

29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
– 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2023  
BRAEMAR, SCOTLAND  
PRESENTED BY THE FIFE ARMS

BRAEMAR  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL



The background features a gradient of green and olive tones. There are several large, overlapping, wavy shapes that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling rolling hills or abstract waves. The colors transition from a lighter, muted green at the top to a darker, more saturated olive green at the bottom.

# INTRODUCTION

# BRAEMAR LITERARY FESTIVAL

29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2023

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2023 Braemar Literary Festival presented by the Fife Arms, once more being held in collaboration with HM The Queen's 'Reading Room', a hub for literary communities around the world and a celebration of literature in all its forms.

The Braemar Literary Festival aims to explore the creative use of words and text in their broadest sense; celebrating the works of best-selling authors alongside visual artists, spoken word performers, scriptwriters, critics and publishers alike, reflecting the many ways in which the 'literary' creatively enhances our lives.

**Fife Arms**  
HOTEL

*The*  
**Queen's**  
**READING**  
**ROOM** 



*'To me reading is a great adventure, I have loved it since I was very small and I would love everybody else to enjoy it as much as I do. You can escape, and you can travel, and you can laugh and you can cry. Every type of emotion that humans experience is in a book.'*

Her Majesty The Queen

# THE READING ROOM

The Queen's Reading Room is a literary charity on a mission to help readers and non-readers alike find and connect with books they will love. Through exclusive author interviews and behind the scenes content, The Queen's Reading Room, on Instagram and online, celebrates books from around the world and the extraordinary people who create them. As the book club of The Former Duchess of Cornwall, The Reading Room launched on Instagram in January 2021 with Charlie Mackesy and his wonderfully illustrated *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*. Since then, there have been eleven series with four widely different but equally compelling books featuring in each series. Her Majesty The Queen relaunched the project as the charity, The Queen's Reading Room, in March 2023 and the charity's first literary festival was held at Hampton Court Palace in June.





# VENUE MAP



Braemar Castle



Braemar Gallery



Braemar Village Hall



The Fife Arms



Tor Workshop



Farquharson's



St. Margaret's



Castleton Hall



Highland Games Pavilion

# PROGRAMME

FULL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT  
[WWW.BRAEMARLITERARYFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.BRAEMARLITERARYFESTIVAL.CO.UK)  
OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



## THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Festival Authors and Literary Retail display in Fife Arms shop	Fife Arms Shop
Hauser & Wirth Publishing Pop-up	Fife Arms Drawing Room
Community Creation Station drop-in workshop	Castleton Hall
'Gaelic Proverbs from The Polmadie Collection' a commissioned text work by ALEC FINLAY	The Fife Arms and Festival Venues

## FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

2pm-3pm	SABINE MUIR in conversation with AGNIESZKA BROZEK	Highland Games Pavilion
3:30pm-4:30pm	JAMES CAHILL in conversation with SAM LEITH ( <i>exclusive to hotel package guests only</i> )	Fife Arms Fog House
4:30pm-5:30pm	JOHN GLENDAY - Poetry reading	Tor Workshop
7pm-9:30pm	Poem & a Pint with JO GILBERT and JUDY TAYLOR	The Flying Stag Bar
7:30pm-9pm	SUZIE EDGE in conversation with MAUREEN KELLY	Braemar Village Hall
7:30pm-10:30pm	Festival Launch Dinner curated by RICK STEIN	Fife Arms Clunie Dining Room



# SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

10am–11am	GRACE DENT and RICK STEIN in conversation with TOM PARKER BOWLES	St Margaret's
11:30am–12:30pm	MARY MCCARTNEY in conversation with SAM LEITH	Braemar Village Hall
1pm–2pm	FLORA FRASER in conversation with DOREEN WOOD	Highland Games Pavilion
2:30pm–3:30pm	The Queen's Reading Room, WILLIAM BOYD in conversation with VICKI PERRIN	St Margaret's
4pm–5pm	REBECCA SMITH in conversation with ALISTAIR BRAIDWOOD	Braemar Gallery
5:30pm–6:30pm	DAME JUDI DENCH in conversation with BRENDAN O'HEA	St Margaret's
7pm–9:30pm	Poem & a Pint with JO GILBERT and JUDY TAYLOR	The Flying Stag Bar
7:15pm–8:15pm	Book Launch with MAUREEN KELLY	Highland Games Pavilion
8:30pm–10:30pm	Literary Quiz Night	Farquharson's Bar

## SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER

10am–11am	DAVID WALLIAMS	St Margaret's
11:30am–12:30pm	Costumed Literary Tour, Braemar Local History Group	Braemar Mews
11:45am–12:45pm	Women's Writing Panel – LUCY BARKER, CHIKODILI EMELUMADU, LUCY MORRIS and CLAIRE SHANAHAN	Braemar Village Hall
1:15am–2:15pm	SOPHIE BERREBI in conversation with VICKY ALLAN	The Fife Arms Drawing Room
1:15pm–2:15pm	JOHANNA BASFORD Colouring Workshop	The Fife Arms Fog House
2:45pm–3:45pm	The Queen's Reading Room, ANTHONY HOROWITZ in conversation with VICKI PERRIN	St Margaret's
4:30pm–5:30pm	DON PATERSON in conversation with ALISTAIR BRAIDWOOD	Braemar Village Hall

The background consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in various shades of green and olive. These shapes create a layered, mountain-like effect, with some areas appearing darker due to the overlap. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# PROGRAMME DETAILS

## SABINE MUIR in conversation with AGNIESZKA BROZEK

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2pm–3pm

### HIGHLAND GAMES PAVILION

Aberdeenshire– based author and illustrator team Sabine and Agnieszka are the creative team behind four children's picture books with a fifth in the making. Their books are created with an educational, humorous slant for children under six, featuring bees, spiders, marine creatures, and misbehaving seagulls. Their latest publication, called *We Don't Want Your Rubbish*, is about sea creatures dealing with plastic pollution of the ocean. Join Sabine and Agnieszka as they chat about their approach to writing and illustrating their stories.

This is a free event, bookable in advance.





**JAMES CAHILL in conversation  
with SAM LEITH**  
(exclusive to hotel package guests only)

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 3:30pm–4:30pm

**FIFE ARMS FOG HOUSE**

Opening the Braemar Literary Festival is this exclusive talk with Sam Leith, literary Editor of The Spectator and James Cahill, art critic and author as they explore Art and Literary criticism - how they align, how they differ; the role of criticism versus that of the market; the commerce of art and fiction; critics as characters in fiction; humour - or the lack of it - in art and literary criticism; and much, much more.



## JOHN GLENDAY – Poetry reading

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 4:30pm–5:30pm

### TOR WORKSHOP

Join Scottish nature poet John Glenday for an informal reading of his poems, surrounded by the beautiful woodwork of the TOR workshop.

This is a free event – all guests welcome.





## Poem & a Pint with JO GILBERT and JUDY TAYLOR

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 7pm-9:30pm

### THE FLYING STAG BAR

Gather with fellow Literary festival-goers at the Fife Arms' Flying Stag Bar over the weekend to enjoy a lively celebration of Scots and Doric poetry in the company of spoken word artists Jo Gilbert and Judy Taylor. Each evening will feature a rolling programme of readings interspersed with live Scottish music, and a wide selection of craft beverages and festival themed drinks for sale.



## Readers Meeting Writers with SUZIE EDGE and MAUREEN KELLY

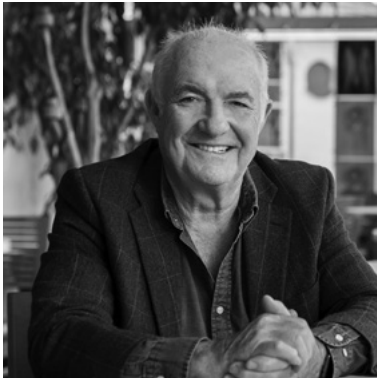
FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm–9pm

### BRAEMAR VILLAGE HALL

Local authors Suzie Edge and Maureen Kelly will entertain members of Braemar village's three Book Groups with stories of the writing of their latest publications and their experiences as published writers. This private Braemar Book Group event is hosted by Marilyn Baker and Braemar Creative Arts Festival.







## RICK STEIN Opening Dinner

FRIDAY W29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

### THE FIFE ARMS

Internationally renowned chef Rick Stein opens the festival with a specially curated dinner in the magical setting of the Clunie Dining Room, in the company of Braemar Literary Festival's illustrious speakers. The dinner will also feature a special reading of poetry by Scottish poet John Glenday.

## GRACE DENT and RICK STEIN in conversation with TOM PARKER BOWLES

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 10am–11am

### ST MARGARET'S

British food writer and critic Tom Parker Bowles hosts award-winning chef and author Rick Stein and Grace Dent, a food critic, author and broadcaster for a panel discussion on the joy of comfort food and home cooking. Grace's new book *Comfort Eating*, inspired by her award-winning podcast, and Rick's latest publication, *Rick Stein's Simple Suppers* will both be released in October 2023, with this event providing a first glimpse into the stories surrounding these two new books. A book signing will follow the talk.





## MARY MCCARTNEY in conversation with SAM LEITH

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 11:30am–12:30pm

### BRAEMAR VILLAGE HALL

Join photographer, filmmaker and author Mary McCartney and Sam Leith, Literary editor of The Spectator as they discuss Mary's latest book *Feeding Creativity*, the idea and motivation behind fusing her two passions of portrait photography and meat-free cooking. Mary will be divulging her quick, easy and fuss-free cooking tips, whilst sharing some amusing stories behind the photographs in the book.



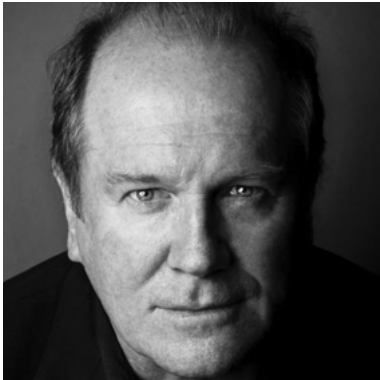
## FLORA FRASER in conversation with DOREEN WOOD

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1pm–2pm

### HIGHLAND GAMES PAVILION

Historical biographer, Flora Fraser and former broadcaster and local historian Doreen Wood, discuss the life and infamy of Jacobite heroine Flora MacDonald, the subject of Flora Fraser's latest book *Pretty Young Rebel*. With the village of Braemar holding strong associations with the Jacobite uprising of 1715, this talk promises to be a fascinating and relevant new look at this significant historical figure.





The Queen's Reading Room,  
WILLIAM BOYD in conversation  
with VICKI PERRIN

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2:30pm–3:30pm

ST MARGARET'S

William Boyd is the bestselling author behind one of Queen Camilla's favourite books, *Restless*. A tale of espionage, truth, lies and betrayal, it explores Britain's machinations to bring America into the Second World War. In this conversation with Her Majesty's book club and charity, The Queen's Reading Room, William will divulge some of the secrets behind the creation of this special spy story and will reflect on those books which have inspired him and his career the most.



REBECCA SMITH in conversation  
with ALISTAIR BRAIDWOOD

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 4pm–5pm

BRAEMAR GALLERY

Rebecca Smith's new book *Rural: The Lives of the Working Class Countryside* offers a personal glimpse into another side of Britain's perceived rural idyll. Join Rebecca in conversation with critic and broadcaster Alistair Braidwood in the intimate setting of Braemar Gallery, as she discusses her own experience of country life and the many social and economic structures that impact the lives of many in a rural environment.





## DAME JUDI DENCH in conversation with BRENDAN O'HEA

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 5:30pm–6:30pm

### ST. MARGARET'S

Legendary actor Dame Judi Dench has entertained global audiences for over six decades, and perhaps is most lovingly revered for her work in Shakespearean productions. As the world celebrates the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio, Dame Judi, along with friend, actor and director Brendan O'Hea, will discuss her astonishing career and the Shakespearean characters she has brought so vividly to life. Dame Judi and Brendan are co-authors of a new book entitled *Shakespeare – the Man who Pays the Rent* which is released in October 2023.



## Poem & a Pint with JO GILBERT and JUDY TAYLOR

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 7pm–9:30pm

### THE FLYING STAG BAR

Gather with fellow Literary festival-goers at the Fife Arms' Flying Stag Bar over the weekend to enjoy a lively celebration of Scots and Doric poetry in the company of spoken word artists Jo Gilbert and Judy Taylor. Each evening will feature a rolling programme of readings interspersed with live Scottish music, and a wide selection of craft beverages and festival themed drinks for sale.







## Book Launch with MAUREEN KELLY

SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 7:15pm–8:15pm

### HIGHLAND GAMES PAVILION

Scottish historian and author Maureen Kelly will share a fascinating insight into her recent work *Historical Guide to Braemar Castle*, an important local landmark with a rich history that touches on Clan heritage, the Royal Family and political uprisings.

Free event, donations are welcomed.

## DAVID WALLIAMS

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 10am–11am

### ST. MARGARET'S

A literary phenomenon, David Walliams' books have captured the hearts and imaginations of children around the globe. This Braemar Literary Festival experience presents a unique opportunity to hear David talk about his incredible literary career including readings from his books and answering audience questions in his one-man show.





## Costumed Literary Tour, BRAEMAR LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 11:30am-12:30pm

### BRAEMAR MEWS

Meet the colourful literary characters of Braemar on this costumed literary tour, presented by the Braemar Local History Group. The group will meet at the Mews, across from the Fife Arms Hotel.

Free event, donations are welcomed.

## Women's Writing Panel – LUCY BARKER, ÇIĞKÖDİLİ EMELÜMADU, LUCY MORRIS and CLAIRE SHANAHAN.

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 11:45am–12:45pm

### BRAEMAR VILLAGE HALL

Delving into the significant field of published female writers and authors, Executive Director of the Women's Prize Trust Claire Shanahan will lead a panel conversation with debut novelists Çiğködilî Emelümadu (*Dazzling*, 2023) and Lucy Barker (*The Other Side of Mrs Woods*, 2023) and literary agent Lucy Morris of Curtis Brown. The panel will explore the role of support structures for women writers and routes to publishing; discuss the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Discoveries programme (and its precursor Curtis Brown First Novel Prize/CB120), the importance of informal peer networks and the role of the literary agent.

Çiğködilî and Lucy will share their personal literary journeys and what helped them make the breakthrough into being published writers.





SOPHIE BERREBI in conversation  
with VICKY ALLAN

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 1:15pm–2:15pm

THE FIFE ARMS DRAWING ROOM

Join author, scholar and specialised curator of modern and contemporary art Sophie Berrebi in conversation with Vicky Allan, friend, author and environment editor for the Herald as they explore Sophie's first novel *The Sharing Economy*.



## JOHANNA BASFORD OBE Colouring Workshop

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 1:15pm–2:15pm

### THE FIFE ARMS FOG HOUSE

Widely regarded as the creative force that launched the global phenomenon of the adult colouring book, Johanna Basford will host a one-off illustration workshop at the Fife Arms. With opportunities to chat with Johanna about her successful book career, participants will also get a sneak peek at some of the illustrations from Johanna's new book *Small Victories* which will be published in November of this year.





The Queen's Reading Room,  
ANTHONY HOROWITZ in conversation  
with VICKI PERRIN

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2:45pm-3:45pm

ST MARGARET'S

Bestselling author Anthony Horowitz is one of the kings of adventure fiction: from spy stories to detective dramas and murder mysteries, he's thrilled millions of readers on the page and screen with his original novels and follow-ons of James Bond and Sherlock Holmes. A favourite writer of Her Majesty The Queen, Anthony joins us for a special, career-spanning conversation with The Queen's Reading Room, exploring a key theme from Alex Rider to Magpie Murders: the secrets of suspense.

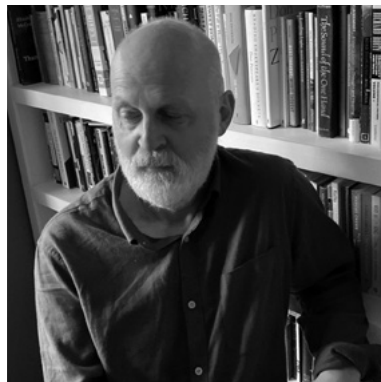


## DON PATERSON in conversation with ALISTAIR BRAIDWOOD

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 4:30pm–5:30pm

### BRAEMAR VILLAGE HALL

Poet, musician and author Don Paterson is widely regarded as one of Scotland's greatest living writers. In conversation with critic and broadcaster Alistair Braidwood, Don will discuss his award-winning career and literary style, focusing on his new memoir published earlier this year, *Toy Fights: A Boyhood*, which recounts in gritty, occasionally hilarious and always uncompromising detail Paterson's early life and upbringing on a Dundee council estate.





The background consists of several overlapping, organic shapes in shades of green and olive. A lighter, muted green shape is at the top, with a darker olive shape below it. A large, solid olive shape occupies the bottom half of the frame. The shapes overlap to create a sense of depth and movement.

# SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

## VICKY ALLAN

Vicky Allan is an environmental writer for the Herald, and author. In recent years her focus has been on a series of non-fiction books about wild swimming, *Taking the Plunge* and *The Art of Wild Swimming*, as well as *Still Hot!*, a collection of stories about the menopause. She is the author of a creepy cat novel, titled *Stray*. She lives in Edinburgh. When she's not writing, or seeking out a story, she likes to be plunging into some very cold water or roaming the glens and bens of Scotland.



## LUCY BARKER

Lucy Barker is the author of *The Other Side of Mrs Wood* (4th Estate). She holds an MA in Victorian Studies from Birkbeck College, University of London, and has a passion for uncovering the real lives of women from this period. Always a dreamer, Lucy has written stories her whole life and is a Curtis Brown Creative and Novelry alumnus. She was the runner-up for the Curtis Brown First Novel Prize with an early partial draft of *The Other Side of Mrs Wood*. Born in Sussex, she now lives in Bath with her husband and two small children.





## JOHANNA BASFORD OBE

Scottish illustrator Johanna Basford has been at the forefront of the adult colouring phenomenon since the launch of her first book, *Secret Garden*. Johanna has sold over 25 million adult colouring books worldwide and is excited to release her 12th, *Small Victories* in November this year. Johanna's work is inspired by the flora and fauna surrounding her home in rural Aberdeenshire that she shares with her daughters, Evie and Mia. When she's not creating inky wonderlands, Johanna enjoys climbing mountains, swimming in the sea and drinking cups of tea in the garden.



## SOPHIE BERREBI

Sophie Berrebi is an author, scholar and curator specialised in modern and contemporary art. An associate professor of art history at the University of Amsterdam, she is the author of *The Shape of Evidence, Contemporary Art and the Document*, (Valiz, 2015) and of *Dubuffet and the City: People, Place and Urban Space* (Hauser & Wirth Publishers, 2018), which received the 2019 Richard Schlagman award for best book of art history. Her most recent exhibition was 'Seventy Years of The Second Sex, a Conversation between Works and Words' (Hauser & Wirth Zürich, 2022). *The Sharing Economy* (Scribner 2023) is her first novel.

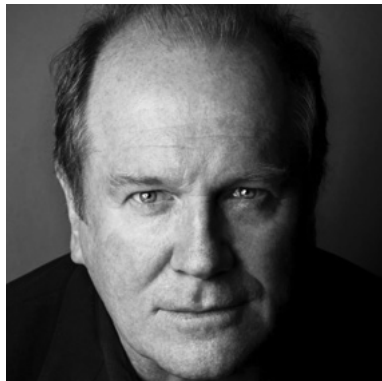
## ALISTAIR BRAIDWOOD

Alistair Braidwood runs the website Scots Whay Hae! as well as hosting the accompanying podcast where he talks to some of the most interesting names involved in Scottish culture and the arts. He also fronts the SWH! Show on CamGlen Radio, reviews and interviews for a number of literary and cultural publications, regularly chairs and MCs at book, music, and art events and festivals, and has been published in several academic journals and books.



## WILLIAM BOYD CBE

William Boyd was born in Ghana and grew up there and in Nigeria. His first novel, *A Good Man in Africa*, won the Whitbread First Novel Award and the Somerset Maugham Prize. His other novels include *Stars and Bars*, *The New Confessions*, and *Brazzaville Beach* which won the McVitie Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. *An Ice Cream War* was also shortlisted for the 1982 Booker Prize and won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize. His novel *Any Human Heart* won the Prix Jean Monnet award and *Restless* won the Costa Novel of the Year Award. His latest novel, *The Romantic*, was released in October 2022.





## TOM PARKER BOWLES

A British food writer and critic, Tom Parker Bowles won the Guild of Food Writers 2010 award for his writings on British food. He is well known for his appearances as a judge and critic in numerous television food series including MasterChef and for his reviews of restaurant meals around the UK and overseas for GQ, Esquire and The Mail on Sunday. Tom is also a successful author of 8 books.



## JAMES CAHILL

A writer and art critic, James Cahill's debut novel, *Tiepolo Blue*, was published in 2022 by Sceptre Books, and was recently shortlisted for the Author's Club Best First Novel Award. His second novel, *The Violet Hour*, is due in 2024. His writing has appeared in publications including the Los Angeles Review of Books, the London Review of Books, the Times Literary Supplement, and the Daily Telegraph. He is based alternately in London and Los Angeles.

## DAME JUDI DENCH

Since playing Ophelia in Hamlet at The Old Vic Theatre over 60 years ago, Judi Dench has garnered wide popular and critical admiration for a career marked by outstanding performances in classical and contemporary roles on both stage and screen. She has won numerous major awards – including an Academy Award, ten BAFTA Awards and a record eight Laurence Olivier Awards, and in recognition of her many achievements, she received an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 1970, became a DBE (Dame of the British Empire) in 1988, and in 2005 was awarded a Companion of Honour.



## GRACE DENT

Grace Dent is one of Britain's best known food writers and restaurant critic for The Guardian; she has been a regular face of BBC1's MasterChef since 2013. Her food memoir *Hungry* won the Fortnum and Mason's Book Award and the Lakeland Book Prize. She recently presented Best of Britain By The Sea with Ainsley Harriott for C4 and was a judge on The World Cook for Amazon Prime, as well as presenting Million Pound Buffet for C5. Grace's new book *Comfort Eating*, inspired by her award-winning podcast *Comfort Eating*, is published in October 2023 along with a UK tour.





## SUZIE EDGE

Suzie Edge trained as a molecular biologist before moving to clinical medicine, to spend more time talking to people, rather than just bugs in test tubes. She went on to work as a junior doctor in a variety of medical specialties, and whilst training also completed an MLitt in Modern History to feed her fascination for the history of the human body and the history of medicine. Always on the lookout for gory historical details, Suzie loves telling stories of how we have treated our human bodies in life and in death and has been shortlisted by TikTok UK as BookTok Author of the Year. Her first book, *Mortal Monarchs*, was published by Wildfire in September 2022. *Vital Organs, A history of the world's most famous body parts* will be published on 28th September 2023. Suzie will also be publishing a series of children's books about the history of the human body called *History Stinks*.



## CHIKODILI EMELUMADU

Chikodili Emelumadu was born in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, and raised in Awka, Nigeria. A product of not one but two Nigerian boarding schools, she went on to attend Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Nigeria and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Her work has been shortlisted for the Shirley Jackson Award (2015), a Nommo Award (2020), and the Caine Prize for African Literature (2017, 2020). Her debut novel *Dazzling* won the inaugural Curtis Brown First Novel Prize and was published by Wildfire in 2023. She lives in East Sussex.

## FLORA FRASER

An historical biographer and author, Flora Fraser delves into the lives of women from the 18th Century. Her books include *Beloved Emma: The Life of Emma Hamilton*, *The Unruly Queen*, *Princess: The Daughters of George III*, *Venus of Empire: The Life of Pauline Bonaparte* and *George & Martha Washington: A Revolutionary Marriage*, which won the 2016 George Washington Prize. Flora was named after the Scottish Jacobite heroine Flora Macdonald, who assisted Bonnie Prince Charlie to escape from Scotland following the Jacobites' defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, whose story she tells in *Pretty Young Rebel*. The paperback of *Pretty Young Rebel* is set to be published by Bloomsbury 14th September 2023.



## JOHN GLENDAY

Scottish nature poet John Glenday is the author of four collections: *Grain* (Picador 2009) was shortlisted for the Griffin International Poetry Prize and the Ted Hughes Award, and *The Golden Mean* (Picador 2015) was shortlisted for the Saltire Scottish Poetry Book of the Year and won the 2016 Roehampton Poetry Prize. His most recent publications are a limited edition artbook *mira*, (*Coast to Coast to Coast* 2019) and a pamphlet, *The Firth* (Mariscat Press 2020). His *Selected Poems* was published by Picador in 2020. In 2023, John was commissioned by the Fife Arms to write a commemorative poem, *The Birk*, to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.







## JO GILBERT

Jo Gilbert is a spoken word artist and writer from Aberdeen. Their work has featured on BBC Radio 4 show Tongue and Talk, art exhibitions and films, as well as spray-painted on a mural at Aberdeen Beach. Past projects and commissions include StAnza Poetry Festival, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums, National Theatre of Scotland and Aberdeen Performing Arts. Jo published debut poetry collection '*WTF is normal anyway?*' in August 2022 with Seahorse Publications and was a finalist in the Loud Poets Grand Slam Final at Edinburgh International Book Festival 2023. Jo is the current Oooh Beehive UK online slam champion.



## SIMON GROOM

Simon Groom is the Director of Modern & Contemporary Art, National Galleries of Scotland. Born in Liverpool, he graduated with a degree in English Literature from Edinburgh University, before spending time living and working in Japan and Italy, and then completed an MA and PhD in post-war international art at the Courtauld Institute of Art. With a specialist interest in art from Asia, Simon has curated numerous exhibitions and was previously the curator at Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, and Head of Exhibitions at Tate Liverpool.

## ANTHONY HOROWITZ CBE

Anthony Horowitz CBE is one of the most prolific and successful writers in the UK, working across YA fiction, detective novels, TV, films, plays and journalism. Anthony has written 56 books. *Close to Death*, the fifth book in the Hawthorne/Horowitz series will be published early next year. His TV work includes the award-winning *Foyle's War*, *Midsomer Murders* and the adaptation of his own novel, *Maggie Murders*. In 2022, Anthony was awarded a CBE for services to literature.



## MAUREEN KELLY

Historian and educator Maureen Kelly is passionate about preserving the history of Braemar. As a member of Braemar Local History Group, Maureen has written several books on the village's fascinating history and directly supported the Fife Arms' restoration programme through her extensive knowledge of the area and its many stories. From the colourful characters of the Jacobites in the Upper Deeside to the First and Second World Wars, Maureen's latest book *Historical Guide to Braemar Castle* delves into the dramatic history behind the distinctive castle and its surrounds.





## SAM LEITH

Sam Leith is the literary editor of *The Spectator*, and the author of several books including *You Talkin' To Me: Rhetoric from Aristotle to Trump and Beyond* and *Write To The Point: How To Be Clear, Correct and Persuasive on the Page*. He's currently working on *The Haunted Wood*, a history of children's literature to be published by Oneworld next autumn.



## MARY MCCARTNEY

Mary McCartney is a portrait and fine art photographer, filmmaker, cookbook author, and Global Ambassador for Meat Free Monday. Mary has executive produced and presented three seasons of her Emmy nominated plant-based cooking show, "Mary McCartney Serves It Up!" for Discovery+. Her third cookbook, *Feeding Creativity*, published by TASCHEN is a unique hybrid coffee table, portrait and recipe book. In this book, she blends her passions for food and photography: cooking 60 of her favourite recipes for friends, family, and members of the creative community. Mary takes each person a specially prepared dish and photographs their culinary encounters, sharing her anecdotes from their time together.

## LUCY MORRIS

Lucy Morris is a literary agent at Curtis Brown, where she represents novelists and non-fiction writers. In 2019, she set up the Curtis Brown First Novel Prize as part of the agency's 120th birthday celebrations, and is proud to work with the winner, *Chikōdjili Emelɔmadɔ*, and runner-up, Lucy Barker. Lucy is also part of the team behind Discoveries, a development programme for unpublished women writers launched in partnership with the Women's Prize Trust, Audible and Curtis Brown Creative. Now going into its fourth year, the programme culminates in the Discoveries Prize for a novel-in-progress, where Lucy sits on the judging panel.



## SABINE MUIR & AGNIESZKA BROZEK

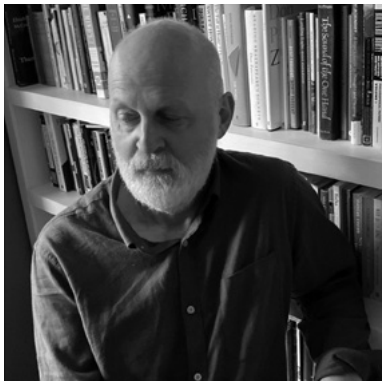
A local author of four children's novels, Sabine Muir has collaborated with illustrator Agnieszka Brozek to produce four picture books. Their first book, *I'm Not That Scary*, was published at the end of 2019, just before the start of Covid. *Josephine Drama Queen* came out during the pandemic and their third book, *The VIBs – The Very Important Bees*, is aimed at helping children understand how important bees are to the environment. Their latest publication *We Don't Want Your Rubbish*, is about sea creatures dealing with plastic pollution of the ocean.





## BRENDAN O'HEA

A trained actor from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Brendan's expansive career has seen him perform extensively at many of the UK's top theatres. He has performed in several of Shakespeare's plays at the Globe Theatre including *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline*, *Measure for Measure*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Henry V*, *Henry VI, Parts One, Two & Three*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*. As a director, his work has been seen on stages across the UK and abroad. Directing credits for Shakespeare's Globe include several of the Bard's well-loved plays such as *The Comedy of Errors*, *Pericles*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *As You Like It*.



## DON PATERSON

A Scottish poet, writer and musician, Don Paterson's writing has won many awards, including the Whitbread Poetry Prize, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, the Costa Poetry Award, all three Forward Prizes, and the T. S. Eliot Prize. He was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2009. Having previously taught at the University of St Andrews, he is now Emeritus Professor of Poetry in the School of English. From 1997 to 2022, Paterson was poetry editor at Picador. Paterson's memoir *Toy Fights: A Boyhood* was published by Faber in January 2023.

## VICKI PERRIN

CEO of The Queen's Reading Room, Vicki is a content producer, festival programmer and all-round bookworm. With a background in literary festivals, TV and Radio, including directing the BBC's 500 Words competition, Vicki is passionate about making great stories accessible to everyone.



## CLAIRE SHANAHAN

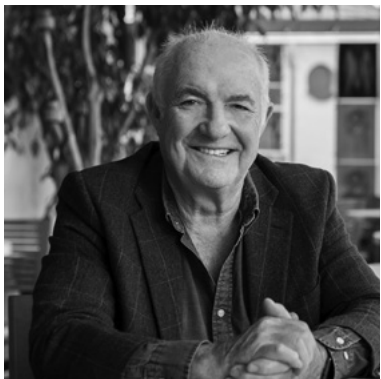
Executive Director of the registered charity, Women's Prize Trust, their mission is to change the world through books by women and open up pathways into reading and writing for the storytellers and booklovers of tomorrow. Named a Bookseller Rising Star in 2013, Claire worked as an editor, before moving into the charity sector. She was Head of Arts at BookTrust where she oversaw a portfolio of reading and writing initiatives before moving into consultancy for literary & media clients. Claire is a passionate advocate of the transformative power of reading and writing, and the ongoing need to invest in and cheerlead women.





## REBECCA SMITH

Rebecca Smith is an author and journalist from Cumbria, now living in Central Scotland with her partner and three children. She worked for BBC Radio for over a decade producing and researching live and pre-recorded programmes. Her first book *Rural: The Lives of the Working-Class Countryside* is out now.



## RICK STEIN

Best known for a love of fresh, simple seafood, Rick made his name in the 90s with his earliest books and television series based on his life as chef and owner of The Seafood Restaurant (established in 1975) in the fishing port of Padstow. He has now written over 25 cookery books, a memoir and made over 30 programmes including 12 cookery series. In 2018 Rick was awarded a CBE for Services to the Economy. His latest book, *Rick Stein's Simple Suppers* will be released in October 2023.

## JUDITH TAYLOR

Judith Taylor comes from Strathmore but now lives and works in Aberdeen, where she is a co-organiser of the monthly Poetry at Books and Beans events. Her poetry has appeared widely in magazines and anthologies: her first collection, *Not in Nightingale Country*, was published in 2017 by Red Squirrel Press, and her second, *Across Your Careful Garden*, is out now. She is a longtime volunteer with North-East literature and art magazine *Pushing Out the Boat* and is one of the Editors of Poetry Scotland.



## DAVID WALLIAMS

A literary phenomenon, David's books have been translated into fifty-five languages and have sold more than fifty-four million copies worldwide. They have achieved huge critical acclaim and have spent a record-breaking 230 weeks at number one in the Children's charts. Critics have compared David to his favourite author, the legendary Roald Dahl.







## DOREEN WOOD

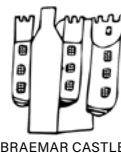
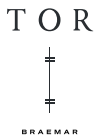
Doreen was born and brought up in Braemar with family roots going back generations. Her return to the village coincided with the community taking over the operation of Braemar Castle, which has strong historical connections with the Jacobite cause, as a community enterprise. Her background in storytelling and management for the BBC have proved useful skills in creating and running a Visitor Attraction. It has been a joy for Doreen, unearthing long forgotten stories of life here on the Braes of Mar. Tales of those who lived here and those who, over the centuries, visited this spectacular remote part of Scotland to hunt, fish, walk, climb and enjoy this breathtaking landscape.

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