

10

word

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Word – University of Aberdeen Writers Festival

Office of External Affairs, University of Aberdeen, King's College, Aberdeen AB24 3FX

word@abdn.ac.uk | +44 (0) 1224 273874 | www.abdn.ac.uk/word



Welcome to the 2010 Word Festival.

This is the tenth Word Festival making it one of the longest running writers festivals in Scotland. More important, however, is the reputation that Word has earned as one of Scotland's most vibrant literary events. The Festival makes a unique and important contribution to the cultural landscape of the North. Like the University itself, Word is true to its Scottish roots but international in its outlook. Last year, over 11,000 people of all ages attended the Festival, many of whom were children. We look forward to many more joining us again this year for this wonderful celebration of the written and spoken word.

Professor Ian Diamond
Principal and Vice-chancellor

It's hard to believe that this is the 10th Word Festival – a matter for celebration!

There are some really exciting developments this year – notably our partnership with Scottish Opera to premiere their new season of Five:15 – five new short operas written and created in Scotland. In addition to the usual heady mix of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, we have fantastic one-woman shows, a Canongate club night and exhibitions, a whole range of discussions, book launches and debates.

The science strand continues to grow and delight, the Gaelic festival is stronger than ever, and the Marathon Schools' and Children's Festivals are the most colourful yet.

The programme also includes special tributes to two individuals who have played significant roles in Word's first nine Festivals – supreme poet and Word patron Edwin Morgan, celebrating his 90th year, and the late, great North-east storyteller Stanley Robertson, honoured in story and song.

Featuring writers from England, Ireland, and Wales, Italy, Poland and Spain, Australia, Guatemala and Sierra Leone, alongside up-coming and well-known Scottish talent, there is something here for everyone – guaranteed!

We are delighted and grateful to have our many public and private partners on-board once again, including joint title sponsors Talisman Energy and Wood Group, whose vital support allows us to keep our ticket prices low, and many events FREE!

So, whatever your age, or your interests, check out the programme, and ENJOY!

Alan Spence Artistic Director

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everything you need for a

Booking Festival Tickets

Tickets for the Word Festival will be available from 29 March.

Book Online

www.abdn.ac.uk/word/programme

Online bookings will close at 5pm Wednesday 12 May

Book by telephone or in person

Aberdeen Box Office **+44 (0) 1224 641122**

Aberdeen Music Hall, Union St, Aberdeen

9.30am – 6pm Monday – Saturday.

From 9.30am Monday 29 March – 12 noon Thursday 13 May.

Please note: If picking up tickets from Aberdeen Box Office, they must be collected by **12 noon, Thursday 13 May**; otherwise they will be available for collection at the Word Festival Box Office from Friday 14 May at 10am.

During the Festival (14 – 16 May)

Tickets can be obtained in person from the Word Festival Box Office, King's College Centre, Aberdeen. The Box Office will be open daily from 10am – 6pm.

Tickets to most Word Festival events cost £5 with a £3 concession (students, over 60s, under 16s, registered unemployed and disabled visitors). Some events are free of charge but we recommend that you book in advance to guarantee your place at the event.

All children's and schools' events are free of charge.

Please note:

Unless otherwise stated, events last one hour. Latecomers will not be admitted after the start of events, unless there is a suitable break in the performance.

Please do not book back to back events, as it is unlikely you will get to the second event in time.

All children must be accompanied by an adult at the Festival.

Audio recorders, cameras, and mobile phones may not be used in the performance venues.

Word Festival visitors may be filmed or photographed for archive purposes and future promotion of the Festival.

All details are correct at the time of going to print. The Word Festival reserves the right to change events due to unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be posted on the Word website: www.abdn.ac.uk/word and sign-posted on the day at the Word Festival Box Office. In the event of a cancellation, tickets will be refunded, otherwise tickets will not be accepted for refund or resale.

staying at word

Word is proud to be sponsored by the award winning **Malmaison Hotel** in Aberdeen. You'll be wowed by its suites, cosy whisky snug and a brasserie serving up the tastiest food the region has to offer. In need of some down time? Indulge your senses and relax in the tranquil Le Petit Spa, you won't want to leave!

Malmaison is offering great rates to festival goers from 14 – 16 May; **Standard rooms from £105, Superiors from £120 and Suites from £159**. These rates include breakfast and are per room per night. For more information and to book, contact Malmaison on **01224 327370** or email reservations.aberdeen@malmaison.com

The Douglas Hotel on Aberdeen's Market Street are also offering fantastic rates to Word visitors, please call **01224 582 255** for details.

ScotRail has a number of leisure tickets to suit those travelling to the Word Festival. For those travelling from further afield we have great value fares available for small groups of three or four people travelling together. Customers travelling from Glasgow/Edinburgh to Aberdeen cost per person £10.55 and from Inverness to Aberdeen costs £7.95 (Based on 4 people travelling). To book call **08457 55 00 33** or log onto www.scotrail.co.uk

ScotRail is proud to be the Official Public Transport Provider to the Word Festival.

As the main rail provider in Scotland, ScotRail operates 95% of rail services across the country as well as the Caledonian Sleeper service between Scotland and London.

- We have a range of fares designed to meet the requirements of commuter, business and leisure travellers; including Flexipasses, Season Tickets, group travel discounts, ten days out and children travelling for free off-peak all week and all day at weekends with our Kids Go Free ticket.

For more information on timetables and tickets, and to read about ongoing investments in improving the overall journey experience for customers, visit: www.scotrail.co.uk

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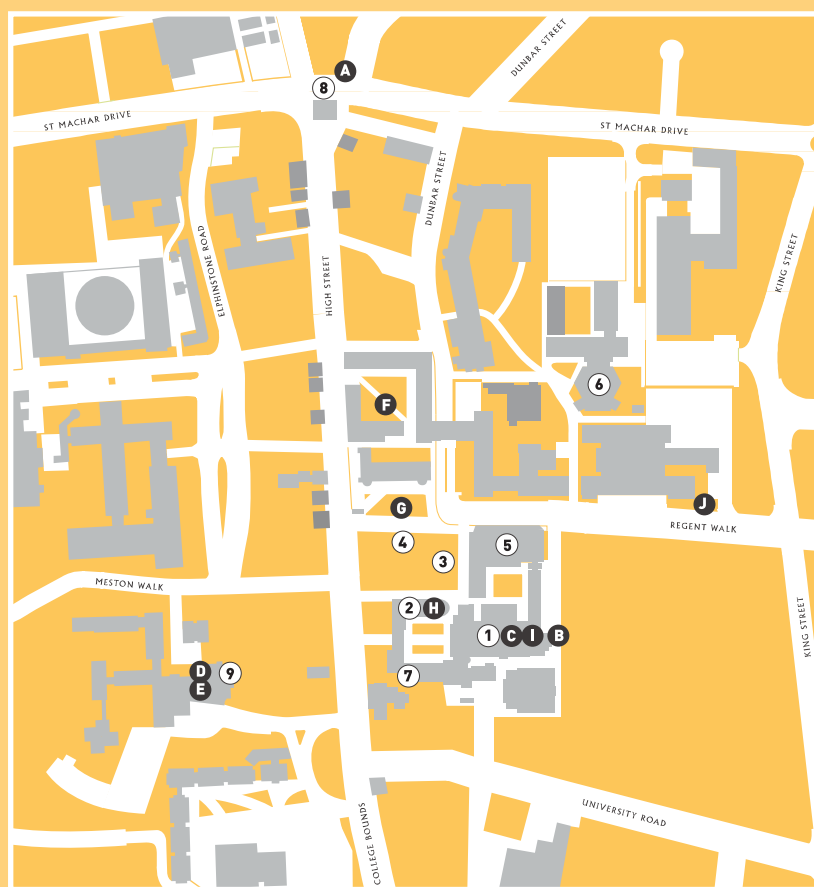
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word perfect weekend



FESTIVAL VENUES

- 1 Box Office
King's College Centre
City of Aberdeen Room
Multimedia Room
Refreshment Stand
- 2 King's College Chapel
- 3 Festival Theatre
- 4 Word Festival Bookshop and Snack Bar
- 5 Elphinstone Hall & Linklater Rooms
- 6 Arts Lecture Theatre
- 7 Storytelling Theatre & Imagination Corner
- 8 Old Town House
- 9 Word Festival Restaurant & Café at Zeste

EXHIBITIONS CAMPUS

- A Lady of the Lake
- B Morning Glory – Elizabeth Blackadder
- C Haiku Jewellery – Sheana Stephen
- D A Word Retrospective
- E 50 Words on Science

ART ON CAMPUS

- F 'Case' by Steve Dilworth (2007)
- G 'Youth with Split Apple' by Kenny Hunter (2005)
- H 'Exposed Painting (Dioxin Violet)' by Callum Innes (2007)
- I 'Ellesmere Island' by James Morrison
- J 'Abadi', 'Centaur' and 'Playbill' by Fiona Banner (2003)

Parking at King's College is limited. We encourage you to use public transport.

Some useful bus services from Aberdeen City Centre to the University of Aberdeen include:

First Bus: **20, 1, 2, 13, 14, 19, 40** Stagecoach: **260, 263, 267, 268, X50, 290**

King's College Centre is located at the University of Aberdeen, King's College Campus, Aberdeen, AB24 3FX.

Please phone **01224 273874** or visit www.abdn.ac.uk/word for more information about how to get here.

eating and drinking

Word Festival Restaurant and Café at Zeste

Open 10am until late, Friday – Sunday

Situated just off the High Street through the fairytale gates and nestled among the trees, Zeste is a bright and spacious Café and Restaurant where you can relax and revitalise between events. Enjoy a Fairtrade coffee or tea in the Café with friends or a good book, a healthy or hearty lunch in the Restaurant, or wind down in the evening with a glass of wine and live music – Zeste is the main Festival Restaurant and Café throughout the weekend.

Word Bookshop and Snack Bar

Open 10am until late, Friday – Sunday

Waterstone's bookshop will be situated in a lovely marquee on King's Lawn and will feature book signings throughout the Word weekend. You can also grab a quick cappuccino, snack or cake 'to go' between events at our Snack Bar.

Refreshments will also be available to purchase in King's College Centre.

musical interludes

Don't miss out on some superb music performances from Friday to Sunday at 1.30pm and 5pm in the Word Restaurant at Zeste.



word at a glance

Friday 14 May

- 11am **First Word: William McIlvanney, Bernard MacLavery & Alan Spence**
King's College Centre
- 12 noon **Jack Webster**
Festival Marquee
- 12.30pm **The Scott Collection**
Linklater Rooms
- 1pm **Richard Holloway**
King's College Centre
- 2pm **Morning Glory: Alan Spence & Elizabeth Blackadder**
Festival Marquee
- 2.30pm **Burns & Scott: Robert Crawford & Stuart Kelly**
King's College Centre
- 3pm **Not Exactly...: Kees van Deemter**
Multimedia Room
- 3.30pm **Reduced Classics: Much Ado About Not Very Much**
Festival Marquee
- 4pm **Simon Singh**
Arts Lecture Theatre
- 4pm **Ion Engine**
EM@90: The Poetry of Edwin Morgan
Linklater Rooms
- 5pm **Spanish Writing: Lucia Etxebarria**
Multimedia Room
- 5pm **Linklater Lecture: Alan Riach on Edwin Morgan**
King's College Centre
- 5.30pm **Janice Galloway**
Festival Marquee
- 6.30pm **Simon King**
Arts Lecture Theatre
- 7pm **The World's Wife: Linda Marlowe**
The Lemon Tree Studio
- 9pm **Canongate Irregular Club Night**
The Lemon Tree Lounge

Saturday 15 May

- 10am **A Tribute to Stanley Robertson**
King's College Centre
- 11am **In the Angle: Lemon Tree Writers**
Multimedia Room
- 11.30am **Martin Bell**
Arts Lecture Theatre
- 12 noon **David Toulmin Short Story Competition Award Ceremony**
Multimedia Room
- 1pm **E=mc²: Jeff Forshaw**
King's College Centre
- 2pm **First Impressions: University of Aberdeen Creative Writing Society**
Multimedia Room
- 2pm **Pauline McLynn**
King's College Centre
- 2.30pm **Anne Lorne Gillies**
Festival Marquee
- 3.30pm **Aminatta Forna**
MedChi Hall
- 3.30pm **Philip Kerr**
King's College Centre

- 4pm **Beyond Noir: Zoe Strachan & Louise Welsh**
Buchanan's, Woodend Barn, Banchory
- 4pm **Alan Taylor: Salinger in Scotland**
Festival Marquee
- 4pm **Ion Engine**
Poetry by Robin Robertson & Hugo Williams
Linklater Rooms
- 5pm **Fionnlagh MacLeòid / Finlay MacLeod Book Launch**
Festival Marquee
- 5pm **Scarlett Thomas**
King's College Centre
- 6.30pm **Benedict Allen**
Arts Lecture Theatre
- 7.30pm **Scottish Opera Five:15 Première**
Elphinstone Hall
- 8pm **A Drunk Woman Looks at the Thistle: Karen Dunbar**
The Lemon Tree Lounge
- 8pm **Words & Music: The Weather Journals with Lori Watson and Rule of Three**
Woodend Barn, Banchory

Sunday 16 May

- 10am **Word and Voice: Alessandro Portelli and Hugo Manson**
King's College Centre
- 11am **Humberto Ak'abal & James Robertson**
Multimedia Room
- 11.30am **Denise Mina**
King's College Centre
- 12 noon **Pushing Out the Boat**
Multimedia Room
- 12.30pm **Ion Engine: Medbh McGuckian & Colette Bryce**
Festival Marquee
- 1pm **Allan Massie in conversation with Alan Taylor**
King's College Centre
- 2pm **New Voices**
Multimedia Room
- 3pm **Scottish Opera Five:15**
Elphinstone Hall
- 3pm **Polish Writing: Stefan Chwin**
King's College Centre
- 3.30pm **Fat Matters: Behind the Female Body**
Festival Marquee
- 4pm **Ion Engine: Poetry by Ron Butlin, Stewart Conn & Brian McCabe**
Linklater Rooms
- 4.30pm **Politics and Power: The Sunday Herald Debate**
King's College Centre
- 4.30pm **Centre Stage: A Man for all Seasons**
The Lemon Tree Studio
- 5pm **Making an Opera**
Festival Marquee
- 6pm **David Peace**
King's College Centre
- 7.30pm **Scottish Opera Five:15**
Elphinstone Hall



friday 14 may

First Word: William McIlvanney, Bernard MacLaverty & Alan Spence

11am | King's College Centre, King's College | FREE

To kick off the 10th Festival celebrations, we reprise the very first Word event with **William McIlvanney**, a champion of gritty yet poetic literature, **Bernard MacLaverty**, novelist and master of the short story and **Alan Spence**, Word Artistic Director and poet and novelist in his own right. His new poetry collection, *Morning Glory*, will be launched at the Festival.

Jack Webster

12 noon | Festival Marquee, King's College | £5 (£3)

Jack Webster, an award-winning journalist from the North-east, has travelled the world interviewing the rich, famous and infamous. He is a prolific writer, with 17 books to his name, as well as a successful play based on the life of Lewis Grassic Gibbon. In this event he will share some of his vast knowledge of the Granite City's fascinating history.

The Scott Collection

12.30pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | FREE

The University of Aberdeen is home to the Walter Scott Research Centre, which has co-ordinated the definitive Edinburgh Edition of the *Waverley Novels*, and is about to embark on a major critical edition of Scott's poetry. In this event, Centre Directors, **David Hewitt** and **Alison Lumsden**, talk about their work and the perennial importance of Scott, with original items from the Bernard C Lloyd Walter Scott Collection, and referring to *The Lady of the Lake* exhibition at the Old Townhouse.

Richard Holloway

1pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

A strong presence on the Scottish cultural scene, **Richard Holloway** is a former Bishop of Edinburgh, Chairman of the Scottish Arts Council, and last year was acting Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival. His own books, including *Beyond Belief*, *Godless Morality*, and *Between the Monster and the Saint*, are philosophical explorations imbued with great warmth and humanity.

Morning Glory: Alan Spence & Elizabeth Blackadder

2pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | FREE

Celebrate the launch of a new poetry collection by Word Artistic Director **Alan Spence**, with illustrations by one of Scotland's leading artists, **Dame Elizabeth Blackadder**. The influence of Japan is apparent in this beautiful book, a mix of haiku and tanka poems enhanced by Elizabeth's exquisite drawings, which are also on display in James McKay Hall over the Festival weekend.

Burns & Scott: Robert Crawford & Stuart Kelly

2.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Just why do Burns and Scott loom so large in Scotland's national consciousness? Poet and academic **Robert Crawford**'s recently published biography of *Burns, The Bard*, won this year's *Saltire Award*. Author and critic **Stuart Kelly**, Literary Editor of *Scotland On Sunday*, has written a new study of Scott and his influence – *Scotland: How a Writer Invented a Nation*. A fascinating discussion on two of Scotland's most influential writers.

Not Exactly... Kees van Deemter

3pm | Multimedia Room, King's College | FREE

How warm is a 'warm day'? Where should we draw the 'poverty line'? Are you the same person as you were yesterday? Most of us would start our response with 'That depends...'. University of Aberdeen academic **Kees van Deemter**, takes us on a journey through logic, linguistics, and artificial intelligence, showing how vagueness is often difficult to avoid, and frequently useful too.

Reduced Classics Much Ado About Not Very Much

3.30pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | FREE

Outwitted by Wilde? Discomfited by Dickens? Shaky about Shakespeare? **The English Language and Literature Society's** comedy literature extravaganza is the event for you! Find out what really happened on Juliet's balcony, what Elizabeth Bennet honestly said to Mr Darcy and how 24 hours actually passed in Dublin in 1904. Five classics recreated before your very eyes in an hour of inspired farce.

Book tickets: Online www.abdn.ac.uk/word/programme
Call Aberdeen Box Office 01224 641122



friday 14 may

Simon Singh

4pm | Arts Lecture Theatre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Sponsored by The British Science Association

Simon Singh is the author of bestselling science books about mathematics, cosmology and cryptography, but he has recently become well known because his most recent book led to him being sued for libel in a notorious ongoing case that has lasted for over two years. Co-authored with Professor Edzard Ernst, *Trick or Treatment?* asked which alternative therapies work and which don't, which are safe and which are dangerous. As well as discussing his previous books, Simon will discuss alternative medicine, his own libel case and the need for reform of the libel laws.

Ion Engine

EM@90: The Poetry of Edwin Morgan

4pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | FREE

Edwin Morgan is a national treasure; our greatest living poet. In this event – organised with the Scottish Poetry Library – we celebrate his 90th year. Writers taking part in Word will each read their favourite Edwin Morgan poem. Participants include **Alan Spence, Ron Butlin, Robert Crawford, Richard Holloway, Janice Galloway** and others.

Spanish Writing: Lucia Etxebarria

5pm | Multimedia Room, King's College | £5 (£3)

Lucia Etxebarria is a colourful, outspoken and often controversial Spanish figure. Her first book was a biography of Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love, and she has won a number of prestigious literary awards for her novels and poetry. She is also a screenwriter, essayist and journalist. She makes a welcome return to Aberdeen where she was writer in residence a decade ago.

Linklater Lecture

Alan Riach on Edwin Morgan

5pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Edwin Morgan, now in his 90th year, is one of Scotland's greatest ever poets with a truly international reputation. **Alan Riach** is Professor in Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow where he is a member of the Edwin Morgan Centre for Creative Writing. He has published many critical studies but is also a poet, and his latest collection, *Homecoming*, is dedicated to Edwin Morgan.

Janice Galloway

5.30pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | £5 (£3)

A welcome return to Word for **Janice Galloway**, who is at the University on a short residency. She is one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary Scottish literature, with an impressive list of award-winning publications to her name, including her memoir, *This is Not About Me*. Her latest book is *Collected Stories*.

Simon King

6.30pm | Arts Lecture Theatre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Sponsored by Macaulay Land Research Institute

Simon King is known to millions for his many programmes on the natural world – including *Big Cat Diary*, *Spring Watch*, *Autumn Watch*, and David Attenborough's *Blue Planet*, as well as numerous appearances on *The One Show*. Celebrating *International Year of Biodiversity*, the acclaimed author and film-maker discusses his new book, *Shetland Diaries*, based on the recent TV series.

The World's Wife: Linda Marlowe

7pm – 8.30pm | The Lemon Tree Studio, West North St | £8 (£6)

In partnership with The Lemon Tree

Linda Marlowe is a renowned West End actress and long-term collaborator with Steven Berkoff. Here she presents her hugely successful one-woman show based on the barbed and hilarious poem sequence by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy.

Canongate Irregular Club Night

9pm – late | The Lemon Tree Lounge, West North St | £5 (£3)

A new departure for Word – a noir-themed late-night session with übercool writers, live band and DJ. Irregular has been a huge success in Edinburgh, and we're thrilled to have it at the Festival. Taking part will be **Louise Welsh, Dan Rhodes** and **Robin Robertson**, with music from the awesome **Black Diamond Express** and DJ Canongate's **Francis Bickmore**.

saturday 15 may

A Tribute to Stanley Robertson

10am – 11.15am | King's College Centre, King's College | FREE

In 2009, Scotland lost a cultural icon in the person of Stanley Robertson. Honoured and respected as a storyteller, ballad singer, writer and playwright, he synthesised history, experience and the culture of Scotland's Travelling people, in spellbinding performances. In this tribute **Sheena Blackhall** and **Ian Russell** from the University's Elphinstone Institute, with members of Stanley's family, celebrate his remarkable achievements.

In the Angle: Lemon Tree Writers

11am | Multimedia Room, King's College | FREE

Lemon Tree Writers present a collection of short pieces reflecting the voices and experiences of the modern North-east, a world of high-tech and history, grey granite and grey sea, red earth and red ships, smeddum and bitter humour.

Martin Bell

11.30am | Arts Lecture Theatre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Sponsored by Baillie Gifford

Former war correspondent and TV journalist turned independent MP, **Martin Bell** (always recognisable as 'the man in the white suit') is still a tireless campaigner for trust in politics. Here he discusses his most recent (and timely) book, *A Very British Revolution: The Expenses Scandal and How to Save Our Democracy*.

David Toulmin Short Story Competition Award Ceremony

12 noon | Multimedia Room, King's College | FREE

The culmination of the annual short story competition run by the Elphinstone Institute, commemorating the work of David Toulmin – arguably one of the North-east's finest exponents of written Doric. The winner of the competition will be announced, and the winning story read by **Sheena Blackhall**.

E=mc²: Jeff Forshaw

1pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Why does E=mc²? What is the Theory of Relativity? And why does it matter to the rest of us? In his new groundbreaking book with Brian Cox, **Jeff Forshaw** tackles the meaning of one of science's most famous equations. In this event, he talks us through the relationships between Einstein's theory and how it relates to the world around us. *Join TechFest-SetPoint at 2.30pm to test your knowledge of these formulae! See page 19 for details about this all-ages event.*

First Impressions: University of Aberdeen Creative Writing Society

2pm | Multimedia Room, King's College | FREE

Founded in the 80s, the **Creative Writing Society** has constantly provided a platform for up-and-coming writers at the University of Aberdeen. They present their newest anthology, *First Impressions*, with an hour of live readings. Society members have a wide variety of influences and styles, and the event will feature a range of prose, poetry and comedy sketches – meaning there is bound to be something for everyone.

Pauline McLynn

2pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Pauline McLynn first started acting while studying history of art, and shot to fame playing Mrs Doyle in *Father Ted*. Most recently she has appeared as Libby in *Shameless*, among numerous other film, stage and television roles. However, her career as an author is just as exciting. She already has seven novels under her belt, including *Missing You Already* and a trilogy about Irish Private Eye Leo Street, and another novel well on its way. A natural comedic talent, Pauline is sure to provide an entertaining account of her work, and maybe even a sneak peek into life on Craggy Island.

For more with Pauline McLynn, see Words on Film below.

Anne Lorne Gillies

2.30pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | £5 (£3)

Anne Lorne Gillies is a world-renowned singer as well as a songwriter, writer, educationalist and political activist. Here she presents an introduction to the treasure-house of Gaelic song, with anecdotes, historic background, and even English surtitles! A beautiful recital from *Songs of Gaelic Scotland*, painting a vivid picture of the lives of the people who composed and sang these beautiful songs – their hopes and fears, jokes and preoccupations.

Words on Film

Angela's Ashes with Pauline McLynn

6 – 8.30pm | Saturday 15 May

Belmont Picturehouse, 4 Belmont Street

A special screening of this beautiful adaptation of Frank McCourt's memoir of life in the slums of pre-war Limerick, with a Q&A from **Pauline McLynn** who played Auntie Aggie in the film.

The Damned United

1.30 – 3.30pm | Sunday 16 May

Belmont Picturehouse, 4 Belmont Street

The film adaptation of **David Peace's** bestselling novel *The Damned Utd*, a largely fictional book based on the author's interpretation of Brian Clough's tenure as manager of Leeds United.

Tickets for Belmont Screenings: **0871 704 2051** or www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Belmont_Picturehouse

F*CK

7 – 9pm | Tuesday 18 May

Peacock Visual Arts, 21 Castle Street

An entertaining and provocative look at how everyone's favourite F-word is now a staple part of Western culture. Director **Steven Anderson** despoils the myth of the word's origins, with a variety of public figures offering their views.

Tickets: **01224 639539** or info@peacockvisualarts.co.uk

Book tickets: Online www.abdn.ac.uk/word/programme
Call Aberdeen Box Office **01224 641122**

What I love about poetry is its ion engine. Edwin Morgan

saturday **15** may

Aminatta Forna

3.30pm | MedChi Hall, Polwarth Building, Foresterhill
FREE

Sponsored by Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society

Named as one of Africa's most promising writers by *Vanity Fair*, and a multi-award-winning author, **Aminatta Forna** was born in Glasgow, but raised in Sierra Leone. *The Devil that Danced on the Water*, runner-up for the 2003 *Samuel Johnston Prize*, is a memoir of Sierra Leone and the story of her father, a doctor turned political leader, and a graduate of medical school in Aberdeen. Africa features strongly in her works, including her novels *Ancestor Stones* and, the new release, *The Memory of Love*.

Philip Kerr

3.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Described as 'the thinking reader's thriller writer', Scottish-born **Philip Kerr** has published half a dozen bestselling novels in his *Berlin Noir* series about detective Bernie Gunther. His other books include *Dead Meat*, *The Second Angel* and *Hitler's Peace*. For the young readers in the family, or those who are young at heart, Philip will also be doing an event with his *Children of the Lamp* series, published under the name **P.B. Kerr** (see page 19 for details).

Beyond Noir: Zoe Strachan & Louise Welsh

4pm | Buchanan's, Woodend Barn, Banchory | £5 (£3)

In Partnership with Woodend Barn

Two of Scotland's most popular novelists get together to read their darkly imaginative new work. **Louise Welsh's** first book *The Cutting Room*, a crime novel with a literary edge became an award-winning success. Here she reads from her latest, *Naming the Bones*. **Zoe Strachan** established her own fictional territory with *Spin Cycle*, set in a Glasgow laundrette, *Negative Space*, and her soon-to-be-published third novel, *Play Dead*. A great double-act, Zoe and Louise discuss their books and talk about the writing life.

Alan Taylor: Salinger in Scotland

4pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | £5 (£3)

Following the death of JD Salinger earlier this year, **Alan Taylor** of *The Herald/Sunday Herald* and editor of *The Scottish Review of Books*, investigates the life and work of the 20th century's most mysterious novelist, including his hitherto unexplored affinity with Scotland.

Ion Engine: Poetry by Robin Robertson & Hugo Williams

4pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | £5 (£3)

One for the poetry connoisseur – a fascinating reading by two world class poets at the very top of their game. **Robin Robertson** is an influential editor as well as an award-winning poet. He has won the *Forward Prize*, the *Aldeburgh Poetry Festival Prize* and a *Saltire Award*. Here he showcases his new collection, *The Wrecking Light*. **Hugo Williams** has won the prestigious *Queen's Medal for Poetry*. His collection *Billy's Rain* was a poetry bestseller, and his latest, *West End Final*, has been equally well received. He is also a journalist and travel writer.

Fionnlagh MacLeòid / Finlay MacLeod Book Launch

5pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | FREE

Finlay MacLeod launches his newest work, *Gormshuil an Rìgh/ Gormshuil the King's Daughter*, a fantastical and magical Gaelic novel which enters the world of Celtic folktale and thrives among its many ever-changing creatures and events. A motley group of characters, with their shape-changing capacity, provide a variegated tale played out against the background of the writer's native Hebridean island of Lewis.

Scarlett Thomas

5pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

If you had the chance, would you want to live forever? Broke, years behind on her novel, and in a dead-end relationship, Meg Carpenter jumps at the chance to review a pseudoscientific book that promises life everlasting. **Scarlett Thomas**, author of international bestseller *The End of Mr. Y*, reads from her newest novel. Hot off the press, *Our Tragic Universe* is a book about how relationships are created and destroyed, how we can rewrite our futures (and even our histories), and how stories might just save our lives.

Ion Engine

'What I love about poetry is its Ion Engine.'

A memorable line from Edwin Morgan's poem *A View Of Things*. What does it mean? Who knows? But it's glorious! A national treasure, Eddie is our greatest living poet, and a Word patron. In honour of his 90th birthday we present our entire poetry programme under the banner **Ion Engine**.

Great poetry every day at 4pm, as well as a reading from two leading Irish writers, we've got a fabulous mix of poems on offer. Come and enjoy!



saturday 15 may

Benedict Allen

6.30pm | Arts Lecture Theatre, King's College | £5 (€3)

Benedict Allen is a rarity in this age – a genuine adventurer and explorer. His journeys into some of the planet's most inhospitable locations – filmed without the aid of camera crew – is the stuff of legend. His TV programmes include *The Skeleton Coast*, *Travellers' Century* and *Unbreakable*. A charismatic speaker, he is the author of ten books, most recently *Into the Abyss*.

Scottish Opera Five:15 Première

7.30pm – 10pm | Elphinstone Hall, King's College | £15

A real coup for Word, this is the world première of **Scottish Opera's** new season of **Five:15** – five new short operas written and created in Scotland. The stories range from a zen parable to the chilling tale of an ill-fated Polar expedition. *See below for more details.*

A Drunk Woman Looks at the Thistle: Karen Dunbar

8pm – 10pm | The Lemon Tree Lounge, West North St | £5 (€3)

Karen Dunbar is quite simply one of the funniest women in Scotland. Star of her own eponymous TV show and *Chewin the Fat* and *Happy Hollidays*, she has won a host of awards for her acting and stand-up comedy. Here she reprises her outstanding Edinburgh Festival success, a rollicking, earthy monologue by Denise Mina. Not for the faint of heart!

Words & Music: The Weather Journals with Lori Watson and Rule of Three

8 – 10pm | Woodend Barn Arts Centre, Banchory | £8 (€6)

In partnership with Woodend Barn

An evening of music, poetry and song. **The Weather Journals** is an exciting endeavour, combining the music of **Iain Morrison** and the poetic storytelling style of **Dabhidh Martin**, the young Gaelic Lewis Bard. These melodies will be complemented by the contemporary folk and traditional sounds of **Lori Watson and Rule of Three**, one of the hottest groups on the Scottish folk scene today.

Scottish Opera



Scottish Opera delivers a refreshingly different take on a traditional art form. Building on two years of critically acclaimed collaborations, they are again teaming up with some of the leading lights in Scotland's vibrant creative industries to produce brand-new opera for today's audiences. Word is delighted to host the only performances outside the Central Belt, and with only three shows, demand for tickets is sure to be great!

Saturday 15 May 7.30pm

Sunday 16 May 3pm & 7.30pm

74° North Music by Paul Mealar and Peter Stollery and words by Peter Davidson
An arctic scientist visits the site of a disastrous 1840s expedition, bringing echoes of a terrible tragedy to the surface once more.

Sublimation Music by Nick Fells and words by Zoe Strachan
A woman is haunted by her traumatic past and unable to separate it from the present. As she is overwhelmed by memories her story takes a mythical turn...

The Letter Music by Vitaly Khodosh and words by Bernard MacLaverty
Drawn from Vassili Grossman's novel *Life and Fate*. 1940s Russia – a mother writes to her son. Knowing she is about to be forced from her home along with thousands of fellow Russian Jews she takes comfort from knowing that her spirit will live on through her words.

The Money Man Music by Lyell Cresswell and words by Ron Butlin
A satirical take on modern morality and the state of the economy. Against a backdrop of tumbling share prices a man struggles to retain his financial empire...and his sanity.

Zen Story Music by Miriama Young and words by Alan Spence
A young girl finds herself pregnant. When confronted by her parents she declares the child is a holy man's. But is it? A timeless tale of humanity and forgiveness.

Book tickets: Online www.abdn.ac.uk/word/programme
Call Aberdeen Box Office 01224 641122

sunday 16 may

Word and Voice: Alessandro Portelli & Hugo Manson

10am | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Alessandro Portelli, Professor of American Literature at the University of Rome, is one of Europe's foremost authorities on oral history, particularly as it relates to literature and drama. He is joined by **Hugo Manson**, whose oral history projects include *Lives in the Oil Industry*. This discussion will give an interesting counterpoint to 'official' historical accounts.

Humberto Ak'abal & James Robertson

11am | Multimedia Room, King's College | £5 (£3)

Humberto Ak'abal is a renowned K'iche' Maya poet from Guatemala whose work also appears in Spanish. Prize-winning Scottish novelist and poet **James Robertson** has taken English versions of Ak'abal's poems and rendered them into Scots for a unique four-language event which is not to be missed!

Denise Mina

11.30am | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Described as 'The Crown Princess of Crime' by Val McDermid, and as 'one of the most exciting writers in Britain' by Ian Rankin, **Denise Mina** has published eight novels – each more successful than the one before – from her debut, *Garnethill* in 1999 to her latest, *Still Midnight*. If we're lucky, she may even give us a preview of her next work, due to be published next year. *(If you enjoy Denise's writing, check out the live performance of A Drunk Woman Looks at the Thistle on Saturday 15 May. See page 11 for more details).*

Pushing Out the Boat

12 noon – 2pm | Multimedia Room, King's College | FREE

Pushing Out the Boat is North-East Scotland's prestigious magazine of new writing and the visual arts. For the first time, this year's Issue (No 9) will be launched at Word, with many of the talented contributors reading from their work.

Ion Engine: Medbh McGuckian & Colette Bryce

12.30pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | £5 (£3)

Two startlingly gifted Irish poets give a mesmerising reading. **Medbh McGuckian** is one of the most distinctive and lyrical voices of her generation. A former writer-in-residence at Queen's University in Belfast, she has published some fifteen volumes of her poetry, including, most recently, *The Book of the Angel*, and *My Love Has Fared Inland*. **Colette Bryce** is another rare talent who won the *National Poetry Competition* in 2003. Her latest collection is *Self-Portrait in the Dark*.

Allan Massie in conversation with Alan Taylor

1pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Sponsored by The Scottish Review of Books

Allan Massie is one of Scotland's most eminent and respected literary figures; a true man of letters. He talks to **Alan Taylor**, Editor of *The Scottish Review of Books*, about his writing life and work. A prolific novelist, Massie is also an essayist, journalist, political commentator, sports writer, critic, and *The Scotsman's* principal reviewer of fiction. His novels include the epic series on the lives of the Roman Emperors. His latest novel, *Surviving*, was published last year, followed by *The Royal Stuarts* this spring, with another novel, *Death in Bordeaux*, currently in progress.

World Voices

Travel the world in your own backyard!

With writers hailing from around the globe, Word 10's line-up may be the most international yet. Visit West Africa with **Aminatta Forna** on Saturday, and Guatemala on Sunday with **Humberto Ak'abal**. Take a quick jaunt through Europe with **Lucia Etxebarria** (Spain), **Stefan Chwin** (Poland) and **Alessandro Portelli** (Italy). Or go on a round-the-world tour in an hour, as **Benedict Allen** relates tales from his extreme adventures to the far corners of the globe.



sunday 16 may

New Voices

2pm | Multimedia Room, King's College | FREE

After a very successful event at last year's Edinburgh Book Festival, we are once again showcasing the work of our Creative Writing MLitt students. The work produced this year has been exceptional, and this is a genuine opportunity to catch up-and coming talent, to hear tomorrow's writers today.

Scottish Opera Five:15

3pm – 5.30pm | Elphinstone Hall, King's College | £15

The second of three performances at Word of **Scottish Opera's** new season of **Five:15** – five mini-operas, each by a different librettist and composer, including **Ron Butlin**, **Peter Davidson**, **Bernard MacLaverty**, **Zoe Strachan** and **Alan Spence**. See page 11 for more details.

Polish Writing: Stefan Chwin

3pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Sponsored by The W. Bednarowski Trust

Distinguished Polish novelist, essayist and illustrator **Stefan Chwin** makes a rare visit to the UK. He is a literature professor at the University of Gdansk in his home town, which forms the backdrop to most of his novels. *Death in Danzig* was recently translated into English, and *Hanemann* is being filmed by Agnieszka Holland.

Fat Matters: Behind the Female Body

3.30pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | £5 (£3)

In association with the University of Aberdeen's Rowett Institute of Nutrition & Health

Ever wonder if calorie-counting and all those hours at the gym will pay off? Aimed for a general audience, *Fat Matters* was written by leading academics to inform readers about the sociology, medical and research perspectives of obesity. Join a panel of the book's contributors – editors **Dr Alexandra Johnstone** and **Ms Gina Tsichlia**, **Dr Sarah Pederson** and **Dr Graham Finlayson** – as they spark an interactive and engaging discussion of whether or not the ideal female body is achievable through diet and exercise.

Ion Engine: Poetry by Ron Butlin, Stewart Conn & Brian McCabe

4pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | £5 (£3)

Three of Scotland's most accomplished poets combine for a scintillating session. **Ron Butlin** is the Edinburgh Makar, or poet laureate. He has published a Selected Poems, *Without a Backward Glance*, and his novels include *The Sound of My Voice*. **Stewart Conn** was the first Edinburgh Makar, and his latest collections are *Stolen Light* (Selected Poems) and *The Breakfast Room*. **Brian McCabe** has held many writer-in-residence posts and is as well known for his short stories as for his poetry. His new collection, *Zero*, explores the world of numbers.

Politics and Power: The Sunday Herald Debate

4.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

Sponsored by Sunday Herald

During the next year voters will be asked to decide on the political future of the UK and Scotland. Is independence the only option for Scotland? What should a new UK government make a top priority? Join a panel of leading writers and political commentators including **Allan Massie**, **James Robertson** and **Paul Cairney** for an hour of discussion and debate. Sparks will fly!

Science

If you like exploring the natural world, have always wondered about Einstein's famous equation, or just want to know more about diet and health, you'll love our events with a scientific twist.

Check out **Kees van Deemter**, **Simon Singh**, **Simon King**, **Jeff Forshaw**, **Glenn Murphy** and **Fat Matters**.

Book tickets: Online www.abdn.ac.uk/word/programme
Call Aberdeen Box Office 01224 641122



sunday **16** may

Centre Stage: A Man for All Seasons

4.30pm | The Lemon Tree Studio, West North Street | £5 (£3)

Centre Stage is one of the University's largest and most active societies, offering students the chance to take part in all aspects of drama and production, from acting, directing and producing, to lighting, set design, and costumes – even writing. This one-off performance of *A Man for All Seasons* chronicles the final years of Sir Thomas More, a man who refuses to accept the authority of his friend and King – Henry VIII.

Making an Opera

5pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | FREE

Librettists and composers of the mini-operas in **Scottish Opera's** Five:15 series featured at this year's Word discuss the fascinating collaborative process that brings words and music to the stage. Taking part are writers **Peter Davidson** and **Alan Spence**, and composers **Paul Mealor**, **Peter Stollery** and **Miriama Young**, all of whom are leading academics at the University of Aberdeen.

David Peace

6pm | King's College Centre, King's College | £5 (£3)

One of the most formidable writers at work today, **David Peace** has been as successful as he is prolific. Last year saw the release of the film adaptation of his novel *The Damned Utd* (on Brian Clough), the powerful TV dramatisation of his *Red Riding* quartet, as well as the publication of *Occupied City*, the second part of his trilogy set in Japan. Described as an 'ultra-dark, unashamedly literary crime writer,' he is a mesmerising reader of his own work, so catch him here!

Scottish Opera Five:15

7.30pm – 10pm | Elphinstone Hall, King's College | £15

The final Aberdeen performance of **Scottish Opera's Five:15** mini-operas, with stories ranging from a Zen parable to the chilling tale of an ill-fated Polar expedition. This is the last chance to see these operas outside the Central Belt, so be sure to book early! See page 11 for more details.

Monday 10 May**CaféMED: Heart Health**

6pm | Suttie Centre Café, Foresterhill Health Campus | FREE – NO TICKETS REQUIRED

With heart disease so common in Scotland, **Professor Michael Frenneaux** and **Dr Paul Broadhurst** look at the health of the heart muscle and the life-saving interventions developed to combat heart disease.**Tuesday 11 May****Café Scientifique Aberdeenshire: Why is Snot Green?**

7pm | Buchanan's, Woodend Barn, Banchory | FREE – NO TICKETS REQUIRED

Lots of questions seem frivolous until you realise how much science lies behind them. In this Word Festival Special, audiences chat with best-selling author **Glenn Murphy**, whose books thrive on people's natural curiosity.**Wednesday 12 May****Café Scientifique Aberdeen City: Laughing at Language**

7pm | Waterstone's, Union Bridge, Aberdeen | FREE – NO TICKETS REQUIRED

Words can be used to make us laugh – but how? What are the linguistic tactics used in humour? **Dr Graeme Ritchie** of the University of Aberdeen considers these questions, and more. Jokes are included!**Thursday 13 May****Exclusive General Council Event with Dr Pierre Fouin**

5.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | FREE FOR GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY (UNIVERSITY GRADUATES & ACADEMIC STAFF)

Dr Pierre Fouin, author and University of Aberdeen graduate, talks exclusively to the University's General Council about his new book, *Glen Tanar: Valley of Echoes and Hidden Treasures*. This special event, which includes a report from the Convener of the Business Committee and General Council notices, will be followed by the official opening of the 10th Word Festival. **To book your place contact Hazel Veitch on 01224 273234 or by emailing h.veitch@abdn.ac.uk.****Thursday 13 May****The Challenges for Science in International Development**

6pm | Lecture Theatre, Suttie Centre, Foresterhill Health Campus | FREE

Professor Jeff Waage, Director of the London International Development Centre speaks about his groundbreaking new book – co-authored with Professor Gordon Conway of Imperial College London and entitled *Science and Innovation for Development* – which challenges policymakers worldwide to raise the profile of science and maximise the benefits of scientific progress for people living in poor countries. **To book your place contact Melanie McCann on 01224 559679 or by emailing m.mccann@abdn.ac.uk****Sunday 16 May****Friends of Word Exclusive Event with Aminatta Forna**

10am | Linklater Rooms, King's College | FREE for Friends of Word Only

Aminatta Forna was born in Scotland and raised in Sierra Leone, West Africa, a place which features prominently in her writing. Her first book, *The Devil that Danced on the Water*, was runner-up for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2003, and she has received great recognition for her other writing. Here, Friends of Word have the opportunity to join one of Africa's most promising new writers for a reading and discussion about her newest novel, *The Memory of Love*. **Coffee & cake included. If you would like to become a Friend of Word, see page 18 for details.****Sunday 16 May****Chapel Service – Dr Leslie Walker**

11am | King's College Chapel, King's College | FREE – NO TICKETS REQUIRED

The guest preacher at this Word Festival service is **Leslie Walker**, an Aberdeen loon. For the last 30 years his interest has been the psychological aspects of medicine and the treatment of cancer, and in 1999 he took up the Foundation Chair of Cancer Rehabilitation at the University of Hull. His work has been devoted to improving the quality of life of patients and their families at the time of diagnosis and thereafter.**Sunday 16 May****Old Aberdeen Walking Tours**

1pm & 3.30pm (tours last approximately 1 hour) | Old Town House, High Street, Old Aberdeen | FREE

Back by popular demand, join the University's own **David Robertson** on a walking tour of Old Aberdeen, highlighting the abundance of architectural and cultural riches hidden away in this unique medieval corner of the City.**Book tickets:** Online www.abdn.ac.uk/word/programme
Call Aberdeen Box Office **01224 641122**



exhibitions

Morning Glory Elizabeth Blackadder

14 – 16 MAY | James MacKay Hall, King's College

To coincide with the publication of *Morning Glory*, **Alan Spence's** new poetry collection, we are delighted and honoured to be able to mount this exhibition of **Dame Elizabeth Blackadder's** drawings and paintings made for the book. Dame Elizabeth is one of Scotland's best-known artists, and these exquisite watercolours – reflecting her interest in Japanese art – are a pure delight.

Haiku Jewellery Sheana Stephen

14 – 16 MAY | James MacKay Hall, King's College

Sheana Stephen is an Edinburgh-based artist who specialises in making jewellery – necklaces, bracelets and brooches – inspired by poetry, including work by Seamus Heaney and George Bruce. Here she exhibits a few pieces inspired by **Alan Spence's** haiku from *Morning Glory*, displayed alongside **Elizabeth Blackadder's** paintings from the book.

The University Library & Historic Collections

14 – 16 MAY | Word Restaurant at Zeste, King's College

Browse books, cards, images and more and learn about the internationally acclaimed University library and museum collections. Find information on how to join the Library and open up over 500 years worth of collected documents, from manuscripts from the 1400s to online images from our extensive Victorian photographic collections... or even see the plans for our iconic new library, which opens autumn 2011.

Lady of the Lake

THROUGHOUT MAY | Old Town House, High Street, Old Aberdeen

To mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of **Sir Walter Scott's** *The Lady of the Lake*, we present this exhibition of song-sheets, illustrated editions, paintings and engravings, mainly from the Bernard C Lloyd Collection of Walter Scott materials in Aberdeen's Historic Collections. A fascinating insight into the poem's translation into other art forms, and its contribution to the rise of literary tourism.

A Word Retrospective Photographs by Alan Young

THROUGHOUT MAY | Word Restaurant at Zeste, King's College & John Lewis Espresso Bar, Bon Accord Centre

Photographer **Alan Young's** work has been published in the UK and internationally. One man shows have included exhibitions at Aberdeen Art Gallery, Peacock Printmakers, and some of his images of artists have been shown at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. He has selected a series of his portraits of writers from past Festivals, celebrating the 10th Word Festival in photographs.

50 Words on Science

14 – 16 MAY | Word Restaurant at Zeste, King's College

An exhibition displaying a selection of the results from the second competition asking individuals to submit an original image from their work and write an engaging and creative passage of 50 words to accompany it.

WORDS WE VALUE

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Wood Group are delighted to support the University of Aberdeen 10th Writers Festival

www.woodgroup.com

Grey granite. Red sandstone. Quartz. Gneiss. Schist. The Cuillins. The Cairngorms. An Teallach. Marnoch. College. The Wallace. The Skye Bridge Song (Speed bonnie bus). Caledonia. (Old stories. Old songs). A drunken man, a thistle. Solidarity. Divided self. Red Clydeside. Ship-building. The Declaration of Arbroath. A Ferfar bridie. The Falkirk Wheel. A Glasgow kiss. Inverness. T in the Hagg. A hardened artery. A broken heart.

10

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN 10th WRITERS FESTIVAL
14 - 16 MAY 2010

word friends of word membership scheme

The Friends of Word membership scheme has been developed to enable individuals to support the ongoing growth and sustainability of the Word Festival. This support assists the Word Festival to attract authors, thinkers and commentators from all over the world to the University of Aberdeen for a fabulous weekend of readings, poetry, music and film screenings.

Friends of Word will receive a range of benefits including:

- > Advanced copy of the Word Programme and priority booking period ahead of the general public
- > Concession rate on all priced tickets – single memberships can receive 2 tickets per event and double memberships can receive 4 tickets per event at concession rate.
- > Exclusive 'Friends' badge that will allow priority entrance into busy venues to avoid queuing
- > Reserved seating for Friends in each Festival venue
- > Invitation for you and a friend to attend the Festival opening party
- > Invitation to an exclusive Friends-only event
- > 2 drinks vouchers redeemable in the Word Café
- > Exclusive goodie bag and instore discount voucher from Waterstone's.*

**Please note that the Waterstone's discount voucher is only valid instore at the Union Bridge Branch, Trinity Centre, Aberdeen*

A single membership costs £35 and a double membership costs £50

I would like to join the **University Events Mailing List**

Name	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
		Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>	Tel	<input type="text"/>

I would like to become a Friend of Word

I would like a single (£35) double (£50) membership to the Friend of Word scheme

I enclose a cheque for £35/£50
(please make cheque payable to **Word – University of Aberdeen Writers Festival**)

Please post to **Word Friends, Word – University of Aberdeen Writers Festival, Office of External Affairs, University of Aberdeen, King's College, Aberdeen, AB24 3FX**

To pay by credit or debit card visit www.abdn.ac.uk/word/friends

Alternatively, if you would like to discuss the Friends scheme, please contact Jill Burnett on 01224 273874 or email word@abdn.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
10th WRITERS FESTIVAL
11 - 16 MAY 2010

Schools' and Children's Festival





Welcome to the **Marathon Oil Schools' Festival**. We have a great line-up of your favourite events including storytelling, drama, hands-on workshops and much more for Nursery to Secondary 6 pupils.

Bookings open at 9am on Monday 29 March.

To arrange a booking, contact **Jill Burnett** in the Events Office on **01224 273874** or email **jill.burnett@abdn.ac.uk**.

All events are free and take place at the University of Aberdeen, King's College Campus unless otherwise stated.

Notes for Teachers

All events at the Word Schools' Festival have marvellous cross-curricular implications and further address the **Curriculum for Excellence** outcomes through communication, collaboration and building relationships. Young people can explore the richness and diversity of language, extend their vocabulary and further understand how language works while they let their imagination fly.



This symbol denotes **Notes for Teachers**

The University of Aberdeen is hosting a **Curriculum for Excellence** session on Health & Wellbeing for teachers. The event will take place on **Saturday 15 May** from 9am until 1.30pm. This is the last of three events held by the University of Aberdeen in conjunction with the Education Institute of Scotland (EIS) and follows on from the extremely popular and well-received Numeracy across the Curriculum 3 – 18 and Literacy Across Learning events. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Alison Sage** by emailing **a.sage@abdn.ac.uk** or telephone **01224 274989** for further information and a booking form.

Tuesday 11 May



Aliens Lost in Space

10am – 11.30am & 1pm – 2.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | P1 – P4


Join **Marie** and **Michaela** from Aberdeen Arts Centre on their mission to find the aliens' lost space ship. This exciting drama session will get children using their imagination and promises to be full of fun and mystery.

 *This is an interactive workshop to help develop creativity in young people.*

Reckless Baddies, High Flying Jellyfish and Incredible Inventions, with John Fardell

1pm – 2pm | King's College Centre, King's College | P1 – P4


At this fun, interactive event, **John Fardell** will be reading from and showing his highly entertaining picture books, and giving us a behind the scenes look at the scribbly process that goes into producing them. Pupils will join in by drawing their own characters, inventions and story ideas.

 *This session can help pupils to create and present work with increasing awareness and use of visual elements to convey ideas, thoughts and feelings. It will also encourage communication, collaboration and relationship building.*

Survival Workshop *In association with the Natural History Centre*

1.30pm – 3pm | Natural History Centre, Zoology Building, Tillydrone Avenue | P5 – P7


Join the **Natural History Centre** to celebrate the variety of life by discovering some of the amazing ways that animals and plants survive the extreme conditions of Planet Earth.

 *The workshop will support learners in exploring the rich and changing diversity of living things and help develop their understanding of how organisms are interrelated at local and global levels.*

Meet The Joking Computer

2.30pm – 3.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | P5 – S2

So what do you get when you cross a frog with a road? Come and discover how a computer can build its own jokes like this one. Have a go at creating the funniest jokes using software developed by computing scientists at the University of Aberdeen. And just in case you're wondering – the punchline is "A Main Toad"!


 *This session helps with extending vocabulary through listening, talking, watching and reading.*

Wednesday 12 May

Weather Watchers *In association with TechFest-SetPoint*

10am – 11am | King's College Centre, King's College | Nursery – P3


A fun hands-on workshop for younger pupils looking at different kinds of weather. Find out why weather changes with seasons, how to record weather and how weather affects us.

 *By using a range of instruments pupils can measure and record weather and discuss how weather affects life.*

Aliens Lost in Space

10am – 11.30am & 1pm – 2.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | P1 – P4


Join **Marie** and **Michaela** from Aberdeen Arts Centre on their mission to find the aliens' lost space ship. This exciting drama session will get children using their imagination and promises to be full of fun and mystery.

 *This is an interactive workshop to help develop creativity in young people.*

Seaton Pottery

10am – 11.30am & 1pm – 2.30pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | P5 – P7


The rich heritage and culture of Seaton Pottery will be explored through storytelling, song and art. Pupils will design and paint Seaton pots as part of this session. Join fabulous storyteller **Grace Banks** for this hands-on session. *Supported by pupils from Seaton School.*

 *This session provides opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of culture in Scotland and the wider world. It will also help develop creativity and imagination.*

Ostrich Boys and Other Stories

1.30pm – 2.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | S1 – S2


Come and listen to award-winning author **Keith Gray** of *Ostrich Boys* discuss ideas behind his book, which took three years to write, and his writing process. Keith will also talk about what makes a good writer and why reading is not just for homework. Everyone is sure to be inspired with a new enthusiasm for all things 'booky'.

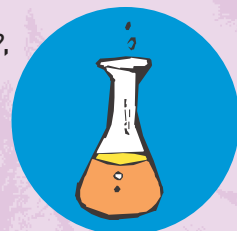
 *This session can help children to create and present work with increasing awareness and use of visual elements to convey ideas, thoughts and feelings. It will also encourage communication, collaboration and relationship building.*

Science: Sorted!

1.30pm – 2.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | P4 – S2

Join **Glenn Murphy**, author of best-selling kids' science books *Why Is Snot Green?* and *How Loud Can You Burp?*, as he explores a world of questions about sciences and nature. See him tackle everything from dinosaurs and vampire bats to moon bases and alien life – all in one funny, fast-paced, audience participation show.


 *Learning in the sciences will enable pupils to develop curiosity and understanding of the environment and make them aware of living materials and the physical world.*



Survival Workshop *In association with the Natural History Centre*

1.30pm – 3pm | Natural History Centre, Zoology Building, Tillydrone Avenue | P5 – P7

Join the **Natural History Centre** to celebrate the variety of life by discovering some of the amazing ways that animals and plants survive the extreme conditions of Planet Earth.

 *The workshop will support learners in exploring the rich and changing diversity of living things and help develop their understanding of how organisms are interrelated at local and global levels.*

Study Break: Learn the Secrets of Comic Book Makers

5pm – 6pm | Transition Extreme, Links Road, Queens Links, Aberdeen | Twilight Session for S1 – S6

Whether you need a break from studying or you would like an insight into comic books, join **metaphrog** in an exciting graphic novel workshop. The critically acclaimed duo will be revealing some of the secrets of making comics. Learn how they make their own *Louis* graphic novels, get professional tips on character design, visual storytelling and creating atmosphere. Also, get a chance to create your very own characters and comics. **Booking is necessary for this event.**



Secondary pupils from across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are invited to write a short story on the theme of **Something to Celebrate**. The winning stories will be announced at a special awards ceremony on Saturday 15 May and will be published by WordFirsts – the only publisher in Scotland dedicated to publishing the work of young people. All are welcome to attend the ceremony. Come and meet the young literary stars of tomorrow! Closing date for competition is 13 April.


For further information, contact Heather Evans by emailing hevans@aberdeencity.gov.uk or telephone 01224 346361.

Thursday 13 May

Weather Watchers *In association with TechFest-SetPoint*

10am – 11am | King's College Centre, King's College | Nursery – P3


A fun hands-on workshop for younger pupils looking at different kinds of weather. Find out why weather changes with seasons, how to record weather and how weather affects us.

 *By using a range of instruments pupils can measure and record weather and discuss how weather affects life.*

Dino Story *In association with Satrosphere*

10am – 11am & 1.30pm – 2.30pm
King's College Centre, King's College | P1 – P3

Join the team at **Satrosphere** and help tell an interactive dinosaur story. Design your own dinosaur from the descriptive words and have loads of dino fun!


 *Pupils can explore and play with the patterns and sounds of language, and can use what they learn. They can also explore and choose stories and other texts to watch, read or listen to, and can share likes and dislikes.*



Wood Carvers of King's College Chapel

10.30am – 12noon & 1pm – 2.30pm | The Reading Bus, King's College | P5 – P7

Explore the rich heritage and culture of the wood carvings in King's College Chapel through storytelling, poetry, song and art. Join **Grace Banks** for this hands-on event at which pupils will create their own carvings. Supported by pupils from Woodside School and **Kirsty Aitken**.


 *This session provides opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of culture in Scotland and the wider world. It will also help develop creativity and imagination.*

Patriotism, Privations & Peace

In conjunction with Special Libraries & Archives, University of Aberdeen

10.30am – 12noon & 1.30pm – 3.00pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | S1 – S3


Amelia Laws worked as a nurse during the First World War. In this workshop, we'll read extracts from the letters she wrote to her parents from Austria, Italy and France, which give a vivid account of the anxieties, horrors and opportunities of war. Pupils will be guided by **Ken Cockburn** to create their own poem or prose piece about the First World War.

 *This session will help broaden understanding of the world by learning about human activities and achievements past and present. It will also show how Scotland has developed as a nation, resulting in an appreciation of local and national heritage within the global community.*

Magnus Fin and the Ocean Quest with Janis Mackay

1pm – 2pm | King's College Centre, King's College | P4 – P7


Join best-selling author **Janis Mackay** for a fun interactive session on creating a make-believe world under the sea by using your imagination and creative minds. This is one not to miss!

 *This session involves team work and pupils using their imagination and creative thinking.*

Survival Workshop *In association with the Natural History Centre*

1.30pm – 3pm | Natural History Centre, Zoology Building, Tillydrone Avenue
P5 – P7

Join the **Natural History Centre** to celebrate the variety of life by discovering some of the amazing ways that animals and plants survive the extreme conditions of Planet Earth.


 *The workshop will support learners in exploring the rich and changing diversity of living things and help develop their understanding of how organisms are interrelated at local and global levels.*



Meet The Joking Computer

1.30pm – 2.30pm | King's College Centre, King's College | P5 – S2

So what do you get when you cross a frog with a road? Come and discover how a computer can build its own jokes like this one. Have a go at creating the funniest jokes using software developed by computing scientists at the University of Aberdeen. And just in case you're wondering – the punchline is "A Main Toad"!

 *This session helps with extending vocabulary through listening, talking, watching and reading.*



Amazing Animals Writing Competition for P5 – P7

Win a class visit from Edinburgh Zoo Wild Bus!

Choose an animal that you think is interesting and tell us why in a poem of no more than 100 words.

To enter, contact the Natural History Centre by telephoning **01224 274545** or visit www.abdn.ac.uk/nhc for further information. Entries must be submitted by Friday 30 April.



A Reading Bus Celebration

A Reading Bus event will be held on **Tuesday 11 May** to celebrate the culmination of the Heritage Lottery funded initiative *A Journey through Old Aberdeen*. Pupils from the St Machar Community will take the audience on a magical journey of storytelling, poetry, film animation, song and art, as they explore the rich culture and heritage of Old Aberdeen. The event will also launch the TAQA funded book of children's writing, *Wishes and Legends*.





Welcome to the **Marathon Oil Children's Festival**. We have a fantastic line-up this year with a wonderful selection of fun, exciting, and most importantly, **free** sessions for children of all ages and families to enjoy over the weekend. Events take place at the University of Aberdeen, King's College unless otherwise stated. We promise you won't be disappointed as Word has something for everyone!

To book tickets, contact Aberdeen Box Office by telephoning **+44 (0) 1224 641122** or book online at **www.abdn.ac.uk/word/programme**

Please Note: Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. All adults and children require a ticket to attend events.



All aboard! The Reading Bus will be on campus on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May. Events finish at 1pm after which families are welcome to jump on board and see what fun and exciting stuff is going on!

The Festival face painter will be available in the Word Café at Zeste throughout the Festival weekend from 10am – 4pm.

Saturday 15 May

Bookstart Rhymetime Session

10.30am – 11am | Linklater Rooms, King's College | Under 4s

Bookstart Rhymetimes are fun, free sessions combining books, rhymes, songs and movement for babies and children up to four years old and their parents or carers.



Reading Radio with The Reading Bus and Station House Media Unit

12pm – 1pm | The Reading Bus, King's College | Ages 10 – 12

Join the radio crew to create and record a one-hour special Reading Radio show to be broadcast on Thursday 20 May from 11am – 12 noon on SHMU 99.8 FM. No previous experience required.

Science: Sorted!

12 noon – 1pm | Storytelling Theatre, King's College | Ages 8 – 14

Join **Glenn Murphy**, author of best-selling kids' science books *Why Is Snot Green?* and *How Loud Can You Burp?*, as he explores a world of questions about sciences and nature. See him tackle everything from dinosaurs and vampire bats to moon bases and alien life – all in one funny, fast-paced, audience participation show.



What's the Story?

1pm – 2.15pm | Festival Marquee, King's College | All ages

Once again, Word and the Arts Education Teams of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council are delighted to have offered secondary school pupils an exciting opportunity to get into print. Pupils from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire schools were invited to write a short story based on the theme of **Something to Celebrate**. The winners will be announced at this special awards ceremony, where we will also celebrate the launch of *On Display*. Come and meet the literary stars of tomorrow.

Join in the fun at the Natural History Centre

1pm – 5pm | Natural History Centre, Zoology Building, Tillydrone Avenue | Family

Tiger Tiger, burning bright – come to the museum for a fright! Families are welcome to drop in and discover which animals from the museum have inspired local children to write poetry. The entries for the Amazing Animals schools poetry competition will also be on display.

We're going on a treasure hunt! *In Association with Aberdeen Arts Centre*

1.30pm – 2.30pm | Aberdeen Arts Centre, King Street | Ages 3 – 5

Ahoy there shipmates! Hop aboard and become a pirate, as we sail the seven seas in an attempt to find Captain Jolly's lost treasure! Join storyteller **Sheena Blackhall** and drama facilitator **Barry Donaldson** on a mysterious adventure which promises to be magical from beginning to end!



Saturday 15 May *continued*

Children of the Lamp

1.30pm – 2.30pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | Ages 12+

Have you ever wished you had magical powers? Join us for an exciting adventure with **P.B. Kerr** telling the stories behind the books about Philippa and John, modern day teenage djinn.



Bookstart Rhymetime Session *In association with Woodend Barn*

2pm – 2.30pm | Woodend Barn, Banchory | Under 4s

Join **Bookstart** at Woodend Barn for an exclusive Bookstart Rhymetime session which promises to be full of fun! This session is free and combines books, rhymes, songs and movement for babies and children up to four years old and their parents or carers.

Secrets of Comic Book Makers

2.30pm – 3.30pm | Storytelling Theatre, King's College | All ages

Join critically acclaimed **metaphrog** in an exciting graphic novel workshop where they will be revealing some of the secrets of making comics. Learn how they make their own *Louis* graphic novels, get professional tips on character design, visual storytelling and creating atmosphere. Participants will also have a chance to create their very own characters and comics.

The E=mc² Challenge *In association with TechFest-SetPoint*

2.30pm – 3.30pm | Imagination Corner, King's College | All ages

Almost everyone's heard of the formula $E = mc^2$, but what does it actually mean, and why is it so important? This exciting activity – inspired by the *E=mc²* book event in our main Festival programme – will shed some light on Einstein's most famous equation. Try to beat the grown ups!



Sunday 16 May

Bookstart Rhymetime Session

10.30am – 11am | Imagination Corner, King's College | Under 4s

Bookstart Rhymetimes are fun, free sessions combining books, rhymes, songs and movement for babies and children up to four years old and their parents or carers.

Can gu robh... / What if...

12 noon – 1pm | Imagination Corner, King's College | Family

The launch of two books full of fun for young children and families, edited by **Anne Lorne Gillies** – *What if...* and *Let's sing together!* Poetry, verse, songs and games for Gaelic speakers and non-speakers alike. / Bàrdachd, rannan, òrain is geamaichean! A' cur air bhog dà leabhar ùr làn spòrs, deasaichte le Anna Latharna NicGilliosa: Can gu robh... agus Seinneamaid Còmhla!

Coos, Puddocks and Puggies

12 noon – 1pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | Ages 6 – 10

Join **James Robertson** of Itchy Coo Books for a Scots language tour round some of Scotland's beasties, big and wee, followed by a quick trip to the plains of Africa.

Family Doric Storytelling

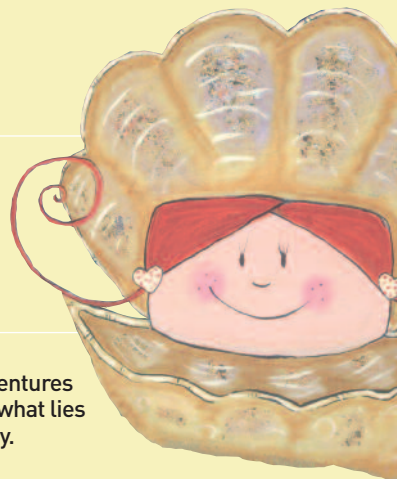
12.30pm – 1.30pm | The Reading Bus, King's College | Family

Join well-known and much-loved storyteller **Sheena Blackhall** for an interactive storytelling session with a Doric flavour. Families are invited to bring a small item from home that will be weaved into the story.

Adventures with Michelle the Scallop and Uncle & Aunty Clockwise

1pm – 2pm | Linklater Rooms, King's College | Ages 4 – 8

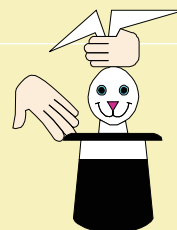
Join **Julie Hegarty** and her puppet friends to hear the stories of Michelle the Scallop and her rockpool adventures including songs from *Crabbit the Musical*. Bring along something you found at the seaside and learn about what lies around the seashore. Also, meet Uncle and Aunty Clockwise who are a very odd couple with an unusual day.



Adam's Magic Show

1.30pm – 2.30pm | Storytelling Theatre, King's College | Family

Families are invited to a stage show with magic, music and fun for everyone! This event involves lots of audience interaction, colourful magic, games and surprises. Come and join in the fun with **Adam** and his hilarious show.



Fairyland Fiasco!

2.30pm – 3.30pm | Imagination Corner, King's College | Ages 3 – 6

Flutter into Fairyland and help Princess Sparkle Shoes find Archie the Unicorn, who has hidden himself somewhere around the University. You'll have to be brave though, we might even spot a dragon or two! Join **Sheena Blackhall** and **Barry Donaldson** during a magical session of storytelling, music and drama.