Elphinstone Institute

Public Events

2022–2023

Elphinstone Institute

studying culture in context
Welcome, fit like?

We’re proud to present the Elphinstone Institute’s extensive public events for 2022–2023. Fit is the Elphinstone Institute? It wis startit in 1995 tae mark five hunner years since Aberdeen Varsity wis foondit, an is dedicatit tae researchin, teachin, and celebratin the rich culture o the North-East an North o Scotland, eesin Ethnology, Folklore, an Ethnomusicology tae dee’t.

Jyne us in celebratin culture!

Welcome!

We’re proud to present the Elphinstone Institute’s extensive public events for 2022–2023. What is the Elphinstone Institute? Founded in 1995 in honour of the University of Aberdeen’s quincentenary, we’re dedicated to the triple task of researching, teaching, and celebrating the rich culture of the North-East and North of Scotland, all through the disciplines of Ethnology, Folklore, and Ethnomusicology.

Come along and join us in celebrating culture!

The following icons appear throughout the guide to let you know a bit more about what to expect from each event.

- **FILM SCREENING**
- **LECTURE**
- **LIVE MUSIC**
- **STORYTELLING**
- **PRIZE**

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**Booking Events**

Please book ticketed events by contacting us on 01224 272996, elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk or via: [www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone)

- [facebook.com/elphinstone](http://facebook.com/elphinstone)
- [twitter.com/elphinstone](http://twitter.com/elphinstone)
- [instagram.com/elphinstone](http://instagram.com/elphinstone)
What’s on...

THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2022
Public Lecture Series

SCOTTISH GYPSY/TRAVELLERS & MUSEUM COLLECTING: FINDING UNEXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS
Rhona Ramsay
Time: 6.30–8.00pm | Location: MacRobert Building 051

Many objects made or traded by Scottish Gypsy/Travellers can be found in museums across Scotland, but the connections that they have with Travellers are often unseen. This talk will consider the range of objects and the influence of Scottish Travellers on museum collections.

22 SEPTEMBER–8 DECEMBER; 26 JANUARY–8 JUNE; 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH

POLISH-SCOTTISH SONG GROUP
Time: 7.00–9.00pm | Location: MacRobert Building 051

Join the Polish-Scottish Song Group and exchange culture through the traditional songs of Scotland, Poland, and many other countries. Highly regarded and talented Aberdonian singer Janice Clark expertly leads these singing sessions. All welcome!

SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2022
Scottish International Storytelling Festival

SUPERNATURAL TALES FROM THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS
Time: 4.00–5.30pm | Location: Sir Duncan Rice Library, Fl. 1, Meeting Room

Hungarian storyteller Csenge Virág Zalka, also known as The Multicoloured Lady, has travelled far and wide with a treasure of traditional folktales from her home country. Join her as she brings her stories to Scotland; be ready for an afternoon of wonder! Free but ticketed.

Book via www.abdn.ac.uk/elpinstone

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What’s on...

THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2022
Public Lecture Series

THE RIVER DEE – CONNECTING DEESIDE
Lorraine Hawkins
Time: 6.30–8.00pm | Location: MacRobert Building 051

The care of the River Dee is all of our responsibility. To avert disaster for biodiversity dependent on the river now requires landscape-scale restoration, better water and land management, and community action. The River Dee Trust is leading this response. All of us can support the conservation work, manage our water use and champion the protection of our river and its wildlife.

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2022
Scottish International Storytelling Festival

TALES THROUGH SIGNS: BSL STORYTELLING
Time: 7.00–8.30pm | Location: Sir Duncan Rice Library, Fl. 2, Seminar Room 224

Join us for a special evening during which Ella Leith introduces the relationship between British Sign Language (BSL) and stories, and storyteller Tania Allan signs tales in BSL. The evening concludes with an open forum for BSL-users to share their own spooky experiences together, just in time for Halloween. The event is for both BSL-users and non-BSL users alike. Free but ticketed.

TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2022
Prize

NEEPIE LANTERN COMPETITION DEADLINE

Get your knives and spoons (yes spoons!) ready, and get howking. When you’ve carved your masterpiece send a pic of your entry to elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk including your full name and postal address. The first-place winner and the runners-up will receive an Elphinstone Institute publication.

Email your entries to elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk

facebook.com/ei.folklore twitter.com/ei_folklore instagram.com/elphinstone_institute
What’s on...

FRIDAY, 04 NOVEMBER 2022
Scottish International Storytelling Festival

STORIES AT THE GRAMPIAN ASSOCIATION OF STORYTELLERS FRIDAY FLING
Time: 7.00–9.00pm | Location: King’s College Chapel (Hybrid Event)

Join local storytellers Sheena Blackhall, David Brown, Pauline Cordiner, Diana Peers, and Jackie Ross for an evening of local tales and discussion. Dana Scott will chair an interview with the tellers, asking how they became storytellers and what storytelling means to them. This friendly storytelling event welcomes contributions from those who would love to share a story.

TUESDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2022
Scottish International Storytelling Festival

COASTAL TALES OF THE NORTH-EAST
Time: 7.00–8.30pm | Location: Sir Duncan Rice Library, Fl. 7, Meeting Room 1

Remembering and reclaiming folk traditions can be a powerful tool of empowerment for everyday people, especially those who are marginalized. Drawing examples from storytelling traditions of the African diaspora, and particularly the Caribbean, the lecture will demonstrate the value of folk traditions for navigating everyday life, positing that now more than ever people across the globe need tools to traverse our hypermodern and increasingly disconnected world. Free but ticketed.

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THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2023
Public Lecture Series

SEINN SPIORADAIL: THE SACRED SINGERS OF THE WEST HIGHLANDS AND WESTERN ISLES
Frances Wilkins
Time: 6.30–8.00 pm | Location: MacRobert Building 051

Drawing extensively from fieldwork with tradition bearers, this talk will cover the Gaelic psalmody and spiritual song traditions which are found in Gaelic-speaking communities in the West Highlands and Islands. It will consider the significance of Gaelic sacred singing in the communities and some of the reasons for its decline in recent years.

THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2023
Ethnographic Film Series

dir. by David Archibald / Araùna Baró and David Archibald
Time: 6.30–8.00 pm and Online | Location: MacRobert Building 051

Govan Young documents schoolchildren from Govan, in Glasgow, learning of the area’s important but largely unknown medieval history. Comrades together-apart / Camarades junts-i-a-banda was made by two academics working at distance, one in Catalonia, one in Scotland. The film was shot and edited during the Covid-19 lockdown when we were forced to stay within our borders, and, at times, within our own homes. The film combines footage of contemporary political protests and movements in our respective countries and reflects on actually existing colonial processes both within and outwith the higher education system, while including phone footage of everyday life during this moment.
What’s on...

THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2023
Public Lecture Series

BEING AN AFRICAN: THE BURDEN OF PROOF IN BEING IN A SPACE
Bertha Yakubu
Time: 6.30–8.00pm | Location: MacRobert Building 051

I speak as an African woman living outside Africa, sharing my experience and that of my kind. As I move around, I feel a weight on my shoulder. Emotionally I am hunched. I ask my friends and read and watch about local and international events to see if it is only me that feels this way or if other Africans feel this way, too. To my surprise the feeling is mutual, almost universal. As I think about this I see a pattern emerging; it has to do with the burden of proof that is expected from me and my kind. In this talk, I will explore some of the issues that weigh us down. Bertha Yakubu is the founder of Aberdeen-based African Women Scotland.

THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2023
Ethnographic Film Series

TWO EARS, ONE MOUTH (1999) AND IMAGINE WAKING TOMORROW (2011), FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER
dir. by Andy Benfield
Time: 6.30–8.00pm and Online | Location: MacRobert Building 051

In Two Ears, One Mouth legendary Scottish storyteller Duncan Williamson and one of his protégées, Amy Douglas, share a passion for storytelling. Both manage to make a living from the craft. This observational film explores their connection to each other, to storytelling, and to the timelessness of the stories themselves. Imagine Waking Tomorrow follows Bill Drummond during his week-long role as artist-in-residence at Sheffield’s Sensoria festival. Bill absorbs the sounds of the steel city and turns them into ‘scores’ to be performed by members of The17 – a choir started by Drummond in an attempt to give voice to the sounds in his head.
What’s on...

THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023
Public Lecture Series

BURNBANKS VILLAGE
Joe McLeod
Time: 6.30–8.00pm | Location: MacRobert Building 051

Burnbanks Village, near Aberdeen, has been in existence for over two-hundred years. From the 1950s onwards, it lay in various stages of dereliction and was finally abandoned in the early 1980s, leaving shattered ruins and roofless shells. It was resurrected in 1992 and is now a fantastic place to live with a deep community spirit.

Joe McLeod has lived in Burnbanks Village for thirty years and in 2021 published a book on the history of the village. Joe’s talk will feature stories from the village and copies of the book will be available to buy.

THURSDAY, 6 APRIL 2023
Ethnographic Film Series

ELPHINSTONE INSTITUTE STAFF AND STUDENT ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM SHOWCASE
Time: 6.30–8.00pm and Online | Location: MacRobert Building 051

A film evening showcasing films made by staff and students at the Elphinstone Institute in recent years, highlighting their wealth of experiences when conducting fieldwork. A variety of short MLitt film projects will be featured, alongside videography from fieldwork conducted by staff and researchers at the Institute. There will be an opportunity to find out more about the work of students and staff during the Q&A afterwards.

MONDAY, 1 MAY 2023
Prize

TOULMIN PRIZE: SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The Toulmin Prize, established in 2008 and awarded annually, is a short-story prize commemorating the work of David Toulmin, one of North-East Scotland's finest exponents of written Doric. Stories can be up to 4,000 words and should be submitted to elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk or posted to the Elphinstone Institute. Cash prize of £500 for the winning entry.

Submit entries to elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2022</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Many thanks to all our partner organisations.

The Elphinstone Institute,
MacRobert Building, University of Aberdeen,
Aberdeen AB24 5UA

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abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone