

Print Point, Rothesay Library & Bute Museum
present

BUTE NOIR

Crime Writing Festival
Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th August, 2018

- *Yrsa Sigurdardottir* •
- *Chris Brookmyre* •
- *Alex Gray* •
- *Graeme Macrae Burnet* •
- *Craig Robertson* •
- *Myra Duffy* •
- *Helen FitzGerald* •
- *Mari Hannah* •
- *Sarah Hilary* •
- *Alanna Knight, MBE* •
- *Michael J. Malone* •
- *Denzil Meyrick* •
- *Abir Mukherjee* •
- *James Oswald* •
- *Anna Smith* •
- *Alexandra Sokoloff* •
- *Luca Veste* •



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third Bute Noir crime writing festival.

This year we are welcoming nine new authors and eight familiar faces, their novels taking us as far afield as India, America, Iceland, France and Australia. We are being truly spoiled.

As well as several brilliant panels, we are also including a Walking Tour of Rothesay showing you round the sights from The Isle of Bute Mystery series, 'Noir at the Bar' giving you the chance to mingle with the authors in the cosy surroundings of The Black Bull Inn while they take to the mic' and 'A Writer's Workshop' with Alexandra Sokoloff, teaching you everything you need to know to start writing your own novel.

As always this would not be possible without the incredible support we have had from locals and visitors over the last two years and for that we thank you.

Finally we would like to thank and congratulate Craig Robertson, the driving force behind Bute Noir. Craig worked tirelessly throughout the year putting the festival together and still found the time to get married to Alexandra. We wish them both every happiness for the future.

Bute Noir Committee

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Welcome to our third – yes unbelievably our THIRD – crime writing festival on the beautiful Isle of Bute.

It seems almost criminal to bring murder and mayhem to such an idyllic setting but that's just the way we like it.

For 2018, we're bringing you number one bestsellers and multiple award-winners. They are some of the best established names in crime fiction plus some of the genre's rising stars.

It's an international line-up too, with authors hailing from four continents, and we're sure you'll give them the same warm welcome that every writer has experienced on Bute and that so many have gone home raving about. Believe me, that makes it so much easier when it comes to inviting other authors to the island.

So from them – and me – thank you. Enjoy your festival!

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 seven 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.liveargyll.co.uk/library/rothesay-library

Bute Museum

An independent local museum run by volunteers, the building was opened in 1926 and has two 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 "A Question of Court" are priced at £6.00
Alexandra Sokoloff's "Writer's Workshop" £10.00



Yrsa Sigurdardottir

We are delighted to welcome one of the world's leading crime writers to Bute.

Iceland's undisputed Queen of Crime, Yrsa is the internationally bestselling and award-winning author of 13 chilling novels set in her home country. They have been translated into more than 30 languages.

The first in her Thóra Gudmundsdóttir series was *Last Rituals*, published in Iceland

in 2005 and in the UK in 2008.

Her latest book *The Reckoning*, features her new series characters, child psychologist Freyja and police detective Huldar. When a school time capsule is recovered, it reveals a horrifying secret – a murder list.



Chris Brookmyre

Chris is the author of 21 published novels to date, the latest being *Places in the Darkness*.

Chris has won several awards including the 7th Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction for *All Fun and Games Until Someone Loses An Eye*. *Quite Ugly One Morning* was the winner of the Critics' First Blood Award for Best First Crime Novel of the Year in 1996.

Boiling a Frog won the Sherlock Award for Best Crime Detective Novel in 2000 and Chris became the

only writer to win two Sherlocks when *Be My Enemy* picked up the 2004 prize. In 2007, Chris was given the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for Writing and has also been shortlisted four times for the Theakstons Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year Award, winning it in 2017 for *Black Widow* which also won the McIlvanney Prize.

Chris also one of the "Fun Lovin' Crimewriters" alongside Luca Veste, Mark Billingham, Val McDermid, Stuart Neville and Doug Johnstone, murdering songs for fun on stage throughout the UK.





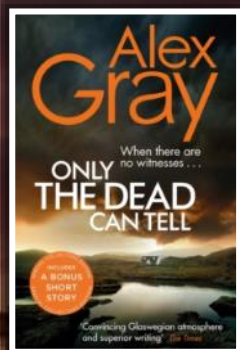
Alex Gray

Alex was born and educated in Glasgow and has written 15 novels to date, the latest being *Only The Dead Can Tell*. 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.



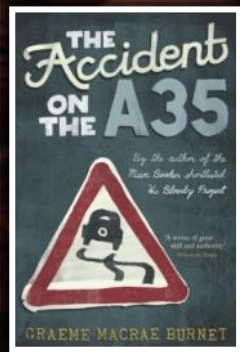
Graeme Macrae Burnet

Graeme's first novel, *The Disappearance of Adele Bedeau*, a haunting tale set in a small French town, was very well received and an undoubted hit. However his second book, *His Bloody Project*, turned his life upside down.

The brilliantly imagined novel was a massive success. It went into reprint almost immediately, winning and being shortlisted for awards across the world. It won the Saltire fiction

book of the year, won the VRIJ Nederland thriller of the year, and was shortlisted for the LA Times mystery book of the year. Most famously perhaps, *His Bloody Project* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

His latest book, *The Accident on the A35*, takes us back to France with a droll and intelligent literary thriller.





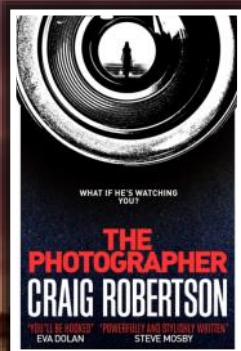
Craig Robertson

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

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 Theakston's Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year 2017 and was shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize 2017.

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



Myra Duffy

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

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*, *Death at the Kyles of Bute*, *Bad Blood at Rothesay Castle*, *Susie's Story* and *Decision Day at Kilmachal* are all set on Bute while *Dark Deeds at Bute Noir* is based on our very own festival.





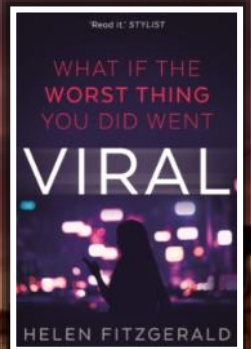
Helen FitzGerald

Helen was born in rural Victoria in Australia, the twelfth of thirteen children and is the author of twelve novels. These include young adult thrillers as well as her highly acclaimed psychological novels for adults. She went to university in Melbourne then later studied at Glasgow University and has now lived in Scotland for a number of years. A former screenwriter turned bestselling author, Helen has also worked as a criminal

justice social worker.

She is a frequent visitor to Rothesay and has used it as a writing retreat.

Her book *The Cry* has been made into a major BBC drama and will be on our TV screens this autumn. It stars Jenna Coleman and Ewan Leslie, and has been filmed in Glasgow and Melbourne. It tells of the disappearance of a baby from a lonely roadside and the police investigation and media sensation that follow."



Mari Hannah

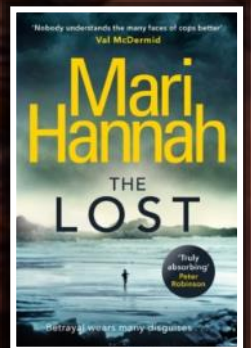
There's no doubting the authenticity of Mari Hannah's crime fiction. As a former probation officer whose partner is a former murder detective, the realism is stamped on every page.

Born in London but now living in a small Northumberland village, Mari is the award-winning author of ten novels, including the DCI Kate Daniels series which is in production to be a TV series. She has followed that with two other

series, the Ryan and O'Neil books, and her new Stone and Oliver series. The first, *The Lost*, sees the detectives searching for a missing ten-year-old boy.

Stone has returned to his roots with fifteen years' experience in the Met, whereas Oliver is local, a third generation copper with a lot to prove, and a secret that's holding her back.

None other than Val McDermid says that "*no one understands the many faces of cops better than Mari Hannah.*"





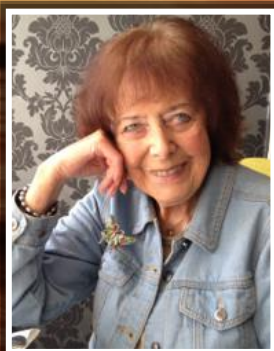
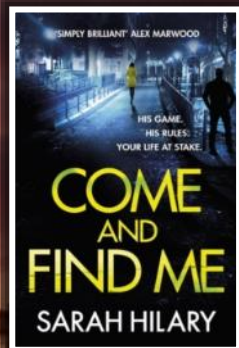
Sarah Hilary

Sarah is the award-winning author of five critically-acclaimed crime novels featuring Detective Inspector Marnie Rome. The first of those, *Someone Else's Skin*, won the prestigious Theakston's crime novel of the year in 2015.

She has followed that up with a further four gripping psychological thrillers that have brought her and Marnie Rome a legion of fans. In her latest novel, *Come and Find Me*, two women share

an infatuation with a sadistic killer, leading them down a dangerous and potentially fatal path.

Sarah is never afraid to speak her mind, either on the page or stage. She shouldn't be missed.

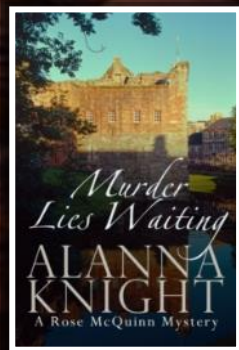


Alanna Knight, MBE

Alanna is one of the most popular authors in UK libraries and has been named as one of The Times "100 Masters of Crime".

She is a leading crime writer who has three historical crime series, the Victorian detective *Inspector Jeremy Faro*, lady investigator *Rose McQuinn*, and time-traveller *Tam Eildor*. Her 60 published works also include romantic thrillers and historical novels.

Alanna is the authority on Robert Louis Stevenson and her non-fiction includes true crime, "how to write" guides and biographies and she appears regularly at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and many other literary events.





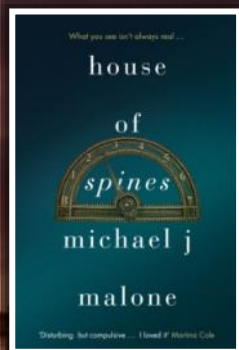
Michael J. Malone

Michael is the author of the Glasgow-set Detective Inspector Ray McBain crime novels, *Blood Tears*, *A Taste For Malice*, *Bad Samaritan*, and more recently *A Suitable Lie*, *Dog Fight* and *House of Spines*, plus over 200 published poems, two poetry collections, countless articles and one work of non-fiction.

Formerly a Faber and Faber Regional Sales Manager (Scotland and North England), he has judged and critiqued many poetry, short story

and novel competitions for a variety of organisations and was the Scottish Correspondent for Writers' Forum.

He is a regular speaker and chair at book festivals throughout the country including Aye Write, Bloody Scotland, Crimefest and Wigtown.



Denzil Meyrick

Denzil is the author of the much-loved DCI Jim Daley books set in the fictional town of Kinloch, which is not a million miles from his home in Campbeltown.

He studied politics at university then had a varied career which included being a serving officer with Strathclyde Police in Glasgow, director of a large engineering company, distillery manager, bar owner and a freelance journalist.

His first novel, *Whisky from Small Glasses*, was published in 2012 and he has enjoyed great success ever since. His latest book, *Well of the Winds*, sees DCI Daley having to solve a wartime murder.

When Daley comes into possession of a journal written by his wartime predecessor in Kinloch, Inspector William Urquhart, he soon realises Gairsay has many secrets. He must solve the cold case to reveal not only the shocking events of the past, but new horrors of the present.





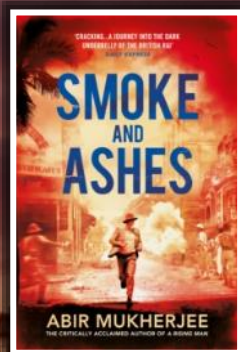
Abir Mukherjee

In the space of just two highly-acclaimed novels, Abir Mukherjee has become one of the hottest names in crime fiction. His debut, *A Rising Man*, won a coveted CWA Dagger. His follow up, *A Necessary Evil*, has been nominated for no fewer than three Daggers as well as being shortlisted for the Theakstons crime novel of the year.

Abir was born in London to Indian parents but raised in Glasgow. His novels are set in his parent's homeland in the days after the

Great War, and feature English detective Captain Sam Wyndham and his assistant 'Surrender-No' Banarjee.

In his third and latest novel, *Smoke and Ashes*, set in 1921, Sam Wyndham is battling a serious addiction to opium. When he is called to investigate a grisly murder, he is stunned at the sight of the body: he's seen this before. The night before, in a drug addled haze, he stumbled across a corpse with the same ritualistic injuries. Unfortunately for Sam, the corpse was in an opium den and revealing his presence there could cost him his career.



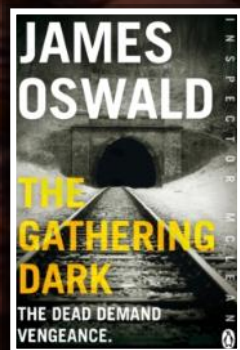
James Oswald

James is not your average crime writer. By day, he tends Highland cows and Romney sheep on his farm in Fife, while at night he writes dark and disturbing fiction. Depending on the season, he also has to abandon the keyboard to see to newborn lambs or runaway cattle.

Thankfully, he has found the time to write eight novels in his bestselling Inspector McLean series set in Edinburgh's underbelly. In his

latest, *The Gathering Dark*, Tony McLean witnesses the carnage of a truck crashing into a bus stop and learns that everyone involved has something to hide.

As in all the McLean books, *The Gathering Dark*, comes with something extra. Tony McLean has been both blessed and haunted by the ability to see beyond the terrible events happening in the capital, and can see the evil that lies beneath its historic streets.





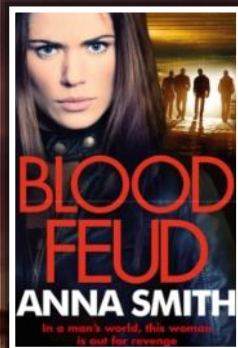
Anna Smith

Anna was an award-winning journalist who spent a career on the frontline all across the world for daily newspapers. She covered conflicts from Rwanda to Somalia to Kosovo, as well as reporting on major incidents such as the Dunblane shootings and 9/11.

She turned the vast experience gathered to good use when she wrote the nine books in her Rosie Gilmour series. Rosie, a gritty Glasgow journalist, tackles corruption and stops at nothing to get to the truth.

Anna has now followed the Gilmour series with her Kerry Casey books, gripping tales of gangland crime and revenge.

In *Blood Feud*, Kerry Casey knows that running a crime empire is not a job she ever asked for, and not one she wants, but she is determined to fulfil her father's wishes and make the Caseys go straight. First, though, she will find the men who murdered her mother, and she will take them down, no matter what it costs.



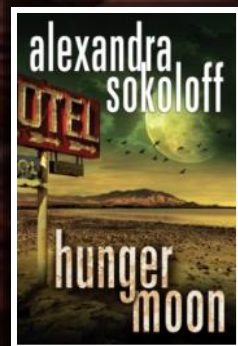
Alexandra Sokoloff

Alexandra is the Thriller Award winning, Bram Stoker and Anthony Award nominated author of 13 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*, *Bitter Moon* and *Hunger 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 husband and fellow crime author Craig Robertson.





Luca Veste

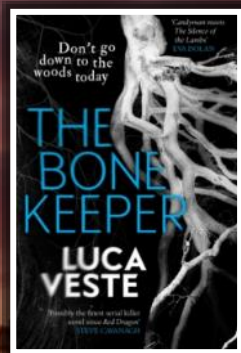
Luca is a writer of Italian and Scouse heritage and is the author of the Murphy and Rossi novels *Dead Gone*, *The Dying Place*, *Bloodstream* and *Then She Was Gone*, part psychological thriller, part procedural, they take place in the city of Liverpool.

Taking on both sides of a contrasting city, they explore the changing landscape of Liverpool and “bad” things which can happen within it. Luca’s latest stand

alone novel *The Bonekeeper* a prime example of this.

Luca is also one of the “Fun Lovin’ Crimewriters” alongside Chris Brookmyre, Mark Billingham, Val McDermid, Stuart Neville and Doug Johnstone, murdering songs for fun on stage throughout the UK.

“It will corrupt your days and shatter your nights.” – Val McDermid



FURTHER AUTHOR INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT:

www.salmonssonagency.se-yrsa-sigurdardottir

www.brookmyre.co.uk

www.craigrobertsonbooks.co.uk

www.alex-gray.com

www.graememacraeburnet.wordpress.com

www.myraduffywriter.com

www.helenfitzgerald.net

www.marihannah.com

www.sarahhilary.com

www.alannaknight.com

www.mjm-ink.com

www.birlinn.co.uk-Denzil-Meyrick

www.abirmukherjee.com

www.jamesoswald.co.uk

www.annasmithscotland.com

www.alexandrasokoloff.com

www.lucaveste.com

You can also follow all the authors on Facebook and Twitter!

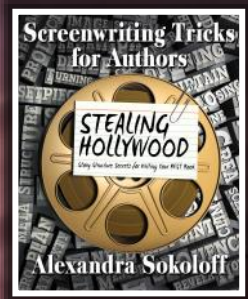
Stealing Hollywood: Screenwriting Tricks for Authors

Writing workshop with award-winning author/
screenwriter Alexandra Sokoloff on Sunday
2.15 pm–3.45 pm in Print Point, tickets £10.

Alexandra's internationally acclaimed *Screenwriting Tricks for Authors* story structure workshops use movies to teach authors and screenwriters essential film structure and visual storytelling techniques, and have helped hundreds of aspiring authors to publishing deals and professional authors to write better books.

The Three-Act, Eight-Sequence story structure of film and television is a rhythm of storytelling we are all intimately familiar with, from all the tens of thousands of movies and TV shows we've seen in our lifetimes. This classic structure is easy to grasp and translates perfectly to novels.

Our one and a half hour masterclass will illuminate the Three-Act, Eight-Sequence structure of film writing and how to use it to plot your book idea and/or rewrite your novel to make it the best book it can be.



Myra Duffy Walking Tour

This year join Myra Duffy and Paul Duffy on a walking tour of Rothesay, stopping off at some of the locations used in the Isle of Bute crime series.

Listen to short extracts from the novels as you follow in Alison Cameron's footsteps and learn about the history of the town which inspired events in the stories.

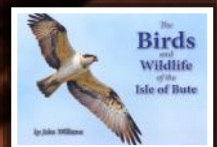
The tour will start at 10.30 a.m. in Guildford Square and finish with coffee (and chat!) at 11.30 a.m. in the Black Bull Inn. There will be an opportunity to order lunch (not included).

Walking tour level of difficulty: easy to moderate.

Tickets £4 and available from Print Point, West Princes Street, Rothesay. Numbers are limited, so please book early.



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
shoreline at Pointhouse Crescent, Isle of Bute throughout
our programme and posters. Copies of his stunning
photographic books of Bute and its wildlife are available to
purchase at Print Point.



BUTE NOIR EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 3rd AUGUST

- 4.30 pm – 5.30pm Bute Museum
“A starter for tension”: James Oswald, Sarah Hilary and Mari Hannah
- 6 pm – 7 pm Rothesay Library
“Far horizons”: Abir Mukherjee and Graeme Macrae Burnet
- 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm Print Point
“From screen to page to screen”: Helen FitzGerald and Alexandra Sokoloff
- 9 pm – 10 pm Rothesay Library
Chris Brookmyre. Interviewed by Luca Veste
- 10.15 pm – 12am Black Bull Inn
“Noir at The Bar” – Free Entry

SATURDAY 4th AUGUST

- 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Bute Museum
“Time’s Up”: Alexandra Sokoloff, Sarah Hilary, Mari Hannah and Yrsa Sigurdardottir on violence against women in crime fiction
- 2 pm – 3 pm Rothesay Library
“Our people and places”: Denzil Meyrick and Craig Robertson
- 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm Rothesay Library
“Now For Something Completely Different”: Chris Brookmyre, Helen FitzGerald, Abir Mukherjee and Luca Veste
- 5 pm – 6 pm Print Point
“Is it Always a Crime?": Graeme Macrae Burnet and Michael J Malone
- 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm Rothesay Library
“Northern Stars”: Yrsa Sigurdardottir and Alex Gray
- 9 pm – 10 pm Bute Museum
“A Question of Court”: The Return of the Quiz! Followed by entertainment.

SUNDAY 5th AUGUST

12.45 pm - 1.45 pm Print Point

"Bloody Bute": Myra Duffy, Alanna Knight and Michael J Malone

2.15 pm - 3.45 pm Print Point

"Writer's Workshop" with Alexandra Sokoloff

2.30 pm - 3.30 pm Rothesay Library

"Hold the Front Page": Anna Smith and Craig Robertson

4 pm - 5 pm Bute Museum

"Watching the Detectives": Denzil Meyrick, James Oswald and Alex Gray

5.30 pm - 6.30 pm Bute Museum

"The Last Stand": Alex Gray, Anna Smith, Luca Veste and whoever else is left standing will be questioned by Craig Robertson and a special mystery interviewer.

The Brookmyre Cup

Rothesay Putting Green will once again host the 'Usual Suspects' on Saturday morning from 10.45am as they compete for the Brookmyre Cup. Pop along and cheer on your favourite.

Noir At The Bar

Round off Friday night by joining several authors in The Black Bull Inn from 10.15pm for an open mic event! This event is free but ticketed as spaces are limited. Tickets can be collected from Print Point.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Live Argyll, For Bute and Bute Island Foods**, who have very generously donated funding towards this years event. Special thanks also to **Caledonian MacBrayne** for sponsoring our authors ferry travel.




FOR BUTE
Scottish charitable incorporated organization
No 044153



A registered charity staffed entirely by volunteers
100% of our profits go to good causes on Bute
(£160,000 to support island activities since 2013)

Stop in and see us:
For Bute Community Thrift Store
69 Victoria Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute
Mon-Sat 10am-4pm







With over 20 years of experience, we are one of the UK's leading manufacturers and suppliers of Vegan and Dairy Free cheese products. We have grown a significant amount since our humble beginnings, and thanks to our brand new state-of-the-art facility, we are able to satisfy the huge demand in the growing Vegan cheese market for those who want excellent tastes, without the dairy!

So whether you are a distributor or retailer looking to stock our Dairy Free cheese or you are a consumer wanting delicious and authentic tasting Vegan cheese products...

You can now Smile & Say "Sheese"!

www.buteisland.com



PRIME SUSPECTS



Yrsa Sigurdardottir



Chris Brookmyre



Alex Gray



Craig Robertson



Graeme Macrae Burnet



Myra Duffy



Helen FitzGerald



Mari Hannah



Sarah Hilary



Alanna Knight MBE



Michael J. Malone



Denzil Meyrick



Abir Mukherjee



James Oswald



Anna Smith



Alexandra Sokoloff



Luca Veste

Accused of writing top class crime fiction

BUTE NOIR

3rd – 5th August, 2018



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FOR BUTE

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