

Beyond Borders International Festival

Weekend Programme 23rd - 24th August 2025

Traquair House, Innerleithen EH44 6PW



SAT. 23RD AUGUST

A Storytelling Walk

9:15 - 10:00 AM: Walled Garden

Join 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

11:50 - 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 and role of resistance art is **Alan Flowers**, **Ken McBain**, and **Giles Sutherland**.

Following this panel discussion, Xisha will lead a Belarusian folk dance masterclass.

The Britain Palestine Project

11:55 - 13:30 PM: Chapel

William Dalrymple talks to **Afif Safieh** about Palestine and Britain's unique responsibility towards it.

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.

How to Build Peace in a Troubled World

13:45 - 14:35 PM: Main Marquee

Former First Minister of Scotland, **Lord Jack McConnell**, and Peebles High School student, **Beth Lapsley**, cross examine **Martin Griffiths**, former Under

Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, about his latest ventures to help save the world from further conflict and chaos.

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.

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-paced satire on the war-reporting industry.

Poetry Walk

15:35 - 16:15 PM: Walled Garden

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

15:35 - 16:15 PM: Walled Garden

Mark Muller Stuart KC introduces **Steve Crawshaw** as he discusses his new book, *Prosecuting the Powerful: War Crimes and the Battle for Justice*. A Scottish University student will ask the questions.

Palestine Matters

16:15 - 17:05 PM: Main Marquee

Participate with former First Minister, **Humza Yousaf MSP**, in a dialogue about the war and future of Gaza with the Palestinian Ambassador, **Husam Zomlot** joining online from the region and award-winning photojournalist, **Mohammed Salem**, who has captured the realities of life in Gaza over the last eighteen months.

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

18:10 - 19:00 PM: Walled Garden

End the day with a drink and some music from **Los Chichanos** in the Walled Garden.

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

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 Scotland’s history and literature.

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**, author of *Travels with Plotinus*, asking the questions.

The Humanitarians

11:50-11:50 AM: Main Marquee

Mark Muller Stuart KC introduces **Sigrid Van Aken**, CEO of the Postcode Lottery Group, as she speaks to **Lyse Doucet (TBC)** about its remarkable rise to become the world’s third biggest philanthropic organisation. Médecins Sans Frontières supremo, **Christopher Lockyear**, joins the conversation and reveals the truth about the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, Gaza, and beyond. Listen as both are asked about how to deal with the aid cuts by the US and UK governments.

Palestinian Dabke Dance Workshop

11:50- 12:25 PM: Walled Garden Marquee

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

A Ukrainian Odyssey: Culture & History Walk

12:00-12:45 PM: Walled Garden

Join Professor **Nigel Osborne MBE** 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 be joined by **Nataliia Shapovalova** who will share the value of art and music in addressing conflict and trauma.

Britain Palestine Project Film Screening

12:25 -13:15 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 Q&A.

Lunchtime Music

12:50 -13:45 PM: Walled Garden

Enjoy your lunch accompanied by live music from **Divergence** performing in the serene Walled Garden.

Frankly

13:45-14:35 PM: Main Marquee

Watch former First Minister, **Nicola Sturgeon MSP**, 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 by **Alan Currie** 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

15:35 - 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, Italy, Greece, and Turkey, exploring his concept of unity. **William Dalrymple** asks the questions.

Unearthing Resistance

15:40 -16:20 PM: Walled Garden

Join folksinger **Kirsty Law** as through her singing, song writing and connecting with traditional Scots culture, she asks the question ‘where do we source our power to resist?’

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

SUN. 24TH AUGUST

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

Veteran BBC Correspondent Jim Naughtie speaks to a series of guest speakers, including Steve Crawshaw, about: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? in the age of Trump and populism.

Evening Music

18:10 - 19:00 PM: Walled Garden

End the day with a drink and some music from **Dias Brazil** in the Walled Garden.

Beyond Borders International Festival

