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Wordplay events can get very busy, so pre-booking is recommended.

Tickets are available in person at **Mareel** or over the phone **01595 745500** (10am – 9pm Tuesday – Sunday) or online at www.shetlandarts.org

Festival Cards

Screencard – Priority booking and entry into all Screenplay screenings for only £55 (or £30 for students).

Wordcard – Priority booking and entry into all Wordplay events for only £44 (or £24 for students).

Festival Card – All of Screenplay and Wordplay for only £90 (or £45 for students). Immerse yourself in the festival experience!

Welcome to Wordplay 2022

It's a huge pleasure to be introducing the programme for Wordplay 2022, and I'm delighted that, once again, we've got a fabulous line-up of visiting and local authors at the festival.

There's a particular emphasis on non-fiction writing this year, with books about borders, about friendship, about Vikings, about the fishing industry, and about the (possible) breakup of the United Kingdom. The last of these subjects is the focus of **Gavin Esler's** most recent book, *How Britain Ends*. Esler will be very familiar to viewers of BBC News and Newsnight, and it's a real pleasure to be welcoming him to Shetland for the festival.

Audiences here may be unusually well-versed in Viking history and culture, but **Dr Cat Jarman's** work as a bioarchaeologist is expanding knowledge on this subject in exciting and unexpected directions, and her event – focusing on her recent book, *River Kings* – is sure to offer some fascinating surprises. **Chitra Ramaswamy** has written one of the most widely anticipated and praised Scottish books of 2022, called *Homelands*. It's a moving story of migration and belonging, and of an unlikely friendship between the author and Henry Wuga, who fled to Scotland as a child refugee from Nazi Germany. This is a book – and an event – not to be missed.

This year, I'm delighted that Wordplay will be spreading its wings a little further than usual. Our Thursday night event will take place in Uyeasound Hall, in Unst. It will bring together **James Crawford** – broadcaster and author of *The Edge of the Plain*, which explores how borders have shaped history, politics and culture – with two excellent Shetland writers. **John Goodlad**'s new book, *The Salt Roads*, tells the incredible story of how salt fish from Shetland became one of Europe's staple foods, and **Roseanne Watt** is the author of the brilliant, award-winning poetry collection, *Moder Dy*.

For fans of fiction, we have a real treat, with two of Scotland's very best novelists, **Sara Sheridan** and **Kirstin Innes**. Sara will be discussing her fabulous novel, *The Fair Botanists*, which continues to find many new readers and admirers; Kirstin will be discussing *Scabby Queen*, and demonstrating why she's one of the most exciting new voices in Scottish fiction.

As always, there are events for young readers too, and it's great to welcome **David Macphail** to Shetland. He's the author of numerous books for children and young people, including *Thorfinn the Nicest Viking* and *Yeti on the Loose*. In addition to all these, Wordplay will feature writing workshops led by two of our visiting authors, Chitra Ramaswamy and Sara Sheridan, and a workshop on book illustration led by, illustrator of the *Skullduggery Pleasant* series. We'll also have a very special Q&A event for writers on how to get published, led by James Crawford and **Heather Parry**.

All in all, I think, Wordplay 2022 has something for everyone. I hope to see you there!

Malachy Tallack,
Curator Wordplay 2022

Malachy Tallack is a writer from Shetland. His most recent book is *Illuminated by Water*.

Wance Upo A Time

Folk stories weave us into the fabric of the land creating an intimate, interconnected and colourful storyscape where magical beings, animals and the elements of the natural world accompany us on our life journey and give us a sense of belonging. Traditionally these stories formed a rich oral culture where the human gift of language was celebrated. Words and song connected people to their ancestors, the land that sustained them and the soil on which they walked.

Jane Cockayne, Alex Purbrick and a collaboration of Shetland artists, (**Cilla Robertson, Alice Ritch** and **Ann Marie Anderson**) have been working with elders and children from Yell, Whalsay and Sandness to share local folklore and create new stories through writing, song and visual arts. Wance Upo a Time celebrates the rich tapestry of folklore that has been spun into Shetland's culture. These stories have forged an intimacy with a numinous landscape inhabited by beings such as giants, trows, njuggles who live amongst rocks, lochs and grassy knolls, which has nurtured communities for generations. At Bonhoga, Wance Upo a Time invites you to step into an enchanted world, to reflect on the stories that connect us and remind us of the living land and seascape we call home.

Curated by **John Hunter**.

10 - 23 OCTOBER

FREE

BONHOGA GALLERY

This project is part of the Creative Islands Network, a Culture Collective programme funded by Creative Scotland and run by An Lanntair, Pier Arts Centre, Shetland Arts and Taigh Chearsabhagh.

The Northern Solargraph Exchange **Conversations between two landscapes**

Devised and curated by **Janette Kerr**.

A community project linking Shetland and Greenland through images and field recordings. What happens when you put photographic paper into an old can, make a pinhole in it, and point it at the landscape for a few months? Involving participants of all ages, with pinhole cameras set up across Unst, Lerwick, Ilulisaat and Oqaatsut, mapping landscapes in slow time.

Funded by Creative Scotland, with support and engagements from Kristi Tait and students from UHI, Wild Skies Project (Unst), Oqaatsut School, SPS Ilulissat High School, Arctic Culture Lab, and Shetland Arts.

20 - 25 SEPTEMBER

FREE

MAREEL

Primary Workshops with David Macphail

During the week leading up to Wordplay, author and animateur David Macphail is visiting primary schools across Shetland to deliver a range of creative workshops.

Not only will the students explore the well-loved characters from his fiction books, including *Thorfinn the Nicest Viking*, they will also discover some exciting and unexpected facts from David's non-fiction work along the way!

Supported by Scottish Book Trust and Shetland Islands Council.

A Celebration of Shetland Writers

In this very special event, we will be announcing the results of the Shetland Library Young Writer 2022 Awards, and hearing work from the winners in each of the four categories.

Alongside them, the evening will also feature poetry and memoir from two excellent Shetland writers, **Peter Ratter** and **Mona McAlpine**.

This event opened Wordplay 2021 and was a great success – full of joy at coming together after a difficult 18 months. Hosted by Wordplay's Curator Malachy Tallack, Chloe Tallack and Karlin Anderson, and presented in partnership once again with Shetland Library - we look forward to recreating that atmosphere and celebrating the wealth of writing talent Shetland has to offer.

Peter Ratter

Peter Ratter is a poet, and a former winner of the Young Writer Awards. He has been shortlisted for the prestigious Edwin Morgan Award, and his work has appeared in *The Dark Horse* and *The Scotsman*.

Mona McAlpine

Mona McAlpine was a young nurse in the mid-1960s, when she worked as the only healthcare professional in Fair Isle for a year. Her new book, *A Fair Isle Nurse*, tells the story of that time.

Prizes supported by EIS (Educational Institute of Scotland) and Shetland ForWirds.

WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

7pm

£5

MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

An Evening of Books, Borders and Boats

James Crawford, Roseanne Watt & John Goodlad read from and discuss their latest books

Wordplay Curator **Malachy Tallack** talks to writer and broadcaster **James Crawford** about his book, *The Edge of the Plain: How Borders Make and Break Our World*, to **Roseanne Watt**, award-winning Shetland poet and film-maker, about her atmospheric poetry collection *Moder Dy*, and to **John Goodlad** about his new book *The Salt Roads: how fish made a culture* – launched at this year's Orkney Science Festival.

James Crawford: *The Edge of the Plain*

Combining history, travel and reportage, James Crawford's new book, *The Edge of the Plain*, examines the lifecycle and experience of borders around the world: how they are created, how they evolve, how they are breached, and how they are broken.

Roseanne Watt: *Moder Dy*

Roseanne Watt's multi-award-winning poetry collection, *Moder Dy*, is a vivid evocation of landscape, language, and the ever-present pull of home. These are fabulous poems by an inordinately talented writer.

John Goodlad: *The Salt Roads*

In *The Salt Roads*, John Goodlad tells the extraordinary story of how salt fish from Shetland became one of the staple foods of Europe, powering an economic boom and inspiring artists, writers and musicians.

THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 6.30pm

£10 / £8

UNST, UYEASOUND HALL

Big Bookbug with David Macphail

Mr Braithwaite is a painter and has built a robot to help him on all his decorating jobs - Colourbot. Equipped with every colour you can think of, Colourbot can paint exactly what Mr Braithwaite says. But as time goes on Colourbot starts to have other ideas...

Bring your favourite colours along and join in this colourful session!

In Partnership with Shetland Library and Bookbug.

Recommended for ages 6 and under.

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 10.30am FREE MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

David Macphail

David Macphail is an award-winning author of over 30 books, both fiction and non-fiction. He left school to travel the world having adventures, working as a pool waiter, a chicken farmer and a ghost tour guide. He now lives in Perthshire with his family.

Writing and Illustrating children's books

A workshop with Tom Percival

Join children's book author and illustrator **Tom Percival** for a whistle-stop tour of his creative journey to date. Tom will talk about his process, his inspirations, how to improve your practice and the challenges to be faced in a career based on creativity. He will also try to answer any questions that you have. So come along armed with curiosity and all of your questions about a career in children's book writing and illustration.

Free ticketed event recommended for Young Adults/Adults.

Supported by Scottish Book Trust.

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 1pm FREE, but ticket required. MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

Tom Percival

Tom Percival writes and illustrates all sorts of children's books. He has produced cover illustrations for the *Skulduggery Pleasant* series, written and illustrated the *Little Legends*, the *Dream Defenders* series, as well as twelve picture books. His *Big Bright Feelings* picture book series includes the Kate Greenaway-nominated *Ruby's Worry*, as well as *Perfectly Norman* and *Ravi's Roar*, and has been translated into twenty one languages. In 2020 he created the animation *Goodbye Rainclouds* for BBC Children in Need.

He lives in Gloucestershire with his partner and their two children. Tom has been drawing since he's been able to hold a pencil, and making up stories for as long as he can remember.

How to Get Published

A Q&A Session with James Crawford and Heather Parry

What is an agent and how do you get one? What do editors actually do? How do you go about submitting your work to magazines and publishers? How much do writers get paid?

It's not easy, as a writer, to get your work in print. The publishing world can be a confusing and a complicated place. In this welcoming, informal session for aspiring authors, you'll have the chance to speak to two established writers, both of whom have multiple roles in the publishing industry. Come along to listen or to ask anything you want to know about how books happen.

Supported by Scottish Book Trust.

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

6pm

£3

MAREEL, GREEN ROOM

Heather Parry

Heather Parry was recently appointed by the Society of Authors as their Senior Policy and Liaison Manager for Scotland. Heather has over a decade of experience in the publishing industry across several countries. She is the co-founder and Editorial Director of *Extra Teeth* magazine and in 2021 she created the free-access *Illustrated Freelancer's Guide* with artist Maria Stoian, to assist and educate creative freelancers on their working rights and best practices.

Her short stories and non-fiction have been published internationally, and her debut novel, *Orpheus Builds a Girl*, will be out in October 2022 with Gallic Books.

James Crawford

James Crawford is an acclaimed writer, publisher and broadcaster. Born in Shetland, for over a decade he worked for and researched Scotland's National Collection of Architecture and Archaeology. He is the author of *The Edge of the Plain: How Borders Make and Break Our World* and *Fallen Glory: The Lives and Deaths of the World's Greatest Lost Buildings*, which was shortlisted for best non-fiction book at the 2016 Saltire Literary Awards. He is editor-at-large at publisher Birlinn/Polygon.

James has scripted and presented three series of the landmark BBC One documentary *Scotland from the Sky*, and in 2019 he was named as the first-ever Scottish ambassador for the UK Archive and Records Association's *Explore Your Archives* campaign. He lives in Edinburgh.

Cat Jarman: River Kings

In *River Kings*, published in 2020, bioarchaeologist **Dr Cat Jarman** traces a small bead found in a Viking grave in Derbyshire back to its origins in the Middle East and India, and uncovers epic stories of the Viking age along the way. This book is a riveting reassessment of the often-mythologised voyagers of the north, and of the global medieval world as we know it.

“One of the most thrilling works of archaeological detective work I have ever read.” - William Dalrymple.

Chaired by **Dr Andrew Jennings**, lecturer and research associate with the Institute for Northern Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands.

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 8pm £10 / £8 MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

Cat Jarman

Dr Cat Jarman is a bioarchaeologist and field archaeologist specialising in the Viking Age, Viking women, and Rapa Nui. She uses forensic techniques like isotope analysis, carbon dating, and DNA analysis on human remains to untangle the experiences of past people from broader historical narratives.

Dr Jarman is an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Bristol and the director of the archaeological research unit Munin Archaeology. She completed her PhD in Archaeology at the University of Bristol in December 2017, on the late 9th century Viking Great Army at Repton in Derbyshire.

Currently, she is a senior adviser on academic content development for the new museum of the Viking Age at the Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo.

Schedule

WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

A CELEBRATION OF SHETLAND WRITERS

Wednesday 21 September 7pm Mareel, Auditorium £10 / £8

THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

AN EVENING OF BOOKS, BORDERS AND BOATS

Thursday 22 September 6.30pm Unst, Uyeasound Hall £5

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

BIG BOOKBUG WITH DAVID MACPHAIL

Friday 23 September 10.30am Mareel, Auditorium Free

WRITING AND ILLUSTRATING CHILDREN'S BOOKS: A WORKSHOP WITH TOM PERCIVAL

Friday 23 September 1pm Mareel, Auditorium Free

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED: A Q&A SESSION WITH JAMES CRAWFORD AND HEATHER PARRY

Friday 23 September 6pm Mareel, Green Room £3

CAT JARMAN: RIVER KINGS

Friday 23 September 8pm Mareel, Auditorium £10 / £8

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

THORFINN THE NICEST VIKING: A CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP WITH DAVID MACPHAIL

Saturday 24 September 9.30am Mareel, Green Room £5

FILM: HAPPENING

Saturday 24 September 2pm Mareel, Screen 1 £10 / £8

NARRATIVE DRIVE: A WORKSHOP WITH SARA SHERIDAN

*Saturday 24 September 4pm Mareel, Green Room
Free*

CHITRA RAMASWAMY: HOMELANDS

Saturday 24 September 6pm Mareel, Auditorium £10 / £8

KIRSTIN INNES: SCABBY QUEEN

Saturday 24 September 8pm Mareel, Auditorium £10 / £8

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

HOW TO TELL YOUR OWN, & OTHER PEOPLE'S, STORIES: A WORKSHOP WITH CHITRA RAMASWAMY

Sunday 25 September 10.30am Mareel, Boardroom £5

FILM: BENEDICTION

Sunday 25 September 2pm Mareel, Screen 1 £10 / £8

SARA SHERIDAN: THE FAIR BOTANISTS

Sunday 25 September 6pm Mareel, Auditorium £10 / £8

GAVIN ESLER: HOW BRITAIN ENDS

Sunday 25 September 8pm Mareel, Auditorium £10 / £8

Events for young people at this year's Wordplay were curated by Chloe Tallack, Young People's Librarian at Shetland Library. Shetland Arts would like to thank the Shetland Islands Council, Scottish Book Trust & Shetland Library for their support of the Wordplay outreach & workshops programme.

Wordplay events can get very busy, so pre-booking is recommended. Tickets are available in person at **Mareel** or over the phone **01595 745500** (10am-9pm Tuesday – Sunday) or online at www.shetlandarts.org

COVID guidance: there are no distancing measures currently in place in Mareel; Shetland Arts will adhere to whatever nationally recommended guidelines are in place when the festival starts. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the building and spaces will be thoroughly cleaned between each event.

Follow Wordplay on:

Facebook: @shetlandarts @mareel

Instagram: @shetland_arts

Twitter: @ShetlandArts @MareelShetland #Wordplay2022

Thorfinn the Nicest Viking

A children's workshop with David Macphail

Velda is a tiny warrior with a BIG axe and an even BIGGER attitude, while Thorfinn is kind and polite in a world where politeness pays (usually with your life!).

Join David for a fun and interactive session as he reads from his latest instalment in the adventures of Thorfinn and Velda. Get your pencils at the ready for some Viking drawing, and discover your own longship name!

Supported by Scottish Book Trust.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 9.30am FREE, but ticket required. MAREEL, GREEN ROOM

David Macphail

David Macphail is an award-winning author of over 30 books, both fiction and non-fiction. He left school to travel the world having adventures, working as a pool waiter, a chicken farmer and a ghost tour guide. He now lives in Perthshire with his family.

Film: Happening (15)

Running time: 2 hours (including adverts & trailers) | Dir: Audrey Diwan

Cast: Anamaria Vartolomei, Kacey Mottet-Klein, Luàna Bajrami, Louise Orry-Diquero, Louise Chevillotte

This compelling drama, based on the autobiographical novel by Annie Ernaux, may be set five decades in the past but its themes are particularly relevant in the light of recent events in the US.

France, 1963, Anne is a bright young student with a promising future ahead of her. But when she falls pregnant, she sees the opportunity to finish her studies and escape the constraints of her social background disappearing. With her final exams fast approaching and her pregnancy progressing, Anne resolves to act, even if she has to confront shame and pain, even if she must risk prison to do so. Winner of the Golden Lion at Venice Film Festival and now BAFTA nominated, *Happening* puts a personal face on an impossibly difficult choice.

In French with English subtitles.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

2pm

£10 / £8

MAREEL, SCREEN 1

Narrative Drive

A workshop with Sara Sheridan

In this informative and entertaining workshop, **Sara Sheridan**, author of more than twenty books, will share her top tips on 'narrative drive'. How do you make readers keep turning the page? How do you make publishers take notice?

"Sara Sheridan is definitely one of the best speakers on writing we've had the pleasure to listen to. Not only does she know what she's talking about, but she imparts her knowledge with eloquence, humour and grace." - Charlotte Johnson, Chair, Skye Reading Room & presenter of CuillinFM's Reading Room Radio Show.

Supported by Scottish Book Trust.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

4pm

£5

MAREEL, GREEN ROOM

Sara Sheridan

Sara Sheridan, named as one of the Saltire Society's most Influential Scottish women, past and present, is known for the *Mirabelle Bevan Mysteries*, a series of historical novels based on Georgian and Victorian explorers, and has written non-fiction on the early days of Queen Victoria's marriage and the historical background to Jane Austen's novel *Sanditon* for the ITV series of the same name.

In 2018, she remapped Scotland according to women's history to memorialize our forgotten foremothers. With a fascination for uncovering forgotten stories, she is an active campaigner.

Chitra Ramaswamy: Homelands

The History of a Friendship

Chitra Ramaswamy's latest book is the story of an unlikely friendship, between the author – born in 1970s Britain to Indian immigrant parents – and Henry Wuga, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, who arrived in Scotland as a child in 1939.

This is a brilliant, beautiful book about the ways in which we carry our pasts into our futures. It's about migration, racism, grief, resilience, common ground, and what it means to belong.

“An utterly engrossing story... I could not stop reading this gorgeous book” - Denise Mina

Chaired by Wordplay Curator **Malachy Tallack**.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

6pm

£10 / £8

MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

Chitra Ramaswamy

Chitra Ramaswamy is a journalist and author. Her latest book, *Homelands: The History of a Friendship*, published by Canongate in April 2022, is a work of creative non-fiction exploring her friendship with a 98-year-old German Jewish refugee called Henry Wuga. Her first book, *Expecting: The Inner Life of Pregnancy*, published by Saraband in April 2016, won the Saltire First Book of the Year Award and was shortlisted for the Polari Prize.

She has contributed essays to *Antlers of Water*, *Nasty Women*, *The Freedom Papers*, *The Bible*, and *Message From The Skies*. She is the restaurant critic for *The Times Scotland*, writes regularly for *The Guardian*, and broadcasts for BBC radio. She lives in Edinburgh with her partner, two young children and rescue dog.

Kirstin Innes: Scabby Queen

“A life and death struggle of a book: wounded, angry, beautiful, righteous, beaten and triumphant.” - A.L. Kennedy

Scabby Queen is the story of Clio Campbell, a singer and political activist, told by those who knew her, who loved her, and who hated her. A funny, furious state-of-the-nation novel, this is a hugely ambitious book about celebrity, about Scotland, about empathy, and about women's voices and how they are silenced.

Chaired by **Sara Sheridan**, author of *The Fair Botanists* and guest speaker on Sunday 25 September.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

8pm

£10 / £8

MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

Kirstin Innes

Kirstin Innes is the author of the novels *Scabby Queen* (2020) and *Fishnet* (2015) and co-author of the non-fiction book *Brickwork: A Biography of The Arches* (2021). She has also written a number of short stories for BBC Radio 4, as well as the script for the radio documentary *Daft Punk Is Staying At My House*.

She lives in Renfrewshire with her partner and children, and is currently working on her third novel, *Semiprecious*, as well as two full-length plays. Kirstin is a former arts journalist and currently writes a weekly column for the *Press and Journal*.

How to Tell Your Own, & Other People's, Stories

A workshop on memoir, biography, and creative non-fiction with Chitra Ramaswamy

Join award-winning author and journalist **Chitra Ramaswamy** for this session on writing biography and memoir. How do you tell someone else's story, while also telling your own?

Chitra's recently published memoir *Homelands* has been widely acclaimed.

"Ramaswamy reflects with dreamlike clarity on memory and transience." - The Observer.

Supported by Scottish Book Trust.

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

10.30am

£5

MAREEL, BOARDROOM

Chitra Ramaswamy

Chitra Ramaswamy is a journalist and author. Her latest book, *Homelands: The History of a Friendship*, published by Canongate in April 2022, is a work of creative non-fiction exploring her friendship with a 98-year-old German Jewish refugee called Henry Wuga. Her first book, *Expecting: The Inner Life of Pregnancy*, published by Saraband in April 2016, won the Saltire First Book of the Year Award and was shortlisted for the Polari Prize.

She has contributed essays to *Antlers of Water*, *Nasty Women*, *The Freedom Papers*, *The Bible*, and *Message From The Skies*. She is the restaurant critic for *The Times Scotland*, writes regularly for *The Guardian*, and broadcasts for BBC radio. She lives in Edinburgh with her partner, two young children and rescue dog.

Film: Benediction (12A)

Running time: 2 hours 37 minutes (including adverts & trailers) | Dir: Terence Davies |
Cast: Jack Lowden, Peter Capaldi, Kate Phillips, Jeremy Irvine, Simon Russell Beale

A profoundly affecting drama exploring the turbulent life of First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon.

Sassoon was a complex man who survived the horrors of fighting in the First World War and was decorated for his bravery, but who became a vocal critic of the government's continuation of the war when he returned from service. His poetry was inspired by his experiences on the Western Front and he became one of the leading war poets of the era. Adored by members of the aristocracy as well as stars of London's literary and stage world, he embarked on affairs with several men as he attempted to come to terms with his homosexuality. At the same time, broken by the horror of war, he made his life's journey a quest for salvation, trying to find it within the conformity of marriage and religion.

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

2pm

£10 / £8

MAREEL, SCREEN 1

Sara Sheridan: The Fair Botanists

The Scent of Untold Riches

Launched at the 2021 Edinburgh International Book Festival, **Sara Sheridan's** latest novel captures the spirit of Enlightenment Scotland.

It is 1822 and the Botanic Garden in Edinburgh is moving from an old site in Leith to its new one. There is high excitement as a rare Agave Americana plant is flowering, an extraordinary, once in a generation event. Observing this phenomenon are a memorable cast of characters including high-class courtesan Belle Brodie and Elizabeth Rocheid, a botanical illustrator newly arrived in the city.

A romp, packed with entertaining scandal and intrigue, *The Fair Botanists* is a major achievement for this beloved stalwart of the Edinburgh literary scene. There cannot be many novelists with a background in perfume production but Sheridan is one of them.

Chaired by **Heather Parry**, Senior Policy and Liaison Manager, Scotland for the Royal Society of Authors, and writer, editor and publisher.

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

6pm

£10 / £8

MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

Sara Sheridan

Sara Sheridan, named as one of the Saltire Society's most Influential Scottish women, past and present, is known for the *Mirabelle Bevan Mysteries*, a series of historical novels based on Georgian and Victorian explorers, and has written non-fiction on the early days of Queen Victoria's marriage and the historical background to Jane Austen's novel *Sanditon* for the ITV series of the same name.

In 2018, she remapped Scotland according to women's history to memorialize our forgotten foremothers. With a fascination for uncovering forgotten stories, she is an active campaigner.

Gavin Esler: How Britain Ends
English Nationalism & the Rebirth of Four Nations

In his most recent book *How Britain Ends*, published in February 2021, **Gavin Esler** explores the possibility of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reinventing itself or, as the title suggests, coming to an end.

The book examines what “being British” might mean in the 21st century - if anything - and whether the UK, which has reinvented itself every century since 1603, can begin a further restructuring for the 21st century.

The challenge to unionists is to find new structures to keep the United Kingdom together. The challenge to nationalists is to ask themselves what “independence” really means in an increasingly inter-dependent world.

Chaired by **Jane Moncrieff**, local broadcast journalist and producer.

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

8pm

£10 / £8

MAREEL, AUDITORIUM

Gavin Esler

Gavin is well-known for his reporting and presenting work at the BBC. He has been the main presenter on *Dateline London* on the BBC News Channel and BBC World and numerous other programmes, including *Hardtalk*. For eight years Gavin was the BBC's Chief North America Correspondent, based in Washington and frequently reporting from the White House during the Clinton presidency, and he has also reported from many countries across the world. On his return to the UK, he joined the presenting team on the BBC's flagship news and current affairs programme, *Newsnight*.

He left the BBC in 2018 and is now a freelance journalist and writer.

Gavin is a voting member of BAFTA and Chancellor of the University of Kent.