

9 February 2014

# BROADER AND DEEPER *LITTORAL* PROGRAMME ON THEMES OF NATURE AND LANDSCAPE



## TWO DAY-LONG PROGRAMMES IN CRAIL AND AT CAMBO

28 June & 5 July, plus 6 July finale

### FEATURED WRITERS, BROADCASTERS AND THINKERS

**John Burnside** **Carina Contini** **Artemis Cooper** **Tim Dee**  
**Richard Holloway** **Robert Macfarlane** **Sally Magnusson**  
**Jennifer Potter** **Graham Robb** **Kirsty Wark**

*Littoral*, the writing and ideas festival within Scotland's **East Neuk Festival** (part of Homecoming Scotland 2014), now motors into its third year with literary supremos **Jenny Brown** and **Catherine Lockerbie** firmly in the driving seat. They have gathered together an impressive range of acclaimed writers and philosophers of the natural world to share their thought-provoking ideas on journeys, pathways, gardens and the wilderness over two focused days of sessions in Crail and at Cambo House.

*Littoral* is unique among literary festivals for its open-minded but carefully themed approach to programming genuine sessions of writing and ideas, without always tethering its guest speakers to recently published books. Svend Brown, founding director of the celebrated East Neuk Festival, which this year marks ten years of presenting world-class music events, has always preserved empathy between location and artistic programming. Hence the rolling seascapes and landscapes of the East Neuk have instigated the ongoing theme of literary response to the environment that *Littoral* directors Brown and Lockerbie have broadened and deepened for 2014, including a special closing event with the eminent nature writer **Robert Macfarlane**.

## LITTORAL AT CRAIL

Saturday 28 June

The small seaside town of Crail has always been at the hub of the East Neuk Festival and Crail Church and the Church of the Most Holy Trinity are ideal venues, in both space and intimacy, for readings and discussions on the themes of journeys, pathways and memories.

### ARTEMIS COOPER 12 noon, Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Crail

Patrick Leigh Fermor was, among many things, war hero, renowned charmer and a pioneering travel writer. Acclaimed biographer Artemis Cooper presents a vivid portrait of the extraordinary man who tramped across Europe in the '30s, consorted with princesses and kidnapped Nazis on his beloved island of Crete. **Tickets £10**

### **JOHN BURNSIDE 2pm, Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Crail**

Multi-talented, award-winning John Burnside (Fife-born and professor at St Andrews) is a poet, novelist, essayist, memoirist and passionate environmentalist. His most recent Saltire Book of the Year Award is for his collection of stories, *Something Like Happy*, imbued with a longing and deep love for nature. **Tickets £10**

### **SALLY MAGNUSSON 3.30pm, Crail Church**

Together with her two sisters, broadcaster Sally Magnusson cared for her mother, Mamie, during her long struggle with dementia. Travelling unexpected and dark spiritual pathways, she has chronicled the anguish, frustrations and unexpected joys they experienced while losing a loved one in her memoir *Where Memories Go*. **Tickets £10**

### **GRAHAM ROBB 5pm Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Crail**

A bike ride from the tip of Portugal across the Pyrenees to the Alps revealed to renowned historian Graham Robb the lost pathways of the Celts, their gods, their art and their knowledge of science – a sophisticated ancient society to rival the Romans, forgotten for almost two millennia. **Tickets £10**

### **RICHARD HOLLOWAY 6.30pm Crail Church**

Richard Holloway has been a regular participant at the East Neuk Festival over the years and is much admired for his sensitivity and candour as well as eloquence. In this special event he reads and discusses some of his most-loved passages from other writers. Journeys – personal, spiritual and geographical – are at the heart of his selection. **Tickets £10**

## **FAMILY DAY**

**Saturday 28 June 10.30am – 4pm**

Crail Community Hall

Storytellers **Claire** and **Fergus McNicol** are set to capture imaginations young and old with their tales of exploring the Isle of May amidst puffins and other seabirds (2pm), while charismatic children's author **Vivian French** engages young talents to create their own literary and dramatic adventure in tandem with musician and songwriter **Michael John McCarthy** (12.30pm). Family Day also hosts dance and painting activities – everything on the theme of the high seas.

All sessions £3.

## **LITTORAL AT CAMBO**

**Saturday 5 July**

Gardens, both wild and cultivated, are the key theme of the *Littoral* sessions at Cambo – from microcosmic to the massive wilderness. All take place in the historic drawing room of Cambo House, some of them breaking out into the gardens and estate for author-accompanied walks.

### **JENNIFER POTTER 11am**

Lotus, lily, sunflower, opium poppy, rose, tulip and orchid: horticultural historian Jennifer Potter presents a study of seven flowers that have inflamed hearts and minds in cultures around the world in seven stories of secrets, surprise, uncanny power and unexpected origins. After the session she leads a walk through Cambo's exquisite walled garden. **Tickets £10**

### **KIRSTY WARK 12.30pm**

Leading broadcaster, Kirsty Wark, muses on a beloved house and garden that is the centrepiece of her first novel, a haunting story of memory, gardening, art, love and belonging. **Tickets £10**

### **TIM DEE 1.45pm**

Leading nature writer Tim Dee discusses how humans have managed the delicate balance between controlling and accepting the wilderness in the story of four fields across the world from Zambia to his own Cambridgeshire, followed by a short walk around the Cambo Estate. **Tickets £10**

### **CARINA CONTINI WITH KIRSTY WARK 3.15pm**

Well-known restaurateur Carina Contini talks to Kirsty Wark about her personal experience of restoring a walled kitchen garden and growing seasonal produce for the family table. **Tickets £10**

### **ROBERT MACFARLANE AND TIM DEE, *The Legacy of John Muir* 4.30pm**

In the 100 years since the death of John Muir, Scottish father of conservation, American national hero and founder of the national parks, how have our attitudes to wild places evolved? These two luminaries of nature and travel writing discuss how we protect, adapt and cherish precious spaces under ever-growing pressures. **Tickets £10**

## **LITTORAL FINALE**

### **Robert Macfarlane**

**Sunday 6 July 11am Kilrenny Church**

Walker, climber, wild swimmer, chair of Man Booker judges, nature writer and one of the most admired authors of his generation, Robert Macfarlane delves into the range of human and literary responses to the many pathways and landscapes of the natural world. **Tickets £10**

*Littoral* is an integral part of the **East Neuk Festival**, renowned for the high-calibre music programme it presents each year. For its tenth birthday the East Neuk Festival has invited back many of the finest international musicians who have made the last decade so special, including pianist and conductor **Christian Zacharias**, the **Belcea, Ebène** and **Elias String Quartets**, pianist **Llŷr Williams** and guitarist **Sean Shibe**. Concert programmes embrace the classical greats of Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart and Ravel among many others, plus a weekend of Schubert masterworks to close (**5 & 6 July**). The Festival opens with a weekend (**27 - 29 June**) of top class jazz performances including a tribute to *King of Swing*, Benny Goodman with clarinettist **Julian Bliss**, Parisian nostalgia with bassist **Renaud Garcia-Fons** and virtuoso jazz guitar with **Martin Taylor**. In association with Fife Arts Trust and the **Fleming-Wyfold Art Foundation**, East Neuk Festival also presents an exhibition of major landscape paintings of Fife and the East Neuk region by the Scottish Colourists amongst others.

The East Neuk Festival gratefully acknowledges support from Creative Scotland, Fife Council, Homecoming Scotland 2014 and numerous private donors and trusts.

**Festival information [www.eastneukfestival.com](http://www.eastneukfestival.com)**

**Box Office: Hub Tickets T. 0131 473 2000 W. [www.hubtickets.co.uk](http://www.hubtickets.co.uk)**

**General booking opens 20 February 2014**

Further press information:

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