



26–29 September



Irvine



Harbour Arts Centre



Wellwood



Maritime Museum



Harbourside



tidelinesbookfestival.com

01294 274059

Thursday 26 September

Letters & Literary Treasures Exhibition Wellwood Tours	Exhibition 2-5pm Tours 2pm-4pm	Free	Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum
Dougie Donnelly: My Life in Sport	7.30pm-8.30pm	£10	Harbour Arts Centre

Friday 27 September

Moxie Creative Kids The Hungry Caterpillar Storytelling session	10-10.40am (babies) 11-11.40am (crawlers & movers under 2)	£5 per child*	Harbour Arts Centre
Letters & Literary Treasures Exhibition Wellwood Tours	Exhibition 2-5pm Tours 2pm-4pm	Free	Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum
Writing @ The Maritime: Poetry, with Simon Lamb	2-4pm	£15	Scottish Maritime Museum
Moladh na Gàidhlig: Celebrating Gaelic in Poetry and Song	7.30pm-8.30pm	£10/8/6**	Harbour Arts Centre

Saturday 28 September

Moxie Creative Kids We're Going on a Bear Hunt Storytelling & Drama Workshop	10am-11am (2-3 year olds) 11.30am-12.30pm (4-6 year olds)	£5 per child*	Harbour Arts Centre
Letters & Literary Treasures Exhibition Wellwood Tours	Exhibition 10am-4.30pm Tours 11am, 1pm & 3pm	Free	Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum
Irvine Lasses Harbourside Walk	11am-12noon	£5	Harbourside
Coalfield Justice: The Miners' Strike in Scotland	1pm-2pm	£10/8/6**	Harbour Arts Centre
Victoria MacKenzie: Medieval Mystics and the Genesis of Women's Writing	3pm-4pm	£10/8/6**	Harbour Arts Centre
Billy Kay, Born in Kyle: A love letter tae an Ayrshire childhood	5.30pm-6.30pm	£10	Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum
True Crime: The Fact and The Fiction, with David Swindle and Lin Anderson	8pm-9pm	£10	Harbour Arts Centre

Box office 01294 274059 or ticketsource.co.uk

Sunday 29 September

Irvine Lasses Harbourside Walk	11am-12noon	£5	Harbourside
Writing @ The Maritime: Historical Fiction, with Steven Veerapen	10am-12noon	£15	Scottish Maritime Museum
Letters & Literary Treasures Exhibition Wellwood Tours	Exhibition 2-5pm Tours 2pm & 4pm	Free	Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum
Scotland's Stories: Historic Tales for Incredible Places	1pm-2pm	£10/8/6**	Harbour Arts Centre
Kith: Scottish Seasonal Food for Family and Friends	3pm-4pm	£10/8/6**	Harbour Arts Centre
Adam Sharp: An Idiom Abroad	5pm-6pm	£10/8/6**	Harbour Arts Centre
Graeme Armstrong and Len Pennie: 21st Century Scots	7pm-8pm	£10	Harbour Arts Centre

* Bring your adult for free. Children must be accompanied, minimum 1 adult per 3 children.
** This event has flexible pricing, please choose whichever you can pay.

with thanks to our partners and sponsors for Tidelines 2024



tidelinesbookfestival.com

“Welcome to your world-class book festival here in Irvine”

I've spent most of this year travelling the world with my latest novel Caledonian Road. From Paisley, Cambridge and Galway to the famous Hay-on-Wye Festival in Wales; from Charleston Literary Festival in England to Margaret River Readers' and Writers' Festival in Western Australia and The Centre for Fiction in New York, I've come to see in a whole new way the joy that book festivals can bring to communities. The Tidelines Festival in Irvine is among the best, and it continues to draw — as many of these international festivals can only dream of doing — on a wealth of local talent, both past writers and present-day ones. Tidelines allows its audiences to feast on a living culture of ideas, stories and entertainment, stretching from Robert Burns and John Galt to some of today's prime literary stars. It was the great Scottish novelist Alasdair Gray who wrote that to see a place, its people and its voices, used in literature is to begin to live there imaginatively, and that is one of the things Tidelines is doing — creating common ground out of this beautiful part of Ayrshire, adding richness to the local scene and providing a platform in Irvine for writers and readers to meet and celebrate. Over these last 11 years, Tidelines, via author events, exhibitions, walks and tours, has introduced countless young people to a love of reading. Empathy and open-mindedness are what the world needs now — plus laughter, always laughter. In 2024, the festival boasts all of this in abundance. From the great Dougie Donnelly talking about his sporting life, to crucial events about the Miners' Strike in Scotland, Ayrshire childhoods, true crime and historical fiction, closing on Sunday night with the magic of Scots novelist Graeme Armstrong and poet Len Pennie, you are all set for an unmissable weekend.



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Open books, open minds. Welcome to your world-class book festival here in Irvine.

Andrew O'Hagan
Patron of Tidelines Book Festival
Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature

Box office 01294 274059 or ticketsource.co.uk

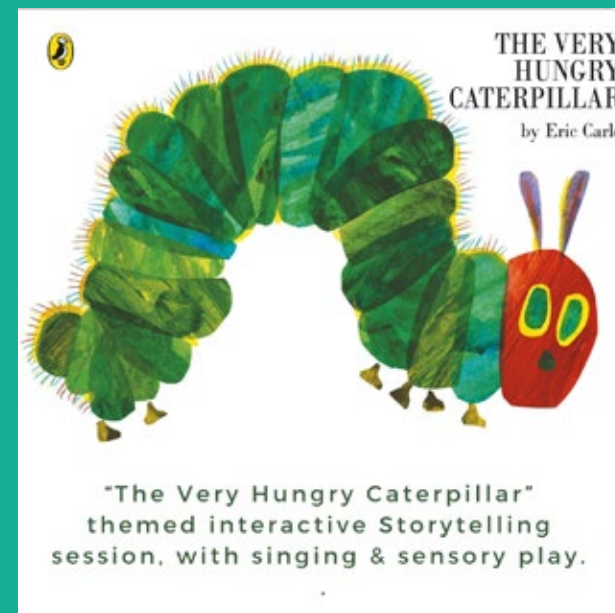
Children's Events

Moxie Creative Kids The Hungry Caterpillar Storytelling session

Friday 27 September
10–10.40am (babies)
11–11.40am (crawlers
& movers under 2)
£5 per child*

“In the light of the moon
a little egg lay on a leaf.”

'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' themed interactive storytelling session, with singing & sensory play.



Moxie Creative Kids We're Going on a Bear Hunt Storytelling & Drama Workshop

Saturday 28 September
10am–11am (2–3 year olds)
11.30am–12.30pm
(4–6 year olds)
£5 per child*

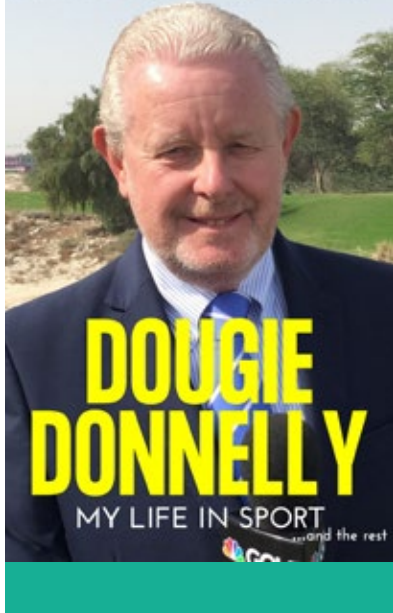
“We're going on a bear hunt.
We're going to catch a big
one...”

'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' themed interactive storytelling session, with drama, music & games.



* Bring your adult for free. Children must be accompanied, minimum 1 adult per 3 children.

Foreword by Sir Billy Connolly



Dogie Donnelly: My Life in Sport
Thursday 26 September
7.30pm–8.30pm | £10

Join us for the festival's opening event in the company of one of Scotland's most successful and best loved broadcasters. Dogie Donnelly's career took him from a law degree he never used, to an award-winning fifteen years as a radio DJ and encounters with Paul McCartney and Elton John, to a worldwide career in television sport. He spent over thirty years with the BBC as a presenter on Grandstand and Sportscene, and still travels the world commentating on golf at the highest level. 'My Life in Sport' tells his story with humour and insight, and with the true smooth Donnelly style and voice we know and love.



Moladh na Gàidhlig
Celebrating Gaelic in Poetry and Song
Friday 27 September | 7.30pm–8.30pm | £10/8/6

An entertaining celebration of the Gaelic language, in the company of poets Niall O'Gallagher and Catriona Ross, with music from North Ayrshire's very own Largs Gaelic Choir. Niall is the author of three collections in Gaelic, and 'Fuaimhean Gràidh / The Sounds of Love: Selected Poems'. He was awarded the Bardic Crown at the 2023 Mòd in Paisley. Catriona, a young Gaelic speaker from Skye, was selected as a Scottish Poetry Library Next Generation Young Makar in 2023. The Largs Gaelic Choir has been a part of the local community since 1980 and is currently preparing for their performance at the 2024 Mòd in Oban.

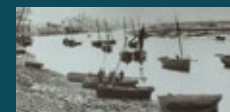


Writing @ The Maritime:
Poetry, with Simon Lamb
Friday 27 September | 2pm–4pm | £15



An engaging and hands-on writing workshop with poet Simon Lamb, using Irvine's Maritime Museum as creative inspiration. Suitable for writers of all abilities age 16+. "Simon elicited creativity in me I didn't know existed." (feedback from 2023 workshop)

This event will be held at the Scottish Maritime Museum (address on back page).



Irvine Lasses Harbourside Walk
Saturday 28 September & Sunday 29 September
11am–12noon | £5

Come and enjoy a historic walk along the harbourside with the Irvine Lasses. Learn about Irvine's rich cultural heritage and the literary connections to this unique part of Irvine, including the history of the Harbour Arts Centre itself. This will be a leisurely walk along the harbourside starting from the old Harbourmaster's cottage and finishing at or near the Irvine Water Sports Club building. The route follows the public pavement along the harbourside. Sections of the pavement may be uneven, and unused rail tracks are embedded in the pavement along part of the route. *Meet at the old Harbourmaster's cottage (walk along the harbourside to the dead end of Harbour Street, 5 mins by foot from the HAC). Advance booking essential. Please dress for the weather.*

COALFIELD JUSTICE

The 1984-85 Miners' Strike in Scotland

Jim Phillips



**Coalfield Justice:
The Miners' Strike
in Scotland**
Saturday 28 September
1pm–2pm | £10/8/6

In 2022 veteran miners in Scotland won a collective pardon from the Scottish Parliament for convictions acquired during the 1984-85 miners' strike. The Pardons Act recognised the distinct injustices facing Scottish strikers: twice as likely to be arrested as those in England and Wales, and three times as likely to be sacked. Jim Phillips, Professor of Economic and Social History at the University of Glasgow, discusses his new book on the strike and its injustices, using thirty oral history testimonies from strike veterans and family members, as they remember the injustices of arrest, conviction and employment dismissal.



**Victoria MacKenzie: Medieval Mystics and
the Genesis of Women's Writing**

Saturday 28 September | 3pm–4pm | £10/8/6



Victoria MacKenzie joins us at Tidelines to read from her award-winning novel 'For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain'. This beautiful novel explores the real lives of two medieval mystics, Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe, who wrote the earliest known books in English by women. Victoria will discuss her inspiration and writing process, and suggest why the lives of medieval women are of such interest to us today. Winner of the First Book Award at Scotland's National Book Awards 2023.



**Billy Kay - 'Born in Kyle':
A love letter tae an
Ayrshire childhood**
Saturday 28 September
5.30pm–6.30pm | £10

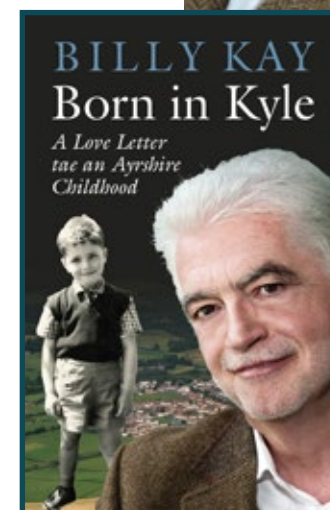
Jyne Gawston boay Billy Kay for the Irvine launch o his book, whaur he describes the wey o life in the Irvine Valley when he wis a wean growin up there in the 1950s an 1960s.

In his memoir 'Born in Kyle', writer and broadcaster Billy Kay explores the language, culture, history, folklore and literature of his Ayrshire home. Join us at Wellwood, the home of Irvine Burns Club, to hear Billy read passages from the book in a powerful Scots that is shot through with a sense of belonging...and a sense of humour!

This event will be held at Wellwood Museum (see back page for address). Due to the historic nature of the building there is currently no disabled access to the performance space on the first floor.

For access information email visits@irvineburnsclub.org

**Book sales at this event
will be CASH ONLY (£10
paperback/£15 hardback)**





True Crime: The Fact and The Fiction, with David Swindle and Lin Anderson Saturday 28 September 8pm–9pm | £10

A unique event exploring our obsession with the darkest of human nature.

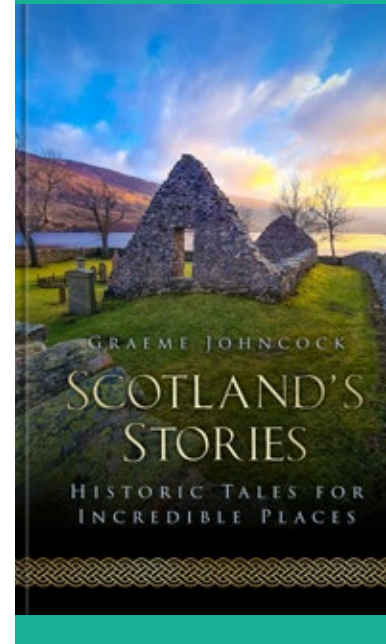
Former Murder Detective David Swindle worked on hundreds of complex cases during his thirty-four years in the police, including the serial killer Peter Tobin. He is a regular contributor to TV documentaries, and recently toured the UK with his sell-out show 'The Makings of a Murderer', exploring notorious cases from a victim-focused approach.

Lin Anderson is a Scottish author and screenwriter best known for her crime series featuring forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod. Four of her novels have been longlisted for the Scottish Crime Book of the Year. She is a co-founder of the international crime-writing festival Bloody Scotland.

Warning: This event will include references to violent crime.



Box office 01294 274059 or [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)



Scotland's Stories: Historic Tales for Incredible Places Sunday 29 September 1pm–2pm £10/8/6

Join storyteller Graeme Johncock as he transports you the length and breadth of Scotland with some of the tales from 'Scotland's Stories'. It's stories like these that bring Scotland's locations to life, whether it's a warning of dangerous kelpies lurking in a loch, or remembering a crucial battle fought long ago. Perfect for all who love legends, folklore or history to sit back, listen and explore.



Writing @ The Maritime: Historical Fiction, with Steven Veerapen Sunday 29 September | 10am–12noon | £15

In this workshop, novelist and writer Steven Veerapen will invite attendees to pick their favourite historical periods and then work on building the key elements of historical fiction: setting, character, narrative perspective, dialogue, plot, and structure. Suitable for all ages and abilities age 16+, this workshop will encourage colourful, collaborative historical writing.

This event will be held at the Scottish Maritime Museum (address on back page).

[tidelinesbookfestival.com](https://www.tidelinesbookfestival.com)



Kith: Scottish Seasonal Food for Family & Friends
Sunday 29 September
3pm–4pm | £10/8/6

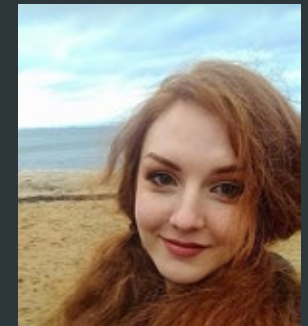
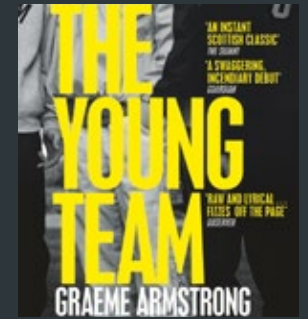
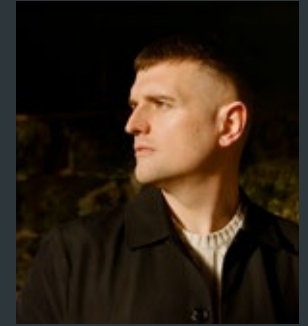
We are thrilled to welcome food writer and 2022 MasterChef finalist Sarah Rankin to Tidelines with her debut cookbook 'Kith' - a celebration of Scottish flavours and seasonality. Sarah is passionate about the importance of local producers and reclaiming the link between the people who make our food and what we cook. In a Tidelines first, this event will include a live cookery demonstration, as Sarah cooks some of the seasonal dishes from her book while she talks about the process of collecting and writing the recipes that celebrate Scotland's larder.

Graeme Armstrong and Len Pennie:
21st Century Scots
Sunday 29 September
7pm–8pm | £10

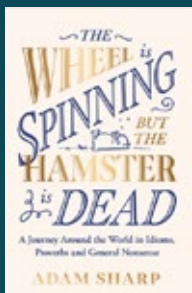
Tidelines brings together two stars of Scotland's new generation of writers for our closing event. Graeme Armstrong's debut novel 'The Young Team' is written in West Central Scots, exploring his teenage experiences of being in a gang and struggles with alcohol abuse, drug addiction and violence.

Len Pennie is a Scottish poet and mental health advocate. She became known on social media for her "Scots word of the day" and poem videos in 2020, and her debut collection 'Poyums' became an instant bestseller. Both hailing from Airdrie, Graeme and Len have reinvigorated the Scots language for the 21st century. This conversation will shine a fascinating spotlight on growing up in Scotland today.

Warning: this event may include strong language and references to violence, coercion, substance misuse & suicide.



Adam Sharp: An Idiom Abroad
Sunday 29 September | 5pm–6pm | £10/8/6



Get ready to go on a journey around the world in idioms, proverbs, and general nonsense! Drawing on his book, 'The Wheel is Spinning but the Hamster is Dead', Adam will present fascinating, ridiculous and hilarious translations from every corner of the globe. Described as "Brilliant" by Brian Bilston and "Utter genius" by Marian Keyes, Adam's performance will also include an optional interactive element. Prepare to get creative and let's get this show on the road! / Let's saddle the chickens (German) / On with the butter! (Icelandic) / Forward with the goat! (Dutch).



Wellwood Burns Centre and Museum

During the Tidelines weekend Irvine Burns Club will be staging a special literary exhibition, as well as running tours of Wellwood every day. Opening times and full details below.

Letters & Literary Treasures Exhibition

Thursday, Friday & Sunday 2–5pm

Saturday 10am–4.30pm

Free, no booking required
(last entry 30 mins before closing).

Wellwood is home to a spectacular and wide-ranging literary collection, including several first editions and a number of rare books and manuscripts. The museum also holds a unique collection of hand written 'Letters of Acceptance of Honorary Members' from literary figures stretching back to 1828, when John Galt first penned his acceptance. This special exhibition includes letters from Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle, along with more recent letters from Seamus Heaney, Ian Rankin, and Tidelines patron Andrew O'Hagan.



Wellwood Tours

Thursday 2pm–4pm (drop in)

Friday 2pm–4pm (drop in)

Saturday 11am, 1pm & 3pm (book in advance)

Sunday 2pm & 4pm (book in advance)

Free, but please book in advance for Saturday & Sunday tours. Allow 75 minutes for the tour

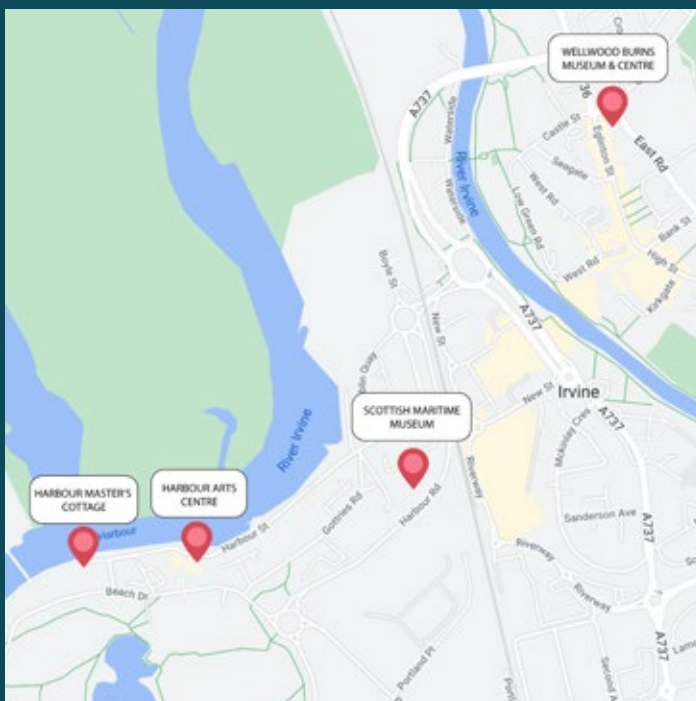
A visit to Wellwood is a must for anyone interested in writing and publishing, or the history of Robert Burns in Irvine. The tour includes a unique presentation on Burns in Irvine, and a chance to see the Templeton Bookshop chair, where Burns once sat and dreamt of becoming a poet. The tour includes access to the exhibition.

Other Events

Wellwood will be hosting the Billy Kay author event on Saturday 28th, and don't miss the fascinating literary-themed Harbourside Historic Walks with the Irvine Lasses. See individual event listings for details.

**Wellwood Burns Centre and Museum,
28 Eglinton Street, Irvine KA12 8AS**

The presentation and the Templeton chair are on the ground floor of Wellwood which is fully accessible. Due to the historic nature of the building there is currently no disabled access to the exhibition space on the first floor. For full access information email visits@irvineburnsclub.org.



Harbour Arts Centre,
116 Harbour Street,
KA12 8PZ

Harbour Master's Cottage
Harbour Street,
KA12 8PZ

**Scottish Maritime
Museum, The Linthouse,**
Harbour Road,
KA12 8BT

**Wellwood Burns
Centre & Museum,**
28 Eglinton Street,
KA12 8AS



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& find out more about
Tidelines Book Festival