STORY-TELLING

Throughout the day at the Mary Queen of Scots Festival

FREE ENTRY

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Mary Queen of Scots Festival

Come and join Scotland’s Storytellers for a feast of traditional oral storytelling for all the family. Drop into our tent and meet......

Robbie Fotheringham Dundee
Lindsey Gibb Dunkeld
Sheila Kinninmonth St Andrews
Sylvia Troon Gauldry
Kate Walker Dunfermline

......Look out for us all around the Market Park too, as we spin our tall tales and weave our magical stories of bravery and trickery, superstition and nonsense!
STORYTELLING IN THE TENT

Come and join us at the Mary Queen of Scots Festival in Kinross and hear some of Scotland’s well-loved storytellers in a feast of traditional oral storytelling for all the family.

Drop into the tent and meet:

Robbie Fotheringham, Dundee
Lindsey Gibb, Dunkeld
Sheila Kinninmonth, St Andrews
Sylvia Troon, Gauldry
Kate Walker, Dunfermline
Mary Queen of Scots Festival

Look out for them around the Market Park too, as they spin their tall tales and weave their clever stories of bravery, wit and wisdom; trickery, superstition and magic!

Interactive Story sessions every half hour, all day

Special sessions with Sylvia Troon, storyteller and puppeteer, at 11.30.1.30. and 3.30
Join Sylvia and her court of Royal puppets and meet young Mary Stuart, her parents and her son, James, who inherited the throne of England.
Kate Walker

Brought up in a large family in West Fife, Kate enjoys singing and storytelling with all ages. Her stories come from near and far, but she especially likes to tell tales with a Scottish flavour and loves to tell stories with a BIG message, a wee twist or a clever ending!

With a wide experience of working with children, families and older people, Kate uses storytelling to encourage others to learn, take part, cope with a challenge or simply have fun. Her sessions are interactive and participative and as well as stories, she uses songs, poems, and sometimes small puppets and props to engage her audiences. In 2011 Kate set up her own business, ‘Chatterbox Stories’. Since then she has worked with schools, playgroups, care homes, visually impaired adult groups, bookshops, cafes, libraries, museums and local Heritage Centres.

Kate enjoys working and collaborating with other storytellers and being involved in adult workshops and community events. She is an advocate of working with young storytellers and of using ‘words for wellbeing’. Over the past 4 years she has helped to establish storytelling for all ages as a part of Dunfermline’s annual Bruce Festival and is presently engaged in encouraging active cultural links with schools, heritage organisations and storytellers in Pittsburgh, USA.

Kate also likes to combine her interest in the environment and local history with her skills as a storyteller and teacher. She enjoys interpreting people’s lives, past events and the natural world through tales and song and is available for activity sessions and story walks.

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Robbie Fotheringham loves telling stories. In fact her friends say she never uses 1 word if she can use 20. A Falkirk Bairn, Robbie has lived in Dundee since 2002 but still visits the Falkirk area to tell stories in schools & nurseries, even telling at the Mr Bloom Big Event in Callendar Park, summer 2013. This, of course, is all thanks to former colleagues of Falkirk Libraries where Robbie worked for more than 25 years. Robbie tells stories from all round the world, traditional Scottish tales, and a few of her own she has made up. She is more than happy to adapt to a suggested theme.

Robbie loves meeting, chatting and telling to a wide range of the community and often collaborates with other Storytellers. 2014 sees her return to the Bruce Festival along with several Storytelling friends and not forgetting Scarface, her pirate puppet, courtesy of Sylvia Troon. He loves to mingle with the crowd and give out high 5s & kisses - if he can get away with it! He has been known to misbehave while Robbie tells to nursery groups visiting HMS Unicorn, but she wouldn’t be without him.

Robbie was lucky enough to be a Bookstart, (now Bookbug), Rhymetime Champion training staff in Aberdeen Libraries to give Bookstart sessions. She has a real affinity with telling to the very young. Recent years has seen Robbie work with special needs children and adults, as well as older people with dementia. Her use of props, puppets and songs to tell the stories is invaluable with any age but particularly with these groups. Her fairies are also very popular and Robbie does Fairy Making Storytelling Parties for all ages and groups. The fairies made their first appearance at the Bruce Festival during a story in 2011 and have gone from strength to strength.

Robbie is the chairperson of Blether Tay-Gither, a Dundee Storytelling Group for adults. It has been going since 2007 and meets monthly. This group encourages budding Storytellers and is always happy to have newcomers whether telling or just listening.

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Sheila loves telling traditional tales from all over the world, especially Scottish folk, fairy and Traveller tales which celebrate ‘oor guid Scots tongue’. She can use her wide repertoire to find stories to fit in with any event theme or school project from pirates to the environment, princesses or Greek Myths. She likes to encourage audience participation with rhymes and sound effects.

Sheila is comfortable telling stories to anyone who wants to listen, even if they don’t know they want to listen! A qualified nursery nurse with a degree in early childhood studies, Sheila has 30 years experience working with pre-school and primary aged children, using storytelling both to entertain and to support learning. She believes storytelling is a vital learning tool for all children, not only helping meet many of the outcomes in the Curriculum for Excellence, but also passing on our rich heritage. She has also enjoyed leading storytelling and story making workshops with older children, young adults and nursery staff. As one of the original members of Blether Tay-Gither storytelling group, she regularly tells to adults.

Sheila lives in St Andrews, Fife where she was born and brought up. Having gained a love of stories from her grandparents and parents, who told her stories of rural life and wartime experiences as well as introducing her to folk and fairytales, she naturally continued by telling to her own children and grandchildren as well as telling in playgroups, nurseries and schools in NE Fife throughout her career in education, until retirement in 2010.

Auchtermuchty Festival, Springfield Gala, The Big Tent, Celebration in the Park, St Andrews Day Festival, Pitlochry Autumn Festival, 100 Years of Guiding, Gadiefest and Doors Open Day are just some of the events Sheila has been involved in. She has also performed at St Andrews and Dundee Botanic Gardens, St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum, Middleton Woods and Cupar Rainbows as well as bookshops, tearooms, storytelling clubs, cafes, pubs and birthday parties.

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Sylvia Troon has been inventing and telling stories, drawing and making things ever since her early childhood. Nowadays she enjoys telling Scottish tales, world tales, myths and legends. In recent years she has been developing presentations and projects on Scottish History from the Pictish times onwards, and also on the life, songs and poems of Robert Burns. She has made many life-like models and puppets for these themes. Sylvia continues to tell her own short stories, often accompanied by her own illustrations, props and puppets, with descriptive sound effects. There are many subjects that she likes to focus on, including geology, environmental and conservation themes, and health & well-being – in fact the journey of discovery goes on.

Sylvia tells stories in schools and communities from age 3 upwards. She is a speaker for a wide range of adult groups and has always been driven by a desire to involve, entertain and motivate. She likes to see people losing their inhibitions and will explore any available opportunity to capitalise on audience reactions. Her style is natural and frequently playful, as well as being dramatic, with an emphasis on vocal expression. Little ones, young people, students, teachers, parents and the elderly alike are encouraged to “give it a go”. She is always happy to help and give advice, and to pass on new ideas and information. Storytelling and Puppetry workshops are used in her work, and are designed to suit each age group from Primary 1 upwards, including adults. Sylvia has been running community and school in-service sessions for many years.

Sylvia was born and brought up in Lasswade, Midlothian. She studied at Edinburgh College of Art and went on to teach art in primary and secondary schools in Fife. She started to make puppets to accompany her own stories, poems and songs for her two young sons, and she soon became a freelance puppeteer – a career which lasted for over 15 years, travelling all over Scotland and to Ireland. Around 2005, her journey took a new turn as she decided to concentrate on developing oral storytelling skills, and is now at ease telling stories with or without puppets. She has been developing methods of making and using puppets which enhance, rather than detract, from storytelling.

In the earlier part of her career as a puppeteer, Sylvia performed in schools, libraries, arts and community centres, hospitals, and many other venues. For a number of years she performed regularly in the Puppet Animation Festival and The Edinburgh Festival Fringe at The Netherbow – now the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Since then, she and colleagues have formed the storytelling group Blether Tay-Gither in Dundee, which draws in people from North Fife, Dundee and Angus.

Demand for her work continues from schools, community organisations and Historic Scotland, and her connection grows with Fife Learning Network, Fife Doors Open Days, and various events and festivals. Some of the festival and in-service bookings are carried out with storytelling colleagues - most frequently Sheila Kinninmonth and Robbie Fotheringham.

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LINDSEY GIBB

Lindsey enjoys telling a wide variety of stories often with an environmental or wildlife them but will adapt to any theme. Journeys also feature strongly in Lindsey’s stories as they offer opportunities for adventure, cunning and the unexpected. She tells from stories from around the world as well as Travellers’ tales, Tall tales, Traditional Tales and many others. Leading Story Walks let her merge her love of the outdoors and storytelling.

She also specialises in Story Storming, where she makes up stories with the audience and Spontaneous Storytelling where she makes up stories on the spot. She thinks this is great fun as she never knows what she’s going to get and anything can and does happen!

She enjoys the variety of telling to different ages and working with schools, uniformed organisations like Cubs or Guides, community groups, care homes and offices. She also uses storytelling in business either as a facilitation technique or to help with problem solving, mediation, team building or help building confidence in public speaking.

Lindsey has a particular interest in helping people develop their storytelling skills whether it’s new or existing tellers and she was a founder member of both Blether Tay-gither and Silver Branch Storytelling groups. She runs storytelling workshops and events and provides coaching for new and experienced tellers.

She also likes to collaborate with other tellers and with different genres to create new and different pieces and share experience. She has worked with dancers, poets and musicians and is always interested in trying something new.

Lindsey grew up in the West of Scotland surrounded by stories, listening to them, reading them and making them up and carried on doing so weaving them into her various careers and at home. She’s worked as a Countryside Ranger, Trainer & Management Coach, Communications Manager and Pilates Teacher (amongst others!) and storytelling has found its way into each of her jobs in different ways and her experiences have found their way into stories.

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Storytelling encourages and supports: creativity active learning wellbeing skill development thinking understanding literacy

diversity listening imagination

It’s fun.. challenging.. engaging.. themed.. cross curricular.. stand alone inter-generational.. multicultural. It can help us celebrate and explore our values, beliefs, culture and heritage.