

ULLAPOOL BOOK FESTIVAL 2018 11-13 MAY



www.ullapoolbookfestival.co.uk

WELCOME

What an honour and thrill to be asked to welcome you all to the Ullapool Book Festival.

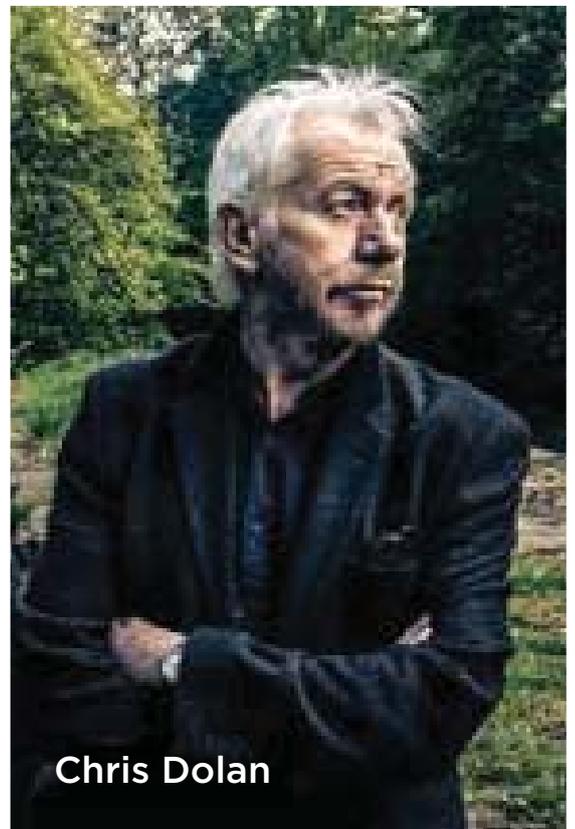
Everybody who has ever been agrees it is wonderful – but what makes it so? Well, yes, it's a perfect setting, it's brilliantly organised, attracts the writers we want to hear and meet, there's music and food, whisky and walks and talk, and dancin'...

But really, I think it's because it is essentially a readers' festival. We love our writers, of course we do – UBF is famed for treating all its guests extremely well. But this isn't a place where audiences sit silently and listen. This is an annual conversation. Conducted over cups and glasses, along the shores of beautiful Loch Broom, in English, Gaelic, Scots, Catalán, between readers and writers of fiction, history, poetry... Every year the Ullapool Confabulation takes a unique shape, formed by everyone there and all that they share.

The Ullapool Book Festival is an increasingly important event. This is a time for books and reflection and dialogue, for considering who we are and looking out into the wider world. All that is available for one – wonderful – weekend in May. Oh, and the home baking's magic an' all.

I can only speak for myself, but every year I come away from Ullapool feeling a little bit better informed, my assumptions challenged and often adjusted, by new friends, new books, new ideas. Which kinda makes up for the hangover and the lack of sleep.

Chris Dolan, honorary president
of Ullapool Book Festival



Chris Dolan

GUESTS

Douglas Dunn
Peter Geoghegan
Mandy Haggith
Jane Harris
David Hayman
Scott Hutchison
William Letford
Ann-Marie MacDonald
Bernard MacLaverty
Muriel Mharie Macleod
James Miller
Denise Mina
Michael Pedersen
Peter Ross
Angus Roxburgh
Ian Stephen
Teresa Solana
John D Urquhart
Olga Wojtas
Cask Strength Ceilidh Band
Stornoway Writers Circle
Catch 23 Wednesday Writers

FRIDAY 11 MAY

DIHAOINE 11 CÈITEAN

10am

WELCOME by **CHRIS DOLAN**, honorary president of Ullapool Book Festival

followed by

ANGUS ROXBURGH

A distinguished journalist and broadcaster, he was *Sunday Times* Moscow correspondent (1987-89), BBC Moscow correspondent (1991-97) and BBC Europe correspondent (1998-2005). From 2006-2009 he was media consultant to the Kremlin, and is now a freelance writer and journalist. He is the author of the acclaimed *The Strongman: Vladimir Putin and the Struggle for Russia* and was consultant on two award-winning BBC documentaries, *The Second Russian Revolution*, and *Putin, Russia and the West*. His latest book is *Moscow Calling – Memoirs of a Foreign Correspondent*.

Chaired by **Ruth Wishart**

£8

11.30am

MANDY HAGGITH AND OLGA WOJTAS

Two writers who have books published in 2018 by the award-winning independent publisher Saraband. Mandy's previous books have won her awards including the Robin Jenkins Literary Award. *The Walrus Mutterer* is the first of her historical novel trilogy set in the Iron Age. Olga's debut novel *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Golden Samovar* is an affectionate homage to Muriel Spark's most famous book.

Chaired by **David Robinson**

£8

2pm

DOUGLAS DUNN

Douglas Dunn has published thirteen collections of poetry with Faber & Faber, the most recent being *The Noise of a Fly*, and three collections of short stories. He has also edited anthologies. From 1991 to 2008 he was Professor of English, University of St Andrews

Chaired by **Stuart Kelly**

£8

3.30pm

MURIEL MHARIE MACLEOD

Muriel Mharie Macleod was born and brought up on The Isle of Lewis. After moving to London, then spending several years living in the Caribbean she graduated in Fine Art. For over twenty years she had a weekly illustration in the Scottish edition of The Times Education Supplement. She was Director of the Fulbright Scholars association in the UK from 2003 till 2012. Her first novel, *What The River Washed Away*, was inspired by her many visits to the USA and the issues around child abuse.

Chaired by **Faith Liddell**

£8

6.30pm

DENISE MINA

She has published 12 novels and also writes short stories, plays and graphic novels. In 2014 she was inducted onto the Crime Writers' Association Hall of Fame. Denise presents TV and radio programmes as well as regularly appearing in the media. Based on true events (Peter Manuel murders and trial), her latest novel *The Long Drop* is an extraordinarily unsettling, evocative and compelling novel from a writer at the height of her power. It was the winner of the 2017 McIlvanney prize for Scottish Crime Book of the Year.

Chaired by **Stuart Kelly**

£8

Sponsored by Ullapool Bookshop

8pm

WILLIAM LETFORD

William Letford's debut collection *Bevel* was published by Carcanet in 2012. He has performed in many countries and venues, both by invitation, and sometimes just for the hell of it. His work has appeared on radio and television and his second full collection *Dirt* was published by Carcanet in 2016.

Chaired by **Faith Liddell**

£8

9.45pm - 12.15am

CASK STRENGTH CEILIDH BAND

Join us for a night on the dance floor 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. (and there might even be some cake!)

£8

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



SATURDAY 12 MAY

DISATHAIRNE 12 CÈITEAN

9am - 9.45am

HIGHLAND BOOK PRIZE

The four short-listed authors for the inaugural Highland Book Prize will read in this showcase session.

Free

10am

JAMES MILLER

James is a freelance writer who has published a number of acclaimed books including *Scapa* and *The Dambuilders*. His latest book (longlisted for the Highland Book Prize) is *The Finest Road in the World - The Story of Travel and Transport in the Scottish Highlands*. It tells the dramatic and sometimes surprisingly humorous story of travel and transport in the Highlands. 'Leavened with vivid anecdotal detail that makes the journey a memorable one' - *The Scotsman*.

Chaired by **Mark Wringe**

£8

Sponsored by Ullapool Harbour Trust

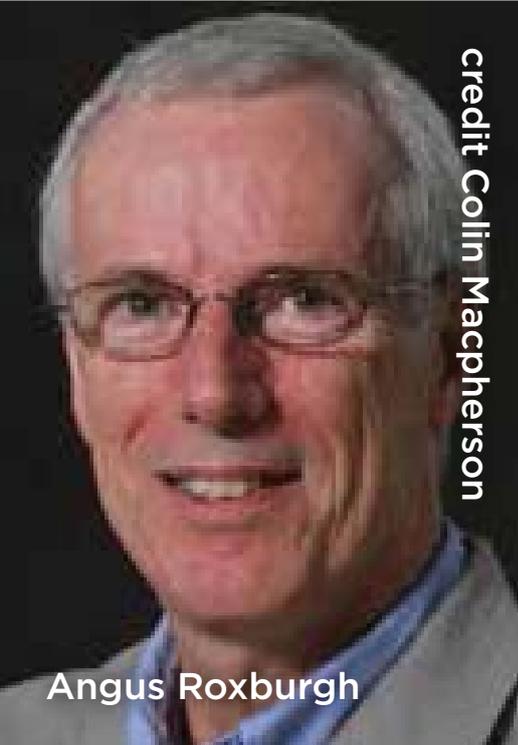
11.30am

JANE HARRIS

Her best-selling debut novel, *The Observations*, was shortlisted for the 2007 Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction, and Jane was also shortlisted for the British Book Awards, Waterstones Newcomer of the Year, and the South Bank Show/Times Breakthrough Award. This was followed in 2011 by *Gillespie & I*, which was shortlisted for Popular Fiction Book of the Year in the Galaxy National Book Awards. *Sugar Money*, Jane's third novel published by Faber and Faber to great critical acclaim in late 2017, is about love, courage and sibling rivalry set in the midst of the horrors of the international slave trade in the mid-1700s.

Chaired by **David Robinson**

£8

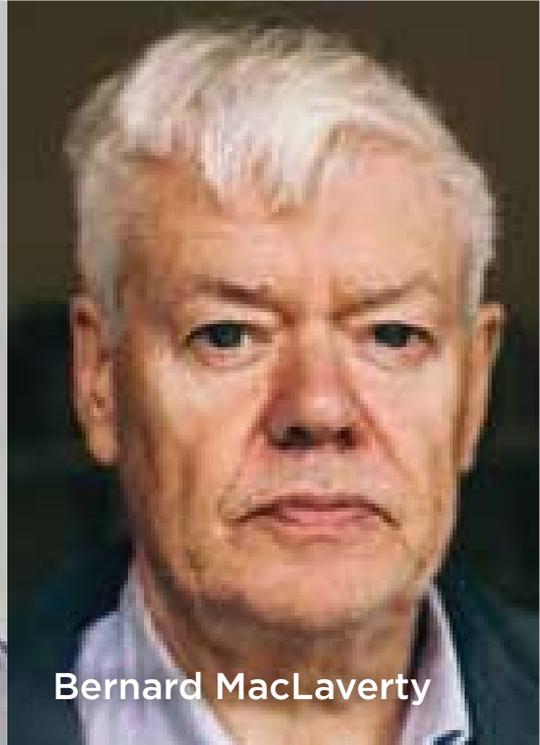


credit Colin Macpherson

Angus Roxburgh



Ann-Marie MacDonald



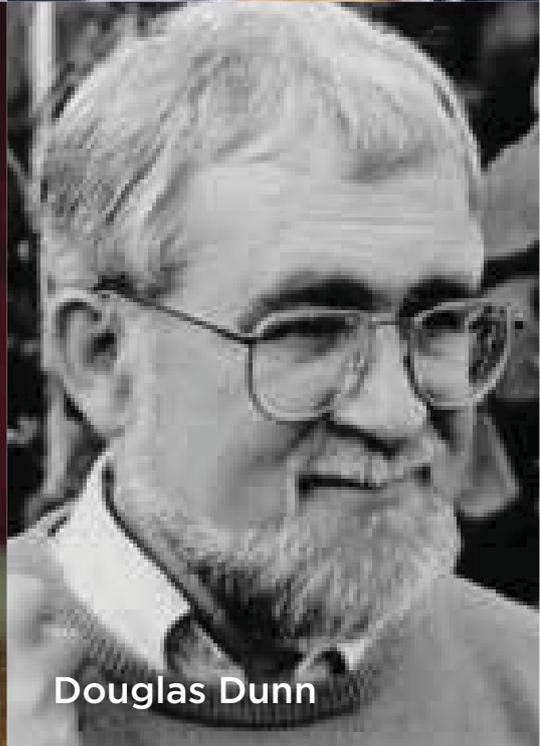
Bernard MacLaverty



David Hayman



Denise Mina



Douglas Dunn



James Miller



Jane Harris



John D Urquhart



Mandy Haggith



Muriel Mharie Macleod



Olga Wojtas

credit Antonia Reeve



Peter Geoghegan



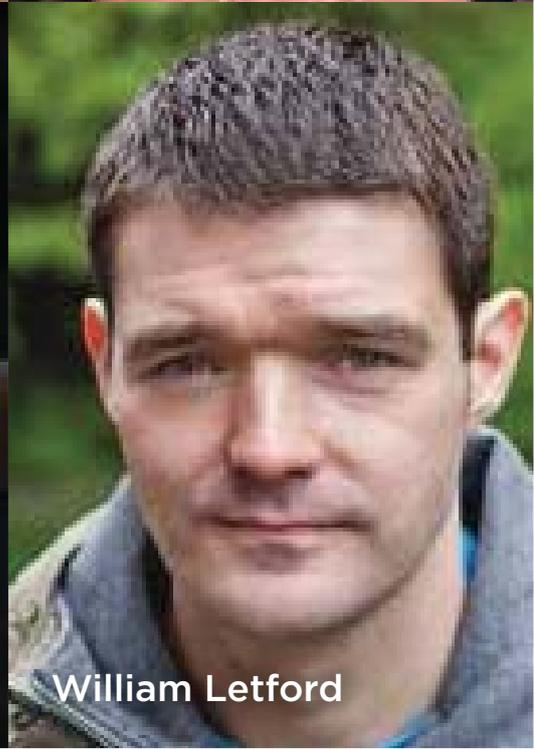
Peter Ross



Teresa Solana



Scott Hutchison and Michael Pedersen



William Letford

2pm

PETER GEOGHEGAN AND PETER ROSS

Peter Geoghegan is an Irish journalist, writer and broadcaster who has lived in Scotland for a decade. He is the founder and co-director of the co-operative investigative platform, The Ferret. Peter has also worked on investigative television programmes for Channel 4 and has reported for numerous outlets including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the London Review of Books, the Guardian, the Evening Standard and the Irish Times. His most recent book *The People's Referendum – Why Scotland Will Never Be the Same Again* was nominated for a Saltire Society award. **Peter Ross** is the author of two non-fiction collections, *Daundlerlust* and *The Passion Of Harry Bingo: Further Dispatches From Unreported Scotland*, which was shortlisted for the 2017 Saltire Society literary prize. He is an Orwell journalism fellow and six-time winner at the Scottish Press Awards. He has written for The Guardian, The Times, National Geographic Traveler and the Boston Review.

Chaired by **Ruth Wishart**

£8

Sponsored by The Open University in Scotland

3.30pm

JOHN D URQUHART AND TERESA SOLANA

This session will be in Gaelic and Catalan with simultaneous translation into English through individual headsets.

Both writers will read from their work and this will be followed by a discussion on writing in minority languages.

John D. Urquhart belongs to Borsham, Isle of Harris. Until he was 15, this little hamlet on the island's rocky East coast, had no electricity, no tap-water nor a tarmac road. However, all its inhabitants spoke Gaelic and so he was schooled in a rich Hebridean culture. A graduate of Glasgow School of Art and Aberdeen University John was licensed for the ministry of the Church of Scotland in 1996 and served in Parish ministry until 2010. Now he presents the BBC's Gaelic programme for learners, 'Beag air Bheag' (Little by Little) and he appears regularly on TV. John lectures at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. His first book of short stories *Breab, Breab, Breab* was published in 2016. John also did the cover's original artwork.

Teresa Solana is a writer and professional translator. She has a philosophy degree from Barcelona University where she also studied a postgraduate course on Classical Philology. She was born in Barcelona

and she and her family moved from Barcelona to Oxford in 2014. In 2006 she published her first novel in Catalan, *A Not So Perfect Crime*, published in English by Bitter Lemon in 2008; this novel was awarded the Brigada 21 Prize for the best noir of the year written in Catalan. Subsequently she published two books of short stories and several novels in Catalan. Some of them have been published in English by Bitter Lemon: *Shortcut to Paradise* (2011) and *The Sound of One Hand Killing* (2013). A new book of short stories, *The First Prehistoric Serial Killer and Other Stories* will be published in English in September 2018 by Bitter Lemon. Her novels and stories have been translated into Spanish, German, Italian, French, Romanian and English. She was short-listed for the Edgar Awards (2013) and for the Goldsboro Last Laugh Award (2014).

Non-Gaelic and non-Catalan speakers will not miss out as there will be simultaneous translation into English through individual headsets.

Gaelic translation by Mòrag Stiùbhart (Morag Stewart),
Catalan translation by Peter Bush

Chaired by **Mark Wringe**

£8

Sponsored by The Ceilidh Place

6.30pm

DAVID HAYMAN

David Hayman is an actor, director and broadcaster. In 2018 David has 3 films and 2 TV series coming out as well as several documentaries. He is working on Scotland's Hidden Shame about our connection to the slave trade and Men of Steel, a feature film on the UCS work-in led by Jimmys Reid and Airlie.

Chaired by **Chris Dolan**

£8

8pm

HIGHLAND BOOK PRIZE

The winner of the inaugural Highland Book Prize, presented by The Highland Society of London, will be announced by the judges. This will be followed by a chaired session with the winning writer.

£8

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

9.30pm

MICHAEL PEDERSEN AND SCOTT HUTCHISON

After a sold out UK mini tour (and a peppering of South Africa dates) prize-winning poet Michael Pedersen & Frightened Rabbit front-man Scott Hutchison bring their OYSTER to Ullapool. Whereas Pedersen is seen to be '*leading the way in new Scottish writing*' (The Scotsman), Frightened Rabbit remains one of the country's most popular and prolific bands. *Oyster* is a new book by Pedersen, illustrated by Hutchison, that springs to life as a live show invoking powerfully performed poems and a choice cut of Frightened Rabbit's hits.

£8

Sponsored by The Arch Inn

SUNDAY 13 MAY

DIDÒMHNAICH 13 CÈITEAN

9.30am - 10am

committee room

STORNOWAY WRITERS CIRCLE and CATCH 23 WEDNESDAY WRITERS

Four writers from two Lewis Writers Groups.

Free

10.15am

ANN-MARIE MACDONALD

Ann-Marie MacDonald is a Canadian author, playwright, and actor. She is best known for her novels, *Adult Onset*, *Fall On Your Knees*, and *The Way the Crow Flies*, as well as her plays, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* and *Belle Moral: A Natural History*. Her work as an actor on stage and screen has earned her a Gemini Award and a Genie Nomination. Her writing has been honoured with numerous awards including the Chalmers, the Dora Mavor Moore, the Governor General's, and the Commonwealth Prize. She hosted CBC Television's *Life and Times* for seven seasons and *Doc Zone* for eight seasons. Ann-Marie was the inaugural Mordecai Richler Reading Room Writer in Residence at Concordia University, and she continues to coach students in the Acting and Playwriting Programs at the National Theatre School.

Chaired by **David Robinson**

£8

11.45am

BERNARD MACLAVERTY

Bernard MacLavery was born in Belfast but now lives in Glasgow. He has written five collections of short stories and five novels. The most recent, *Midwinter Break*, won Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. He has written versions of his fiction for other media – radio and television plays, libretti and screenplays.

Chaired by **Faith Liddell**

£8

Sponsored by Ullapool Harbour Trust

OUTREACH

IAN STEPHEN will be visiting several groups round Ullapool telling stories, reading his poetry – and he might well talk about sailing and the sea as well.

Ian is from the Isle of Lewis. From his student days in Aberdeen he has combined writing poetry, short and long fiction, drama and non-fiction with passing on inherited narratives as spoken stories. His most recent publication *Waypoints – seascapes and stories, Scotland's West Coast* (Bloomsbury) alternates accounts of travels by sea with his retellings of traditional stories linked to the geography observed. It was nominated for the Mountbatten prize for maritime literature, short-listed for a Saltire non-fiction book of the year award and is now long-listed for the Highland Book Prize.



TICKETING INFORMATION

TICKETS GO ON SALE AT 9AM ON FRIDAY 30 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 10 April - or earlier if sold out.**

TICKETS ON SALE TIOGAIDEAN GAN REIC A-NIS

From Friday 30 March 2018

ONLINE

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 the 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.

EXHIBITION

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

Ullapool and the Klondykers

The klondyking era was a unique time in the history of Ullapool and Lochbroom. Between the late 1970s and mid 1990s, flotillas of factory processing ships and their crews from the Eastern Bloc and further afield spent the long winter months in Lochbroom drawn by the boom of the mackerel fishery.

This display explores the unusual and colourful period of Ullapool's history, the origins of the klondyke fishing, and how the community worked and lived alongside these unusual visitors.

CONTACT US CUIRIBH FIOS THUGAINN

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

INFORMATION FIOSRACHADH

* **There will be no books for sale at the festival.** However our sponsoring bookshops, The Ceilidh Place Bookshop and Ullapool Bookshop, 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 or phone Ullapool Tourist Information Centre 01854 612486.

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.

SPONSORS URRASAIREAN

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

SPONSORSHIP IN KIND URRASACHD NEO-MHAOINEIL

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

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



HIGHLAND BOOK PRIZE
DUAIS LEABHAIR NA GÀIDHEALTACHD



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

LOTTERY FUNDED