



# Boswell Schools & Family Festival

The World's Only Festival of Biography and Memoir

**BOSWELL** / 10-16 JUNE  
**BOOK FESTIVAL** / 2021  
**ONLINE**

## Schools & Family

Welcome to the Boswell Book Festival programme for schools and families. Boswell is the world's only book festival dedicated to memoir and biography and the events for children are designed to introduce ideas of discovering - past and present - the lives of change makers and influencers. Also, importantly, the events introduce the idea of how to tell our own stories and the importance of learning to do this in a way that acknowledges experiences and builds resilience.

**EVENTS ARE FREE TO VIEW AND CAN BE WATCHED AFTER THEIR  
BROADCAST TIME UNTIL 30 JUNE 2021**

**Boswell  
 Schools & Family  
 Festival**

Unless indicated otherwise events are open to registration for both families and schools.

Each event is marked to give an indication of the age range for which it is appropriate.

## How to register and watch an event

1. Choose an event - all events are FREE to watch!
2. Press the 'CLICK HERE TO REGISTER' button attached to each event
3. Add your details on our online box office when prompted
- 4 You will be sent an email to confirm what event you have chosen to watch
5. You will receive an email on the day of the event to remind you
6. Watch the event on your computer, tablet or mobile phone - and even ask questions on the chat facility

- Some events will be BSL Interpreted and captioned
- Most events will be available to watch again on Catch-Up until 30 June 2021

For more information about the festival visit our website or follow us on social media:

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



## Sponsors & Supporters

The Boswell Book Festival would like to thank Creative Scotland, Baillie Gifford, East Ayrshire Council, Scottish Friendly and our anonymous sponsors who all so generously support us.



Actual Investors



The Boswell Book Festival is an event inaugurated and staged by the Boswell Trust, a charity registered in Scotland number SC041655 and a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland SC380815

Registered office: Auchendrane, By Ayr, KA7 4TW. The Trust is established for the advancement of heritage, literary arts and education, specifically the restoration of James Boswell's Mausoleum in Auchinleck Churchyard and the creation of a visitor attraction in the adjoining Boswell Aisle.

The Boswell Trust has done its best to ensure the accuracy of all statements mentioned in this programme. Any errors are inadvertent.

# Schools & Family QUICK GUIDE

## Family Events

## Schools Events

### Thursday 10 June

- 10am A Kid's Life in the Ancient Times with Chae Strathie
- 11am Poems Aloud with Alex Wharton
- 2pm Your Flower Story with Johanna Hall

2.30pm Taking Flight: Bird Mask Workshop with Julia Vohl

4pm Strong Brave True: Great Scots that Changed the World... and how you can too. E3

### Friday 11 June

- 10am Digging Up the Past with Adam Murphy - Dead Good Storytellers E1
- 11am Mary Queen of Scots: Escape from Loch Leven with Theresa Breslin

### Monday 14 June

- 10am My Friend Selma with Victoria Beesley E1
- 11am The True Story of Rosa Parks with Lauren Burke
- 2pm When the World Was Ours with Liz Kessler

4pm Strong Brave True: Great Scots that Changed the World...and how you can too. E1

### Saturday 12 June

- 10am Digging Up the Past with Adam Murphy - Dead Good Storytellers E2
- 11am Hebridean Colouring Adventures with Eilidh Muldoon
- 2.30pm Creating A Life Story with Vivian French and Julia Vohl
- 4pm Strong Brave True: Great Scots that Changed the World... and how you can too. E2

### Tuesday 15 June

- 10am My Friend Selma with Victoria Beesley E2
- 11am A Secret Diary of the First World War with Gill Arbuthnott and Darren Gate
- 2pm Farewell Tour of an Eternal Optimist with John Young

### Wednesday 16 June

- 10am My Friend Selma with Victoria Beesley E3
- 11am Dangerous Lives of the Jacobites with Linda Strachan and Darren Gate
- 2pm Slug Love with Jo Clifford and Danny Krass

### Sunday 13 June

- 10am Digging Up the Past with Adam Murphy - Dead Good Storytellers E3
- 11am Wear Your Identity - T-shirt making workshop with Moray Wellbeing Hub

# Thursday 10 June

**10AM**

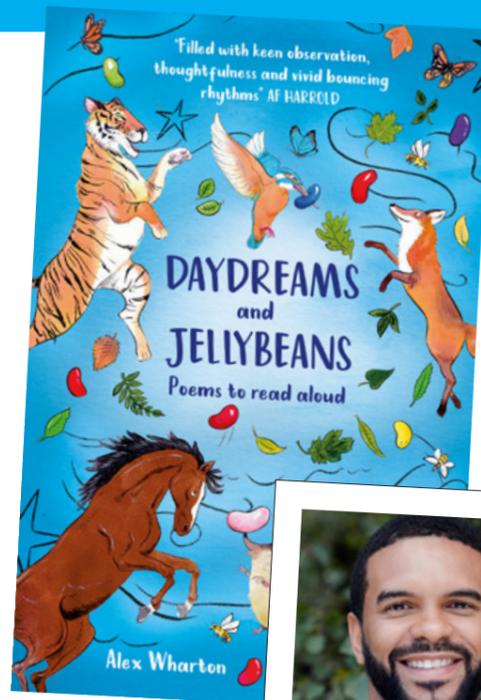
## A Kid's Life in Ancient Times with Chae Strathie

**P2-5**

Join Chae Strathie for a fun, fascinating and informative exploration of what life was growing up in Ancient times. Join him for a whistle stop tour of a kid's life in Ancient Egypt, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece and Aztec times as he talks about his British Museum commissioned series *So You Think You've Got it Bad*. A kid's life in ancient times might sound fun what with all that brilliant sunny weather and exciting festivals, but actually life could be pretty hard. In this hilarious event, with award-winning Chae, you will learn just how tough life could be from being cursed to snacking on maggots to embalming the dead. This event is a mash-up of reading, singing, quizzes and dodgy 'facts'.

**Other titles in the series include: Ancient Egypt, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Prehistoric Times and are developed in consultation with the British Museum's top specialists in ancient history.**

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#) ✓


**11AM**

## Poems Aloud with Alex Wharton

**P1-4**

From forgotten jellybeans to sparking daydreams, Alex Wharton's poems are both funny and thoughtful, and aim to spark familiarity and inclusion.

With illustrations from Katy Riddell, the focus on the fun and dreamlike quality of the poems' engagement with the natural world. These poems use rhyme, rhythm and free verse, and are ideally suited to performance in a school setting, nurturing a love of language, reading, confidence and self-expression.

Alex Wharton is an award-winning writer and performer of poetry. When he's not running writing workshops and visiting schools he is busy with his family, their two dogs and two horses. Alex also enjoys exploring nature and is training to become a beekeeper.

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

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#) ✓

# Friday 11 June

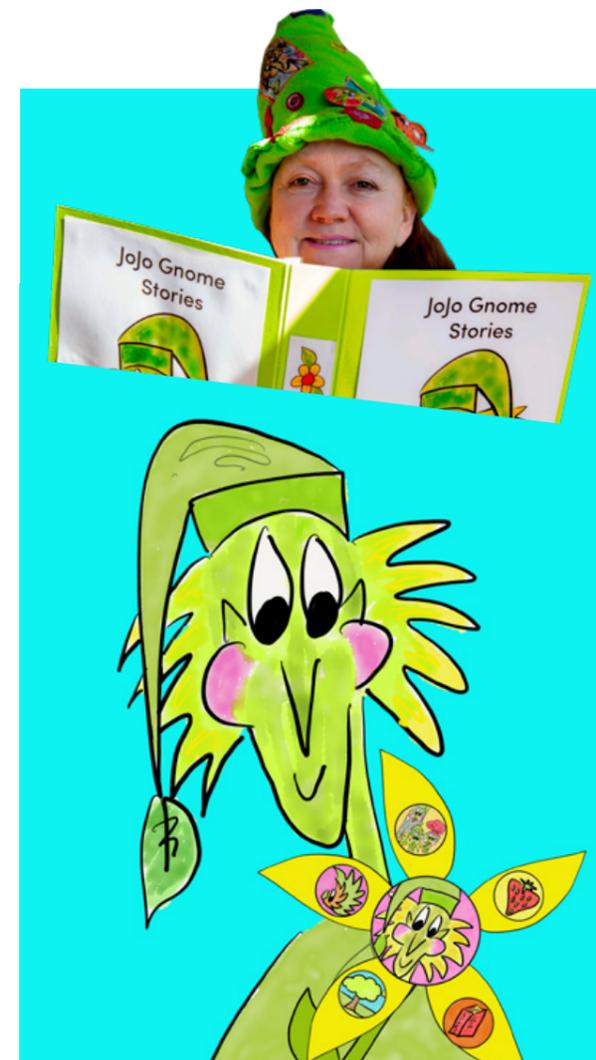
**2PM**

## Your Flower Story with Johanna Hall

**Nursery - P2**

Join podcast creator, Johanna Hall, to create your own flower story exploring your family. Using Jo's popular podcast character, Jojo the Gnome, the workshop gently questions the concept of what a family 'looks' like by hearing the story of Jojo as he realises his friend's families are different and within families each family member is different too. Then create a story flower to describe yourself. Perhaps even 'plant' a whole garden of flowers to show each, individual person in the class. Fun, interactive workshop designed for early years.

[www.jojognome.com/story-podcast/](http://www.jojognome.com/story-podcast/)



[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#) ✓

**10AM**

## Digging Up the Past

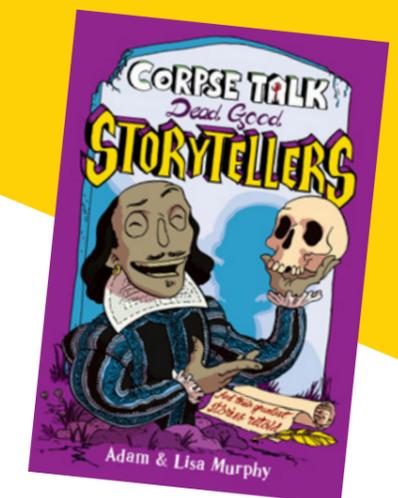
with Adam Murphy  
*Dead Good Storytellers*  
Episode 1 - *Enheduanna: The Priestess Poet*

**AGE 6+**

Adam Murphy is an award-winning comics artist, writer and illustrator. He brings history and folklore to life for readers of all ages through humour, in-depth research and an ongoing curiosity about what makes people tick. In his latest comic book in his *Corpse Talk* series *Dead Good Storytellers*, Adam explores the lives and the works of some of the world's greatest known writers such as Rumi, Mary Shelley, Chaucer and Beatrix Potter. Join him to learn about one of our greatest authors – how to read, draw and research them. Who will it be today? Only one way to find out.

[www.adammurphy.com](http://www.adammurphy.com)

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#) ✓



Friday  
11 June



**11AM**  
**Mary Queen of Scots: Escape from Loch Leven with Theresa Breslin**

AGE P1-4

The true story of the daring escape of Mary, Queen of Scots from the island castle in Lochleven is well-known throughout Scotland and the world. Multi-award-winning author Theresa Breslin, who has carefully researched Mary's life, has adapted this famous adventure into a picture book for children. Join her as she takes us back through time to learn about this pivotal point in the life of one of the most well-known and controversial monarchs.

[www.theresabreslin.com](http://www.theresabreslin.com)

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#)



**4PM**

**Strong Brave True: Great Scots that Changed the World ...and how you can too. Episode 1**

ALL AGES

Join author **Mairi Kidd** and illustrator **Tom Morgan-Jones** as they introduce a brilliant selection showcasing the innovations of Scots -- well-known and less well-known, men and women alike -- throughout the ages and in many different fields: from astronomy, philosophy and lighthouse design to technology, poetry and medicine. An afterword for everyone of 'an enquiring mind' offers insight on how are attitudes change through time; for example, conflicts around Victorian exploration.

Who will they introduce today? Join us to find out.

[www.inkymess.com](http://www.inkymess.com)



[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#)

Saturday  
12 June

**10AM**

**Digging Up the Past with Adam Murphy Dead Good Storytellers Episode 2 - William Shakespeare: Playwright**

AGE 6+

Adam Murphy is an award-winning comics artist, writer and illustrator. He brings history and folklore to life for readers of all ages through humour, in-depth research and an ongoing curiosity about what makes people tick. In his latest comic book in his Corpse Talk series *Dead Good Storytellers*, Adam explores the lives and the works of some of the world's greatest known writers such as Rumi, Mary Shelley, Chaucer and Beatrix Potter. Join him to learn about the one our greatest authors -- how to read, draw and research them. Who will it be today? Only one way to find out.

[www.adammurphy.com](http://www.adammurphy.com)

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#)



Live Event! 11.00AM - 11.45AM

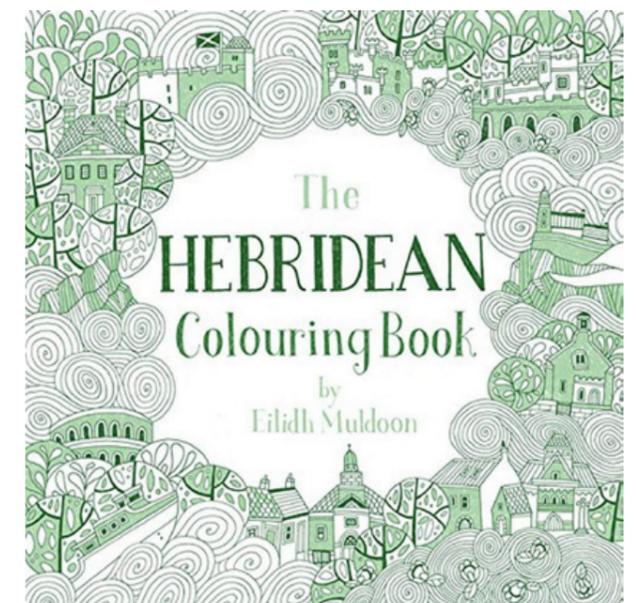


**Hebridean Colouring Adventures with Eilidh Muldoon**

ALL AGES

Join author, illustrator and artist, Eilidh Muldoon to colour and doodle your way around the Hebrides! Have pens, pencils and paper at the ready. This event will involve lots of drawing and colouring in, all inspired by Eilidh's *The Hebridean Colouring Book* and *Boswell's Tour of the Hebrides*. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Eilidh lives close to North Berwick on Scotland's East Coast and has extensive experience of working with children and grown-ups at book festivals across the country from Borders to Wigtown and including Edinburgh International Book Festival where she was illustrator in residence in 2019 and designed the bookshop merchandise as well as leading a range of workshops including gin-tasting and colouring in!

[www.eilidhmuldoodles.com](http://www.eilidhmuldoodles.com)



[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#)

Saturday  
12 June

Live Event! 2.30PM - 3.30PM



**Creating A Life Story  
with Vivian French and Julia Vohl**

6+

Join author Vivian French and Festival illustrator in residence, Julia Vohl, for a fun and imaginative story-making session that will describe what Boswell and Johnson's coach driver experienced as he travelled with the writers around the Highlands and Hebrides in 1773. What did he see, what did he think and what did he hear? There's no official record so it's up to you to decide. In this fun, interactive workshop, Vivian French will guide you through creating an exciting adventure story whilst Julia draws the illustrations.

Vivian writes stories for picture books, fiction and non-fiction, poetry and plays. She loves the challenge of making up stories and explaining real things – from frogs, to chocolate, to worms to dinosaurs. She collaborates with many different illustrators from all over the world, enjoys working with editors, and loves meeting her readers in schools and libraries and at festivals all over the world.

American illustrator, Julia Vohl, has just completed her studies in illustration at Edinburgh College of Art. [www.juliavohl.com](http://www.juliavohl.com)

CLICK HERE to register for this event

4PM

**Strong Brave True:  
Great Scots that  
Changed the World  
...and how you can too.**

**Episode 2**

ALL AGES

Join author **Mairi Kidd** and illustrator **Tom Morgan-Jones** as they introduce a brilliant selection showcasing the innovations of Scots -- well-known and less well-known, men and women alike -- throughout the ages and in many different fields: from astronomy, philosophy and lighthouse design to technology, poetry and medicine. An afterword for everyone of 'an enquiring mind' offers insight on how are attitudes change through time; for example, conflicts around Victorian exploration.

Who will they introduce today? Join us to find out.

[www.inkymess.com](http://www.inkymess.com)



CLICK HERE to register for this event

Live Event! 11AM - Noon

Sunday  
13 June

10AM

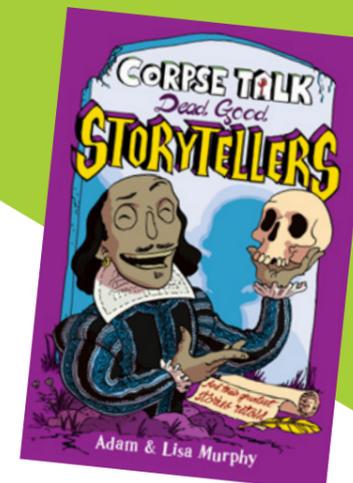
**Digging  
Up the Past  
with Adam Murphy  
Dead Good Storytellers  
Episode 3 - Beatrix Potter:  
Children's Author**

AGE 6+

Adam Murphy is an award-winning comics artist, writer and illustrator. He brings history and folklore to life for readers of all ages through humour, in-depth research and an ongoing curiosity about what makes people tick. In his latest comic book in his Corpse Talk series *Dead Good Storytellers*, Adam explores the lives and the works of some of the world's greatest known writers such as Rumi, Mary Shelley, Chaucer and Beatrix Potter. Join him to learn about the one our greatest authors – how to read, draw and research them. Who will it be today? Only one way to find out.

[www.adammurphy.com](http://www.adammurphy.com)

CLICK HERE to register for this event



**Wear Your Identity  
T-shirt making workshop  
with Moray Wellbeing Hub**

ALL AGES / LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Are you a neurodiverse person? Want to explore your identity in a positive and creative way? Then join us for this fun and interactive t-shirt design workshop.

Neurodiversity is a positive term to describe people with learning and thinking differences, folk who may have received medical labels such as autism, dyslexia, ADHD, dyspraxia etc, and those who don't quite fit criteria yet feel 'different' to neurotypical norms. Using this word can help reduce stigma around the range of brain differences humans can have, it sidesteps a need for focusing on a diagnosis and provides a wider term people are increasingly comfortable to use.

Pre-order your t-shirt and art pack in advance and then join our artist, Fiona Percy for a virtual get creative session where you explore how you would like to tell others who you are.



CLICK HERE to register for this event

Sunday  
13 June



Live Event! 2.30PM - 3.30PM



**Taking Flight: Bird Mask Workshop with Julia Vohl**

6+

Join festival Illustrator in Residence, Julia Vohl as she leads a fun, interactive workshop involving making and decorating your own bird mask. Your mask could take inspiration from the birds in your garden or local park or it could be a complete flight of fancy as you create some wonderful, colourful new species.

Julia loves all forms of drawing especially drawing comics so perhaps there will be inspiration on how to tell your own adventure story based on your mask creation.

www.juliavohl.com

CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓



4PM

**Strong Brave True: Great Scots that Changed the World ...and how you can too. Episode 3**

ALL AGES

Join author **Mairi Kidd** and illustrator **Tom Morgan-Jones** as they introduce a brilliant selection showcasing the innovations of Scots -- well-known and less well-known, men and women alike -- throughout the ages and in many different fields: from astronomy, philosophy and lighthouse design to technology, poetry and medicine. An afterword for everyone of 'an enquiring mind' offers insight on how are attitudes change through time; for example, conflicts around Victorian exploration.

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www.inkymess.com



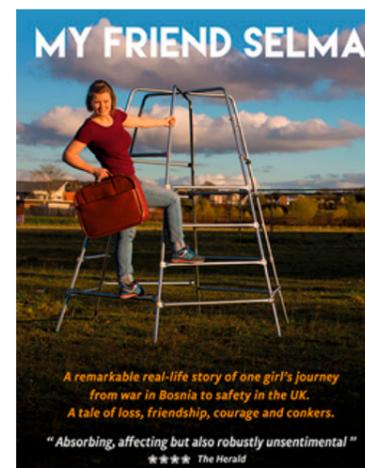
CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓

Monday  
14 June

10AM

**My Friend Selma with Victoria Beesley Episode 1**

P4-7



This is the story of a conker that never fell, an interrupted stethoscope, prayer beads, water splashing in a face, cat with no home, a car, a mask, a party hat, a pair of swimming pants, a flying pool ball, a letter, and a photograph.

Mostly it's the story of a girl called Selma and her remarkable real-life story of her journey from war in Bosnia to safety in the UK. It is the tale of an incredible journey, a world turned upside down, loss, friendship, courage - and conkers. It is also the story of Scottish based writer, director and performer **Victoria Beesley**. Join her as she talks about the story behind the play and how she came to meet and become the friend of the remarkable Selma. Over three episodes, this is the perfect exploration of war, displacement and the human cost told against a backdrop of humour, empathy and kindness.

**Vickie is the Associate Director for Learning and Engagement at Horsecross Arts in Perth. She also writes and directs touring theatre productions across Scotland and the rest of the UK, usually inspired by real-life stories, for audiences of children, young people and adults.**

www.victoriabeesley.co.uk

CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓

11AM

**The True Story of Rosa Parks with Lauren Burke**

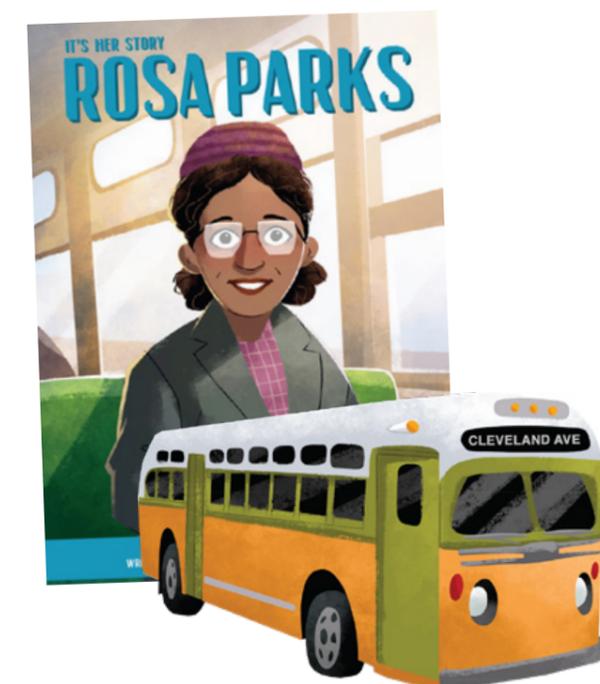
P5-7



Lauren Burke says "They won't tell you this in school..." is how my parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles began a lot of sentences. What usually followed was an uncomfortable truth, a painful memory, or lesson. In my experience, Black history is mostly an oral history passed down in the community via elders. Once, at a National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) event, my father instructed me to pay close attention to a speaker who began their talk by saying, "They won't tell you this in school, but Rosa Parks was a radical." Join American writer and illustrator, Lauren Burke as she introduces her graphic novel *It's Her Story: Rosa Parks* celebrating a lifetime of activism versus a single moment in 1955 when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus to a white passenger. Rosa's story takes in late nights, setbacks, and moments of doubt but also provides a vital understanding that while change is possible, it doesn't happen overnight. You have to put in the work.

CLICK HERE TO READ Introducing *It's Her Story: Rosa Parks*

CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓



Monday  
14 June

Live Event! 2PM - 2.45PM

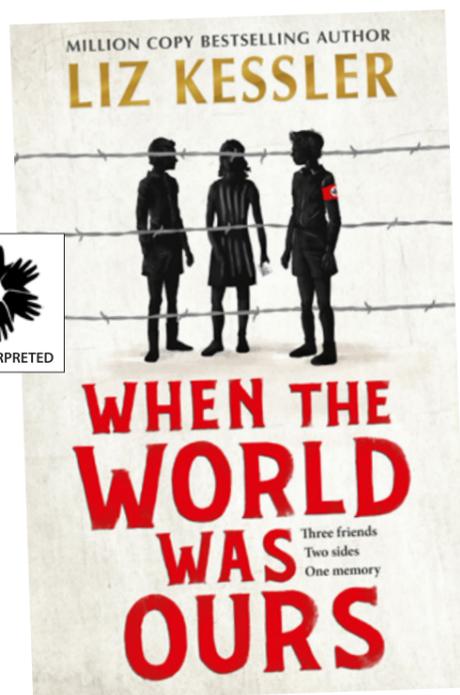


## When the World Was Ours with Liz Kessler

S1-S3

Internationally bestselling author Liz Kessler's new novel, *When the World Was Ours*, is inspired by her father's true story of escaping Nazi-occupied Europe and the horrors of the Holocaust. Liz's novel follows three friends in Austria and the three paths their lives take during the Second World War. Liz has done hundreds of school events during her career as a children's author and talks sensitively and age-appropriately about this topic. She will show photographs and letters from her father's story and talks about her visits to the sites of concentration camps during her research. Liz will be talking live and there will be plenty of opportunity to interact via the chat function to ask questions.

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



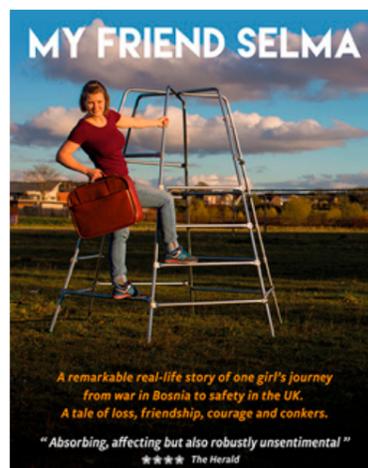
CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓

Tuesday  
15 June

10AM

## My Friend Selma with Victoria Beesley Episode 2

P4-7



This is the story of a conker that never fell, an interrupted stethoscope, prayer beads, water splashing in a face, cat with no home, a car, a mask, a party hat, a pair of swimming pants, a flying pool ball, a letter, and a photograph.

Mostly it's the story of a girl called Selma and her remarkable real-life story of her journey from war in Bosnia to safety in the UK. It is the tale of an incredible journey, a world turned upside down, loss, friendship, courage - and conkers. It is also the story of Scottish based writer, director and performer **Victoria Beesley**. Join her as she talks about the story behind the play and how she came to meet and become the friend of the remarkable Selma. Over three episodes, this is the perfect exploration of war, displacement and the human cost told against a backdrop of humour, empathy and kindness.

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

CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓

11AM

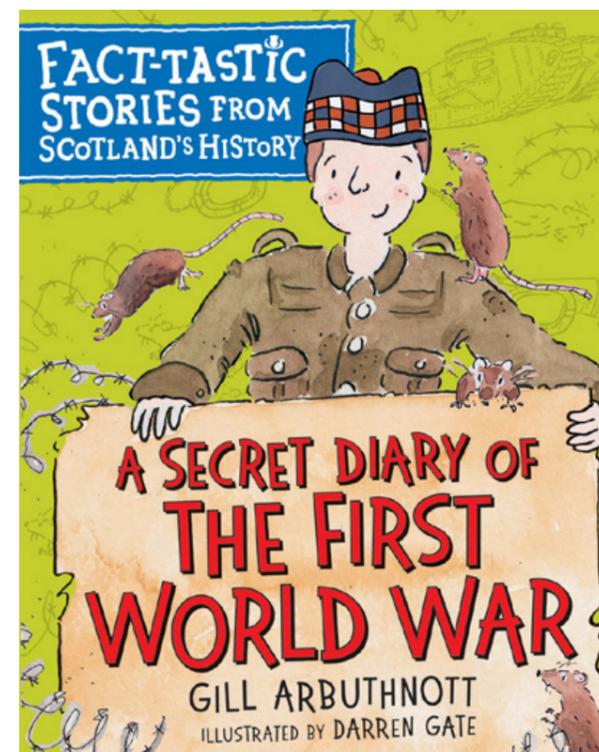
## A Secret Diary of the First World War with Gill Arbuthnott and Darren Gate

P2-4



What was the First World War really like? Step into the boots of 14-year-old soldier James Marchbank and find out. Why was rat hunting a popular hobby in the trenches? How did parachuting pigeons help win the war? Why would a really good friend rub whale oil on your feet? What did it feel like to be a teenager at war? Inspired by the real-life diary of a Scottish boy soldier, former teacher and award-winning author Gill Arbuthnott creates a fact-tastic account of the First World War, which is both fun and emotionally engaging. Gill will be joined by the book's illustrator, Darren Gate for a creative event of diary writing and illustration.

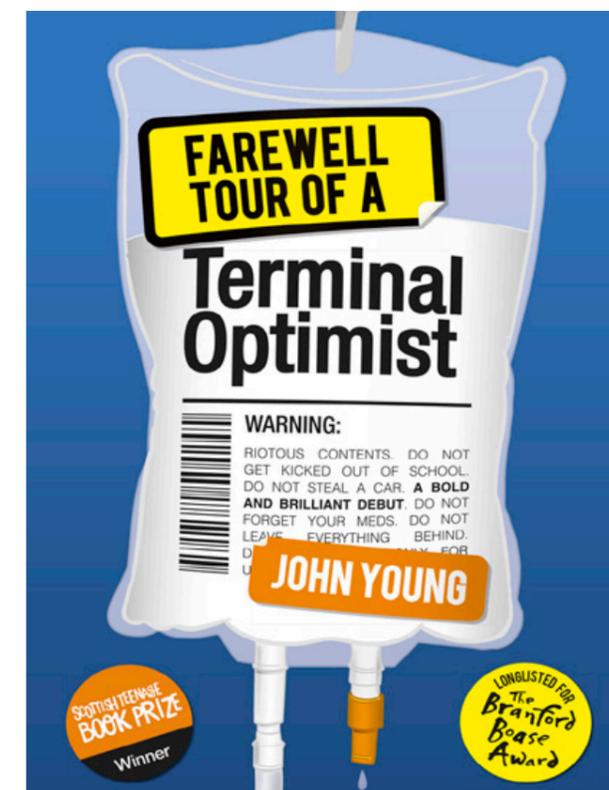
CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓



[gillarbuthnott.wordpress.com](http://gillarbuthnott.wordpress.com)

CLICK HERE For Features for Teachers:  
The First World War

Live Event! 2PM - 2.45PM



## Farewell Tour of an Eternal Optimist with John Young

S1-3

Join author John Young as he introduces his novel, *Farewell Tour of an Eternal Optimist*. The story takes the reader on a thrilling journey across Scotland through the eyes of young cancer sufferer Connor Lambert. The very boy who tormented him at school, known as Skeates, accompanies him. They go from hate, to mistrust, to liking each other and ultimately to a point where Connor is relying on Skeates in the end. This is a surprising tale full of excitement, unexpected twists, turns and important life messages throughout. However, this is also a novel inspired by the tragic illness and death of John's own daughter. In this event he talks of how living through loss and trauma gave him hope, action and creativity. John will be talking live and there will be plenty of opportunity to interact via the chat function to ask questions.

[www.j-a-young.com](http://www.j-a-young.com)

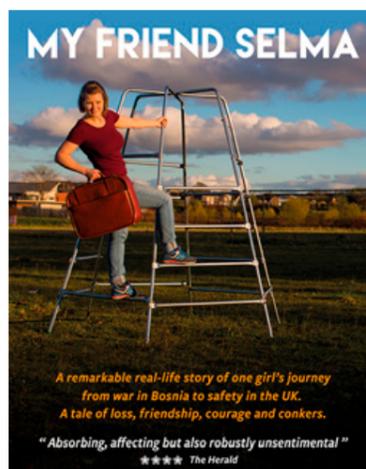
CLICK HERE to register for this event ✓

# Wed'sday 16 June

10AM

## My Friend Selma with Victoria Beesley Episode 3

P4-7



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

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#)

11AM

## Dangerous Lives of the Jacobites with Linda Strachan and Darren Gate

P3-6

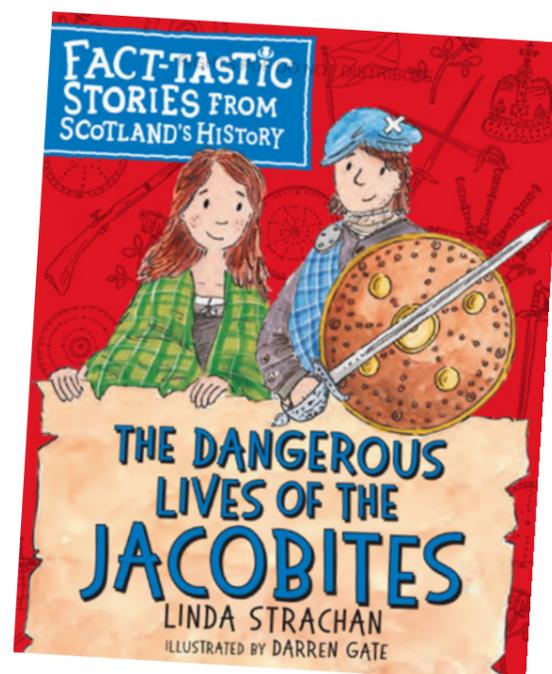
*"I ran forward, yelling, with all the other Highlanders. I didn't have time to think about how scared I was."*

Step into the shoes of brother and sister, Rob and Aggie, to find out what it was really like to live in the Scottish Highlands and fight for the Jacobites with author Linda Strachan and illustrator Darren Gate. In this fun, informative and activity packed session, you'll have the chance to learn about who was Bonnie Prince Charlie? Why were bagpipes classed as a Weapon of War? What really happened at the Battle of Culloden? And how did the Jacobite Risings change Scotland forever?

*The Dangerous Lives of the Jacobites* includes maps, timelines, family trees and more!

[CLICK HERE For Features for Teachers: The Dangerous Lives of the Jacobites](#)

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#)



4PM

## Slug Love with Jo Clifford and Danny Krass

S3+ / Contains explicit content

Join playwright Jo Clifford and sonic theatre maker Danny Krass to discuss *Slug Love*, part of a series of dramatic podcasts created for Glasgow's Tron Theatre.

In advance, listen to the podcast, and then join live to explore, discuss and debate the themes and issues of this piece. *Slug Love* explores sex, identity, family relationships and human nature. Using the innocent imagination of a child, whose curiosity about slugs in the garden opens up a conversation around patience, language and our human need for meaningful relationships.



**Jo Clifford** is a proud father and grandmother, playwright and performer, based in Edinburgh. She is the author of over 100 plays, many of which have been performed all over the world.

Plays include: *Every One*, *The Tree Of Knowledge*, *Faust Parts One And Two*, *Ines De Castro* and *Great Expectations*.



**Danny Krass** is a music composer and sound designer who has worked with all the major theatre companies across Scotland including the Lyceum, Traverse, Tron, *Visible Fictions* and *Catherine Wheels*.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN: Slug Love by Jo Clifford - Earwig: Sonic Theatre Podcasts](#)

[CLICK HERE to register for this event](#)

The World's Only Festival of Biography and Memoir

# BOSWELL / 10-16 JUNE BOOK FESTIVAL / ONLINE

FEATURING:

ANDREW COTTER  
WITH OLIVE & MABEL  
BILL PATERSON  
ANDREW MARR  
LEE LAWRENCE  
AMANDA OWEN  
ANNE GLENCONNER  
JANEY GODLEY  
CHRIS BRYANT MP  
MELANIE REID  
RORY STEWART  
THE GUILTY FEMINIST

