



# THE *wee* GAITHERIN

Poetry Festival

1st to 3rd August 2024  
Stonehaven, Scotland  
**FREE**

THE *wee*   
**GAITHERIN**  
Poetry Festival

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**The Wee Gaitherin SCIO is now in its fourth year and continues to strive to be the most democratic poetry festival in Scotland, offering a platform for poets – from the unknown to the acclaimed – to showcase their work on an equal footing.**

Our motto of 'Turn up, tune in, take part' reflects the inclusive ethos of the festival, which encourages participation from all marginalised and traditionally under-represented sections of society, including younger and working-class poets in particular who may struggle to gain exposure for their work. In a radical departure from the norm - in a spirit of good will any poet, with a desire to share their work, can contact us with a request to perform and we will endeavour to offer an opportunity to take part.

The Wee Gaitherin will also act as a focal-point for the diversity of talent from the Scottish regions – not least in the Scots, Doric and Gaelic languages, as well as for independent poetry publishers and event organisers. Being the first of its kind in the area, the festival is dedicated to highlighting the vitality of Scottish and international poetry to new and receptive audiences across North East Scotland and beyond. To that end, it is free at admission to all-comers. As well as indoor and outdoor readings, the festival also acts as a forum for discussion, debate, workshops, and an exchange of ideas on the role of poetry in society, and its intrinsic value to the greater good of society.

# QUICK GUIDE

<b>Thur 1st Aug</b>	<b>Number 44 Hotel &amp; Bar, 44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU</b>	
	4.30PM - 5PM	Drinks, networking, book stalls, welcome and introduction.
	5PM - 6PM	Writers Event: Jim Mackintosh Charlie Gracie, Bridget Khursheed, Kathryn Metcalfe & Mairi Murphy
	6PM - 6.15PM	Interval
	6.15PM - 7.15PM	Writers Event: RS Kendle, Leigh-Anne Brown, Kris Haddow, Genevieve Ray & Nazaret Ranea
	7.15PM - 7.30PM	Interval
	7.30PM - 8.50PM	Mearns Writers Group
	8.50PM - 9PM	Interval
	9PM - 10PM	Writers Event: Judy Taylor, Hannah Nicholson, Renita Boyle & Ann Craig
<b>Fri 2nd Aug</b>	<b>Number 44 Hotel &amp; Bar, 44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU</b>	
	9.10AM - 10.40AM	Workshop: Peace & Justice with Jessamine O'Connor
		Short Break
	10.45AM - 12 NOON	Writers Event: Anita Mackenzie, Peter Clive, Stephanie Green, Jackie Hird, Lilly Mac & Nick Allan
	12 NOON - 1.00PM	Red Squirrel Showcase: Elizabeth Rimmer, Edwin Stockdale, Helen Boden, Hazel Cameron, Tim Turnbull & Carolyn Richardson
	1.00M - 2.00PM	LUNCH
	2PM - 3.15PM	Writers Event: David Bleiman, Rowan Heggie, Tom Murray, Georgia Bartlett-McNeill, Andrea Turner & Andy Raffan
	3.15PM - 3.30PM	Interval

<b>Fri 2nd Aug</b>	3.30PM - 4.45PM	Wanderlust Women (Donna Campbell, Lesley Benzie, Linda Jackson) with walk-in women Morag Anderson, Cat Cochrane & Gill Shaw
	4.45PM - 5PM	Interval
	5PM - 6PM	Salt Publishing Showcase: Ken Evans, Elizabeth Sennet Clough, David Briggs & Emma Simon
	6PM - 7.30PM	DINNER BREAKI
	7.30PM - 8.30PM	Writers Book Launch: Neil Young, Hugh McMillan, Julie McNeill, & Jessamine O'Connor
	8.30PM - 10PM Quickfire Carousel	Lynnda Wardle, Aidan Semmon, Bec Cameron, Carrie Fertig, Marka Rifat, Neal Hodges. Kim Crowder, Blair Center, Joe Walsh, Birgit Itse, John Bolland
<b>Sat 3rd Aug</b>	<b>Number 44 Hotel &amp; Bar, 44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU</b>	
	9AM - 10.30AM	Workshop with Karen Macfarlane
	<b>Stonehaven War Memorial - Resistance, Peace &amp; Justice</b>	
	10.40AM - 11.50AM	Stuart Paterson, Lesley Benzie, Bob Beagrie, Jessamine O'Connor, Linda Jackson, Nazaret Ranea, Eleanor Tennyson
	<b>Number 44 Hotel &amp; Bar, 44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU</b>	
	12NOON - 1PM	Writers Event: Sheena Blackhall plus Dreich Showcase: Jack Caradoc, Keeks Mc, Spencer Mason, Hadley-James Hoyles
	1PM - 2PM	LUNCH
	2pm - 3.15PM	Seahorse Showcase: Allan Gaw, Donna Matthew, Karen Macfarlane, Evelyn Pye, Jo Gilbert, Martin Goldie, Kimberly Petrie
	3.15PM - 3.30PM	Interval
	3.30PM - 4.30PM	Drunk Muse Press Showcase: Mark Thomas, Alistair Lawrie, Clare Phillips, Cáit O'Neill McCullagh, Bob Beagrie
4.30PM - 5PM	Interval	
5PM - 6.15PM	Final Event: Shasta Ali, Alexandra Corrin-Tachibana, Karen Hodgson-Pryce, Lynsey Gilmour, Chris Boyland, Rafael Torrubia	
6.15 to the END	Dinner, Awards, Ceilidh	

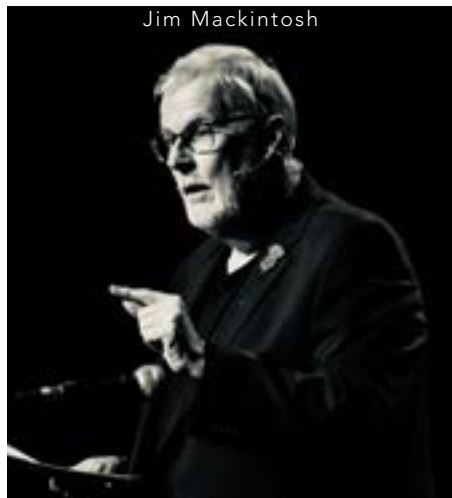
# PROGRAMME

Drinks, Networking  
& Book Stalls

*Thur 1st 4.30PM - 10PM*  
*Number 44 Hotel & Bar*  
*44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU*

Festival Opening Writers  
featuring  
Jim Mackintosh  
Charlie Gracie  
Bridget Khursheed  
Kathryn Metcalfe &  
Mairi Murphy

Reading from 5pm



Jim Mackintosh

**Come along and network with our Trustees and the writers opening this year's Festival.**

**Jim Mackintosh** is a poet, editor and producer. His 7th collection *We are Migrant* was launched on 29th April this year. He is the Makar of the Ceteran EcoMuseum in east Perthshire & the Angus Glens. He is contentedly over the heid.

**Charlie Gracie** is a poet, novelist and short story writer. Much of his work is inspired by his Irish heritage. He is currently involved in fascinating collaborations with other poets. He was the winner of the 2023 Deirdre Roberts Poetry Competition.

**Bridget Khursheed** is a poet based in the Scottish Borders; a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award recipient for poetry, her collection *The last days of petrol* is available from Shearsman Books; listen to her poem at the Scottish Poetry Library Standing on top of the National Museum of Scotland.

**Kathryn Metcalfe** is a poet from Paisley published online and in print. Runs Nights at the Round Table, a local open mic night for poets to showcase work. Pamphlet *Like Nesting Dolls We Are* was published by Seahorse Publications in 2023.

**Mairi Murphy** graduated from Glasgow University MLitt where she was awarded the Alistair Buchan Poetry Prize. Published in *New Writing Scotland*, poetry magazines and online. Her first collection was *Observance* (2018 Clochoderick Press). She is the Editor of *Glasgow Women Poets* (Four-em Press 2016) of which she is co-founder.

# THUR

# 1st

# AUG

## Early Evening Event featuring RS Kendle Leigh-Anne Brown Kris Haddow Genevieve Ray & Nazaret Ranea

*Thur 1st | 6.15PM - 7.15PM  
Number 44 Hotel & Bar  
44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU*

**RS Kendle** is a poet and writer from North-east Scotland. They hold a BA Hons in English Language and Politics from the University of Strathclyde. Their work has been featured in several anthologies and on-line productions. They are an editor for Myxogyny.

**Leigh-Anne Brown** is a Scottish poet living in North Yorkshire. She joined the respected Scribblers Union poetry collective during lockdown on a whim and has been addicted ever since. Highlights include performing at The Vagina Festival, Belladrum and Glastonbury and she can't wait to see what's next.

**Kris Haddow** is a playwright, poet, performer and author from Dumfries and Galloway who has won awards for Scots dialect writing. A University of Glasgow MLitt Creative Writing graduate, he is currently writing his first novel while researching Lallans and South West Scots representation in publishing in pursuit of their DFA.

**Genevieve Ray** is a celebrated Spoken Word artist from Bedfordshire. She has performed across the world as part of Rockport Poetry Festival, Bronx Bookfair, Blot from the Blue and Souls of Gold. Ray's performance style of storytelling, improvisation and poetry blends oral forms to embolden new writers to join the industry.

**Nazaret Ranea** (b. Málaga) is based in Edinburgh. In 2023, she received recognition as Scotland's Next Generation Young Makar. She recently published *My Men and My Women*, and was editor of *For Those Who Tend the Soil* in partnership with Scottish Poetry Library. Nazaret's work appears in numerous publications around the world. She participates in poetry festivals and spoken word events throughout the UK and was featured in BBC Radio Scotland and Edinburgh Festival Fringe. [www.nazetreanea.com](http://www.nazetreanea.com)



Genevieve Ray



Stonehaven Harbour

## Mearns Writers Group

*Thur 1st | 7.30PM - 8.30PM  
Number 44 Hotel & Bar  
44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU*

**Michael Arthur** is an Aberdonian. He is proud to be part of the community in Seaton. He is part of the Mearns writers group, which has made a huge difference to his mental health. He is involved with local media through shmu radio and tv.

**Caroline Carruthers**, an original member of Mearns Writers, she continues to find joy and satisfaction in expressing thoughts, feelings and recollections through the group. She has discovered the catharsis of poetry and enjoys crafting imaginative stories.

**Penny Frances** writes accessible literary fiction, with short stories published online and in literary magazines. Her debut novel *Riding the High Road* was published in 2023. She moved from Sheffield to Aberdeenshire last year and has made some forays into poetry via Mearns Writers. She blogs at <https://pennyfrances.wordpress.com/>

**Nicola Furrie Murray** is from and lives in Northeast Scotland. Her work has been published in *Poets' Republic*, *Pushing out the Boat*, *Lallans*, and broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland. Her poetry and prose – both in Doric and English – have appeared in various Anthologies.

**Marianne McGrellis** retired from Community Education where she supported adults improving literacy and numeracy skills. Her work is descriptive, drawing on observations made of the countryside and seasons. She enjoys writing humorous verse and exploring the nature of relationships.

**Alexander Inglis** writes short stories, novels, poetry and nonfiction. His novels include *The Eaglerune Series*. Writing in Doric Scots, he has had several awards in Scots writing competitions and been published in Scottish magazines. He has been a member of Mearns Writers for many years. <https://www.alexanderinglis.com>

**Sandra Millar** is a long serving English teacher with a love for words – her favourite part of the job is teaching creative writing. She has always been an avid reader in various genres but especially enjoys psychological thrillers. She writes as much as time allows, mostly character sketches and poetry.

**Lilian Ross** A Nationally Registered storyteller/writer, born in the Buchan Heartlands, Lilian's young life was steeped in traditional rural culture round the fire. She writes poetry, short stories, and song lyrics in Doric and English. Lilian has performed at venues and festivals throughout Scotland and Ireland.

**Monica de la Haie** A former teacher, now home educating; Monica recently started writing poetry with and for her young children, recording their observations, particularly of nature and the world around them, and weaving these into shared writing. This will be her first experience of performing.

**Andrew Urquhart** has lived and worked in the Northeast for many years. He enjoys writing poetry and stories in both English and Scots. His work has been published most recently in anthologies and magazines such as *Leopard Arts*, *Lallans*, *Poetry Scotland*, and *Clarion Magazine*.

**Michael Bingham** has been a member of Mearns Writers for seven years, attending numerous workshops, book launches, poetry readings in diverse locations. He has had various poems and short stories in anthologies. Currently studying HND Acting & Performance.

**Amelia Starling** is a writer from East Anglia. She studied B.A (Hons) Creative Writing at the University of Winchester and MLitt Creative Writing at the University of Aberdeen. She writes poetry, fiction and non-fiction about places and folklore. Find her on Instagram @willowwebwords

**Carrie Fertig** is a socially-engaged interdisciplinary artist working in performance, video, sound, installation, spoken word, and VR. She's project leader for Creative Scotland-funded *Health of the Sublime*, mapping the lived experience of wellbeing in the natural world through the lens of climate change.

**Marka Rifat's** written and visual work has won awards and appears in over fifty North American, British, and Australian collections. Recent work includes three poems in *Dreich*, a photograph and poem in *The French Literary Review*, and a story in the final edition of the John Byrne Award website.

## Writers Event Judy Taylor, Hannah Nicholson, Renita Boyle & Ann Craig

*Thur 1st | 9PM - 10PM  
Number 44 Hotel & Bar  
44 Allardice St, AB39 2BU*

**Judy Taylor** lives in Aberdeen, where she co-organises the monthly Poetry at Books and Beans events. Her latest collection, *Across Your Careful Garden*, is published by Red Squirrel Press. She is a longtime volunteer with *Pushing Out the Boat* magazine, and one of the Editors of *Poetry Scotland*.

**Hannah Nicholson** is from Shetland but now lives in Aberdeen. She won the Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award in 2021. She graduated MLitt with Distinction in Creative Writing from the University of Aberdeen in 2017. Her poetry is often written in Shetland dialect and focuses on diverse themes.

**Renita Boyle** is an award-winning poet and storyteller; 'a powerball of imagination and inventiveness who keeps audiences spellbound.' She is Resident Storyteller for Wigtown Festival Company, has been a Scottish Book Trust Reader in Residence, a recipient of the Andy Hunter Bursary and winner of Wigtown Poetry Prize in Scots.

**Ann Craig** is from Glasgow but has lived 50 years on the Northeast coast of Scotland. She has work in numerous publications, does performance poetry and was invited to perform at the Fringe in 2023. She was the Alchemy Spoon Pamphlet winner and they published her first collection *Ordinary Magic*.

## Writers Workshop with Jessamine O'connor

*Fri 2nd | 9AM - 10.40AM  
No.44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Jessamine O'Connor** Come to this writing session to explore words as tools of expression and resistance. Using poetry prompts, the emphasis is on writing spontaneously, sharing, and starting off new work. In these times of seemingly endless war and injustice, coming together to discuss and confront our situation is important. All welcome.

## Writers Event featuring

Anita Mackenzie  
Peter Clive  
Stephanie Green  
Jackie Hird  
Lilly Mac &  
Nick Allen

*Fri 2nd | 10.45am - 12 Noon  
No.44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Anita Mackenzie** is a lecturer in music at UHI Perth, and has recently completed a MEd at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She co-wrote a poetry play which previewed at the Edinburgh Lyceum in 2023, and has performed at Push the Boat Out Festival.

**Dr. Peter Clive** is a scientist working in the renewable energy sector. He has published five collections of poetry on various themes, including climate change, war and migration, and more metaphysical concerns. He lives on the southside of Glasgow with his wife and their three children.

**Stephanie Green's** third poetry pamphlet 'Ortelius' Sea-Monsters' (Wigtown Festival Company) won the Alastair Reid prize, 2023. Her poetry/sound aural walk 'Rewilding' appeared at the Orkney Nature Festival, 2023. She lived in Wales before moving in 2000 to Edinburgh where she reviews theatre and dance. [www.stephaniegreen.org.uk/](http://www.stephaniegreen.org.uk/)

**Jackie Hird** is a late blooming poet, growing in confidence and finding her voice. She lives in Comrie in Perthshire but hales from Yorkshire originally. Her poems reflect her experience with poor mental health and a passionate love of nature, in particular trees.

**Lilly Mac** is a novice poet, finding expression through this medium to be extremely therapeutic during these times of terrible social injustices. She lives in Lossiemouth and works as a counsellor for a feminist third sector organisation.

**Nick Allen** writes mostly about landscape and politics/people. He has one collection (the riding) and four pamphlets of poetry: including, Between Two Rivers, a collaboration with artist Myles Linley. His work has appeared in anthologies and been placed in competitions. He helps run Rhubarb@theTriangle poetry evening in Shipley.

FRI

2nd

AUG

## Red Squirrel Showcase featuring Elizabeth Rimmer, Edwin Stockdale Helen Boden, Hazel Cameron, Carolyn Richardson & Tim Turnbull

*Fri 2nd | 12 Noon - 1PM  
No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Elizabeth Rimmer** is a poet and editor with Red Squirrel Press with whom she has published four poetry collections, *Wherever We Live Now* (2011), *The Territory of Rain*, (2015), *Haggards* (2018) and *The Well of the Moon* (2021). Her poems are mostly about plants, place and community.

**Edwin Stockdale** was the first person to gain a PhD in Poetry from Leeds Trinity University. Red Squirrel Press have published *Aventurine* (2014) and *The Glower of the Sun* (2019). Recently he has completed his debut full collection about the bisexual medieval monarch Edward II funded by Arts Council England.

**Helen Boden** is a writer, educator and editor. Her first collection, *A Landscape to Figure In*, was selected for Scottish Book Trust / Creative Scotland's Debut Lab. Widely published in poetry magazines and anthologies, including the SPL's Best Scottish Poems in 2022, she writes ekphrastic poetry and poetry of place. [helenbodenliteraryarts.com](http://helenbodenliteraryarts.com).



**Hazel Cameron's** poetry publications include pamphlets *Finding IKEA* and *The Currying Shop*, which was joint winner of the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award in 2008. A poetry collection *Cutting Letters* was also published by Red Squirrel Press in 2018.

**Carolyn Richardson** is a Writer and FilmPoem maker. She was previously Scottish Writers' Centre Director/Chair and a Supervisor of PhD in Creative Writing at Lancaster University. Had a stroke in 2015 - reading is important to her, but can be difficult due to aphasia. She hopes for understanding of this disability.

**Tim Turnbull** has three published collections, the latest, *Avanti!*, with Red Squirrel. He has performed and slammed around the world and also writes supernatural fiction and paints.

## Writers Event featuring David Bleinman Rowan Heggie Tom Murray Georgia Bartlett-McNeill Andrea Turner & Andy Raffan

*Fri 2nd | 2PM - 3.15PM  
No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**David Bleiman** writes in Scots, English, a little Spanish, Yiddish & the reimagined dialect of Scots-Yiddish. Widely published in journals & anthologies, with two pamphlets, his competition successes include winning the Sangschaw Prize 2020 & McCash 2023.

**Rowan Heggie** is a poet, actor and playwright. Their current play 'WRAPPERS' has been longlisted for the David MacLennan Award, and their recent short story 'Home Body' aired on the Persistent & Nasty podcast. Rowan's work explores themes of childhood and transformation, inspired by manifestations of horror and science fiction.

**Tom Murray** is a playwright, fiction writer, poet based in Dumfries. Publications: *The Future is Behind You* (poetry), *Sins of the Father* (play), *The Clash* (play), *Out of My Head* (fiction). *There is a Place I Go* (Poetry.) *The Permanent Room* (Fiction.) <https://tmurraytg.wordpress.com>



**Georgia Bartlett-McNeill** has been performing for 10 years, writing for almost twenty. Loud Poets' 2023 Central Slam Champion, she's participated in numerous open mic nights and curated shows across the UK, including supporting Shane Koyczan during his 2017 world tour. In October 2023, she self-published her debut poetry pamphlet, *Her-I-tage*.

**Andrea Turner** is a poet, visual artist and singer. Her poetry has been shortlisted for the Cinnamon Literature prize and for the Dai Fry Mystical Poetry award. She performed her long form, multi-media poem 'Song of the River' as part of the Nairn Book and Arts Festival in 2019.

**Andy Raffan** has had poetry published by Soor Ploom Press, was shortlisted for the Edinburgh Award for Flash Fiction in 2022 and 2023, and had a short story featured in *New Writing Scotland* 41. He is a member of Strathkelvin Writer's Group and is currently completing a Creative Writing degree.

Wanderlust Women  
(Donna Cambell, Lesley  
Benzie & Linda Jackson)  
with walk-in women  
Morag Anderson  
Cat Cochrane &  
Gill Shaw

*Fri 2nd | 3.30M - 4.45PM*  
*No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.*  
*Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Donna Campbell** is a performance poet whose work has been published in various magazines and anthologies. Her first collection of poems "Mongrel" was launched in 2021 and her second collection, Looking for Mae West in 2023 (Seahorse Publications). She is one of the Wanderlust Women.

**Lesley Benzie** An editor at Mxogyny Magazine said "There's something of a modern day Robert Burns to Lesley Benzie. Her collections are: Sewn Up and Fessen/Reared. Collaborative collections: Wanderlust Women: Three Poets 2021, Wanderlust Women: Extra Baggage 2023 (Seahorse Publications), Norlan Lights 2022 (Rymour Books). <https://www.mxogyny.com/sections/2023-8-14>

**Linda Jackson** is a poet, editor and facilitator. She writes as an individual but also as part of the Wanderlust Women collective which has a new book underway for 2025, She's Some Wummin: Wanderlust Women. Her new collection is called Siren Calling.



**Morag Anderson's** second chapbook, And I Will Make of You a Vowel Sound (Fly on the Wall Press, 2024), won the Aryamati Poetry Prize. In 2023, Morag was the Federation of Writers Makar and poet-in-residence for the Birnam Book Festival. She is currently working with The Canmore Trust Suicide Prevention Charity.

**Cat Cochrane** is a writer and poet from Glasgow. She has performed poems from her published poetry and short story collection, Sugartown, across Scotland and has competed in many poetry slams. Cat writes in her local dialect and her second poetry collection, Sweet Tease, was published in 2024.

**Gill Shaw** is an emerging poet and spoken word performer, based in the Highlands of Scotland. Her debut pamphlet Touching Air was published by Stewed Rhubarb.

Salt Publishing Showcase  
'Salt & Water' featuring  
Ken Evans  
Elizabeth Sennet Clough  
David Briggs &  
Emma Simon

*Fri 2nd | 5M - 6PM*  
*No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.*  
*Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

Salt is one of Britain's great independent publishing houses, committed to the discovery and publication of contemporary British literature. We are advocates for writers at all stages of their careers and ensure that diverse voices can be heard in an abundant, global marketplace.



The event is headlined 'Salt & Water' and will explore water's corollaries, parallels, opposites, and mirror-images, through newly published and recent work, showcasing the 4 poets' latest and new collections.

**Elizabeth Sennett Clough's** collection My Name is Abilene was a Forward Prize Best Collection shortlist 2023.

**David Briggs's** collection, The Odyssey Complex and Other Poems, is out this year. David was co-editor of the journal, Raceme, from 2019-2023.

**Emma Simon's** Shapeshifting for Beginners was published by Salt in 2023. The Odds (Smith|Doorstop), won the Poetry Business Pamphlet Competition 2019.

**Ken Evans' collection, To An Occupier Burning Holes (Salt, 2022). Poems feature in Poetry Scotland. He contributed to Broken Sleep's Masculinity anthology.**

## Book Launch Event

Neil Young

*The Song She Didn't Sing*

Hugh McMillan

*Diverted to Split*

Julie McNeill

*A Most Unsuitable Game*

Jessamine O'Connor

*The Opposite of Grieving*

*Fri 2nd | 7.30PM - 8.30PM*

*No.44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.*

*Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Neil Young** hails from west Belfast and now lives in North-east Scotland. He has been published widely. His new volume of poems, *The Song She Didn't Sing* will be published in August 2024 by Seahorse. He founded Drunk Muse Press which has achieved success in publishing overlooked voices local and international.

**Julie McNeill** was born in Carlisle and now lives in Glasgow. She is the Poet-in-residence for St Mirren FC charitable trust, and Makar of Scottish Women's Poetry Society for the Hampden Collection. Her latest book is *We are Scottish Football from Luath*. She has performed widely at festivals and events.

**Hugh McMillan** is a well published, anthologised and broadcast poet who lives in South West Scotland. 'Diverted to Split', his latest collection, is due out from Luath in summer 2024.

**Jessamine O'Connor** has published several poetry chapbooks and her collection *Silver Spoon* is published by Salmon Poetry. She has won the Dermot Healy Award for fiction and poetry. *The Opposite of Grieving* is a joint pamphlet with Neil Young and Hugh McMillan, published by Nine Pens Press.

## 'Quick Fire Carousel' Event

*Fri 2nd | 8.50PM - 10PM*

*No.44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.*

*Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Lynnda Wardle's** work has appeared in various publications and anthologies including *Gutter*, *New Writing Scotland*, *Poetry Scotland*, *Tales from a Cancelled Country*, *New Orleans Review*. In 2007 she was awarded a Creative Scotland New Writer's award. She is currently studying for an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Glasgow.

**Aidan Semmens'** surreal prose poem sequence *The Jazz Age*, his sixth published volume, was chosen to relaunch Salt Publishing's *Modern Poets* series in 2022. He lives in Orkney.

**Neal Hodges** is an accidental project manager who used to work in the oil and gas industry. A photographer since childhood, a creator of stories to entertain and confuse. He has works in progress which include two speculative fiction novels.

**Kim Crowder** is a writer, visual artist and anthropologist whose writing draws together archaeology, memoir, nature writing and photography (based in rural Angus). Current member of Clydebuilt 16 poetry scheme, The Prescription, Lemon Tree Writers and Health of the Sublime writers' groups. <http://www.allpicture.co.uk/livesinnature/>

**Blair Center** is from Inverurie. Dreich, The Hyacinth Review, Leopard Arts, and Poetry Scotland, among others, have published his work, with work upcoming in *Eemis Stane*; he has, additionally, achieved successes in the Buchan Heritage Society's Doric Writing Competition. In English and Doric, memory, identity, and place motivate his work.

**Birgit Itse** aka AberdESTonian is a writer, ghostwriter, a performance poet and a speaker. She has three solo books published, also her poems and short stories have been published in collaborative books, zines and podcasts, including BBC Radio Scotland. She writes, teaches and performs in two languages, English and Estonian.

**Bec Cameron** lives in Aberfeldy, Perthshire and enjoys being part of Community Drama, writing scripts collaboratively, and solo. Her poems and/or short stories can be found in the pamphlet *Reel Life of the Jotters* writing club, and the *Poetry Noir* publication edited by Andy Jackson.

**Carrie Fertig** is a socially-engaged interdisciplinary artist working in performance, video, sound, installation, spoken word, and VR. She's project leader for Creative Scotland-funded *Health of the Sublime*, mapping the lived experience of wellbeing in the natural world through the lens of climate change. *Plays with fire*. [www.carriefertig.com](http://www.carriefertig.com)

**Joe Walsh** is from Edinburgh and lives in Aberdeenshire. After a varied work-life, he retired and now concentrates on writing from his own perspective. He has had poems published in anthologies, collections of poetry, and a book of short stories published. Next: a novel and a further poetry collection.

**Marka Rifat** began writing a decade ago and joined Mearns Writers. She has won several awards and her poetry appears in 36 national and international anthologies, most recently in *Grey Hen Press*, *Dreich* and *The French Literary Review*. She also writes stories, essays, and plays.

**John Bolland** is a writer, artist and performer based in the North-east of Scotland. The offshore oil industry has been a consistent feature of his work culminating in his latest collection – *Pibroch*. John's current projects focus on deep time, inter-generational linkages and the pinch of the present.

# SAT

# 3rd

# AUG

## Writers Workshop with Karen Macfarlane

*Sat 3rd | 9AM - 10.30Am  
No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU  
Includes a walk to the war memorial*

**Karen Macfarlane - Finding a bigger picture.** An outdoor ekphrastic workshop with Karen Macfarlane, curator of online project Poems on Public Art. Spend time with the sculptures on Stonehaven Boardwalk and combine them with additional material to find bigger pictures to create in words. (Indoor alternative if the weather is bad. Bring a cushion if you need padding!)

## Resistance, Peace & Justice Event

Bob Beagrie  
Stuart Paterson  
Lesley Benzie  
Jessamine O'Connor  
Linda Jackson  
Nazaret Ranea &  
Eleanor Tennyson

*Sat 3rd | 10.45AM - 11.45AM  
Stonehaven War Memorial  
Stonehaven, AB39 2TJ*

**Bob Beagrie** is a poet from North-east England with deep connections and ancestral roots in Scotland. He has published fourteen collections of poetry, most recently: *Romanceros: Poems Inspired by the Spanish Civil War* (Drunk Muse Press, 2024) *Ko* (Black Light Engine Room Press 2023).

**Stuart Paterson** One of Scotland's best-known poets of the last 30 years, Paterson has received many national awards and commissions for his work. From 2017-18 he was official BBC Scotland Poet in Residence. Author of several books of poetry in Scots and English, his poems have been published, anthologised and filmed worldwide.

**Lesley Benzie** An editor at *Mxogyny Magazine* said: "There's something of a modern day Robert Burns to Lesley Benzie. Her collections are: *Sewn Up* and *Fessen/Reared*. Collaborative collections: *Wanderlust Women: Three Poets 2021*, *Wanderlust Women: Extra*

*Baggage 2023* (Seahorse Publications), *Norlan Lichts 2022* (Rymour Books).

**Jessamine O'Connor** has published several poetry chapbooks and her collection 'Silver Spoon' is published by Salmon Poetry. She has won the Dermot Healy Award for fiction and poetry. 'The Opposite of Grieving' is a joint pamphlet with Neil Young and Hugh McMillan, published by Nine Pens Press.

**Linda Jackson** is a poet, editor and facilitator. She writes as an individual but also as part of the Wanderlust Women collective which has a new book underway for 2025 'She's Some Wummin: Wanderlust Women'. Her new collection is called 'Siren Calling',

**Nazaret Ranea** (b. Málaga) is Edinburgh based. She received recognition as Scotland's Next Generation Young Makar 2023; recently published *My Men* and *My Women*; and was editor with SPL of *For Those Who Tend the Soil*. Her work appears in numerous publications around the world. She participates in poetry festivals/spoken word events throughout the UK; was featured in BBC Radio Scotland and Edinburgh Festival Fringe. [www.nazretranea.com](http://www.nazretranea.com)

**Eleanor Tennyson** is a writer from London. Her work has been widely anthologised; shown at The Pipe Factory in Glasgow and Stroud Valley Artspace. She was a member of Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre Young Writers. She's the author of *The Hairy Manifesto*, published with support from Creative Scotland (The Good Press). She received her Poetry MFA from Columbia University.



Writer Event featuring  
Sheena Blackhall &  
Dreich Publishing  
Showcase featuring  
Keeks Mc  
Hadley-James Hoyles  
Spencer Mason &  
Jack Caradoc

*Sat 3rd | 12 Noon - 1PM  
No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Sheena Blackhall** is currently Makar to Aberdeen and the North-east. She has had over 200 poetry pamphlets published, is widely anthologised and with Linda Smith recently translated *Wuthering Heights* into Doric. Published by Sally Evans, herself a widely published writer.

**Keeks Mc** from Glasgow writes solely in colourful and descriptive Scots. Her poetry tackles a wide range of pressing contemporary social and cultural issues and observations on daily life with a fresh and unique blend of humour, candour and raw emotion. Keeks was awarded runner-up in 2023's Wigtown Scots Prize.

**Hadley James Hoyles** is a poet, musician and teacher resident in Leith. A proud Yorkshireman, his poetry often appraises the breathtaking beauty of the Dales, as well as the impact of landscape on the psyche. He has a pamphlet and two poetry collections published, and is Makar of Teviot Row House.

Spencer Mason



**Spencer Mason** is a non-binary and neurodiverse writer and musician from Dundee. Graduating their MA in Creative Writing in 2023, they were runner up in the Roundhouse Slam Championship (2022), won the Rosamund Prize (2023), winner of the inaugural Lock In Slam (2024). Nominated for 2 Wordplay and Flow Awards.

**Jack Caradoc** is the editorial Nom de Guerre of Dreich Publisher and poet Kevin Cadwallender who lives in Fife.

## Seahorse Publications Showcase featuring Allan Gaw Donna Matthew Karen Macfarlane Evelyn Pye Jo Gilbert Martin Goldie & Kimberley Petrie

*Sat 3rd | 2PM - 3.15PM*

*No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Allan Gaw** was a medical pathologist and is now an international award-winning writer. His short stories and poetry have been published widely. His debut poetry collection, *Love & Other Diseases*, was published in 2023 by Seahorse. He is also the author of the Dr Jack Cuthbert mystery series of novels.

**Donna Matthew** started writing poetry in Nov 20 as a way of healing from grief. She founded Poets in Paisley in 2021. Her work explores themes of self, humanity and love. Her debut collection, *Remembering Myself* was published in 2024 by Seahorse Publications. She lives in Paisley with her son, Rory.

**Karen Macfarlane** made a mid-life swerve from healthcare into Creative Writing and Art History. Widely published in anthologies and magazines, her first short collection, *All About the Surface*, is published by Seahorse Publications. Karen lives in Perthshire and combines her love of visual arts with poetry at [www.poemsonpublicart.wordpress.com](http://www.poemsonpublicart.wordpress.com).

**Evelyn Pye** lives in Clydebank. She was a university lecturer and has an international reputation for STEM poetry. Her latest chapbook is *Reaching the Light*, Seahorse Publications. Her first collection, *Smoke That Thunders*, included the poem *Mosi-Oa-Tunya* which was chosen for the 20 Best Scottish Poems of that Year.

**Jo Gilbert** is a spoken word artist and writer from Aberdeen. Their work features across radio, art, film, and festivals and is widely published in magazines and anthologies. Jo's debut poetry collection *WTF is normal anyway?* (Seahorse Publications, 2022) was nominated for a Scots Language Award in 2023.

**Martin Goldie** lives in Argyll. His poems have been published in magazines and anthologies in the UK and abroad. His debut collection *Unshackled* and pamphlet *A Kist of Treasure* were published by Seahorse Publications. His poem *Awful Confusion* was shortlisted for the Janet Coats Memorial prize in 2023.

**Kimberly Petrie** based in Newtonhill, is a performance poet and writer in Doric and English. Her work has been featured in Aberdeen Art Gallery and her debut poetry collection *Granite Heart* was published by Seahorse Publications in 2022. When not writing or performing, she enjoys walking her dog, Hector.

## Drunk Muse Press Showcase featuring Mark Thomas Alistair Lawrie Clare Phillips Cáit O'Neill McCullagh & Bob Beagrie

*Sat 3rd | 3.30PM - 4.30PM*

*No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Mark Thomas** lives deep in the Machars, SW Scotland. He's been a Classical/Improv musician, a singer of Georgian polyphony, a Gestalt psychotherapist and a poet. His first collection, *Dances with Shadows and Stones*, was published by Drunk Muse Press, 2023; his second, *Tales of Fenris Wolf*, by Paekakariki Press.

**Alistair Lawrie's** poetry and short stories have been published in a variety of magazines. He won the William Soutar Memorial Prize in 2016 and the McLellan Scots Poetry Prize in 2023. His poetry collection *Caal Cries* was published by Drunk Muse Press (2023). He leads weekly sessions for Mearns Writers.

**Clare Phillips** won the Wigtown Book Festival Fresh Voice award in 2019 and was the Autumn Voices choice for her region of Dumfries and Galloway in 2021 with a poem inspired by Hebridean culture. She will read from her first full collection *Here to Stay* published this year by Drunk Muse Press.



**Cáit O'Neill McCullagh**

**Cáit O'Neill McCullagh** has been writing poems for three years, between English-Gaelic-Scots-and-Irish, and is widely published. The songs I sing are sisters, her Saboteur Award-winning debut pamphlet, was published by Dreich (2022) and her first full-length collection *The Bone Folder* is being published by Drunk Muse Press (2024) <https://linktr.ee/caitjomac>

**Bob Beagrie** is a poet from North-east England with deep connections and ancestral roots in Scotland. He has published fourteen collections of poetry, most recently: *Romanceros: Poems Inspired by the Spanish Civil War* (Drunk Muse Press, 2024) *Ko* (Black Light Engine Room Press 2023).

## Writers Event featuring

Shasta Ali  
Alexandra Corrin-  
Tachibana  
Karen Hodgson-Pryce  
Lynsey Gilmour  
Chris Boyland &  
Rafael Torrubia

*Sat 3rd | 5PM - 6.15PM*

*No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Shasta Ali** is a poet whose work navigates the legacy of empire, race and heritage. Themes of landscape, memory and language interlace her writing. Shasta's poetry has been published in Sidhe Press, Our Time Is A Garden Anthology (IASH), among others. She recently co-created a poetry play at Edinburgh Lyceum.

**Alexandra Corrin-Tachibana's** collection, *Sing me down from the dark* (SALT 2022) is in its 3rd issue. She teaches for The Writing School and has been published in P.N. Review, The North and Poetry Wales. In 2023, she was shortlisted for the Fish Prize and longlisted for the National Poetry competition.

**Lynsey Gilmour** is a poet and spoken word performer from Easter Ross. She is a regular on the Scottish Slam circuit, was a finalist in the Loud Poets Slam Final 2023 and the Scottish Grand Slam Final 2024. She enjoys collaborating with other artists from a range of creative fields.



**Karen Hodgson-Pryce** lives in Aviemore. Her poems are in Mslexia, Butcher's Dog, Paperboats and Ink, Sweat & Tears and numerous anthologies. She won 3rd prize in the Café Writers Poetry Competition 2019, and was shortlisted in the Mist & Mountain Poetry Prize 2023 and the Badenoch Poetry Competition, 2024.

**CD Boyland** is a [d]eaf poet, visual poet and editor. His debut full-length collection, *Mephistopheles* (Blue Diode Press, 2023) has been described as "a work of desire, refusal and ardent storytelling". His pamphlets are *User Stories* (2020), and *Vessel* (2022). He is currently co-editor of the Glasgow Review of Books.oet

**Rafael Torrubia** is an award-winning writer, recipient of the Deirdre Roberts poetry prize, and twice shortlisted for the Bridport Poetry Prize. They have published with the National Gallery of Scotland, Jupiter Artland, Corvid Queen and others. Their debut novel *The Shipwright and the Shroudweaver* is out June 2025, from Gollancz.

**And last but not least...  
Dinner, Awards and...**

You will hear from our two very worthy Sheila Templeton Bursary Award winners before our CEILIDH to celebrate this year's Festival.  
**Eleanor Tennyson &  
Elspeth Wilson**

*Sat 3rd | 6.15PM - The End*

*No. 44 Hotel & Bar, Allardice St.  
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU*

**Eleanor Tennyson** is a writer from London. Her work has been widely anthologised, and shown at The Pipe Factory in Glasgow and Stroud Valley Artspace. She was a member of Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre Young Writers Workshop. She is the author of *The Hairy Manifesto*, which she published with the support of Creative Scotland - it can be found at The Good Press. She received her Poetry MFA from Columbia University.

**Elspeth Wilson** is a writer and poet interested in exploring the limitations and possibilities of the body, as well as writing about joy and happiness from a marginalised perspective. Her nature writing has been shortlisted for Canongate's Nan Shepherd Prize and Penguin's Write Now scheme. Her debut poetry pamphlet, *Too Hot to Sleep*, published by Written Off Publishing, was shortlisted for the Saltire Society's 2023 Poetry Book of the Year. Her debut novel, *These Mortal Bodies*, is forthcoming with Simon and Schuster 2025. She can usually be found in or near the sea.

# WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK

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Thankyou!

**OUR PROJECT WAS  
MADE POSSIBLE  
THANKS TO  
#NATIONALLOTTERY  
PLAYERS**

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SUPPORTERS  
AND  
EVERYONE  
INVOLVED**



AWARDS  
FOR ALL  
SCOTLAND

**Aberdeenshire**  
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