



Blairgowrie, Rattray & The Glens

BOOK FESTIVAL

Programme

6th - 8th October 2017



<https://www.facebook.com/bookmarkblair>

A Registered Scottish Charity SCO45599

www.bookmarkblair.com



<https://twitter.com/bookmarkblair>

Welcome



A very warm welcome to **BOOKMARK 2017**.

Here in Highland Perthshire, **BOOKMARK** has been busily building the programme which we present to you now with our compliments, and with every best wish for an inspiring and rewarding book festival experience.

BOOKMARK flourishes through the voluntary commitment of Team **BOOKMARK** and thanks are due to every single member of the team for their unstinting efforts in bringing this book festival into being for another season.

Equally important are those many individuals and organisations who give so generously of the moral, financial, and 'in kind' support which sustains **BOOKMARK**. Very many thanks are due especially to **The A.Proctor Group Limited** for their continuing support; to **Perth & Kinross Council's Events, Eastern Perthshire Decides, and Creative Communities Funds** for their investment; to **Horsecross Arts Ltd** for support with both ticketing and sound & light; and to **The Rotary Club of Blairgowrie** for supporting **BOOKMARK's** Authors in Schools programme in September.

As AC Grayling says, "To read is to fly: it is to soar to a point of vantage which gives a view over wide terrains of history, human variety, ideas, shared experience and the fruits of many inquiries."

So let's wish a long and happy life to book festivals everywhere - and especially to **BOOKMARK**, one of the many feathers in the cap of this lovely part of Scotland.

Janey Lambie, Chair

Christine Findlay, *Hon.President*

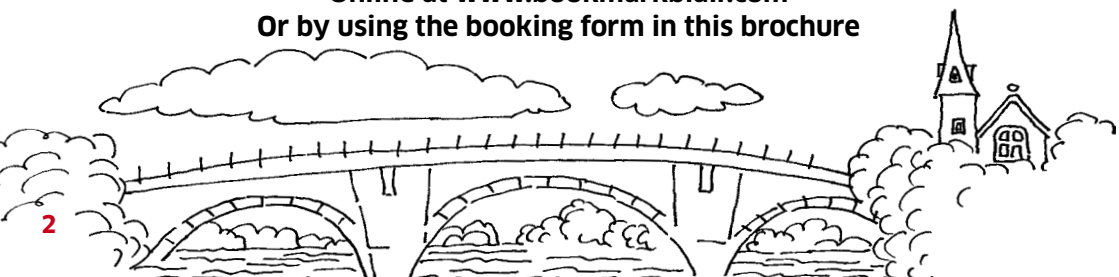
Tickets are available from

Blairgowrie Library - 01250 871305

Waterstones Perth - 01738 630013

Online at www.bookmarkblair.com

Or by using the booking form in this brochure





FRINGE EVENT

SATURDAY 9th September/Straloch Garden Studio



15.00 – 16.30 Alan Rowan
***A Mountain Before Breakfast*/£7.00**

Alan's first book, *Moonwalker*, is a unique story, the memoir of a man whose love of Scotland's mountains would override his body-clock and all conventional notions of health and safety, ascending mountains in the middle of the night, seeing the sun rise and then coming down the mountain as everyone else was going up. In his follow-up, *A Mountain Before Breakfast*, fresh from seven years of nocturnal peak-bagging in *Moonwalker*, Alan now has his sights set on a new mountain list, the Corbetts. Cue more midnight dashes across the country and more tales of madness and mayhem - car crashes, roads that don't exist, wild pigs and staring goats, the temporary loss of both feet, supermodel posties, giant chickens and snake-infested hillsides.

Alan Rowan is a mountaineer, journalist and author. He has climbed the Munros three times, the Corbetts and all the 3000-foot peaks in England, Ireland and Wales, many of them during the wee, small hours - often after finishing his shifts at a national newspaper at midnight. He is currently closing in on a fourth round of Munros as well as ticking off the Grahams and Donalds.



Alan is from Dundee and has worked on national newspapers all over Scotland for more than 30 years. He continues to write for a variety of outlets including outdoor publications.

PERTSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS

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10 YEARS
OF CREATIVITY

2-10 SEPTEMBER 2017
Visit local artists and support local talent
in stunning Perthshire and Kinross-Shire.
perthshireopenstudios.com

DON'T MISS
SHOWCASE
EXHIBITIONS
IN PERTH AND
PITLOCHRY

LITERACY - Blairgowrie High School Art and Photography Exhibition



This year we are branching out with our exhibition space and curating 2 shows for the festival with photography work located at the Book Festival venue, Blairgowrie Community Campus, and a school based Art exhibition at Blairgowrie High School. The theme literacy this year will include a wide variety of visual outcomes by pupils

engaging with language, spoken word and sound through Art. Our intention is to engage the whole school and the local community to explore literacy in all its forms.

Once again S1-S6 pupils will be working to a live brief and curating their own show working inclusively to develop skills in all areas of Art and Design. This is an important project in our year and pupils always surprise us with their enthusiasm and imagination in responding to the brief. Once again this opportunity to work with outside partners and celebrate the creative talent of young people within the school community is a great experience. We are really keen this year to strengthen our links with parents and carers and build on the success of our previous shows with **BOOKMARK**.

We are really looking forward to being part of **BOOKMARK 2017**. Please take time to browse and enjoy the exhibition at Blairgowrie Community Campus over the Festival Weekend.

Sam Kennedy - Principal Teacher Art and Design



Happy - Rebecca MacFarlane



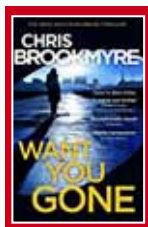
Boat - Andrew Duncan



MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS



FRIDAY 6th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus



18.00 – 19.00 Christopher Brookmyre
***Want You Gone*/£7.00**

Chris Brookmyre discusses the follow-up to 2016's McIlvanney Prize winner *Black Widow*, in which journalist Jack Parlabane is blackmailed by a skilled, resourceful and boundlessly devious hacker.

Chris Brookmyre's first novel, *Quite Ugly One Morning*, won the First Blood Award in 1996 for the best first crime novel of the year. Eighteen further novels garnered him two Sherlock awards and the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Writing. In 2005 he was named Glasgow University Young Alumnus of the Year and in 2007 won the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for writing. In 2016 his novel *Black Widow* won the inaugural McIlvanney Prize for best Scottish crime novel of the year.



FRIDAY 6th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus



19.30 – 20.30 Rachel Crowther
***The Things You Do For Love*/£7.00**

"A wonderful page-turner of a novel about the complexity of female life, by a new writer who understands it all too well. You can have it all, but only if you're prepared to pay the price." **Fay Weldon**

This is about how we tell the story of our lives, and our capacity for love. Richly woven through with art and music, this book is filled with emotional depth, eloquence and wisdom.

Rachel Crowther worked as a doctor in the NHS for twenty years before succumbing to a lifelong yearning to write fiction.

She has an MA in Creative Writing and a string of prizes for her short fiction. Her first novel, *The Partridge and the Pelican*, a Tatler 'sizzling summer read', was published in 2011, and *The Things You Do For Love* followed in 2016.



Rachel will also introduce her new novel due out this summer, *Every Secret Thing*, a tale of friendship, betrayal and second chances.



MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS

SATURDAY 7th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus



10.00 – 11.00 Martin Bell OBE
***War and The Death of News*/£7.00**

Martin Bell has spent more than half a century in unquiet corners of the world, including the surrogate war zone of the House of Commons. During that time, the way that wars have been fought and perceived, and the way that news has been gathered and presented has changed radically. From Vietnam to Bosnia and beyond, this is a moving, personal account of war, with an impassioned call to put the substance back into our news.

From the ranks of the Suffolk Regiment, Martin Bell emerged to become one of the BBC's best-known war reporters. He covered conflicts from Vietnam to Bosnia, where he was wounded. In 1997 he became the first elected Independent MP for 50 years. He is now an Ambassador for UNICEF and an author. His eight books include one of poetry. He had a chrysanthemum named after him at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2014.



SATURDAY 7th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus



11.30 – 12.30 Lin Anderson
***Follow the Dead - Silence the Living*/£7.00**

Forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod joins a mountain rescue team on Cairngorm summit. A mysterious plane has crash landed on frozen Loch A'an. A nearby climbing expedition has left three young people dead and a fourth missing after having seen Am Fear Liath Mòr, the Big Grey Man who haunts the mountain. Rhona is joined by the enigmatic Norwegian detective Alvis Olsen with disturbing theories about the link to his homeland.

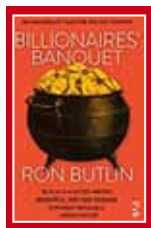
Lin Anderson has published twelve novels featuring forensic expert Dr Rhona MacLeod, the latest, published August 2017, being *Follow the Dead*. Her first feature film script, *Sometime Did Me Seek* is due to shoot in Edinburgh shortly. Her short film *River Child* won a student BAFTA and the Celtic Film Festival best fiction award. Lin is co-founder of the crime writing festival, Bloody Scotland.



MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS



SATURDAY 7th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus



13.30 – 14.30 Ron Butlin
***Billionaires' Banquet*/£7.00**

1985 Edinburgh. Hume sets up a business catering for the rich and their ever-growing appetites. But by the new millennium, these appetites have become much more demanding . . .

Powerful, challenging and very funny, *Billionaires' Banquet* is an immortality tale for the 21st century.

With an international reputation as a prize-winning novelist, Ron Butlin is a former Edinburgh Makar / Poet Laureate. His twenty books have won many prizes and been translated into over a dozen languages. His previous novel, *Ghost Moon*, was nominated for the international IMPAC Prize 2016. His latest novel *Billionaires' Banquet* was published in April this year.



SATURDAY 7th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus



15.00 – 16.00 Flora Shedden
***Gatherings*/£7.00**

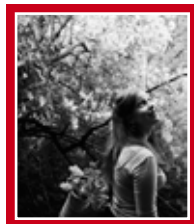
Flora lives in Highland Perthshire. She has worked as a gallery assistant, researcher, photographer, costume seamstress and waitress, before her success as a finalist on *The Great British Bake Off* encouraged her to plan her future around her favourite pastimes of writing, cooking and photography.

Flora's debut cookbook, "*Gatherings*," published in January 2017, is her first publication since creating and editing the local primary school newspaper, aged 9.

Currently establishing her own bakery, she is also presenting on BBC radio, and writing a regular food column for a national newspaper.

A gathering is an easy way of cooking and hosting. It means no pressure, no code of conduct, and everyone - cook included - can actually enjoy themselves.

Flora discusses her passion for cooking, photography and the journey she is taking from cooking for pleasure, via *The Great British Bake Off*, to producing her first cookbook and opening her own bakery.



MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS

SATURDAY 7th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus



16.45 – 17.45 Alan Johnson
***The Long and Winding Road*/£7.00**

Alan Johnson continues to chart his extraordinary journey from the slums of West London to the corridors of power in Westminster, a journey almost unimaginable in today's Britain.

In *The Long and Winding Road*, Alan's characteristic honesty and authenticity shine through every word. His book takes you into a world which is at once familiar and strange: this is politics as you've never seen it before.....

Alan was chosen to stand in the constituency of Hull West and Hessle, and entered Parliament as an MP in May 1997. Rising through various Ministerial positions he became Home Secretary in 2009.



His first book, *This Boy*, won the RSL Ondaatje prize and the Orwell Prize in 2013. His second, *Please Mister Postman*, won the National Book Award for Autobiography of the Year in 2014.

...and then...

BOOKMARK

invites you
to continue the conversation
at BOOKMARK 2017's Festival Dinner
in The Red House Hotel, Coupar Angus

on Saturday 7th October, 2017

Guest Speaker - Alan Johnson

8.00 for 8.30pm
Lounge Suit

Tickets £35 per person

MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS



SUNDAY 8th October/Blairgowrie Town Hall



13.30 - 16.00 Blairgowrie Players
***The Arrow*/£10.00**
(with seated afternoon tea)

Following on from last year's success with the ever-popular *Whisky Galore - The Radio Play*, this year's festival play will be a premiere, *The Arrow*,

by local playwright, Robert Mercer Nairne from Meikleour.

The arrow in question is made of silver and was presented to the people of Rattray in the 17th century to commemorate an archery contest. Last competed for in 1727, the arrow has been in the custody of the Mercer Nairne family ever since. Controversy raged locally some years ago when the arrow, which is worth tens of thousands of pounds, was put up for auction in London. On finding this out, local people protested vehemently and it was withdrawn. Ownership of the arrow has been hotly contested ever since.

The play explores the controversial history surrounding the arrow and the fate of the last winner.

In the Chair:



Fiona Armstrong, Patron of **BOOKMARK**, is an award-winning broadcaster and writer, based in Scotland. She has worked in news for both BBC and ITV - and has made fishing programmes for Sky TV. She currently makes programmes on life in the south of Scotland for ITV Border. She also writes a column for Scottish Field magazine and The Courier newspaper. Fiona has written two fishing books and two cook books and is now working on a book about Queen Victoria. Her hobbies are angling, cooking and clan history.

Message from the Head of Culture at Perth & Kinross Council



Perth and Kinross Council is delighted to support **BOOKMARK**, Blairgowrie, Rattray & The Glens Book Festival. Culturally, Perth and Kinross is one of the richest and most diverse parts of Scotland. The strength of the many community-led arts and culture initiatives happening right across Perth and Kinross is what truly sets us apart.

Over the years the team behind **BOOKMARK** has worked tirelessly to build it up and make it a key feature of the Perth and Kinross events calendar. Since the first festival in 2013, **BOOKMARK** has become not just a lively exploration of books and words, but a celebration of what communities can do by working together and bring something special to their local area.

Our bid for Perth to be UK City of Culture 2021 really highlighted this community energy. In developing the bid, we asked people across Perth and Kinross what makes them most proud of the arts and culture distinct to their area. We were overwhelmed by the responses we got. It is a privilege to support and work with so many community arts and culture groups, large and small, which have the creativity and passion shown by **BOOKMARK**.

‘The wonder of the art resides in the endless different ways of telling a story,’ said Muriel Spark, one of Scotland’s greatest and most distinctive writers. It’s true that through reading we can lose ourselves in worlds completely unknown to us, go on adventures that reality might otherwise keep from our grasp, and explore many different ideas and perspectives about human experience. I’m thrilled that we have **BOOKMARK** right on our doorstep to celebrate the wonder of what words can do.

As in previous years, the 2017 programme is full of unmissable events showcasing both well-known writers and emerging talent. **BOOKMARK** is the place for everyone from the most dedicated to the casual reader - and for budding writers too. The Council wishes it all the best for another successful year.

Fiona Robertson, Head of Culture

Message from the Chief Executive of Horsecross Arts Limited



As the creative organisation behind two contrasting venues - the historic Edwardian Perth Theatre, currently undergoing restoration and redevelopment, and the state of the art Perth Concert Hall with some of the finest acoustics in Europe - Horsecross Arts is at the heart of cultural activity in Perthshire.

The multi award-winning Horsecross team has earned a reputation for adventurous programming, unique commissions, critically acclaimed performances by world-class artists and inspirational community activities. First-class customer service and the skills and knowledge of our technical team underpin all that we do.

Recent off-site theatre productions have seen Perth Theatre take live performances to its audiences, playing in barns, village halls, hotels and community spaces across the area.

So we are delighted to be able to provide Box Office facilities and technical support to **BOOKMARK**. Sharing our expertise in this way not only helps this popular local event, but allows us to once again reach out to the wider creative community and audiences.

As a registered charity, we are reliant, for much of what we do, on generous donations from funders, trusts and foundations, businesses and individuals, so we appreciate, more than most, the positive effect that not only financial, but also practical support can have on events such as **BOOKMARK**.

We are proud to be involved with **BOOKMARK** and would like to wish the organisers, visitors, authors and other performers an inspiring and enjoyable few days.

Gwilym Gibbons - Chief Executive

Booking Form

FRINGE EVENT

SATURDAY 9th September/Straloch Garden Studio

15.00 – 16.30 **Alan Rowan**

Moonwalker/£7.00

No. of Tickets	Total Cost
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS

FRIDAY 6th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus

17.30 *Festival Bookshop Opens

18.00 – 19.00 **Christopher Brookmyre**

Want You Gone/£7.00

19.30 – 20.30 **Rachel Crowther**

The Things You Do For Love/£7.00

20.30 – 21.30 *Drinks Reception Hosted by the Provost of Perth & Kinross Council*

22.00 *Festival Bookshop Closes

SATURDAY 7th October/Blairgowrie Community Campus

09.00 *Festival Bookshop Opens

10.00 – 11.00 **Martin Bell**

War and The Death of News/£7.00

11.30 – 12.30 **Lin Anderson** *Follow the Dead - Silence the Living/£7.00*

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**

13.30 – 14.30 **Ron Butlin** *Billionaire's Banquet/£7.00*

15.00 – 16.00 **Flora Shedden** *Gatherings/£7.00*

16.45 – 17.45 **Alan Johnson**

The Long And Winding Road/£7.00

17.45 – 18.00 **Book signing - Alan Johnson**

18.30 *Festival Bookshop Closes

SATURDAY 7th October/The Red House Hotel

20.00 – 20.30 **Fundraising Dinner**
with Guest Speaker - Alan Johnson
Dress Code Lounge Suit/£35

SUNDAY 8th October/Blairgowrie Town Hall

13.30 – 16.00 **Blairgowrie Players** *The Arrow*
(and afternoon tea)/£10



**The Festival Bookshop is provided by Waterstones Perth,
official bookseller to BOOKMARK 2017*

Please complete your details below

Name

Address

BOOKMARK Membership No

(if applicable)

TOTAL COST OF TICKETS

POSTAGE & PACKING

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

**Completed forms with cash or cheque
(payable to BOOKMARK) to be returned to:**

The Secretary
BOOKMARK
Cairndhu
Golf Course Road
Blairgowrie
PH10 6LJ



Ticket Information



Everyone attending an event must have a ticket. Entry is by ticket only.

Booking for events on the weekend 6th- 8th October opens on Saturday 24th June and closes on Thursday 5th October at 5pm. Any tickets sold via the website after 11.30 p.m. on Tuesday 3rd October will be kept for the buyer at the ticket desk at the festival venue, Blairgowrie Community Campus. Please note, we have a no refunds policy.

Tickets may be purchased at the door – subject to availability.

Doors open 15 minutes before the start of each event.

Please arrive in good time to be seated by the start time on your ticket. To avoid disruption, latecomers will not be admitted.

Festival Bookshop

The Festival Bookshop will be open from 17.30 to 22.00 on Friday 6th October, and from 09.00 to 18.30 on Saturday 7th October.

Book-signing will take place after each author session in the area directly facing the Festival Bookshop.

Car Parking and Transport

There are car parking facilities at the main venue as well as additional on-street parking close by. The Blairgowrie Town Service bus No 63 runs from Rattray to the Wellmeadow and then to Smithfield Road with a short walk to **Blairgowrie Community Campus, Elm Drive, Blairgowrie PH10 6UZ.**

Food and Drink

Teas/coffees and light refreshments will be available to purchase on site.

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island”

Walt Disney



Rotary
 Club of Blairgowrie



Design & Print
 by Astute (Scotland) Ltd

