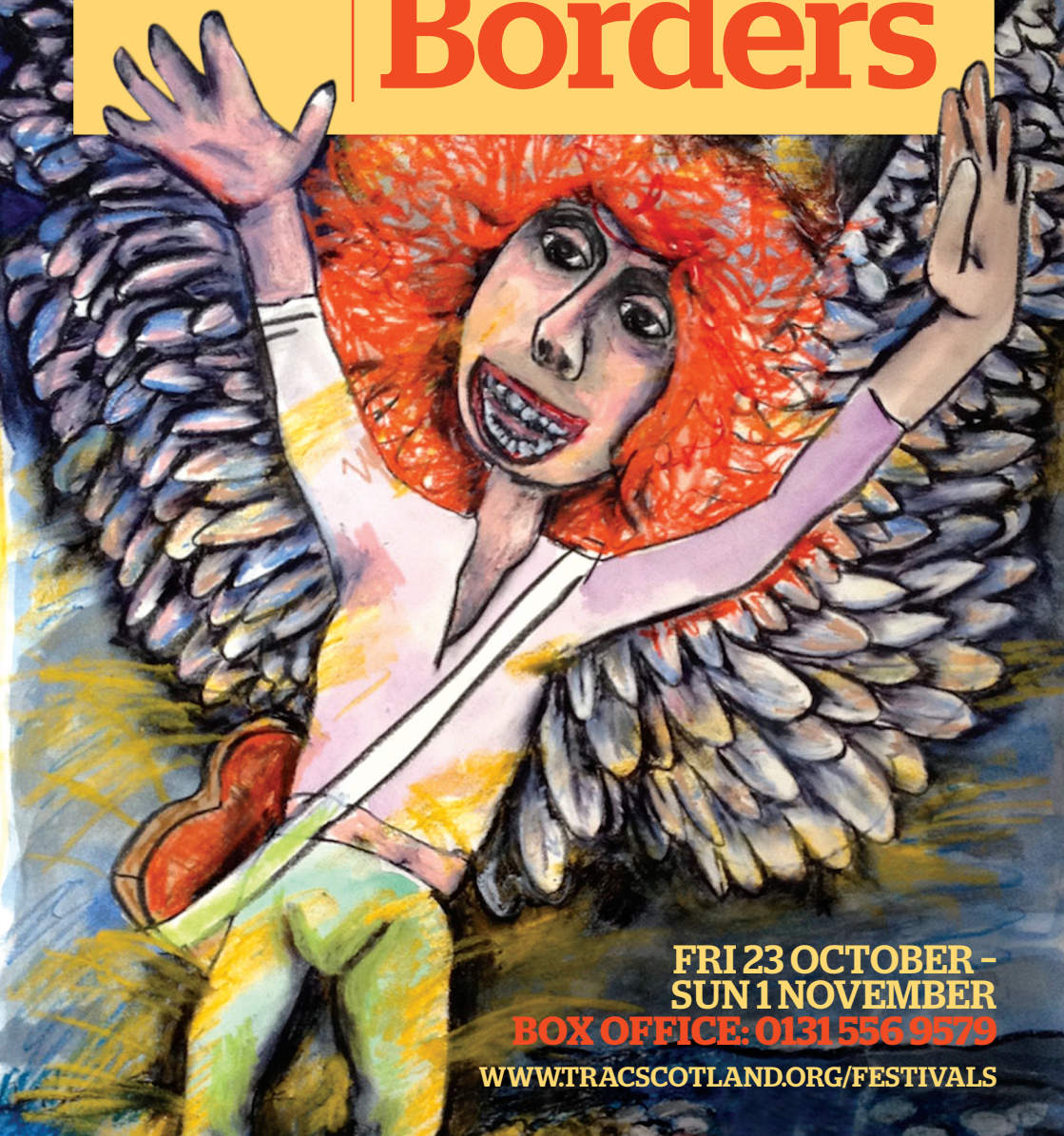




SCOTTISH
INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL 2015

Stories without Borders



FRI 23 OCTOBER -
SUN 1 NOVEMBER

BOX OFFICE: 0131 556 9579

WWW.TRACSCOTLAND.ORG/FESTIVALS

Welcome

to the world's finest feast of traditional storytelling.



Stories have the power to cross boundaries, transform perceptions and bridge division. At the same time stories can be distorted and manipulated to create divisions. Good storytelling however is about good communication and being true to our human experiences.

Traditional storytelling also embodies the practice of hospitality and **Stories Without Borders** will bring together Scottish, European, Middle Eastern and North African exemplars of intercultural welcome across ten packed days of celebrating oral traditions and cultural diversity.

Stories Without Borders will explore global issues through the power of storytelling, including specially commissioned performances exploring *War and Peace*, *Welcoming the Stranger*, *Between the Generations* and *Transforming Myths of Landscape*.

Sustainability and Culture

Storytellers across the world bring a creative dimension to our sense of the environment and to the living connection between natural ecology and sustainable culture. The **Scottish International Storytelling Festival** 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. See page 25 for information on our 'Tree of Life' project in preparation for the UN World Climate Change Conference in Paris.

The Festival Team

The **Scottish International Storytelling Festival** is organised by **TRACS** (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) which brings together the Storytelling, Traditional Music and Traditional Dance Forums of Scotland from its base at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. The Festival is supported through Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, Creative Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, and Festivals Edinburgh.

TRACS
Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland
Ealain is Culture Tradiseanta Alba
Arts an Tradiseanta Scotland



Special thanks to our national and regional partners:

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh Museums & Galleries, Mercat Tours, Gorgie City Farm, Leith Community Crops in Pots, Re-Union Canal Boats Ltd, Dovecot Tapestry Studio, Edinburgh Zoo, Beltane Fire Society,

Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care, Dig It! 2015, Cramond Association, Cramond Heritage Trust, University of Edinburgh, School of Scottish Studies Archive, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, Alliance of Religions and Conservation, Regional partners: Orkney Storytelling Festival, Portskerry International Storytelling Festival, Elphinstone Institute, Argyll

and Bute Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Resonate Arts House, Glasgow Women's Library, The Village Storytelling Centre, Blether Tay-gither, Eyemouth Primary School Festival, Kingdom Crack, Inverness Storytelling Festival, Kilbarchan Performing Arts Centre, TASGADH, Smith Art Gallery and Museum, The Old Mill in Glen Dochart and Glasgow Libraries.



Michael Williams



Allison Galbraith

About the programme

We've categorised our events to ensure your storytelling experience is exactly what you're looking for, be it an evening gathering in jovial company, daytime events for the whole family or craft and workshop sessions so you can get creative.

How to book

Tickets for all events at the Scottish Storytelling Centre can be booked by phone, online or in person through the Centre's Box Office. All other partner venues and regional events have their own booking outlets - see event listings.

The Festival box office is open from **Thursday 10 September**, 10am-6pm. Events at the National Library of Scotland will be bookable from **Wednesday 16 September**.

+44 (0)131 556 9579

www.tracscotland.org/festivals



Become a Festival Supporter

SISF Festival Supporter Pass 2015

£25

Register to enjoy an array of benefits while supporting the Festival to continually provide a world class forum for the art of storytelling.

- 25% off any Full Price ticket at any SISF event at the Scottish Storytelling Centre
- 1 free ticket to an event of your choice at the Scottish Storytelling Centre (subject to availability)
- 15% Storytelling Café Discount
- A Welcome Pack, containing:
 - Festival Programme
 - Lanyard & Badge
 - Festival Supporter Certificate
 - Invite to launch party on Friday 23 October

To book your pass call our team on

+44 (0)131 556 9579

For further enquiries email

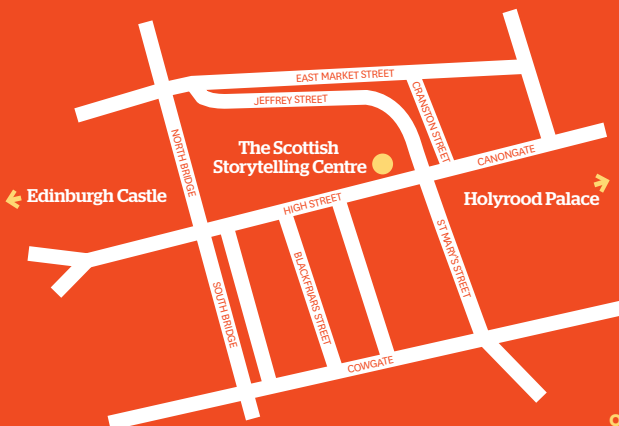
reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com

How to get here

The Scottish Storytelling Centre's award-winning building is the hub of the Festival. You can find us half way 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 Lothian bus number 35 stops outside our door, and there's a taxi rank just up the road.

- Fully accessible to wheelchair users
- Hearing loop
- Braille signage throughout
- Licensed Café and Storytelling Book Shop

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



Festival Exhibitions

Until Sunday 8 November

Lifting the Lid: 400 years of food and drink in Scotland

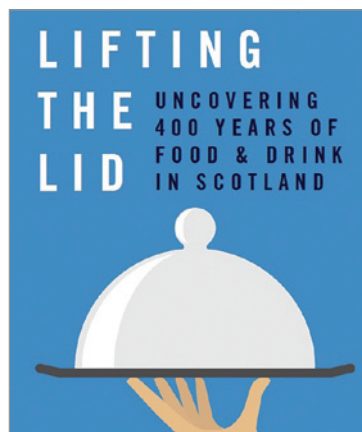
National Library of Scotland

Monday to Friday: 10am – 8pm

Saturday: 10am – 5pm; Sunday: 2pm – 5pm

Free entry | All ages

Using the Library's rich collections of manuscript and printed recipe books, this exhibition explores Scotland's changing relationship with food and drink over the centuries, as part of the Year of Food and Drink 2015. The Scots have been branded the 'sick man of Europe' and our eating habits condemned, yet, before the industrial age, the rural poor were said to be 'remarkably healthy' with a simple, frugal but wholesome diet despite the limited availability of food. This exhibition uses a variety of material – manuscripts, books, household accounts and tradesmen's bills, and amateur and government films about food – to contrast the richness and diversity of Scotland's larder with the myths and traditions associated with its people's diet.



Monday 5 October – Saturday 31 October
at the Old College Quad

Sunday 1 November – Monday 30 November
at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

The Kelpie Maquettes at the University of Edinburgh

Free entry | All ages

Mini versions of world's largest equine sculptures are coming to the heart of the University of Edinburgh. The three metre-high maquettes featuring the rearing heads of two Clydesdale horses, will be in Old College Quadrangle and at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Easter Bush. The versions are an exact 1:10 replica of the 30 metre-high sculptures located at Falkirk's Helix Park, which has attracted over 1 million visitors in its first year. The maquettes arrive at the University after travelling the world, having been on display in New York's Bryant Park and at last year's Ryder Cup in Gleneagles. A series of related public talks and events will be held at the University.

For more details go to: www.ed.ac.uk



Stories of the Stranger: The Art of Sylvia Woodcock-Clarke

Scottish Storytelling Centre

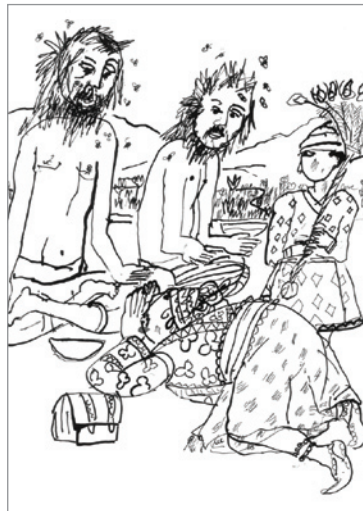
10am – 6pm, and before evening events.

Free entry | All ages

An exhibition of raw and powerful black and white ink and wash drawings by **Sylvia Woodcock-Clarke**. Sylvia was commissioned by ARC (Alliance of Religions and Conservation) in 2013 to illustrate the book *Stories of the Stranger*.

Written by several brilliant contemporary writers, young and old, they retell some of the world's most culturally defining tales from a contemporary perspective, with poignancy, humour and wit. From scriptural and historical to folk tales and modern fables, they describe the experience of exile, of losing everything, of being thrown out, of being dispossessed, and of relying on the generosity, or not, of foreigners.

Sylvia Woodcock-Clarke has drawn and painted professionally for all her adult life. She is now based in Brora, Scotland after living in Cyprus for a decade.



The artwork of Sylvia Woodcock-Clarke is reproduced in the festival programme by kind permission of the artist.

FESTIVAL LOCAL DIG WHERE YOU STAND



Scotland's landscape and communities are rich with local stories and legends, some hundreds of years old.

Dig It! 2015, the year-long celebration of Scottish archaeology, in partnership with the Scottish International Storytelling Festival invites everyone to unearth a treasure-trove of stories and legends in their community or local area!

To register your event, access local resources and for more information contact davide@scottishstorytellingcentre.com



Opening Weekend



Friday 23 October

Stories of the Stranger

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Talks & Lectures

5pm (1hr)

£6 (£4) | Adults

Why does 'welcoming the stranger' feature at the heart of cultural and religious traditions across the world? Broadcaster, environmentalist and storyteller, **Martin Palmer** has been a seminal figure in crossing borders of faith and culture in pursuit of a holistic, creative diversity. In this keynote talk he shares the journey and the vision.

Iran vs Israel

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Two young artists meet. Sworn enemies, or possible best friends? Storyteller **Raphael Rodan** from Israel and Dutch Iranian storyteller **Sahand Sahebdivani** combine classic Jewish and Iranian tales with their own personal stories, aiming to discover what home means to them and if they are really so different as press, politicians and public opinion would make us believe. In a poetic, strong and urgent performance they mix words with music, telling a new story about friendship.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 30)

£10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by Festival Director **Donald Smith**, with **Michael Kerins**, **Bea Ferguson** and **Simon Thoumire**. The perfect way to end your day.



Donald Smith

Mercat Tours at the Festival 2015 Every day at 1.30PM

Secrets of the Royal Mile

Departs from Mercat Cross, besides St Giles Cathedral

Edinburgh Partner | Walking Tour

1.30pm (1hr 30) - £12 adult, £10 seniors & student, £7 child

1.30pm (2hr 15) - inc optional entrance and guide in Edinburgh Castle

- £29 adult, £27 students, £24 seniors, £18 child

Beyond the borders of place, people and period, we'll delight in sharing a slice of Edinburgh's life through timeless storytelling. The best way to experience Edinburgh is to follow your feet. Where the buses can't take you, and the guide books don't show you is where our real stories can be found - the closes, wynds, courtyards and homes of Old Edinburgh. We'll paint a vivid picture of our colourful past and people - see the secrets and tell the tales - the culture, crime and politics of Scotland's capital. Available for the first time in 2015, your experience of the medieval city is then completed with an optional visit to Edinburgh Castle. The Castle dominates Scotland's capital city from its great rock. Its story has helped shape the nation's story. Battles and sieges were fought over it, royalty lived and died within its walls, and countless generations have been inspired by it. Visit the Castle and let your Mercat guide reveal its remarkable history. www.mercattours.com

All Aboard!

Re-Union Canal Boats – Lochrin Belle
Edinburgh Partner | Family Event
11am & 12.30pm (1hr)
Free (ticketed), donations welcome
All ages

Hop on board with **Macastory** for a fun-filled cruise of story and songs for all the family. Captain Ron and First Mate Ferg will be at the helm with stories, songs and fun gathered from their many travels around the world. It's all aboard for story-fun for everyone!

To reserve tickets:

www.re-union.org.uk/events-1

Please note: if the skipper decides that it is unsafe to travel due to circumstances out of our control the boat will remain static.

Sgeulachdan a' Chuilein Chraicte The Cuilean Craicte Guide to Gaelic Storytelling

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

11am (1hr) | £6 (£4) | All Ages

How do you make a good story? How do stories change between different times and places? What gets lost, what gets added, and what stays the same? Let the team behind Cuilean Craicte take you on a tour of 1000 years of Gaelic storytelling, tracing the threads between stories found in medieval manuscripts, in traditional folklore, and in contemporary fractured fairytales. A lively event designed to introduce young Gaelic speakers and their families to Cuilean Craicte's pick of the Gaelic storytelling tradition. With **Abigail Burnyeat** and **Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart**.



Crops in Pots: Harvest Stories in the Garden

Leith Community Craft

Edinburgh Partner | Family Event
11am (1hr)

Free | All ages

Enjoy family stories in Leith's flourishing new community garden. Garden storyteller **Allison Galbraith** leads the fun as all ages celebrate the end of the Harvest season.

Five little ducks went swimming one day....

Gorgie City Farm

Edinburgh Partner | Family Event
11.30am & 1.30pm (30mins)

Free (donations welcome)

All ages

But where did they go? And why? Find out what happened next, surrounded by Gorgie Farm's fabulous animals, with storyteller **Rosie Mapplebeck**, who is passionate about learning what animals do when we aren't looking.

Animal Magic

Edinburgh Zoo (Education Building)
Edinburgh Partner | Family Event
12pm (2hrs)

Free with Zoo admission | 5+

Join resident storyteller **Alette Willis** and friends for an afternoon of animal tales at Edinburgh Zoo. *Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

Stories and Songs with Mrs Mash

National Library of Scotland

Edinburgh Partner | Family Event
2pm (1hr)

Free (ticketed) | All Ages

Come and meet Mrs Mash, the Storytelling Cook, as she brings her very own recipe for food fun! Enjoy stories, songs, and joining in for families inspired by the fascinating *Lifting the Lid* exhibition. Hear a tale about kale, a sausage making princess fable and a story that reveals why children in Scotland's history had to drink beer!

With **Marie-Louise Cochrane**.

To reserve tickets www.nls.uk/events/booking or phone 0131 623 3734.

Singing Round the Cattle-Fold

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Talks & Lectures

2pm (1hr)

£6 (£4) | Adults

Janet Grigor explores Cattle in the Culture and Heritage of the Scottish Highlands in words and images. Cattle as livelihood and dowry, the roles of reiving and droving, life on the shieling, and of course herding and milking. The story is told with reference to songs and poetry which are brought together for the first time in a new book.

Thread of the Cosmos

Dovecot Tapestry Studio
Edinburgh Partner | Live
Storytelling

3pm (1hr)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Journey round a starry host of moon myths and star lore from the ancient tribal families of India, Babylon and Greece with storyteller **Linda Williamson**. Our tapestry of tales visits Monoceros the Unicorn, Leo and Orion, Ophiuchus, Pegasus and Cassiopeia, the Queen in her Chair. [Reserve tickets on www.dovecotstudios.com](#)

Festival Story Kist

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

3pm (1hr 30)

£5 (£3) | All ages

A special Story Kist session for the Festival. Come along and enjoy some exciting tales and calming crafts with storyteller **Ailie Finlay** and artist **Fiona McDonald**. Stories about world peace and a jam piece! Multi-sensory props and games with lots of joining-in. After the stories we will make noisemakers and other colourful crafts. Lots of fun for everyone, but particularly for children with additional needs, their families, friends and carers.

Another World Is Possible

Traditional Stories, the Earth
Charter and Fresh Thinking

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Talks & Lectures

3.30pm (1hr)

£6 (£4) | Adults

The Earth Charter was developed after a worldwide dialogue on common goals and values for social justice, peace and

sustainability. Over 300 traditional stories from around the world will be used as educational tools. These stories have been selected for their capacity to change our worldview, and our way of relating to our planet. Traditional stories can drive the paradigm shift needed to overcome the crisis we are facing. Research by **Grian A. Cutanda**, in association with the University of Granada.

Stories Without Borders - Visions of Nicosia

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

As Cyprus advances towards reunification after more than 40 years, **Angus Reid** and **Dinda Fass** make images of the divided capital city, Nicosia, and its two communities. They circulate the images as free postcards to gather responses, impressions and stories... the changing geographies of a long divided island.

An Evening with the Hakawati: Syrian Tradition

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

The storyteller, or *hakawati*, was a central figure in traditional Syrian society. Just a few years ago, famous storytellers still commanded large audiences in Damascus and elsewhere. Dressed in traditional *hakawati* clothes, Syrian storyteller **Bassam Dawood** shares some of the stories from this rich oral tradition. Bilingual support by **Dima AlMekdad**.



David Campbell

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45)

£10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **David Campbell**, with **Mio Shapley**, **Russell McLarty** and **Linda Williamson**. The perfect way to end your day.

Sunday 25 October

Hallowe'en at the Lauriston Castle

Lauriston Castle

Edinburgh Partner | Family Event

10am (3hrs)

£6 | All ages

Come to the Castle all dressed up for Hallowe'en and explore a host of dastardly experiences that will terrify yet enchant you! Enjoy scenic Lauriston by Forthshore with crafts, trails, and storytelling. [To book tickets phone 0131 228 1155.](#)

Storytelling for a Greener World

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Family Event
1pm (3hrs) | Free | All ages

An afternoon of stories for all the family, radiating out from the Tented Village into the neuks and dells of Edinburgh's favourite garden. For millennia, human curiosity, learning and imaginings about nature have been fostered by storytellers. This might still be the best way to fix something that we keep threatening to break.

Dig It! 2015 at Cramond

Meet at the Maltings,
Cramond foreshore
Edinburgh Partner | Walking Tour
2pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed) | All ages
Explore the archaeology of Cramond and its rich storytelling terrain. Who was here before and after the Romans, and why was this location so important? This event is held jointly with the **Cramond Association, Cramond Heritage Trust, and Dig It! 2015**, the year-long celebration of archaeology in Scotland. Enjoy free tea and coffee after the event and get to know more about the new Cramond App developed by the University of St Andrews. [Reserve tickets on www.digit2015.com](http://www.digit2015.com).

Jacobites: The 1715 Special!

Scottish National Portrait Gallery
Edinburgh Partner | Family Event
2pm & 3pm (45mins)
Free | Children 4-12 years old
So you know all about Bonnie Prince Charlie? Travel back in time 300 years with **Macastory** to the 1715 Jacobite Uprising... Meet Kings and warriors and learn about the early Jacobites in story, song and full scale battle re-enactment! Interactive historical storytelling that will have you laughing while you learn!

Stories Without Borders - The Bridge

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) | Adults
A remarkable story traced back through family memories, piecing together the short life and lost work of poet and author PM John, from Kerala India, shortly before Independence. Travelling back from present day, *The Bridge* considers how our histories are told, who tells them and the silences in between, which gives rise to myth or invention. Performed by **Annie George**.

An evening at the Jemaa el-Fnaa Square

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) | Adults
Let young **Hikayat Morocco** storytellers give you a hint of the

magical atmosphere of one the most famous squares in the world, recognised by UNESCO as a masterpiece of oral and intangible heritage of humanity. Led by their passion for Moroccan oral traditions, our festival guests will take you through a colourful arabesque of traditional stories.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (1hr 45)
£10 (£8) | Adults
Join storytellers and musicians from Scotland and abroad in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **Claire McNicol**, with **Lea Taylor, Raphael Rodan and Sahand Sahebdivani**. The perfect way to end your day.



Claire McNicol

Festival Week



Monday 26 October

Experiencing Gardens – The Quest for Paradise

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Talks & Lectures

11am (1hr 30)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Why are there always gardens in Paradise? What is the allure, the magic, the stories and traditions that evoke our longing and encourage us to design heavens on Earth? Find out in this engaging talk and discussion. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

Tree Trails

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Live Storytelling

1.30pm (1hr 15)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Enjoy the lore and legends of Scotland's trees - oak, birch, pine and rowan - as autumn merges into winter. Led by storytellers **Janis Mackay, David Campbell and Ken Shapley**. Meet at reception in the John Hope Gateway Centre. Programme available indoors in wet weather. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

The Ties that Bind- Storytelling as a pathway to peace

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Training & Development

2pm (2hrs 30) | £15 (£12) | Adults

People in conflict hold their ground because they do not feel heard. Sharing personal stories from areas of conflict invites participants into a space where they can be heard and are able to hear the other side of the story. From that space, it is possible to move to a shared place of understanding and possible resolution. This workshop invites you to explore how storytelling can support different sides of a conflict to share their personal stories. The workshop leaders have put this process into practice in communities in Israel and Palestine. Led by **Michael Williams** and **Janet Dowling**.

Open Table

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

2.30pm (1hr 15) | £6 (£4) | Adults

Share food and stories across cultures, faiths, and traditions, including Scottish and Middle Eastern flavours. Be relaxed and informal in the Storytelling Court as if it were the Chieftain's Hall or the Vizier's Palace, and your afternoon stretched long and lazy. Bring your own food memory to share with the others. Hosted by storytellers **Marion Kenny, Raphael Rodan and Sahand Sahebdivani**.

Stories without Borders in a Digital World

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Anyone with internet access can share their experiences across the globe, across numerous platforms, across borders of all kinds. Has social media truly democratised the art of storytelling? Or has it simply transformed stories into objects of consumption? What impact is this tide of stories having on the art of storytelling and the way we communicate and relate to one another? **Dr Michael Williams** explores and invites you to share your views on the impact it's having on your life.

All for the Dead Man's Penny

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) | Adults

Storyteller **Liz Weir** and fiddle player **Ciaran Mulholland** tell a tale that links past and present, a tale of lost youth and memories that span the generations. A teenage girl explores her family history a century after World War I. Whilst 200,000 Irish soldiers fought in the war, this is the story of one young Donegal man who responded to the call to arms. Like the youthful warrior Oisín, he left a world which would be totally transformed during his absence.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45) | £10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians from Scotland and abroad in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **David Campbell**, with **Liz Weir**, **Ciaran Mulholland** and guest storytellers of **Hikayat Morocco**. The perfect way to end your day.

Tuesday 27 October

Experiencing Gardens - Healing Plants

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Talks &
Lectures

11am (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed) | Adults

The story of the Royal Botanic Garden begins in Edinburgh's Old Town with herbal and physic gardens. During this talk and discussion, discover the trail from Holyrood to Waverley, Leith Walk to Inverleith, led by both botany and medicine. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

Tree Trails

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Live Storytelling
1.30pm (1hr 15)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Enjoy the lore and legends of Scotland's trees - oak, birch, pine and rowan - as autumn merges into winter. Led by storytellers **Janis Mackay**, **David Campbell** and **Ken Shapley**. Meet at reception in the John Hope Gateway Centre. Programme available indoors in wet weather. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)



The Ties that Bind - Storytelling and conflict resolution

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Training & Development

2pm (2hrs 30)

£15 (£12) | Adults

Storytelling can play a vital role in promoting understanding between people of different faiths, nationalities and abilities. This workshop will examine practical ways in which communities can engage in the sharing of stories which are held by the individuals within them. Based on peace-building storytelling projects which have taken place in Northern Ireland during the conflict and in the post-conflict years, the lessons learned can be replicated worldwide. Led by **Liz Weir**.

Open Table

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

2.30pm (1hr 15)

£6 (£4) | Adults

Share food and stories across cultures, faiths, and traditions, including Scottish and Middle Eastern flavours. Be relaxed and informal in the Storytelling Court as if it were the Chieftain's Hall or the Vizier's Palace, and your afternoon stretched long and lazy. Bring your own food memory to share with the others. Hosted by storyteller **Marion**

Kenny and guest musicians **Majid Abdulrazaq**, **Omer Aziz**, **Khalid Aziz** and **Mohammed Nafea**.

Stories Without Borders - The Acts of The Rebels

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Ewan McVicar splices dramatic first-hand accounts of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites from opposing sides. What is the role of storytellers in war - is it truth, art or propaganda? Enjoy these eyewitness accounts of the 1745 Rising first-hand.

Alan Bruford Lecture by Gary West

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Talks & Lectures

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Working from little known first-hand sources, **Gary West** explores the music and memories of war from Highland Perthshire, including the rich piping traditions of the Duncan family. Dr West is Senior Lecturer at Edinburgh University's Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies. This annual lecture is given in honour of the late Alan Bruford, distinguished archivist of the School of Scottish Studies.



Ruth Kirkpatrick

Open Hearth

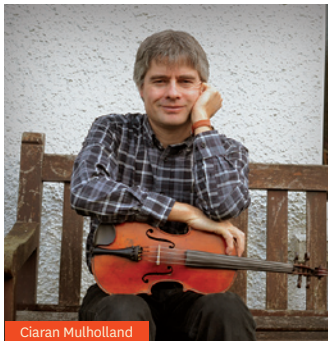
Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45)

£10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians from Scotland and abroad in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **Margaret Bennett**, with **James MacDonald Reid**, **Ruth Kirkpatrick**, **David Francis** and **Ciaran Mulholland**. The perfect way to end your day.



Ciaran Mulholland

Wednesday 28 October

Experiencing Gardens - Hidden Meanings

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Talks & Lectures

11am (1hr 30)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

From Renaissance emblems to children's secret gardens, literature is full of garden imagery and symbolic associations. This talk and discussion asks why do we place our longings and desires in gardens, and how is that language still evolving? **Joanna Geyer-Kordesh** leads discussion on this rich seam of garden history and lore. Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk

Tree Trails

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Live Storytelling

1.30pm (1hr 15)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Enjoy the lore and legends of Scotland's trees - oak, birch, pine and rowan - as autumn merges into winter. Led by storytellers **Janis Mackay**, **David Campbell** and **Ken Shapley**. Meet at reception in the John Hope Gateway Centre. Programme available indoors in wet weather. Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk

Tales of the Jacobites

National Library of Scotland
Edinburgh Partner | Live Storytelling

2.30pm (1hr)

Free (ticketed) | Adults and children 9+

Join master storyteller **David Campbell** with his compelling tales and songs of Jacobite times. Hear of the heroes and heroines, Flora Macdonald, Lady Anne Farquharson-McIntosh and dauntless clansmen, led by the Bonnie Prince, Charles Edward Stuart, 'the Young Chevalier', whose charisma inspired the great uprising to restore the House of Stuart to the British throne. This heroic failure broke up the clan system, destroyed a way of life and changed Scotland forever. To reserve tickets www.nls.uk/events/booking or phone 0131 623 3734.

Open Table - It's a funny story

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

2.30pm (1hr 15) | £6 (£4) | Adults

The **Life Stories** company of storytellers are delighted to welcome older people along to an hour of stories and songs.



Ken Shapley

The event includes reminiscence storytelling, sing-a-long songs and entertaining stories. Everyone loves a good story - with tea and scones! Led by **Bea Ferguson** and **Jack Martin**.

Stories Without Borders - Landscape and Archaeology

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Before the invention of writing, the landscape was a book of stories and meanings. Mythographer **Stuart McHardy** and archaeologist **Alison Sheridan** explore the rich archaeology of the Ballachulish 'goddess' and the surrounding landscape, and debate how those who lived there in centuries past might have imagined and connected with their environment. This event is held jointly with **Dig It! 2015**, the year-

long celebration of archaeology in Scotland.

Leirsinn; Seeing

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

In Celtic tradition blindness is not associated with disability but as a special gift and second sight. Seven musicians come together to present a beautiful performance of the story of Blind composers in the Scots and Irish tradition, from the 17th century to present day. With **Fiona Cameron, Fiona Kyle, Duncan MacGillivray, Fiona J. Mackenzie, Alpha Munro, Bill Taylor** and **Mark Thow**.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45) | £10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians from Iraq and Scotland in a

relaxed, traditional session with song, story, music and dance. As the darkness closes in and the embers glow the party can begin. Hosted by storyteller **Marion Kenny**, with guest musicians **Majid Abdulrazaq, Omer Aziz, Khalid Aziz** and **Mohammed Nafea**. The perfect way to end your day.

Thursday 29 October

Experiencing Gardens - John Hope

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Talks & Lectures

11am (1hr 30)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

John Hope was the Keeper who brought the Royal Botanic Garden together on the Inverleith side. But as well as a botanist, he was an artist, educator and garden visionary. Come to grips with an inspiring and practical Enlightenment luminary. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

Tree Trails

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Live Storytelling

1.30pm (1hr 15)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Enjoy the lore and legends of Scotland's trees - oak, birch, pine and rowan - as autumn merges into winter. Led by storytellers **Janis Mackay, David Campbell** and **Ken Shapley**. Meet at reception in the John Hope Gateway Centre. Programme available indoors in wet weather. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

Festival Diary



Time	Event	Venue	Page
Everyday			
1.30pm	Secrets of the Royal Mile	Departs from Mercat Cross	06
Friday 23 October			
5pm	Stories of the Stranger	Scottish Storytelling Centre	06
6.30pm	Iran vs Israel	Scottish Storytelling Centre	06
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	06
Saturday 24 October			
11am & 12.30pm	All Aboard!	Re-Union Canal Boats – Lochrin Belle	07
11am	Sgeulachdan a' Chuilein Chraicte	Scottish Storytelling Centre	07
11am	Crops in Pots: Harvest Stories in the Garden	Leith Community Croft	07
11.30am & 1.30pm	Five little ducks went swimming one day...	Gorgie City Farm	07
12pm	Animal Magic	Edinburgh Zoo (Education Building)	07
2pm	Stories and Songs with Mrs Mash	National Library of Scotland	07
2pm	Singing Round the Cattle-Fold	Scottish Storytelling Centre	07
3pm	Thread of the Cosmos	Dovecot Tapestry Studio	08
3pm	Festival Story Kist	Scottish Storytelling Centre	08
3.30pm	Another World Is Possible	Scottish Storytelling Centre	08
5pm	Stories Without Borders - Visions of Nicosia	Scottish Storytelling Centre	08
6.30pm	An Evening with the <i>Hakawati</i> : Syrian Tradition	Scottish Storytelling Centre	08
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	08
Sunday 25 October			
10am	Hallowe'en at the Lauriston Castle	Lauriston Castle	08
1pm	Storytelling for a Greener World	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	09
2pm	Dig It! 2015 at Cramond	Meet at the Maltings, Cramond foreshore	09
2pm & 3pm	Jacobites: The 1715 Special!	Scottish National Portrait Gallery	09
5pm	Stories Without Borders - The Bridge	Scottish Storytelling Centre	09
6.30pm	An evening at the Jemaa el-Fnaa Square	Scottish Storytelling Centre	09
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	09
Monday 26 October			
11am	Experiencing Gardens – The Quest for Paradise	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	10
1.30pm	Tree Trails	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	10
2pm	The Ties that Bind- Storytelling as a pathway to peace	Scottish Storytelling Centre	10
2.30pm	Open Table	Scottish Storytelling Centre	10
5pm	Stories without Borders in a Digital World	Scottish Storytelling Centre	10
6.30pm	All for the Dead Man's Penny	Scottish Storytelling Centre	10
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	11
Tuesday 27 October			
11am	Experiencing Gardens – Healing Plants	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	11
1.30pm	Tree Trails	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	11
2pm	The Ties that Bind - Storytelling and conflict resolution	Scottish Storytelling Centre	11
2.30pm	Open Table	Scottish Storytelling Centre	11
5pm	Stories Without Borders - The Acts of The Rebels	Scottish Storytelling Centre	11
6.30pm	Alan Bruford Lecture by Gary West	Scottish Storytelling Centre	11
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	12

For Festival on Tour listings see details on page 21-25, and for more information visit the website www.tracscotland.org/festivals



Time	Event	Venue	Page
Wednesday 28 October			
11am	Experiencing Gardens – Hidden Meanings	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	12
1.30pm	Tree Trails	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	12
2.30pm	Tales of the Jacobites	National Library of Scotland	12
2.30pm	Open Table – It's a funny story	Scottish Storytelling Centre	12
5pm	Stories Without Borders – Landscape and Archaeology	Scottish Storytelling Centre	13
6.30pm	Leirsinn; Seeing	Scottish Storytelling Centre	13
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	13
Thursday 29 October			
11am	Experiencing Gardens – John Hope	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	13
1.30pm	Tree Trails	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	13
2pm	The Ties that Bind - Word Dancing with Shonaleigh	Scottish Storytelling Centre	16
2.30pm	Open Table	Scottish Storytelling Centre	16
5pm	Stories Without Borders – Syrian Journeys	Scottish Storytelling Centre	16
6.30pm	The Ruby Tree	Scottish Storytelling Centre	16
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	16
Friday 30 October			
11am	Experiencing Gardens – Re-Imagining	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	17
1.30pm	Tree Trails	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	17
2pm	The Ties that Bind - Living in Stories	Scottish Storytelling Centre	17
2.30pm	Open Table	Scottish Storytelling Centre	17
5pm	Stories Without Borders – Literature and Film	Scottish Storytelling Centre	17
6.30pm	From Village to Village: a Journey through Jordan	Scottish Storytelling Centre	17
7.30pm	Guid Crack at Hallowe'en	Waverley Bar	17
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	17
Saturday 31 October			
1.30pm	Tree Trails	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	18
1.30pm	Guisers Trail	Scottish Storytelling Centre and Edinburgh Old Town Trail	18
2pm	Stories Without Borders – Prometheus	Scottish Storytelling Centre	18
5pm	Whispering Trees	Scottish Storytelling Centre	18
6.30pm	Spirit of the Broonie	Scottish Storytelling Centre	19
8pm	Open Hearth	Scottish Storytelling Centre	19
9pm	Samhuinn Fire Festival	Edinburgh Old Town	19
Sunday 1 November			
2pm	Stories Without Borders – The Magical Fusion	Scottish Storytelling Centre	19
2.30pm	To Absent Friends - A Hearth for Old Stories; a Candle for the Dead	Scottish Storytelling Centre	19
3pm	'Caller-ou!' Fishy tales and feisty fishwives	National Library of Scotland	20
5pm	The Parting Glass: Sheila Stewart	Scottish Storytelling Centre	20
6.30pm	Warrior Blues	Scottish Storytelling Centre	20
8pm	Open Hearth – The night of Quaich	Scottish Storytelling Centre	20

The Ties that Bind - Word Dancing with Shonaleigh

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Training & Development

2pm (2hrs 30)

£15 (£12) | Adults

How often do we feel ourselves in conflict only to find we are “Violently Agreeing” and how often do we end up party to the wrong course because we were “Passively Disagreeing”? In the legal realm, the Law and the Victim both speak from what they perceive to be the point of truth, but because one set of language is “Factual” and the other “Emotional”, they can seem like two separate stories. In this workshop, **Shonaleigh** draws on work she has done with the European Court of Human Rights and communities, helping people find common ground through storytelling, where all can meet!

Open Table

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

2.30pm (1hr 15)

£6 (£4) | Adults

Share food and stories across cultures, faiths, and traditions, including Scottish and Middle Eastern flavours. Be relaxed and informal in the Storytelling Court as if it were the Chieftain's Hall or the Vizier's Palace, and your afternoon stretched long and lazy. Bring your own food memory to share with the others. Hosted by storyteller **Alexandria Patience** and guest storytellers from **Hikayat Morocco**.

Stories Without Borders - Syrian Journeys

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Syrians have a long heritage of storytellers. But the conflict of the past four years has scattered the storytellers and tested tradition. Here a *hakawati* (storyteller) weaves together an old story of journey with new tales collected by the blog **Qisetna: Talking Syria**. The performance will be introduced by a short film by visual artist and Qisetna founding member **Juan delGado**.

The Ruby Tree

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

A King and his Queen long for a child. There is only one way to

fulfil this wish: the King must pluck a fruit from the strange and wonderful Ruby Tree... This haunting story has been preserved in Jewish tradition for centuries, carrying echoes of *Rapunzel*, *Snow White* and *The Twelve Brothers*. Our tales may travel, but wherever they go, they speak to us of our longings and failings, and the triumph of the human spirit. With storyteller **Shonaleigh**.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45) | £10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians from Scotland and abroad in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **George Macpherson**, with **Beverley Bryant**, **Heather Yule**, **Roxana Vilks** and **Bouda Ahmadi**. The perfect way to end your day.



George Macpherson

Friday 30 October

Experiencing Gardens – Re-Imagining

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Talks & Lectures

11am (1hr 30)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

From the Romantics to contemporary design, we have re-invented gardens as imagined worlds. This talk explores how this is reflected in the diverse patterns of the Royal Botanic Garden and other contemporary gardens. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](#)

Tree Trails

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Edinburgh Partner | Live Storytelling

1.30pm (1hr 15)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Enjoy the lore and legends of Scotland's trees - oak, birch, pine and rowan - as autumn merges into winter. Led by storytellers **Janis Mackay, David Campbell** and **Ken Shapley**. Meet at reception in the John Hope Gateway Centre. Programme available indoors in wet weather. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](#)

The Ties that Bind – Living in Stories

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Training & Development

2pm (2hrs 30)

£10 (£8) | Adults

In this networking event, hosts **Alette Willis** and **Steve Killick** present their work into how story brings people together and tears them apart. Alette's project

involves the use of stories in tackling Sectarianism in Scotland. Steve's work involves building attachment through storytelling in foster families in Wales. There will be an invitation for participants to share their own experiences in practice and in research.

Open Table

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

2.30pm (1hr 15)

£6 (£4) | Adults

Share food and stories across cultures, faiths, and traditions, including Scottish and Middle Eastern flavours. Be relaxed and informal in the Storytelling Court as if it were the Chieftain's Hall or the Vizier's Palace, and your afternoon stretched long and lazy. Bring your own food memory to share with the others. Hosted by storyteller **Alexandria Patience**, with guest storytellers **Rabeya Al Nasser, Tareq Al Nasser, Bassam Dawood** and **Dima AlMekdad**.

Stories Without Borders – Literature and Film

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Across the Middle East, individual voices - including women's - are increasingly heard. But without film, publishing and the digital media the new exchanges between east and west would not be possible. This event features the work of **Roxana Vilk**, the Iranian filmmaker, and the **Qisetna: Talking Syria** blog, as well as recent literature featuring the distinctive experiences that defy stereotypes and preconceptions to touch our humanity.

From Village to Village: a Journey through Jordan

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Join **Rabeya Al Nasser** and **Tareq Al Nasser** in an evening of stories and music. Be transported to remote Jordanian villages, with legends and true stories waiting to be told and where – if you listen carefully – you may still hear the distant sound of the Ramadan Bell...

Guid Crack at Hallowe'en

Waverley Bar

Club Event

7.30pm (2hrs 30)

By donation (£3) | Adults

Edinburgh's renowned storytelling club holds its open Friday night session for Hallowe'en, with guest storyteller **Robert Howat**.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45)

£10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians from Scotland and abroad in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **Jess Smith**, with **Janis Mackay, Grace Banks, Rabeya Al Nasser** and **Tareq Al Nasser**. The perfect way to end your day.

Finale Weekend



Saturday 31 October - All Hallows Eve, the Night of Samhain

Tree Trails

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
**Edinburgh Partner | Live
Storytelling**

1.30pm (1hr 15)

Free (ticketed) | Adults

Enjoy the lore and legends of Scotland's trees - oak, birch, pine and rowan - as autumn merges into winter. Led by storytellers **Janis Mackay, David Campbell** and **Ken Shapley**. Meet at reception in the John Hope Gateway Centre. Programme available indoors in wet weather. [Reserve tickets on www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

Guisers Trail

Scottish Storytelling Centre and
Edinburgh Old Town Trail
Live Storytelling

1.30pm (3hrs) | Adults and
older children

Come to learn a song, a poem and a dance for real Hallowe'en guising. Then follow the Old Town Guisers Trail, or prepare for guising in your local area. Bring your own costume or mask. Not Suitable for children under 5. All children must be accompanied. For user friendly Guiser resources and trail details see www.tracscotland.org/tracs/resources/guisers



Linda Williamson

Stories Without Borders - Prometheus

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

2pm (1hr 30)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Storytelling meets poetry and myth. Using physical theatre dance and poetry, writer-actor **Philip Knight** and virtuoso guitarist **Michael Gosling** re-tell the Greek myth of Prometheus, for today's people.

Whispering Trees

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

What happens when the trees gather on Hallowe'en? What do their branches say, and what wishes may we make? **Janis Mackay, David Campbell** and **Ken Shapley** complete their week long journey through the woods by giving us the answers in a fitting conclusion to this exploration of Scotland's living tree heritage.

Spirit of the Broonie

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) | Adults

Storyteller **Linda Williamson** presents these microcosm stories with their boundless, timeless and everlasting wonder. These tales express the life force from the flame of the cruise to the light in Granny's blue eyes, from the tent on the shore where the storyteller was born to the Broonie's Well on the Island of Cara. Savour the small and subtle essences of tradition in the spirit of one of Scotland's greatest modern day storytellers.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45)

£10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians from Scotland and abroad in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **George Macpherson**, with **Margot Henderson**, **Ruth Kirkpatrick**, **Bassam Dawood** and **Dima AlMekdad**. The perfect way to end your day.

Samhuinn Fire Festival

Edinburgh Old Town

Edinburgh Partner | Site-Specific

9pm (3 hrs)

Free (donations welcome) | Adults and children 10+

Hosted by the **Beltane Fire Society**, celebrate the Celtic New Year which marks the end of summer and welcomes the onset of winter with a stunning torch lit procession featuring acrobatics, fireworks, beautiful costumes and breath-taking performances. For more information: www.beltane.org

Sunday 1 November

Stories Without Borders - The Magical Fusion

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

2pm (2hrs)

£7.50 (£6) | 10+

Escape into worlds of adventure, chaos, betrayal and delight as international storytellers **Ana Lines**, **Claire McNicol** and **Mara Menzies** dazzle with mythological stories from around the world. Discover the births of the Gods and the origin of humanity amidst some truly audacious behaviour, with music and song accompaniment.

To Absent Friends

**A Hearth for Old Stories;
a Candle for the Dead**

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

2.30pm (2hrs)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

In older times, the 1st of November was a day to remember loved ones who have died with a place set for them by the fire-side. Join poet and storyteller **Margot Henderson** on this day of remembrance.

Light a candle and remember loved ones in story, song and silence. Reflections and memories are on the hour and half-hour throughout the afternoon, and stay as long as you wish. In partnership with **To Absent Friends, a People's Festival of Storytelling and Remembrance**.

www.toabsentfriends.org.uk.



Mara Menzies

'Caller-ou'

Fishy tales and feisty fishwives

National Library of Scotland
Edinburgh Partner | **Live Storytelling**

3pm (1hr)

Free (ticketed) | Adults and children 9+

Join the **Newhaven Community Choir** and **The Thrive Archive** for an afternoon of songs, poems, and stories celebrating the lives of the Fisher Lassies, and the men who went to war at sea or by sea, 100 years ago. 'The inhabitants of Newhaven are musical and narrative, three out of four can sing a song or tell a story, and they never miss an opportunity to do so!' (*Charles Reed 1840*). With **Jan Bee Brown** and **Marie-Louise Cochrane**. To reserve tickets www.nls.uk/events/booking or phone 0131 623 3734.

The Parting Glass: Sheila Stewart

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

Ruth Kirkpatrick pays eloquent and moving tribute to the late Sheila Stewart. Ruth drew on Sheila's experience and artistry in both song and story. In this performance she celebrates a great voice of Scotland, whose tradition has been handed onto the next generation and salutes the generosity of the Traveller tradition bearers, who made the Scottish Storytelling Festival possible.

Warrior Blues

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) | Adults

An old soldier sits alone with his guitar, composing songs. He is a survivor of the war that should have ended all wars. The songs are inspired by his experiences on the field of battle, and by his adventures during the long journey home. As he writes, he remembers the events which inspired the songs. *Warrior Blues* takes a story which is nearly 3,000 years old, and retells it for the 21st century. Eternal themes of love, magic, violence, conflict and revenge infuse the new story, just as they infused Homer's *Odyssey*. Written and performed by **Bob Pegg**, and directed by **Andy Cannon**.

Open Hearth - The night of Quaich

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 45)

£10 (£8) | Adults

Join storytellers and musicians from home and abroad in a relaxed, traditional session round the hearth, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. Hosted by storyteller **Bob Pegg**, with **Tim Porteus**, **Rabea Al Nasser**, **Tareq Al Nasser** and storytellers of **Hikayat Morocco**. The perfect way to end your day.



Jawad Elbied (Hikayat Morocco)

Festival On Tour Associated Events



**Thursday 22
– Sunday 25
October**

Orkney Storytelling Festival

The 2015 Orkney Storytelling Festival has a mixture of songs and stories at venues throughout the islands. We are glad to welcome the much loved storyteller, singer and writer **Jess Smith** to the islands, and welcome back the festival's friend **Grace Banks**, who is also a storyteller, singer, musician and writer. Jess and Grace will be joined by local storytellers **Fran Flett Hollinrake**, **Marita Luck**, **David McLaughlin** and from Edinburgh, **Erin Farley**, for a festival full of delights.

Find details at www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk/ or on our 'Orkney Storytelling Festival' Facebook page.

**Friday 9 –
Saturday 24
October**

Portskerra International Storytelling Festival

In the spectacular coastal scenery of the far North, the Portskerra International Storytelling Festival is joining forces with **Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland** and with **Luminate: Scotland's creative ageing festival**, and stepping out and about with an international zing and a star burst of event options – local, Scottish, Gaelic & International guests all telling stories, stories in films, and stories in beautiful still image touring Scotland - which could include yours! With international storytellers from Jordan **Rabeea Al Nasser** and **Tareq Al Nasser** performing in Dunbeath, Caithness and in Melvich, Sutherland.

For full programme and bookings see <http://portskerrastorytellingfestival.weebly.com/>



Malika Benallal (Hikayat Morocco)

**Friday
23 October**

Eyemouth Primary School Festival

Eyemouth Primary School's second storytelling festival will include children from St. Mary's Primary School and Holy Trinity Primary School in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Ayton, Reston, Coldingham and Cockburnspath Primary Schools will not be forgotten and there will be storyteller visits later in the year. It will be a truly international event with the young storytellers from **Hikayat Morocco** joining **Macastory**, **Ruth Kirkpatrick**, **Margaret Christison**, **Donald Nelson** and **Marjorie Leithead**.

Please note: this event is not open to members of the public.

Saturday 24 October

Alloa

Tasty Tales

Resonate Arts House Unit A3
North Castle Street, Alloa, FK10 1EU
Live Storytelling
10am (2hrs)
£2.50 per person | All ages
Join storyteller **Sheila Kinninmonth** in a fun event for families and hear the stories behind old family recipes. To book contact Wendy on 01259 928 014 or email wendy.teamresonate@outlook.com.

An afternoon at the Jemaa el-Fnaa Square

Resonate Arts House Unit A3
North Castle Street, Alloa,
FK10 1EU
Live Storytelling
2pm (2hrs) | £2.50 | All ages
Let young **Hikayat Morocco** storytellers give you a hint of the magical atmosphere of one the most famous squares in the world. Led by their passion for Moroccan oral traditions, they will take you through a colourful arabesque of traditional stories. To book contact Wendy on 01259 928 014 email wendy.teamresonate@outlook.com.

Share my Story: Open Mic Night with Guests

Resonate Arts House Unit A3
North Castle Street, Alloa,
FK10 1EU
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (3hrs) | £5 | Adults
With the theme of 'Share my Story', this open mic evening includes invited guest storytellers who will take you on a journey of their lives, loves and disappointments. This

event includes 'Soup & Sandwiches' and is BYOB for a fun night of entertainment. Contact Wendy on 01259 928 014 or email wendy.teamresonate@outlook.com to book a slot or buy your tickets.

Glasgow

Mixing the Colours

Glasgow Women's Library
23 Landressy Street, Bridgeton,
Glasgow, G40 1BP
Live Storytelling
1pm (2hrs)
Free | 16+
GWL's *Mixing The Colours* writers and performers share their ground-breaking stories of women's experiences of sectarianism in Scotland. The stories are of migration, foreign tongues, ostracisation, childhood worries and bonfires. All told with humility and sensitivity, we are proud to present the opportunity to spend some time with established and emerging writers. With **Magi Gibson, Marie-Therese Taylor, Kirsten MacQuarrie, Julie Robertson, Yvonne Dalziel, Ethyl Smith, Catherine Lacey and Corinne Harris**.

Kilbarchan

Warp & Weft -Kilbarchan Woven in Story & Song

Kilbarchan Performing Arts Centre
8 Steeple Square, Kilbarchan,
Renfrewshire, PA10 2JD
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (2hrs)
£7 (£4) | Wheelchair accessible
Anne Pitcher, well-known local storyteller and **Ewan McVicar**, legendary song maker and author, take you on a journey through a

little handloom weaving village's rich history in story, music and song along with talented local artists. Anne has lived most of her adult life in the Kilbarchan's old police station and jail built in 1833. Ewan's father was Kilbarchan born and bred - a "Habbie" as locals are named after the famous 16th century piper Habbie Simpson. Kilbarchan's unique traditions and history will be woven into a performance you won't forget. Tickets available on the door. For more information contact Anne on 07708059770. The event is supported by **TASGADH**.

Stirling

By Allan Water: Poetry, Story and Song

Smith Art Gallery and Museum
Dumbarton Road, Stirling, FK8 2RQ
Live Storytelling
2pm (1hr 15) | £5 (£4)
Enjoy the riches of song and story from the Allan Water. Ranging between Jacobite songs of Sheriffmuir to peaceful poems of hill and shaded glen, **Paraig MacNeil** and **Geordie MacIntyre** evoke the bards past and present, who have sung the banks and braes of Bonnie Allan. Book in advance on 01786 471 917.

Sunday 25 October

Alloa

Hand Made Story

Resonate Arts House Unit A3
North Castle Street, Alloa,
FK10 1EU
Interactive Workshop
11am (4hrs) | £10 | All ages
This creative course takes you by the hand and spins the story of

the art book. Step by step you will learn how make a creative book while experimenting with materials to produce a story in book form to take home and share with family and friends. Lunch, refreshments and all materials included. **To book contact Wendy on 01259 928 014 or email wendy.teamresonate@outlook.com.**

Glasgow

Sangs an' Clatter - Walking the Border

Blackfriars Basement Bar, 36 Bell St, Glasgow G1 1LG
8pm (2hrs)

£5 | 18+

Storyteller **Daniel Serridge** and folk musician **Brian James** take you on a journey along the border from Gretna to Berwick-Upon-Tweed to find True Thomas, the man stolen away for seven years by the Queen of Elfland and returns with the gift of prophecy. A light-heated look at the place where two nations meet.

Tickets available on the door or on Brown Paper Tickets via www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2181934

Monday 26 October - Tuesday 27 October

Glasgow

Stories Without Borders at Glasgow Libraries

Live Storytelling

Free, pre-booking required

Explore global issues through the power of storytelling,

including specially commissioned performances from local school children. Enjoy a relaxing hour of inspiring fun with master storyteller **Michael Kerins**, whose captivating style will make you laugh, think and maybe shiver or shed a tear. Creative writing programme as part of **Wee Write!** March 2016 will enable all invited pupils to participate in a pan-Glasgow event that will lead to publication. Please reserve tickets in advance using the contacts below:

Monday 26 – 10.30am (1hr)

Castlemilk Library: 100 Castlemilk Drive, G45 9TN.

Tel: 0141 276 0731

Monday 26 – 1.30pm (1hr)

Possilpark Library & Learning Centre: 127 Allander St, G22 5JJ.

Tel: 0141 276 0928

Tuesday 27 – 10am (1hr 15)

Easterhouse Library: Platform, The Bridge, 1000 Westerhouse Road, G34 9JW.

Tel: 0141 276 9712.

Tuesday 27 October

Dundee

An evening at the Jemaa el-Fnaa Square

H M Frigate Unicorn
Victoria Dock, Dundee, DD1 3BP

Live Storytelling

7pm (2hrs) | £5 | Free for children under 12

Come aboard the atmospheric Frigate Unicorn and join **Blether Tay-gither** in the captain's cabin to welcome the young **Hikayat Morocco** storytellers who bring the magical atmosphere of one the most famous squares in the world.

Led by their passion for Moroccan oral traditions, they will take you through a colourful arabesque of traditional stories.

For enquiries and booking: sakin49@yahoo.co.uk.

Helensburgh

From Village to Village: a Journey through Jordan

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

Live Storytelling

7.30pm | Free, pre-booking required

Join **Rabeea Al Nasser** and **Tareq Al Nasser** in an evening of stories and music. Be transported to remote Jordanian villages, with legends and true stories waiting to be told and where – if you listen carefully – you may still hear the distant sound of the Ramadan Bell...

Please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01436 658 833.

Wednesday 28 October

Fife

Kingdom Tales - Stories without Borders

Cafe' by the Park, 5 Chalmers St, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 8AT

Live Storytelling

7pm (2hrs)

12+ | £6 incl. coffee, tea, juice & cake

This is a rare opportunity to hear internationally renowned and award winning storyteller **Liz Weir** from Northern Ireland in the company of young Moroccan

storytellers, who are continuing a 1,000 year old oral storytelling tradition. This informal evening is being hosted by Fife's **Kingdom Tales**. To book please contact Judy Paterson on judy4stories@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01383 414216.

Isle of Bute

An Evening with the **Hakawati: Syrian Tradition**

Rothesay Library
Moat Centre, Stuart Street,
Rothesay, Isle of Bute, PA20 0BX
Live Storytelling
7pm | Free, pre-booking required
The storyteller, or *hakawati*, was a central figure in traditional Syrian society. Just a few years ago, famous storytellers still commanded large audiences in Damascus and elsewhere. Dressed in traditional *hakawati* clothes, Syrian storyteller **Bassam Dawood** shares some of the stories from this rich oral tradition. Bilingual support by **Dima AlMekdad**. Please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01700 503 266.

Lochgilthead

From Village to Village: a Journey through **Jordan**

Lochgilthead Library, Manse Brae, Lochgilthead, PA31 8QZ
Live Storytelling
7.30pm | Free, pre-booking required
Join **Rabeya Al Nasser** and **Tareq Al Nasser** in an evening of stories and music. Be transported to remote Jordanian villages, with legends and true stories waiting to be told and where – if you listen carefully – you may still hear

the distant sound of the Ramadan Bell...
Please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01546 602 072.

Thursday 29 October

Aberdeen

Stories from Ireland

MacRobert Building, Room 051,
Elphinstone Institute,
University of Aberdeen
Live Storytelling
7pm (1hr 15)
Free | Adults
Originally from Northern Ireland, storyteller **Liz Weir** has travelled to many places to share her stories. Come and join her in a relaxed storytelling evening while she visits North East Scotland.

Campbeltown

Stories Without Borders

Campbeltown Library,
Aqualibrium, Kinloch Park, Kinloch
Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6EG
Live Storytelling
7.30pm | Free, pre-booking required
Explore global issues through the power of storytelling, including a specially commissioned performances exploring and inspiring fun with master storyteller **Michael Kerins**, whose captivating style will make you laugh, think and maybe shiver or shed a tear, and his version of “Masquerade” will leave everyone with a mask in time for Hallowe'en. Please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01586 555 435.

Dunoon

Music from Kurdistan & Folktales from Iraq

Dunoon Library, 248 Argyll Street,
Dunoon, PA23 7LT
Live Storytelling
7.30pm | Free, pre-booking required
Come and hear two of the finest Kurdish musicians presently living in the North of Iraq, **Majid Abdulrazaq** (Oud) and **Omer Aziz** (Clarinet). They will be joined by storyteller and musician **Marion Kenny** who will help transport you to the Middle East with folktales from Iraq and stories closer to home. Please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01369 708 682.

Friday 30 October

Glen Dochart

The Road of Legends

The Old Mill, Glen Dochart,
Near Killin, FK21 8RH
Live Storytelling
7pm (2hrs)
£5 (£2.50) | Adults and children 12+
Travel the Road of Legends with storyteller **Tim Porteus**, accompanied by fellow tellers and musicians. A road so well-travelled that it is paved with stories. The greatest love story you have ever heard, the most gruesome murder, tales of giants, saints and warriors, mythical creatures and magical happenings, all rooted in a landscape that still holds the tales tightly. Visit these tales in your imagination around the fireside of the cosy Old Mill, set in the shadows of the mountains. Be assured, you will never travel this road again in the same way. Tickets available on the door. For info email timporteur@hotmail.com



Dima AlMekdad

(Clarinet). They will be joined by storyteller and musician **Marion Kenny** who will help transport you to the Middle East with folktales from Iraq and stories closer to home. Please contact the library to reserve a seat: 01631 571 444.

Saturday 31 October

Glen Dochart

Family Hallowe'en Storytelling Party

The Old Mill, Glen Dochart,
Near Killin, FK21 8RH

Live Storytelling

1pm (1hr 30)

£2.50 per child | Children aged 5-12

Bring your children and yourself.

Traditional tales and activities that
will spook you for Hallowe'en.

Children can bring adults for free!

Tickets available on the door.

For info email [timporteus@](mailto:timporteus@hotmail.com)

hotmail.com

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 November

Inverness Storytelling Festival

This year the rich tradition of Highland storytelling will be celebrated with a pioneering festival in the Highland capital. The city will come alive with stories of the sea, mountains, forests and glens, of witches, wee folk and watery beasts. Enjoy tales tall and true, song and dance, and something for all ages. This rich weave of legend, myth and oral history will be shared by a number of engaging storytellers with Highland associations, including **George Macpherson**, **Douglas Mackay**, **Janis Mackay** and **Lizzie McDougall**. Venues include Velocity Café, Hootenanny, Botanic Gardens and Anam Cara. www.facebook.com/events/889447721090398/

Oban

Music from Kurdistan & Folktales from Iraq

Oban Library, 77 Albany Street,
Oban, PA34 4AL

Live Storytelling

7pm | Free, pre-booking required

Come and hear two of the finest
Kurdish musicians presently

living in the North of Iraq, **Majid**

Abdulrazaq (Oud) and **Omer Aziz**

Tree of Life World Climate Change Summit

A message from Scotland:

The Storytelling Festival is gathering stories, songs and dances featuring the Tree of Life in many cultures for the World Climate Change Conference in Paris (Mon 30 Nov - Fri 11 Dec). The Tree has roots, branches and leaves, and offers a habitat for birds, insects and animals. It symbolises the inter-relation of life and an ecology that unites humanity and nature. It is a sign of sustainability, through which we can re-green our planet through virtuous cycles of air, water and earth. We invite our friends around the world to share their Tree of Life stories and traditions so that Paris may receive the oldest ancestor wisdom in the world - the wisdom of life - and give our children their future.

Donald Smith, Director

Scottish International Storytelling Festival
donald@scottishstorytellingcentre.com



Olive Tree illustration by Annalisa Salis

Guest Storytellers & Musicians



Majid Abdulrazaq

Specialising in music for children while studying at the Baghdad Music Studies Institute, this Iraqi Kurdish Oud soloist has composed tons of kids' tunes for Baghdad TV, as well as being involved in many international festivals. Currently Majid teaches the Oud and music theory at Al Sulaymania Music Institute.

Bouda Ahmadi

Bouda was born in Iran and started learning Santur from an early age. Bouda lives in Edinburgh where he works as an agricultural economist and enjoys playing music with Edinburgh-based bands such as **Dunya Ensemble** and **GOL**.

Rabeea Al Nasser

Drawing on 18 years as a teacher and 20 as a librarian, Rabeea tells original and traditional stories from Jordan and around the world. Some of her stories were handed to her directly by Jordanian villagers, while she was travelling as a teacher. She is the founder of **House of Tales and Music** in Jordan, which supports children affected by conflict and poverty, and has told her stories to more than 50,000 children in schools, libraries, refugee camps and orphanages.

Tareq Al Nasser

Born in 1969, Tareq is a pioneer in the Arabic music revival. He enjoyed a successful career scoring soundtracks for Arabic TV in the nineties before expanding his musical horizons, re-arranging and revising Jordanian, Arab and international traditional music whilst preserving its musical, vocal and historical features.

Dima AlMekdad

Dima is a co-founder of *Qisetna: Talking Syria*, a non-political social and cultural project encouraging Syrians and people with a connection to the country to share their stories. In addition to providing a valuable view of Syria often lacking from the media, the project encourages Syrians to develop storytelling skills through workshops and mentoring. www.talkingsyria.com

Omer Aziz

Born in Al Sulaymania, north of Iraq, Omer is a clarinetist who studied at the Baghdad Music Institute. A member of the Association of Kurdish Musicians, Omer plays for the Iraqi TV band and has composed for several Kurdish and Arab singers in Iraq as well as taken part in worldwide festivals.

Khalid Aziz

Also known as Khalid Sarkar, this violinist started out as a music teacher then immigrated from Sulaymania to Holland, where he became a member of the Holland Symphony Orchestra. Khalid returned to Iraq in 2003 where he composes and produces songs for Kurdish singers in Iraq and is member of the Association of Kurdish Musicians.

Bassam Dawood

Bassam is a Syrian storyteller, actor, theatre director and graduate of the Higher Institute for Dramatic Arts in Damascus. Now living in Berlin, he runs a radio programme on Radio SouriaLi, a station formed by young Syrians, and is a storytelling trainer for *Qisetna: Talking Syria*, helping children in the country to write stories.

Hikayat Morocco

Started in December 2013 by a master storyteller and a group of young Moroccans, **Hikayat Morocco** aims to preserve the country's storytelling tradition and to build the confidence of Moroccan youth. Together, the collective are committed to sharing stories and finding a space for folktales in today's world.

Ciaran Mulholland

A longstanding member of **Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann**, Ciaran has performed and provided workshops across Ireland, as well as at festivals including Speyfest. More recently, he composed and performed the music for *All for the Dead Man's Penny*, written by author Liz Weir and commissioned for Festival at the Edge.

Mohammed Nafea

An Iraqi singer and musician, playing the traditional Oud instrument, Mohammed has been involved in many international festivals around the world including Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the Gulf. As well as his compositions being used on Iraqi TV, Mohammed formed the **Babylon Arabic Band** in Edinburgh in 2004 and released the 11-track album, *Samra*.

Raphael Rodan

Raphael grew up in Galilee, Israel and now lives in Amsterdam, where he runs storytelling workshops and performs all over Europe. He co-founded **The International School for Storytelling and Peace**, which aims to contribute to a more peaceful world by using storytelling to break down barriers and increase mutual understanding.

Sahand Sahebdivani

Born in Tehran in 1980, Sahand escaped the Ayatollahs aged three when his family fled to Amsterdam. His parents wanted him to become a doctor, but he surprised them by storytelling instead! He runs popular nights in Dutch and English through **Mezrab** in the Netherlands and since 2012 he's started taking his energetic style of storytelling to international stages.

Shonaleigh

Shonaleigh is a *drut'syla* (storyteller) from Yiddish oral tradition, artistic director of **Phrase Arts**, and a former UK deputy National Storytelling Laureate. Though she's told stories across Britain, Europe and United States for 17 years, she still believes it is those told between family and community that are the most valuable.

Liz Weir

Liz is a storyteller and writer from Northern Ireland, who learned about the healing power of storytelling whilst working as a children's librarian in Belfast in the 1970s. The first winner of the **International StoryBridge Award**, she has told stories on five continents and is the author of several children's books.

Roxana Vilik

Roxana is an Iranian/British performer, filmmaker and musician based in Edinburgh who recently performed a sell-out with her UK/Iranian band **GOL** at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival. She's made work in Iraq, Lebanon, Iran and Turkey, including a recent film exploring Iranian musicians' freedom of expression for the MTV/Amnesty International/Rebel Music TV series.



Majid Abdulrazaq



Hikayat Morocco



Bouda Ahmadi



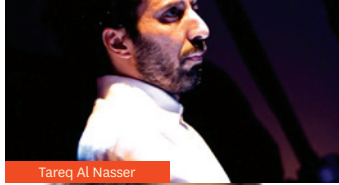
Ciaran Mulholland



Rabeea Al Nasser



Mohammed Nafea



Tareq Al Nasser



Raphael Rodan



Dima AlMekdad



Sahand Sahebdivani



Omer Aziz



Shonaleigh



Khalid Aziz



Liz Weir



Bassam Dawood



Roxana Vilik

Venue details

Dovecot Tapestry Studio

10 Infirmary Street, EH10 1LT
info@dovecotstudios.com
0131 550 3660
www.dovecotstudios.com

Edinburgh Zoo

134 Corstorphine Road, EH12 6TS
jpaulson@rzss.org.uk
0131 314 0340
www.edinburghzoo.org.uk

Gorgie City Farm

51 Gorgie Road, EH11 2LA
0131 337 4202
www.gorgiecityfarm.org.uk

Lauriston Castle

2a Cramond Road South, EH4 5QD
0131 228 1155
www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Leith Community Croft

John's Place, EH6 7EL
(entrance gate opposite
Mackenzie School of English)
julie@croppsinpots.org
0131 603 8827
www.leithcommunitycroppsinpots.com

Mercat Tours Ltd.

Mercat House, 28 Blair St, EH1 1QR
Please note: tour begins at the Mercat
Cross at Parliament Square next to
St Giles Kirk
info@mercattours.com
0131 225 5445
www.mercattours.com

National Library of Scotland

George IV Bridge, EH1 1EW
www.nls.uk/events/booking
0131 623 3734 (bookings from 16 Sept)
www.nls.uk

Re-Union Canal Boats Ltd

(Lochrin Belle)
1 Union Path, EH3 9QB
info@re-union.org.uk
0131 261 8529
www.re-union.org.uk

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Entrances on Inverleith Row (EH3 5LP)
and Arboretum Place (EH3 5NZ),
events@rbge.org.uk
0131 248 2909
www.rbge.org.uk

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

1 Queen Street, EH2 1JD
0131 624 6560
www.nationalgalleries.org



TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) is an artistic and educational charity SC043009.

TRACS brings together three networks of artists and cultural organisations in a collaborative alliance designed to improve the knowledge and practice of Scotland's traditional art forms in the contemporary world. These networks are the **Traditional Music Forum** (SC042867), the **Scottish Storytelling Forum** (SC020891) and the **Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland** (SC045085).

TRACS is currently based at, and works in close co-operation with, the **Scottish Storytelling Centre** – The Home of Scotland's Culture.

Cover image by Sylvia Woodcock-Clarke

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