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The latest from Bloody Scotland: 13 - 15 September 2024

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## Bloody Scotland Newsletter - May 2024

Hello, and welcome to our May issue. This latest edition is jam packed with news! We're bringing you our programme launch date, information about our brand new website and an exclusive interview with our Festival Director Bob McDevitt, who's giving us some fascinating insights into this year's programme. So, without further ado, let's crack on with this month's issue.

### Bloody Scotland Launch

We're thrilled to announce that Bloody Scotland will officially launch its 2024 programme in Stirling on **Thursday 20 June!** Festival Director Bob, will reveal the names of over a hundred authors taking part in this year's festival weekend which will run from **Friday 13 September – Sunday 15 September 2024.**

The programme launch will be followed by an exclusive standalone event at 1.30pm in The Golden Lion Ballroom with the brilliant Val McDermid who will be in conversation with fellow crime writer and Bloody Scotland board member, Craig Robertson.

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Reviewing her latest book, *Queen Macbeth*, The Herald said '*who better than Val McDermid, doyenne of detective fiction, to set the record straight on the wrongly reviled Lady Macbeth?*' and The Sunday Post called it '*Masterful...a favourite read this year*'.

We'd love to welcome you along to this brilliant event! Come along and join us on Thursday 20 June. Tickets cost £6 (£5 for concessions) and you can purchase them, over on our website: <https://bloodyscotland.com/whats-on/>

## Our Brand New Website

Bloody Scotland has a brand spanking new website, and we couldn't be more thrilled. Our new online hub will be the place to [book tickets](#) for this year's festival (when they go on sale - see interview with Bob below for more details on this) - and we're also happy to report that the issue that we had previously around accepting bookings from Apple devices, has now been resolved.

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You can keep up to date with Bloody Scotland news over on our [blog](#) page and find out about upcoming opportunities to [take part](#) in the festival. Our website is also the place to find information about the [festival](#) itself and our beautiful home in Stirling.

Visit us now, at: [bloodyscotland.com](http://bloodyscotland.com)

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***This month we chat to Festival Director Bob McDevitt about what we can expect from this year's festival.***

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**Bloody Scotland's programme will be revealed at the festival's official launch date on the 20th of June. To tide us all over until then, could you please give our newsletter readers a flavour of the kind of events they can expect?**

"Well, actually I can reveal that we will be announcing four of our events a week before our launch date on **Thursday the 13th of June**. We thought it would be fun to try something a little bit different this year and give our audience a sneaky peek at our programme, to whet everyone's appetite. You'll be able to buy tickets for those events on the 13th too, through our website.

"We've gone for a really classic Bloody Scotland programme this year. We'll be featuring a nice mix of big-name bestselling headliners along with some very interesting new names. We'll also be welcoming some people along who are perhaps not primarily known for being crime writers - so people from the world of film and television.

"We've got some interesting panels planned for our audience where we'll be discussing some very important topical subjects with investigative journalists, publishing professionals and academics joining the novelists to keep our audience on their toes. In true Bloody Scotland style, we'll also be offering some fun, quirky

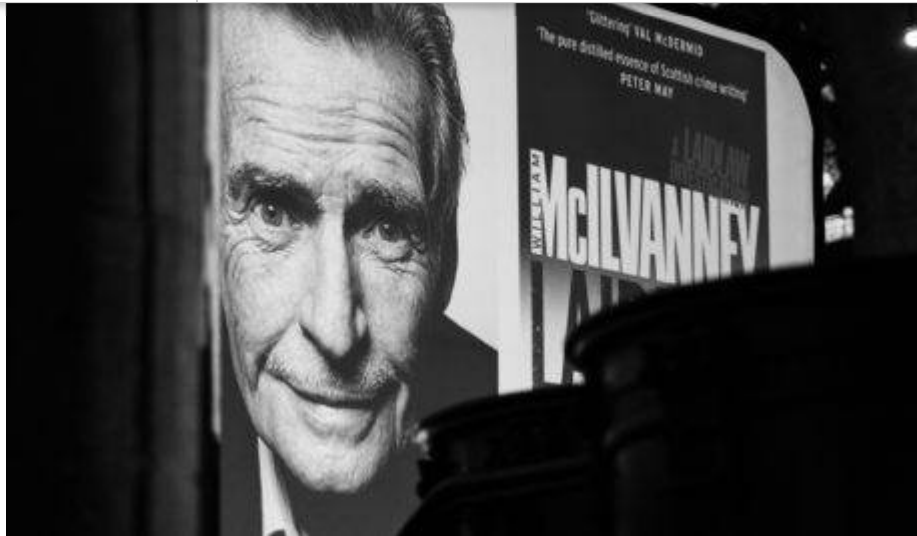
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**Can you tell us how you go about putting the programme together and the work that's involved.**

"I suppose the first thing to say is that there's no shortage of crime writers who want to come to Scotland. It's a fun weekend and people really want to join in – which is brilliant, but unfortunately that does mean that we can't fit everyone in.

"We start work on our programme early on in the year by having conversations with publishers. We receive lots and lots of pitches for new books, so we gather them all together and then the programming team - which includes myself and the authors on the board - sit down and look at them all. We look at all the books to see if we can spot any emerging themes that would work on one of our panels. We then try to fill the Albert Halls with our headliner events.

"New writers are always a big thing for us. We feature debut writers in Alex Gray's New Crimes and our Debut Prize Panel as well as in other events across the weekend. We also have our annual pitching event - Pitch Perfect - for upcoming writers and our Crime in the Spotlight slots, which sees new writers reading from their work, before our headliners take to stage at the Albert Halls."

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**Bloody Scotland's Prizes are a huge part of the festival every year. When will we find out about this year's lists?**

"We'll be announcing the Debut Prize shortlist on the 6th of June and the McIlvanney longlist on the 27th of June. That then gives those books and their authors a whole summer of promotion before we announce the winners at the festival on Friday night (13th of September). I can't really say much more about that just now – but what I can reveal is that we have received more entries from debut writers than ever before, which is fantastic."

**What is the highlight of the festival for you every year?**

"I really like the atmosphere in the Green Room (the room where authors and event chairs hangout before their events – when they're not propping up the Golden Lion Bar). It's great to meet all the authors and watch them get their photos taken by our resident photographer Paul Reich. Everyone's always excited about the festival and their upcoming event, so the whole place has got a brilliant vibe to it."

"For me, that's what the festival is all about - welcoming lots of different writers, putting them together with other authors and then watching the magic happen on stage."

Keep your eyes on our website on **Thursday the 13th of June** to buy tickets for our first four 'sneaky peek' events. You'll be able to view and [buy tickets](#) for the rest of our 2024 programme on **Thursday the 20th of June** at 12pm.

<https://bloodyscotland.com>

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Our Summer Book Club is fast approaching on **Wednesday the 26th of June**. This time around our panel, which includes Gordon J. Brown, Paul Burke, Dr Jacky Collins and Mary Picken, will discuss:

The Waiter by Ajay Chowdhury

The Crow Trap by Ann Cleeves &

The Darkness by Ragnar Jónasson.

Look out for next month's newsletter which will include more information about our dynamic panel and a deep dive into our fascinating summer selection. In the meantime, get reading!

**BLOODY SCOTLAND**

**BOOK CLUB**

**SUMMER BOOKS**

Someone's hungry for revenge...

**THE WAITER**

AJAY CHOWDHURY

SO HIGHLY ENTERTAINING ANN CLEEVES

A SUNDAY TIMES CRIME BOOK OF THE MONTH

RAGNAR JÓNASSON

**THE DARKNESS**

VERA

Ann Cleeves

THE No.1 SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

**THE CROW TRAP**

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## Join Our Book Club



## We want to hear from you!

*If you want to chat all things [Bloody Scotland](#), we'd love to hear from you. Whether you'd like to tell us about your favourite Bloody Scotland memory, find out more about our Book Club or just want to reach out and say hi – get in touch!*

Email us at: [info@bloodyscotland.com](mailto:info@bloodyscotland.com) or come and say hello over on [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

The Caledonian Crime Writing Festival, Scottish Company No SC404578, Registered office: Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8HE.  
The Caledonian Crime Writing Festival is a Scottish Registered Charity, known as Bloody Scotland; Charity No SC042615



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