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North Ayrshire  
Book Festival  
2009

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26 May - 11 June



the  
**library**  
not just about books



# introduction

250 years after the birth of Robert Burns proof that reading and writing are still thriving in Ayrshire! Whatever your taste, with ten authors to choose from, you will find something to interest you here: from marauding Vikings to a Scotsman's attempts to grow oranges, Gaelic speaking cowboys to "dogs, neds and God". Have you ever wondered where authors get their ideas from, whether they read reviews, or if there are days when they just can't write a word: come along and ask. I am delighted to commend our very first North Ayrshire book festival to you.

**Carol Kirk**  
Corporate Director  
(Educational Services)

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# Janice Galloway

Tuesday 26 May - 7.00pm

Local History & Family Centre, Glasgow Vennel, Irvine

Janice Galloway was a teacher for ten years before turning to writing. Her first novel, "The Trick is to keep Breathing", was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize. "Foreign Parts" won the McVitie's Prize. "Clara", based on the tempestuous life of pianist Clara Schumann, won the Saltire Book of the Year.

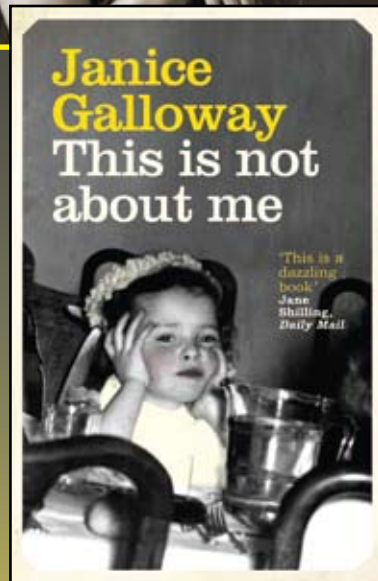
Janice has also worked as a writer in residence in four Scottish prisons and written for the radio.

Janice will be reading from her new book, "This is not about me" an account of growing up in 1950's Ayrshire in which "A sadistic daughter returns to a family in exile - and a novelist is born".

The Independent



Photograph: Graham Jepson - Writer Pictures



# Des Dillon

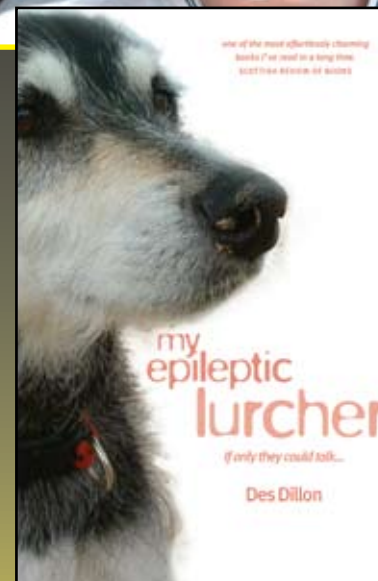
Monday 1 June - 7.00pm

Irvine Library



Born in Coatbridge, Des Dillon is a teacher, poet, novelist and dramatist. He is the author of eight novels and writes scripts for "River City". His novel "Me and Ma Gal" was included on the list of The 100 Greatest Ever Scottish Books. Des will be reading from his latest novel "My Epileptic Lurcher" which he says deals with "Dogs, Neds and God."

"The writing is always truthful, immediate and powerful."  
Scotland on Sunday.



Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact the Local History & Family Centre on 01294 275059 to reserve your seat.

Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact Irvine Library on 01294 271295 to reserve your seat.

# Janet Paisley

Tuesday 2 June - 7.00pm  
Kilwinning Library

Janet Paisley is the author of five poetry collections, numerous plays, radio, TV and film scripts and many stories poems and plays for children... Accolades include a prestigious Creative Scotland Award, the Peggy Ramsay Memorial Award and a BAFTA nomination (Long Haul, a short film). Her first novel is *White Rose Rebel*, "A claymore-swinging, heather-igniting historical adventure" *Sunday Times*.

Janet will be reading from her latest, "Warrior Daughter," inspired by the historical Scathach, a fierce warrior woman of the first century AD and forerunner to the equally ferocious Boudicca.

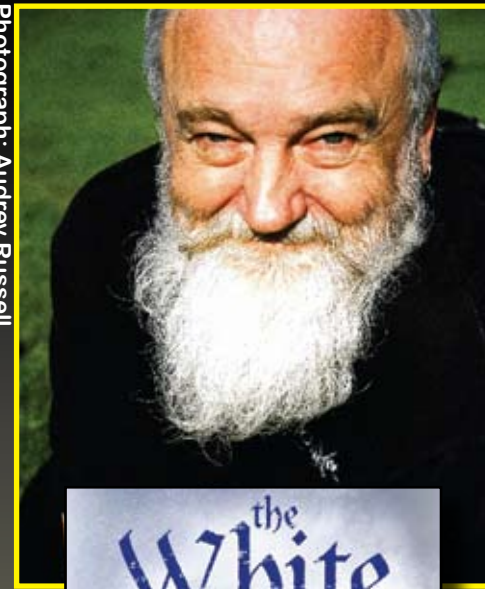


Photograph: Marianne Mitchelson

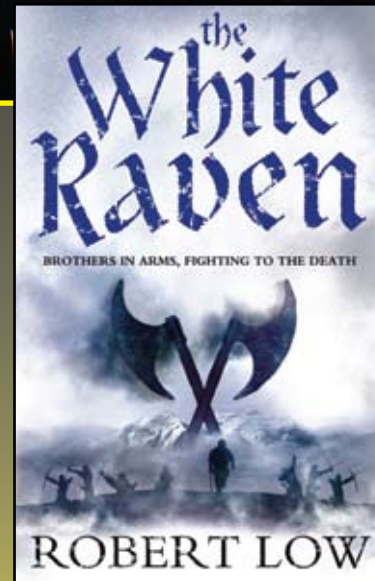


# Robert Low

Thursday 4 June - 6.30pm  
Millport Library



Photograph: Audrey Russell



Robert Low worked as a war correspondent in Vietnam, Sarajevo, Romania and Kosovo until "commonsense, age and the concerns of my wife and daughter prevailed" and he settled in Largs. The author of three Viking adventures his next project is a trilogy on the Scottish wars of independence.

"Robert Low's Oathsworn trilogy is historical writing at its best and most full-blooded, with its tremendous pacing, black comedy, a wonderfully vivid and rough-hewn prose style like runes hacked into granite."

William Napier

Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact Kilwinning Library on 01294 554699 to reserve your seat.

Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact Millport Library on 01475 530742 to reserve your seat.

# Peter Kerr

Friday 5 June - 7.00pm  
West Kilbride Library

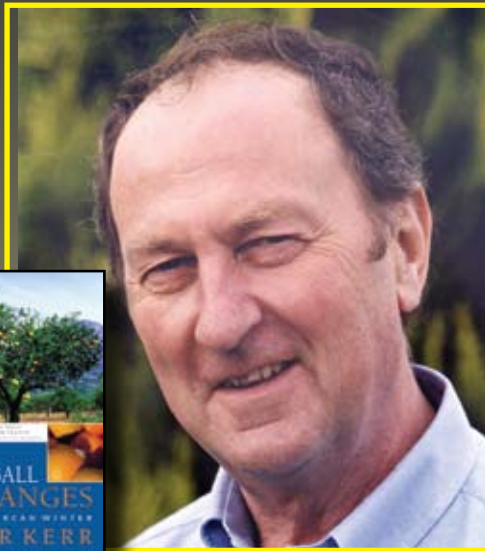
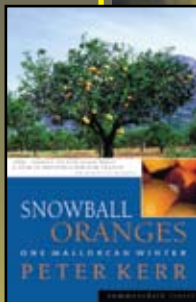
“Mallorca comes to West Kilbride.”

Peter Kerr is Scotland’s best-selling travel writer. Before taking up writing he was the clarinettist-leader of The Clyde Valley Stompers, appeared on television with the Beatles and wrote the music and lyrics for The Krankies’ trademark song - Fan-Dabi-Dozi!

He left the family farm in Scotland to take on a run-down orange farm in Mallorca - something he knew absolutely nothing about but it did inspire five humorous travel books including “Snowball Oranges” and “From Paella to Porridge”. He has also written five novels and illustrates his own work.

“Peter Kerr writes with a combination of nice observation and gentle humour”  
Sunday Times

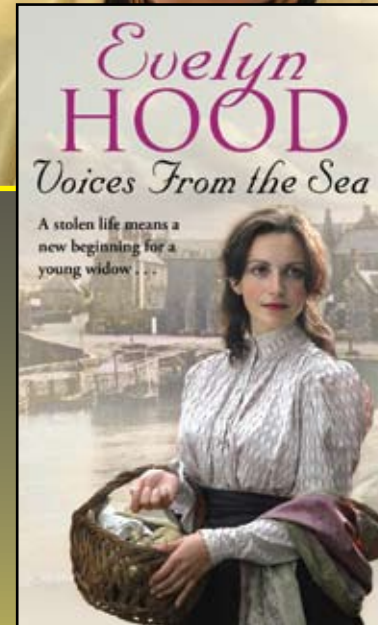
Join Peter for a lighthearted Spanish-themed evening - tapas and vino included!



Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact West Kilbride Library on 01294 822987 to reserve your seat.

# Evelyn Hood

Monday 8 June - 7.30pm  
Largs Library



A former journalist, Evelyn Hood is the author of more than forty novels, but is best known for family sagas mainly set in her home town of Paisley and on the Clyde Coast. Evelyn has also published six plays, a pantomime, and a children’s musical. The mother of two grown sons she now lives in Largs. Evelyn will talk about her life and read from “Voices from the Sea”.

‘Evelyn Hood has been called Scotland’s Catherine Cookson. Unfair. She has her own distinctive voice’ Scots magazine.

Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact Largs Library on 01475 673309 to reserve your seat.

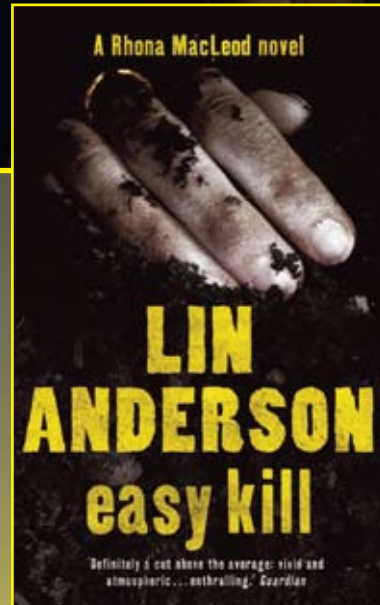
# Lin Anderson

Tuesday 9 June - 7.30pm  
Beith Library

“Lin Anderson is world-class, she is here to stay and the dark side of her imagination is more chilling than Sauchiehall Street in a snowstorm” Daily Record.

Born in Greenock and a former teacher of computing, Lin Anderson has now written five highly successful crime novels featuring forensic scientist Rhona MacLeod and DI Bill Wilson. Wilson is based on her father, a detective, but “I am definitely not Rhona.” She was inspired by a former pupil who now works for the Met.

Lin will be reading from her latest “Easy Kill”: two prostitutes are found murdered in Glasgow’s Necropolis and it soon becomes apparent that a serial killer is out to get the women whom no-one will miss.

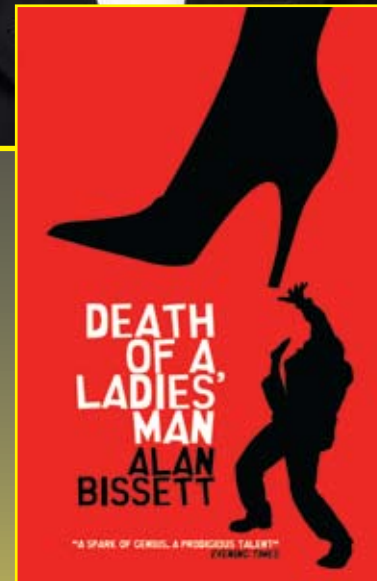


Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact Beith Library on 01505 503613 to reserve your seat.

# Alan Bissett

Tuesday 9 June - 7.00pm  
Arran Library, Brodick

Photograph: Christopher Bowen



Born in Falkirk Alan Bissett is the author of the novels “Boyracers”, “The Incredible Adam Spark”, and the forthcoming “Death of a Ladies’ Man”. He was short or longlisted for the prestigious Macallan/Scotland on Sunday Short-Story Competition four years in a row.

Alan has recently performed his ‘one-woman show’, “Times When I Bite”, at the Aye Write! Festival in Glasgow. Alan writes an intermittent blog for The Guardian. “You’d expect a plumber to be normal and down to earth, so I don’t see why writers shouldn’t be either.”

Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact Arran Library on 01770 302835 to reserve your seat.

# Jenni Calder

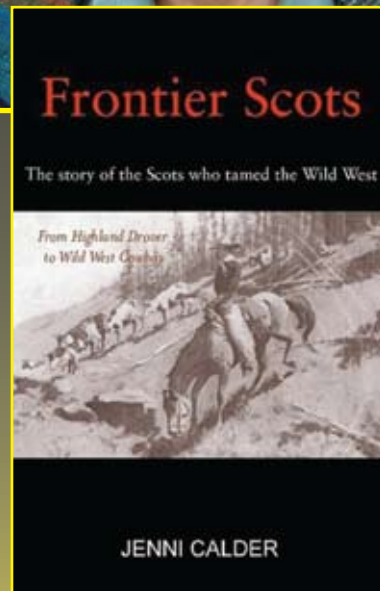
Wednesday 10 June - 7.00pm

Local History & Family Centre, Glasgow Vennel, Irvine

Jenni Calder was Head of Museum of Scotland International where her main interest was in emigration and the Scottish diaspora. She has written and lectured widely on Scottish, English and American literary and historical subjects, and writes fiction and poetry as Jenni Daiches.

Jenni will talk about her latest book "Frontier Scots."

From the bagpipes that were heard on the walls of the Alamo, to the Gaelic speaking cowboys and the ubiquitous Highland fiddlers: there is scarcely an episode in American history in which Scots do not appear. Come and meet the Scots who tamed the Wild West.

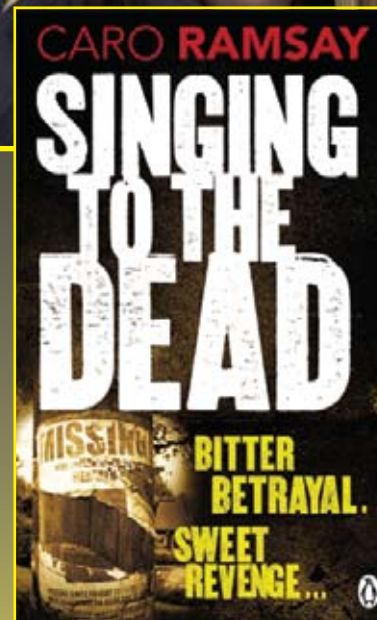


Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact the Local History & Family Centre on 01294 275059 to reserve your seat.

# Caro Ramsay

Thursday 11 June - 7.30pm

Saltcoats Library



Caro Ramsay was born in Glasgow and never had any ambition to become a writer! Her first novel, "Absolution," penned whilst she was bedridden and bored, was short listed for the CWA New Blood Dagger Award. "Singing to the Dead" will be published on 7th May 2009 and she is already working on the next two Anderson and Costello novels.

Caro will offer tips on how to get published and many other things since she is also an osteopath, acupuncturist, and erstwhile marathon runner who devotes much of her time to treating injured wildlife. She can often be found 'fox whispering', treating badgers with amnesia and arguing with mute swans.

Tickets are FREE but space is limited so please contact Saltcoats Library on 01294 469546 to reserve your seat.

now read on...

**Babble on:  
Tales of Mystery  
& Imagination**

North Ayrshire Storytelling festival.  
26 October - 10 November 2009

**Readers' Day**  
Saturday 21 November 2009

For full details of these events, to join a book club for adults or children, to start one of your own, or to join our mailing list contact Paul Cowan on:

Telephone 01294 212716

Email [pcowan@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:pcowan@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Web [www.ers.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.ers.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

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