



an Lanntair

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**FACLAN  
2015**

# fuil: blood

“The purpose of literature is to  
turn blood into ink.” T S Eliot

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Feis Litreachas Innse Gall  
The Hebridean Book Festival

**28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>** An Dàmhair  
October

# Fàilte gu Faclan 2015

## The Hebridean Book Festival

Faclan was founded in 2006 at An Lanntair and now takes place during the celtic festival of samhainn – 'beyond the equinox, the cusp of winter'. The theme this year is 'BLOOD'.

If the brain is the cradle of the mind and the body the vessel of life, blood is humanity's eternal river. Its metaphor spans life and death, healing and killing, the after-life and life-after deep loss: From medicine to murder to family, from the operating theatre to the theatre of war. Through the prism of literature and memoir we understand and appreciate the infinite spectrum of human experience more profoundly. And at Faclan, exceptional people on the frontier of study and practice are here to share it with us.

**Roddy Murray**

Founding Director

Head of Visual Arts & Literature

### THANK YOU

Faclan only happens as a result of the hard work and commitment of the An Lanntair team and our network of partners and supporters. We are particularly grateful this year for support and funding from Creative Scotland, Craignish Trust, Wellcome Trust and the Islands Book Trust. Thanks also to Acair Books for their input and involvement in this year's programme. The collective support of all these individuals and organisations has helped us create this year's extraordinary, diverse and innovative programme. Thank you.



anLanntair

## Throne of Blood

Akira Kurosawa

film, 1957, 110mins

Macbeth transposed to mediaeval Japan. A war-hardened general, egged-on by his ambitious wife, murders his way to fulfill a prophecy of ultimate power. A world cinema classic.

4pm

6.30pm

## Robert Atkinson

A Stag from Rum: An Essay in Poaching

The Islands' Book Trust launch

Atkinson first came to the Hebrides in 1936, returning every summer to the outbreak of WW2. He wrote of his experiences in 'Island Going' (1949), now a travel classic. Resuming after the war he wrote 'Shillay and the Seals' (1980) and, before his death in 1995, revealed the manuscript for 'A Stag from Rum'.



8pm

## Norman Campbell Sgeulachdan sa Chiaradh

Acair Book Launch

A celebration of the late Tormod a' Bhocsair, with recollections from friends and fellow writers and readings from his Gaelic fiction, poetry, drama and his wonderful writing for children. His short story collection, launched here, includes a poignant account of his battle with cancer.





## In Cold Blood

Richard Brooks

film, 1967, 135mins

2pm

Based on Truman Capote's true account of the inexplicable, brutal murders of Herbert Clutter, a mid west farmer, his wife and two of their four children in 1959.

5pm

## Badlands

Terence Malick

film, 1973, 95mins




A small-town girl (Cissy Spacek) and her boyfriend (Martin Sheen) go from killing-to-killing in the South Dakota badlands. Loosely based on the Charles Starkweather murder spree, between December 1957 and January 1958, where 11 people died.

7pm

## Frances Larson

Severed: A History of  
Heads Lost and Heads Found




From shrunken heads to war trophies, grave-robbers to scientists, head-hunters to Islamic State, Severed explores our macabre fixation with detached heads. The Sunday Times called it, 'lively, original, important, astounding, well-written: first class in every way.' Frances Larson is a doctor of anthropology from the University of Oxford.

8.30pm

## Thomas de Wesselow

The Sign: The Shroud and the Resurrection

The Shroud of Turin is the most holy relic in Christendom. Widely thought to be a mediaeval fake it is, in fact, authentic and holds the key to the greatest mystery in human history. An Art Historian who specialises in tackling intractable problems, de Wesselow spent seven years in deep research on Christian origins and the Shroud.



2.30pm

## Get Carter

Mike Hodges

film, 1971, 112mins

A chilly, brutally efficient Michael Caine as an avenging gangster in 1970s Newcastle. Arguably Britain's greatest crime film.



5pm

## Helen Macdonald

H is for Hawk

A modern classic of nature writing: an unflinching account of the author's struggle with grief following the death of her father and the all-consuming challenge of taming a goshawk. A powerful testament about memory, nature and nation, it won the Costa Book of the Year and the Samuel Johnson prize for non-fiction, 2014.



6pm

## Cuimhneachan

Remembrance

Jo MacDonald and Annella MacLeod (Venue: Stornoway Library)

The first ever anthology of Gaelic verse from the WW1: An authentic and poignant view of the war as experienced by Gaelic speakers, from patriotic verse composed in 1914 to heart-rending poems following the Iolaire tragedy of New Year's Day 1919.



6.15pm

## The English Surgeon

Geoffrey Smith

Documentary, 2009, 93mins

Winner of 10 international Awards, the film follows neurosurgeon (Henry Marsh) on his mission to save lives in the Ukraine, the overwhelming dilemmas he faces and the burden he has to carry. One of the most moving films you will ever see.

(Followed by a personal appearance.)

8pm

## The Brain and the Mind

Henry Marsh & Stephen Grosz

Chaired by Dr Gavin Francis

### Henry Marsh CBE: Do No Harm.

Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery  
Britain's pre-eminent neurosurgeon  
on his extraordinary memoir.

Henry Marsh has been a Fellow of the  
Royal College of Surgeons since 1984.

He is the subject of the 'The English  
Surgeon' and 'Your Life in Their Hands'.

### Stephen Grosz: The Examined Life, How We Lose and Find Ourselves.

A practicing psychoanalyst, who has  
spent twenty-five years reconciling our  
most baffling behaviour, Stephen Grosz  
distils over 50,000 hours of conversation  
into pure psychological insight. A Sunday  
Times bestseller, this is his first book.



9.30am

## The Shepherds of Berneray

Jack Shea

Documentary, 1981, 50mins

A portrait of the people of the Isle of Berneray, Harris, the film traces the raw, austere life of the island through the changing seasons. Filmed over twelve months from May 1978 to 1979.

The 3 Saturday morning events are all under 1 ticket which includes coffee/juice and a breakfast roll.

10.30am

## James Rebanks

The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District

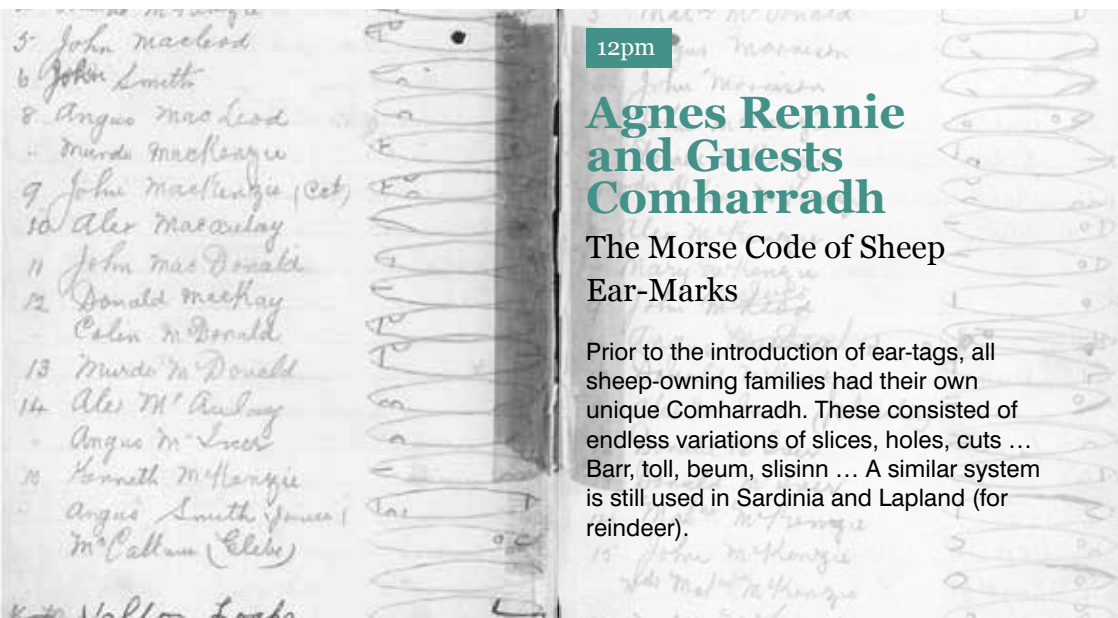
James' family have lived and worked in the Lake District for generations. Their life is ordered by the seasons. A Viking would understand the work they do: sending the sheep to the fells in the summer; the autumn fairs where the flocks are replenished; the gruelling toil of winter and the light-headedness that comes with spring, as the lambs are born. A New York Times best seller.

12pm

## Agnes Rennie and Guests Comharradh

The Morse Code of Sheep  
Ear-Marks

Prior to the introduction of ear-tags, all sheep-owning families had their own unique Comharradh. These consisted of endless variations of slices, holes, cuts ... Barr, toll, beum, slisinn ... A similar system is still used in Sardinia and Lapland (for reindeer).



2pm

## Nick Sharratt

(Venue: Martin's Memorial Church Hall)

Nick has written around 50 books and illustrated for Julia Donaldson, Michael Rosen and others. In this special family event for Faclan he will be looking at his favourite funny picture books and sharing some brand new ones. There'll be lots of drawing, plenty of wordplay and an abundance of silliness for all the family! Paper and materials provided.

Suitable for all ages: Tickets £3 or £10 for a family



2pm

## Gavin Francis

### Adventures in Human Being: A Journey through the Body

From his front-line, first-hand experience as a doctor, Gavin Francis reflects on how the body has been portrayed through history. It's an exploration of what it means to be human that will transform the way you think about being alive. He is the author of three books. When not writing, he works as a GP and in emergency medicine in Edinburgh.

3.30pm

## Jake McGowan-Lowe

### Jake's Bones: My Guide to the Brilliant World of Animal Bones and Skeletons

Jake is a 13 year-old naturalist who has been collecting skulls and bones since he was six, and now has thousands of amazing examples. He began blogging when he was seven and has written something new every single weekend since then. Jake's Bones has been short-listed for the Royal Society Young Person's Book of the Year.



## Seanchas exhibition

on display in An Lanntair's Café Bar from 27<sup>th</sup> of October

In 'Seanchas' Fiona Rennie documents the contemporary face of Gaelic writing in Scotland. The series of editorial portraits depicts a selection of the most prominent Gaelic writers, as well as some writers new to the scene. Their portraits are presented alongside an image of their work in progress. Fiona aims to capture the personality of each writer through these images, and highlight how this is then reflected in their working style. This project aspires to become part of a larger body of work documenting writers throughout Scotland.



5pm

## Malcolm Mackay

### The Glasgow Trilogy

Malcolm Mackay was born and grew up in Stornoway where he still lives. The acclaimed new voice of 'Tartan Noir' his terse, powerful trilogy of Glasgow-set novels have won several awards and been short-listed for the 'CWA John Creasey New Blood Dagger Award for Best Crime Debut of the Year' and the 'Scottish First Book of the Year'.

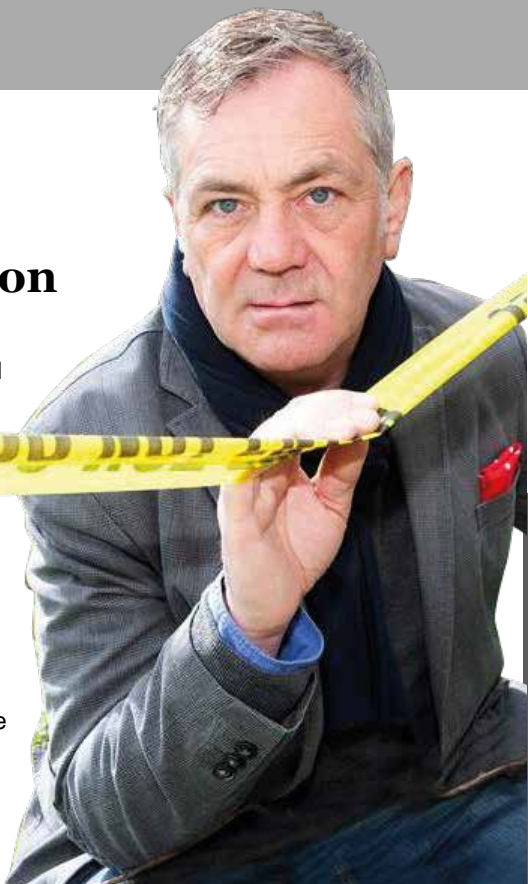
7.30pm

## Professor David Wilson

### A History of British Serial Killing

From Jack the Ripper to Shipman and Beyond

David Wilson is Professor of Criminology and Founding Director of the Centre for Applied Criminology at Birmingham City University. At 29 he was the youngest Prison Governor in England. From Wormwood Scrubs to Woodhill - where he designed and ran the 2 units for Britain's 12 most violent prisoners - he has come face-to-face with some of the most notorious names in British crime.





9.30pm-1am

## The Masque of the Red Death

Halloween Club Night

A Masked Ball with DJ set, dancers and visuals.  
DRESS CODE RED!

£5

WED

28/10

**THRONE OF BLOOD**

Film, 1957, Akira Kurosawa, 110mins.

4pm

**A STAG FROM RUM**

Robert Atkinson: Islands Book Trust Book launch.

6.30pm

**TORMOD A' BHOCSAIR**

Acair Book Launch.

8pm

THUR

29/10

**IN COLD BLOOD**

Film, 1967, 135mins.

2pm

**BADLANDS**

Film, Terence Malick, 1973, 95mins.

5pm

**SEVERED**

Frances Larson: A History of Heads Lost and Heads Found.

7pm

**THE SIGN**

Thomas de Wesselow: The Shroud and the Resurrection.

8.30pm

FRI

30/10

**GET CARTER**

Film, Mike Hodges, 1971, 112mins.

2.30pm

**H IS FOR HAWK**

Helen Macdonald.

5pm

**CUIMHNEACHAN**

Bardachd a' Chiad Chogaidh Remembrance: Gaelic Poetry of the First World War. (Venue: Library).

6pm

**THE ENGLISH SURGEON**

Documentary, Geoffrey Smith, 2009, 93mins.

6.15pm

**THE BRAIN AND THE MIND**

An audience with neurosurgeon Henry Marsh and psychologist Stephen Grosz. Chaired by Dr Gavin Francis.

8pm

SAT

31/10

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT  
2015

Breakfast Rolls,  
coffee/juice + 3  
events included in  
ticket price (£10).

9am

### THE SHEPHERDS OF BERNERAY

Documentary, Jack Shea,  
1980, 50mins.

9.30am

### THE SHEPHERD'S LIFE

James Rebanks:  
A Tale of the Lake  
District.

10.30am

### COMHARRADH

Sheep Earmarks in  
Lewis. Chaired by Agnes  
Rennie.

12pm

### ADVENTURES IN HUMAN BEING

Dr Gavin Francis.

2pm

### JAKE'S BONES

Jake McGowan-Lowe.  
My Guide to the Brilliant  
World of  
Animal Bones and  
Skeletons.

3.30pm

### THE GLASGOW TRILOGY

Malcolm Mackay.

5pm

### A HISTORY OF BRITISH SERIAL KILLING

Professor David Wilson.

7.30pm

### THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH

Halloween Club Night:  
(Masked Ball. Dress Code  
Red!).

9.30pm-1am

## TICKET PRICES

Films	£4
Writers' events	£5
5 events for the price of 4,	£20
Saturday Morning (breakfast + 3 events)	£10
All Access: 20 events, limited availability	£55

Please buy tickets in advance. Details are on the back page.

# Faclan Og

## Schools Programme

29 An Dàmhair – 3 An t-Samhain  
October – November



Venue	Date	Time	Artist	Suitable for
An Lanntair	Thursday 29th October	10am	Cathy Macphail	S1 – S4
An Lanntair	Friday 30th October	10am	Chrisella Ross	P5 – S2 Gaelic
An Lanntair	Monday 2nd November	10am	Nick Sharratt	P1 – 4 English
An Lanntair	Monday 2nd November	2pm	Vivian French	P5 - 7 English
Sgoil an Taobh	Thursday 29th October	1.30pm	Linda Macleod	P1 – 4 Gaelic
Sgoil an Taobh	Friday 30th October	1.30pm	Chrisella Ross	P5 – S2 Gaelic
Sgoil an Taobh	Monday 2nd November	1.30pm	Nick Sharratt	P1 – 4 English
Sgoil an Taobh	Tuesday 3rd November	11am	Vivian French	P5 - 7 English
Sir E Scott	Thursday 29th October	2pm	Cathy Macphail	S1 – S4 English
Sir E Scott	Friday 30th October	10am	Linda Macleod	P1 – 4 Gaelic
Sir E Scott	Monday 2nd November	10am	Vivian French	P5 - 7 English
Sir E Scott	Tuesday 3rd November	10am	Nick Sharratt	P1 – 4 English

FOR CLASS BOOKINGS PLEASE CONTACT [MOIRA@LANNTAIR.COM](mailto:MOIRA@LANNTAIR.COM)



### LINDA MACLEOD

Gaelic singer and presenter Linda will lead a fun-filled Gaelic session based on Brianòg Brady Dawson's comedic children's book, Fiaclan Granaidh (Granny's Teeth). Along with laughing and actions for the story, the children will sing Gaelic songs and play a game or two. Linda often presents interactive children's song and literary sessions on behalf of The Gaelic Book's Council / Comhairle nan Leabhraichean. Suitable for P1 – 4. Delivered in Gaelic.

### NICK SHARRATT

Nick is an award-winning author and illustrator. As well as having written around fifty books he has illustrated books for Julia Donaldson, Michael Rosen, and others. In his sessions he'll be looking at his favourite funny picture books and sharing some brand new ones. Drawing, plenty of inventive wordplay and lots of silliness!

Suitable for P1 – P4. Delivered in English.  
[www.nicksharratt.co.uk](http://www.nicksharratt.co.uk)



### CHRISELLA ROSS

Chrisella, Playwright and Storyteller, will talk about her first novel 'Cuach a' Chathrannais' which follows Ceit, after the death of her mother. Pupils can talk about their favourite books and characters, and create their own main character and storyline for a novel.

Suitable for P5 – S2. Delivered in Gaelic.

### VIVIAN FRENCH

Vivian was first published in 1990, after working in the theatre, counselling and storytelling. Since then, she has established a reputation as a writer of integrity and imagination, who illustrators love to work with, and readers want to meet. She's won several awards, and over half a million of her books are borrowed each year from public libraries.

Suitable for P5 – P7. Delivered in English.  
[www.vivianfrench.co.uk](http://www.vivianfrench.co.uk)



### CATHY MACPHAIL

Cathy has written over 35 children's books, numerous short stories, two romantic novels, and radio plays for adults and children. She's won many awards and is a three times winner of the Scottish Children's Book award. The film of her book, *Another Me*, is released in the UK in 2015. Cathy has two books published in 2015.

Suitable for S1 – S4.  
 Delivered in English.  
[www.catherinemacphail.co.uk](http://www.catherinemacphail.co.uk)

Full details on  
**WWW.FACLAN.ORG**

TICKETS can be booked either:

Online: <http://tickets.lanntair.com>  
By Phone: An Lanntair Box Office 01851 70 8480  
In person: An Lanntair Box Office, Kenneth Street, Stornoway HS1 2DS  
Open Monday – Saturday, 10am – 8pm  
Email: [info@lanntair.com](mailto:info@lanntair.com)  
Fax: 01851 70 8499

Please buy tickets in advance. On-line and telephone tickets will be held at the box office for collection 15 minutes before the performance.

All events will take place at An Lanntair unless otherwise stated.

### TICKET PRICES

Films	£4
Writers' events	£5
5 events for the price of 4,	£20
Saturday Morning (breakfast + 3 events)	£10
All Access: 20 events, limited availability	£55

\*Concession tickets apply to An Lanntair Members, Senior Citizens, Students and those in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Tax Credit, Council Benefit, Housing Benefit or Disability Living Allowance. (Proof required).

All schools events are free and participating schools get a free book pack and resources.

Sràid Choinnich, Steòrnabhagh, Eilean Leòdhais HS1 2DS  
Kenneth Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2DS

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