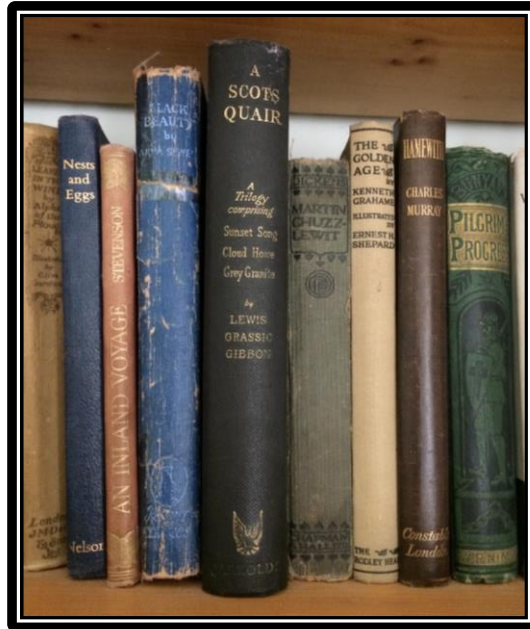


# Portobello Book Festival 3rd – 6th October 2019



**All events are free but ticketed.  
Tickets in advance from  
Portobello Library**

**[www.portobellobookfestival.wordpress.com](http://www.portobellobookfestival.wordpress.com)  
Twitter @portybookfest**

**THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER  
SPECIAL EVENT**

**6.30pm-8pm**

**PORTOBELLO BOOK SHOP**

The Portobello Bookshop hosts prize-winning Edinburgh poet

**Michael Pederson** who will talk about his recent work including his collection *Oyster*.

**FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER**

**SCHOOLS**

**BRUNSTANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Author event with **Justin Davies**

**DUDDINGSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Author event with **Lindsay Littleson**

**ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Author event with **Janis Mackay**

**TOWERBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Author event with **Gill Arbuthnott**

\*\*\* SCHOOL EVENTS FOR PUPILS ONLY \*\*\*

**2.00-3.00pm**

**JAMESON GATE**

**WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?**

**Sara Sheridan** is a successful novelist, activist, feminist and perfumer. In this session she shares an insight into her work and talks about her latest book *Where are the Women?: A Guide to Imagined Scotland* exploring beyond the traditional male-dominated history and heritage of Scotland.

Chair: **Viv Cree**

**8.00-10.30pm**

**LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS**

**OPENING EVENT: FIRST WORDS.... LAST LINES**

This cabaret-style event, hosted by **David Francis**, features local composer/musician **Gareth Williams**, writer and storyteller **James Spence** and performance poets **Jo McFarlane** and **Alex Callaghan** who will entertain us with their take on the theme "First words .... last lines".

\*\*\*REFRESHMENTS\*\*\*

## SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER

### 11.00am-1.00pm PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH CAFÉ WRITING WORKSHOP

Writing workshop open to writers of all abilities and all styles. Come and flex your writing muscles in the company of other local writers and writing enthusiasts. Led by local nature and travel writer **J L Hall**.

### 11.00am-12.00noon LIBRARY UPSTAIRS SCOTTISH PLANT LORE.

Who would have guessed a humble cabbage was used to treat scurvy or that the taxonomic name for the thistle - Scotland's iconic emblem - means something like 'donkey's fart'? **Greg Kenicer**, botanist at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and author of the beautifully presented *Scottish Plant Lore: An Illustrated Guide* reveals much more about our ancient and modern Scottish flora.

Chair: **George Anderson**

### 11.00am-12.00noon PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH HALL EDINBURGH: NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE

**Sam McColl** and **Alex Brown** talk about the Edinburgh portrayed in their novels *Call Billy!* and *Hit Me*. Complex characters and gritty story lines draw us into a city that's both flawed and raw.

Chair: **Paul Hudson**

### 11.30am-12.00noon LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS BOOKBUG returns to the Book Festival for fun, songs and rhymes.

### 12.30-1.30pm LIBRARY UPSTAIRS REWILDING THE YOUNG

**Alan Hepburn** is a local teacher and Education Director of SCOTLAND: The Big Picture. Their latest publication is *Scotland: A Rewilding Journey*. He is a passionate advocate of reconnecting young people with nature and will talk about inspiring and informing the next generation of rewilders.

Chair: **Rona Gray**

### 12.30-1.30pm PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH HALL CRIME FICTION: PAST AND PRESENT

**Emma Salisbury** writes crime novels set in present day Edinburgh and Salford while **Harriet Smart's** *Northminster Mysteries* are set in the mid-1800s. Join them as they discuss the similarities and differences between historical and contemporary crime fiction.

Chair: **Caroline Dunford**

### 2.00-3.00pm PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH CAFÉ FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ACROSS BORDERS

Writers around the world are censored, imprisoned, even murdered for speaking out. **Scottish PEN** brings together leading writers to read work that people have tried to silence, standing in solidarity with at-risk writers across the globe.

### 2.00-3.00pm LIBRARY UPSTAIRS THE SPIRIT OF THE HEBRIDES

Photographer **Alastair Jackson** and poet Kenneth Steven have collaborated on their recently published book, *The Spirit of the Hebrides*. Their words and images have been inspired by renowned Gaelic poet Sorley MacLean, who was a native of Skye and Raasay. Alastair shares his thoughts on how MacLean's poetry has influenced the ideas for the book.

Chair: **Peter Ross**

**2.00-3.00pm**                      **PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH HALL PROFESSOR WHO?**

**Melissa Terras**, Professor of Digital Cultural Heritage at The University of Edinburgh, discusses her book *Picture-Book Professor* with **Edward Ross**, graphic novelist and creator of *Filmish*. This in-conversation event explores issues around representation of academics and scientists in children's books and culture at large, and how they affect our attitudes towards expertise, science and knowledge.

**3.30-4.30pm**                      **LIBRARY UPSTAIRS**

**A DOCTOR'S NOTES ON MEDICINE AND HUMAN CHANGE**

**Gavin Francis's** fascination with the human body and Antarctica has been expressed in award winning *Adventures in Human Being*, *Empire Antarctica* and *Shapeshifters*. He contributes to *London Review of Books* and *The New York Review of Books* among others.

Chair: **Professor John Gillies**

**3.30-4.30pm**                      **PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH HALL**

**DARK SECRETS**

**Lisa Ballantyne**, author of *Little Liar*, and **Sandra Ireland**, author of *The Unmaking of Ellie Rook*, talk about how they work with the darker side of life to create compelling characters and intriguing plots in their novels.

Chair: **Lesley Kelly**

**3.30-4.30pm**                      **PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH CAFÉ**

**DISPLACED DISHES**

Come and hear the story of the Samos refugee camp and the inspiring story of how recipes from home can provide a vital lifeline of hope. **Pamela Gregory** and **Gica Loening** discuss their experiences in the camp and how the recipe book emerged.

**5.30-6.30pm**                      **LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS**

**TALKING CRIME**

Best-selling crime novelists **Ian Rankin** and **Doug Johnstone** in conversation. Ian's latest book *In A House of Lies* and Doug's *Breakers* have both had rave reviews. This promises to be a lively and entertaining event as both writers share a fascination for music and the darker side of Edinburgh.

**8.00-10.00pm**                      **DALRIADA**

**BOOK QUIZ**

No ticket required/£1 entry

**SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER**

**11.00am-12.00noon**                      **LIBRARY UPSTAIRS**

**ARE WE THERE YET?**

The road to equality for Scottish women writers. How far along are we? A panel discussion looking at this question from different perspectives with writer and biographer **Jenni Calder**, novelist **Regi Claire** and Professor of Publishing Studies at the University of Stirling **Claire Squires**.

**11.00am-12.00noon**                      **LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS**

**VIVID REBELLION: TALKING SENSE**

This session gives an opportunity to hear authors **Edward McLaughlin** and **Agnes Houston** discuss their writing on dementia. Edward's book *Vivid Rebellion* cuts through any assumptions that a diagnosis of the condition signals an automatic loss of personality and agency, while Agnes's *Talking Sense* overturns the longstanding conventional wisdom that dementia is primarily about memory.

Chair: **Christeen Winford**

12.30-1.30pm

LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS

**WHEN I HAD A LITTLE SISTER**

**Catherine Simpson's** 'tormented, riveting and bleakly funny memoir' is the subject of this session in which local readers, including book groups, meet the author.

Chair: **Jane Meagher**

12.30-1.30pm

LIBRARY UPSTAIRS

**JOCK'S JOCKS: VOICES OF SCOTTISH SOLDIERS FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

North East folksinger Jock Duncan spent over 50 years interviewing 'the Jocks' – Scottish veterans of the Great War. Jock's labour of love is a unique glimpse into the lives of those who left the farms of Aberdeenshire, Angus and Perthshire for France, Flanders and the shores of Gallipoli. **Gary West**, who edited the collection, shares these fascinating tales.

Chair: **James Robertson**

2.00-3.00pm

LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS

**MEET THE AUTHOR: MICHEL FABER**

**Michel Faber** has written nine books including Whitbread-shortlisted *Under the Skin*, the highly acclaimed *The Crimson Petal and the White*, *The Book of Strange New Things*, which won the 2015 Saltire Book of the Year, and most recently *Undying*, his first poetry collection.

Chair: **Donald Canavan**

2.00-3.20pm

LIBRARY UPSTAIRS

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLISHING**

Respected magazine and newspaper designer **Neil Braidwood** explores the changing face of publishing. He is joined by author and self-publisher of *The Blue Suitcase* **Marianne Wheelaghan** and **Nathaniel Kunitzsky** of Knight Errant Press who work with queer and under-represented writers to publish intersectional stories.

3.30-4.30pm

LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS

**FINDING OUT THE REST: THE REDISCOVERY OF SCOTTISH HISTORY**

History is a mirror we hold up to our present selves. **James Robertson** considers how our view of Scotland's past has changed in recent years and what influence that has on the way we see the country today.

Chair: **Jenni Calder**

4.45-6.15pm

LIBRARY UPSTAIRS

**SHIFTING SANDS? MAKING CHANGE MAKE SENSE**

How are the conventional thinking and the orthodoxies of the past being challenged and changed in the contemporary world? How can we be sure about anything anymore? Three academics address these questions from the perspective of their own disciplines and research: **Lesley McAra**, Professor of Penology and Director of Edinburgh Futures Institute, University of Edinburgh; **Brendan McGeever**, Lecturer, Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London;

**Arek Dakessian**, Research Fellow, Institute for Global Health and Development, Queen Margaret University

Chair: **Ian Martin**

**VENUES:**

**PORTOBELLO LIBRARY**

14 Rosefield Avenue, EH15 1AU

**PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH HALL**

189 Portobello High Street, EH15 1EU

**JAMESON GATE**

17 – 21 Portobello High Street, EH15 1DW

**DALRIADA**

77 Promenade, EH15 2EL

**THE PORTOBELLO BOOKSHOP**

46 Portobello High Street, EH15 1DA

Books by participating authors will be available from  
**BLACKWELL'S BOOKSHOP BOOKSTALLS**

Tickets for all events can be collected in person from Portobello Library from 2nd September. Some tickets will be available at venues 15 minutes before events.

**PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL**

is organised by local enthusiasts and Portobello Library.  
If you have ideas or would like to be involved, please contact:  
[portobellobookfestival@gmail.com](mailto:portobellobookfestival@gmail.com)