



# BUTE NOIR



**Friday, 5th - Sunday, 7th August, 2022**

Val McDermid  
Stuart MacBride  
Kia Abdullah  
Fiona Cummins  
Helen FitzGerald  
Ambrose Parry  
Alan Parks  
CJ Tudor  
Tariq Ashkanani  
Tony Kent  
Mark Edwards

Mark Billingham  
Denise Mina  
Helen Fields  
Alex Gray  
Susi Holliday  
Stuart Neville  
Craig Robertson  
Myra Duffy  
Charles E. McGarry  
Douglas Skelton  
The Fun Lovin' Crime Writers

Chris Brookmyre  
Clare Mackintosh  
Michael Bennett  
Johana Gustawsson  
Doug Johnstone  
Alex Knight  
Alex North  
Alexandra Sokoloff  
Luca Veste  
MW Craven

Tickets for all events are priced at £5.00 each\* and are available, along with a programme of events, from Print Point - Tel: 01700 503389

\* "Would You Lie To Me?" and "Myra Duffy's Bus Tour" £8.00  
"Fun Lovin' Crime Writers" £10.00



# INTRODUCTION

It's been three long years since the last Bute Noir and we've missed you. With the worst of the pandemic now thankfully behind us, we can once again welcome some of the world's best crime writers to Bute.

We believe we've got a fantastic line-up of international bestselling authors for you this year. There are some familiar faces – the likes of Mark Billingham, Denise Mina, Alex Gray, Stuart MacBride and Chris Brookmyre – but also a host of writers who haven't made the trip to Bute before. We are delighted to have the Queen of Crime, Val McDermid, appear at the festival for the first time. Other newcomers include bestsellers Alex North, Alan Parks, CJ Tudor, Helen Fields and Mark Edwards, as well as international visitors Johana Gustawsson and Michael Bennett.

As if that wasn't enough, we're also incredibly excited to bring you the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers – Val McDermid, Mark Billingham, Chris Brookmyre, Doug Johnstone, Luca Veste and Stuart Neville – who will rock Trinity Church in a not-to-be-missed gig on the Friday night.

We'd like to thank our venues for 2022 – Trinity Church, Bute Museum, Rothesay Library and the Isle of Bute Discovery Theatre. Also thanks to Print Point for once again being our ticket hub and supplier of all our books. We're also grateful for the support of our sponsors without whom the festival simply couldn't take place.

Bute Noir 2022 seems to have been a long time in the making but we've no doubt it will have been worth it. We can't wait to share it with you.

*Craig, Karen, Anne & Patricia*

# 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.

<https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/printpoint>



## Rothsay Library

Located within the Moat Centre, Stuart Street, Rothsay 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](http://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 a 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](http://www.butemuseum.org.uk)

## Isle of Bute Discovery Theatre

The Isle of Bute Discovery Theatre is housed within Rothsay's famous 1924 Winter Gardens on the promenade, employs nine people during the height of the season and was refurbished to digital with new seats and cup holders being added in 2015. The cinema is a wonderful addition to our festival, maintaining the close intimate atmosphere that we love and only a stone's throw from our other three venues.

<http://discoverycentrecinema.blogspot.com/>

## Trinity Church

Trinity Church, built in the plain Gothic style, has been a place of worship since 1845 to the present day. Weekly services are held at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Situated in the heart of Rothsay, its central location also makes it an ideal venue for community events, including the Annual Horticultural Show. It can seat up to 700 and because of its excellent acoustics, regularly hosts concerts, including events organised by Bute Arts Society.

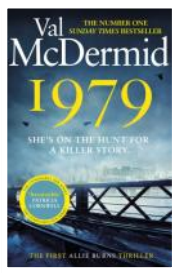
[www.rothesaytrinity.org](http://www.rothesaytrinity.org)

## Val McDermid



**Val McDermid** is the Queen of Crime and one of the world's leading authors. She has sold over 17 million books globally and has

been translated into over 40 languages. Her memorable creations include Carol Jordan and Tony Hill, Lindsay Gordon, Kate Brannigan, and Karen Pirie who is to feature in a new ITV drama series of the same name. Her latest protagonist, journalist Allie Burns, returns this year in the outstanding *1989*. Val is lead vocalist with the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers.

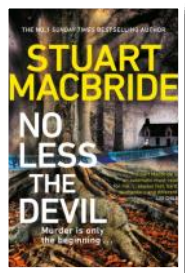


## Stuart MacBride



**Stuart MacBride** is the Number One bestselling author of the Logan McRae and Ash Henderson series

that have seen him firmly established as one of the UK's most popular crime writers. He has made Aberdeen his own on the crime map of Scotland, endearing the city and its people to a legion of fans since the publication of his aptly-titled debut *Cold Granite*. His novel *The Coffin Maker's Garden* featured scenes set on Bute and his latest, *No Less the Devil* has Logan on the trail of a killer named Bloodsmith.

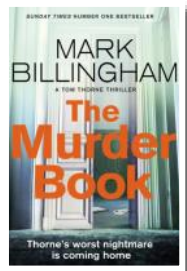


## Mark Billingham



**Mark Billingham** is the number one bestselling and award-winning author behind the Tom Thorne series and a

succession of superb standalones. The eighteenth in the Thorne series, *The Murder Book*, is released this summer and is Billingham at his brilliant best. Hunting the woman responsible for a series of grisly murders, Thorne has no way of knowing that he will be plunged into a nightmare from which he may never wake. His past has caught up with him and a ruinous secret is about to be revealed. Mark plays guitar and sings vocals for the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers.

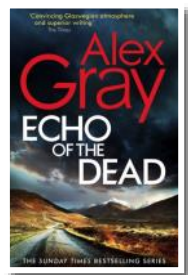


## Alex Gray



**Alex Gray** is celebrating 20 years since the publication of the first book in her much-loved and bestselling Lorimer series.

The latest, *Echo of the Dead*, is the nineteenth novel featuring now DSI William Lorimer and sees him far from his home patch of Glasgow and on the case when two bodies are found on the ruggedly beautiful slopes of Buachaille Etive Mòr near Glencoe. With a potential serial killer on the loose, Lorimer's Major Incidents Team is drafted in from the city.



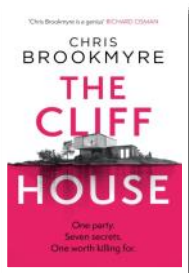


## Chris Brookmyre



**Chris Brookmyre** is one of Scotland's finest writers and the author of 24 novels, the latest being *The Cliff House*. A luxury

hen party sees one of the guests disappear and among seven terrible secrets, one is worth killing for. Chris has been shortlisted four times for the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award, winning it in 2017 for *Black Widow* which also won the McIlvanney Prize. He is a member of the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers.



## Helen Fields



**Helen Fields** is the bestselling author of ten novels including six in her highly popular 'Perfect' series that includes *Perfect*

*Kill* and *Perfect Remains*. Helen is a former criminal and family law barrister, practicing as both a prosecutor and defence counsel. She has brought those years of experience to bear on the courtroom crime novel *Degrees of Guilt*, writing as HS Chandler. Her latest book, *One For Sorrow*, is set in Edinburgh and sees a lone bomber targeting victims across the city.



## Mark Edwards



**Mark Edwards** is the multi-million selling author of psychological thrillers about ordinary people trapped in

terrifying circumstances. His terrific number one bestsellers include *The Magpies*, *The Hollows*, and *The House Guest*. Always suspenseful, always surprising, his books have earned an army of fans. His latest, *No Place to Run*, is set in Northern California. Fifteen-year-old Scarlett has been missing for two years and when a woman sees a teenage girl running for her life across a forest clearing, she's convinced it's her.

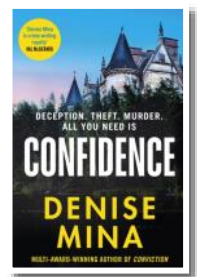


## Denise Mina



**Denise Mina** is one of the most original voices in fiction and described by Ian Rankin as the most exciting crime writer to

have emerged in Britain for years. She is the author of eighteen hugely successful and critically acclaimed crime novels, the latest being *Confidence*. She has twice won the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year and *The Long Drop*, her fictionalised tale of a meeting between mass murderer Peter Manuel and the father of the family he has slaughtered, won the McIlvanney Prize.

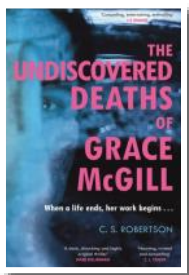


## Craig Robertson



**Craig Robertson** is the author of ten novels, most set on the mean streets of contemporary Glasgow. He's an

international bestseller and his most recent book, *The Undiscovered Deaths of Grace McGill*, is about a trauma cleaner who wants to know more about the life story of a forgotten man. He has been longlisted and shortlisted twice for CWA Daggers, twice longlisted for the Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year, and three times longlisted and shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize, but hasn't won any yet. He's okay with that. Sort of.



## Myra Duffy



**Myra Duffy** is best known for her series of crime novels set on the Isle of Bute. She divides her time between Glasgow and

Bute and has family connections to the island stretching back several generations. Her novels include *The House at Ettrick Bay*, *Last Ferry to Bute*, *Last Dance at Rothesay Pavilion*, and *The Brydeshill Affair*. *Dark Deeds at Bute Noir* is based on our very own festival. Her latest book, *Foul Play at the High Kirk* is available now.



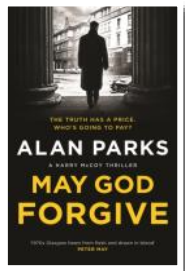


## Alan Parks



**Alan Parks** worked in the music industry for over twenty years before turning his hand to crime writing with the

exceptional *Bloody January*, the first of five novels featuring Detective Harry McCoy. Set in the underbelly of rundown Glasgow of the 1970s, the series throbs with atmosphere and authenticity. Alan's fourth book, *The April Dead*, was shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize. In his fifth, *May God Forgive*, McCoy has 24 hours to find two kidnapped boys before they turn up dead

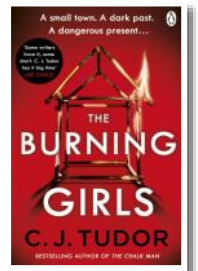


## CJ Tudor



**CJ Tudor** made an astonishing start to her writing career with the wonderfully creepy and award-winning novel

*The Chalk Man*, which garnered high praise from none other than Stephen King. The book is being made into a six-part BBC series. She's gone from strength to strength since then and her sixth novel is the darkly suspenseful *The Burning Girls*. A village haunted by the legend of eight martyrs burned to death, and the secrets and suspicions of the present day.

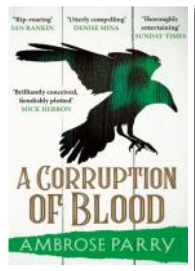


## Ambrose Parry



**Ambrose Parry** is a pseudonym for husband-and-wife team **Chris Brookmyre** and **Marisa Haetzman**.

Chris is the international bestselling author of over 20 novels and Marisa is a consultant anaesthetist of 20 years' experience. Her research for her master's degree in the History of Medicine uncovered the material upon which their novels are based, and she is the brains of the outfit. Set in the medical world of Edinburgh in the 1840's, *The Way of All Flesh*, *The Art of Dying* and *A Corruption of Blood* have been hailed as Gothic masterpieces.

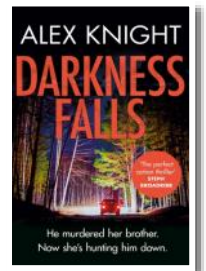


## Alex Knight



**Alex Knight** is the author of two pacy American-set thrillers *Hunted* and *Darkness Falls*. In his latest, a woman pulls into

a 24-hour roadside diner and from the next booth hears the unmistakable voice of the man who murdered her brother two decades before, and then disappeared without a trace. Writing also as Mason Cross, he is the author of the outstanding Carter Blake series that includes *The Killing Season*, *The Samaritan*, *The Time to Kill*, *Don't Look For Me* and *Presumed Dead*.



## Helen FitzGerald



**Helen FitzGerald** consistently produces engrossing and original work. A former screenwriter, she

was born and raised in Australia but has lived in Glasgow for many years. Her compelling novel, *The Cry*, about a couple at the centre of a media storm after their baby son goes missing, was adapted into a BBC drama in 2018 starring Ewen Leslie and Jenna Colman. Helen's latest book, *Keep Her Sweet*, is the story of two sisters whose arguing goes way beyond sibling rivalry and is a murder waiting to happen.

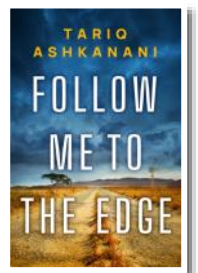


## Tariq Ashkanani



**Tariq Ashkanani** is a solicitor based in Edinburgh and a dynamic new addition to Scotland's crime writing roster.

His assured US-set debut *Welcome to Cooper* is an explosive thriller about bad choices and dark crimes in smalltown Nebraska. He has returned to the backwater of Cooper with the exhilarating *Follow Me to the Edge* which begins in powerful style with the multiple murder of an entire family, brutally bludgeoned to death in their beds, and a detective facing up to ghosts from his past.



## Susi Holliday



**Susi Holliday** is the author of eight exceptional and diverse crime novels. Her career began with three police procedurals set in

her native East Lothian featuring Sergeant Davie Gray. Since then, she has flirted with science fiction, the supernatural, Gothic horror, and psychological thrillers, all while staying in the crime genre. Her stunning 2019 novel *Violet* about two mismatched strangers travelling together on the Trans-Siberian Express is being made into a movie and production begins this October.



## Doug Johnstone



**Doug Johnstone** is the author of the critically acclaimed Skelf series of crime novels set in Edinburgh. A

*Dark Matter*, *The Big Chill* and *The Great Silence* tell of three generations of women, a family of funeral directors and private investigators. Doug has written 13 novels, including bestselling standalones such as *Gone Again*, *Hit & Run*, and *The Jump*, which was shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize for Best Scottish Crime Novel of the Year. Doug is the drummer for the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers, co-founder of the Scotland Writers Football Club, and has a PhD in nuclear physics.



## Johana Gustawsson



**Johana Gustawsson** is a French author, born and raised in Marseilles, who spent many years in London but is now living

in Sweden with her husband and children. She leapt to the reading public's attention with her harrowing debut *Block 46* set among the horrors of Buchenwald concentration camp. Her compelling new novel, *The Bleeding*, is set across three generations in her native France, beginning in La Belle Époque of 1899 Paris and leading to a brutal murder in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Quebec.

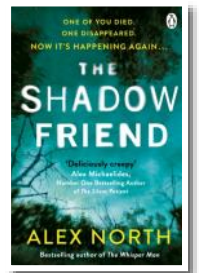


## Alex North



**Alex North** had a huge and wholly deserved hit with his terrifying first release *The Whisper Man*. A Sunday Times

and New York Times bestseller. This runaway international hit, being published in more than thirty languages, rocketed him to the forefront of the spinechilling end of the crime genre. He followed it up with the equally unsettling thriller *The Shadow Friend* in which a copycat killer brings home the small-town horrors of a terrible day 25 years earlier and desperate efforts to stop it happening again.

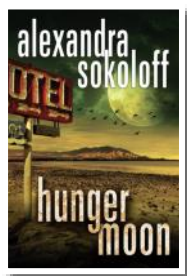


## Alexandra Sokoloff



**Alexandra Sokoloff** worked for ten years as a Hollywood screenwriter. The New York Times called her “a daughter of Mary

Shelley” and her books “some of the most original and freshly unnerving work in the genre”. Her award-winning *Huntress Moon* series 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. Alex splits her time between L.A and Scotland with her husband and fellow crime writer Craig Robertson.



## Luca Veste



**Luca Veste** came to the attention of crime fans with his outstanding Murphy and Rossi series, part psychological

thriller, part procedural, set in his native Liverpool. His latest novel *You Never Said Goodbye* is out now. Sam Cooper is haunted by his mother dying when he was a child. When Sam’s father makes a deathbed confession, everything he believed is turned upside down, leading to a headlong dash to the USA to unearth the truth. Luca is also the bass player for the Fun Lovin’ Crime Writers and a world-leading Britney Spears tribute act.



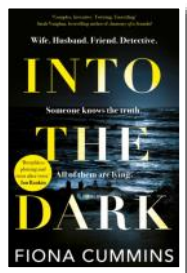


## Fiona Cummins



**Fiona Cummins** is a former showbusiness journalist who exploded onto the crime scene with her outstanding debut novel

*Rattle*, a harrowing and polished serial killer thriller. She has now written five bestselling crime novels, three of which have been optioned for television. Her latest, *Into the Dark*, is a gripping revenge thriller in which a family disappears without trace and the only clue is a message scrawled in blood on the mirror in the 15-year-old daughter's bedroom.

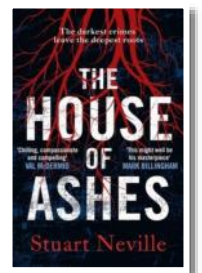


## Stuart Neville



**Stuart Neville** is one of the most talented writers in the business today. He stormed to international success with his

debut novel *The Twelve* set in his native Northern Ireland (published in the USA as *The Ghosts of Belfast*). His new novel, *The House of Ashes*, is a Gothic masterpiece. Six decades of secrets and sins are unleashed in a house that went up in flames, bringing a terrifying new reality. Stuart is an accomplished guitarist and a member of the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers.



## Michael Bennett



**Michael Bennett** is an award-winning Māori screenwriter, director and author. His first book, a non-

fiction novel telling the true story of New Zealand's worst miscarriage of justice, *In Dark Places*, won Best Non-Fiction Book at the 2017 Ngaio Marsh Awards. His blistering fiction debut *Better the Blood* tells the story of tenacious Māori police detective Hana Westerman who is pulled into the search for Auckland's first serial killer. The book is currently in development for a six-part television series.



## Kia Abdullah

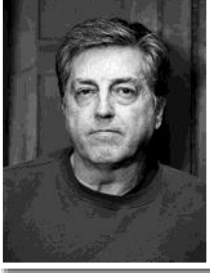


**Kia Abdullah** is a novelist and travel writer from London who is fast making a name for herself as a standout author of

psychological thrillers. Her novels include *Take It Back*, a Guardian and Telegraph thriller of the year; *Truth Be Told*, which was shortlisted for a Diverse Book Award; and *Next of Kin*, a Times Book of the Month and long-listee for the CWA Gold Dagger. The riveting *Next of Kin* features a high-profile trial that will tear a family apart.



## Douglas Skelton



**Douglas Skelton** is the author of eleven novels and a number of true crime books. He broke through with four

acclaimed books in his gritty Glasgow-based Davie McCall series about an underworld henchman with a moral code. Douglas has found his stride, and a new army of fans, with his highland-set series featuring reporter Rebecca Connolly. *Where Demons Hide*, the fourth Connolly book, sees a young woman's body found at the centre of a pentagram on a lonely moor.

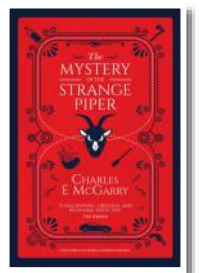


## Charles E. McGarry



**Charles E. McGarry** is a Scottish novelist and journalist. He is the author of three murder mysteries in the series featuring

psychic detective Leo Moran. His debut, *The Ghost of Helen Addison*, sees Moran called to rural Argyll after the ritualistic murder of a young woman. The third in the series, *The Mystery of the Strange Piper*, is set on the beautiful but fictional west coast Scottish island of Sonna. Charles openly admits Sonna is a carbon copy of Bute where he has relatives.

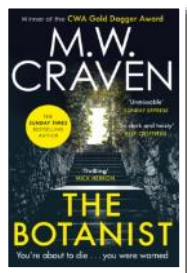


## MW Craven



**MW Craven** is the creator of the acclaimed Washington Poe series. The first in the series, *The Puppet Show*, introduced us to

DS Poe and the brilliant analyst Tilly Bradshaw. The book won the highly prestigious CWA Gold Dagger, has been translated into 25 languages, and has rocketed Mike into the top league. The nerve-shredding new Poe novel, *The Botanist*, sees him on the case of a poisoner targeting celebrities and killing with seeming impunity despite giving them advance warning by bombarding them with poems and pressed flowers.

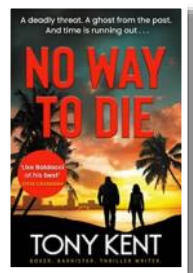


## Tony Kent



**Tony Kent** is a barrister, a former heavyweight boxer, and a superb thriller writer. He is the author of four

explosive novels and surged to prominence with his action-packed debut *Killer Intent*. His day job still sees him representing clients at the Old Bailey but his nights are spent crafting bestselling crime novels. His latest is the pulsating *No Way to Die*, set in Key West and features Agent Joe Dempsey facing up to an old enemy and a race against time to prevent horror being unleashed across the USA.

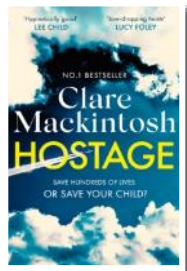


## Clare Mackintosh



**Clare Mackintosh** is a former police officer turned international bestselling author. Her exceptional

novels have been published in more than 35 languages and sold over two million copies. Her breathtakingly twisty debut *I Let You Go* won the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year. Her following novels, *I See You* and *Let Me Lie* were both Sunday Times number one bestsellers. Her new novel, *The Last Party* sees an entire Welsh village invited to a New Year's Eve celebration – only for the wealthy host to be found murdered by midnight.



## The Fun Lovin' Crime Writers



**The Fun Lovin' Crime Writers** are the world's greatest crime fiction superband. They have been murdering songs for fun since a memorable debut gig at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2017. The line-up is Val McDermid (vocals), Mark Billingham (guitar/vocals), Chris Brookmyre (guitar/vocals), Stuart Neville (guitar/vocals), Luca Veste (bass), and Doug Johnstone (drums/vocals). They've fought the law; they've watched the detectives; and they've been down in the tube station at midnight. They've played Glasgow, Belfast, Reykjavik, London, Toronto and Glastonbury (yes, Glastonbury) and now they're about to rock in Rothesay.

# SPONSORS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to For Bute, Live Argyll, Bute Island Foods, Careplus, Ian Rankin, Bute BID, and Martha Shaw, who have very generously supported and donated towards this year's event.



SC044153



## 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 Rothesay Bay, Isle of Bute throughout our programme and posters. Copies of his photographic books of Bute and its wildlife are available to purchase at Print Point.



## The Brookmyre Cup

Rothsay Putting Green will once again host the “Usual Suspects” on Saturday morning from 11.00 a.m as they compete for the Brookmyre Cup. Pop along and cheer on your favourite.

## The Bute Noir Bus Tour

Discover the hidden stories of the people and the places of the Isle of Bute on this special one-off bus tour with Myra Duffy.

Find out why author Myra Duffy sets her crime novels on the island and see some of the locations she uses. Myra will also be pointing out locations used by Craig Robertson and Stuart MacBride.

You may even be lucky enough to see the seals basking on the rocks!

Places are limited so book early.

The 2 hour bus tour will start at Guildford Square on Sunday 7th August at 10.15a.m.



## **FRIDAY 5th AUGUST**

1. 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm **Trinity Church**  
MW Craven & Douglas Skelton
2. 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm **Trinity Church**  
Mark Billingham & Denise Mina
3. 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm **Bute Museum**  
“Sinister Sisters”  
Kia Abdullah & Helen FitzGerald
4. 9.00 pm - 11.00 pm **Trinity Church**  
“The Fun Lovin’ Crime Writers”

## **SATURDAY 6th AUGUST**

5. 10.30 am – 11.30 am **Trinity Church**  
“Historical Crime”  
Ambrose Parry & Johana Gustawsson
6. 12.00 noon – 1.00 pm **Trinity Church**  
“Burning Issues”  
CJ Tudor, Alex North & Stuart Neville
7. 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm **Trinity Church Hall**  
Chris Brookmyre & Doug Johnstone
8. 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm **Trinity Church**  
“Glasgow Then and Now”  
Alan Parks & Craig Robertson
9. 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm **Bute Museum**  
“Made on Bute”  
Myra Duffy & Charles E. McGarry
10. 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm **Rothesay Library**  
“Legal Eagles”  
Helen Fields & Tony Kent
11. 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm **Rothesay Library**  
“Psycho Thrillers”  
Fiona Cummins, Susi Holliday & Luca Veste
12. 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm **Trinity Church**  
Val McDermid
13. 9.00 pm - 10.00 pm **Trinity Church Hall**  
“Would You Lie To Me?”

## SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

14. 10.15 am- 12.15 pm      **Island Bus Tour**  
Join Myra Duffy on this round-Bute bus tour, taking in some of the island's beautiful locations used in her Isle of Bute Mystery Series of books
15. 11.00 am – 12.00 noon      **Isle of Bute Discovery Theatre**  
**“All American”**  
Mark Edwards, Alex Knight and Tariq Ashkanani
16. 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm      **Isle of Bute Discovery Theatre**  
**“Screen Test”**  
Michael Bennett, Helen FitzGerald and Alexandra Sokoloff
17. 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm      **Trinity Church**  
**“Top Cops”**  
Clare Mackintosh and Alex Gray
18. 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm      **Trinity Church**  
**“Room 101”**
19. 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm      **Trinity Church**  
Stuart MacBride

Tickets for all events featured in this programme are priced at £5 per event, with the exception of *“Would You Lie To Me?”* and *“Myra Duffy’s Bus Tour”* which are priced at £8 and *“Fun Lovin’ Crime Writers”* which is priced at £10.

All tickets are available in-store from Print Point or by telephone on 01700 503389



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