



**For release Wednesday 4th April 2018**

## **THE BAILLIE GIFFORD BORDERS BOOK FESTIVAL BRINGS ENTERTAINMENT, FUN AND LITERARY DELIGHTS TO THE SCOTTISH BORDERS THIS SUMMER**

Tickets go on sale on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April for the Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival, which takes place this summer in Melrose in the Scottish Borders from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival is established as one of the leading literary festivals in Britain, boasting a broad programme of more than 100 events over four days with live talks, debates and entertainment, including television cookery expert and Great British Bake Off presenter **Prue Leith**, comedian and ventriloquist **Nina Conti**, mountaineer **Chris Bonington** and authors **Kate Mosse**, **Ian Rankin** and **Antony Beevor**. Title Sponsor Baillie Gifford is supporting a series of non-fiction events, including **Gordon Brown**, **Alexander McCall Smith** and **Stacey Dooley**.

This year's Family Book Festival will be sponsored for the first time by Nairn's Oatcakes. Taking place throughout the weekend of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, the Nairn's Family Book Festival will include author events, live music, theatre and kids' craft activities such as printing, writing and illustration workshops.

Last year's sell-out Borders Book Festival Lecture will be presented by new key sponsors McInroy & Wood, who will also sponsor the McInroy & Wood Marquee, one of the key festival venues.

The Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival also includes the Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA) Schools Gala Day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June, which sees more than 1,500 children and teachers attending from primary schools across the Borders, and the announcement of this year's winner of the prestigious £25,000 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Alistair Moffat, Festival Director, said:

*"It's incredible we are delivering our fifteenth book festival programme. In an age of digital entertainment at our finger tips, the appetite for live talks and debate is as popular as ever. We had a record number of visitors last year and we're looking forward to welcoming them back for another enjoyable weekend in June, as well bringing in new audiences. We are also delighted to welcome McInroy & Wood and Nairn's Oatcakes as new sponsors to the Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival and the continued support from funders and sponsors, especially our title sponsors Baillie Gifford."*

Locally-brewed Tempest Beer and other produce from the Scottish Borders will be available at this year's bars, which will be run by Hickory Bars, and the food stalls in The Orchard.

The Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival is also giving individuals the opportunity to become supporters and patrons of the festival. Details about the new individual giving scheme can be found at [www.bordersbookfestival.org/support](http://www.bordersbookfestival.org/support).

Tickets for this year's Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival will be available on 24<sup>th</sup> April midday from Hub Tickets, at [www.bordersbookfestival.org](http://www.bordersbookfestival.org) or at 0131 473 2000.

**For further information and images please contact:  
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### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The **Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival** takes place in Harmony Garden, Melrose from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The full programme is available at [www.bordersbookfestival.org](http://www.bordersbookfestival.org) (from 24<sup>th</sup> April). Tickets will be available from Hub Tickets, at [www.bordersbookfestival.org](http://www.bordersbookfestival.org) or at 0131 473 2000.
2. A preview **video** for the Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/v4uHxwMaTZc>. This can be embedded in online articles.
3. Pictures can be downloaded and used free of charge here:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cxzejschqmit433/AADk-HPY7JmMFhA3n748eEiLa?dl=0>
4. Global investment managers Baillie Gifford continues to be the title sponsor of the book festival and also sponsor of a series of non-fiction events. Founded in 1908 and headquartered in Edinburgh, where most of its staff live and work, Baillie Gifford is the sponsor of literary events taking place throughout the UK. The firm employs over 1,000 people and have assets under management and advice of over £179 billion as at 31 December 2017.
5. **McInroy & Wood** provides a discretionary investment management service to individuals, families, trusts and charities. Family control and employee ownership have preserved a consistency of approach, culture and quality, which are all crucial to the lasting relationships we seek to build with clients. Direct investment in global securities markets ensures a competitive service and complete control over investments. Founded in 1986 and headquartered in Haddington, East Lothian, the firm also has offices in London and Harrogate.
6. Edinburgh-based **Nairn's Oatcakes** was founded in 1896 and is today the largest producer of oatcakes in the World. Having founded their reputation on their range of traditional Scottish oatcakes, Nairn's have invested heavily in developing natural, gluten free oat products and are now one of the UK's leading and most trusted free from brands, exporting their range to over 30 countries worldwide.
7. Other sponsors and funders of the Borders Book Festival for 2018 include: Creative Scotland, Scottish Borders Council, The National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Borders Housing Association, Borders Buses, The Times, Douglas Home & Co and Border Toyota.