

# Scottish Storytelling Centre

Jan-Mar  
2020

EVENTS

WORKSHOPS



**TRACS** TRADITIONAL  
ARTS + CULTURE  
SCOTLAND



Box Office 0131 556 9579

[www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com)

43-45 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

*'The story is told eye to eye, mind to mind and heart to heart'*

Scottish Traveller proverb

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 our Bookshop.



**Families are welcome!**

Highchairs and baby changing facilities are available. Events with this symbol are particularly suitable for children and families.



**The Centre is accessible!**

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.com](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com)  
[reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com](mailto:reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com)  
**In Person:** Mon-Sat, 10am - 6pm (occasional Sundays)

A booking fee of £1 per transaction is charged for online and 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 lead strategic partner in the public programme of the Scottish Storytelling Centre, celebrating Scotland's traditional arts, and their inspiration for contemporary society and culture. Supported by **Creative Scotland** and **City of Edinburgh Council**. [www.tracscotland.org](http://www.tracscotland.org)

## SUPPORT US!

Become a Storytelling Centre Supporter

Only £30 Per Year

Discounts for Events, Café and Bookshop!

0131 556 9579 or email:

[supporters@scottishstorytellingcentre.com](mailto:supporters@scottishstorytellingcentre.com)





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## EVENT DIARY

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14	Tiny Tales: Snuggly Bear Tales	4	14-15	Crafty Burdies	8
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30	Yng Ngheredigion	8	7	The Coming of Spring	10
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# REGULAR SESSIONS

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



## Tiny Tales

Tiny Tales is the perfect introduction to storytelling and the Centre for your wee ones. A different storyteller each month will share stories, songs and rhymes, with plenty of space for buggies and roaming around!



- Tue 14 Jan • **Snuggly Bear Tales** with Claire Hewitt
- Tue 11 Feb • **All Aboard! The Adventures of Jenny Pirate** with Fergus McNicol
- Tue 10 Mar • **Spring is Coming** with Robbie Fotheringham

7pm - 9pm | £5 (£4.50 SCS)

## Café Voices

The Centre's monthly storytelling night, with an open-floor section for storytellers to tell their own tales, or bring a poem, song or music to share. All held in the relaxed setting of the Storytelling Court.



© Lucas Kao



- Thu 16 Jan • **Robert Louis Stevenson Stories Open Floor** hosted by Donald Smith
- Thu 13 Feb • **Stories and Songs for Imbolc** with Susanna Orr Holland
- Thu 12 Mar • **Tales and Tunes from the Emerald Isle** with Marion Kenny

7.30pm - 10pm

By donation (suggest £5/£4)

## Guid Crack Storytelling Session

Edinburgh's long-running storytelling club meets on the last Friday of the month, upstairs in the Waverley Bar, St. Mary's St.



- Fri 31 Jan • **Dram Dramas** with Fiona Herbert
- Fri 28 Feb • **Look Before You Leap** with Anne Hunter
- Fri 27 Mar • **Treasures of the Earth** with Daniel Allison

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

### The World's Room

The World's Room is a home for traditional singing in Edinburgh, organised by the Traditional Music Forum and held in the Waverley Bar, St Mary's St.

- Fri 17 Jan • with Islay Dunlop and Ann Reekie
- Fri 14 Feb • with Ellie Beaton
- Fri 13 Mar • with Henry Douglas



Wed 15, 29 Jan, 12, 26 Feb & 11, 25 Mar | 7pm - 9pm | £5 (£3) (£2.50 SCS)

### Bal Folk: Dance Workshops + Social

An introduction to the European version of Ceilidh dancing - bal folk! The workshops are independent from each other and suitable for complete beginners. Each workshop is followed by an hour of social dancing to recorded and live music. Led by EdinBal.



Fri 17 Jan & 14 Feb | 7.30pm - 10pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

### Loud Poets

One of the UK's most successful spoken word collectives, Loud Poets return with their monthly showcase of the UK's top spoken word talent. This is make some noise, fist-thumping, pint-drinking, side-tickling, heart-wrenching 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 17 Jan • Loud Poets: You Had Me At Hello
- Fri 14 Feb • Loud Poets: Six Candles



Mon 23 Dec - Sat 25 Jan

## The Power of Perspective: An Exhibition of Photographic Illusions



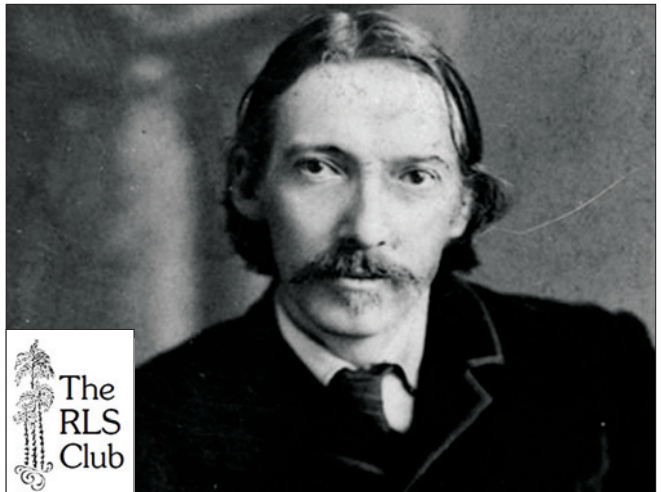
MagicFest and illusion expert Professor Richard Wiseman produce a new series of mind-bending photographs - in partnership with the Rock Trust charity. Can you figure out how they created each illusion? Witness the magic at the Storytelling Centre, unlock the secrets at the Museum of Edinburgh.



Wed 15 Jan | 7pm - 9pm  
£5 (£4.50 SCS)

## Robert Louis Stevenson - A Tribute

A celebration of RLS through the rich treasury of his poetry, letters, essays and selected works. To mark the centenary celebrations of the RLS Club, John Shedden and Peter Berry present a moving and humorous tribute to a literary great whose life and work continues to inspire affection and admiration across the world.



Sat 18 Jan  
8pm - 10pm | £10

## Jordy Deelight: The Honeymoon Period

Meet Hayley. Hayley has Cystic Fibrosis and is 24 years old. Hayley has a boyfriend, and a mum that loves her very much. Hayley is going to Newcastle for a lung transplant assessment. Hayley has no clue what she's doing. She just needs a little time...





# Burns Night

Join us for our annual celebration of Robert Burns, with exciting live performances, in-depth workshops and the legendary Supper with Burns storytelling dinner. Something for everyone to discover and enjoy as part of Scotland's Winter Festivals programme. See related workshop on page 12.

Tue 21 Jan | 2pm - 4pm | Free

## Café Ceilidh: Burns Celebration

Join the Scots Music Group for an afternoon of traditional songs, music, poems and stories celebrating Scotland's national poet Robert Burns.

Thu 23 & Fri 24 Jan | 7pm - 9.30pm | £30

## 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 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 **Daniel Allison's** wonderful rendition of Tam O'Shanter! Book early to avoid disappointment!



© Ludovic Farine

Sat 25 Jan | 1.30pm - 3pm

£5 (£4.50 SCS) | All Ages

## Family Ceilidh



Come with family and friends to dance Scottish dances and sing well-known songs. All dances will be called and there'll be easy-to-follow circles for wee ones. A fun introduction to sociable dancing with live music and some stories too.

Sat 25 Jan | 12pm & 3.30pm (1hr)

£10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS) | 14+

## Burns for Brunch

Hungover, perhaps, but not yet hung out to dry, Robert Burns awakes in Auld Reekie 2019 sharing his thoughts, poems and songs, casting a satiric eye around his Scotland and ours.

\*\*\*\*\* (SG Fringe)

\*\*\*\*

(All Edinburgh Theatre)

Sat 25 Jan

7.30pm - 9.30pm

£10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS)

## The Ceilidh House: Tam O'Shanter

Welcome to the Burns Night Ceilidh House, where people meet to dance, sing, play music and share stories. Join us for a special improvised ceilidh telling of Tam O' Shanter in a friendly, lively, and enjoyable setting, with the chance to participate or just to sit back and enjoy the fun!

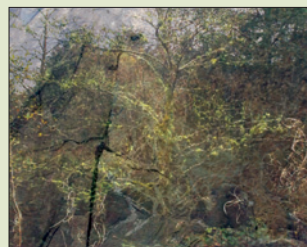




Thu 30 Jan | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £12 (£10) (£9.50 SCS)

## Yng Ngheredigion

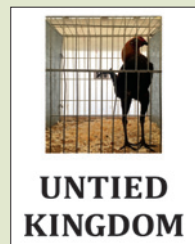
An exploration of landscape and place through music, film, stories, experience and discourse, originating from the west Wales landscape and culture of Ceredigion. Featuring new compositions, traditional tunes and sound collages by **Angharad Davies, Burd Ellen, Rafe Fitzpatrick, Sharron Kraus and Stevie Jones** (Sound of Yell), accompanied by film and stories.



Fri 31 Jan - Sun 1 Mar

## Exhibition: Brexit Tears

A collaboration between artist **Calum Colvin** and poet **Robert Crawford**, *Brexit Tears* tells the story of recent politics through 'instagrams' in which texts and images frolic and jostle together. Made during recent political convulsions, this exhibition seeks to speak of and from that time, but also to sum it up in a way that looks forward to possibilities beyond.

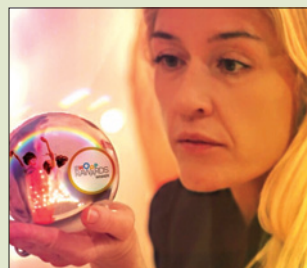


Sat 8 Feb | 11am - 11.50am | £5 per child | 4+

## Mary, Queen of Scots and the Missing Shortbread



Queen Elizabeth's delicious shortbread has mysteriously gone missing and, oh crumbs, she has accused her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots of gobbling it all up! Join action Adventuretellers **Brooke Conway** and **Hannah Mathieson** as they venture across Scotland on a brave quest to get to the bottom of this mystery!



Sat 8 Feb | 4pm - 5.30pm | Free (ticketed)

## The Watchmaker's Wife: Book Launch

**Janis Mackay** is already well known as a novelist for children, but here she ventures into the new landscape of writing for adults with this historical fiction/memoir based on the life of her grandmother. Come along for readings from the novel, space for questions, and book signings of course!

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

## Small Wonders

Magical things happen when we are in a state of wonder. **Ines Alvarez Villa** and **Beverley Casebow** share stories of chance encounters, miracles of nature, unexpected gifts and all those moments when the world is made anew.



Fri 14 Feb (10.30am - 3.30pm) | £5 (£4.50 SCS) | 5+  
With a free performance on Sat 15 Feb at 12pm



## Crafty Burdies

Join artists and storytellers **Jan Bee Brown** and **Anne Hunter** for a family friendly playday, with an informal performance at 12pm the next day. Following the story of the midwinter 'burdies', participants will enjoy stories, songs and crafting with a traditional seasonal swing.



Sat 15 Feb | 2.30pm - 3.30pm | Free (ticketed) | 7+



## The Strange Visitor: Book Launch

Join us for the twitchy tale of a wily old woman, a wide-eyed cat, wild weather and the weird appearance of a very strange visitor... We dare you to discover this trad Scots tale re-imagined in English and in Scots by **Renita Boyle**, with graphic novel illustrations by **Mike Abel**, published by **Curly Tale Books**. Games and crafts included for some monstrous fun!



## AUDACIOUS WOMEN FESTIVAL

DO WHAT YOU ALWAYS  
WISH YOU DARED

Thu 20 Feb | 8pm - 9.10pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS) | 16+

### Witches' Gets

*'This is where the ice burns...'*

Based on the true events of the 1662-63 Finnmark witch trials in Norway, **Aurora**

**Writers** present an interpretative ensemble show blending spoken word, film projection, animation, music and movement. All of the characters are based on real women caught up in one of the most devastating witch-hunts in Europe. Written by **Noelle Harrison**. 'Emotionally gripping and beautifully performed...' (*Scots Magazine*).



Fri 21 Feb | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS) | 14+

### Chrysalis

A stimulating and provocative musical journey of women's lives performed by **Cindy Douglas** and **Kathy Dyson**, explored through original compositions and the songs of female songwriters, including Billie Holiday, Joni Mitchell and Alicia Keys. A compelling blend of soul, folk, blues, jazz, pop and spoken word. 'Daring and successful' (*Scotsman*).



© Jannica Honey

Sat 22 Feb | 8pm - 8.50pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS) | 16+

### InVisible Lines

#### Authentic Artist Collective

An intimate and daring odyssey, conceived, written and performed by **Kath Burlinson**, who uses her naked form as a canvas to explore ageing, loss, life-cycles, seasonality, death and defiance through word, movement, song and visual imagery. It is tender, wild, joyous and ruthlessly honest, containing strong language, nudity and mature content. With music by **Christine Sparks** and BSL interpretation by **Rachel Amey**. 'A magical mix of wit and lyricism...beautiful...wicked...gorgeous.' (*Joyce McMillan, Scotsman*).



© Joanna Rosenfeld



**EDINBURGH  
INTERNATIONAL  
IMPROV  
FESTIVAL**

**27 Feb to 01 Mar 2020**

**Tickets from £8**

The Scottish Storytelling Centre  
and Assembly Roxy



**DARE TO BE  
FEARLESS  
BOLD  
PLAYFUL  
UNIQUE**

Fri 6 Mar - Sat 28 Mar

### **Exhibition: Quiet Places, Feeding the Imagination**

Across a career of storytelling, puppetry, art and education Sylvia Troon has led a journey of adventure and inspiration. This exhibition of Sylvia's paintings explores the magical qualities of light, patterns and colour, as part of a collaborative process with contributed poems, weavings and stories by artistic friends. All inspired by Scotland's landscapes, seas and trees.



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

### **Stories on the Way: A Sense of Wonder**

Let our wonderful apprentice storytellers enchant and transport you into the Otherworld; a magical place of faery folk, elves and wizardry that stories know so well.

Sat 7 Mar | 2.30pm - 3.30pm | £8 (£6) (£5.50 SCS)

### **The Coming of Spring**

As the wheel of the year turns, Beara, Queen of Winter, relinquishes her icy grip on the land. Days lengthen and the world is filled with warmth and light as Bride's snowdrops herald the onset of Spring. Celebrate the season of new beginnings with **Lynda Dargie** from Matrix Storytelling as we share stories of magic and transformation from Scotland and beyond.

Tue 17 Mar | 2pm - 4pm | Free

### **Café Ceilidh: Celebrating St. Patrick's Day**

Join the Scots Music Group for an afternoon of traditional songs, music, poems and stories celebrating Ireland's patron Saint.



Fri 20 Mar | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £10 (£8) (£7.50 SCS)

### **Red Velvet Revelry**

Join Revel Sisters **Marie Louise Cochrane** and **Heidi Docherty** for a women's night dedicated to celebrating female sexuality through stories, songs, poetry and the power of knowing laughter. On **World Storytelling Day**, we also celebrate the spring equinox and the energy that creates new life in all its forms.



Sat 21 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, **Claire MacLaine**.



Thu 26 Mar | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | £12 (£10) (£9.50 SCS)

### **Harry Baker: 10,000**

Mathematician-turned-World-Slam-Champion Harry Baker turns 10,000 days old, celebrating numbers, words and life itself. From winning his school's Battle of the Bands competition with a Jay-Z maths homage, to his prime number poetry TED talk being watched by millions online, Harry's love of language and logic has got him through literal marathons, seen him rap battle in front of Ice Cube, and now has him analysing the technical accuracy of So Solid Crew's 21 seconds. He's got 99 problems but maths ain't one.

'The greatest performer on earth' \*\*\*\*\* (BBC Radio 1)

'Ferociously intelligent' \*\*\*\*\* (Scotsman)





## Workshops & Development Days Living Culture & Traditions

Our participatory sessions are designed to help you improve your skills and share your experiences with fellow trad art enthusiasts across artforms.

The carefully curated workshop programme offers you the chance to work with highly-skilled and experienced artists, giving you guidance on improving your practice and discovering your own talent.

Whether you're a beginner or more experienced, we're hosting sessions for a range of levels and abilities.

**Did you know?** Members of the **Traditional Music Forum**, the **Scottish Storytelling Forum** and the **Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland** are entitled to discounted rates on workshops. For more information on Memberships visit [www.tracscotland.org](http://www.tracscotland.org)

### BOX OFFICE

**Phone:** 0131 556 9579

**Online:** [www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com)

**In Person:** Mon-Sat, 10am - 6pm (occasional Sundays)

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

*Workshops are held at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, unless otherwise stated.*



Sat 18 Jan | 2pm - 4.30pm  
£16 (£12 Forum Members)

### **Tam O'Shanter:** **Telling the Big Tale**

Explore Robert Burns' master narrative and learn how to recite this most mighty of tales with **Donald Smith**. A mighty challenge packed with fun. For related events see pg. 7.



© Lewis Loening



© Peter Dibdin

Sat 1 Feb | 10.30am - 4.30pm  
£26 (£20 Forum Members) | Storytelling

### Starting with Stories 1

A hands-on, practical introduction to live storytelling and the associated skills. Storyteller and social worker **Claire McNicol** leads this participatory session for anyone curious about discovering and developing their own storytelling talent. Let out your inner storyteller and learn to craft your skills.

Sun 2 Feb | 2pm - 4.30pm  
£10 (£8 Forum Members) | Dance

### Ceilidh Dance: Fitness, Fun and Friendship

Learn how informal ceilidh dance sessions can enhance health and wellbeing through moderate physical activity, social interaction, teamwork and fun! Led by **Bernie Hewitt** who teaches ceilidh dancing in fitness centres, care homes and day centres and runs a small ceilidh band. All welcome for a fun afternoon!

Sat 8 Feb | 10.30am - 4.30pm  
£26 (£20 Forum Members) | Development

### Trauma Awareness for Storytellers

This stand-alone workshop is aimed at storytellers and anyone who facilitates story workshops or participative groups. It is not a clinical workshop but aims to develop an understanding of what trauma is, how it affects people and how storytellers can create a safe and inclusive space. Facilitated by **Lynda Dargie** who has worked closely with NHS Fife Psychological Services delivering Trauma Awareness training and now runs **Matrix Storytelling**.

Wed 26 Feb, 4, 11 March | 5.15pm - 7pm  
£8 (£7 Forum Members) per session or  
£21 (£18) for series | Development

## The Nature Sessions: Storytelling, Writing and Reflection

These participative sessions connect us with nature by exploring in turn the seasons, plants and then birds, inviting our response in storytelling and/or written words, as the natural world moves towards spring. Led by **Donald Smith** with additional guest input from **Katherine Buchanan**.

Sat 29 Feb | 10.30am - 4.30pm  
£24 (£18 Forum Members) | Development

## Scottish Storytelling Forum Development Day

Save this date in your diary if you are a professional storyteller, aspiring storyteller, or an individual simply interested in connecting and supporting the scene in Scotland. Themes to be included: using archive resources to find stories, storytelling in the Gaelic tradition, storytelling for mental health and wellbeing and marketing tips for storytellers. A great way to network and

meet like-minded tellers! Please check website for updates and further information on the location.

Sat 7 Mar | 10.30am - 4.30pm  
£26 (£20 Forum Members) | Storytelling

## Starting with Stories 2

A hands-on introduction to live storytelling and the associated skills, with leading storyteller and trainer **Fiona Herbert**. This participative session takes you a step further in developing your own storytelling talent in various contexts and situations. Let out your inner storyteller and learn to hone your skills.

Sat 14 Mar | 10am - 4.30pm | £70 + BF

## In the Footsteps of Giants

**Upstart Scotland** present three international experts on Froebel, Steiner and Montessori to discuss play-based education and care for 3-7 year-olds. They are joined by **Sarah Latto** from Fife's Secret Garden to describe 21st century nature-based kindergarten pedagogy, and also by other workshop leaders who are applying these principles to their own settings. Tickets and full programme via Eventbrite.

UPSTART  
Scotland

# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GIANTS

Developing play-based pedagogy for the under 7s

Froebel

Steiner

Montessori

Guest Speakers: Marjorie Ouvry - Janni Nicols - Barbara Isaacs - Sarah Latto  
plus workshops

Saturday 14th March 2020 | Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh | Tickets via Eventbrite





Sat 21 Mar | 10.30am - 4.30pm | £26 (£20 Forum Members) | Development

## The Coming of The Unicorn:

### Storytelling for Children in Rudolf Steiner's Thought

Using Duncan Williamson's stories as models, **Rachel Salter** and **Rémi Mogenet** unfold Steiner's approach where the storyteller must be fully engaged in their active participation and identify with symbols, morality and images. This workshop is in association with John Slavin's exhibition 'The Coming of the Unicorn' at The Life Room, 23b Dundas Street, EH3 6QQ (20-26 March).

Sat 28 Mar | 10.30am - 4.30pm  
£26 (£20 Forum Members) | Music and Song

## Exploring Our Voices

Get to know your own unique voice with **Kirsty Law** of **Helm Arts**. Using approaches found in traditional singing practices of Scotland, Kirsty will spend time nurturing vocal confidence and teaching elements of voice care, expression and harmony. All levels of experience welcome from beginner to professional.



# John Knox House Step Inside History

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 52011953

## 0131 556 9579

[www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com)  
[reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com](mailto:reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com)

**OPEN** 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 group

Cover image: *The Marriage of Cock Robin to Jenny Wren*  
© Gretchen Ellen Powers for Crafty Burdies



**Design:** WAMgraphics  
Printed on recycled paper



Scottish Storytelling Centre  
& John Knox House