

The Beyond Borders International Festival 2025

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you back to Traquair for another stunning weekend of walks, talks, topical debates, music, art exhibitions, and lectures, involving a truly remarkable array of writers, artists, broadcasters, historians, policymakers and peacemakers from across the globe, as they share their experiences as well as discuss some of the most pressing issues affecting Scotland and the world.

This year's artistic theme is 'resistance', and we sincerely hope you enjoy all the exhibitions, music, workshops, talks, and walks. Drawing from Traquair House's Jacobite history and legacy, this project connects past to present, revealing common traditions of resistance in Scotland and across the world. So, whether you're just after a new book, debate, or music and dance in the Walled Garden, we believe there is literally something for everyone, and look forward to seeing you all for another vibrant weekend of cultural dialogue.

Mark Muller Stuart, Beyond Borders Scotland Director

SAT. 23RD AUGUST

A Storytelling Walk

9:15 -10:00 AM: Walled GardenJoin local Storyteller **Mary Kenny** on a morning stroll through the beautiful woods of Traquair and hear the timeless tales of Scottish folklore along the way.

John Buchan: A Man For Our Time?
10:00 -10:50 AM: Main Marquee
Catherine Maxwell Stuart introduces
Professor Murray Pittock as he paints a
fascinating picture of John Buchan, author of
The Thirty-Nine Steps, and a Scot who wasn't
just a literary legend, but a man who was well
ahead of his time on issues that still resonate
today from Scottish nationalism to the rights
of indigenous peoples. Geoffrey
Baskerville asks the questions.

A Matter of Conviction
11:00 -11:50 AM: Main Marquee
Meet Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh KC, whose
submissions in South Africa's genocide case
at the International Court of Justice made
headlines around the world, as she explains
her path to becoming an international human
rights lawyer. Oscar Guardiola Rivera
asks the questions.

Capturing Belarus: Talk & Folk Dance Masterclass

11:55 - 12:50 PM: Walled Garden Join Xisha Angelova as she discusses her powerful new exhibition, featuring portraits of Belarusian political prisoners displayed in the Traquair House maze. Joining the discussion to explore the broader political context of Belarus is Alan Flowers, Ken McBain, and Giles Sutherland. Xisha will then lead a Belarusian folk dance class.

Movement in Refuge

11:55 - 12:30 PM: Chapel

With over 20 years of hands-on humanitarian experience in post-disaster recovery across the globe, from South Sudan, Nepal, and most recently Bangladesh, listen as **Magnus Wolfe Murray** speaks about the realities on the ground as **Huw Owen** asks the questions.

The Britain Palestine Project Film Screening

12:40 - 13:30 PM: Chapel
Join Sir Vincent Fean and Brian
Brivati as they introduce a compelling
new thirty-minute film about Palestine
from the Nakba to Camp David,
followed by a O&A.

Songs of Survival 13:00 - 13:45 PM: Walled Garden Marquee

Enjoy your lunch as **Barbara Dickson** brings the soundtrack of survival to life, echoing themes of resilience and hope.

New Declaration of Human Rights 13:15 - 13:45 PM: Resistence Marquee

Drop into the 'Resistance Marquee' to participate in creating A New Declaration of Human Rights, led by Peebles High School students and developed by Visual Echo.

How to Build Peace in a Troubled World

13:45 - 14:35 PM: Main Marquee Peebles High School student Beth Lapsley cross examines Former First Minister of Scotland, Lord Jack McConnell, and Martin Griffiths, former UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, about their latest ventures to help save the world from further conflict and chaos. Mark Muller KC introduces the session.

Join The 45: A Jacobite Address 14:35 - 14:45 PM: Beer Tent

Pop out the tent and back in time to hear a short but evocative Jacobite address by **Alan Currie** and decide where you stand on the 45 Uprising.

'First Picture' Film Screening and Q&A 14:45-15:30 PM: Cinema Tent Meet Akram Alashqar, Palestinian filmmaker, educator, and HESPAL PhD candidate at the University of Glasgow. The documentary film tells the story of Nour, a Palestinian child born in an Israeli occupation prison.

Vulture

14:45 - 15:35 PM: Main Marquee Join literary agent, **Clare Conville**, as she talks to **Phoebe Greenwood**, a novelist at the top of her literary game about her recent novel *Vulture*, a fast-pace satire on the war-reporting industry.

Poetry Walk

15:35 -16:15 PM: Outside the Bookshop 'Meeting Place'

Join the **Traquair Poetry Club** as they tour the grounds of Traquair, where members and participants share their favourite poems along the way.

Prosecuting the Powerful
15:40-16:15 PM: Walled Garden
Andrew Whiteley, chair of the Britain
Palestine Project, introduces Steve
Crawshaw as he discusses his new book,
Prosecuting the Powerful: War Crimes
and the Battle for Justice.

Palestine Matters

16:15 - 17:05 PM: Main Marquee
Participate with former First Minister,
Humza Yousaf, in a dialogue about the
war and future of Gaza and Palestine with
current Palestine Ambassador, Husam
Zomlot, who joins from the region, along
with veteran Palestinian diplomat, Afif
Safieh, and William Dalrymple who
explains why Britain bears a particular
historic responsibility towards it

An Independent Life
17:15 - 18:05 PM: Main Marquee
Join Jeremy Corbyn MP as he talks
about his extraordinary life as the most
independent MP in the House of
Commons. Oscar Guardiola Rivera
explores why he continues to capture the
imagination of young people as local
students, Ella Newton and Duncan
Peppe ask two searching questions about
his career and the future of British politics.

Evening Music with Los Chichanos 18:10-19:00 PM: Walled Garden End the day with a drink and the wild sounds of Los Chichanos in the Walled Garden, as they bring their fusion of Jungle and Peruvian cumbia.

SUN. 24TH AUGUST

Foraging Walk

9:15 - 10:00 AM: Walled Garden Experience a taste of the Scottish Borders as Fi Martynoga leads a foraging walk around Traquair.

Tales of the Scottish Border 9:15 - 10:00 AM: Walled Garden 'Walk Meet Place'

Back by popular demand, **Alasdair Allan MSP**, author of *Tweed Rins Tae the Ocean*, strolls and talks with **Catherine Maxwell Stuart**, about their most loved tales of the Scottish Border and its place in history.

The British Obsession with Partition 10:00 - 10:50 AM: Main Marquee Introducing Sam Dalrymple as he discusses his stellar new work, Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia, and new approaches to historical scholarship with Empire Podcast co-host, William Dalrymple, and Moin Mir, asking the questions.

The Humanitarians
11:00-11:50 AM: Main Marquee
Mark Muller Stuart KC introduces Sigrid
Van Aken, CEO of the Postcode Lottery
Group, as she speaks to Nicola Sturgeon
about its remarkable rise to become the
world's third biggest philanthropic
organisation. While Médecins Sans
Frontières supremo, Christopher
Lockyear, reveals the truth about the
humanitarian crisis in Sudan, Gaza, and
beyond. Listen as both are asked about how

Spotlight Session: Humanitarian Challenge - The View From Scotland 11:55 -12:30 PM: Main Marquee

to deal with the US and UK aid cuts.

Scotland's leading international charities are working together to support some of the world's most vulnerable communities. Join to hear highlights from the Scottish Government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF) annual report, **Frances Guy**, **Val Brown** and **Nadeem Baqir**.

All for our Rightful King 11:55 -12:30 PM: Chapel

Listen to Traquair's Jacobite story told through the family archives with Catherine Maxwell Stuart and Traquair archivist, Margaret Fox.

Palestinian Dabke Dance Workshop 11:55- 12:25 PM: Walled Garden Marquee

Chill out and get down at the Clouds Marquee with a Palestinian Dabke Dance Workshop, by **ZarifAtToul AsSamer**, an Edinburgh-based enterprise that aims to raise awareness of Palestinian folklore and relieve child poverty.

A Ukrainian Odyssey: Culture & History Walk

12:00-12:45 PM: Walled Garden 'Walk Meeting Place'

Join **Nigel Osborne** as he leads an *Ukrainian Odyssey*, a forest walk which explores Ukraine's regions and their surprising links to Scotland. With music from both nations, Nigel will also be joined by **Nataliia Shapovalova** and **Dr Angela Kennedy** to discuss trauma-informed arts.

Lunchtime Music with local trad-fusion, Divergence
12:50 -13:45 PM: Walled Garden
Enjoy your lunch accompanied by live music from Divergence, a local trad-fusion trio.

We Are Not Made of Sugar 12:40 -13:20 PM: Chapel

Join **Oscar Guardiola Rivera** as he talks to **Andrei Gomez-Suarez** about his memoir of growing up in the eighties and nineties during Colombia's civil war and his role as President Petro's chief peace negotiator in one of Colombia's Total Peace processes with a splinter group of the ELN.

Frankly

13:45-14:35 PM: Main Marquee

Watch **Nicola Sturgeon** as she lifts the lid on her remarkable life as one of Scotland's leading politicians in the 21st century. Listen as she recounts her journey from working-class Ayrshire to the steps of Bute House, in her candid memoir, *Frankly*. **Allan Little** asks the questions.

Join The 45: A Jacobite Address 14:35-14:45 PM: Beer Tent

Pop out the tent and back in time to hear a short but evocative Jacobite address and decide where you stand on the 45 Uprising.

Diamond Geezer: An Audience with Field Marshal Richards 14:45-15:35 PM: Main Marquee

Professor **Hew Strachan** quizzes **Field Marshal Lord Richards** about his military career, including his intervention in Sierra Leone, the UK's latest defence review, and his latest book *The Retreat from Strategy*.

Travels with Plotinus: Journey in Search of Unity 15:40 - 16:15 PM: Walled Garden Join Moin Mir as he discusses his new book, *Travels with Plotinus*, which traces the 1780 year old journey of the Greek philosopher Plotinus through India, Egypt, and Europe. **William Dalrymple** asks the questions.

Unearthing Resistance 15:40 -16:15 PM: Outside the Bookshop 'Meeting Place'

Join folksinger **Kirsty Law** in the Yew Tree circle as she asks the question 'where do we source our power to resist?' through her singing, song writing and connecting with traditional Scots culture.

Shadows of War, Windows of Peace 16:15 -17:05 PM; Main Tent

Join Ambassador Nirupama Rao and Ambassador Riffat Masood alongside senior journalists Maya Mirchandani and Nasim Zehra as they discuss Indo-Pak relations after the recent escalation, the role of women in the peace process, and the space for peace in the changing global environment.

State of the World

17:15 - 18:05 PM: Main Marquee

End the day with Veteran BBC Correspondent **Jim Naughtie** as he speaks to a series of guest speakers, including **Steve Crawshaw**, about the age of Trump and populism.

Reading: A New Declaration 18:05 - 18:15 PM: Main Marquee

Throughout the weekend, students and festival guests will be creating *A New Declaration of Human Rights* in the **'Resistance' marquee.** This is set to be read aloud by students - TBC on the day.

Evening Music with Dias Brazil 18:10 -19:00 PM: Walled Garden

Finish of the day with some music from Dias Brazil in the Walled Garden. Get ready for some samba & bossa nova.

WEEKEND LONG EVENTS

Cinema Tent

Come visit our cinema tent which will be showcasing a range of films from Akram Alashqar, Mohammed Salem, Xisha Angelova, Britain Palestine Project & more.

Market Stalls

Don't miss out on securing local goods from Lynn Organics, Zarif-AtToul-AsSamer, The Borders Distillery, Robert Smail's Printing Works, and Sara Kieth Jewellery.

Resistance Tent

Learn more about local and national activism with Global Justice Now, Tweeddale North Sea Knitters, Greenpeace, Woodland Trust, Borders Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, and *A New Declaration of Human Rights* drop-in workshop.

Join the 45

Before stopping off at the Beer Tent for a Jacobite ale, step back in time with Alan Currie as he brings Jacobite living history to life.

EXHIBITIONS

Belarusian Martyrology: Lost in the Maze

Visit the Traquair House maze to experience an immersive new exhibition featuring over 200 portraits of Belarusian political prisoners, alongside life size artworks that bring to life the ancient Greek myth of the Labyrinth.

Earl Haig (1918 – 2009) Home and Abroad

The Traquair House Gallery will be exhibiting private collections from artist, Earl Haig, featuring landscape paintings of the Scottish Borders.

Ukrainian Icons on Ammo Boxes: Transforming Death into Life

The Traquair House Chapel will be mounting a powerful show of Ukrainian Icons painted on ammunition boxes brought back from the front lines by artists, Sonya Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko.

A Jacobite Trail

Explore the hidden symbols, artefacts, coded letters and history of how the Stuarts of Traquair exhibited their support of the Jacobite cause as an act of resistance against the Hanoverian monarchy.

Resistance by Peter Sacks

Experience a collection of resistance figure portraits projected in the cinema tent.

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