

Print Point, Rothesay Library & Bute Museum
present

BUTE NOIR

Crime Writing Festival

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th August, 2017

- *Denise Mina* •
- *Craig Robertson* •
- *Alex Gray* •
- *Lin Anderson* •
- *AK Benedict* •
- *Steph Broadribb* •
- *Steve Cavanagh* •
- *Mason Cross* •
- *Myra Duffy* •
- *SJI Holliday* •
- *Doug Johnstone* •
- *Denzil Meyrick* •
- *Caro Ramsay* •
- *Alexandra Sokoloff* •
- *Antti Tuomainen* •
- *Luca Veste* •



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second Bute Noir crime writing festival.

This year sees the return of some familiar faces plus several new ones from the US, Northern Ireland, Finland, England and of course Scotland.

One of the highlights of 2016, the uproarious "A Question of Court" crime fiction quiz is making a welcome return and there will also be the opportunity to discover the island by taking our unique bus tour, visiting various locations from the popular Isle of Bute Mystery series of novels. You may also catch a glimpse of some of the authors competing against each other once again for the Brookmyre Cup on Rothesay's Putting Green...

This, our second festival, would not have been possible, firstly, without Craig Robertson who has worked tirelessly to bring everyone together and, secondly, without all of you who embraced it at such short notice last year. We thank you for all your support and hope that you enjoy this year just as much, if not a little bit more!

We hope to see you soon.

Bute Noir Committee.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Welcome back to Bute Noir!

Our inaugural crime writing festival in 2016 was such fun and so warmly welcomed by the people of Bute that we're doing it all over again.

For 2017, there will be slaughter doon the watter – in the best possible way. This year, we have sixteen authors from five countries, including our first Scandinavian guest, making this a truly international festival. Not only that, but we have some of the best crime writers in the business on Bute.

We owe a huge vote of thanks to Argyll and Bute Council, Rothesay Library, Bute Museum and Print Point. Without their support, this festival couldn't have taken place.

This is Bute's festival. Please embrace it and enjoy it!

Craig Robertson

VENUES

Print Point

Tucked away on the corner of West Princes Street and Bishop Street in cosy surroundings, Bute's only bookshop opened in 1997. Open 7 days a week with over 4000 books in store, daily book deliveries and freshly ground coffee while you browse, a friendly welcome awaits locals and tourists alike. We also hold events throughout the year ranging from Harry Potter Night to Blind Date With a Book!
www.hive.co.uk/Shops/Print-Point-Isle-of-Bute

Rothesay Library

Located within the Moat Centre, Stuart Street, Rothesay Library prides itself on being a vibrant community hub. Recently refurbished, the library offers a range of services including the Peoples Net Work, Wi-Fi, Genealogy Research, Local History Archives, and of course Books..... lots and lots of Books! Friendly staff are always delighted to inform and assist both local customers and visitors to the island.
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/library/rothesay-library

Bute Museum

An independent local museum run by volunteers, the building was opened in 1926 and has 2 galleries and a library/meeting room. It may be small but it has one of the best local collections of any museum in the country. From items of international importance such as the Viking Hostage Stone and the Bronze Age jet necklace to an 18th century beggar's badge and a Victorian Punch and Judy, it tells the story of the people of Bute and the flora and fauna of the island.
www.butemuseum.org.uk

Tickets for all events featured in this programme are priced at £4.00 per event and are available from Print Point, Rothesay Library and Bute Museum or by contacting us at butenoir@hotmail.com or by telephone on 01700 503389. Tickets for the Open Top Bus Tour are priced at £7.00 and are available only from Print Point.



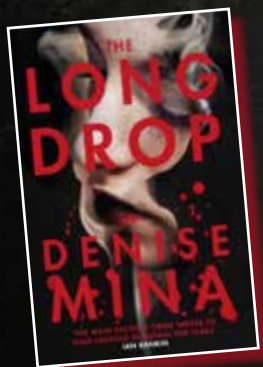
DENISE MINA has been described by none other than Ian Rankin as the most exciting crime writer to have emerged in Britain for years.

She grew up in Glasgow, Paris, London, Invergordon, Bergen and Perth, working in a number of dead end jobs before studying at night school to get into Glasgow University Law School.

She is the author of thirteen hugely successful and critically acclaimed crime novels. Denise has twice won the Theakstons

Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year.

Her latest, *The Long Drop*, is her first foray into true crime as it tells the dramatized tale of a meeting between the mass murderer Peter Manuel and the father of the family he has slaughtered.





CRAIG ROBERTSON is the author of seven novels to date, *Random*, *Snapshot*, *Cold Grave*, *Witness the Dead*, *The Last Refuge*, *In Place of Death* and *Murderabilia*.

During his 20-year career with a Scottish Sunday newspaper, Craig interviewed three recent Prime Ministers, attended major stories including 9/11, Dunblane, the Omagh bombing and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann.

He is an international bestseller. His debut novel, *Random*, was shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger and was a Sunday Times bestseller. *Murderabilia* was longlisted for the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year 2017.

Craig splits his time between Glasgow and the US with his partner and fellow author Alexandra Sokoloff. Craig's novels are "doing for Glasgow what Rankin did for Edinburgh", *The Mirror*.



ALEX GRAY was born and educated in Glasgow and has written 14 novels to date, the latest being *Still Dark*. Alex began writing professionally in 1993 and had immediate success with short stories, articles and commissions for BBC radio programmes.

She has been awarded the Scottish Association of Writers' Constable and Pitlochry trophies for her crime writing.

A regular on the Scottish bestseller lists, her previous novels include *Five Ways to Kill a Man*, *Glasgow Kiss*, *Pitch Black*, *The Riverman*, *Never Somewhere Else*, *The Swedish Girl* and *Keep the Midnight Out*.

She is the co-founder of the international Scottish crime writing festival, Bloody Scotland, which had its inaugural year in 2012.





LIN ANDERSON is best known as the creator of the forensic scientist Rhona MacLeod series of crime thriller novels, and for her part in founding the annual Bloody Scotland crime writing festival.

Lin's Rhona MacLeod novel *Paths of the Dead* was shortlisted for the 2015 Scottish Crime Book of the Year.

Her Rhona MacLeod novels have been published in translation in a number of countries, including France,

Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and Russia.

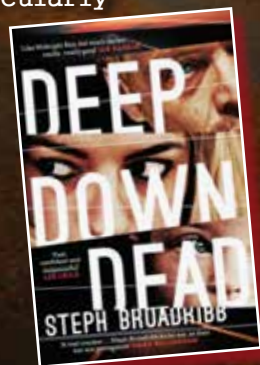
She has a second mystery thriller series featuring private investigator Patrick de Courvoisier, set in glamorous Cannes (think 'The Rockford Files' meets James Bond).



STEPH BROADRIBB was born in Birmingham and grew up in Buckinghamshire. Most of her working life has been spent between the UK and USA.

Steph is an alumni of the MA in Creative Writing (Crime Fiction) at City University London, and she trained as a bounty hunter in California. That preparation came in particularly handy as research for her debut novel *Deep Down Dead*.

It's a breakneck thriller featuring Florida bounty hunter Lori Anderson and has been praised by the likes of Lee Child and Ian Rankin. *Deep Down Dead* has already been shortlisted for a major award.





STEVE CAVANAGH was born and raised in Belfast, Northern Ireland. At 18 he moved to Dublin and studied law, by mistake. He went on to qualify as a solicitor and gained valuable experience as a litigator representing some of the largest insurance companies in the world.

He is the author of four American-set legal thrillers featuring con-artist turned hotshot criminal attorney Eddie Flynn. Steve says Eddie is a bit like him but

better looking and with more hair.

The Eddie Flynn books have been published in the UK, Japan, Portugal, Italy, Germany, France, the US and the Netherlands. The latest in the series is *The Liar* in which Eddie has to step back into the underworld to rescue a kidnapped daughter.

Steve is also one half of the team behind the hit podcast, Two Crime Writers and a Microphone.



MASON CROSS is the author of the Carter Blake thriller series published by Orion. The first book, *The Killing Season*, was published in 2014, and was followed by *The Samaritan*, *The Time to Kill* and *Don't Look For Me*.

The Killing Season was longlisted for the 2015 Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year award, and *The Samaritan* was selected for the Richard and

Judy Book Club for Spring 2016.

Despite being almost as mysterious as his protagonist Carter Blake, we can reveal that Mason comes from the west of Scotland.





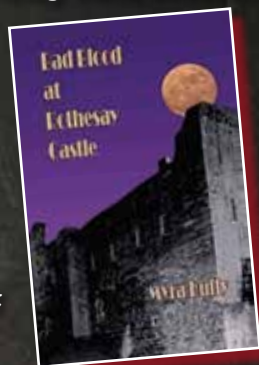
MYRA DUFFY is best known for her series of crime novels set on the Isle of Bute.

Of her choice of Bute as the location for her novels, Myra says, 'The Isle of Bute provides inspiration because it offers a 'contained' setting for the action. I frequently highlight the many beautiful locations on the island and I've a particular interest in the history and the geography, though Bute is far from being the hotbed of crime my novels suggest.'

Myra Duffy divides her time between Glasgow and the Isle of Bute and has family connections to the island stretching back several generations.

Bad Blood at Rothesay Castle is the latest in the Isle of Bute Mystery series.

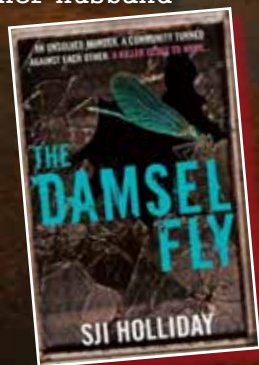
The House at Ettrick Bay, Last Ferry to Bute, Last Dance at the Rothesay Pavilion, Endgame at Port Bannatyne, Grave Matters at St Blane's and *Death at the Kyles of Bute* are earlier novels in the series while *When Old Ghosts Meet* and *Susie's Story* also have a Bute connection.



SJI HOLLIDAY grew up in Haddington, East Lothian. She spent many years working in her family's newsagent and pub before going off to study microbiology and statistics at university.

She has worked as a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry for over sixteen years, but it was on a six-month round-the-world-trip that she took with her husband ten years ago that she rediscovered her passion for writing.

The first novel in her acclaimed Banktoun trilogy (the fictional setting may or may not be based on her home town...) *Black Wood* was published in 2015, followed by *Willow Walk* in June 2016. Her new novel, *The Damsel Fly*, has been published this year to rave reviews. Susi is a member of The Slice Girls, the all-female crime-writing singing sensations.





DOUG JOHNSTONE is a writer, musician and journalist based in Edinburgh. His eighth novel, *Crash Land*, was published by Faber & Faber in November 2016.

His previous book, *The Jump*, was shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize for Best Scottish Crime Novel. *Gone Again* was an Amazon bestseller and *Hit & Run* was an Amazon #1 as well as being selected as a prestigious Fiction Uncovered winner.

His work has received praise from the likes of Irvine Welsh, Ian Rankin, Val McDermid, William McIlvanney, Megan Abbott and Christopher Brookmyre.

Doug is one of the co-founders of the Scotland Writers Football Club, has a degree in physics, a PhD in nuclear physics, a diploma in journalism, and worked for four years designing radars.



DENZIL MEYRICK was born in Glasgow and brought up in Campbeltown. After studying politics, he pursued a varied career including time spent as a police officer in Glasgow, freelance journalist, and director of several companies.

All five books in his DCI Daley series, which began with *Whisky From Small Glasses*, have been Scottish crime bestsellers.

His debut was followed by *The Last Witness*, *Dark Suits and Sad Songs* and *The Rat Stone Serenade*. His latest, *Well of the Winds*, must solve a wartime murder to reveal not only the shocking events of the past, but new horrors of the present.





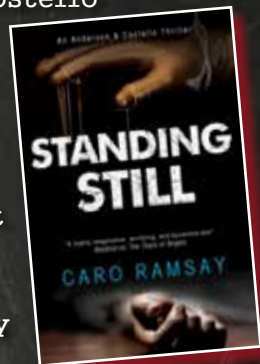
CARO RAMSAY was born in Govan, on Glasgow's south side. Her first novel *Absolution* was shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger 2008 and her second *Singing to the Dead* was long listed for the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award in 2010.

Dark Waters, The Blood of Crows, The Night Hunter, Tears of Angels and *Rat Run* followed with *Standing Still* being the eighth book in the celebrated Anderson and Costello series.

Caro still has her day job treating dogs, horses and the odd human.

She has a diploma in Forensic Medical Science and an embalming tank named after her! Caro lives in a rambling old house with a poltergeist called Agnes, a staffie and a cat with delusions of world domination.

Her editor read *Rat Run* and said Caro had a very warped mind. Caro took that as a compliment.

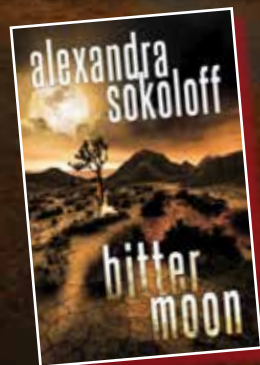


ALEXANDRA SOKOLOFF is the Thriller Award winning, Bram Stoker and Anthony Award nominated author of 12 supernatural and crime thrillers. She has worked for 10 years as a Hollywood screenwriter and is the author of the internationally acclaimed Screenwriting Tricks for Authors workbooks.

The New York Times has called her “a daughter of Mary Shelley” and her books “some of the most original and freshly unnerving work in the genre”.

Her Thriller Award nominated Huntress Moon series, *Huntress Moon, Blood Moon, Cold Moon* and *Bitter Moon* follows an FBI agent on the hunt for a female serial killer, smashing genre clichés and combating the rise of violence against women on the page and screen. It is in development as a major US TV series.

Alex splits her time between L.A and Scotland with her partner and fellow crime author Craig Robertson.





ANTTI TUOMAINEN was born in Helsinki, Finland where he lives with his wife. He is the award-winning author of six novels: *A Killer I Wish*, *My Brother's Keeper*, *The Healer*, *Dark as My Heart*, *The Mine* and his latest – *The Man Who Died*.

He has been called 'The King of Helsinki Noir' by the Finnish press and his writing has garnered attention worldwide.

The Healer was awarded the Clue Award for Best Finnish Crime Novel and has subsequently been published in 27 countries including the United States, the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Brazil, China, Iceland, Turkey and Greece, among others.



LUCA VESTE is a writer of Italian and Scouse heritage and is the author of the Murphy and Rossi novels *Dead Gone*, *The Dying Place*, *Bloodstream* and *Then She Was Gone*, part psychological thriller, part procedural, they take place in the city of Liverpool.

Taking on both sides of a contrasting city, they explore the changing landscape of Liverpool and its dark underbelly.

Luca was the editor of the Spinetigler award-nominated charity anthology "Off The Record" and co-editor of "True Brit Grit", also an anthology of short stories for charity.

"A chilling debut, from a writer to watch...."
Mark Billingham.

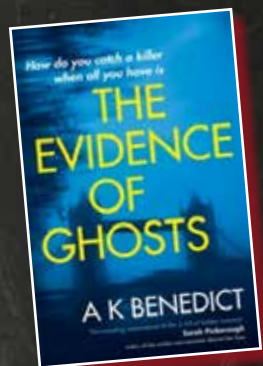




AK BENEDICT read English at Cambridge and studied creative writing at Sussex. She composed film and television soundtracks, as well as performing as a musician before becoming a full-time writer in 2012.

She now writes novels, drama, poetry and short stories, and lives in St Leonards-on-Sea with her dog, Dame Margaret Rutherford.

The Beauty of Murder, her debut novel, was shortlisted for a crime fiction award and is in development for an 8-part TV series. Her poems and short stories have featured in anthologies including the recent *Scaremongrel* and *Best British Short Stories*. Her second novel is *Jonathan Dark or The Evidence of Ghosts*.



OPEN TOP BUS TOUR Bute Noir is delighted to announce a special addition to this year's festival programme.

In association with West Coast Motors, the Saturday morning bus tour of the island will offer readers of the Isle of Bute mystery series the opportunity to visit locations used in the books.

The author, Myra Duffy, will highlight the importance of using island settings in the stories, read short extracts and answer questions.

This bus tour will start at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday 5th August. Further details and vouchers entitling the bearer to a special price for the tour are only available from Print Point, West Princes Street, Rothesay.



FURTHER AUTHOR INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING:

www.denisemina.com

www.craigrobertsonbooks.co.uk

www.alex-gray.com

www.lin-anderson.com

www.akbenedict.com

www.crimethrillergirl.com

www.stevecavanaghbooks.com

www.masoncross.net

www.myraduffywriter.com

www.sjihollidayblog.wordpress.com

www.dougjohnstone.com

www.birlinn.co.uk - Denzil - Meyrick

www.caroramsay.co.uk

www.alexandrasokoloff.com

www.anttituomainen.com

www.lucaveste.com

**You can also follow all the authors, and get regular
updates on Bute Noir via Facebook and Twitter!**

Special thanks to
[facebook.com/Isle-of-Bute-by-John-Williams](https://www.facebook.com/Isle-of-Bute-by-John-Williams)
for allowing us to use his stunning photograph of the
road to the Dhu Loch, Isle of Bute throughout our
programme and posters.
Thanks also to FOR BUTE for their generous donation
towards our festival.

BUTE NOIR EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 4th AUGUST

4.30 pm – 5.30 pm **Bute Museum**
Opening Up: Alex Gray and Myra Duffy (interviewed by Caro Ramsay)

6 pm – 7 pm **Rothesay Library**
Keeping it Real: Denise Mina and Craig Robertson (interviewed by Luca Veste)

7.30 pm – 8.30 pm **Print Point**
Americana: Steve Cavanagh and Mason Cross (interviewed by SJI Holliday)

9 pm – 10 pm **Rothesay Library**
Dark & Deadly: Antti Tuomainen and Doug Johnstone (interviewed by Alexandra Sokoloff)

SATURDAY 5th AUGUST

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm **Bute Museum**
The Slice Girls: Alexandra Sokoloff, SJI Holliday, AK Benedict and Steph Broadribb

2 pm – 3 pm **Rothesay Library**
Dear Green Place: Alex Gray, Lin Anderson and Caro Ramsay

3.30 pm – 4.30 pm **Print Point**
Finnish Him Off: Antti Tuomainen

5 pm – 6 pm **Print Point**
The Men Behind the Mic: Steve Cavanagh and Luca Veste

7.30 pm – 8.30 pm **Rothesay Library**
Island Crime: Denzil Meyrick and Lin Anderson

9 pm – 10 pm **Bute Museum**
A Question of Court: The Return of the Quiz!

SUNDAY 6th AUGUST

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm **Rothsay Library**
State of Emergency: Steph Broadribb and Mason Cross

2 pm–3 pm **Print Point**
Femmes Fatales: AK Benedict and Alexandra Sokoloff

3.30 pm–4.30 pm **Bute Museum**
Know Your Place: Doug Johnstone, Denzil Meyrick and Craig Robertson

5 pm – 6 pm **Bute Museum**
The Last Stand: Alex Gray, Caro Ramsay, Myra Duffy and whoever else is left standing will be questioned by Craig Robertson.

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