

# ULLAPOOL BOOK FESTIVAL 2017

5-7 MAY



[www.ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk](http://www.ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk)

# WELCOME

## Welcome to Ullapool Book Festival 2017!

Our honorary president Louise Welsh finishes her three year term at the end of the festival. She has been a wonderful support and we are all hugely grateful for all she has done for us. Our warm thanks also go to Zoe Strachan who has enthusiastically supported Louise's presidency.



Louise Welsh  
*credit: Steve Lindridge*

# **GUESTS**

**Dorothy Alexander**

**David Alston**

**Graeme Macrae Burnet**

**Chris Dolan**

**Gavin Francis**

**Martin Cathcart Froden**

**Harry Giles**

**A.L. Kennedy**

**Paul MacAlindin**

**Brian MacLeod**

**Hollie McNish**

**Val McDermid**

**Donald Meek**

**Don Paterson**

**James Robertson**

**Allyson Stack**

**Michael Winter**

**Moniack Mhor Prize-winners**

**Cask Strength Ceilidh Band**

ALL SESSIONS ( EXCEPT THE ANYTHING BUT BOOKS QUIZ) WILL  
BE HELD IN ULLAPOOL VILLAGE HALL - IN THE MAIN HALL  
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

## FRIDAY 5 MAY DIHAOINE 5 CÈITEAN

### 10<sup>am</sup> WELCOME by LOUISE WELSH

followed by

### JAMES ROBERTSON

James Robertson is a writer of fiction, a poet, translator and publisher. His latest novel, *To Be Continued*, is partly set in the West Highlands and has been described in reviews as ‘a surreal, warm-hearted romp’ and an ‘absurdist Caledonian caper’.

Chaired by Stuart Kelly

£8

*Sponsored by The Ceilidh Place*

### 11.30<sup>am</sup> PAUL MACALINDIN

Paul MacAlindin is the author of *Upbeat: The Story of the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq*. He was its musical director from its beginning in 2008 to its end five years later. The NYOI came through the most difficult and dangerous of times to produce fine music not only in Iraq but also in Britain, Germany and France. A beacon of hope and achievement the young musicians and their tutors built bridges across their ethnic divisions and made great music in the most trying and tragic of circumstances.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

£8

### 2<sup>pm</sup> CHRIS DOLAN

Chris Dolan is a writer of considerable talent- playwright, novelist, biographer, poet, and songwriter. Recently he has turned to crime or rather, to writing about crime, with his two Maddy Shannon novels *Potter's Field* and *Lies Of The Land*. “A gorgeous new voice in Tartan Noir” – Denise Mina

Chaired by David Robinson

£8

### 3.30<sup>pm</sup> **HARRY GILES**

Harry Giles is an acclaimed performer and poet who was brought up in Orkney. He has been shortlisted for two major literary prizes with his first collection *Tonguit* – the Forward Poetry Prize Best First Collection award and the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award. He was BBC Scotland Slam Champion in 2009. “*Harry Giles’s Tonguit employs what he calls a ‘mongrel and magpie’ Scots to subversive ends. Political power needs a language; language hardens round it. Harry’s Scots and English poems are jinky acts of resistance and clever fun.*” Kathleen Jamie in SRB Picks of the Year.

Chaired by Peggy Hughes

**£8**

### 6.30<sup>pm</sup> **A.L. KENNEDY**

A. L. Kennedy has twice been selected as one of Granta’s Best of Young British Novelists and has won a host of other awards – including the Costa Book of the Year for her novel *Day*. Her latest novel *Serious Sweet*, longlisted for the 2016 Man Booker Prize, is set in London and is set in the course of a single day. “*Serious Sweet is a magnificent novel, showing Kennedy at the very top of her game.*” Rebecca Abrams in Financial Times.

Chaired by Stuart Kelly

**£8**

*An Open University in Scotland event*

### 8<sup>pm</sup> **HOLLIE MCNISH**

She will perform poems, read from and chat honestly and openly about her latest book, *Nobody Told Me*. The book is a unique blend of poetry and storytelling, taken straight from Hollie’s personal diaries. As she says herself ‘it is not a polished collection’; rather, it is a very candid, at times gutting, at others hilarious, look at her experiences from pregnancy to the pre-school drop off. Expect strong language as she talks colours, cravings, politics, transformers, sex, tree-climbing, feeding, train journeys, lots and lots of love and occasionally locking herself in toilets to cry a little.

Chaired by Jenny Niven

**£8**

**9.45<sup>pm</sup> -  
12.15<sup>am</sup>**

## **CASK STRENGTH CEILIDH BAND**

Join us at a dance with the brilliant Cask Strength Ceilidh Band. Don't know the dances? Don't worry; there will be a caller to talk you through them.

*Enjoy a free taste of food at the interval. Smoked salmon from Wester Ross Fisheries, smoked cheese from Ullapool Smokehouse and oatcakes from Paterson Arran Ltd.*

**£8**

Tickets need to be bought in advance for the dance. NO tickets will be on sale at the door.

# **SATURDAY 6 MAY DISATHAIRNE 6 CÈITEAN**

**9.15<sup>am</sup> -  
9.45<sup>am</sup>**

## **BRIAN MACLEOD**

*committee room*

*Where I Eat My Bread.* Brian MacLeod has gathered together stories on in-migration to the Highlands and Islands. First-hand accounts by people who are part of the continuing and constant flow of humanity into new lands across borders and cultures.

**Free**

**10<sup>am</sup>**

## **DAVID ALSTON**

Almost twenty years ago David Alston began to research the involvement of Highland Scots in the slave plantations of the Caribbean. He is now one among a growing number of Scottish historians to acknowledge and explore Scotland's connections to slavery and the slave trade. In 2015 he was a contributor to *Remembering Scotland's Slavery Past* (edited by Tom Devine) - the first book to explore this subject in depth.

Chaired by Louise Welsh

**£8**

\*Free coffee and morning roll will be served from **9am until 9.30am** in the marquee beside the hall on production of a ticket for the 10am session.

11.30<sup>am</sup>

## GAVIN FRANCIS

Gavin Francis is a writer and doctor, author of *True North, Empire Antarctica, and Adventures in Human Being* (2015). His books have been awarded prizes in the Scottish Book Awards, Saltire Awards, and BMA book awards. “That *Adventures in Human Being* is an astonishing, moving and enchanting book can be explained in part by Francis’s unique range of experience, his erudition and enthusiasm; but his principal virtue might be the humility he brings to his task.” John Burnside in *The New Statesman*  
Chaired by Ruth Wishart

£8

*Sponsored by Ullapool Bookshop*

2<sup>pm</sup>

## MICHAEL WINTER

This year’s Canadian writer Michael Winter has published two collections of stories, five novels, and one work of non-fiction. He has won the CBC short story contest and is the only writer ever to win the Notable Author Award, given out by the Writers Trust. His novel, *Minister Without Portfolio*, was a Canada Reads finalist and he’s been twice nominated for the Giller Prize. His most recent book, *Into the Blizzard*, sets out to retrace the steps of the Newfoundland Regiment during the First World War. “His lyrical writing and attention to detail are at their peak . . . [with] powerful imagery and detailed portraits of fragile human beings. As much as Winter may decry the war itself, he is ferociously proud of those who ‘faced the blizzard of machine-gun fire with their chins tucked into an advanced shoulder.’ Winter asks us never to lose sight of their lives, no matter how short or apparently inconsequential.” Quill and Quire  
Chaired by David Robinson

£8

*Sponsored by Canadian Studies at the University of Strathclyde*



David  
Alston



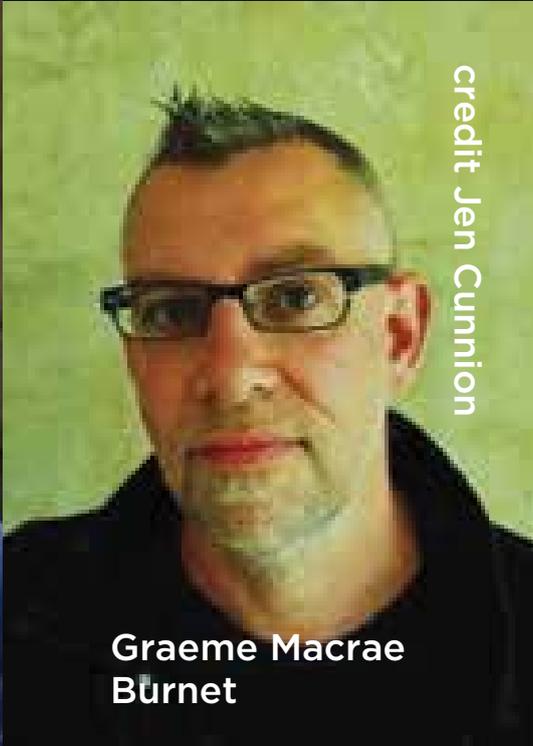
Dorothy  
Alexander



Martin Gathcart  
Froden



A. L.  
Kennedy

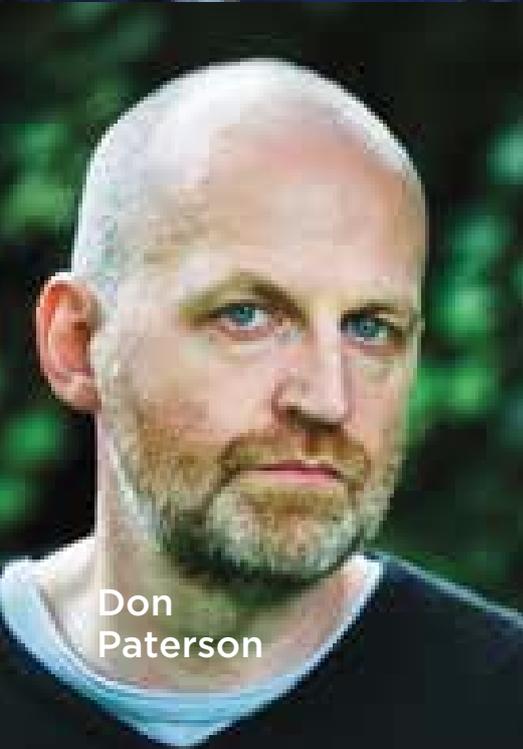


Graeme Macrae  
Burnet

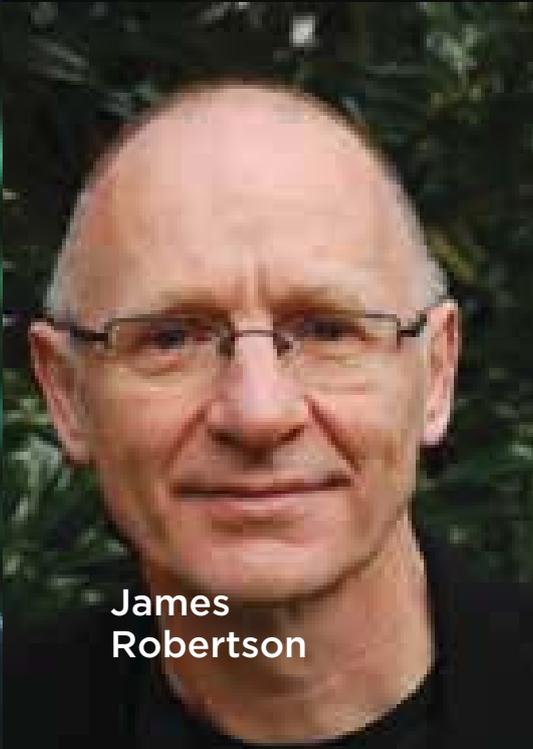
credit Jen Cunnion



Paul  
MacAlindin



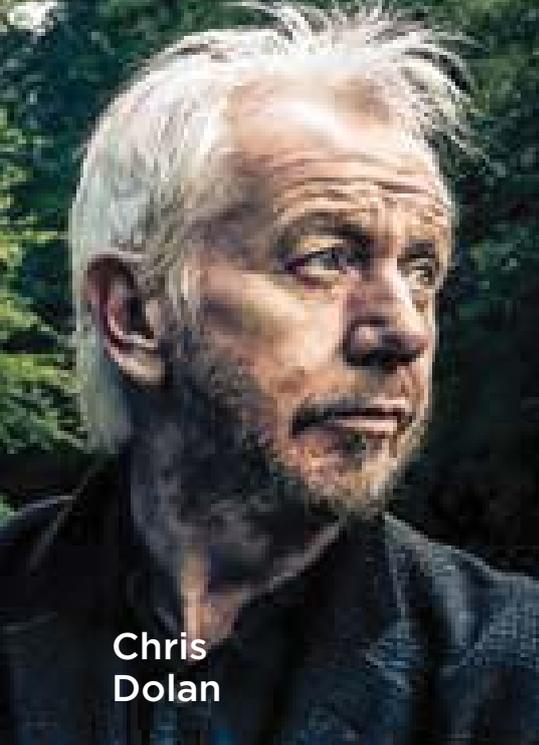
Don  
Paterson



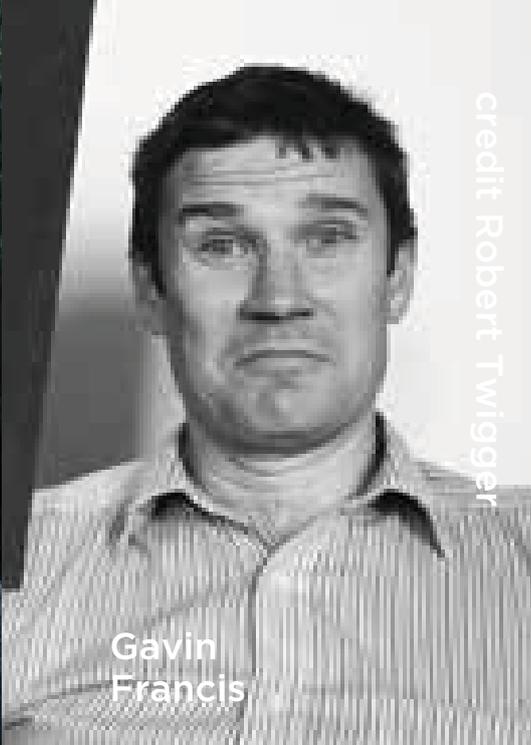
James  
Robertson



Allyson  
Stack



Chris  
Dolan

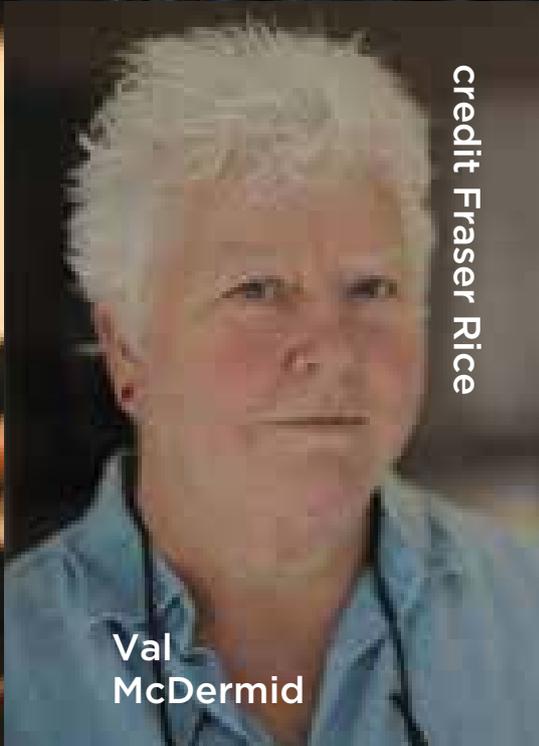


Gavin  
Francis



Harry  
Giles

credit Chris Scott



Val  
McDermid

credit Fraser Rice



Hollie  
McNish



Donald  
Meek



Michael  
Winter

# ULLAPOOL BOOK FESTIVAL 2017

### 3.30<sup>pm</sup> **DONALD MEEK**

Donald E. Meek is a native of Tiree, but spent most of his professional life on the Scottish mainland, teaching Celtic languages and literatures at the universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, latterly as a Professor at Aberdeen (1993-2001) and Edinburgh (2002-8). He has published many books and articles, and holds the degree of Doctor of Letters of both Glasgow and Cambridge. His first book of Gaelic verse, *Sreathan anns a' Ghainmhich* ('Lines in the Sand'), was published by Acair in January this year, and an English volume will follow. *This session will be in Gaelic. Non-Gaelic speakers will not miss out as there will be simultaneous translation into English through individual headsets.*

Translation by Mòrag Stiùbhart (Morag Stewart)  
Chaired by Mark Wringe

**£8**

*A Bòrd na Gàidhlig event*

### 6.30<sup>pm</sup> **DON PATERSON**

Don Paterson's previous poetry collections include *Nil Nil*, *God's Gift to Women*, *Landing Light* and *Rain*. He has also published two books of aphorisms as well as translations of Antonio Machado and Rainer Maria Rilke. His poetry has won many awards, including the Whitbread Poetry Prize, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and all three Forward Prizes. He is currently the only poet to have won the T. S. Eliot Prize twice. He was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2009. He is Professor of Poetry at the University of St Andrews, and since 1997 he has been poetry editor at Picador Macmillan. *40 Sonnets* won the 2016 Costa Prize for Poetry.

Chaired by Stuart Kelly

**£8**

8<sup>pm</sup> -  
9.30<sup>pm</sup>

## **FORGOTTEN HISTORIES, COMPELLING STORIES**

Dorothy Alexander, Martin Cathcart Froden and Allyson Stack are all debut novelists published by Freight Books. Here they discuss their books (*The Mauricewood Devils*, *Devil take the Hindmost*, *Under the Heartless Blue*) and their route to publication.

Chaired by Adrian Searle and Zoe Strachan.

**£8**

*On the way in enjoy a dram of The Singleton, finest Ross-shire malt whisky from Glen Ord Distillery*

10.15<sup>pm</sup> -  
10.45<sup>pm</sup>

## **ANYTHING BUT BOOKS QUIZ**

*The Ceilidh Place café/bar*

A light-hearted quiz in which a team of 4 UBF committee/volunteers take on a team of 4 writers/chairs. There will be NO literary questions!

# **SUNDAY 7 MAY**

# **DIDÒMHNAICH 7 CÈITEAN**

9.15<sup>am</sup> -  
9.45<sup>am</sup>

## **MONIACK MHOR PRIZEWINNERS**

*committee room*

Our friends at Moniack Mhor, Scotland's creative writing centre, have established several writing awards. Some of their prizewinners will be reading from their work today.

**Free**

10<sup>am</sup>

## **VAL MCDERMID**

Val McDermid is a best selling author whose novels have been translated into more than thirty languages, and have sold over fifteen million copies. She has won many international awards, including the CWA Gold Dagger for best crime novel of the year and the LA Times Book of the Year Award. In 2016, Val received the Outstanding Contribution to Crime Fiction Award at the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her latest novel is *Out of Bounds*.

Chaired by Peggy Hughes

**£8**

**11.30<sup>am</sup>**

**GRAEME MACRAE BURNET**

Graeme is one of Scotland's brightest literary talents. His second novel, *His Bloody Project*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016 and won the Saltire Society Fiction Book of the Year 2016. The year is 1869. A brutal triple murder in a remote community in the Scottish Highlands leads to the arrest of a young man by the name of Roderick Macrae. *"Spellbinding... Riveting, dark and ingeniously constructed."* - Sunday Times  
Chaired by Mark Wringe

**£8**

*Sponsored by Ullapool Harbour Trust*

## **TICKETING INFORMATION**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE AT 9AM ON FRIDAY 24 MARCH**

### **WEEKEND TICKET TIOGAID DEIREADH-SHEACHDAIN**

A small number of weekend passes are available for £95. These give admission to all events.

**Available only until 4 April - or earlier if sold out.**

### **TICKETS ON SALE TIOGAIDEAN GAN REIC A-NIS**

**From Friday 24 March 2017**

#### **ONLINE**

[www.ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk](http://www.ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk)

#### **OR**

##### **IN PERSON ONLY AT:**

Ullapool Bookshop, Quay Street and The Ceilidh Place Bookshop, West Argyle Street.

#### **OR**

##### **BY POST FROM:**

Ullapool Book Festival, 33 Seaforth Road, Ullapool IV26 2UY  
(cheques made payable to Ullapool Book Festival. **Please enclose s.a.e.**)  
If booking by post please give a contact phone number in case of an event being sold out.

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE CHECK THE START TIME ON YOUR TICKET**

### **LATECOMERS**

Latecomers cause disruption to authors and audience members and will not be admitted after the start of the session. Please make sure you arrive in time to be seated by the start time on your ticket. No refunds will be given to latecomers.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

ULLAPOOL MUSEUM will have its trailer in the grounds of the village hall displaying one of its exhibitions.

### **AN TALLA SOLAIS IN THE CALEY *GRAMMAR OF WAVELENGTH***

1st April - 7th May

Works by Christine Morrison and Ian Stephen inspired by their shared journeys, including film, text and painting.

## **CONTACT US CUIRIBH FIOS THUGAINN**

Ullapool Book Festival, 33 Seaforth Road, Ullapool IV26 2UY  
info@ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk  
tel: 07754 835935

## **INFORMATION FIOSRACHADH**

\* **There will be no books for sale at the festival.** However our sponsoring bookshops will stock the writers' books. Buy them there and bring them along for signing. **Support independent bookshops.**  
\* All sessions last approximately 1 hour unless indicated otherwise.

## **ACCOMMODATION ÀITEAN-FUIRICH**

For places to stay in Ullapool and for any other information on the area, visit the website of Welcome Ullapool [www.ullapool.com](http://www.ullapool.com)

## **FOOD BIADH**

Teas/coffees/home baking will be in the marquee alongside the Village Hall by Ullapool Fairtrade Group on Friday and by Ullapool Museum on Saturday. Between the two sessions on Sunday morning Ullapool Book Festival will be serving coffee, tea and their own homemade cakes to raise funds for the festival.

## **ACCESS COTHROM**

Ullapool Village Hall has disabled access and toilets. It also has a hearing loop system. If anyone requires assistance please speak to one of the committee/stewards. If you think you will need any other help contact us beforehand.

## **THANKS TAPADH LEIBH**

Ullapool Book Festival is grateful to the following for their support -

## **FUNDERS LUCHD-MAOINEACHAIDH**

Creative Scotland, The Highland Council, Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

## **SPONSORS URRASAIREAN**

Ullapool Harbour Trust, The Open University in Scotland, The University of Strathclyde, The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool Bookshop, The Ullapool News, Achins Bookshop, The Arch Inn.

## **SPONSORSHIP IN KIND URRASACHD NEO-MHAOINEIL**

Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd, Glen Ord Distillery, Ullapool Smokehouse, Paterson Arran Ltd, CNAG.



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through Creative Scotland



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



Creative Ul'apool

## Ullapool – The Book Festival that Makes a Difference

The opposite of a book festival is not a book-burning, it is indifference. Let them hear us sing the difference. Love's words are louder, brighter than flames. Listen I have watched Love's sweat-earned words plunge readers' hands into soft sweatpalmed lyrical hugs, become part of an always us. I have seen words introduce someone to Love. Love is a work of art. Novel. Novella. Epic. Poem. Story. Love is an inveterate writer of letters, emails and txts. I love Love, whose hair is cut like a haiku, whose mind is epic as a novel, whose hands are bright and restless as a bookmark. I love Love.

Love is an us, Love shows us life is an us. Listen, may this always be the festival that loves to make a difference. This festival reminds us we belong with Love's words which, like village halls and ceilidh places, are physical and inwardly permanent parts of an us. Let us give thanks to that which brought us to an us, let us never forget that the opposite of a book festival is not a book-burning, it is indifference. Let us make a difference.

**Kevin MacNeil**

