

SATURDAY

10.30 to 11.30

JAMES ROBERTSON



James Robertson is a man of many parts. A consummate novelist, his *News of the Dead* has just been published and many

are comparing it to his magnificent *And The Land Lay Still* in terms of its richly evocative portrait of Scotland. James also runs his own independent publishing house, Kettltonia, and younger readers will know him best through *Itchy Coo*, the imprint which puts children's classics into the Scots language.

Chaired by Pauline MacLean

Sponsored by

James Auld Funeral Directors

12 noon till 1pm

**GAVIN ESLER
and AILSA HENDERSON**



Gavin Esler, the former Newsnight and BBC News Presenter has a shrewd eye for UK politics. His last book was on Brexit and this

latest one *How Britain Ends* takes as its theme the tensions between national and British identities. With him will be Professor Ailsa Henderson who co-wrote (with Richard Wyn Jones) a book about *Englishness*, which has that simple title. Canadian Ailsa Henderson is the Professor of Political Science at Edinburgh University.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

2pm till 3pm

GAVIN FRANCIS



Photo: Wellcome Trust / Thomas Farnetti

Gavin Francis is a renaissance kind of chap who combines writing award winning non fiction with being a very busy GP in his Edinburgh practice, and also tends to a rural community in Orkney.

In these roles he had a ringside seat of the anxieties and afflictions engendered by the pandemic which changed and touched all our lives. Gavin has worked in various medical guises around the world including being medical officer to the British Antarctic Survey. Yet none would have prepared him for the tribulations of the last 2 years.

Chaired by Melanie Reid

Sponsored by Hart Insurance

3.30 to 4.30 pm

DOUGLAS STUART



Douglas Stuart became only the second Scottish author to win the prestigious Booker Prize when *Shuggie Bain* walked off with the literary prize every novelist craves. Already a New York based success

as a much sought after fashion designer, Stuart's other life as a novelist gave us a book which captured both the neglect and the resilience of his protagonist's Glasgow childhood. It was the subject of many rejections before his American publisher realised its likely global appeal. And is now one very happy publisher!

Chaired by James Robertson

Sponsored by TC Young Solicitors

LUNCH at the Café Bar

All our authors' books will be on sale upstairs in the Library, where you will be able to have your copy signed by the writer.

SUNDAY

10.30 to 11.30

DENISE MINA



Denise Mina is not just an award winning crime writer, but one who came to fiction via her legal studies. She knows whereof she speaks. After a series of hugely popular novels, she has

brought her uniquely observant eye to bear on true life characters and their stories. *The Long Drop* used as her source material the story of the Peter Manuel murders. And now she has dipped into history to bring us *Rizzio*, reworking the story of the bloody assassination of David Rizzio, private secretary to Mary Queen of Scots.

Chaired by Susan Stewart

sponsored by the Open University in Scotland

12 noon to 1pm

KIRSTIN INNES and ALAN BISSETT



Photo: Kirsty Anderson, The Herald

This is something of a first for Cove and Kilcreggan, having a writing duo on stage who happen also to be real life partners.

Kirstin Innes' *Scabby Queen* has been a huge

publishing success, and she continues to write up a storm despite being a mum to two children, one of whom seems a bit of a stranger to sleep.

Alan Bissett is an author, actor and playwright whose novella *Lazy Susan*, makes wonderful use of the Scottish demotic.

Chaired by Janice Forsyth

LUNCH at the Café Bar

2pm to 3pm

**ANDREW COTTER
(with OLIVE and MABEL)**



Andrew Cotter (and Mabel and Olive!) became YouTube stars when sports commentator Andrew began to upload hilarious videos of the girls at food and play to

YouTube. (Mainly at food it has to be said.) Andrew's many sporting gigs from rugby to Olympics were either cancelled or postponed when lockdown hit.

So he started attaching commentaries to mini videos of his Labradors which has variously led to two books - *Olive, Mabel and Me*, and *Dog Days* which has just been published, a column in a national newspaper, and an unexpected new role as book festival guest.

Chaired by Ruth Wishart

Sponsored by Helensburgh Toyota/Subaru

3.30 to 4.30 pm

GRAEME MACRAE BURNET



Graeme Macrae Burnet was born in Kilmarnock and now lives in Glasgow. He is the author of four novels, *The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau*, *His Bloody Project*,

The Accident on the A35 and his latest novel, *Case Study*, has just been published.

His Bloody Project was shortlisted for the 2016 Man Booker prize, the LA Times Mystery Book of the Year, the European Crime Fiction Prize and won the Saltire Prize for Fiction. It has been published in twenty languages. Graeme was named Author of the Year in the 2017 Sunday Herald Culture Awards and has appeared at festivals and events all over the world.

Chaired by Janice Forsyth

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