



# WIGTOWN BOOK FESTIVAL

23 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2022



**A 10-DAY  
CELEBRATION**

in Scotland's  
National Book Town

SUPPORTED BY

YEAR OF  
STORIES  
— 2022 —

# WELCOME TO WIGTOWN

For 10 days each autumn, a small town in the south-west of Scotland becomes the cultural heart of the nation. With more than 200 events for adults and children, Wigtown Book Festival has a story for everyone. What will yours be?

Encounter bestselling authors including Robert Harris, Lisa Jewell, Jeremy Bowen and Lauren Child. Explore a world of fresh ideas from some of the country's leading writers and thinkers. Soak up the atmosphere of Scotland's National Book Town at festival time, browsing its many bookshops and antiques dealers. Then while away the evening with outdoor cinema, stargazing, dancing or whisky-tasting. Or wind down gently with a cup of cocoa at our nightly Book at Bedtime.

If you've never visited, we'd love you to join us in 2022, and discover what makes Wigtown one of Britain's best-loved festivals and best-kept secrets. And, if you've been before, welcome back. We've missed you.

Adrian Turpin Artistic Director



## 10 THINGS TO DO AT WIGTOWN BOOK FESTIVAL

1 Buy one of the 500,000 books for sale in Scotland's Book Town

2 Learn the story of Lowland whisky at Bladnoch Distillery

3 Enjoy free entertainment and big-screen fun at our outdoor venue, The Gardens

4 Take a selfie with Big Wig, our children's festival's bumbling blue mascot

5 Light up your evening with our opening-night fireworks and pipe band

6 Tap your feet to the beat of the incredible Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

7 Discover the best regional food and crafts at our daily producers' market, The Kist

8 See a show at The Swallow, Scotland's smallest and cosiest theatre

9 Join a literary walk in the spectacular Galloway countryside

10 Meet a bestselling author and get a book signed by them

'The sort of festival people get possessive about' — THE GUARDIAN



FOR OUR FULL PROGRAMME VISIT [WIGTOWNBOOKFESTIVAL.COM](http://WIGTOWNBOOKFESTIVAL.COM)

Opening night fireworks

Festival Ceilidh



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022

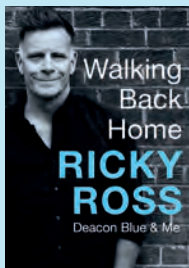


**Shaun Bythell**  
Reminders of the Day  
SUN 24 SEPT

Wigtown bookseller on the new volume of his hilarious diaries.



**Chris Brookmyre**  
The Cliff House  
THU 29 SEPT  
Scotland's funniest crime writer imagines a hen party from hell.



**Ricky Ross**  
Walking Home  
SAT 24 SEPT  
The Deacon Blue legend reveals all about a life in music.

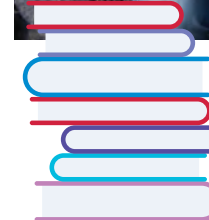
Did you know that 2022 is Scotland's Year of Stories, a nationwide celebration of tales inspired by or created in Scotland?

To mark the occasion, this year's Wigtown Book Festival will showcase some of the nation's most exciting contemporary voices. We'll also explore what makes Scotland's iconic stories special and ask how a small nation on Europe's fringe influenced the world.

Walk in the (39) footsteps of John Buchan; discover the real women behind the legends of Flora Macdonald and Mary, Queen of Scots; and learn about Robert Burns's complicated relationship with America. As ever, Galloway's people, history and landscape are never far away from centre stage. Whether we're reimagining local legends or exploring today's rural life, we'll be finding the universal story in the local.

So, wherever you come from, make Wigtown Book Festival part of your story in 2022.

SUPPORTED BY  
**YEAR OF STORIES**  
2022



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**'Worth getting to, Wigtown is a literary traveller's Elysium'**

— NEW YORK TIMES

A YEAR OF STORIES

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022



**Stuart Cosgrove**  
Hey America!  
TUE 27 SEPT  
History of Black US music from the radio personality.



**Andrew Cotter**  
Dog Days  
FRI 30 SEPT  
A lockdown internet sensation brings more canine tales.



**Jeremy Bowen**  
The Making of the Modern Middle East  
SAT 1 OCT  
Veteran BBC Middle East editor shares his vast experience.

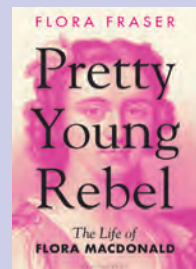


# A TOWN OF BOOKS



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022



**Flora Fraser**  
**Pretty Young Rebel**  
 SUN 2 OCT  
 The unlikely life of Bonnie Prince Charlie's saviour revisited.



**Gavin Barwell**  
**Chief of Staff**  
 SAT 1 OCT  
 Insider's account of No10 from Theresa May's right-hand man.



**Anna Reid**  
**Borderland**  
 WED 28 SEPT  
 Fascinating journey through Ukraine's history from a former Kyiv correspondent.



**W**igtown has a special place in Scotland's cultural life. In 1997, a call went out for candidates to become Scotland's National Book Town, on the model of Hay-on-Wye in Wales. After a fierce competition, the Royal Burgh was given the title. The award was crucial in helping reverse years of decline following the closure of two major local employers, the Creamery and Bladnoch Distillery (happily since reopened).

This tiny historic town of just under 1000 people has become home to more than a dozen booksellers and a destination for booklovers drawn to its atmospheric shops, unspoilt environment and autumn festival.

Lately, the Book Town has even spawned its own literature, including Shaun Bythell's bestselling *Diary of a Bookseller*, which describes life running Wigtown's largest secondhand bookshop alongside Captain the bookshop cat and a cast of eccentrics.



**'Wigtown Book Festival is a fantastic event on the literary calendar'**

— NICOLA STURGEON



**Clive Stafford Smith**  
**The Far Side of the Moon**  
 SAT 24 SEPT  
 The acclaimed Death Row lawyer on his moving new memoir.



**Sarah Churchillwell**  
**The Wrath To Come**  
 SAT 1 OCT  
 Acclaimed cultural historian on *Gone with the Wind's* legacy.



**Roopa Farooki**  
**Everything is True**  
 SUN 2 OCT  
 Powerful memoir of a doctor's life on the NHS frontline in Covid.



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The Bookshop



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022



**John Boyne**  
**All the Broken Places**  
 SAT 24 SEPT  
 Adult sequel to the smash-hit *Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*.



**Estelle Paranque**  
**Blood, Fire & Gold**  
 SUN 25 SEPT  
 Friends, rivals, rulers – the true story of Elizabeth I and Catherine de Medici.

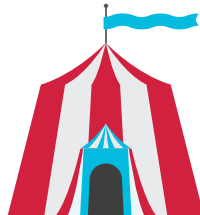


**Rebecca Lowe**  
**The Slow Road to Tehran**  
 SUN 25 SEPT  
 One woman's extraordinary bike ride through Europe and the Middle East.



**'Wigtown is one of Scotland's best-loved festivals'**

— SCOTTISH FIELD



It's never too early to read, and Wigtown Book Festival has always been a family affair. Join us on the weekends for a children's programme packed with author events and free creative activities.

We're delighted that *Charlie and Lola* creator Lauren Child will kick off proceedings on Saturday 24 September. She's among a host of top authors and illustrators including David Melling, Lari Don, Petr Horáček and Dr Punam Krishan.

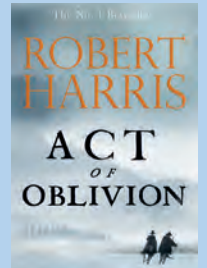
Blue Peter Book Award-winner Vashti Hardy helps you create a fantasy world, while author and astronomer Annaliese Avery hosts a stargazing party. And, to chill out, there's family yoga with the popular YogaShona. Overseeing it all will be our lovable mascot Big Wig, who is holding a free garden party on Sunday 2 October. If you see him, give him a high five! For more details, and listings for our separate young adults programme, see our website.



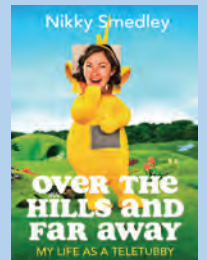
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A FAMILY AFFAIR

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022



**Robert Harris**  
**Act of Oblivion**  
 TUE 27 SEPT  
 The bestselling thriller writer tackles the murder of Charles I.



**Nikky Smedley**  
**Over the Hills and Far Away**  
 SUN 25 SEPT  
 A former Teletubby reveals the secrets of life inside the suit.



**Graham McTavish**  
**Clanlands**  
 FRI 30 SEPT  
 The *Outlander* star talks Scottish history and Highland hi-jinks.





The Bookshop Band



**‘Wigtown Festival caters for an immense range of tastes’**

— GAVIN HASTINGS

**S**tories come in many forms. Performance is a big part of Wigtown Book Festival. In 2022, we host three concerts to mark Scotland’s Year of Stories. After a decade away, we welcome the incredible Scottish Fiddle Orchestra; composer Gareth Williams’ *Songs from the Last Page* mixes classical music and pop to riff off the last lines of well-known Scottish books; while The Bookshop Band explore classic children’s literature.

We’re excited about *The Bookshop Untold*, our new show that playfully explores the life of Sir Walter Scott. And check out the Swallow Theatre – Scotland’s smallest! – which hosts two shows inspired by Dorothy Wordsworth and Gulliver’s *Travels*. It’s a beautiful place. There’ll also be stand-up, performance poetry and a range of classic films at our outdoor cinema space in The Gardens. Bring a blanket!



The Swallow Theatre



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022



**Darren McGarvey**  
**The Social Distance Between Us**  
SUN 25 SEPT  
Orwell Prizewinning rapper and writer reflects on social inequality.



**Hannah Jackson**  
**Call Me Red**  
SAT 24 SEPT  
TV’s Red Shepherdess on her journey from town to country.



**Chitra Ramaswamy**  
**Homelands**  
SAT 1 OCT  
How the daughter of Indian immigrants and a refugee from Nazism became friends.



### An affordable festival

We know everyone’s feeling the pinch, so we’ve tried to keep ticket prices as low as possible for 2022 and to provide a host of free entertainment and activities, especially in our outdoor venue, The Gardens. We offer concessions for students and the unemployed, while under 26s can attend adult and young adult events for free. To mark Year of Stories 2022, for the first time we’re offering more than a dozen Pay What You Can events, showcasing exciting voices, new and old, from around Scotland.

### Accessibility

We aim to be an accessible festival for all. To download our accessibility guide please go to <https://wigtownbookfestival.com/visit/accessibility>.

### Visitor information

For information about staying, including accommodation and transport, look at the following websites:  
[www.visitsouthwestscotland.com](http://www.visitsouthwestscotland.com)  
[www.wigtownbookfestival.com](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com)  
[www.scotlandstartshere.com](http://www.scotlandstartshere.com)

### Our full programme

This leaflet offers only an overview of more than 200 events over 10 days. To see the full list of who is appearing and detailed event descriptions, please go to [wigtownbookfestival.com](http://wigtownbookfestival.com), or scan the QR code below. A printed schedule of all events will be available on site and in the run up to the festival.

### Streaming

We will be livestreaming a selection of events from this year’s festival. Find out what’s on and how to watch from 15 August on our website.

### Venues

Wigtown is a small town and most key venues are within short walking distance. Where events take place outside town we provide the postcode for your sat nav.



Wigtown is in the Machars peninsula in Dumfries & Galloway, south-west Scotland. Journey time is approximately 2 1/2 hours from Glasgow and 3 hours from Edinburgh, with the nearest railway stations at Barrhill (from Glasgow and Ayr), Dumfries (from Carlisle) and Lockerbie (from Edinburgh).

### BOOKING INFORMATION

The easiest way to book is online at [wigtownbookfestival.com](http://wigtownbookfestival.com). But we also welcome bookings by phone or in person at our office.

### By phone

During office hours:  
Tel 01988 403222

### In person

At our box office:  
11 North Main Street  
Wigtown  
DG8 9HN

### Opening hours

In advance of the festival:  
**Mon-Sat 9am-5pm,**  
**Sun 10am-4pm**  
During the festival:  
**Daily 9am-6.30pm**

### Online booking

Via our website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [wigtownbookfestival.com](http://wigtownbookfestival.com)

Payment can be made by:  
**CASH, CHEQUE, CREDIT/DEBIT CARD**



### 2022 brochure

Design & cover artwork  
**Krista Robertson**  
Photography  
**Colin Tennant**  
**Ruari Barber-Fleming**  
Festival logo **Lucy Roscoe**

Charity No. SC037984



Scan here for booking



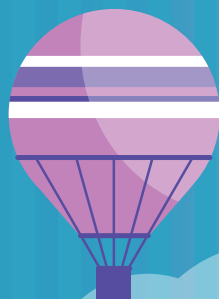
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 Wigtown Book Festival



‘A feast of delights’  
— THE DAILY RECORD



‘Hugely popular’  
— THE SCOTTISH SUN

