

Fri 1 - Sun 3 April 2022

'Where everybody has a tale,'



Big DOG

Dumfries Children's
Book Festival

CHAMPIONING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN SCOTLAND'S YEAR OF STORIES 2022



How to book tickets

Box office

Open 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday. Tickets can be bought from the box office by calling **01988 403222**. You can also buy in person at **11 North Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HN**.

During the festival

Tickets can be purchased on the door if an event is not sold out. Please contact the box office on **01988 403222** to check availability.

Online booking

24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **wigtownbookfestival.com**

Ticketing policy

Children must be accompanied by a ticket-buying adult. Under-2s who do not need a seat are free. Ages in listings are for guidance only. Seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis at each event. Big DoG does not exchange or refund tickets. If an event proceeds but not as advertised, we will exchange your ticket(s) for another event. If an event is cancelled outright, we will offer a full refund. Events last one hour unless otherwise stated.

Photography

Official photographs may be taken throughout the festival and used in future publicity. No unofficial photography is permitted at events.

Covid Guidance

We will follow Government guidance as it stands on 1 April. Please check our website and your emails for details during the week before.

DAY TICKETS

Big DoG family tickets are £20 per day. A day ticket permits entry for up to five family members (a maximum of two adults). It also allows each family to receive a £3 discount on one book at each event they attend. Day ticket holders must also book places for their chosen events.

Big DoG Team

Andy Stewart Producer
Vivian French Guest Producer
Harvey Lindsay Digital Comms
Matthew Shelley PR & Media

Volunteers

Heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, too numerous to list individually. Without them, this festival would not happen.

2022 brochure

Design **Krista Robertson**
Illustration **Claudia Boldt**



BigDogBookFestival



BigDoGFest

Big DoG barks again! After two years of online festivals, we are thrilled to bring the annual Big DoG Festival – named in honour of Nana, the big dog who looks after the Darling children in Peter Pan – back to Dumfries. Join some of our most loved children's authors and illustrators for a weekend of barking fun where everyone has a tale.



Who Is Big DoG?


 Big DoG lives in Dogfries, home of the poet Robert Bones. Big DoG was lucky to have his portrait drawn by Claudia Boldt. Claudia dreams of being a planet-hunter but until space travel becomes more comfortable she makes do with a career as an award-winning children's author and illustrator.

PHOTO: ALLAN DEVLIN



6PM

Croc in the Frock

Mostly Ghostly

£7 / £5 | FAMILY

Inspired by the famous crocodile in Peter Pan, Croc in the Frock promises a feast of ghosts, history, adventure and folklore. Presented by Mostly Ghostly, the Croc and her pirate minions will guide you on an interactive family-friendly riverside walk, weaving together elements of Dumfries's rich literary heritage. Meet at Moat Brae, George St

SUPPORTED BY NPA SPOT-LIT EU

Tick-Tock!

The Crocodile swallowing a clock in Peter Pan symbolises time and the inevitable demise of Captain Hook.



6.30PM

IN PERSON & ONLINE Windrush Child Benjamin Zephaniah

£3 | AGE 8-12

Poet and author Benjamin Zephaniah joins us digitally for a discussion about his novel Windrush Child, which won the Diverse Book Award in 2021, and his new picture book, We Sang Across the Sea. Both books reflect the experiences of the Windrush generation who arrived in the UK from the Caribbean from 1948. Robert Burns Film Theatre, Mill Rd and wigtownbookfestival.com

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIVERSE BOOK AWARDS

**Big
DoG**

Schools Programme

Wigtown Festival Company is supporting Dumfries schools with a free education programme. Big DoG's education events will reach over 600 children. Authors featured include David MacPhail, Gill Arbutnott and Mara Menzies. Contact andy@wigtownbookfestival.com for details.

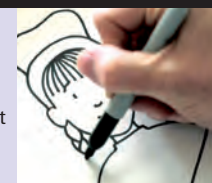
**Friday
1 APRIL**

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10AM & 2PM

Draw Along with Nick Sharratt

FREE | FAMILY

Head over to the Big DoG Facebook page and join best-selling children's illustrator Nick Sharratt as he helps you to draw all kinds of weird and wacky things. [f BigDogBookFestival](https://www.facebook.com/BigDogBookFestival)



**Saturday
2 APRIL**

10AM

Corpse Talk: Ground Breaking Explorers

Adam Murphy

£3 | AGE 8-12

Join Adam Murphy the artist behind the hilarious historical chat show comic Corpse Talk as he gives you the comics-creation skills to conduct your own brilliant undead interviews.

Moat Brae, George St



10AM

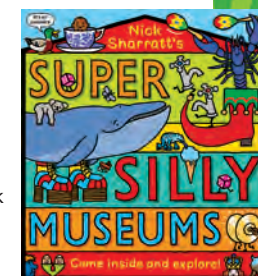
IN PERSON & ONLINE Super Silly Museums

Nick Sharratt

FREE | AGE 4-8

A tour of the seven silliest museums including the Blueseum, Shoeseum and Pooseum! Nick Sharratt joins digitally to share these crazy collections. Dumfries Museum, Rotchell Rd and wigtownbookfestival.com

SPONSORED BY THE PEOPLE'S PROJECT



11.30AM

The Newest Story in the Whole Wide World

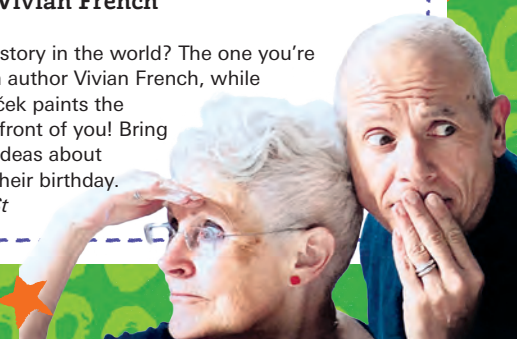
Petr Horáček & Vivian French

£3 | FAMILY

What is the newest story in the world? The one you're about to create with author Vivian French, while illustrator Petr Horáček paints the illustrations right in front of you! Bring your own bear and ideas about what bears like for their birthday.

Moat Brae, George St

PHOTO: CHRIS CLOSE



**MORE
INSIDE**

Saturday 2 APRIL

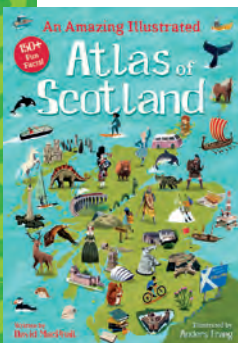


11.30AM

An Amazing Illustrated Atlas of Scotland David MacPhail

£3 | AGE 6-12

From warrior kings and mythical monsters to famous landmarks and unique wildlife, discover something you didn't know about Scotland in this brilliant atlas packed with surprising facts and amazing illustrations.
Dumfries Museum, Rotchell Rd



12 NOON

The Good, The Bad and The Poultry

FREE | FAMILY
Classic street theatre in the centre of Dumfries. Give a man a chicken and he'll eat for a day, give a chicken a gun and he'll be the most "impeccable" gunslinger this side of Texas. A comedy with finger-clicking good music. | 36 min. *Midsteeple Plainstones, High Street*
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DG ARTS LIVE & PUPPET ANIMATION SCOTLAND



1PM

Wheesh! Oor Wee Podcast LIVE

Susi Briggs & Alan McClure
£3 | AGES 4-10

Shug the dug thinks he's a fantoosh singer but his family just want him to "haud his Wheesh!" Poor Shug has no idea what that means and goes searching for answers. Scots language author Susi Briggs presents her new picture book

Wheesh! in this live podcast with Alan McClure.
Theatre Royal, Shakespeare St

Whaur's the dug?
The Scots language originated with the tongue of the Angles who arrived in Scotland 1,400 years ago.



1PM

Balloon to the Moon Gill Arbuthnott

£3 | AGE 8-12

In 1783, a sheep, a duck and a rooster became the first creatures to fly in a hot-air balloon. Less than two hundred years later, humans walked on the moon. *Balloon to the Moon* tells the fascinating story of the people and technology that made dreams of space travel come true.

Dumfries Museum, Rotchell Rd



Landing Apollo 11

During the first moon landing, Neil Armstrong had just 60 seconds to land the lunar module because of low fuel.



2.30PM

The Bird Singers Eve Wersocki Morris

£3 | AGE 9-12

Strange things have been happening to Layah and her younger sister, Izzie, ever since their mother dragged them to the Lake District: a peculiar whistling at night, unusual feathers appearing on their doorstep, and murmurings of a shadowed woman in the forest.
Moat Brae, George St



You can't catch me!

Adult bears can run up to 40mph, the same pace as a greyhound and breaking the speed limit on many roads in the UK.

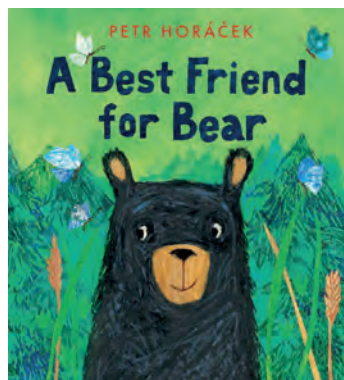


2.30PM

A Best Friend for Bear Petr Horáček

£3 | AGE 3-7

Black Bear is feeling lonely, so he decides to look for a friend. Luckily, he meets Brown Bear, who is in the same situation! They search everywhere, but their elusive friend is nowhere to be found. Maybe they have been there all along. Stunning artwork and a heart-warming story.
Theatre Royal, Shakespeare St

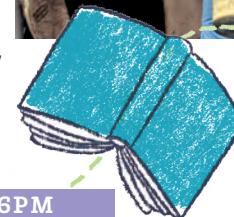


2.30PM

The Secret Museum Mara Menzies

£3 | FAMILY

In this new show, specially commissioned for Big DoG, Mara Menzies reveals the mysteries behind some of the secret exhibits normally hidden in the museum. Witness the adventure as hag stones, glass dolls, fragments of a mummified ibis, and a tiny bible belonging to Robbie Burns himself are dramatically brought to life.
Dumfries Museum, Rotchell Rd
SUPPORTED BY NPA SPOT-LIT EU



4PM

Dear Land of Story Books The Bookshop Band

FREE | FAMILY

In celebration of Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, the multi-award-winning Bookshop Band has created a new album and performance celebrating some of the nation's favourite children's tales. Join them for a relaxing end to the afternoon as they play music from their latest album 'Dear Land of Storybooks - An Ode to Scottish Children's Literature' and their extensive back catalogue.
Moat Brae, George St
SUPPORTED BY NPA SPOT-LIT EU



6PM

Tuck-in-Tales with Renita Boyle

FREE | FAMILY

Why is Grandfather Bear so grumpy? Who does Hare see under the moon? How does Busy Beaver build? What mischief is Raccoon up to? Join Renita Boyle for warm woodland tales.
Moat Brae, George St



6PM

FILM Disney's Peter Pan

FREE | FAMILY

Let your dreams take flight with this Walt Disney classic. Peter Pan soars to new heights in a fantasy adventure sprinkled with pixie dust. 76 min. Cert U.
Robert Burns Film Theatre, Mill Rd





10AM - 4PM **Aardman**
Aardman Animations
FREE | FAMILY
 We are thrilled to welcome Aardman Animations to Big DoG Festival. We will be showing some of their most-loved films on loop throughout the day. To watch, venture down into *The Home Under The Ground*, *Moat Brae*, *George St*

11.30AM
Make Your Own Gromit
Aardman Animations
£3 | 4+
 Join Aardman Animations for this clay modelling workshop where you will learn how to make everyone's favourite Aardman canine character, Gromit. *Moat Brae, George St*



Bleating marvellous
 A full crew worked on the Shaun the Sheep Movie, producing an average of 2 seconds of animation per day.




Sunday
3 APRIL

1 - 4PM
The Big DoG Garden Party
FREE | FAMILY
 Bring a blanket and your favourite sandwiches. With live music from **The Bookshop Band**, performances by **Clyde Built Puppet Theatre**, Scots storytelling with **Stuart Paterson**, and a Big DoG face painter, there is plenty to do for all of the family. *Moat Brae Gardens, George St*







9.30AM
Junior Parkrun
FREE | AGE 4-14
 Dress as your favourite literary character and join us for the weekly 2km walk, jog or run around Dock Park. *Meet opposite the Bandstand, Dock Park*

Beautiful birdsong
 Nightingales are able to make over 1,000 sounds, compared with just 340 by skylarks.





11.30AM
TRANSLATION EVENT (IN ARABIC & ENGLISH)
One Button Benny and the Gigantic Catastrophe
Alan Windram & Saffanna Aljabawi
FREE | FAMILY
 The robots can't wait for this year's Cool Cat competition, but when disaster strikes will Benny have to press his Emergency Button? *Ewart Library, Catherine St*
 SPONSORED BY THE WOBBLY SHELF

10AM
Make Your Own Morph
Aardman Animations
£3 | 4+
 In this clay-modelling workshop, led by senior model-maker Jim Parkyn of Aardman Animations, you'll make your own Morph and have the chance to ask questions about the tricks of the trade. *Moat Brae, George St*

10AM & 11AM
The Kippford Mermaid
The Arts End of Somewhere
FREE | FAMILY
 The Kippford Mermaid tells the story of a drowning sailor rescued by a beautiful mermaid. The authors and illustrators bring the story to life with multi-sensory stimuli. Accessible for those with a range of needs. *Moat Brae, George St*
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PAMIS



1PM
Make Your Own Shaun the Sheep
Aardman Animations
£3 | 4+
 Learn how to create everyone's favourite farmyard friend, Shaun the Sheep, in this clay modelling workshop with Jim Parkyn of Aardman Animations. *Moat Brae, George St*



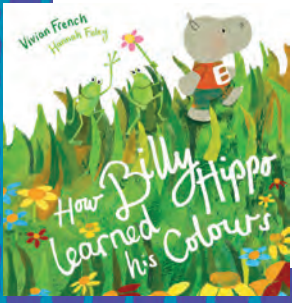
The Hunt for the Nightingale
Sarah Ann Juckes
£3 | AGE 9-12
 Jasper has been waiting for his beloved nightingale to return, but it's not there, and neither is his sister Rosie. Gathering his backpack and his courage, he sets out on an adventure to find them. *Moat Brae, George St*



2.30PM
ONLINE
My Mum Is a Lioness
Swapna Haddow
FREE | AGE 3-6
 Mum loves her cubs – she can catch them in a single pounce and always makes sure you can hear her proud roar. What else could she be but a lioness? *wigtownbookfestival.com*




2.30PM
So You Want To Write a Children's Book?
Picture Hooks
£3 | AGE 16+
 Meet Vivian French, co-founder of Picture Hooks, and Helen Kellock, prize-winning author and illustrator as they talk about what makes a successful picture book. Come prepared to pick up your own pencil! *Moat Brae, George St*
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PICTURE HOOKS



10AM
How Billy Hippo Learned His Colours
Vivian French
FREE | UNDER 7S
 Sing a song with Seadog Steve and help Billy Hippo learn his colours as he searches for a special present for his dad's birthday. *Lochthorn Library, Edinburgh Rd*

1PM
MAKATON FRIENDLY EVENT
Honk! Honk! Rattle! Rattle!
Renita Boyle
FREE | 3-6
 Join Aunty on a comic camping caper with a crew of quirky critters and kids in a campervan! Everything is packed and ready for a riotous trip through the countryside. *Georgetown Library, Gillbrae Rd*

2.30PM
Sky Beneath the Stone
Alex Mullarky
£3 | 9-12
 Adventurer Ivy North is afraid to go outside. But when a sorcerer turns her brother into a bird, Ivy must go to an enchanted realm to rescue him. Can she face her fear and save her brother? See real birds of prey afterwards in the garden. *Moat Brae, George St*

Map & Venues



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Moat Brae & Café
George Street | 9 The Usual Place
Academy Street |
| 2 Theatre Royal
66-68 Shakespeare St | 10 Mrs Green's Tea Lounge
16 Queensberry Street |
| 3 Robert Burns Centre
Mill Rd | 11 Kings Coffee & Books
12 Queensberry Street |
| 4 Dumfries Museum
The Observatory, Rotchell Rd | 12 The Pancake Place
20 English Street |
| 5 Plainstones
Midsteepie, 108-112 High St | 13 The Stove Cafe
100 High Street |
| 6 Ewart Library
Catherine St | i Information points |
| 7 Lochthorn Library
Edinburgh Rd | T Toilets |
| 8 Georgetown Library
Gillbrae Rd | P Parking |



Big DoG is devised and produced by Wigtown Festival Company

Wigtown Festival Company is limited by guarantee with charitable status. Scottish Charity Number SC037984

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Actual Investors

WIGTOWN FESTIVAL
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Dumfries & Galloway

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MOAT BRAE

THEATRE ROYAL

Arts Live
The largest performing arts network

pamis

The People's Project

the wobbly shelf

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