

Scottish Storytelling Centre

January – March 2019

What's on Programme

The Scottish Storytelling Centre is free to enter, with a small charge for entry to John Knox House and varying prices for events. The Centre includes the Storytelling Café, Netherbow Theatre, Storytelling Court, George Mackay Brown Library, Exhibition space and a Bookshop. In 2018 the Centre was awarded Best Performing Arts Venue at the Sunday Herald Culture Awards.

Families are welcome! Highchairs and baby changing facilities are available.

The Centre is accessible to wheelchair users, there are audio loops in our performance areas and Braille signage throughout. Please let us know if you'd like any of our publications in a different format or if you need assistance once you're here. A full copy of our Access Statement is available on our website.

Box Office

Phone: 0131 556 9579

Online: www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

Email: reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com

In Person: Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm

A booking fee of £1 per transaction is charged for online & phone bookings. No booking fee is applied to tickets purchased in person from the Centre's Box Office.

We try our hardest to make sure all details are correct, but to avoid disappointment please check with the box office.

Sometimes the Centre's exhibition space is not accessible to the public because of a private function. Please call ahead to check.

TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland SC043009) is the national network for traditional arts currently based at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. www.tracscotland.org

SUPPORT US! BECOME A STORYTELLING CENTRE SUPPORTER FOR ONLY £30 PER YEAR

Benefits include:

- Discounts on Storytelling Centre events
- 10% discount in our bookshop
- 10% discount in the Story Café
- Invites to special events
- A quarterly mailing of our What's On guide (by post if desired)
- Contributing to the development & work of the SSC

Please call 0131 556 9579 or email supporters@scottishstorytellingcentre.com for further information. Ticket discounts are subject to availability, T&Cs apply.

Storytelling Centre Supporter Prices are listed as (SCS)

WELCOME to our first Programme of 2019, where we reflect on the end of Scotland's Winter Festivals with our annual celebration of Robert Burns and usher in a hopeful and healing spring series of events and workshops inspired by Bride and the Celtic season of Imbolc. We hope you can find many opportunities to engage with your own creativity and take inspiration and enjoyment from these events.

Thu 13 Dec - Sat 26 Jan

Now You See It, Now You Don't: An Exhibition of Photographic Illusions

Prepare to be mesmerised by the uncanny illusionists from Edinburgh Young Carers. In collaboration with MagicFest and Professor Richard Wiseman they will be creating magic in a photo! Join us on a journey of discovery where the old history of Edinburgh and the magic of young minds collide! Witness the magic at the Storytelling Centre and unlock the secrets at Museum of Childhood.

Wed 16, 30 Jan, 13, 27 Feb, 13, 27 Mar | 7pm – 9pm

£5 (£3) (£2.50 SCS)

Edinbal Dance Workshops: An Introduction to European Folk Dancing

From the lyrical mazurka and the smooth waltz, or the social and energetic Breton dances to the rhythmic schottische, these workshops will introduce you to the European version of ceilidh dancing - bal folk! The workshops are independent from each other and suitable for complete beginners with a mixture of teaching, social dancing and live music. Light shoes with smooth soles recommended.

Fri 18 Jan | 8pm – 10.30pm | By donation (suggest £5/£4)

The World's Room

The traditional singing club is now settled into its new home at the Waverley Bar, St Mary's Street. The first night of the new year welcomes highly regarded tradition bearers, Ellen and Kevin Mitchell with a mix of Scottish and Ulster songs.

Tue 15 Jan | 10am & 11.30am (40mins) | £5 per child | 1-3yrs

Tiny Tales: Buccaneers Ahoy!

(suitable for children and families)

Jump aboard and join our pirate crew, led by storyteller Beth Hamilton-Cardus - we'll be finding treasure, facing storms and running away from tiny witches! A multisensory and thoroughly interactive storytelling session, with songs, props and a pretty loose take on a Fife folk tale.

Thu 17 Jan | 7pm - 9pm | £5 (£4.50 SCS)

Café Voices: Jack Tales

There is something quite wonderful about Jack, the 'daft laddie', who always seems to come through as the winner in the end. Join storyteller Russell McLarty, who identifies with Jack big time and enjoys a good few of his unlikely tales. The Centre's monthly storytelling night, with an open floor section for storytellers to tell their own tales.

Fri 18 Jan, 15 Feb & 15 Mar | 7.30pm - 10pm

£8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

Loud Poets

One of the UK's most successful spoken word collectives return with their monthly showcase of the UK's top spoken word talent. This is make some noise, fist-thumping, pint-drinking, side-tickling, heartwrenching poetry. This is poetry for the masses. 'Throughout there's a humour, poignancy and most of all a confidence which serves to inspire.' (Scotsman)

Fri 18 Jan Loud Poets: Life, uh, finds a way

Fri 15 Feb Loud Poets: Big Bada-boom!

Fri 15 Mar Loud Poets: Choose Life

Burns Night

Join us for our annual celebration of Robert Burns, as part of Scotland's Winter Festivals, with exciting live performances, in-depth workshops and the legendary Supper with Burns storytelling dinner. Something for everyone to discover and enjoy!

Tue 22 Jan | 2pm - 4pm | Free

Café Ceilidh: Burns Celebration

Join friends from the Scots Music Group for an afternoon session of traditional songs, music, poems and stories celebrating Scotland's national poet Robert Burns. Held in the relaxed setting of the Storytelling Court. All welcome to listen or bring a tune for a turn!

Thu 24 & Fri 25 Jan | 7pm - 9.30pm | £25

Supper with Burns

A seasonal favourite! Join us for an alternative Burns Supper in the beautiful setting of the Storytelling Court, serving up a delicious 3-course Scottish dinner with the centre piece Haggis - and a generous helping of Burns' stories, song and lore. Hosted by storytellers David Campbell and Ruth Kirkpatrick, with clarsach player Katie Harrigan. Also featuring Donald Smith's wonderful rendition of Tam O'Shanter! Book early to avoid disappointment!

Fri 25 Jan | 7.30pm - 10pm | By donation (suggest £5/£4)

Guid Crack Storytelling Session

On Burns Night, with the Celtic feast of Imbolc fast approaching, join storyteller Kate Walker and friends for an evening of tales and banter as she takes an indulgent look at some Scottish customs and the stories and lore behind them.

Sat 26 Jan | 12pm - 1pm | £5 | Adults and 8+

A Cup O' Kindness

Scots traditions owe much to Rabbin Burns, from Hogmanay's rousing chorus of Auld Lang Syne at the bells, to Burns Suppers of whisky, neeps and haggis. Join Elderwise storytellers for a nostalgic celebration of our weird and wonderful new year customs, with a generous dollop of heart-warming stories! Sat 26 Jan | 2.30pm - 4pm | £5 (£4.50 SCS) All Ages Family Ceilidh Come with family and friends to dance well-known Scottish dances and sing well known songs. All the dances will be called and there will be easier circles for the littler ones. A fun introduction to sociable dancing with live music and some stories too.

Sat 26 Jan | 2.30pm - 4pm | £5 (£4.50 SCS) | All Ages

Family Ceilidh

(suitable for children and families)

Come with family and friends to dance well-known Scottish dances and sing wellknown songs. All the dances will be called and there will be easier circles for the littler ones. A fun introduction to sociable dancing with live music and some stories too.

Fri 1 - Sat 16 Feb

Painting the Wonder Tales

A three-fold exhibition of visual art, storytelling and folk music to celebrate the ancient Celtic festival of Imbolc, the season of rebirth as spring awakens. New original paintings by John Slavin illustrating the wonder tales of Scottish Traveller storyteller Duncan Williamson inspire gatherings of poetry, song, story and music.

Fri 1 Feb | 7.45pm - 9.30pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

The Birth of the Unicorn

Join us to celebrate the Day of Bride and the launch of John Slavin's exhibition, recreating the stories and songs of Scotland's greatest tradition bearer, Duncan Williamson. Led by David Campbell, Helen East and Linda Williamson.

Tue 12 & Thu 14 Feb | 2pm - 4pm | Free (ticketed) | All Ages

Wonder Tales

(suitable for children and families)

Spring stories and spontaneous sounds for all the family under the backdrop of new paintings by John Slavin. Come and listen or bring a turn yourself to celebrate the wonder tales of Scottish Traveller Duncan Williamson.

Sat 2 Feb | 7.30pm – 9.30pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS)

Songs and Stories Remembering our Earth

A celebration and mourning to remember the earth. A powerful and moving expression of our relationship to each other, our fellow creatures, the environment, the planet, our past and our future. A performance of original and traditional material inspired by folk and world music, traditional stories and contemporary journalism. Featuring singer/storyteller Susanna Orr Holland on Indian harmonium, guitar and bodhrán and magical musician KeLan on percussion, hand pan, viola da gamba, electric bass and spoken word. See related workshop on pg.28.

Thu 7 Feb | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

Stories on the Way

An evening of stories to live by. Come along and listen to our wonderful apprentice storytellers weave their magic and tell stories to make you smile. An evening of uplifting tales to welcome in the first flutterings of Spring.

Thu 7 – Sun 10 Feb

Edinburgh International Improv Festival

Blank Script present the Edinburgh International Improv Festival, Scotland's first and only festival dedicated to improv. Across 4 days, over 75 performers from across the

globe will amaze with their spontaneity, quick wit and ability to make you laugh your socks off. Scenes, sketches, songs and stories will be made up on the spot from audience suggestions. World class improv teachers will also be delivering a full curriculum of classes throughout the festival. Please see website for full listings.

Tue 12 Feb | 10am & 11.30am (40mins) | £5 per child | 1-3yrs

Tiny Tales: Bear Blethers

(suitable for children and families)

Look out! There are bears about. Visit the house of the bears with Goldilocks, meet a brave marmot, help little bear go to sleep and venture on a bear hunt. Join Julie Bannatyne for a fun morning of action songs and stories.

Thu 14 Feb | 7pm - 9pm | £5 (£4.50 SCS)

Café Voices: Love Springs Eternal

Love shows itself in all forms, sometimes when we're least expecting it. Join us on Valentine's night for an evening of loving stories with guest storyteller Claire Hewitt. The Centre's monthly storytelling session, with an open-floor section for storytellers to tell their own tales, all in the relaxed surroundings of the Storytelling Court.

Fri 15 Feb | 11am - 12pm | £5 per child | All Ages

Makin a Brew

(suitable for children and families)

Musician Gica Loening & storyteller Claire McNicol share a mix of songs, rhymes, music and stories aimed at children under five with older siblings welcome. Working with children and parents in Early Years Centres in North Edinburgh and Musselburgh over the last four years, Gica and Claire are delighted to recreate some of the MAB magic in the lovely Storytelling Court! Snowdrops may well feature as we welcome the spring!

Fri 15 Feb | 8pm - 10.30pm | By donation (suggest £5)

The World's Room

With a repertoire drawn from the bothy ballads of the rural north east, Allan Taylor makes his debut at the World's Room. Join in the choruses or even contribute a song yourself at Edinburgh's monthly traditional singing night. Upstairs at the Waverley Bar, St Mary's St.

Sat 16 Feb | 11am - 11.50am | £5 per child | 4+

The Stolen Dragon Adventure

(suitable for children and families)

Join Adventuretellers Brooke Conway and Hannah Mathieson on a story-quest to save the golden dragon and her newly laid eggs from the grasps of a lonely wizard. Together you will conquer fears and face mystical characters, travelling through jungles, enchanted forests, lagoons and snow storms 'til you reach the wizard's ruined tower in the snowy mountains. Can you save the dragon, or will we be trapped in an eternal winter forever?

Sat 16 Feb | 3pm - 4.15pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS)

A Story to Every Dance

The Scottish solo dance tradition is peppered with stories attached to specific dances which appear in Highland Games and performance programmes. Many of these stories suggest an origin for a dance anchored in a distant past, but they may also form some level of meaning making. Are they even true? Join Mats Melin as he celebrates his new book with stories, songs, and dance, featuring storyteller David Francis and musician Sarah Hoy.

Wed 20 Feb | 7.30pm - 8.30pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS) | 16+

Fool for Love: The Not So Subtle Art of Medieval French Seduction

Love makes fools of us all and there are stories to prove it. Kleio Pethainou brings to life Medieval French characters and love songs in this special storytelling and music performance. The stories come from a precious manuscript which is part of the Hunterian Collection of Glasgow University. Their last known audience was the Duke of Burgundy and his court, so you will be their first audience in six centuries. Come and hear of noblemen, millers, knights and clerks and the things they did for love!

Wed 20 Feb - Sat 16 Mar

Exhibition: A Child of the 60's

A collaborative piece of work by storyteller/author Lea Taylor and a collection of artists using memories of childhood and the stories they evoke. Memories are powerful and subjective, as each of us possess a different and unique experience. Add to this a child's eye view and a kaleidoscope of pictures will transport us back to a time long past but not forgotten. The artists hope that the work triggers something of your own reminiscences.

Fri 22 Feb | 7.30pm - 10pm | By donation (suggest £5/£4)

Guid Crack Storytelling Session

At this time of year, the auld hag Beira is still battling to keep Scotland in her wintry grasp and stop the young and beautiful Bride bringing spring to the land. It is therefore a good time to celebrate stories of woman folk. Bring along your tales of women in all their guises from heroines, spey wives, witches and temptresses and join guest storyteller Heather Yule at Edinburgh's monthly storytelling night at the Waverley Bar, St. Mary's Street.

Thu 21 Feb | 7.30pm - 10pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS)

Audacious Women Live!

The Audacious Women Festival kicks off in style with a showcase of some incredible female storytelling and spoken word artists. Featuring Jan Bee Brown & Maria MacDonell, Lily Asch, Erin Kelly and Imogen Stirling all bringing their own spirit, energy and passion to the stage. Please see website for further details on each performer.

Fri 22 Feb | 7.30pm - 10pm | £12 (£10) (£9.50 SCS)

Six Gals Named Smith - The Uncrowned Queens of Blues & Jazz

The Red Hot Rhythm Makers

Scotland's first and only all-female Jazz band formed as a response to vocalist Ali Affleck's critically acclaimed

Preaching Divas show in 2018. The band are delighted to launch the first of a series of projects which seek to raise the profile of the queens of early roots, blues and jazz and also female musicians in general. The music is extraordinary and the women who performed it were even more so!

Sat 23 Feb | 7pm - 9.30pm | £26

After Judy Chicago

Created and Hosted by performer, director and singer Morna Burdon

Morna Burdon invites you to a 40th anniversary celebration of The Dinner Party - an iconic exhibition conceived by artist Judy Chicago commemorating over 1000 women hidden from history. Meet, eat and be entertained at a large triangular dining table mimicking the original artwork and decorated with place settings honouring women from that piece. You are invited to create your own costume and come as an audacious woman of your choice! Places are very limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Ticket price includes 2 course meal, entertainment and souvenir place setting. Also featuring guest singers Martha L Healy & Nnena McKenzie.

Thu 28 Feb | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

Real Talk: Storytelling for Wellbeing

An evening of storytelling, connection and honesty, creating a safe space to speak about one of our most beautiful assets, our minds! Attendees are offered an opportunity to gain insight into the individual experiences of the speakers around mental health. Please be aware sensitive topics will be discussed.

Fri 1 Mar | 7.30pm - 8.30pm | £12 (£10) (£9.50 SCS)

Hebridean Treasure: Lost & Found

Internationally acclaimed writer, John Philip Newell, works with some of the most talented young artists in Scotland to tell the story of an enchanted Hebridean world that was lost, but is being found again in a new sense of the earth as sacred. This is a story of beauty, pathos, and hope. Featuring composer and singer Mischa Macpherson, dancer Kirsten Newell and the artistic direction of Shane Shambhu, achieving what has never been attempted before, a memory of the forgotten influence of India on the Celtic soul.

Sat 2 Mar | 11am & 2pm (45mins) | £5 per child | 4+

Tales from the Magic Drum

(suitable for children and families)

Come on a global journey through the wonder tales of the world, dancing to a rhythm or two along the way! A riotous selection of stories and West African drumming from storyteller Dougie Mackay promises a fun, interactive storytelling session for ages 4+ but is likely to delight anyone with a sense of adventure and imagination.

Sat 2 Mar | 7.30pm - 9.15pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

Tales of Exile & Sanctuary

Storyteller Gauri Raje presents a tapestry of stories from around the world exploring the human conditions of exile and refuge. With a wonderful storytelling style, Gauri questions the beauty and horrors of exile and what can be nourished through sanctuary.

Tue 5 Mar | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS)

Storytelling True Facts: Iconic Women

Join us for a new event as storytellers share tales of some iconic women in music, art and literature, whilst unearthing an interesting True Fact! Want to know why Mona Lisa smiles? How Madonna got into the groove and where Jane Austen plucked Mr Darcy's name from? Come along for a fun

night celebrating the run up to International's Women's Day with some Storytelling True Facts... You could even share a fact yourself!

Fri 8 Mar | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

Trailblazers!

Join storyteller Jan Bee Brown on International Women's Day to celebrate the spirit and strength of the many unsung sisters on whose shoulders we stand. Featuring trailblazing tales of female explorers, high climbers, glasshouse smashers, female footballers, slack-wire dancers and stage strutting quines in a saucy gander through Her-story.

Tue 12 Mar | 10am & 11.30am (40mins) | £5 per child

1-3yrs

Tiny Tales: Spring Babies

(suitable for children and families)

Join Allison Galbraith for a fun morning of bouncy bunny rhymes and dancing duckling ditties to celebrate the coming of spring. A gentle introduction to stories for your wee ones.

Thu 14 Mar | 7pm - 9pm | £5 (£4.50 SCS)

Café Voices: The Wicked & The Wise

Marie-Louise Cochrane leads an evening of stories about the cheeky ones who challenge the way things are. Held in the relaxed surroundings of the Storytelling Court, with an open-floor section for storytellers to tell their own tales. This is a Hear a Little, Give a Little session, where donations are encouraged for a chosen charity.

Fri 15 Mar | 8pm - 10.30pm | By donation (suggest £5)

The World's Room

This month's guest is Donegal singer, Vincent Doherty with plenty of contributions from the floor too. Upstairs at the Waverley Bar, St Mary's Street.

Sat 16 Mar | 2pm - 3pm | £6 (£4) (£3.50 SCS) | All Ages

Wild & Windy Songs & Stories

(suitable for children and families)

Join us on Disabled Access Day for some blustery March multi-sensory adventures! Storytellers Ailie Finlay and Marie Louise Cochrane lead this lively session of tales with multi-sensory props and lots of joining-in. All welcome, but particularly suitable for children and adults with additional needs and their families and friends.

Sat 16 Mar | 7.30pm - 10pm | £8 (£6) (Free SCS) | 16+

Tall Tales Oscar

Hilarious, mysterious or just plain ridiculous - listen to tall tales, ferocious fibs and fables performed live on stage by Scotland's finest tellers, then you decide who wins the lucrative accolade of Oscar the Leprechaun! Scotland's annual tall tales storytelling competition is hosted by last year's winner, Suu Caledonia. A guaranteed crowd-pleaser we recommend you book in advance.

Tue 19 Mar | 2pm – 4pm | Free

Café Ceilidh: Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Join friends from the Scots Music Group for an afternoon session of traditional songs, music, poems and stories celebrating Ireland's patron saint. Held in the relaxed setting of the Storytelling Court. All welcome to listen or bring a tune for a turn!

Wed 20 Mar | 7pm - 9pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

Re-Storying Our Planet

How can we belong in our changing common earth without stories to connect us? This presentation combines storytelling, film and commentary to evoke three journeys across Scotland in a quest to re-unite traditional stories and environmental action through our innate yet sometimes un-

awakened creativity. Join us on World Storytelling Day as Allison Galbraith and Alette Willis share the explorations and discoveries of their Andy Hunter Bursary Project. For related workshop see pg. 29.

Fri 22 Mar | 8pm - 10pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS)

Beyond: The Story of an Irish Immigrant

Glasgow based fiddler Gráinne Brady presents an evening of music, storytelling and spoken word exploring the history and legacy of mass Irish emigration to Scotland. The concert will feature music from her debut album *The Road Across the Hills*, which soundtracks an autobiographical novel by Donegal author Patrick MacGill (1889-1963), who made this journey aged 14. '...a composer of enormous talents.' (Pádraig Rynne, NOTIFY)

Sat 23 Mar | 7.30pm - 8.30pm | £12 (£10) (£9.50 SCS)

Mairi Campbell: Auld Lang Syne

The story of Mairi's adventures with Scotland's most famous song. An exhilarating and original sequel to *Pulse*, 'visionary musicianship... distinctive virtuosity' (Herald), blending live music, animation and movement. Co-devised and directed by Kath Burlinson.

Wed 20 Mar - Sat 13 Apr

Exhibition: On Step-Motherhood

Through images and testimonies photographer Vaida Nairn explores motherhood in non-traditional nuclear families. The women featured represent a wide range of ages, ethnicities, nationalities, and length of time they have been mothering children they are not biologically related to. They are all connected by the universal experience of motherhood in its different forms. This exhibition hopes to rethink the importance of a more constructive narrative and show due appreciation to all who join motherhood.

Thu 28 Mar | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

Wicked Stepmother?

Stepmothers... are they always wicked? Are they doomed to play the villain forever or can they become heroes in their own right? Join storytellers Franziska Droll and Daiva Ivanauskaite for an evening of stories and songs exploring stepmothers in traditional tales and in the modern world.

Fri 29 Mar | 8pm - 9pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

The Space Gecko Project

In 2014 The Telegraph released an article headlined 'Five Geckos Freeze to Death on Sex Space Mission'. The diary of one of those geckos has since been salvaged, however, and

its contents prove this was no 'sex mission'... because two of the geckos were deeply in love. The Space Gecko Project pairs original spoken word poetry from Stuart Kenny with music by Grant Robertson and animated visuals from Lewis Gillies to present the untold romance of two of the geckos on that trip. 'Possibly the most wholesome event for Scottish poetry in 2018.' (The Skinny)

Fri 29 Mar | 7.30pm - 10pm | By donation (suggest £5/£4)

Guid Crack Storytelling Session

Glasgow's own double storytelling Oscar winner Michael Kerins returns to Guid Crack with his hilarious tales of contemporary and contemptuous life. Bring along your favourite tales to share at Edinburgh's monthly storytelling night at the Waverley Bar, St. Mary's St.

Workshops & Development Days

Living Culture & Traditions

Presented by TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland)

Rediscover imagination's power to enliven, educate & transform. A feast of participatory culture for anyone involved in arts, education & community work.

TO BOOK WORKSHOP PLACES AT THE STORYTELLING CENTRE

Phone: 0131 556 9579

Online: www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com

In Person: Mon - Sat, 10am-6pm

We require five working days' notice of cancellation to guarantee a refund. You will receive an email reminder of your booking & a full programme in the week preceding the workshop.

ALL WORKSHOPS HELD AT SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

PLANNING ON ATTENDING MORE THAN ONE WORKSHOP?

For discounted rates on workshops become a member of the Traditional Music Forum, the Scottish Storytelling Forum or

the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland. For details visit www.tracscotland.org

Sat 12 Jan & Sat 2 Feb | 11am - 5pm

£20 (£18 Forum Members & Concessions) | Dance

Quadrilles Workshops

Nathaniel Gow was Regency Edinburgh's King of Quadrilles (dances for four couples in a square). Please join us for fun, fitness and a taste of Scottish history and culture as we rediscover these dances and bring them to life. These two all-day workshops will cover Nathaniel Gow's 7th & 8th New Sets of Quadrilles (1819), in preparation for the Bicentennial Regency Ball in March 2019. Comfortable soft shoes recommended. All levels of dancer welcome - no experience necessary. Led by Talitha MacKenzie.

Sat 19 Jan | 2pm - 4.30pm | £16 (£12 Forum Members)
Storytelling

Tam O'Shanter: Telling the Big Tale

Explore Robert Burns' master narrative and learn how to recite this most mighty of tales. Donald Smith shares his lifelong quest to understand the poem and do it justice in that ever-elusive perfect telling. Suitable for those wishing to understand Burns' defining work, as well as those focussed on performing or interpreting Burns' work artistically. A mighty challenge packed with fun.

Sat 26 Jan | 10.30am - 4.30pm | £24 (£18 Forum Members)
Music & Song

Singing the Bard: Resources & Skills

Explore the Robert Burns song repertoire with Christine Kydd. Widen your own repertoire and skills and deepen your approach to songs you already know. Astonishingly accomplished, Burns stands at the head of a select band of singer poets, including Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen, yet Burns is exceptional in penning superb songs for all genders.

Sat 2 Feb | 10.30am - 1pm | £16 (£12 Forum Members)
Storytelling

Growing with Stories

A hands-on introduction to live storytelling with reference to the current exhibition of Painting the Wonder Tales. Helen Eastleads this participatory session for anyone curious about growing their own storytelling talent, based on the inspiration and practice of Duncan Williamson. Let out your inner storyteller and learn to craft your skills.

Wed 6 Feb | 7pm - 9pm | £10 (£8 Forum Members) | Dance

Sean-nós Irish Dance

Sean-nós dancing is a traditional form of Irish dance, typically performed solo with low-to-the-ground steps, a relaxed

upper body and improvisational character. In this workshop, Aneta Dortová will focus on beginner steps and their relationship to the music. Basic improvisation techniques will also be taught with discussion of the differences between Irish step dance and Sean-nós.

Fri 15 Feb | 2pm - 4.30pm | £16 (£12 Forum Members)
Storytelling

Narrative Art and Poetry

Explore the relationship between creative narrative in visual art and in poetry. Artist John Slavin with storyteller and poet David Campbell foster responses to the exhibition *Painting the Wonder Tales*, which celebrates the relationship between *Bride, Lady of poetry*, and *Duncan Williamson, King of storytellers*.

Sat 23 Feb | 10.30am - 4.30pm £24 (£18 Forum Members)
Storytelling

Reconnecting with the Whole Story

In the face of climate change, eco-feminism is emerging around the world, bringing another narrative to grow and share. This workshop focusses on reconnecting to our body, feelings, creativity and the earth to awaken old stories and develop new ones. Led by climate activist and emergent storyteller Virginia Bjertnes and storyteller-singer Susanna Orr Holland. For related event see pg.10.

Sat 2 Mar | 10.30am - 4.30pm | £24 (£18 Forum Members)

Development

Calling the Soul Back Home

In this workshop, led by Janis Mackay, you will work with the selkie myth of seals and humans, alongside personal life stories, to evoke a sense of soul. Working with myth can be empowering and help retrieve lost or forgotten parts of ourselves. Can we come, like the seal woman, to feel comfortable in our own skin despite the pressures that divide our attention and awareness? Do these traditional stories embody a wholeness that has healing potential?

Wed 20 Mar | 2pm - 4.30pm | £16 (£12 Forum Members)

Development

Mapping the Stories: People and Place

Bring your own story of place to explore how to map and animate stories through the locale, rural or urban. For World Storytelling Day, Allison Galbraith and Alette Willis share the explorations and discoveries of their Andy Hunter Bursary Project Re-Storying our Planet. For related event see pg.21.

Sat 23 Mar | 10.30am - 4.30pm | £24 (£18 Forum Members)
Storytelling

Stepping Stones - Changemaking

How can we create more spaces where people are able to share experience and grow through mutual understanding? Building on her Andy Hunter Bursary, Beth Cross opens up some stepping stones on the journey, whilst Alexander Mackenzie explores ways of 'appreciative hosting' that encourage people to respond story to story, mind to mind and heart to heart. The day will conclude with a gathering of insights, in a ceilidh of stories of place, belonging and enabling community to happen.

Sat 30 Mar | 2pm - 4.30pm | £16 (£12 Forum Members)
Music & Song

Exploring Our Voices

Do you know the capabilities of your own voice? No one is unmusical and in our voices we each have a unique instrument to use and enjoy. In this accessible workshop, singer Kirsty Law introduces voice care; explores rhythm, pitch and harmonies; and encourages approaches to sample songs. Whether a beginner, or already a singer, this workshop will help you cherish the voice.

John Knox House - Step Inside History

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm

Last entry: 5.30pm

Admission: £6 Adult | £5 Concession | £1 Children 7+

Under 7s free

Groups: Get in touch & arrange a tour for your party 0131 556 9579.

Explore the drama of Scotland's Reformation in this ornate 15th century building, associated with some of the most dramatic events in the nation's turbulent history. Discover the stories of John Knox, James Mossman and Mary, Queen of Scots in one of Scotland's greatest cultural treasures. Please contact us to arrange a bespoke tour of John Knox House or the surrounding Netherbow area.

The Church of Scotland Scottish Charity No SC011353