Thrilling, moving and written with a sense of humour that will delight, this is a story that takes us round the world and gives us history made compellingly readable.

Jean-Luc Barbanneau was born in 1949 in Algiers, of French, Italian and Spanish origin – a background typical of the minority European population of Algeria at the time. Part of his childhood coincided with the Algerian war of independence. The dramatic outcome of this conflict led to a first exile with his family to France, where he finished his schooling in the provincial town of Niort before attending university in Paris. In Paris he was involved in the events of May 1968. He then moved to the UK, acquiring British citizenship in 1976. After a few years teaching in Brighton, he began a long career in publishing in London and Oxford. He now lives on the east coast of Scotland, near Edinburgh.

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**Just Time**

**Stephen Jackley**

The experience of custody is one most of us only usually hear about from outside. All the intricacies of navigating prison life – suicide watch, fights, punishments, abuses of power by officials, and relationships – are rarely shown. This book sets out to reveal these facets of prison life in a depth and diversity never covered before. Right from the opening passages (when the author is arrested at Heathrow Airport) readers will discover aspects of the justice system that simultaneously shock and enthrall. Against the backdrop of severe budget cuts, rising violence and suicides, the door is thrown open to reveal the consequences of hastily enforced policies – with legal challenges brought before the High Court. Throughout it all, a lens is cast on all aspects of the UK justice system.

Stephen Jackley spent six-and-a-half years in 12 different prisons around the UK, witnessing seismic shifts in a system that incarcerates upwards of 80,000 people each year. From the twilight years of Gordon Brown’s Labour government, to the draconian policies ushered in by Tory Justice Minister Chris Grayling, he witnessed how prisons became a political playground pandering towards an ever partisan press. Upon release, he went on to set up a social enterprise, receiving commendation from then HRH Prince Charles and nominations for awards.

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**Ruxton**

**Tom Wood**

Two dismembered bodies discarded in the borderlands of Scotland, hideously mutilated to avoid identification. Forty-three pieces of rotten flesh and bone wrapped in rags and newspaper. A jigsaw puzzle of decomposing remains. It is 1935 and the deaths of Isabella Ruxton and Mary Rogerson would result in one of the most complex investigations the world had ever seen. The gruesome murders captured worldwide attention with newspapers keeping the public enthralled with all the gory details. The groundbreaking work of Scottish forensic scientists who developed new techniques to solve the case and shape the future of scientific criminal investigation. With access to previously unseen documents, this book re-examines the case and reveals for the first time the incredible inside story of the investigation and its legacy.

Tom Wood is a former detective and member of the Edinburgh Police Force, now a distinguished writer renowned for his expertise in true crime narratives. His background and years of experience in law enforcement sets him apart, and he brings a professional understanding of investigative techniques and forensics to his writing. His meticulous research underpins his passion for unearthing hidden stories and the value of professional insights from a former Police Officer. Tom also writes regularly for *The Scotsman*.

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10 Scotland Street
Leslie Hills

‘This is a triumph. A love letter to the ghosts of Edinburgh. I feel its hand upon my shoulder.’ – Sara Sheridan

‘As a writer of fiction, I found myself itching to lift some of these characters from the page into the fertile fields of my own imagination.’ – Val McDermid

10 Scotland Street – the story of an Edinburgh home and its cast of booksellers, silk merchants, sailors, preachers, politicians, cholera and coincidence and its widespread connections over two centuries across the globe.

Leslie Hills is a film producer. She has won many awards for her work internationally and is a member of BAFTA and the German Film Academy. 10 Scotland Street is her first book.

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Women of the Hebrides
Joni Buchanan

‘I was raised among women of enormous strength and character.’ So writes Joni Buchanan in the foreword to this celebratory work, filling a long-neglected blank in Hebridean history. With a wealth of detail and intensive research, Joni tells the story of island women – their quick wit and political determination, hands that were deft with the loom and with the gutting knife, strong backs for croft work, endurance through times of tragedy and compassion and fortitude on the frontlines of war and disease over centuries.

Dismissing past stereotypes, the women in these pages travel the world, wage war against injustice and nurture their cultural heritage, all the time with two languages on their tongue, a light in their eye and undimmable spirit and humour.

Dr Joni Buchanan is a native of Mangersta in the Uig area of Lewis. She graduated in economic history from the University of Strathclyde and gained a PhD from the Universities of Aberdeen and the Highlands and Islands. Her doctoral thesis followed the transition within her own home community over the post-war era and identified measures necessary for retaining population and maintaining the Gaelic language. Dr Buchanan worked as a researcher and writer and is author of The Lewis Land Struggle (Acair, Stornoway, 1996).

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James Clerk Maxwell

Bruce Ritchie

Albert Einstein described the Scottish physicist, James Clerk Maxwell, as the man on whose shoulders he stood. This book not only describes Maxwell’s scientific achievements, but reveals him as a man of deep piety, who interacted with major issues of science and faith, and who engaged with contemporaries such as Faraday, Darwin, Huxley, and Kelvin. It explores the personal, social, religious, and academic influences which impinged on Maxwell’s thinking. It shows how his science informed his faith, and how his faith illuminated his science. Attractively written, this book is a must for understanding not only Maxwell himself, but the wider field of science and faith.

Bruce Ritchie is a university medallist in mathematical studies who then became a theologian and served as a parish minister, a Dean of Studies in Malawi and chairman of the Board of Governors of the Highland Theological College, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands. He is the author of four major books including Columba: The Faith of an Island Soldier (Christian Focus, 2019), and T.F. Torrance in Recollection and Reappraisal (Wipf & Stock, 2021), and has addressed the Scottish Parliament on the subject of James Clerk Maxwell. Ritchie was born in 1952 and lives in Inverness.

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Embody Lent

Pauline Steenbergen

A resource which aims to help individuals, pairs or groups embody the season of Lent through the intersection of classical Hatha Yoga practice and Christian spirituality. The eight sessions can be practised on a chair only or on an exercise mat indoors or outdoors.

At its core, this book is a holistic exploration of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 which is full of universal opposites, paradoxes and dualisms: ‘A time to be born and a time to die … a time for love and a time for hate.’ Lent is the time when many Christians focus on Jesus’ confrontation with the oppositional forces of good and evil in the desert, as well as his last days leading to his crucifixion.

Pauline Steenbergen is an Associate Member of the Iona Community, a Church of Scotland minister, a Spiritual Director, an ecumenical pioneer and a Yoga Scotland teacher.

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Four Scottish Folk Tales (French)
Fiona Scott; French translation by Nathalie Chalmers

This book, fully illustrated in rich colours, tells four of the many traditional folk tales from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Each tale is told in two languages: in French and in English. There’s a story about a selkie, or seal, who wins a man’s heart but longs to return to the sea. There’s a beautiful princess from under the sea whose happiness brings music and dance and puts paid to the evil giant. There are fiddlers who go into a magic mountain and play at a feast only to find that, when they return to their own world the following day, hundreds of years have passed. And there’s the story of a man who goes searching far and wide for a wife, only to find the love of his life living close by, at home. Tales of magic or tales of allegory?

Fiona Scott, as a child, would hear these old Scottish folk tales at her mother’s knee. While studying French at Glasgow University she applied for a work placement with Lexus and because of her interest in folk tales and Celtic mythology, and her knowledge of this area, Lexus commissioned her to write down these magical tales (in her own special style). The French versions are by Nathalie Chalmers, a professional translator, living and immersed in Scotland.

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Four Scottish Folk Tales (Spanish)
Fiona Scott; Spanish translation by Sergio Mori

This book, fully illustrated in rich colours, tells four of the many traditional folk tales from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Each tale is told in two languages: in Spanish and in English. There’s a story about a selkie, or seal, who wins a man’s heart but longs to return to the sea. There’s a beautiful princess from under the sea whose happiness brings music and dance and puts paid to the evil giant. There are fiddlers who go into a magic mountain and play at a feast only to find that, when they return to their own world the following day, hundreds of years have passed. And there’s the story of a man who goes searching far and wide for a wife, only to find the love of his life living close by, at home. Tales of magic or tales of allegory?

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A History of Scotland’s Landscapes
Fiona Watson with Piers Dixon

It is easy to overlook how much of our history is preserved all around us – the way the narrative of bygone days has been inscribed in fields, forests, hills and mountains, roads, railways, canals, lochs, buildings and settlements. Indeed, footprints of the past are to be found almost everywhere. The shapes of fields may reveal the brief presence of the Romans or the labours of medieval peasants; while great heaps of abandoned spoil or the remains of gargantuan holes in the ground mark the rapid decline of heavy industry in the recent past.

A History of Scotland’s Landscapes explores the many ways that we have used, adapted and altered our environment over thousands of years – a unique guide to tracing memories, events and meanings in the forms and patterns of our surroundings.

Fiona Watson is a medieval historian and writer, and the former Director of the Centre for Environmental History at the Universities of Stirling and St Andrews. She is author of the history books Scotland’s History, Scotland from Prehistory to the Present, Under the Hammer: Edward I and Scotland, Macbeth: A True Story and Robert the Bruce, as well as the novel Dark Hunter, set during the wars of independence. She was also the presenter of In Search of Scotland, a BBC TV series on Scottish history.

Desire Lines
Catherine Mooney, Thomas Joshua Cooper, Anne Lyden

Using descriptions from stories about early Scottish and Celtic saints, photographer Thomas Joshua Cooper and Catherine Mooney made pilgrimages to the birth sites, death sites and places of significance to the early Scottish Christian pioneers. The beautiful, often ethereal, photographs they made once they had arrived in these places are reproduced in a format reminiscent of a Calendar of Saints, in which saints’ days were honoured – here illuminated by 79 of Thomas’s arresting black and white images. Locations depicted include Lothian, Scotland and Donegal, Ireland, mimicking journeys made first by St Enoch, her son St Mungo and his contemporary St Columba.

Thomas Joshua Cooper was appointed Head of the Photography Department at Glasgow School of Art in 1982 and was tasked with establishing the Fine Art Photography Degree course, the first of its kind in Europe. His photographs are exhibited widely and feature in museum collections all over the world.

Catherine Mooney attended Central School of Art and Glasgow School of Art, studying jewellery and silversmithing, before working in a commercial gallery in sales and publishing and later taught drawing at GSA and became a lecturer in the Dept of Critical Studies.

Anne Lyden worked at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles for eighteen years before joining the National Galleries of Scotland as the International Photography Curator, and then Chief Curator of Photography. In 2024, she became the first woman Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland.
Annad – Indigenous
Calum Angus Mackay

Annad – Indigenous is the latest offering from renowned Lewis artist, Calum Angus Mackay. Having been described as ‘set to become a star’ in 1994, he hasn’t disappointed. In this book, containing photographs of his work both old and new, he details the circumstances behind each piece and what they mean to him. Published alongside a new exhibition, this collection of his work highlights his journey through life and art dealing with grief, death, family, history and community. This book, written in both Gaelic and English, offers the reader an insight into some of Calum Angus’ remarkable work and his awareness of what is in us all.

Calum Angus Mackay, broadcaster, programme maker and artist, combines a crofting life in the Western Isles with a career in Gaelic broadcasting and his activities as a photographer. His photographs make reference to local history and folklore without being nostalgic or sentimental. A creative career spanning some 30 years across television and radio. Having had his first book, Isolate, published in 1999, Annad – Indigenous is well worth the wait.

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Holyrood Park including Arthur’s Seat
Historic Scotland

Few capital cities contain a landmark as rugged and expansive as Holyrood Park and Arthur’s Seat. Not only does this space provide superb recreational opportunities; it also contains important habitats for a vast diversity of wildlife, and a wealth of evidence for human activity stretching back into prehistory.

Long before the first humans set foot here, this landscape was shaped by violent volcanic activity, and it yielded crucial clues for pioneers in the study of geology. It has provided a rich agricultural resource, a venue for royal pastimes, a religious retreat, a sanctuary for debtors, an encampment for Jacobite troops, a military parade ground, a setting for books and films and a varied environment for a wide range of leisure pursuits.

This book will help you explore the Park, identify its remarkable features and discover many stories.

Historic Scotland is part of Historic Environment Scotland, the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland’s historic environment.

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Related titles:
Edinburgh Castle 978184917601
Stirling Castle 9781849170482
Urquhart Castle 9781849170918
Scottish Furniture 1500–1914

Stephen Jackson

The book offers a narrative account of furniture-making in Scotland, from the sixteenth century to the twentieth.

Written to scholarly standards, it disseminates a wealth of new research and specialist knowledge.

It is aimed primarily at readers with an existing knowledge of, and passion for, furniture history but will also be of interest to academic readers unfamiliar with furniture yet engaged with Scottish cultural history, and those in heritage institutions.

Stephen Jackson is Senior Curator, Furniture and Woodwork, at the National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh.

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Introducing British Silver

Laura Bauld

*Introducing British Silver* is one of a series of new books exploring objects acquired by the famous 20th-century Glaswegian shipping magnate and philanthropist Sir William Burrell and his wife Constance, Lady Burrell, for their vast collection of art.

Providing an introduction to British silver, the book is divided thematically by theme – Ceremonial Silver, Domestic Silver, Silver Marks, Huguenot Silversmiths, and Silver Service – lavishly illustrated with some of the most interesting pieces, their origins, symbolism, and design, from the world-renowned Burrell Collection, Glasgow.

Laura Bauld is curator of decorative arts at Glasgow Life Museums. Her current research is centred on British Decorative Arts from 1603–1800, including metalwork, glass, and furniture. She is presently exploring Sir William Burrell as a collector of silver and glass in the early 20th century.

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Also by Laura Bauld:
The Burrells’ Legacy: A Great Gift to Glasgow
9781908638403
Hamilton Palace
Godfrey Evans

This is the story of Scotland’s lost treasure trove.

Hamilton Palace stood grandly to the south-east of Glasgow, home to the Dukes of Hamilton for nearly 300 years. Inside its walls were art and antiques associated with Roman and Russian Emperors, popes and cardinals, Queen Marie-Antoinette and Emperors Napoleon I and III.

Yet, by 1921, all the Palace’s contents had been sold and the building demolished. Today, many of the treasures of Hamilton Palace are on display in museums and collections all over the world including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

This lavishly illustrated book examines the enormous palace lived in by the premier peers of Scotland, and the thousands of outstanding works of art acquired by twelve dukes over 250 years. It will appeal to people interested in history, in art, antiques and museum collections – and in the perennially fascinating subject of dysfunctional, dynastic families.

Dr Godfrey Evans is Principal Curator of European Decorative Arts at National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh and is a Director of the Virtual Hamilton Palace Trust. He has spent years researching where its treasures have ended up.

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Lady Agnew
Christopher Baker

Gertrude Vernon, or Lady Agnew of Lochnaw, was an English woman who married a Scot. The American artist John Singer Sargent excelled as a painter in Europe. His portrait of Lady Agnew was painted in London but has found its definitive home in Edinburgh. All these contexts converge in a supremely beautiful painting which is one the icons of the collection of the National Galleries of Scotland.

Created in the 1890s, it proved to be a seminal work in the lives of the artist and his subject and has enjoyed a rich afterlife, inspiring artistic and written responses. This book offers a fascinating biography of this most accomplished, evocative and admired of portraits, placing it in the context of Sargent’s career and how he worked, discussing the life of the sitter and unveiling the picture’s rich critical history.

Christopher Baker is an Honorary Professor at Edinburgh University. He was a Director at the National Galleries of Scotland and has worked at Christ Church, Oxford, and the National Gallery in London. Christopher has published and lectured widely on eighteenth and nineteenth-century British and European art and the history of collecting and taste and organised numerous exhibitions in the U.K. and internationally. He is currently the Editor of The Burlington Magazine.

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Introducing European Embroideries
Rebecca Quinton

Features 50 embroideries from the world-renowned Burrell Collection, Glasgow, each shown in full. They have been selected from the approximately 350 European embroideries in the Burrell Collection, ranging from the medieval period to the eighteenth century, and include several with royal connections.


Rebecca Quinton is the Curator for European Dress and Textiles at Glasgow Life Museums. Her research interests include British embroideries and nineteenth-century dress and textile manufacturers in Glasgow and west Scotland, and she is the author of, and contributing author to, several books on her subject area.

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Leonor Antunes: The Apparent Length of a Floor Area – Sienna Brown
Briony Fer

Published on the occasion of Leonor Antunes’ exhibition the apparent length of a floor area, curator Briony Fer who collaborated with us on previous solo exhibitions of work by Eva Hesse and Gabriel Orozco, has written text to examine Antunes’s work in the context of the largely overlooked modernist legacies it unearths. New photography showcases Antunes’s installations.

Briony Fer is an art historian who has written extensively on modern and contemporary art. Her research interests have consistently moved between the history of the avant-gardes and the work of contemporary artists, including Gabriel Orozco, Roni Horn, Vija Celmins, and Tacita Dean. Her books include On Abstract Art (1997), The Infinite Line (2004), Eva Hesse: Studiowork (2009), and Gabriel Orozco: thinking in circles (2013). She co-curated the Anni Albers retrospective, with Maria Muller-Schareck and Ann Coxon, at Tate Modern and K20 Dusseldorf in 2018. She also curated Leonor Antunes: The Apparent Length of a Floor Area at Fruitmarket in 2023. She is a professor of the history of art at University College London and a fellow of the British Academy.

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Leonor Antunes: The Apparent Length of a Floor Area – Ochre Yellow

Briony Fer

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Café Cooking

Gillian Veal

A new, updated edition of the cult classic, The Parlour Cafe Cookbook. Café Cooking transports us to the lush Georgian walled garden at Cambo House in Fife where chef and author Gillian Veal cooks, takes inspiration from the abundant supply of wonderful fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers that grow there.

Café Cooking features over 30 new recipes as well as revisiting many of the old favourites to reflect how Gillian’s cooking has evolved. From the most delicious brunch dishes to hearty soups, tangy salads, mouth-watering mains and irresistible cakes and tarts, these recipes will just as happily feed a family as delight a dinner party.

This is down to earth, seasonal cooking, celebrating one of Scotland’s most beautiful and well-loved gardens.

With gorgeous full-colour photography by Clair Irwin.

Gillian Veal is the owner and chef of the Parlour Cafe in Dundee and the Café at Cambo Gardens in Fife. A fine art graduate, she trained in London kitchens including Konditor & Cook before returning to Scotland to open her own restaurant.

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The Changing Tides
Roberta Hall McCarron

In *The Changing Tides* Roberta Hall McCarron shines a light on the abundance and quality of Scottish produce, and how it has inspired her delicious, hyper-seasonal approach to cooking. Using ingredients from game to seafood, wild mushrooms to berries, Roberta creates a culinary calendar of eating through the year, with over a hundred recipes for the home cook and including a complete dinner party menu for each season. The book also features a skills section with basic game and seafood prep.


Accolades include YBF Best Chef 2018; UK’s Top 100 at Estrella Damm National Restaurant Awards 2020; Breakthrough Chef of the Year at the Food and Travel Awards; British Vogue Best Restaurant in Edinburgh 2021, short-listed for GQ Chef of the Year 2023 and winner of Square Meal/Ayala Female Chef of the Year 2023.

Roberta has also represented Scotland on the BBC’s Great British Menu in both 2020 and 2021, in the latter winning the fish course and cooking at the final banquet.
The Bumblebee Garden
Dawn Casey, illustrated by Stella Lim

In the chilly early spring, Ben and Grandpa are busy in the garden. Ben spots a fuzzy bumblebee in a cosy coat, just like him. As spring turns to summer, Ben learns all about the lives of the bumblebees and notices what he has in common with his buzzy friends. When Grandpa explains that bees carry pollen that helps juicy strawberries grow in their garden, Ben asks if they can help the bees in return.

*The Bumblebee Garden* teaches young children about bees and their importance to the balance of the natural world. The illustrations inspire readers to celebrate and protect these vital insects. Features a non-fiction double-page spread showing the life cycle of a queen bee.

Dawn Casey is the author of picture books and children's story collections inspired by the wonder of the natural world. Her work has won the Gold Nautilus Award for books that support conscious living and received an accolade from the American Folklore Society. Before becoming an author, Dawn worked in publishing and as a primary school teacher. She lives in Sussex, UK.

Stella Lim is an illustrator from South Korea. She studied Fine Art and graduated from Kingston University with a Master of Communication Design. She lives in Seoul, South Korea.

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Kevin the Orange
Alan Windram, illustrated by Olla Meyzinger

Kevin is an orange, the orangiest orange ever. Kevin isn’t happy, he is tired of being orange and wants to be a totally different colour. ’If only I could be blue, or red, or green, things would be so much better, everyone would love me and it would be so much more fun.’

Kevin goes to his friend Brian the pear, asking for advice on how to be something different. After trying to be lots of different colours Kevin realises that he misses being himself, the orangiest orange ever.

A story about the uniqueness of us all, friendship and being happy as you are.

Alan Windram is the award-winning author of the hugely popular *One Button Benny* series of picture books. He is on the road for much of the year taking part in book festivals, school and library events. Alan is also an accomplished singer-songwriter with four independent albums of original songs under his belt.

Olla Meyzinger is a freelance illustrator currently living and working in Italy. Olla loves to create colourful and playful illustrations working mainly using digital techniques. *Kevin The Orange* is Olla’s debut picture book.

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Paddington

Michael Bond, translated by Gillebrìde Mac ‘IlleMhaoil

The classic story of the bear from Darkest Peru who stowed away on a ship and headed for England has now been translated into Gaelic. He arrives at Paddington Station with nothing but a suitcase, a half empty jar of marmalade and a label that reads, ‘Please look after this bear. Thank You.’

‘I’ve always had a great respect for Paddington... He is a British institution.’ – Stephen Fry

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Rory and the Snack Dragons

Louisa MacDougall, illustrated by Giulia Cregut

Rory is an unusual sort of dragon – he would rather hide than go hunting and he would far rather eat a tasty bicycle than a juicy princess.

In this first book in the Snack Dragon series, Rory bites off more than he can chew when he steals a bike and accidentally kidnaps the princess who owns it.

Now both their kingdoms are in danger and they must team up to save them – but what hope do they have, when they can’t even agree on what (or who) is for lunch?

Louisa is a community worker who lives with her husband and three daughters on the windswept Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Louisa’s writing was shortlisted for the Kelpies Prize in 2022 and the Searchlight Prize in 2023. Rory and the Snack Dragons originally started life as a picture book text which won the Scottish Association of Writers picture book text award in 2022.

Giulia began to draw and paint as soon as she was given her first crayons as a child. She studied painting, drawing and other disciplines for six years at the Centro d’arte Martenot, in Francesca Del Panta’s Studio, Italy. From 2014 to 2017 she studied illustration at the Nemo Academy in Florence. She now loves her work as a freelance illustrator.

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The Highland Cowgirl
Louisa MacDougall

Hanna dreams of becoming a cowgirl and spends every free moment practicing her rodeo skills - but life in a Scottish city can feel a long way from the wild west. A school trip to the Highlands finally gives Hanna a chance to meet real cattle, but she’s disappointed with the muddy reality – until an unexpected encounter with a calf in trouble gives her the chance to put her cowgirl skills to the test.

Louisa lives on the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides where she works as a community journalist and helps on the family croft. Her stories have been shortlisted for the Kelpies Prize and Searchlight Awards. They are inspired by her three daughters and their outdoor adventures – which often seem to involve getting stuck in mud (or worse).

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What’s the Difference...
Between Me and You
Christina Findlay

What’s the Difference... Between Me and You? is a highly original picture book filled with delicate, characterful drawings and an important central message: everyone is different, and difference is exciting.

Like Charlie Mackesy’s international bestseller, The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse, Christina Findlay’s What’s the Difference will delight young and old readers alike, with its fun illustrations and witty, rhyming couplets. Taking us on an enchanting journey from the Scottish Highlands to Parisian cafés, Kew Gardens to Minnesota, this book celebrates diversity in all of its various forms.

Christina Findlay was born in 1972 and died at the age of 21 in 1994. In her short life she made hundreds of paintings, 200 of which were exhibited, and did drawings for three illustrated books. Apart from a year at Central St Martin’s College of Art in London, she lived and painted in the Highlands of Scotland.
**The Boy, The Witch & The Queen of Scots**

**Barbara Henderson**

_No. Not the Palace. Anywhere but the Palace._

12-year-old Alexander Buchan was once content, training as a falconer at Strathbogie Castle in Huntly. But when his Earl sends him to Edinburgh to the court of the newly arrived Mary, Queen of Scots, the boy finds himself lured into a world of intrigue, terror and treachery. Alexander knows right from wrong, but how can he hope to outwit his master’s murderous messenger? Surely no one can defy an Earl – especially one whose wife is rumoured to be a witch!

Soon, more than the boy’s own life is at stake: his friend Lizzie is arrested and the angry clouds of Reformation Scotland gather around the young Queen.

It seems that Alexander must spy – or die.

**Barbara Henderson** is an Inverness-based children’s writer and drama teacher. Her energetic school visits take her across the length and breadth of Scotland, and sometimes beyond. As a teacher, she loves to get young people on their feet as they respond to stories. She shares her home with her teenage son, her long-suffering husband and a scruffy Schnauzer called Merry.

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**The Ice Cream Boy**

**Lindsay Littleson**

Twelve-year-old Luca Verani has his future all mapped out: who needs school when he’s going to take over his family’s ice cream cafe? But then his aunt announces she’s selling the struggling business and Luca realises that his nonna’s memory is disappearing. Plus, he’s starting high school and one of his best friends Sitara is being targeted by racist bullies. As Luca’s worries pile up, will his dreams melt away?

_Ice Cream Boy_ is a heart-warming novel from Lindsay Littleson, author of Carnegie-nominated _Guardians of the Wild Unicorns._ Full of authentic dialogue, gentle humour and true-to-life characters, this engaging middle-grade novel explores the thoughts and feelings of children affected by dementia.

**Lindsay Littleson** is an award-winning middle-grade author from Glasgow, Scotland. Her books include Carnegie-nominated _Guardians of the Wild Unicorns_, _The Secrets of the Last Merfolk_ and Kelpies Prize winner _The Mixed-Up Summer of Lily McLean_, which was also longlisted for the Waterstones Children’s Books Prize. Inspired by many happy years as a primary teacher, Lindsay’s books have been praised for their believable characters and authentic dialogue. She currently lives in Renfrewshire, Scotland.

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The Whistlers in the Dark
Victoria Williamson

Scotland, 158 AD, is a divided country. On one side of the Antonine Wall, thirteen-year-old Felix is trying to become a good Roman soldier like his father. On the other, twelve-year-old Jinny is vowing revenge on the ‘metal men’ who have invaded her Damnonii tribe’s homeland. At the Damnonii’s sacred circle of standing stones, her planned attack on Felix goes badly wrong, awakening a legend that threatens to bring fire and destruction down on them all. Can Jinny and Felix overcome their differences and soothe the stones back to sleep before it’s too late?

Victoria Williamson is a former teacher and full-time author from Glasgow. Her previous novels include The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle, The Boy with the Butterfly Mind, Hag Storm, and War of the Wind. She has won the Bolton Children’s Fiction Award 2020/2021, The YA-aldi Glasgow Secondary School Libraries Book Award 2023, and has been shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023, The Leeds Book Awards 2023, the James Reckitt Hull Book Awards 2021, The Trinity School Book Awards 2021, and longlisted for the ABA South Coast Book Awards 2023, the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize 2020, and the Branford Boase Award 2019.

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Betrothal and Betrayal
Janet McGiffin

This coming-of-age historical fiction series charting the extraordinary rise to power of Irini of Athens, Empress of the Byzantine Empire.

Betrothal & Betrayal, Book 1. Seventeen-year-old Thekla needs her quick wits and knife to track down her betrothed, a soldier who has left her at the altar for the third time. Elias the monk travels with her to Constantinople where she meets Irini of Athens, an extraordinarily beautiful orphan who has been brought by the powerful Emperor Constantine to marry his son, Co-Emperor Leon. The two women join forces to survive this vigorous, glittering capital of the East, rocked by division and strife. But will Thekla help the ambitious and ruthless Irini of Athens find the power that she craves?

Janet McGiffin has written three Dr. Maxine St. Clair Mysteries, for Fawcett Press, US, as well as Date Rape New York, a thriller set in the gritty streets of New York City. She has also written two graded readers for Cambridge University Press.

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Also by Janet McGiffin:
Poison is a Woman’s Weapon 9781910895740
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The Price of Eyes 9781910895825
Reek
Alastair Chisholm

Sparrow lives in the world after the Reek. The atmosphere is toxically polluted, and Axel Brodie, the tech billionaire behind Zephyr Industries, is cashing in as the only supplier of clean air.

Sparrow is struggling to help her family survive until her brilliant inventor friend, Miriam Fenn, comes up with a new form of technology that could break Zephyr’s stranglehold on the air supply. But men like Brodie are hard to defeat, and he will do everything in his power to stop Miriam and Sparrow. Who will triumph in this battle to breathe?

Alastair Chisholm is the bestselling author of the sci-fi adventures Orion Lost, Adam 2 and The Consequence Girl, as well as the fantasy Dragon Storm series. Orion Lost was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize, the James Reckitt Hall Children’s Book Award, the Biblio Buzz Award, the Inspire ELS Book Awards and the 2021 Sakura Medal Award.

Oor Wullie Annual 2025

He’s Oor Wullie, your Wullie, a’bodys Wullie. Generations have enjoyed his mischievous tales as he wages war on boredom or embarks on some get-rich-quick scheme. First published in The Sunday Post in 1936, Oor Wullie truly is Scotland’s favourite son. Join him in his most recent comic strip capers in this year’s must-have comic book collection.

Settle down and enjoy some fun with Wullie and his pals, Primrose Paterson, Bob, Soapy Soutar, Wee Eck, Jeemie the moose, and Harry the faithful, wily Westie. And don’t forget the much-harangued PC Murdoch, Auchenshoogle’s legendary law enforcer!

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Beano and Dandy Gift Book 2025: Appliance of Science

A collection of classic comic strips from DC Thomson’s archives in a premium format for comic book fans of all ages.

Put on your safety goggles and ready your Bunsen burners, for we’re about to experiment with some BAD SCIENCE! We’ve collected a plethora of classic comic samples from *The Dandy* and *Beano* in glass vials for you to study! STEM-ing from the archives, we’ve plucked, poked, and prodded these scientific specimens to ensure you’ll be bubbling with laughter! So join all your favourites like Desperate Dan, Dennis the Menace, Minnie the Minx, and Rubi von Screwtop alongside bad inventors, strange professors, and worst of all... science teachers!

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Oor Wullie & The Broons Gift Book 2025: Doon Memory Lane

Join Scotland’s beloved family and favourite son as they look back through the years in this collection of classic comic strips from DC Thomson’s archives.

Since their humble beginnings in the pages of *The Sunday Post* in 1936, The Broons and Oor Wullie have weathered the seasons to bring joy and laughter to all. Now they invite you to take a trip through the ages in their own unique style. From 1950s poodle skirts to 1980s perms, from 1960s miniskirts to 1990s bucket hats, and from 1970s flares to the not-so-smart phones of recent years, The Broons and Oor Wullie have seen it all — been there and done that! So put on your rose-tinted glasses and let’s wander through the last eight decades together.

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Beano Annual 2025

It’s the bestselling annual in the UK! Do you enjoy hilarious comic stories full of mischief, jokes, pranks and laughs? Then The Beano Annual is for you!

Take a trip to Beanotown, a place where kids rule. The parents and the teachers of Bash Street School might think differently, but the kids from the longest-running weekly comic in the world know the truth...

In 112 all-new and original pages, join Dennis and Gnasher, Minnie the Minx, the Bash Street Kids and all your Beano faves as they deliver funny, exciting adventures to please fans old and new alike!

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Dandy Annual 2025

Stretch those laughter muscles as The Dandy Annual returns for another side-splitting serving of jolly japes and crafty schemes!

Starring national treasures – Desperate Dan, Beryl the Peril, Cuddles and Dimples and more – The Dandy Annual 2025 is a monster collection of hilarious comics for everyone!

With its 112 pages of all-new comic strip content, it is an essential part of Christmas, delivering laughter, mischief and wangles in typical Dandy style. Loved by the young and the young-at-heart alike, it’s a book for the whole family to enjoy.

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How I Feel
Becky Goddard-Hill

Sometimes it can be hard for children to know exactly how they feel. Talking about feelings makes them easier to understand and helps them choose how to react to them.

Written by children’s therapist and emotional wellbeing author, Becky Goddard-Hill, the fun, simple activities are designed to give you and your child the tools to cope with a whole range of different emotions.

Go on a happiness hunt, play animal charades, feed your worry monster and do the cushion walk!

With tips for grown-ups to spark conversations and give advice, it is the perfect book to share with little ones.

Author of the Create Your Own series, Be Happy Be You and A Year of Nature Craft and Play, Becky Goddard-Hill is a children's therapist and former social worker with a specialism in child development. She is also a professionally qualified life coach and member of the National Council of Psychotherapists. Becky runs several award-winning blogs and loves to write about many things, most especially about wellbeing and emotional health.

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Follow Your Dreams
Katherine Mengardon

Why not become a cat behaviourist? Or a rollercoaster engineer? How about a coral reef gardener? Find out what's involved in these incredible careers and meet the real people who followed their dreams and are doing these jobs today.

Whether you’re an animal lover, a planet protector, a maths marvel, an amazing artist, a born performer, or a sports fan – you'll discover jaw-dropping jobs that put the WOW into the world of work!

The careers are arranged by interest, making the content engaging and easy to navigate, with exciting ‘jobs of the future’ in cutting-edge areas like AI and the environment.

This beautifully illustrated, inspiring book is an ideal gift for children aged 9+ to encourage creative thinking, big dreaming, and buckets of ambition.

Katherine Mengardon is an education expert on neurodiversity, play and creativity. She’s developed programmes for the BBC, Google, Disney and more. She is the author of several books, including the popular Little Inventors series. She aspires to open children’s eyes and minds and equip them with the tools to prepare for a bright future.

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The Teenage Guide to Digital Wellbeing

Tanya Goodin

Digital wellbeing is all about finding the balance between the digital world and the real world – and making sure we use smartphones and other digital devices in a healthy way, while living fulfilling lives beyond the screen.

This guide helps tweens and teens do exactly that, inspiring them to set their devices aside (sometimes anyway!) and start living in the here and now.

Written by digital wellbeing expert Tanya Goodin, it’s packed with positive prompts, thought-provoking science, and hands-on activities to encourage healthy habits around screen use – including nostalgic crafts, retro tech scavenger hunts, and phone-free nature excursions, plus practical tips on how to deal with digital challenges like comparison culture, cyberbullying, trolling, and much more.

Tanya Goodin is an author, podcaster, and public speaker on our complicated relationship with technology. She is passionate about introducing the concept of digital wellbeing to children and inspiring them to forge healthier, happier relationships with their digital devices. She has spoken in schools to students and parents for over a decade. Tanya is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and is currently researching for a Masters in AI ethics at the University of Cambridge.

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For more information on how and when to apply, please contact Lucy Feather at lucy.feather@publishingscotland.org or visit the Publishing Scotland website at www.publishingscotland.org.

The following publishers were awarded funding in the most recent round of applications:

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- Fraktura (Croatia) for the Croatian edition of *To the Lake* by Kapka Kassabova (Granta)
- ICU Publishing (Bulgaria) for the Bulgarian edition of *Study for Obedience* by Sarah Bernstein (Granta)
- Libros del Asteroide (Spain) for the Spanish edition of *Caledonian Road* by Andrew O’Hagan
- Mahrous Center for Publishing (Egypt) for the Arabic edition of *Blood and Gold* by Mara Menzies
- Mladinska knjiga Založba (Slovenia) for the Slovenian edition of *Young Mungo* by Douglas Stuart (Grove Press)
- Mora Publishing (Hungary) for the Hungarian edition of *Dragon Storm* by Alistair Chisholm (Nosy Crow)
- Naklada Ljevak d.o.o. (Croatia) for the Croatian edition of *In Ascension* by Martin MacInnes (Atlantic)
- Partizanska knjiga (Serbia) for the Serbian edition of *Lazy Susan* by Alan Bissett (Speculative Books)
- Todavia Livros (Brazil) for the Brazilian Portuguese edition of *Case Study* by Graeme Macrae Burnet (Saraband)
- Wydawnictwo Halart (Poland) for the Polish edition of *Deep Wheel Orcadia* by Harry Josephine Giles (Picador)
Publishing Scotland’s International Fellowship Programme was established in 2015 to facilitate exchange between international publishers and the publishing sector in Scotland. The fellowship takes place each August, during a week of the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the world-famous Edinburgh festivals. It comprises a packed programme of publisher and agent visits, meetings, market presentations, networking, and more.

Fellows are chosen by a steering committee and emphasis is placed upon the track record of the publishing company and their previous interest in, and links to, the industry in Scotland. The committee aims for a balance of countries and between larger and smaller publishing houses. All travel and accommodation costs are covered as part of the fellowship. The Fellowship has so far brought together 62 publishers from across the world. Eight publishers took part in the 2023 Fellowship. You can find out more about all our previous Fellows and the latest news at: www.publishingscotland.org/what-we-do/publishing-fellowship/

If you have any questions about the programme please contact Marion Sinclair at marion.sinclair@publishingscotland.org

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here.

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