Stories and songs are vital for human survival… they carry our emotions, memories and values, they bind us together as families, communities and nations, especially through tough times. The Scottish International Storytelling Festival continues to channel that flow this year.

Our festival plans, and our ability to deliver them, took a severe knock in March this year. We have held our nerve, adjusted our world view, talked with incredible storytellers and worked through some difficult times to present a festival programme, which we hope will do justice to the spirit and inspiration of our usual festival activity.

This year we welcome our international performers online in the same ceilidh tradition as always, alongside some of the best Scottish storytellers. Our festival commissions in the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 explore Scotland as a nation shaped by the sea through the Voyage series, whilst our Open Hearth and Guid Crack sessions offer participation in unique storytelling ceilidhs. Our popular Community & Family Programme offers opportunities for families, schools and community groups to engage with the wonder of storytelling and the Global Lab workshops offer a platform for development and discussion. As ever, we round up the festival with the Feast of Samhuinn, in accordance with Celtic tradition.

Human connections will continue to exist through stories, regardless of where we are in the world. Please come with us on this journey.

The Festival Team
ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The festival programme is a blended approach of online opportunities and in-person live events. Our event categories ensure your storytelling experience is exactly what you are looking for, be it in the comfort of your own home, in outdoor locations or in one of the festival venues. All our live plans are subject to Scottish Government guidance in the autumn period.

EVENT TYPES

Online | Pre-recorded
Traditional storytelling performances filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre or on site-specific locations in Scotland.

Online | Live Broadcast
Traditional storytelling sessions broadcast live online.

Online | Open-mic
Traditional storytelling sessions broadcast live online, with open floor contributions.

Online | Live Webinar
Online workshops and presentations broadcast live from the Scottish Storytelling Centre, with audience participation.

In-person | Indoor
Small-scale live storytelling events in festival venues.

In-person | Indoor Open-mic
Small-scale live storytelling events in festival venues, with open floor contributions.

In-person | Outdoor
Small-scale live storytelling events in outdoor locations.

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets for events at the Scottish Storytelling Centre (including online events: Voyage, Open Hearth, Guid Crack and Global Lab), and St Columba’s by the Castle can be booked by phone, online or in person through the Centre’s Box Office.

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

Other partner venues and regional events have their own booking outlets, as listed.

ACCESS INFO...

A full Access Statement is available on our website or on request. A full list of live captioned events will be available at sisf.org.uk.

HOW TO GET HERE

The Scottish Storytelling Centre’s award-winning building is the hub of the Festival, located halfway down Edinburgh’s Royal Mile, within easy walking distance of Princes Street and Waverley train station. There is no parking directly outside the Centre, but the Lothian bus number 35 stops outside with a taxi rank close by. Opening hours subject to Scottish Government guidelines.

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 43-45 High Street | EH1 1SR

sisf.org.uk
The Gruagach Solais

by Claire Hewitt

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Mon - Sun: 10am - 6pm | Free

Highland Perthshire is a land rich in story and ancient lore deeply connected to its natural environment. The lifeblood that flows through this land are the waters that create the River Tay, without which the trees, birds, wild beings of earth, water and air would not survive. Claire Hewitt’s images are a response to the abundant natural and mythological landscape around her. From magical salmon to wild faerie cattle women, each image holds, like water, a memory of the most ancient of stories and the spirit of the place. The Gruagach Solais was a wise spirit of the blacksmith’s fire, a spark of inspiration and wisdom taken from a Gaelic poem in Highland Perthshire.

The SISF Community & Family Programme is taking place Mon 12 Oct – Mon 30 Nov pairing local storytellers with schools and community groups in digital and small-scale live settings – keeping things safe and slow with a varied and enjoyable programme for all.

Community groups and schools can take part in The Big Scottish Story Ripple by holding a storytelling event led by a storyteller from the SSF storytelling Directory. Groups can apply for a subsidy that will cover the cost of their storyteller’s fees. In return, successful applicants must offer a good deed back to their local community on or before St Andrew’s Day.

For more information contact storytelling@tracscotland.org
**GET CREATIVE**

**SAT 17 – FRI 30 OCT**

**SISF Art Challenge: Waterlines**

Love drawing? Join the first SISF online art challenge and engage with the festival community, with the chance to win a book of Scottish folktales. Mythical prompts will be released to inspire your imagination, taking you on an adventurous sea voyage.

Check our Instagram @ScotStoryFest for updates and follow the hashtags #SISFArtChallenge #SISFWaterlines.

**MON 19 & SAT 31 OCT**

**Scotland’s Greatest Ghost Stories**

What is your favourite ghost story attached to your community?

As part of SISF 2020, we’re casting a net across the nation to catch ghost stories haunting each local area and to celebrate these tales with an online discussion, a workshop and a ghost story event on the last day of the festival... Saturday 31 October, Halloween!

Do you know of a White Lady spectre that haunts a derelict castle, a local railway line haunted by a ghost train or a tales of local witches and warlocks? Then take part!

**How to get involved:**

- Research ghosts stories linked to your local area
- **Mon 19 Oct**: take part in an online social media discussion #SISFsaysBoo
- **Mon 19 Oct, 6.30pm (1hr)**: attend a ‘How to Tell a Good Ghost Story’ workshop
- **Sat 31 Oct, 4pm (2hrs)**: share and listen to all the ghostly tales during an online event on Halloween

For more information contact storytelling@tracscotland.org

Tickets available via the Box Office
VOYAGE: A NATION SHAPED BY THE SEA

Andy Cannon
Photo by Brian Hartley
Over centuries, real and imaginary voyages have connected Scotland to other coastal countries, near and far. Some of the story treasures that arrived and departed with them are now presented in this special series of traditional storytelling events, celebrating Scotland as a nation shaped by the sea. Specially developed for SISF 2020 by Scottish-based storytellers and musicians, the performances are presented as live from the Netherbow Theatre, at the Scottish Storytelling Centre or on location where the stories are set. Experience some of Scotland’s best storytellers and musicians in the flow as they shape these incredible tales.

**SAT 17 OCT**

**Tales of a Grandson: The Maid of Norway**  
*by Andy Cannon*

*Online | Pre-recorded*

6.30pm  
By donation (ticketed)

Once upon a time - or 724 years, 5 months and 1 day ago, to be precise - Andy the messenger sets off from Edinburgh Castle bound for Norway on a royal errand to collect and escort the new Queen of Scotland back to her new home in her new land. Join Andy on his journey across the sea as he rehearses how best to tell little Princess Margaret of Norway the tragic events that have led to her becoming the first ruling Queen of Scots. **Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.** Suitable for all the family.

**SUN 18 OCT**

**The Stone Stories**  
*by Mandy Haggith*

*Online | Pre-recorded*

6.30pm  
By donation (ticketed)

Author Mandy Haggith presents her trilogy of novels set in the Iron Age, inspired by the true story of Pytheas of Massalia, who made an incredible journey in 320 BC from the Mediterranean and back again via Britain, the Arctic and the Baltic Sea. Explore who he would have met along the coastline of what is now northern Scotland and how the Celtic culture he encountered would have differed from that of the Greek Empire he came from and returned to. Carefully researched, the novels were written mostly while sailing the routes that Pytheas travelled and address issues that are deeply relevant today, including greed, slavery and sexual power. Come and enjoy a glimpse behind the scenes with a prize-winning historical novelist. **Filmed on location in Clachtoll.**

**MON 19 OCT**

**Strathspey Stories**  
*by David Francis & Hamish Napier*

*Online | Pre-recorded*

8pm  
By donation (ticketed)

‘The Haughs of Cromdale’, ‘Tullochgorum’, The White Horse of Spey, the Muime and the Old Man of Dunshee, ‘The Spey in Spate’ - Hamish Napier and David Francis explore coasts and waters with stories and music from Strathspey, plus an atmospheric telling of Stanley Robertson’s ‘Jack and the Dancing Trees’. **Filmed on location in Strathspey and at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.**
TUE 20 OCT

The Voyage of St Brendan
by Marion Kenny & John Kenny

Online | Pre-recorded

8pm
By donation (ticketed)
Join sibling duo Marion and John Kenny as they explore the legendary voyage of St Brendan and his monks into the unknown. Volcanoes, icebergs, sea monsters, strange beings, courage and spirituality all play a part in this ancient adventure story of St. Brendan. Known as ‘The Navigator’ he is widely believed to have sailed from Ireland to America hundreds of years before the Vikings and thousands of years before Columbus. Words and music will be woven together in a magical blend, featuring harps and the ancient Celtic Iron Age horns of the Deskford Carnyx from Scotland and the Loughnashade horn from Ireland. Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

THU 22 OCT

Nanny of the Maroons
by Mara Menzies & Apphia Campbell

Online | Pre-recorded

8pm
By donation (ticketed)
As the ships carried provisions from the ice-cold waters of Scotland to the coastline of Africa, a woman, packaged as human cargo, was led on to a vessel. She crossed oceans heading to the land of sugar and opportunity. Chained and imprisoned, her fury built with the pounding of the waves and upon her arrival, she slipped away like water in the sand. Filled with the force of the rivers, tides, storms and the power to deflect bullets, she returned to vent her rage and fulfil her destiny. Her name was Nanny, Queen of the Maroons. Story and songs by Mara Menzies and Apphia Campbell. Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

FRI 23 OCT

Tour to the Hebrides
by Andy Cannon, Christopher Craig & Donald Smith

Online | Pre-recorded

6.30pm
By donation (ticketed)
All aboard with Sam and Bozzi - alias storytellers Andy Cannon and Christopher Craig - for Boswell and Johnson’s infamous trip across Scotland to Iona. It’s English bulldog versus Scots terrier, and they are both writing their version. And why won’t someone set up a reliable system of ferries? The intrepid duo hit all the highs and plumb the lows of travelling in the same boat. Devised by Donald Smith. Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre and on location in the Hebrides.

WED 21 OCT

Orphan James and the Prince of Denmark
by Alice Fernbank & Svend-Erik Engh

Online | Pre-recorded

6.30pm
By donation (ticketed)
As The King’s Men perform Shakespeare’s Hamlet at the court of James VI/I and Queen Anne of Denmark, bittersweet memories are unearthed for the royal couple. They recall a perilous voyage across the waters between Scotland and Denmark. The play stirs up a well of grief, opening the deepest of heart wounds in the king himself. Join English storyteller Alice Fernbank and Danish storyteller Svend-Erik Engh as they tell a tale they have conjured from the growing evidence of parallels between the story of Hamlet and the life of James VI/I. Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.
SAT 24 OCT

Scots in the Antarctic: A Tale with Penguins, Pipers and a Dog named Russ
by Nicola Wright

Online | Pre-recorded

6.30pm
By donation (ticketed)
Join storyteller Nicola Wright on a journey to the end of the earth to hear of the hugely successful, but now almost forgotten, Scottish National Antarctic Expedition 1902-1904. In this entertaining family-friendly performance you will meet William Speirs Bruce, a polar hero you may never have heard of. You will learn about what explorers ate, how they lived and what they wore. Are you ready to discover the story of the Saltire at the South Pole? Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Suitable for all the family.

SUN 25 OCT

Leaving Iona
by Heather Yule & Donald Smith

In-person | Indoor

3pm (1hr)
By donation (ticketed)
St Columba’s by the Castle Scottish Episcopal Church
It’s Columba’s wake. But where does his body belong - in Donegal or Iona? And who will tell the story - the monks, the poets or the women? Join storytellers Heather Yule and Donald Smith in person on this special afternoon, as they follow the inner and outer journeys of Colmcille/Columba on the 1500th anniversary of his birth.

Deiseal | Sunwise
by Ian Stephen, Christine Morrison & Mike Vass

Online | Pre-recorded

8pm
By donation (ticketed)
A three-stranded cord of stories, original music and images will take you on a historic voyage off Scotland’s west coast, as far as the outlying Hebridean islands of Hirta and North Rona. With stories arranged and told by storyteller Ian Stephen and new music from Mike Vass. Images selected and arranged by Christine Morrison. Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.
Brian Ó hEadhra and Fiona MacKenzie
Photo by Róise Ní Eadhra
**WED 28 OCT**

**TUATH: Songs of the Northlands**

*by Brian Ó hEadhra and Fiona Mackenzie*

8f Fàilte air tiodhlaicean (Tiogaidean)

Bhidh Brian Ó hEadhra agus Fiona NicChoinnich a’ gabhail órain às na clàraidhean as ur aca TÌR – Highland Life & Lore agus TUATH – Songs of the Northlands anns a’ chonsairt shònraichte seo. Tha TÌR a’ coimhead air dòighean-beatha traidiseanta agus dòighean-beatha san latha an-diugh is a’ gabhail a-steach sgeulachdàn às a’ Ghàidhealtachd. ’s e rùrachadh ceòlmhor is cultarail a th’ ann an TUATH a tha a’ sealltainn air na ceanglaichean eadar na Gàidheil is na nàbaidhean aca anns a’ Chuan Siar. Bheir an dithis seachad ro-ràdh do na h-òrain le eadar-theangachaidean, ’s ann anns a’ Ghàidhlig a tha a’ mhòr-chuid de na h-òrain ach tha cuideachd órain ann an Gaeilge, Beurla agus Nirribhis. Nach call an cothrom seo fhaicinn! *Air a chlàradh ann an Ionad Sgeulachdàn na h-Alba.*

**THU 29 OCT**

**Shetland Stories & Fiddle Tunes: The Greenland Days and the Haaf Fishing**

*by Maurice Henderson & Ewen Thomson*

Online | Pre-recorded

8pm

By donation (ticketed)

Highland-based duo, Brian Ó hEadhra and Fiona Mackenzie, present an intimate show featuring songs from their acclaimed, recently released albums TÌR - Highland Life & Lore and TUATH - Songs of the Northlands. TÌR explores traditional and contemporary life and stories from the Highlands of Scotland. TUATH is a musical and cultural exploration of the connections between the Gaels and our nearest Atlantic neighbours. The duo will provide introductions and read translations of the songs, which are mostly in Scottish Gaelic, but also in Irish Gaelic, English and Norwegian. A show not to be missed! *Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.*
FRI 30 OCT

The Birlinn
by Ailean Domhnullach/Allan MacDonald

Online | Pre-recorded

6.30pm
By donation (ticketed)

Are we heading for peace or war? Renowned piper and Gaelic tradition bearer, Ailean Domhnullach/Allan MacDonald premieres his musical evocation of sailing, sharing the majestic voyage of The Galley of Clanranald. The featured Gaelic text of Birlinn Chlann Raghnaill is by Alasdair Mac Mhaistear Alasdair, Jacobite Bard of Clan Ranald, alongside a new translation by Alan Riach. Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

SAT 31 OCT

Corryvreckan: Inspiralled Tales
by Fiona Herbert, with Emma Durkan

Online | Pre-recorded

6.30pm
By donation (ticketed)

Explore Scotland’s mythical heritage as storyteller Fiona Herbert tells the tales surrounding the Corryvreckan whirlpool through the eyes of the much maligned and misunderstood Cailleach, the ancient Gaelic creation goddess. In doing so, she dives beneath the lies to celebrate female power, the true value of old age and the wisdom of the wild. With harp, fiddle and song from Emma Durkan. Supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland. Filmed at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.
OPEN HEARTH SESSIONS

Online | Live Broadcast

SAT 17, SUN 18, WED 21, SAT 24, TUE 27, THU 29, SAT 31 OCT

8pm (2hrs) | By donation (ticketed)

THU 22 & SUN 25 OCT

1pm (2hrs) | By donation (ticketed)

The Festival's famous Open Hearth sessions move online in a ceilidh of cultures. Join us for a specially curated lineup at each session featuring some of the finest traditional storytellers from around the world, hosted by a Scottish storyteller in the ceilidh tradition. The perfect way to end – or start – your day!

Guests include Baba the Storyteller, Jan Blake, Peter Chand, Giovanna Conforto, Wangari Grace, Sue Hollingsworth, Usifu Jalloh, Dawne McFarlane, Niall Moorstani, John Titi Namai, Carolina Quiroga-Stultz, Kamini Ramachandran, Raphael Rodan, Sahand Sahebdivani, Donna Washington and Liz Weir. Full listings are available online.

Peter Chand
Photo by Katja Lange
GUID CRACK SESSIONS

Online | Open-mic

FRI 23 & FRI 30 OCT

8pm (2hrs) | By donation (ticketed)
Join us for two special sessions of Edinburgh’s long-running storytelling night, with a special guest storyteller each time and the usual open-floor opportunity to share a tale of your own.

FRI 23 OCT with Michael Kerins

FRI 30 OCT with Fran Flett Hollinrake

Fran Flett Hollinrake
Photo by Mark Woodsford-Dean
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<tr>
<td>11am/12.30pm</td>
<td>Edinburgh Old Town Family Day</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>4pm</td>
<td>Storytelling Café</td>
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<td>Indoor Open-mic</td>
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<td>Voyage: Tales of a Grandson</td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Scotland's Democracy Trail</td>
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<td>Storytelling Café</td>
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<td>4pm/6pm</td>
<td>Scuttlebutt Stories!</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>Voyage: The Stone Stories</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
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<td>Enlightened Eccentrics!</td>
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<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Global Lab: Deep Healing and Ecology</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Live Webinar</td>
<td>Online(NLS)</td>
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<td>3pm</td>
<td>Spirit of the Mountains</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Live Broadcast</td>
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<td>Storytelling Café</td>
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<td>How to Tell a Good Ghost Story</td>
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<td>Voyage: Strathspey Stories</td>
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<td>3pm</td>
<td>Tales and Traditions from Orkney</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>Voyage: The Voyage of St Brendan</td>
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<td>WED 21 OCTOBER</td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>By Leaves We Live: Patrick Geddes</td>
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<td>1pm/3pm</td>
<td>Story Tour of the Old Town</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>RBGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Global Lab: Journey to the Mountain Source</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Live Webinar</td>
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<td>Storytelling Café</td>
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<td>Voyage: Orphan James and the Prince of Denmark</td>
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<td>FRI 23 OCTOBER</td>
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<td>Global Lab: At Sea with the Selkies</td>
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<td>Caddie Capers</td>
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<td>Global Lab: Native America and Scotland</td>
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<td>Voyage: Scots in the Antarctic</td>
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<td>Black History Walking Tour of Edinburgh</td>
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<td>Open Hearth</td>
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<td>Voyage: Leaving Iona</td>
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As humanity faces an ecological, social, economic and cultural storm, storytellers and communities worldwide are sourcing stories that offer healing and hope. Global Lab offers inspiring examples of creative practice in the arts, education and frontline activism, with the opportunity to share, question and discuss.

**Daily Programme**

1.30pm: Welcome, Introductions and Presentation

2.30pm: Break

2.45pm: Workshop Sharing and Discussion

4.30pm: End
MON 19 OCT

Deep Healing and Ecology
with Laura Simms
Can we heal the planet without healing ourselves and our fractured relationships? Laura Simms is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, writer and teacher, performing worldwide since 1970. She combines traditional narrative with personal story and has been a major inspiration in the healing and storytelling endeavour. Her most recent book, Our Secret Territory: The Essence of Storytelling, has been called ‘the best book ever written on storytelling’ (Jay O’Callahan). She lives in New York City and is part of The Constellation, a worldwide development project, and is the artistic director of the Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Center in NYC.

FRI 23 OCT

At Sea with the Selkies
with Janis Mackay
What does it mean to lose your seal skin? What can we learn from the selkie stories when it comes to retrieving lost parts of ourselves? How can myth guide us and heal us? Scottish storyteller Janis Mackay has been working with stories for over 20 years. Some of her favourite traditional stories involve the physical or mental transformation of characters into other beings. Janis is also an author and she wrote her first novel, Magnus Fin and the Ocean Quest, while she was on a writer residency in Caithness, on Scotland’s north coast. The book was awarded the Kelpies Prize 2009. Janis is currently doing a PhD on the theme of blending myth with life story, focusing on selkie legends as a path towards wellbeing and soul retrieval.

WED 21 OCT

Journey to the Mountain Source
with Geeta Ramanujam
Is there a spiritual dimension to storytelling traditions? If so, where better to encounter it than in the Indian sub-continent? Geeta Ramanujam is a pioneer of the storytelling movement in India and in this workshop she takes us back to the ancient roots of her traditions in the Himalayas. In addition to being an internationally renowned storyteller, Geeta is an educator, academician and administrator. She is the 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 85,000 adults and 500,000 children have learnt and enjoyed the art of storytelling.

SAT 24 OCT

Native America and Scotland: Atlantic Crossings
with Julie Cajune & Douglas Mackay
What is the significance of Native American traditions for the modern world, and how can we connect with them in Scotland? Julie Cajune is the sum of many stories, with a Salish, Nex Perce and Scots-Irish mother, and a Chippewa and French father, but the largest part of her identity is Salish. Educator and citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Julie served in the public school system, transitioning to Director of the CSKT Tribal Education Department. She has produced books, films, plays and curricula with a focus on American Indian history. She has received several prestigious honours for her education and cultural work.

Douglas Mackay is fascinated by the natural confluence of stories, landscape and cultural traditions. Exploring regenerative culture lead him to the wild woods of Massachusetts in 2015 to embark on a fortnight of coyote mentoring. Douglas returned to Scotland with a question: which cultural tools and natural elements in Scotland can foster nature connection and community resilience today? What can be shared through friendship and reconciliation to seed a sustainable culture and meet the challenges of the 21st century?
MON 26 OCT

Myths of the Corryvreckan Whirlpool

with Seoras Macpherson & Stuart McHardy

The Corryvreckan, between Jura and Scarba, is the world’s third largest whirlpool and a deep source of mythological connections. This workshop enables a dialogue between storytelling traditions, archaeology and ecology.

Seoras Macpherson is a traditional seanchaí based on the Isle of Skye. His stories come from family traditions passed down through many generations in Skye and Argyll. His repertoire is rich with tales of fairies, water horses and the seal people.

Stuart McHardy has pioneered geo-mythography, studying specific locations and their detailed features in the light of storytelling traditions. He is a key collector of traditional Scots stories and has devoted increasing time and energy to sharing this work through live storytelling. Much of the research Stuart has undertaken over the past decade and a half is based upon material from the oral tradition, making the point that oral tradition can provide relevant and otherwise unavailable source material over centuries, if not millennia.

TUE 27 OCT

Living for the Sea

with YouthLink Scotland & John Hamilton

YouthLink Scotland is the National Agency for youth work. Over the last 18 months they have been delivering the National Lottery Heritage Funded project, On Our Wave Length, which is a youth-led research project exploring environmental impacts on coastal communities. Young researchers from across Scotland have been exploring environmental issues that matter most to them and their communities, whether this be climate change, pollution, impacts on wildlife, oceans and so on. The young researchers are sharing their findings through storytelling both nationally and locally to help ensure that their key messages are spread throughout Scotland, hopefully for years to come.

WED 28 OCT

Tobar an Dualchais | Well of Stories

with Màrtainn Mac an t-Saoir | Martin MacIntyre

Martin MacIntyre has always respected the power of oral narrative to forge stronger connections between people and to achieve artistic and therapeutic results. His stories include Ossianic wonder tales, those based on the historical traditions of the Scottish Highlands and further afield and also modern stories of adventure, love and humor.

A fluent Gaelic speaker, Martin sings traditionally and sees storytelling as an integral component of the holistic ceilidh, which naturally includes stories, song, music and poetry, to which all can contribute. Martin was the first coordinator of the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig led Tobar an Dualchais / Kist of Riches project, which has now digitised and made accessible online thousands of hours of oral material in Gaelic, Scots and English from the archives of the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh; BBC Alba and The National Trust for Scotland Canna Collections.
The Earth Stories Collection
with Grian Cutanda, Donald Smith & Earth Tellers Network

This workshop opens a window onto the international effort to disseminate and learn from indigenous traditions, in the face of environmental crisis. Grian Cutanda is a researcher, educator, psychologist and author of 15 books. A social and environmental activist, he has been involved in the organisation of the People’s Climate March (Edinburgh, 2014) and in the creation of Extinction Rebellion in Spain and Mexico.

Along with his wife Marta Ventura, Grian is also the founder of the Avalon Project - Initiative for a Culture of Peace, and of The Earth Stories Collection, a bank of traditional stories from all over the world.

Donald Smith is Director of SISF, a community gardens activist and co-founder of Earth Story Tellers.
In these unprecedented times we embrace, more than ever, the ethos of slow travel and invite you to rediscover the place you live in through stories and music. Find out more about local storytelling events in Edinburgh and across Scotland.

Heather Yule
Photo by David McIntosh
DAILY

**Storytelling Café Sessions**  
*In-person | Indoor Open-mic*

Scottish Storytelling Centre  
4pm (1hr 30) | £8 (£6)
 Rediscover the joy of ‘eye to eye, mind to mind and heart to heart’ storytelling. Wellbeing and connection flows through these daily sessions as the core ethos, with a special guest storyteller and an open-floor section for audience participation.  
*Limited tickets available, advance booking recommended. Full listings will be available online.*

**SUN 18 OCT**

**Scuttlebutt Stories!**  
*In-person | Indoor*

Padlox Escape Rooms  
4pm & 6pm (50mins)  
By donation | 12+
 The Scuttlebutt was the barrel of water kept on a ship’s deck and the place to meet to tell stories and sing songs of the sea. Local storyteller Jan Bee Brown and musician Toby Hawks invite you to join them for some tall tales and spirited shanties, a heady blend of stories and songs of the sea that link Scotland and Scandinavia. Fill your boots with whirlpools, winds, witches and whales, nautical nonsense and some curious Scandinavian string instruments.  
*Booking and Info: [www.facebook.com/setsailwithstories](http://www.facebook.com/setsailwithstories) 07799 852 162 jbeebrown@me.com*

**MON 19 OCT**

**Spirit of the Mountains**  
*Online | Live Broadcast*

3pm (45mins) | Free (ticketed)
 Beverley Bryant and Heather Yule share stories of female spirits, goddesses and giantesses who inhabit mountain ranges across the world. Held in association with the Petticoats and Pinnacles exhibition at the National Library of Scotland, join us for an exploration of Scottish women who have climbed, walked and written about mountains. Hosted by the National Library of Scotland.  
*Booking and Info: [www.nls.uk/events](http://www.nls.uk/events)*

**TUE 20 OCT**

**Tales and Traditions from Orkney**  
*Online | Live Broadcast*

3pm (45mins) | Free (ticketed)
 Inspired by photographs from the MacKinnon Collection, Tom Muir shares some of the stories and lore of his native Orkney. Hosted by the National Library of Scotland.  
*Booking and Info: [www.nls.uk/events](http://www.nls.uk/events)*

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**SAT 17 OCT**

**Edinburgh Old Town Family Day**  
*In-person | Outdoor*

Scottish Storytelling Centre  
11am & 12.30pm (50mins)  
By donation (ticketed)  
All Ages
 Celebrate the start of the Storytelling Festival with a session of stories, songs and sunshine (yes please!) outdoors, in the heart of Edinburgh’s Old Town. Presented in partnership with the Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust and subject to safety guidelines in October.

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*sisf.org.uk*
**SUN 18 & FRI 23 OCT**

**Scotland’s Democracy Trail**
*with Jean Bareham, Greenyonder Tours*
11am (2hrs) | £10 (£8)

Whether it’s IndyRef2, Brexit, Project Fear or Project Farce, how we do democracy is a hot topic in Scotland. In 2014’s Independence Referendum, many thousands of people in Scotland even got enthusiastic about it! This walking tour takes a gentle uphill path to the top of Calton Hill to tell a 500-year-old story of democracy in Scotland, much of it almost forgotten. Using the fabulous views of the city, the tour will show you the clues that live on in Edinburgh’s landscape. We then take a downhill stroll to the Scottish Parliament to bring the story right up to present day.

**MON 19 & TUE 20 OCT**

**Enlightened Eccentrics!**
*with Jan Bee Brown*
11am (1hr 30) | £10 (£8)

From daring aeronauts and decidedly dodgy doctors to stony-broke bankers and dedicated drinkers, storyteller Jan Bee Brown will be drinking a toast to some entrepreneurs of the Enlightenment, inspired by social satirist John Kay. Kay published his first caustic caricature in 1784 and his biting wit and satirical style became so popular that he refurbished his barber shop, re-opening to sell his prints of his colourful clientele. There is a story behind every print, a song or two and many a close shave… so walk this way for a jaunt around Kay’s favourite haunts!

**WED 21 & WED 28 OCT**

**By Leaves We Live: Patrick Geddes Story Tour of the Old Town**
*with Alette Willis*
11am (1hr 30) | £10 (£8)

Walk in the footsteps of the great Victorian polymath, Patrick Geddes, who made his home in St James court and shaped the community and gardens of the Old Town. Learn how Geddes’ ideas shaped the fields of botany, ecology, town planning and education in ways that are still relevant today. Along the way, you will hear traditional tales from this part of the world, tales that we might imagine a young Geddes heard at his mother’s knee, which may have influenced his ideas about living in harmony with the natural world.

**SAT 24 OCT**

**Caddie Capers**
*with Macastory*
11am & 1pm (45mins) | £5 | 5+

Join the Old Town Caddies as they take you for a tour of Auld Reekie in story, song and rhyme. You’ll meet characters such as Deacon Brodie and Aggie the Fish Wife as the caddies lead you through the cobbled streets and closes to share the secrets of old Edinburgh with you! Interactive storytelling with the always entertaining Macastory.
SUN 25 & SAT 31 OCT

Black History Walking Tour of Edinburgh
with Lisa Williams, Edinburgh Caribbean Association
11am (1hr 30) | £10 (£8)

Hear the fascinating but little-known stories of Edinburgh’s deep connections with Africa, Asia and the Caribbean over the past 500 years. The walk around the centre of the city will make you see Edinburgh’s statues and buildings in a whole new way!

TUE 27 & FRI 30 OCT

The Witches Walk
with Lea Taylor & Mary Craig
11am (1hr 30) | £10 (£8)

Take a wander with storytellers Lea Taylor and Mary Craig, walking where the witches feared to tread! Passing St Giles Cathedral and the National Library of Scotland, they will take you down Victoria Street to the Grassmarket and then up again to the Witches’ Well by Edinburgh Castle. In this fun, informative and interactive walk, Lea and Mary will intrigue and delight you with the gore, the facts and fiction and a little more besides. Bring umbrellas (this is Scotland after all) and a willingness to take part!

WED 21 & 28, SAT 24 & 31 OCT

Enchanted Garden: Paths of Stories
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, West Gate & John Hope Gateway
1pm & 3pm (50mins) Free (ticketed)

Tune in with nature and rediscover the pleasure of strolling amongst trees while listening to beautiful stories. Scottish storytellers Amanda Edmiston, Daniel Allison, Daniel Serridge and Jane Mather will guide you on storywalks through the Royal Botanic Garden unveiling the untold stories of trees and wildlife. All storywalks depart from the John Hope Gateway, meeting at the Real Life Science Studio.

Booking and Info:
0131 248 2909
**Clackmannanshire**

**Alloa**

**MON 19 - SAT 24 OCT**

**Whispering Waters**

*In-person | Outdoor and Online | Live broadcast*

Local storytellers Joanne Dowd, Susan Chown, Jack Stravaiger and Janet Crawford invite you to an enticing mix of watery tales. Join the Go Local online tales night, or the Spooky Story Walk from Tillicoultry to the haunted Tait’s Tomb in Dollar. Enjoy more stories at the interactive story evening, or come along to the Whispering Waters, Live Saturday Story afternoon and hear about local legends of sea gods, maidens, mists, wells and warlocks. Planned with COVID-19 restrictions in mind.

**Booking and Info:**
- www.facebook.com/hillfoottales
- hillfoottales@gmail.com

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**Dumfries & Galloway**

**Dumfries**

**FRI 9 - FRI 16 OCT**

**Wild Goose Festival: Nature, Creativity & Place**

Held in Dumfries and its surroundings, the Wild Goose Festival uses the migratory route of the Barnacle Geese between Svalbard and the Solway Estuary to join people, nature and ideas. In connection with the Scottish International Storytelling Festival and produced by The Stove Network, the Wild Goose Festival unites key partners – WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Scottish Natural Heritage, Moat Brae Centre for Children’s Literature and Storytelling, University of Glasgow, Creative Futures and PAMIS (Promoting a More Inclusive Society) – in an exploration of nature, creativity and place. Planned with COVID-19 restrictions in mind.

**Programme and Info:**
- www.thestove.org/wild-goose-festival

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**Glasgow**

**THU 22 OCT**

**Sangs an’ Clatter: Campfire Tales**

*In-person | Outdoors*

Damshot Woods, Pollok. Meet at The Village Storytelling Centre, Langton Halls, Langton Road, Pollok, G53 5DD

6pm (2hrs) | Free (ticketed), donations welcome

A cosy evening of songs and tales around the campfire in Damshot Woods, with special guest storytellers and musicians alongside regular Village storytellers. Refreshments provided.

Hosted by The Village Storytelling Centre. Planned with COVID-19 restrictions in mind.

**Tickets and Info:**
- 0141 882 3025
- info@villagestorytelling.org.uk

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**Lanarkshire**

**OCT - NOV**

**Doon the Watter**

*In-person | Outdoors*

Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life, Heritage Way, Coatbridge, ML5 1QD | Free

From the Broomielaw Wharves we begin our journey down the River Clyde, or ‘doon the watter’, with storyteller and singer Gerry
Durkin. Passengers gather on board for a trip calling at Greenock Princes Pier, Gourock, Dunoon and Rothesay before cruising into the Kyles, or up Loch Striven or possibly to Largs and around the Cumbraes. It’s the Fair Fortnight holiday, full to this day of memories, songs and nostalgia. But will the staycation bring it all back? And what exactly did ‘steaming’ mean on these journeys…?

In partnership with the Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life. Planned with COVID-19 restrictions in mind.

Tickets and Info: culturenl.co.uk/summerlee

Highlands

SAT 28 NOV

Maelrubha’s Day

Online | Pre-recorded

3pm (6mins) | Free

This short film by Bob Pegg tells - in music and images - of a day in the life of St Maelrubha, the Irish monk who founded a monastery in Applecross over 1300 years ago. Maelrubha spent his last days as a hermit on Isle Maree in the middle of Loch Maree in Wester Ross, where the story is set.

Tales from the Spa Gardens

Online | Pre-recorded

3pm (20mins) | Free

In Victorian times the village of Strathpeffer in Ross-shire was the most northerly spa in Britain. Florence Nightingale, Robert Louis Stevenson and George Bernard Shaw were among those who came to take its sulphurous waters, visit the airy pavilion and promenade through the gardens. In 2007 five giant statues appeared in the gardens, all related to local and Highland legends. This short film by Bob Pegg tells the stories of the statues and the Spa Gardens themselves.

Moray

Aberdeen

SAT 3 OCT

Salty Tales fae Shore tae Sea

In-person | Outdoor or Online | Pre-recorded

Mercat Cross, Castle Street, Aberdeen, AB11 5HP
2pm (2hrs) | Free (ticketed)

Smugglers, shipwrecks an ither wattery happenins wi storyteller Grace Banks. If possible, this will be a face-to-face event with a small audience, otherwise it will be pre-recorded and presented online. Planned with COVID-19 restrictions in mind.

Booking and Info: www.facebook.com/GBanks22 jackietales@msn.com
MON 12 OCT

Sinister an Spooky Stories fae the North East

Online | Open-mic
Zoom
7pm (3hrs) | Free (ticketed)
Donations welcome
Five of the North East’s finest storytellers explore the region’s darker side in a collaborative online evening of sinister and spooky stories. Join us to learn of the North East’s ghosts and ghouls, its witches and warlocks. But don’t just listen – we want you to share your own tales too. Whether you’re from the North East or whether you’ve moved to Scotland from elsewhere, we want to know the spooky stories you’ve grown up with, or maybe even experienced yourself. The event is open to all brave souls. With Jackie Ross, Grace Banks, Sheena Blackhall, Pauline Cordiner and Diane Peers. Hosted by the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen.

Booking and Info:
www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone/public-engagement/scottish-international-storytelling-festival
elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk

WED 28 OCT

A Tapestry of Life – The Hills An In Atween

Online | Pre-recorded
6.30pm | Free
The film wis inspired by the question, ‘How can we support oor next generations t love an care for their land if they dinna hae a connection wi nature?’. Storytellers Grace Banks an Sheena Blackhall set out on a journey wi pupils fae four schools to explore the run o the rivers o Dee an Don fae the Cairngorms tae Aberdeen. Their wonder an discoveries are woven throughout in thotchts, pictures, poetry, sang an stories, agin a backdrop o wunnerfu sichts an soonds fae river, land an sea.

Ballater

SUN 18 OCT

Tales Fae the Clachan

Online | Pre-recorded
Facebook Live
2pm (2hrs) | Free
Come an jyne Sheena Blackhall online for an entertainin efterneen o sangs, stories an poems fae Ballater an there aboots. Filmed at Deeside Inn, Ballater, streamed live on Facebook.
Info: jackietales@msn.com

Cabrach

SUN 25 OCT

Old an New Tales fae The Cabrach

Online | Live broadcast
Facebook Live
@CabrachTrust
2pm (2hrs) | By donation
A mix o auld an new stories featurin the Blackwater an the Deveron wi Jackie Ross. Presented live online from The Cabrach. There may also be a small audience allowed at the Acorn Centre in The Cabrach.

Booking and Info:
www.facebook.com/CabrachTrust
jackietales@msn.com

Orkney

THU 22 – SUN 25 OCT

Orkney Storytelling Festival

Online | Live broadcast and Online | Pre-recorded
The small festival with a big heart has reached its 11th edition this year, featuring a blend of pre-recorded storytelling and live-streamed events where local storytellers can observe social distancing. At this time of uncertainty and the disturbing increase in hate speech and violence in some sectors of society, stories are more important than ever. Why? Because they
bring people together. They carry our values and morality. They are inclusive to all people, as human beings. As the old Scots saying goes, ‘Wir a’ Jock Tamson’s bairns’.

Booking and Info:
www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

Perthshire

Aberfeldy

FRI 23, SAT 24 & SUN 25 OCT

Of Kelpies, Crannogs and Urisks

In-person | Indoors
Scottish Crannog Centre, Aberfeldy PH15 2HY
6pm (1hr) | £5 (£4 seniors and children 5-16)

As the dark winter nights draw in, come join us round the fire at twilight at the Scottish Crannog Centre, beside the waters of Loch Tay, for a feast of stories and music to warm the heart. For three evenings, storytellers Graham Liney and Claire Hewitt, with musician Munro Gauld, will weave a magical spell of ancient tales connected to Highland Perthshire’s watery elemental beings, in a celebration of community and kindness. Each gathering will last one hour and will comply in accordance with all safe distancing regulations in place at the time.

Booking and Info:
www.crannog.co.uk

THU 29 OCT

The Song of Tatha

In-person | Indoors and/or Online | Live broadcast
Aberfeldy Town Hall, 2 Crieff Rd, Aberfeldy PH15 2BJ
6.30pm (1hr) | In-person: £5 (£4 seniors and children 5-16)

Water has memory. Held in the rivers, lochs and burns of Breadalbane are many stories. Tales of urisks, gruagachs, kelpies and water spirits offer us a glimpse of the deep interconnection between these elemental beings, the land and the people who have made this their home. Storytellers and musicians Claire Hewitt, Ceit Langhorne and Munro Gauld, inspired by the River Tay and Highland Perthshire’s rich collection of stories, songs and music, offer you a magical and unique evening set in a specially created multi-sensory space. The event is part of a project in collaboration with the Scottish Crannog Centre and TRACS - Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland, supported by The Andy Hunter Bursary.

Booking and Info:
www.birkscinema.co.uk/community-hub

West Lothian

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

From the Avon to the Almond – The Forth’s Forgotten Waters

In-person | Outdoors
Various Locations | Free

Two long rivers wind from central Scotland through West Lothian to the Firth of Forth. They are flowing with ecological and historical surprises, and are both part of a major conservation effort. Why not get out and about on a guided or self-guided route to explore these often forgotten rivers? See signs of shy creatures, reviving rivers and hidden history of our past.

Delivered with the RiverLife: Almond & Avon project, part of the Forth Rivers Trust. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Tickets and Info:
www.forthriverstrust.org
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Donate to the Scottish International Storytelling Festival

Storytellers, musicians and dancers are working across Scotland to nourish the sustainable communities of the future. You can support the work of TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) by making a one-off donation, helping to enrich the traditional arts community as we struggle to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Our online festival events are mainly free, but if you are in a position to donate our suggested donation is £5 per event.

As a registered charity we rely on the generous support of our friends, funders, sponsors and trusts. We could not do what we do without your help.

Thank you!

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