

a literary cross-arts festival celebrating unconventional forms of expression

WAYWORD

Festival Programme



21st & 24th-29th September

Tickets are free: www.waywordfestival.com

At a Glance



Saturday 21st September

Liz Lochhead
SC&T Youth, Ross Couper & Tom Oakes

5pm | King's Pavilion
7pm | King's Pavilion

Tuesday 24th September

Rachelle Atalla & Victoria Hawthorne
WayWORD at The Lampie

5pm | King's Pavilion
7pm | The Blue Lamp

Throughout the festival - daily 12-6, 24th-29th

Exhibition: Dreaming Again... & Moving Forward

Exhibition of work from *Gardenstown* by Bryan Angus

Interactive Activity: Found Poetry Living Exhibition

Wednesday 25th September

Psycho-geography Walk
Zoology Museum Tour
Gàidhlig Srùbag: Cake & Conversation
Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature
Collection Doodles: Interactive Activity
Verbal Remedies
Confronting Climate Change
Margot Livesey

10.30am | New King's
12 noon | Zoology Museum
12 noon | King's Studio
1pm | Online
2pm | King's Pavilion
3.30pm | King's Pavilion
5pm | King's Pavilion
7pm | Online

Thursday 26th September

Scripting Dance: Balkan, Tango, Scottish
Gàidhlig Srùbag: Song and Sandwiches
Found in Translation: Modern Languages
Striking Impressions: Talk

10am | 3 Locations
12 noon | King's Studio
1pm | King's Pavilion
2.15pm | SDR Library

Round Table: Music & Migration
Aleksandra Hnatiuk & Jen Stout
Don Quixote Rides Again

3.30pm | King's Pavilion
5pm | King's Pavilion
6.30pm | King's Pavilion

Friday 27th September

Clowning Workshop
Art, Expression & Identity Across Cultures
Striking Impressions: Talk
Toulmin Prize
Martin Malone & Bryan Angus
Len Pennie & Shane Strachan
Danielle Jam & Morna Young

11am | King's Pavilion
1pm | King's Pavilion
2.15pm | SDR Library
3pm | King's Pavilion
4pm | King's Pavilion
6pm | Cowdray Hall
7.30pm | Cowdray Hall

Saturday 28th September

REPURPOSE ABERDEEN
Colonial Walking Tour
Writing Horrible Songs: Richie Webb
James Lovegrove
GIANTS Trans Choir Performance
Ben Aaronovitch & Maud Woolf
Grace Nichols & Mae Diansangu

10.30am | King's Pavilion
1pm | Elphinstone Hall
1.30pm | King's Pavilion
3pm | King's Pavilion
4.15 | King's Pavilion
5pm | King's Pavilion
7pm | King's Pavilion

Sunday 29th September

Elle McNicoll & Sarinah O'Donoghue
Sarah Bernstein & Chris Kohler
***The Living Mountain* with Susie Leiper**
Spectrum Ensemble & Fusion Dance
Zoë Strachan & Louise Welsh
REPURPOSE ABERDEEN: Scratch Night

12noon | Online
1.30pm | King's Pavilion
3pm | King's Pavilion
4.15 | King's Pavilion
5pm | King's Pavilion
7pm | The Blue Lamp



Book free tickets to all events at www.waywordfestival.com

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WAYWORD

21st, 24th-29th
September
2024

We're delighted to announce a fantastic programme of literary and cross-arts events, brought to you by the University of Aberdeen. Together with a dedicated group of young people, the WORD Centre for Creative Writing has devised an exciting line-up of poets, novelists, artists, musicians and other creatives for readings, performances, workshops and discussion panels. The festival is taking place mostly in person, with some live online events. BSL interpretation is provided by Lesley Crerar. For accessibility, some events may also be available as a livestream for those unable to attend in person (see www.waywordfestival.com/livestream for details of these).

2024 is the fifth WayWORD Festival, featuring:

Ben Aaronovitch, Leila Aboulela, **Amira Al Shanti**, Rachelle Atalla, **Dean Atta**, Sarah Bernstein, **Mae Diansangu**, Victoria Hawthorne, **Aleksandra Hnatiuk**, Danielle Jam, **Chris Kohler**, Margot Livesey, **Liz Lochhead**, James Lovegrove, **Elle McNicoll**, Grace Nichols, **Len Pennie**, Jacob Sam-La Rose, **Jen Stout**, Zoe Strachan, **Louise Welsh**, Maud Woolf, **Morna Young** and many more!

Saturday 21st

Liz Lochhead
5pm | King's Pavilion

A conversation with **Liz Lochhead**, Scotland's former Makar (national poet), exploring her new publication, *A Handsel: New and Collected Poems*, reflecting upon its relationship to Lochhead's remarkable experiences as one of Scotland's most distinguished writers. There will be readings, discussion, and an audience Q&A.

Ross Couper & Tom Oakes:
SC&T Youth Concert
7pm | King's Pavilion

Fiddle meets guitar. Foot-tappingly banging. Ear-pleasingly melodic. A beautifully rich combination of string on string that oozes charisma. **Ross** and **Tom** keep their music simple – spine-tingling tunes with a sprinkle of banter.

Concert opens with performance by the young musicians of **SC&T Youth**.

Tuesday 24th

**Rachelle Atalla &
Victoria Hawthorne
5pm | King's Pavilion**

Join us for a thrilling start to our main festival week as two of Scotland's most exciting writers return to WayWORD to discuss their new novels and the art of writing twist-filled suspense narratives across different genres, with University of Aberdeen alumnus **Rachelle Atalla** and Aberdeenshire-based **Vikki Patis (Victoria Hawthorne)**.



**Exhibition of work
from *Gardenstown*
by Bryan Angus
Daily, 24-29th Sept | 12-6pm**

A vivid evocation of changing seasons in the Northeast's much-loved village "Gamrie" from spring to winter. **Bryan Angus** is an Aberdonian who now lives in Banff. His great pleasure is landscape - whether that's painted, drawn or printed - and finding the stories that are held in the fabric of the land.

**WayWORD at The Lampie
7pm | The Blue Lamp**

Poetry and music with local, national and international artists, featuring North-East poets, **Sheena Blackhall** & **Noon Salah Eldin**, combined with Iranian and Kurdish musicians, **Amin Hashemi**, **Amir Tahqiq** and friends, spoken-word performance by **Jacob Sam-La Rose**, with violist **Fiona Winning** and music by Luke Styles. Finally, Syrian musicians **Shamband** return by popular demand to round off the night.

**Dreaming Again... & Moving
Forward Exhibition
Daily, 24-29th Sept | 12-6pm**

Another chance to view 'Dreams and Dangerous Ideas', artefacts from twenty years of the Women's Liberation movement in Aberdeen brought together for exhibition. These fragments from the 1970s and 80s offer a window onto local activism in response to growing awareness of the position of women as workers and domestic labourers. Now includes new contextualisation of contemporary activism.

**Interactive activity: Found
Poetry Living Exhibition
Daily, 24-29th Sept | 12-6pm**

Interactive activity bringing new life to old texts. Use provided materials to re-shape and re-form found texts into new pieces of poetry and display them as part of our living exhibition.

Wednesday 25th

Psycho-geography Walk with Jo Vergunst & Emily McKay

10.30am | New King's

Embark on a psycho-geographical exploration of Old Aberdeen with us. Breaking from the norm, this will not be a guided tour, but rather an engaging and collaborative experience inspired by situationism, culture, and community. We will start our walk at the New Kings building on the University of Aberdeen campus.

Gaelic Picnic: Gàidhlig Srùbag - Cake & Conversation

12 noon | King's Studio

Learn a few phrases of Gaelic. All levels of speakers and learners welcome. The Celtic Society will have a cake sale.

Beagan abairtean Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Tha fàilte air a h-uile ìre de luchd-labhairt agus luchd-ionnsachaidh. Bidh fèill-reic chèic aig An Comann Ceilteach.



Zoology Museum Tour 12 noon | Zoology Museum

Are we currently in a mass-extinction event? If so, what's causing it?

This tour looks at species at risk of extinction and the major issues plaguing our global biodiversity. Our guides are passionate about zoology and can't wait to share their passion with you!

Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature 1pm | King's Pavilion

Louisa Adjoa Parker, Khairani Barokka, and Dr. Durre Shahwar come together to discuss their deeply personal and moving contributions to *Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature*, a collection of essays by women of colour, reflecting on their relationships with nature, decolonisation, and healing.

Collection Doodles : Interactive Activity 2pm | King's Pavilion

The Museums & Special Collections team will be bringing along a selection of items from the University's collections for you to draw.

Let your creativity flow as you sketch and doodle away. It's a great opportunity to unwind, meet new people, and explore your artistic side. No experience necessary.

Book free tickets to all events at
www.waywordfestival.com

Verbal Remedies | New Creative Writing by Medics 3.30pm | King's Pavilion

Celebrate the launch of the long-awaited fifth in the *Verbal Remedies* series of Creative Writing by Medical Students. How many amazing pieces will we cram into this bumper edition? What terrible pun will we come up with for the title? Hear student writers read their work and talk about the process of creating it.



Thursday 26th

Scripting Dance: Balkan, Argentine Tango, Scottish Country 10am | Various locations

Come along for some feet-on experience of Balkan, Tango or Scottish Dancing and an insight into how these dances are improvised, constructed and can be written down to help you remember them. All welcome. No previous experience needed.

Confronting Climate Change with Creativity and Collaboration 5pm | King's Pavilion

A panel discussion with Aberdeen-based artists and writers responding to climate change: UoA Interdisciplinary Fellow, **Dr Rebecca Macklin**, will chair sound artist **Maja Zećo** and curator **Rachel Grant** to discuss their Soundwalk series about Torry's St Fittick's Park, and poet **Genevieve Carver**, whose work explores ecology and interactions between human and non-human worlds.

Margot Livesey 7pm | Online

Margot Livesey has been hailed as 'one of the strongest and subtlest voices in Scottish fiction' (*Glasgow Herald*). This is a rare opportunity to hear her discuss her newest novel, *The Road from Belhaven*, a rich portrait of twentieth-century Scotland inspired by Nan Shepherd and Willa Muir, which is one of her best yet.

Gaelic Picnic: Gàidhlig Srùbag – Song and Sandwiches 12 noon | King's Studio

Song and Sandwiches - Bring along your lunch and learn a puirt a beul (Gaelic mouth music). With Carola MacCallum.

Òran is Ceapairean - Thoir leat do lòn agus ionnsaich puirt a beul.

Found in Translation: Celebrating Modern Languages 1pm | King's Pavilion

Celebrating modern languages and their contribution to cross-cultural understanding and literary enjoyment, **Maria Sanchez-Otiz** (Spanish & Latin American Studies) chairs this panel with **Lesley Crerar** (BSL), **Taylor Strickland** (Gaelic) and **Zhu Zhu** (Chinese). What is lost and gained in translation, and why is this important?

Round Table Discussion: Music & Migration 3.30pm | King's Pavilion

What happens to music and musicians when they migrate to other places? How is their creative musical practice involved in their integration and how is their distinctive identity preserved? **Amin Hashemi**, **Nicolas Le Bigre**, **Parmis Mozafari**, **Amir Tahqiq** and **Matthew Machin-Autenrieth** discuss the ways Iranian, Polish and other communities have brought with them music and much more.

Don Quixote Rides Again 6.30pm | King's Pavilion

A spellbinding storytelling experience as Spanish Storyteller **Inés Álvarez Villa** brings the iconic adventures of *Don Quixote* to life, transporting us to the heart of Spanish culture. This is a comical yet poignant show, directed by Jelena Bašić, which explores our right to be human, challenging prejudice, and encouraging us to embrace our true selves

Striking Impressions: Exhibition Talk 2.15pm | Sir Duncan Rice Library

Join a bite-sized (15 minute) tour of the exhibition 'Striking Impressions'. Meet at the Gallery, opposite the Welcome Desk. Student-guides will be waiting to welcome you.



Aleksandra Hnatiuk & Jen Stout: Women on War 5pm | King's Pavilion

Journalist **Jen Stout**'s *Night Train to Odesa* charts her time in war-torn Ukraine while **Aleksandra Hnatiuk** has written on Ukrainian women's courage in World War II and Ukraine's struggles for independence and identity. Come along to hear them discuss women in war zones, unearthing truths and battling falsifications of history.



Friday 27th

Clowning Workshop with Jessica Hernandez 11am | King's Pavilion

Clowning is a state of playfulness that brings us to experience child-like, naive and vulnerable ways of being. This workshop aims to provide a safe, inclusive and accessible environment for all to explore the side of us that takes fun very seriously.

Striking Impressions Exhibition Talk 2.15pm | Sir Duncan Rice Library

Join a bite-sized (15 minute) tour of the exhibition 'Striking Impressions'. Meet at the Gallery, opposite the Welcome Desk. Student-guides will be waiting to welcome you.

Toulmin Prize for Writing in North East Scots 3pm | King's Pavilion

In honour of Aberdeenshire writer **David Toulmin** (John Reid, 1913–1998), the Toulmin Prize writing competition is held annually by the Elphinstone Institute and sponsored by the Reid family. Join us for this appreciation of North-East writing with this year's prize-winning story read aloud by North-East Makar, **Sheena Blackhall**.

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Art, Expression and Identity Across Cultures: Leila Aboulela, Amira Al Shanti, & Dean Atta 1pm | King's Pavilion

How does an identity formed of multiple cultures inform the art you create? This panel with writer **Leila Aboulela**, actor, playwright and artist **Amira Al Shanti**, and poet **Dean Atta**, will discuss identity, expression and acceptance across cultures.



Martin Malone & Bryan Angus 4pm | King's Pavilion

Poet **Martin Malone** and artist **Bryan Angus** discuss their joint publication, *Gardenstown*, which offers a vivid evocation of changing seasons in the Northeast's much-loved village "Gamrie" from spring to winter. Here they watch the year pass as, like the tide, the seasons come and go.

Len Pennie & Shane Strachan 6pm | Cowdray Hall

TikTok Scots sensation **Len Pennie's** fiercely feminist *Poyums* became an instant bestseller on its release, praised for its unflinching look at mental illness and domestic abuse. 2023 Scots Champion and winner of the 2024 Loud Poets Slam North Heat, Doric performer **Shane Strachan's** *DWAMS* looks anew at the Northeast through a fast-moving carousel of voices.



Sunset Song: Danielle Jam & Morna Young 7.30pm | Cowdray Hall

Aberdonian actor **Danielle Jam** and Morayshire playwright **Morna Young**, fresh from their recent production of *Sunset Song*, discuss writing and performing in Doric, staging the North East, and the future for the performing arts in Aberdeen, reflecting on their experiences bringing this beloved text to new audiences.



Saturday 28th

REPURPOSE ABERDEEN: Scriptwriting Workshop 10.30am | King's Pavilion

This two-hour workshop offers a low-pressure creative space to experiment, meet other local writers and share ideas on the theme REPURPOSE ABERDEEN. Prepare to be inspired by a range of prompts, exercises and activities. There will also be an opportunity to scratch a short-form text to be showcased at our Scratch Night the following evening.

Colonial Walking Tour with Abeer Eladany 1pm | Elphinstone Hall

Join us for an enlightening walking tour that delves into the colonial history of the University of Aberdeen and its historic Old Aberdeen campus. This tour offers an opportunity to explore the university's ties to colonialism and the impact of these connections on its development, architecture, and academic legacy.

BSL Interpretation is available for all events - you can let us know your access requirements when booking.

Writing Horrible Songs: Richie Webb of Horrible Histories 1.30pm | King's Pavilion

Know all your kings and queens? **Richie Webb**, lead songwriter for CBBC's *Horrible Histories*, gives a glimpse into the creative process behind all your favourite hits. Find out what it takes to create not only an ear-catching tune, but also funny, historically accurate lyrics from a master craftsman.

GIANTS Trans Choir Performance 4.15pm | King's Pavilion

A fabulous pop-up acapella performance by **GIANTS** (Global Intersex, Agender, Nonbinary & Trans Singers).

GIANTS is a worldwide project to establish accessible, inclusive singing groups of trans & nonbinary voices, as well as allies, with an emphasis on the joy of group singing.

Grace Nichols & Mae Diansangu 7pm | King's Pavilion

Grace Nichols, winner of the 2021 Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, will share work from across four decades of her prize-winning career, exploring womanhood, nature and well being, and including readings from her latest poetry collection, *Passport to Here and There* and other works. While Aberdonian poet **Mae Diansangu** launches her debut, *Bloodsongs*, which disrupts colonial and heteronormative conceptions of the past by giving voice to long-overlooked queer, Black and feminist perspectives in Doric and English.

James Lovegrove: Solving the Mysteries of Crime Writing 3pm | King's Pavilion

Delve into the rich and complex world of crime fiction writing with *New York Times* bestselling author **James Lovegrove**, in an engaging and enlightening discussion, exploring his reimagined Sherlock Holmes series *The Cthulhu Casebooks* and investigating the world of speculative fiction.

Ben Aaronovitch & Maud Woolf 5pm | King's Pavilion

The Centre for the Novel is proud to host **Ben Aaronovitch** and **Maud Woolf**, who will be discussing their latest books and reading some of their favourite extracts, followed by an audience Q&A. A must for fans of speculative fiction, sci-fi, and reimaginings of the world we think we know.



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Sunday 29th

Neurodiverse Writing | Elle McNicoll & Sarinah O'Donoghue 12noon | Online

"I'm a neurodivergent author. I write about anything and everything, but I always write about neurodiversity." **Elle McNicoll**, bestselling author of *A Kind of Spark*, in conversation with **Sarinah O'Donoghue**, recent UoA PhD graduate researching representations of autism in literature and popular culture.

A Nan Shepherd Event: Art Interpreting Literature - Susie Leiper's *The Living Mountain* 3pm | King's Pavilion

Artist and calligrapher **Susie Leiper** discusses her relationship to Shepherd's work and her evocative handwritten and illustrated edition of Shepherd's celebrated nature writing text, *The Living Mountain*. Discover how Shepherd's writing inspires others to create in ways which are both literary and visual. Event ends with prizegiving for **Nan Shepherd Competition for Young Writers**.



Sarah Bernstein & Chris Kohler 1.30pm | King's Pavilion

Two of the most exciting novelists working in Scotland today: **Sarah Bernstein** and **Chris Kohler** talk realism, identity and current literary culture, with Alan Warner. Sarah's second novel, *Study for Obedience*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and Chris's debut *Phantom Limb* is a clear landmark in contemporary Scottish writing.



Spectrum Ensemble & Fusion Dance Performance 4.15pm | King's Pavilion

Student compositions come to life with performances by young dancers in this collaboration between **Spectrum Ensemble** and **Fusion**.

Hear new works from Spectrum, the University of Aberdeen's student-led, new music ensemble, with dance and choreography by Fusion, Citymoves Dance Agency's youth dance company.

Zoë Strachan & Louise Welsh 5pm | King's Pavilion

Acclaimed Scottish writers **Zoë Strachan** and **Louise Welsh** discuss their latest novels, common themes, differing genres, and creative collaborations. Set in Glasgow and Kilmarnock and spanning the 1930s-60s, Zoë Strachan's *Catch the Moments as They Fly* is her most personal novel to date. Louise Welsh's latest gritty novel, *To The Dogs*, explores organised crime, institutional corruption and moral compromise in Glasgow with much dark humour.

Repurpose Aberdeen: Scratch @ The Blue Lamp 7pm | The Blue Lamp

A new Scratch Night celebrating the performing arts community in the North East, curated by Annabel Lunney. Showcasing the talent of local writers directors and performers,

Want to get involved? You can submit writing via the call-out at www.waywordfestival.com before 16th August, and/or attend our accompanying workshop on Saturday 28th

Festival Bookshop

Blackwell's Aberdeen are delighted to once again be the official WayWORD bookshop for 2024. Our festival bookshop will be located in the festival's main home in the King's Pavilion, stocking titles from all of the events, including those taking place online. The online bookshop is available now at www.waywordfestival.com/bookshop.

Other Community Events

Jacob Sam-La Rose Poetry Workshop with St Machar Academy

Poet & Gaelic Translator Taylor Strickland at Hazlehead Academy

Barbara Henderson: *The Boy, The Witch, & The Queen of Scots*, with Riverbank Primary and Woodlands Care Home

Fiona Winning Wards an Soonds Workshop at Aboyne Academy



These community events are not open to the public and exclusive to their venues. Further community events to be announced at waywordfestival.com

Getting to the festival

Most events will be on Campus in the King's Pavilion (see map on the back of this programme). Your tickets will include maps for non-campus venues. You can reach King's Pavilion from two directions: from University Road (past the tennis courts) or from Regent Walk (past the playing fields). The main entrance to the building is on the side nearest Regent Walk.



Some events will take place in off-campus venues; these will be shown on the event page and on your ticket information. You can find a map of all venues via the QR code.

Reaching Campus by Bus

Park and Ride facilities are available at the Bridge of Don (to the north of Aberdeen). The 1B bus from the Park and Ride will take visitors directly to the Old Aberdeen campus.

Bus route	1 or 2	20	19
Stops	School Drive to the north-east of the campus	King's College in the centre of campus	Sir Duncan Rice Library

Reaching Campus by Car

Visitors are advised to travel by public transport or use the park and rides located within the city. There are also car parks around the city and buses can be used to travel to the King's campus.

There is no parking on the university campuses on weekdays, but free parking is available after 5pm Monday - Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Blue Badge holders are able to park on campus 7 days a week. No staff or visitor permit is needed, but blue badges must be clearly displayed.

There is ticketed on-street parking on University Road, High Street Old Aberdeen, College Bounds, Regent Walk, and surrounding streets. There is limited free on-street parking on School Road, The Spital, and surrounding streets.

WayWORD Team



Helen Lynch
Creative Director



Shane Strachan
Creative Co-Director



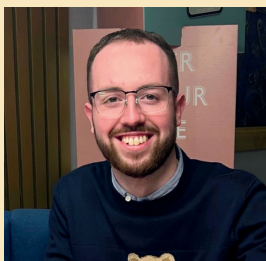
Kirsty Lawie
Assistant Director



Naomi Christie
Production & Admin
Coordinator



Emily McKay



Blair Center



Finn Abou El Magd



Erin Benton



Maryann Pierse



Annabel Lunney



Lesley Crerar
BSL Interpreter



Timothy C. Baker



Elizabeth Elliott



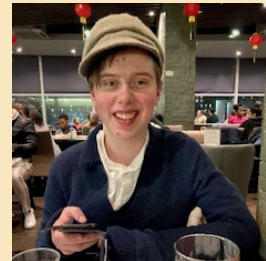
Helena Ifill



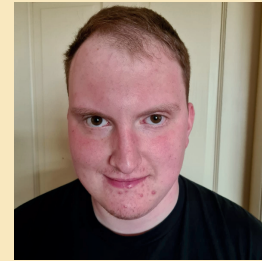
Alan MacPherson



Stacey Harkins



Eleanor Campbell



Duncan Cameron



Pixie Nishina

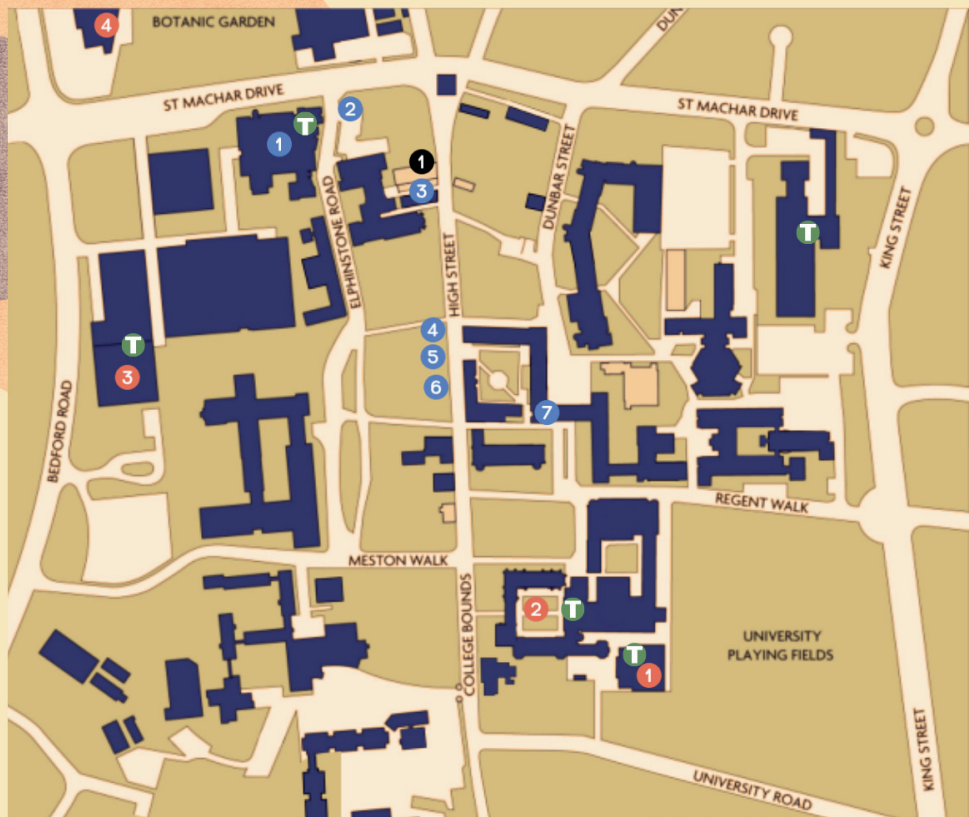
Youth Committee

Mentors

a literary cross-arts festival celebrating unconventional forms of expression

WAYWORD

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King's Pavilion
King's College
Sir Duncan Rice Library
& Hardback Cafe
Zoology Building
Toilets
Blackwell's Bookshop

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1

The Hub
Shelter
St Machar Bar
J G Ross
Kilau
Keystore
Foodstory

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To see the full programme and book free tickets visit
www.waywordfestival.com