GROWING STORIES
SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL 2018
19-31 OCTOBER | SISF.ORG.UK
Welcome to the world’s finest feast of traditional storytelling

Stories are like gardens – they bring people together and grow but they also need nurture and care. The 30th Scottish International Storytelling Festival – Growing Stories – feeds the creativity of Scottish and international storytellers to unearth ancient roots and make new talent blossom across Scotland.

At the heart of the programme is the shared culture of Scotland and Ireland, with their international connections and influence, and the way in which Celtic traditions unite word, image and sound to pack a big emotional punch.

Sustainability & Culture

Storytellers across the world bring a creative dimension to our sense of the environment and the living connection between natural ecology and sustainable culture. The SISF is committed to a sustainable future, and to measuring and managing our environmental impacts. Please enjoy our environmental events, use public transport wherever possible, and use our recycling facilities.

The Festival Team

The Scottish International Storytelling Festival is organised by TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland) which brings together the Traditional Music Forum, the Scottish Storytelling Forum and the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland from its base at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

Supported through Scottish Government’s Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, Creative Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, Festivals Edinburgh, Culture Ireland as part of GB18: Promoting Irish Arts in Britain, Live Argyll, Scotland’s Gardens Scheme.

Box office: 0131 556 9579
ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Our categories ensure your storytelling experience is exactly what you’re looking for, be it an evening gathering in jovial company soaking up stories, daytime events for the whole family to get involved with, or workshop sessions and talks so you can get creative.

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets for all events at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, ticketed events at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and paid events at the National Library of Scotland can be booked by phone, online or in person through the Scottish Storytelling Centre’s Box Office. All other partner venues and regional events have their own booking outlets - see back cover for details.

The Festival box office is open from Friday 7 September, 10am – 6pm.

+44 (0) 131 556 9579 or sisf.org.uk

Free events at the National Library of Scotland will be bookable from Friday 14 September on www.nls.uk/events or 0131 623 3734.

BECOME A SUPPORTER

Festival Supporter

£20
expires on Thursday 1 November 2018

- Discounts on many SISF events at the Storytelling Centre
- Discounts on CPD workshops at the Storytelling Centre
- 10% discount in the Storytelling Centre’s bookshop, during SISF 2018 dates
- 10% discount in the Storytelling Café, during SISF 2018 dates
- Invite to launch party on Friday 19 October
- Contributing to the development of the SISF

Storytelling Centre Supporter

£30
Annual Membership

- Discounts on many Storytelling Centre events, including Storytelling Festival events
- 10% discount in the Storytelling Centre’s bookshop
- 10% discount in the Storytelling Café
- Invites to special events
- A quarterly mailing of our What’s On guide (by post if desired)
- Contributing to the development and work of the SSC

We rely on the generosity of our supporters and funders to help us bring our work to life, share it with the widest possible audience and keep our ticket prices affordable.

Our audience is essential in helping us to deliver high quality storytelling, music and dance events. With your help, we can do more and do it better.

Call our team on +44 (0)131 556 9579 or email: supporters@scottishstorytellingcentre.com
Growing with Stories

Once again, local storytellers will lead events in schools and community venues across Scotland.

In addition, there will be free downloadable resources for those wanting to organise their own events. For full information on your local storyteller, visit our Storytelling Directory.

To take part in the campaign please contact Storytelling Network Coordinator, Miriam Morris on miriam@tracscotland.org

Festival on Tour

Coordinated by regional storytelling teams with the support of SISF.

Storytellers will visit Argyll & Bute, Ayrshire, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee, Fife, Glasgow, Highlands, Moray, the North East, Orkney, Perthshire and Scottish Borders to meet with local performers and audiences.

See pages 23-29 for details
Growing Up With Books
Museum of Childhood | 1 June - 9 December
Mon – Sun: 10am – 5pm | Free entry | All ages

Explore the world of children’s books with an impressive selection from the Museum collections ranging from the 16th to mid-20th-century. There will be familiar stories like Peter Pan, The Wind in the Willows and Little Red Riding Hood, but also some surprises – such as a book from 1725 with a connection to Bonnie Prince Charlie! Personal stories are told through inscriptions, scraps and handmade stories. Discover how children learnt to read, what subjects they were taught and what nursery rhymes and fairy tales your great grandparents would have read.

Developed by the Scotland’s Early Literature for Children Initiative (SELCIE) at the University of Edinburgh, in partnership with Museum of Childhood.

Strike for Freedom: Slavery, Civil War and the Frederick Douglass Family
In the Walter O. Evans Collection
National Library of Scotland, Treasures Display
4 October 2018 – 17 February 2019
Mon – Thu: 10am – 7pm | Fri & Sat: 10am – 5pm | Sun: closed
Free entry | All ages

Born into slavery in 1818, self-emancipated author and activist, Frederick Douglass, is the most famous freedom-fighter in US history. Arriving in Edinburgh in 1846, he became “Scotland’s antislavery agent.” This world exclusive exhibits the original letters, speeches and photographs of Frederick Douglass and his sons, Lewis Henry, Frederick Jr and Charles Remond. All of life is here – romance, tragedy, hope, despair, love, war, protest and friendship – as the Douglass family worked together for a new dawn of freedom.

Laoch Na Laochra
Scottish Storytelling Centre | 13 – 31 October
Mon – Sat: 10am – 6pm, and before events | Free entry | All ages

In this vibrant exhibition, Irish artist Dara Vallely injects the time-honoured tale of Cú Chulainn with contemporary passion. Dating back to 7th Century A.D., the Irish hero tale has been handed down from generation to generation for centuries and still dominates the mythological landscape of Ireland. In Táin Bó Cúailnge (The Cattle Raid of Cooley) magic, romance, betrayal and violence mark every twist and turn in the epic story, as Cú Chulainn defends Ulster against Queen Méabh of Connaught’s invading army. The exhibition is based on the book Laoch Na Laochra (Hero of Heroes), a collaboration between Dara Vallely and Réamonn Ó Ciaráin, published by Gael Linn in 2015 with support from Ultach Trust.
THU 18 OCT

OSSIAN – The Pipes & The Story
Stirling Castle, The Great Hall
Storytelling and Music
7.30pm (2hrs 10, with interval)
Adult £19.50, Concession £16, Child £12,
10% off for Historic Scotland members

A unique combination of Scotland’s richest traditions of bagpipe music with some of its oldest stories. Though Fionn Mac Cumhaill, Diarmaid, Grainnhe and Ossian are part of a shared Scottish-Irish saga, Scotland has its own version of these stories, and its own songs and music. By bringing these together in Stirling’s Great Hall the Festival is re-mixing an entertainment that goes back to the first Stewart Kings with their love of storytelling, poetry and music.

The event assembles a stellar line-up of Scotland’s musical talent, including Ross Ainslie, Allan MacDonald, Brighde Chaimbeul, Griogair Labhruidh, and Angus and Kenneth MacKenzie, with a dramatic narrative by Scottish storytellers, including David Campbell, Janis Mackay and Martin MacIntyre. Devised by Hamish Moore and Donald Smith. Please arrive at 6.45pm for the 7.30pm start. Tickets and information on www.historicenvironment.scot

FRI 19 OCT

‘I’ll Mak Sikkar’- A Northern Odyssey
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5

‘I’ll mak sikkar’ (I’ll make sure) is the clan Kirkpatrick motto which was ‘borne out of a bloody bout in an ancient game of thrones. I, proud daughter of a clan chief will tell you how it came to be…’

Storyteller Ruth Kirkpatrick and musician Sarah McFadyen present a rare distillation of family history blended with stories and songs from Scotland. A land hewn by the music of the tides, the words in the wind and the deeds of its people. They will breathe fresh life into ancient tales from the misty North populated by selkies, stoorworms and sorcerers and they are sure to sing of the inevitable change, which we all must face, of the loss of the old and the embrace of the unexpected new. Supported by FATE.

Armagh Rhymers in Ceilidh
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5

The Rhymers present a glorious fusion of folk dance, drama, song, story and nonsense for all ages. But this riot of joyous colour in motion conceals artistry built over several decades. Tradition and skill combine in a unique fusion that is irresistible, with lots of opportunities for joining in with the celebration of season, culture and nature.
SAT 20 OCT

Gory Stories
Depart from Mercat Cross, beside St Giles Cathedral
Walking Tour
11am (1hr 15)
Adult £13, Concession £11,
Child £8, Family £34 | 5+
All kids love growing up with fascinating stories and Mercat Tours present an Old Town jaunt especially for them! Hear true tales of Edinburgh crime, witches and ghosts in the places where they really happened. You’ll finish your excursion beneath the streets in the exclusive Blair Street Underground Vaults, once frequented by some of Edinburgh’s less appealing characters. And possibly still is…

Note: Tour involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs. The guide will always adapt the route to visitor’s needs – full access statement at www.mercattours.com

Spark 100
Depart from Mercat Cross, beside St Giles Cathedral
Walking Tour
1.30pm (1hr 30)
Adult £13, Concession £11,
Child £8 | 5+
Edinburgh has sown the seeds for many writers who grew up in the city, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of them, Muriel Spark. As part of the celebrations your expert Mercat Tours guide, in true Spark style, will leap through time and discuss her life in Edinburgh and the city’s lasting effect on her. Whether you are looking for an introduction to the woman and her world-renowned work or you are already a Spark devotee, join this tour to breathe in Edinburgh’s ‘informed air’ with us.

Note: Tour involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs. The guide will always adapt the route to visitor’s needs – full access statement at www.mercattours.com

Meet the Storyteller:
Hjörleifur Stefánsson from Iceland
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) £5
Storyteller Hjörleifur Stefánsson was served stories of old Iceland along with his porridge for years, his grandparents being storytellers by nature. Let him introduce you to the old country lore, where giants, trolls and ghosts would populate the vast Icelandic landscapes. A burgeoning storytelling talent from the far North.

Once Upon a Book
Scottish Storytelling Centre & Museum of Childhood
Family Event
1.30pm (3hrs)
Free (ticketed) | 3+
Old books come back to life as storytellers guide you through the world of children’s literature in a vibrant afternoon of stories. Inspired by the exhibition Growing Up With Books, the event will feature an array of Scottish storytellers and sessions for different age ranges. With storytellers Janis Mackay, Beth Cross, Sylvia Troon and Sheila Kinninmonth. Also featuring The Armagh Rhymers and a special story session with The Wee Spanish Mobile Library (La Biciteca).
Scotland & Ireland: A’ Seinn na Sgeulachd: Bàs Chonnlaioch

‘Singing the Story: The Death of Connlaoch’
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6)

From chiefs’ halls to ceilidh houses, heroic ballads and their stories have been at the heart of Gaelic culture for centuries. Two exceptional performers, singer Margaret Stewart and storyteller Pàdruig Morrison, use tale and ballad to share the story of Connlaoch – son of the Scottish warrior-princess Aoife and Irish hero Cú Chulainn – who dies at the hands of his own father. Performance in Gaelic with provision in English.

Organised by Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI. Supported by the Hope Scott Trust and the Royal Celtic Society.

Open Hearth
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller Beverley Bryant, with guest storytellers Jess Smith, Hjörleifur Stefánsson from Iceland and Eddie Lenihan from Ireland. The perfect way to end your day.

Hear true tales of Edinburgh crime, witches and ghosts in the places where they really happened. You’ll finish your excursion beneath the streets in the exclusive Blair Street Underground Vaults, once frequented by some of Edinburgh’s less appealing characters. And possibly still is...

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SUN 21 OCT

The Breathing Space
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Workshop
11am (2hrs 30)
Free (ticketed) | 11+

Join storytellers from the ancient Pictish Kingdom of Fife to hear tales of trees and their Celtic connections. Have fun planting seeds for the future and making your own clay pendant. With Sheila Kinninmonth, Anita Peggie and Kate Walker from Fife Storytelling group Lang Spoon Tales.

Enchanted Garden – Growing Stories, Growing Trees
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Family Event
1pm (3hrs)
Free, drop in

Join Scottish and international storytellers at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and treat yourself with a relaxed afternoon of stories for all ages. Meet at the Botanic Cottage and find the cozy spots where stories are shared or let storytellers take you on story journeys into the beautiful surrounding, where trees start to glow with warm Autumn colours. The event includes the special storytelling session, Re-Storying the Earth, with Alette Willis and Allison Galbraith.

Note: Botanic Cottage sessions have limited capacity, free tickets available on the door.
The Purple, White & Green
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
3pm (1hr 30)
£7.50 (£6) £5
Devised to mark the centenary of (some) women’s right to vote, this powerful piece of storytelling is both timely and compelling. Focussing on the Scottish Suffragette movement, storytellers Nicola Wright and Lea Taylor passionately present this important piece of social history. A mix of historical facts and prose presented with verve and vigour, where deeds and words come together. Supported by the Scottish Government Vote 100 Fund.

Magical Fruit
Lochend Secret Garden
Live Storytelling
4.30pm (1hr 30)
Free
Join storyteller Jane Mather for a delightful array of stories from around the world in celebration of Apple Day and see the secret garden transformed into a magical realm by graphic designer Cameron Gleave. With healthy refreshments and a chance to meet some of the secret gardeners who make it a magic garden all year round. Supported by the Lochend Community Growing Project.

Note: Wheelchair access may be difficult in wet weather due to soft ground.

Aince there Wis a Loon Caa’d Stanley...
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) £5
It has been almost ten years since the master storyteller, singer and piper Stanley Robertson was sadly taken from us. He was an extraordinary man and a passionate champion of the traditions of his Scottish Traveller heritage. Join storyteller Heather Yule to celebrate Stanley and his rich legacy of stories and songs.

Scotland & Ireland: Warriors & Wild Women
Stories from the Ulster Saga
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5
Birth, death, sex, violence (and always a bit of humour) from the Celtic Iron Age of Ireland and Scotland. Storyteller John Hamilton, from Northern Ireland, shares a selection of tales from The Ulster Saga story cycle. From the 1st century BC, meet the hero Cú Chulainn and his Mammy, plus a host of other foolish men and strong women.

Open Hearth
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6
Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller Ruth Kirkpatrick, with guest storytellers Mara Menzies, Geeta Ramanujam from India and Usifu Jalloh from Sierra Leone. The perfect way to end your day.

sisf.org.uk
MON 22 OCT

Education Day

Storytelling in Schools: Approaches & Resources

Scottish Storytelling Centre Workshop
10.30am (2hrs 30)
£12 (£10) £9

How does live storytelling contribute to the skills of teachers and learners? Hear about practical approaches, projects and resources from Europe, Asia and Scotland. Hosted by Storytelling Network Coordinator Miriam Morris, with Fiona Macleod, Geeta Ramanujam, and Bea Ferguson.

The Bountiful Birch Tree

Story, Craft & Tradition in Outdoor Education

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Workshop
1.30pm (2hrs)
£12 (£10) | 12+

Have fun and engage in hands-on learning about one of our most beautiful native trees. Authors and storytellers Allison Galbraith and Alette Willis will be joined by RBGE staff for this workshop centred around the seasonal Scottish Traveller’s tale, Archie’s Besom. Hear some folktales, learn about the cultural and medicinal uses of birch and make your own besom (traditional broom) for your Halloween celebrations. This workshop will provide a participatory example of how traditional storytelling can be used in outdoor, environmental and science education. Suitable for educators and anyone interested in trees and folk culture. Broom making materials will be provided.

Borderlands – Irish Border Symposium

National Library of Scotland Symposium
2pm (2hrs)
Free (ticketed)

What is the origin, purpose and future of the border within Ireland? And what is its significance for cultural and family life, health and wellbeing? Dara Vallely, artist, folklorist and storyteller, John McCormack, Projects Manager of Learning for the Scottish Recovery Network, and Donald Smith, author and storyteller, bring recent perspectives to bear on an issue which is of direct concern in Scotland as well as Ireland, and relevant to all those living on the world’s Borderlands.

Meet the Storyteller: Geeta Ramanujam from India

Scottish Storytelling Centre Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) £5

A strong believer in the power of storytelling, Geeta Ramanujam has travelled all nooks & crannies of India and beyond to share her stories and teach the old artform. Enjoy an hour in her company and let her take you on colourful journeys across the myriad worlds of India, its culture and its stories.
Scotland & Ireland: Sgiath
Amazon Queen of Skye

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6)
£5

Isle of Skye’s seanachaidh George Macpherson introduces you to Sgiath, the legendary queen known as ‘The Greatest of All Warriors’ and superior to any man. Yet she was also the greatest Educator, setting up the first Colleges and Universities in the world, as well as the first Hospitals.

Open Hearth –
Young at Heart

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Enjoy a night dedicated to the 2018 Year of Young People. Hosted by storyteller Daniel Allison, with guest storytellers George Macpherson, Helena Byrne from Ireland and young Scottish storytellers Shona Cowie and Ailsa Dixon. The perfect way to end your day.

TUE 23 OCT

Festivals Networking

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Workshop
11am (2hrs)
Free (ticketed)

Dawne McFarlane, Director of the Toronto Storytelling Festival, Annalisa Salis, SISF Programme Manager and Martin Manasse, regional rep for Society of Storytelling, host a networking and discussion session. Explore the development of storytelling festivals, links between festivals, collaborations, and the role of the Earth Charter in bringing storytellers together through shared values and purposes.
Collecting Story & Song
Scottish Storytelling Centre Workshop
2pm (2hrs 30) £12 (£10) £9
What is the role of story and song collections in the traditional arts today? Are all artists to some degree collectors, and is there a parallel discipline of gathering and interpreting sources? Three notable bridge builders between collections and performance share their experiences, discoveries and delights in this fertile ground. With Eddie Lenihan, Marthe Vassallo and Heather Yule.

Meet the Storyteller: Eddie Lenihan from Ireland
Scottish Storytelling Centre Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins) £7.50 (£6) £5
After listening to the older generations for more years than he can remember, the traditional Irish seanchaí Eddie Lenihan probably has the largest tape-library in private hands in Ireland. Enjoy a selection from his treasure of stories and don’t be afraid of meeting ‘The Good People’ as we connect with ‘the other side’.

The Alan Bruford Lecture – Scotland’s Fenian Lays
Scottish Storytelling Centre Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr) £7.50 (£6) £5
The Irish are highly familiar with Celtic myths and legends, but they know little of the evidence for these in Scotland. Scottish Gaelic culture uniquely retains sung Fenian Lays which are connected with sites of major archaeological significance. Sadly, the Scots are largely unfamiliar with this material, be it from Ireland or Scotland. Alan Bruford was exceptional in his work on the singing of Fenian Lays, and this lecture, honouring his memory, will let you hear and see just how significant Scotland’s part of this shared Celtic inheritance was. With John Purser.

A Castle of Stone & Sea: The Life, Songs & Stories of a 19th-century Breton Woman
Scottish Storytelling Centre Live Storytelling
8pm (1hr 30) £9 (£7.50) £6
One of Brittany’s most acclaimed voices, Marthe Vassallo, shares emotions and awe as she retraces, via a treasure trove of documents, the life, song and personality of an obscure 19th-century woman, Maryvonne Le Flem. A story of poverty, pride and mysterious islands, celebrating the power of words and music to articulate our innermost passions.

Transforming Voice
Scottish Storytelling Centre Workshop
11am (5hrs with lunchbreak) £16 (£14) £12
This fun, interactive workshop showcases the transformative power of voice. Whenever we communicate a story or an image, we rely on our individual voices to create a living world for our listeners. That voice needs to be both expressive and authentic. Storyteller Diane Edgecomb’s unique vocal and physical training helps strengthen the connection between the imagination and the voice, increasing its flexibility, authenticity, expressiveness, range and resonance. Special emphasis is placed on finding your natural and true voice. Come prepared to engage your body, your imagination and your own unique voice!

City of Edinburgh Walking Tour: Black Freedom Trail
Departs from the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge Walking Tour
2.30pm (1hr 30) Free (ticketed)
For Black social justice campaigners who had been born into US chattel slavery in the 19th century, Edinburgh was a city of freedom. Join this walking tour and see the buildings and streets where African American women and men lived and worked.
as they fought to end slavery, lynch law and segregation. Highlights of the tour include the places where Frederick Douglass, Jesse Glasgow Jr, Ida B. Wells, Josiah Henson, William and Ellen Craft, Amanda Smith and Moses Roper delivered inspirational speeches to thousands.

Note: Tour is not wheelchair accessible.

Meet the Storyteller:
Chantal Dejardin from Belgium

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6)

Meet the great Irish heroes Cú Chulainn and Fionn Mac Cumhaill through Eddie Lenihan’s zestful storytelling. The adventures of these mighty warriors and heroic band of companions have entertained Irish people for centuries and Lenihan’s collections of local tales are unmatched in modern times.

Open Hearth – Full Moon

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50)

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Celebrate a magical weaving of stories, songs and Lunar lore from many traditions, honouring the Moon in her ripe fullness this evening. Hosted by storyteller Claire Hewitt, with guest storytellers Lindsey Gibb, Linda Williamson, Mio Shapley, Chantal Dejardin from Belgium and Fiona Macleod and Marthe Vassallo from Brittany. The perfect way to end your day.

THU 25 OCT

Introducing the Tales of Ossian – Scotland & Ireland

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Workshop
11am (2hrs)
£12 (£10)

This informal story sharing reveals the Ossian, Finn and Diarmaid stories that are current in Scotland and Ireland. With George Macpherson, David Campbell and The Armagh Rhymers.

sisf.org.uk
The Fianna in the Landscape
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Workshop
2pm (2hrs 30)
£12 (£10) (£9)
Ossian traditions and stories are rooted in Scotland's landscape. Highland storyteller and ecologist, Ruairidh Maclean shares his explorations and encourages us to connect stories with specific places, showing English and Gaelic speakers alike how to use the language as a resource.

A Thousand Doorways
One Woman's Perilous Quest to Preserve the Culture of the Kurds in Turkey
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (1hr 20)
£7.50 (£6) (£5)
‘There’s one world, but a thousand doorways’ (Kurdish saying).
Moved by the silencing of the Kurdish language by Turkish laws, storyteller Diane Edgecomb embarked on a journey of intrigue and heart to record the last Kurdish storytellers. This true account takes us to those mountain villages, forbidden to outsiders, where the true stories of their lives and struggle mix with startling ancient legends. Compassion and understanding open new doorways to this hidden world: a mythic landscape of shepherds, guard towers, caravans, impossible mountain passes and the mysterious eggs of an ancient tree.

Telling Wonder Tales
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Workshop
11am (5hrs with lunchbreak)
£16 (£14) (£12)
Whether derived from the collection of Grimm, Calvino, J.F. Campbell or others who gathered stories for posterity, the wonder tale has become a staple of the storytelling renaissance. These traditional folk tales embrace other worlds of imagination and joy alongside darker emotions. Bring a wonder tale and storyteller Michael Harvey will help you find the resonance, power and joy in the story and in your telling.

Feasting, Folklore & Florence
National Library of Scotland
Live Storytelling
2pm (1hr)
£9 (£7.50)
Fascinated with Florence Marian McNeill since she inherited her grandmother’s copy of A Scots Kitchen, storyteller Amanda Edmiston offers a glimpse into the world of this Scottish folklorist, cookery chronicler and suffragette. Told using a combination of recipes, biographical insights, traditional tales and the lore Florence collected.

A Thorn in the King’s Foot
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) (£5)
At winter’s edge, drama is at fever pitch. The curse of the Cailleach means the king suffers many years unbearable pain. But for all her powers, the goddess of the forest cannot be healed without the king’s touch. A dramatic tribute to Scotland’s national treasure – Duncan Williamson (1928-2007) – his legacy of story, friendship and gift of genius with storytellers Linda Williamson and David Campbell.
Scotland & Ireland: When the World was Young

Celtic tales of Fionn and Ossian
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6)
Be enchanted and taken into the mythic Celtic otherworld. Storytellers Janis Mackay and Alexander Mackenzie will accompany you though the intricate paths of love, loss, adventure and magic.

Festival Guid Crack – Sailing through Stories

The Waverley Bar
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (2hrs 30)
By donation (£5, £4)
Join Edinburgh’s renowned storytelling club. On this special Festival gathering, we invite you to share stories linked to places, starting with Scotland and its most remote islands, then going around the world. Will we get lost or find connecting threads? Hosted by storyteller Ian Stephen.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6
Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller George Macpherson, with guest storytellers Diane Edgecomb from the U.S. and Scotland’s own Ruairidh Maclean and Michael Kerins. The perfect way to end your day.
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<td>Scotland &amp; Ireland: A’ Seinn na Sgeulachd: Bàs Chonnlaoich</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Bazaar Stories</td>
<td>The Nomads Tent</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>Open Hearth</td>
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<td><strong>SUN 21 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>The Breathing Space</td>
<td>RBGE</td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Gory Stories</td>
<td>Departs from Mercat Cross</td>
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<td>Enchanted Garden</td>
<td>RBGE</td>
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<td>3pm</td>
<td>The Purple, White &amp; Green</td>
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<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>Magical Fruit</td>
<td>Lochend Secret Garden</td>
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<td>5pm</td>
<td>Aince there Wis a Loon Caa’d Stanley…</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Scotland &amp; Ireland: Warriors and Wild Women</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>Open Hearth</td>
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<td><strong>MON 22 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Storytelling in Schools: Approaches &amp; Resources</td>
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<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>The Bountiful Birch Tree</td>
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<td>2pm</td>
<td>Borderlands – Irish Border Symposium</td>
<td>NLS</td>
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<td>5pm</td>
<td>Meet the Storyteller: Geeta Ramanujam</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Scotland &amp; Ireland: Sgiath Amazon</td>
<td>Queen of Skye</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>Open Hearth – Young at Heart</td>
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<td><strong>TUE 23 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Festivals Networking</td>
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<td>Collecting Story &amp; Song</td>
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<td>Meet the Storyteller: Eddie Lenihan</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>The Alan Bruford Lecture – Scotland’s Fenian Lays</td>
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<td>A Castle of Stone &amp; Sea</td>
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<td>Transforming Voice</td>
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<td>City of Edinburgh Walking Tour</td>
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<td>5pm</td>
<td>Meet the Storyteller: Chantal Dejardin</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Scotland &amp; Ireland: Irish Heroes</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>Open Hearth – Full Moon</td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Introducing the Tales of Ossian – Scotland &amp; Ireland</td>
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<td>The Fianna in the Landscape</td>
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<td>A Thousand Doorways</td>
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<td>Ossian Supper</td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Telling Wonder Tales</td>
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<td>Feasting, Folklore &amp; Florence</td>
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<td>A Thorn in the King’s Foot</td>
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<td>Scotland &amp; Ireland: When the World was Young</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Festival Guid Crack – Sailing through Stories</td>
<td>The Waverley Bar</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>Open Hearth</td>
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<td><strong>SAT 27 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Family Samhuinn</td>
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<td>Spark 100</td>
<td>Departs from Mercat Cross</td>
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<td>3pm</td>
<td>Starbank Park Halloween Party</td>
<td>Starbank Park</td>
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<td>3pm</td>
<td>Giants</td>
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<td>5pm</td>
<td>Meet the Storyteller: Michael Harvey</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Scotland &amp; Ireland: Diarmaid in Life &amp; Death</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Gunpowder, Treason &amp; (Jacobite) Plot</td>
<td>Dalry House</td>
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<td>Open Hearth</td>
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<td>10am</td>
<td>The Spooky Castle</td>
<td>Lauriston Castle</td>
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<td>Guisers Galore</td>
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<td>Growing Stories at Bridgend</td>
<td>Bridgend Farmhouse</td>
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<td>Clever Anaet</td>
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<td>Meet the Storyteller: Usifu Jalloh</td>
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<td><strong>MON 29 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Kindness Becomes You</td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Pop-up Display of Early Gaelic Manuscripts</td>
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<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Jock's Jocks</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Scotland &amp; Ireland: Deirdre of the Sorrows</td>
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<td><strong>TUE 30 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>The Keening Wake</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>The Lost Pibroch</td>
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<td>The Devil &amp; the Clutch of Fools</td>
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<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Round the Halloween Fire</td>
<td>Leith Community Croft</td>
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<td>9pm</td>
<td>Samhuinn Fire Festival</td>
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For Festival on Tour listings see details on page 23-29
**FESTIVAL FINALE**

**SAT 27 OCT**

**Family Samhuinn**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Family Event
12pm (3hrs)
£5 | Children 3-12

Come celebrate the Celtic festival of Samhuinn, a time where the veil between the land of the living and the departed is at its thinnest. Enjoy a day of stories, games and songs for the whole family, centred around the changes of the seasons.

**Spark 100**
Departs from Mercat Cross, beside St Giles Cathedral
Walking Tour
1.30pm (1hr 30)
Adult £13, Concession £11, Child £8 | 5+

Edinburgh has sown the seeds of inspiration for many writers who grew up in the city and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of them, Muriel Spark. As part of the celebrations of this author your expert Mercat Tours guide, in true Spark style, will leap through time and discuss her life in Edinburgh and the city’s lasting effect on her.

Whether you are looking for an introduction to the woman and her world-renowned work or you are already a Spark devotee, join this tour and breathe in Edinburgh’s ‘informed air’ with us.

*Note: Tour involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs. The guide will always adapt the route to visitor’s needs – full access statement at www.mercattours.com*

**Starbank Park Halloween Party**

**Giants**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
3pm (1hr15)
£7.50 (£6) £5

Two giant storytellers tell myths and folktales of the gigantic beings that once populated the earth, with music and song. Alice Fernbank and Svend-Erik Engh take a loving look at the lives of GIANTS and their rise, demise and gradual departure from the earth. Music by Neil Sutcliffe.

**Meet the Storyteller:**
**Michael Harvey from Wales**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) £5

Welsh oral heritage and landscape are his main sources of inspiration, but storyteller Michael Harvey can never resist a good story, wherever it’s from. His passion for storytelling led him to many adventures and he is now ready to take you on a new one.

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Box office: 0131 556 9579
Scotland & Ireland: Diarmaid in Life & Death

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5

In an eloquent blend of story, music and song, champion piper Allan MacDonald and master storyteller David Campbell present the story of the generous-hearted hero, Dairmaid, seed of the Campbells, featuring one of the great Celtic love stories.

Gunpowder, Treason & (Jacobite) Plot: Lady Grange & the Chieleys of Dalry

Dalry House
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (1hr 45)
£15

In all the intrigues of 17th and 18th-century Scotland there are few families more fascinating than the Chieleys of Dalry. A murderous father and his scandalous daughter, imprisoned on St Kilda by her husband’s conspirators in the upper echelons of the Jacobite aristocracy, are brought to life in song, story and live illustration under the magnificent original 17th century ceiling of their family home. A great chance to peek inside Dalry House in the company of present-day inhabitants Tom and Mairi Morgan-Jones, historian Dr Dòmhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart and a host of musical friends.

Tickets:
email tom@inkymess.com or phone 07775 800 154

sisf.org.uk
Open Hearth
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6
Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by David Campbell, with guest storytellers Michael Harvey and Pauline Down from Wales and musician Allan MacDonald. The perfect way to end your day.

Guisers Galore
Scottish Storytelling Centre & Museum of Edinburgh
Family Event
1.30pm (2hrs 30)
Free (ticketed) | 5+
What’s Guising? Come along and find out! Learn a song, a poem and a dance for real Halloween guising, then follow the Old Town Guisers parade or prepare for guising in your local area. Rehearsals at the Scottish Storytelling Centre from 1.30pm and then performances at the Museum of Edinburgh at 3pm and 3.30pm. Bring your own costume or mask. Not suitable for children under 5. All children must be accompanied.

Meet the Storyteller: Usifu Jalloh from Sierra Leone
Scottish Storytelling Centre Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) £5
Rooted in multicultural Sierra Leone and treasuring the memories of storytelling nights with his grans and uncles in his village, storyteller Usifu Jalloh - The Cowfoot Prince has been an activist for the oral heritage of his ancestry for the last 20 years. Let him take you to the vibrant, colourful and mystical world of Africa.

Branwen
Scottish Storytelling Centre Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5
One of the greatest myths of Celtic mythology, this ancient Welsh story has an intimate relationship with the landscape where it is set, as well as the landscape of the human soul. It is a story of magical transformation, extreme characters, wildness, fury and longing. The story has a different shape to it than many others and is rooted in a deep dream logic that still talks to us directly many centuries later. With storyteller Michael Harvey and singer and composer Pauline Down.

SUN 28 OCT

The Spooky Castle
Lauriston Castle
Family Event
10am (3hrs)
£7
Spend a morning exploring this spooktacular Castle at Halloween. Be brave and dabble in terrifying family activities! Spend some time in the creepy old woods, search for clues with our ghouls and make terrifying Halloween treats in the historical kitchen. We are delighted to be joined this year by our partners Edinburgh Horror Festival. Remember to come in full fancy dress!

Growing Stories at Bridgend
Bridgend Farmhouse
Family Event
2pm (2hrs)
Free (ticketed)

Clever Anaeeet
Scottish Storytelling Centre Live Storytelling
3pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) £5
Arabic songs transport us to the time and place of Anaeeet, daughter of a shepherd. Music and story bring us to the shimmering heat of the moment when Anaeeet gave a pitcher of water to a hot dusty traveller who fell in love with her. Her practical wisdom is needed to save her husband and their people more than once. With singer Maryem Tollar, playing the Riqq, and storyteller Dawne McFarlane.
Open Hearth
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6
Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller Ian Stephen, with guest storytellers Eddie Lenihan from Ireland, Usifu Jalloh from Sierra Leone and Dawne McFarlane from Canada, plus music contributions by Maryem Tollar. The perfect way to end your day.

MON 29 OCT

Kindness Becomes You
A Jamboree of Mindfulness in Storytelling
Scottish Storytelling Centre Workshop
11am (5hrs with lunchbreak)
£16 (£14) £12
In a world hardened by harsh words, this workshop kindles generous thought and wry warmth. Mindfulness teams up with storytelling to find a shared language between narrative and mindful reflection, igniting and exciting celebration as a force for wellbeing. Mindfulness teacher Kristine Janson-Mackenzie and storyteller Alexander Mackenzie combine wit and wisdom to bring out the very best in your telling. A session guaranteed to leave you smiling and a tad more profound.

Pop-up Display of Early Gaelic Manuscripts
National Library of Scotland Exhibition
11am (4hrs)
Free
A chance to see some of National Library of Scotland’s Gaelic manuscripts, recently inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World UK register. As part of the SISF, observe some of the oldest Gaelic manuscripts of heroic tales, as well as traditional Gaelic stories brought together by John Francis Campbell of Islay. Other highlights, like the Book of the Dean of Lismore, will also be on display to show the wide range of Gaelic manuscript collections.

Jock’s Jocks
National Library of Scotland Live Storytelling
5.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6)
Between the 1930s and 1980s, folk singer Jock Duncan interviewed around 60 veterans of the First World War, mainly in his native North East of Scotland. He then spent many years transcribing his interviews in the rich variations of Scots that they were spoken. The result is a unique and illuminating collection of first hand witness testimony to the horror, and humour, of The Great War. A one-act play by Gary West based on the exact words of these soldiers. Featuring music, song, laughter and tears, Gary is joined by Scott Gardiner, Chris Wright and Charlie West.

sisf.org.uk
Scotland & Ireland: Deirdre of the Sorrows
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6)
Kenneth Steven’s sequence of poems retells the story of Deirdre, likely to have its roots in the Iron Age. Deirdre and her lover Naoise fled from Eireann to what we know today as Argyll, finding sanctuary there before being tragically lured back to their homeland. The sequence is, at its heart, formed around this great love story shared by Scotland and Ireland.

The Lost Pibroch
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (1hr 15)
£7.50 (£6)
Set between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne, in the heartland of Argyll, The Lost Pibroch is a story that interweaves memory, piping and mystery. Created in written form by Neil Munro, a live recreation will be presented by storyteller Martin MacIntyre with pipers John Mulhearn and Calum MacCrimmon, founders of the Big Music Society. A unique collaboration for the Storytelling Festival in association with The Traditional Music Forum.

Round the Halloween Fire
Leith Community Croft
Site-Specific
6.30pm (1hr)
Free (donations welcome)
5+
Leith’s Community Garden celebrates the Celtic New Year. Come in costume and enjoy some ghostly songs and stories alongside seasonal nibbles round the Samhuinn fire. With storyteller Marie Louise Cochrane.

The Keening Wake
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5.30pm (1hr 30)
£7.50 (£6)
This devised taisbeanadh beò (live show) searches for the voices of the mnathan-tuirim (keening women) of Scotland and Ireland. Calling upon a rich mix of Scottish and Irish Gaelic, Doric, Georgian and Basque influences, artist-researchers Déirdre Ní Mhathúna, Nerea Bello, Morag McDonald and Madge Bray take a few creative leaps, while fully respecting existing poetry and lore, in their quest to rediscover the Caoineadh. During the performance there will be space for the audience to contribute to the Keening Kist. Supported by HLF and Tasgadh Traditional Arts Fund.

The Devil & the Clutch of Fools
A spontaneous Marathon of Halloween Storytelling
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
10am (12hrs)
Free, drop in
You know who you are...
The culmination of our global storytelling festival is for you to join in with a story of your telling... whoever you are! Experienced bards or complete novices, young or old, grimy or beautiful, we all go into Halloween with a certain sense of foreboding. It is a time when the veil between light and dark invites the unholy to be blessed and the innocent to be drowned. This marathon storytelling event brings storytellers from different nations together with local people in a storytelling extravaganza, to face off against the demons of Halloween. All the stories will be woven and cobbled together into one continuous telling lasting 12 hours from beginning to end, by an intrepid gang of gainly storytellers and a motley crew of beguiling hosts. Come along if you dare. Hosted irresspressibly by storyteller Alexander Mackenzie.

Samhuinn Fire Festival
Calton Hill
Site-Specific
9pm (3hrs)
Ticketed | 10+
The Beltane Fire Society celebrates the Celtic New Year by marking the end of summer and welcoming the onset of winter with acrobatics, drumming, fireworks, beautiful costumes and breathtaking performances. www.beltane.org
Coordinated by regional storytelling teams with the support of the SISF. Guest storytellers meet with local performers and audiences.

A fantastic opportunity to experience in-situ storytelling across the country, highlighting the close links stories have with local tradition, landscape and history.
**African vibes: Stories from Sierra Leone**

Helensburgh Library, West King Street, Helensburgh, G84 8EB

Live Storytelling
7pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)

Rooted in multicultural Sierra Leone and treasuring the memories of the storytelling nights with his grans and uncles in his village, storyteller **Usifu Jalloh - The Cowfoot Prince** has been an activist for the oral heritage of his ancestry for the last 20 years. Let him take you to the vibrant, colourful and mystical world of Africa.

*Pre-booking required – please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01436 674 626.*

**A Stroll with the Trolls: Stories from Iceland**

Rothesay Library, Moat Centre, Stuart Street, Isle of Bute, PA20 0BX

Live Storytelling
7pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)

Storyteller **Hjörleifur Stefánsson** was served stories of old Iceland along with his porridge for years, his grandparents being storytellers by nature. Let him introduce you to the old country lore, where giants, trolls and ghosts populate the vast Icelandic landscapes.

*Pre-booking required – please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01700 503 266.*
Ayrshire

**SUN 28 OCT**

**TamFest**

Ayr Town Centre
Site-Specific
12pm (7hrs)

Ayr Town Centre comes alive with TamFest. Street entertainers, market place, songs, stories and dance come together in celebration of Burns’ world famous poem *Tam O’Shanter*. The day ends with a *Day o’ the Deid* Burns/Mexican community parade and a glow in the dark family ceilidh.

culturalplanning@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Facebook @TamFestAyr

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Dundee

**TUE 23 OCT**

**Bonsoir Dundee: Stories from Brittany & Belgium**

HMS Unicorn, South Victoria Dock Road, Victoria Dock, Dundee, DD1 3BP
Live Storytelling
7pm (2hrs) | £6

Enjoy the lively company of storytellers Fiona Macleod from Brittany and Chantal Dejardin from Belgium, joining Blether Tay-gither storytellers for an evening of stories/contes to treasure in your memories.

Please book tickets on 01334 474 836 or email sheila@blethertaygither.org.uk

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Clackman-nanshire

**SAT 20 OCT**

**In the Land of the Black Goddess**

Marcelle House, 6 Mars Hill, Alloa FK10 1AB
Live Storytelling & Portraiture
2pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)

An afternoon of storytelling and portraiture with storytellers Joanne Ross and Kirsty Grant joined by artists Karen Strang and Sharee Currie. These dark tales are not for children.

Pre-booking required, limited numbers & limited access: please contact 07980 655 906 or email hillfootstales@gmail.com
Facebook @forthvale

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Dumfries & Galloway

**SUN 21 OCT**

**Wonderous Circles**

Dalswinton House, DG2 0XZ
Live Storytelling
2.15pm (45mins family friendly storywalk) & 3.45pm (30mins for 7-17years, and families) | £5 (children free)

At the site of the maiden voyage of Britain’s first steamboat, hear tales of the brave Red Comyn, who lived at Dalswinton and was killed by Robert the Bruce in 1306, and step back in time with tales of Bairds and Romans who encamped upon the hills nearby. With storyteller John Wheeler. In partnership with Scotland’s Gardens.

Phone: 01387 740 220, tickets can be bought at the garden’s gate.
Fife

**WED 24 OCT**

**Colourful Journeys: Stories from India**

The Friary, Queen Street, Inverkeithing, KY11 1PA
Live Storytelling
7.45pm (1hr 45) Free (ticketed)

After travelling all nooks & crannies of India and beyond, storyteller **Geeta Ramanujam** joins local storytellers of **Lang Spoon Tales** for an evening of story sharing. Be transported to a mesmerizing and colourful world where Scotland meets India. Donations welcome.

*Tickets: kate.storyteller@hotmail.co.uk*

**THU 25 OCT**

**Cairngorms Fireside Tales with the Whistling Women**

Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore, Cairngorms National Park
Live Storytelling
2pm (2hrs) Free event

A small group of women spent an evening by storyteller **Margaret Bennett**'s fireside sharing stories and traditional folklore. The group turned into the **Whistling Women**, with even more stories to tell. You are invited to join them around the hearth, listen to stories and find out about Halloween in bygone days.

Sponsored by **Badenoch Heritage Project** and **Heritage Lottery Fund**.

[www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/events](http://www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/events)

Highlands

**SAT 20 OCT**

**Stories in the Landscape: Fionn Mac Cumhaill & other heroic figures**

Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore, Cairngorms National Park
Live Storytelling
2pm (2hrs) Free (ticketed)

Join storyteller **Roddy Maclean** to explore the exciting legends of the Fianna and other heroic figures of the Gàidhealtachd amidst atmospheric settings in the Baile Gean Township. Roddy is a fluent Gaelic speaker and will interpret traditional tales in English linked to places throughout Scotland.

Sponsored by **Badenoch Heritage Project** and **Heritage Lottery Fund**.

[www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/events](http://www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/events)

Glasgow

**THU 25 OCT**

**Sangs an’ Clatter: Travelling Tales**

The Project Café, 134 Renfrew St, Glasgow, G3 6ST
Live Storytelling
7pm (1hr 30) £8

Words wander across borders in this unique opportunity to see two great international storytellers in action. **Fiona Macleod** from Brittany and **Geeta Ramanujam** from India share traditional tales that reach across continents and put some heat in the belly for these darkening days. Hosted by **The Village Storytelling Centre**.

To reserve tickets, please phone 0141 882 3025 or email info@villagestorytelling.org.uk

**FRI 26 & SAT 27 OCT**

**Portskerra International Storytelling Festival**

The annual ceilidh kicks-off this year Portskerra Storytelling Festival at the Pentland Hotel, Thurso on Friday night with trad musicians Clapshot, alongside French speaking Belgian musician and storyteller Chantal Dejardin. Lots of music, stories and dancing.
Spinning and weaving for Saturday night at Melvich Village Hall with an old school storytelling circle and social, while Chantal spins wool as well as tales, sharing the music from her community to build a bridge to the far North Coast of Scotland.

Storyteller Alexandria Patience and musician Donald McNeill will add to the rich mix on both nights, with other local storytellers and musicians. Get in touch and join in.

www.portskerrastorytellingfestival.weebly.com
Facebook @PortskerraMelvichArts

SAT 27 OCT

Stories in the Landscape: Fionn Mac Cumhail & other heroic figures
Talla Nan Ros, Kingussie, Cairngorms National Park
Live Storytelling
7pm (2hrs) | Free (ticketed)
Join storyteller Roddy Maclean for an evening of stories about the legendary Fianna and other heroic figures of the Gàidhealtachd with traditional music. Roddy is a fluent Gaelic speaker and will interpret traditional tales in English linked to places throughout Scotland.

Moray
FRI 26 OCT

Clever Anaeet
Moray Art Centre, The Park, Findhorn, IV36 3TA
Live Storytelling
8pm (1hr 45) | £10 (£8), £6 for under 16
Arabic songs transport us to the time and place of Anaeet, daughter of a shepherd. Music and story bring us to the shimmering heat of the moment when Anaeet gave a pitcher of water to a hot dusty traveller who fell in love with her. Her practical wisdom is needed to save her husband and their people more than once. With singer Maryem Tollar, playing the Riqq, and storyteller Dawne McFarlane.

Tickets: www.universalhall.co.uk or in person at Phoenix Stores, Findhorn.

North East
THU 25 OCT

A Castle of Stone & Sea
The Life, Songs & Stories of a 19th-century Breton Woman
Linklater Room, King’s College, University of Aberdeen, AB24 3FX
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr 30) | Free
One of Brittany’s most acclaimed voices, Marthe Vassallo, shares emotions and awe as she retraces, via a treasure trove of documents, the life, song and personality of an obscure 19th-century woman, Maryvonne Le Flem. A story of poverty, pride and mysterious islands, celebrating the power of story and song to articulate our innermost passions.

Hosted by the Elphinstone Institute.
Further information: elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk
Orkney Storytelling Festival

The 2018 Orkney Storytelling Festival kicks off on Thursday 25 October, as the nights draw in and the old year ends. Enjoy four days of events throughout Orkney, including a boat trip to North Walls for a show in the famous Gable End Theatre and a special showcase of new storytelling talent from Orkney.

Our visiting storyteller is Scotland’s Heather Yule, a superb musician and magical teller of tales. She will be joined by Orkney regulars Tom Muir and Fran Flett Hollinrake and maybe a special guest or two.

The loose theme of the festival is “little helpers”, with tellers sharing stories of fairies, trowies, hogboons and other small folk who can help or hinder. A talk by Nela Scholma-Mason will explore these themes, accompanied by Tom’s tales. Now in its 9th consecutive year, ‘the little festival with the big heart’ is enjoying a fantastic reputation throughout Scotland and beyond. Come and join us!

Orkney Storytelling Festival
orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

Perthshire

Enchanted Forest 2018 – Wild Woods

Set amidst the stunning Autumn woodland of Forestry Commission Scotland’s Faskally Wood in Highland Perthshire, this is Scotland’s premier sound and light event.

Current winner of the UK’s Best Cultural Event, the Scottish Outdoor Leisure Award for Best Outdoor Festival and Scotland’s Best Large Event, it’s a guaranteed warm welcome at this woodland wonderland that dazzles and delights.

On Sunday 28 October resident storytellers Claire Hewitt and Lindsey Gibb will be joined by Marthe Vassallo, one of Brittany’s most acclaimed traditional singers. Enjoy a cosy night in the Yurt, with songs and stories from home and abroad!

Perthshire
THU 4 OCT – SUN 4 NOV

www.enchantedforest.org.uk
**THU 11 OCT**

**Storytelling in the Gardens of Fingask Castle**
Fingask Castle, Rait, PH2 7SA
Live Storytelling
2.30pm & 4pm (plus drop in stories and art making in Studio) | £5 (children free)

All ages
There is many a tale to be told at this garden with a sense of humour. Alice in Wonderland topiary staggers across the lawn, whilst historical and literary figures are scattered among the 18th-century pleasure gardens. Both Bonnie Prince Charlie and his father are said to have approached the castle from the longer yew parade, aptly named ‘King’s Walk’. With storyteller Lizzie McDougall.

In partnership with Scotland’s Gardens.
Phone: 01821 670 777, tickets bought at the garden’s gate.

**FRI 26 OCT**

**Feast of Celtic Folk & Fairy Tales**
Birks Cinema, 1 Dunkeld St, Aberfeldy, PH15 2DA
Film & Live Storytelling
5.30pm (3hrs 30)
By donation (except entry to film)

Enjoy a film followed by a feast of Celtic stories. Hosted by local storyteller Claire Hewitt, with guest singer from Brittany Marthe Vassallo and other local artists.

Further information: Claire Hewitt – 07500 118 047 or clairsach@btinternet.com

**SAT 27 OCT**

**A Castle of Stone & Sea**
The Life, Songs & Stories of a 19th-century Breton Woman
Birnam Arts Centre, Station Road, Dunkeld, PH8 0DS
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (1hr 30) | 12 (£10), £5 under 26s

One of Brittany’s most acclaimed voices, Marthe Vassallo, shares emotions and awe as she retraces, via a treasure trove of documents, the life, song and personality of an “obscure” 19th-century woman, Maryvonne Le Flem. A story of poverty, pride and mysterious islands, celebrating the power of speech and song.

www.birnamarts.com

**Wild Little Stories**
St. Ronan’s Wells, Wells Brae, Innerleithen, EH44 6RB
Live Storytelling & Workshop
2pm (2hrs) | £8, £6 (under 15s), £25 (family), ticket includes afternoon tea.

Enjoy listening to storyteller Heather Yule weave stories and music into a fun family event at this historic venue, which reflects on our fascination with water. Heather then leads a workshop to create new stories inspired by St Ronan’s Wells, and the plants and animals that live beside it.

www.eastgatearts.com
Box Office: 01721 725 777

**FRI 19 OCT**

**Duns Primary School Festival**
Duns PS will be hosting the first of several exciting storytelling events as part of the Borders Winter Tales Festival 2018-2019 with guests from nearby primary schools.

Guest storyteller Eddie Lenihan from Ireland will share stories with Scottish storytellers and musicians - Macastory, Robert Howat, Donald Nelson, Tim Porteus, Margaret Christison and Marjorie Leithead. This will be a special morning of wonderful stories for all.

Please note: Event is not open to members of the public.
ABOUT OUR GUEST STORYTELLERS

The Armagh Rhymers
A skilled troupe of musicians, actors, poets, storytellers, singers and dancers performing in elaborate, unique costumes and fantastically crafted willow and flax masks. Specialising in the Mumming tradition of Ireland, they believe that the arts can create change, promote healing and be used as a unifying force. They have become a vital part of their local arts and culture network as well as gaining a strong international presence on tour.

Chantal Dejardin
A storyteller and trainer since 1991 in France, Chantal enjoys combining her voice and the accordion to tell stories, ranging from tales of fools to ingenious anecdotes. Naturally an avid reader, Chantal also enjoys nature, folk dance, rice pudding and would love to be able to draw.

Dawne McFarlane
Dawne's Scottish grandfather, illuminated by firelight and silhouetted by stars, told her there were faeries in the apple tree, gathered around a lakeside campfire in Northern Ontario with her family. With that gift in her heart, she has been travelling a storyteller's journey interwoven with world music and dance. She performs and teaches storytelling internationally and is the Artistic Director of the Toronto International Storytelling Festival, 2019.

Diane Edgecomb
Winner of America's Oracle Award for storytelling excellence, Diane is known for the passion and depth of her work and for her transformational telling style, in which she fully embodies the tale. She is the author of the first book of Kurdish folktales in English, A Fire in My Heart.

Eddie Lenihan
A living legend to all who remember being entranced when his Ten Minute Tales first broadcast on RTE, Eddie remains Ireland’s greatest living seanchaí and tours constantly, bringing Irish traditional tales to as wide an audience as possible. A celebrated author of many books, he is also a lecturer and collector of ancient Irish tales, myths and legends.

Fiona Macleod
Of Scottish origin, Fiona first listened, entranced, to oral storytelling in France in 1987. On trips back to Scotland with her family, she learnt much from the Travelling and Gaelic traditions. She has travelled all over France, sharing stories, developing a passion for teaching storytelling in schools and gifting families the skills to tell tales.

Geeta Ramanujam
Geeta Ramanujam, besides being an internationally renowned storyteller, is an educator, academician and administrator. She is founder of the Kathalaya Trust and The International Academy of Storytelling, which has defined and evolved the ancient art of storytelling through workshops and certified courses, ensuring over 80,000 adults and 500,000 children have learnt and spread the power of storytelling.

Helena Byrne
An accomplished storyteller, vocalist, actress and songwriter. Combining her love of Irish folklore and passion for performing, Helena interweaves stories and songs combining Irish folklore and history for groups of all ages across Ireland and the U.S.
**Hjörleifur Stefánsson**

Hjörleifur grew up on a farm in West Iceland. He has collected tales for years and loves to share with all, from private sessions for his kids and sheep on the farm, to public performances. Giants, trolls and ghosts are his companions, as well as Icelanders of the past and their traditions of song and story.

**Marthe Vassallo**

One of Brittany’s most renowned singers, and arguably its most versatile. From traditional Breton a cappella singing to opera, theatre and contemporary dance, Marthe has combined her passion for research, storytelling and song to share the tale of an extraordinary individual who has remained silent and unknown in the archives until now.

**Maryem Tollar**

A renowned Egyptian-Canadian vocalist, known for her world music performances, Maryem’s voice has been heard on the theme of CBC’s *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and A.R. Rahman’s Bollywood hit, *Mayya Mayya*. She was the featured vocalist in Tafelmusik’s production *Tales of Two Cities: The Leipzig-Damascus Coffee Houses* and her CD, *Nazar* was nominated for a 2017 Juno award.

**Michael Harvey**

Michael has told stories throughout the UK and Europe, as well as festivals in America, working and telling anywhere and everywhere that people will have him. He draws inspiration from the Welsh oral heritage and landscape, combining depth of material with lightness of delivery. In 2011 he was awarded a Major Creative Wales Award and won a coveted BASE (British Awards for Storytelling Excellence) Award in 2012.

**Pauline Down**

A singer, musician and composer with a passion for promoting and developing the use of arts in health care, Pauline leads choirs in South Wales and hosts singing workshops internationally. With a background in theatre, as musical director and performer, she currently performs with a cappella trio Bread and Roses and storytelling duo, Adlais.

**Usifu Jalloh**

Born in Kamakwie in Sierra Leone, Usifu - The Cowfoot Prince is a highly experienced, award-winning performer and educator who has been working in arts education for over 20 years. Usifu’s roots in multicultural Sierra Leone and close association with artists and audiences from a wide range of cultures have lead him to develop a storytelling style which encompasses international languages, music and story themes.

For more information on Scottish Storytellers please visit our online directory at [www.tracscotland.org](http://www.tracscotland.org)
VENUE DETAILS

Bridgend Farmhouse
41 Old Dalkeith Rd, EH16 4TE
07706 674 108
bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk
Roz.Angus@bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk

Dalry House
13 Orwell Place, EH11 2AD
07775 800 154
tom@inkymess.com

Lauriston Castle
2a Crandon Road South, EH4 5QD
0131 336 2060
edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Leith Community Croft
John’s Place, EH6 7EL
09721 829 120
evie@cropsinpots.org
leith-community-crops-in-pots.org

Lochend Secret Garden
6A Lochend Quadrant, EH7 6DW
07831 091 412
magicalnaturalstories@gmail.com
FB: @lochendcommunitygrowing

Mercat Tours Ltd.
Mercat House,
28 Blair Street, EH1 1QR
NB: Tour begins at the Mercat
Cross, Parliament Square
(next to St Giles Kirk)
0131 225 5445
info@mercattours.com
mercattours.com

Museum of Childhood
42 High Street, EH1 1TG
0131 529 4142
edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Museum of Edinburgh
Huntly House,
142 Canongate, EH8 8DD
0131 529 4143
edinburghmuseums.org.uk

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge, EH1 1EW
0131 623 3734
nls.uk/events
(bookings from 14 Sept)

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Entrances: East Gate on Inverleith Row, EH3 5LR
West Gate & John Hope Gateway on Arboretum Place, EH3 5NZ
0131 248 2909
events@rbge.org.uk
rbge.org.uk

Starbank Park
17 Laverockbank Road
EH5 3DA
twitter.com/StarbankPark

The Nomads Tent
21-23 St Leonards Lane, EH8 9SH
0131 662 1612
info@nomadstent.co.uk
nomadstent.co.uk

The Waverley Bar
3-5 St Mary’s Street, EH1 1TA
0131 557 9855

Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland (SCIO, SC043009) is a collaborative alliance designed to improve the knowledge, practice, development and advocacy of Scotland’s traditional arts in a contemporary world.

TRACS brings together the Scottish Storytelling Forum (SC020891), Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland (SC045085) and Traditional Music Forum (SC042867). TRACS is currently based at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

Cover image:
Dara Vallely:
Cú Chulainn Facing Connaught Army with feats
www.daravallely.com

Designed by Studio Muse


Special thanks to regional events partners: Orkney Storytelling Festival, Portskerra International Storytelling Festival, Duns Primary School Storytelling Festival, Elphinstone Institute, The Village Storytelling Centre, Blether Tay-gither, Lang Spoon Tales, Universal Hall, Enchanted Forest, Birnam Arts Centre, Birks Cinema, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre, South Ayrshire Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey, High Life Highland, Hillfoots Tales.

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