

# HISTORICAL FICTION FESTIVAL

12TH - 15TH APRIL 2013

## SUMMERHALL

[www.summerhall.co.uk](http://www.summerhall.co.uk)

# WELCOME

Writers had let their imagination play on history long before Walter Scott published "Waverley" in 1814.

Almost half of Shakespeare's plays are historical and the classical French dramatists drew on the Ancient World for their subjects. There had been prose narratives too, novels by Marie-Madeleine La Fayette and of course, Daniel Defoe's "Journal of the Plague Year."

Nevertheless it was Scott who created the historical novel as we know it. His work inspired imitators all over Europe. So it is fitting that Edinburgh, his native city, should host a festival celebrating historical fiction.

It is equally right that our opening event should be a celebration of the completion of the new Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels, a work of outstanding scholarship and devotion to Scott's work, and that the first speaker should be Professor David Hewitt, the Editor-In-Chief of the EEWN.

Many book festivals concentrate, understandably, on new work and recent publications. The Summerhall Historical Fiction Festival offers such sessions too. Yet we have also chosen to look back. We will consider, for instance, Conan Doyle's historical novels (overshadowed, to his irritation, by the success of Sherlock Holmes). We look too at novelists' treatment of the British Empire and at novels which imagine the lives of characters from Dickens beyond the novels in which they appear.

We investigate the Crimean War in fiction and in film, take a similar look at Dunkirk and the Battle of France, and re-address what may be the greatest historical novel of the twentieth century.

Other sessions deal with the problem of making fiction out of recent history, crime fiction set in the past, and with historical novels written specifically for children and young adults.

The huge success of Hilary Mantel's two novels about Thomas Cromwell have recently revitalised historical fiction and have helped to regain for the genre the esteem Scott first won for it two hundred years ago. With this in mind, we are also staging an open forum in which speakers from other events and members of the audience will be invited to consider the value of the historical novel. Does it offer a vital means of examining and understanding history or is it too often deceptive, a meddling with the truth?

With a series of writers' workshops and a stunning exhibition of literary-themed watercolours by celebrated artist Hugh Buchanan, this inaugural festival promises to be both stimulating and rewarding.

Allan Massie - Chair

Iain Gale - Director

Our Sponsors:

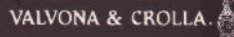
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Thank you

Box Office: 0845 874 3001

For more details on speakers and to book tickets online visit  
[www.historicfictionfest.com](http://www.historicfictionfest.com)

# SIR WALTER SCOTT

Launch of the complete Edinburgh Edition

VENUE: Main Hall

TIME: 11.00am

TICKET PRICE: £7.00 (£3.50)

## Opening Event

Sir Walter Scott is a household name. He was the first and arguably the greatest of Scotland's historical novelists. But how many of us can actually claim to have read any of his novels, let alone all twenty-eight? Some have read none; others may have started one or two, but not finished them.

At last a complete, critically edited edition is available of all the Waverley Novels as Scott originally wrote them, revealing what he intended his public to read.

The first of Scott's Waverley Novels marked the emergence of the modern novel, influencing all the great nineteenth-century writers. This new edition captures the original power and freshness of those books and allows us to judge their impact.

In this exclusive event the editors, David Hewitt and Alison Lumsden explain their fascination with Scott and how they went about creating this extraordinary and ground-breaking work.

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ARTS



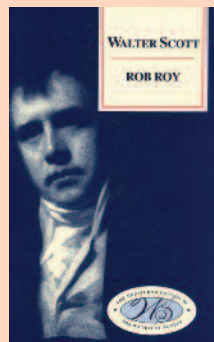
# WALTER SCOTT AND NAPEOLEON

Professor Christopher Harvie and Stuart Kelly



Napoleon and Walter Scott were titanic figures and almost exact contemporaries. If Scott was the prime creator of the idea of Romantic Scotland, Napoleon adored Scott's precursor, James Macpherson's version of Ossian, and never travelled without the book in an Italian translation. Scott wrote a biography of Napoleon. Few people today have read it, but Professor Christopher Harvie is one of them. He talks about Napoleon and Scott, 'the Corsican ogre' and 'the wizard of the North', their differences and resemblances.

**VENUE:** Anatomy Lecture Theatre  
**TIME:** 12.30pm **TICKET PRICE:** £5.00 (£2.50)



# MURDER IN A TIME OF AUSTERITY

Sara Sheridan

Highly acclaimed, bestselling historical novelist Sara Sheridan talks about the post-War Austerity era, how it captured her imagination and why, from rationing, to the role of women and the birth of the swinging 60s.

In Brighton Belle, set shortly after the end of WWII, Mirabelle Bevan (recently retired from the British Secret Service) thinks her skills are no longer required but soon discovers that her specialist knowledge is vital and follows a mysterious trail of gold sovereigns, betting scams and corpses to a dark corner of austerity Britain.

In the sequel, London Calling, Bevan is again hot on the trail, this time in London's 1950s underworld of smoky night clubs, smart cars and lethal cocktails.

**VENUE:** Red Lecture Theatre  
**TIME:** 3.00pm **TICKET PRICE:** £6.00 (£3.00)



# WORKSHOP

Tips and pitfalls in writing military fiction Iain Gale

The author of *Four Days in June*, the Jack Steele series, *The Black Jackals* series and *Alamein* presents a personal account of an author's journey along with ideas and help for those who aspire to write in this popular genre. Tickets limited to 30 people.

VENUE: War Memorial Library

TIME: 2.00pm TICKET PRICE: £4.00



# LAMPEDUSA

Allan Massie and Joe Farrell

When Lampedusa's novel, *The Leopard* was published in Italy, soon after the author's death in 1957, the Italian literary establishment was astonished. How could an almost unknown Sicilian Prince have written a great novel set in the turbulent Italy of the 1860s? Italian literary scholar Joe Farrell and author Allan Massie discuss the *fuore* and ask if *The Leopard* is the greatest historical novel written in the twentieth century. Sponsored (and with Sicilian wine) by Valvona and Crolla. \*Ticket includes a free glass of Sicilian wine from Valvona & Crolla.

VENUE: Red Lecture Theatre

TIME: 5.00pm TICKET PRICE: £7.00 (£3.50)



VALVONA & CROLLA 

# THE LEOPARD

Visconti's 1963 take on Lampedusa's masterpiece

Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon and Claudia Cardinale star in Luchino Visconti's epic story of the fortunes which befall one aristocratic family during the 1860s, at the time of the unification of Italy. Prince Fabrizio Salina (Lancaster) realises that times are changing when his war-hero nephew Tancredi (Delon) starts courting Angelica (Cardinale), the beautiful daughter of the town's middle-class mayor. When asked to grant his approval for their marriage, he agrees, even though it confirms everything he dreads and despises about the rise of the bourgeoisie.



VENUE: Red Lecture Theatre

TIME: 7.00pm TICKET PRICE: FREE



LITERATURE ADDS TO REALITY,  
IT DOES NOT SIMPLY DESCRIBE  
IT. IT ENRICHES THE NECESSARY  
COMPETENCIES THAT DAILY LIFE  
REQUIRES AND PROVIDES; AND  
IN THIS RESPECT, IT IRRIGATES  
THE DESERTS THAT OUR LIVES  
HAVE ALREADY BECOME.

C. S. LEWIS 1898-1963

# The story of long-term investment continues.

Baillie Gifford is delighted to be an Associate Sponsor of Summerhall Historical Fiction Festival.

We are one of the UK's largest investment trust managers. In our daily work in investments we do our very best to emulate the diligence and imagination that successful writers bring to the creative process.

In our own small way, we are publishers too. Our free tri-annual *Trust* magazine offers you an engaging and insightful overview of the investment world along with details of our literary festival activity throughout the UK.

To find out more about our sponsorship or to enter our prize draw, visit us\* at [www.bgstrustonline.com/summerhall](http://www.bgstrustonline.com/summerhall)



\*To access the prize draw page you must use the full URL stated above. Baillie Gifford Savings Management Limited (BGSM) produces *Trust* magazine and is wholly owned by Baillie Gifford & Co, which is the manager and secretary of eight investment trusts. Your personal data is held and used by BGSM in accordance with data protection legislation. We may use your information to send you details about Baillie Gifford products, funds or special offers and to contact you for business research purposes. We will only disclose your information to other companies within the Baillie Gifford group and to agents appointed by us for these purposes. You can withdraw your consent to receiving further marketing communications from us and to being contacted for business research purposes at any time. You also have the right to review and amend your data at any time.

# CONAN DOYLE

Speaker: Owen Dudley Edwards

Our forgotten Historical Novelist. From *Sir Nigel and the White Company* to *Brigadier Gerard*.

While Sherlock Holmes has become a commonplace, many of Conan Doyle's other literary creations have been sidelined. Here, Conan Doyle's biographer, the distinguished historian Owen Dudley Edwards speaks about Doyle's historical fiction.

In the twenty-one stories of *Brigadier Gerard*, published between 1894 and 1910, he takes us into the Napoleonic wars seen through the eyes of a French hussar officer, modelled on a real-life character, whose comic adventure stories presage both *Flashman* and *Sharpe*.

In *The White Company*, Doyle looked back to the Hundred Years War and the Black Prince's campaign in Spain. The 1906 novel *Sir Nigel* also explored the hundred years war, though sixteen years earlier. Micah Clarke, owing much to Macaulay's *History*, offers a vivid and accurate account of Monmouth's Rebellion in 1685.

Conan Doyle held his historical novels in much higher esteem than the Sherlock Holmes stories. Here is your chance to judge whether he could have been right.

VENUE: Anatomy Lecture Theatre

TIME: 11.00am TICKET PRICE: £5.00 (£2.50)



## MAKING FICTION FROM RECENT HISTORIC EVENTS

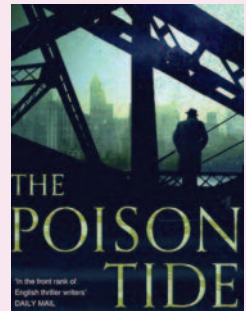


Andrew Williams

The acclaimed author of *The Poison Tide* and *To Kill a Tsar* talks about the challenge of making fiction from recent historic events and his fascination with the secret intelligence service during the Great War.

VENUE: Red Lecture Theatre

TIME: 12.30pm TICKET PRICE: £6.00 (£3.00)



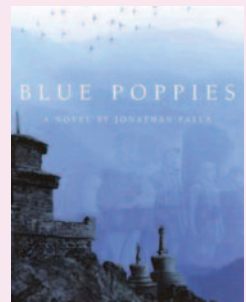
## MORAL ISSUES IN HISTORICAL FICTION

Jonathan Falla

Why do novelists use historical subjects – beyond just mining a wealth of good stories? What other agendas are there? How far might these include the righting of long-gone colonial wrongs and long-forgotten social injustices? Writer Jonathan Falla (*Blue Poppies*, *Glenfarron*) looks at the wide range of moral issues addressed by historical fiction, and considers the purpose and pitfalls of such works.

VENUE: Anatomy Lecture Theatre

TIME: 2.30pm TICKET PRICE: £5.00 (£2.50)



# HALF A LEAGUE ONWARD

Film: *The Charge of the Light Brigade* (1968)

Tony Richardson's epic retelling of the famous story might have flopped at the box office but it was a landmark. Today it says as much about the time it was made as its subject.



VENUE: Red Lecture Theatre  
TIME: 4.00pm TICKET PRICE: FREE

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# THE CRIMEAN WAR AND VICTORIA'S WARS IN FICTION



Patrick Mercer

Patrick Mercer, ex soldier, MP, military historian and historical novelist (*To Do and Die*, *Dust and Steel*, *Red Runs the Helmand*) talks about his fascination for the period and how he and others, notably Macdonald Fraser, have managed to translate it into literature.

VENUE: Red Lecture Theatre  
TIME: 6.30pm TICKET PRICE: £6.00 (£3.00)





# DICKENS UPDATED

James Benmore & Ronald Frame

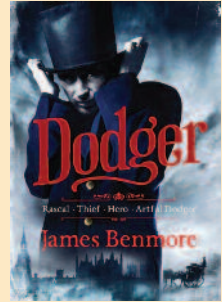
Two writers discuss the legitimacy of using previous fictional characters in new work.

James Benmore is the author of *Dodger*, a novel which deals with what happened next to the Artful Dodger after he was sentenced to seven years transportation.

VENUE: Main Hall TIME: 12.00 noon

TICKET PRICE: £7.00 (£3.50)

sponsored by the  
Ingsay Partnership



# WORLD WAR II REVISITED

Fact and fiction in WWII  
Andrew Williams & Iain Gale

Same event, different stories: Two versions of the same historical events in the battle of France of 1940-1941 as told by a novelist and a historian set against our changing perceptions of the reality of the Battle of France and Dunkirk.

VENUE: Red Lecture Theatre TIME: 1.30pm

TICKET PRICE: £6.00 (£3.00)



Film: *Dunkirk* (1958)

The classic black and white movie starring John Mills, Richard Attenborough and a host of others.  
Documentary-style film which tells two sides of the Dunkirk story.

VENUE: Red Lecture Theatre TIME: 4.00pm

TICKET PRICE: FREE



# THE SUMMERHALL HISTORICAL FICTION FORUM

What is the true value of historical fiction. Is it a vital way into understanding history or is it merely meddling with the truth?  
A group discussion with speakers from the festival, invited academics and audience members.

VENUE: Main Hall TIME: 5.30pm TICKET PRICE: £7.00 (£3.50)

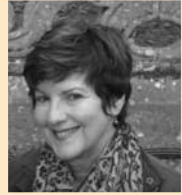
## WITCHES, PIRATES, HIGHWAYWOMEN... AND SHAKESPEARE

Celia Rees

Acclaimed author, Celia Rees, will be talking about her interest in all things historical from the fantastic and macabre to the everyday detail of ordinary people's lives. She will be revealing the sources of her inspiration and why she thinks Historical Fiction is relevant to young readers today.

VENUE: War Memorial Room

TIME: 11.00am TICKET PRICE: £4.00 (£2.50)



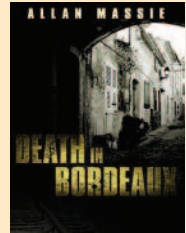
## WORKSHOP: ALLAN MASSIE

Allan Massie

The acclaimed writer and novelist discusses his approach to his work.

VENUE: War Memorial Library

TIME: 12.00 noon TICKET PRICE: £4.00



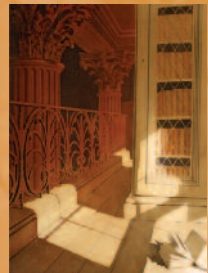
## EXHIBITION: HUGH BUCHANAN

In association with the Francis Kyle Gallery, London, we are pleased to present an exhibition of watercolours of libraries and archives by the acclaimed painter Hugh Buchanan. The exhibition, which ranges from the great country houses and universities, to lesser known French and Austrian collections, including a first showing of new works from the Esterhazy archive will run concurrently with the festival and beyond.

HUGH BUCHANAN was born in Edinburgh in 1958 and studied at Edinburgh College of Art. He has travelled regularly throughout Europe to visit and paint in watercolour buildings and interiors from the Renaissance to the Baroque. In 1994 Hugh Buchanan was given a major retrospective by the National Trust at Petworth House.

In 2002 he was commissioned by the House of Lords to paint the lying in state of the Queen Mother at the Palace of Westminster. In 2005 he took part in the themed exhibition 'Lair of the Leopard', a tribute to Lampedusa. In 2005 his paintings featured in 'Watercolours and Drawings from the Collection of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother', at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh and the Queen's Gallery, London.

His paintings are in the Collections of HRH The Prince of Wales, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the University of Edinburgh the University of Aberdeen, Edinburgh City Art Centre, the Palace of Westminster and many other distinguished private and public collections.



TIME: All day  
TICKET PRICE: FREE

# EAT AND DRINK AT SUMMERHALL

ENJOY OUR CAFE AND BAR

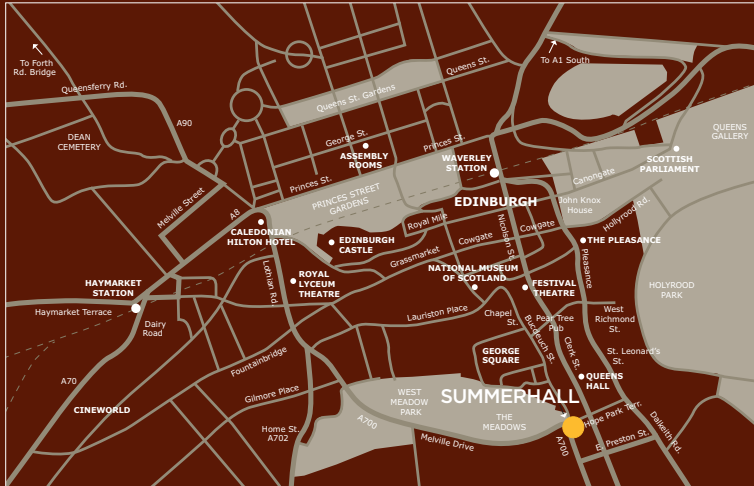


Our Cafe serves hearty homemade food all day. You'll also find a small colourful exhibition of original pop art exhibition posters in the Cafe featuring Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenberg.

Expect a warm welcome too in our very splendid Royal Dick Bar serving great cocktails and wine plus our exclusive Summerhall Beer brewed at Summerhall. Open from 11 am till 1 am, The Royal Dick also dishes up stylish food from noon till 10pm.

To reserve a table and for further information including The Royal Dick's availability for private hire please email [info@summerhall.co.uk](mailto:info@summerhall.co.uk) or call **0131 560 1572**

## HOW TO FIND US



Summerhall is notably located at the east end of the Meadows park, in close proximity to George Square, The Festival Theatre and just a 15 minute walk from The Royal Mile and Waverley Train Station.

Bus: Lothian Bus Routes **3, 5, 7, 8, 29, 31, 47, 49** (to/from Clerk Street) and **42, 67** (to/from our front entrance).

*“Every city should  
have its own  
Summerhall”*

Paul Morley  
BBC The Review Show

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online [www.historicfictionfest.com](http://www.historicfictionfest.com)  
General Enquiries: 0845 874 3000  
Email: [info@summerhall.co.uk](mailto:info@summerhall.co.uk)

1 Summerhall  
Edinburgh EH9 1PL

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