



FOR RELEASE TUESDAY 12TH JUNE 2018

THE HAIRY BIKERS DISH UP THE STARTER AS A FEAST OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT COMES TO THE BAILLIE GIFFORD BORDERS BOOK FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND

Top TV chefs, **The Hairy Bikers** dish up the starter at this weekend's Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival in Melrose on Thursday (14th June), followed by a generous serving of explorer **Sir Chris Bonington** and his fascinating memoir *Ascent*; **Charles Spencer** talking to the Duke of Buccleuch about Charles II and Great British Bake Off judge **Prue Leith** on life and food.

Other Book Festival highlights include **Robert Peston's McInroy & Wood Lecture** on the state of the nation, **Archie Macpherson** recalling the glory years of Scottish football, **Alexander McCall Smith** celebrating 20 years of his bestselling *No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency*; King of Crime **Ian Rankin** talking all things Rebus and **Richard Holloway** musing on mortality in his *Waiting for the Last Bus*.

Also on stage over the four days: award winning military historian **Antony Beevor**; TV presenter and archaeologist **Neil Oliver**; politicians **William Hague** and **Gordon Brown**; naturalist and conservationist **John Lister-Kaye**; gardening expert **Carol Klein** journalists **Stacey Dooley** and **Misha Glenny**; leading palaeontologist **Steve Brusatte**; **James Naughtie** and **Simon Jenkins** on Brexit; **Alan Taylor** and **Ian Rankin** on Muriel Spark; **Mark Millar**, the man behind some of the biggest comic books and their film adaptations such as *Kingsman* and *Wolverine*; sporting heroes including ex-international rugby star **Doddie Weir**; marathon runner and Irongran **Edwina Brocklesby** and record-breaking cyclist and adventurer **Mark Beaumont**, as well as comedian and ventriloquist **Nina Conti**.

Alistair Moffat, Festival Director, said:

“National and international names converge on Melrose this weekend for a dazzling array of events in Harmony Garden and across the road in the Orchard. From politics to comedy, sport to history, fiction to science and cooking to art, all tastes and interests are catered for. And of course, we are delighted to be announcing the winner of the coveted

Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. We look forward to welcoming our audience, authors and supporters to a weekend of fun, entertainment and lively debate.”

Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust have programmed their first Resolute Optimism event at the book festival with controversial, evolutionary **Richard Dawkins** defending the power and glory of science based on his new book *Science in the Soul: Selected Writings of a Passionate Rationalist*.

The winner of this year’s prestigious £25,000 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction will be awarded by previous winner Sebastian Barry on Saturday 16th June, from a shortlist including books by **Rachel Malik, Benjamin Myers, Paul Lynch** and **Jane Harris**.

Debi Gliori, Ross Collins, Vivian French and **David Solomons** are just some of the names from the world of children’s books, who will entertain and energise the younger crowd in the popular Family Book Festival, sponsored for the first time by Nairn’s Oatcakes. Taking place throughout the weekend of Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June, the Nairn’s Family Book Festival also includes kids craft activities, storytelling and creative workshops.

Adults get to go free to any Nairn’s Family Book Festival event so long as they are accompanied by at least one child!

The Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival also includes the Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA) Schools Gala Day on Thursday 14th June, which sees more than 1,200 children and teachers attending from primary schools across the Borders, whilst a new Health & Wellbeing festival will run throughout the Friday afternoon to include yoga, drop-in massage therapy and mindfulness.

In addition, throughout the four days there will be live music, The Orchard tented food village and plenty of free, fun activities making the book festival a great day out for all the family to enjoy.

The festival welcomes the continued support of Title Sponsor Baillie Gifford, Key Media Partner The Times Scotland, Key Supporters The National Trust of Scotland, as well as Douglas Home & Co and Scottish Borders Housing Association, and new Key Sponsors McInroy & Wood, as well as Nairn’s Oatcakes and Borders Buses, and the on-going funding of Scottish Borders Council, Creative Scotland and many other loyal supporters.

James Budden, Director Marketing and Distribution at Baillie Gifford said:

'This year's Borders Book Festival sets the bar ever higher. Baillie Gifford is simply happy to be involved in a literary celebration of such depth and diversity. We look forward to welcoming the crowds to what is one of the nicest places in one of the nicest parts of the country.'

Tim Wood, Chief Executive of McInroy & Wood said:

'The directors of McInroy & Wood are delighted to become the Key Sponsor to the Borders Book Festival. Our firm's long history in supporting the arts across the UK sits happily alongside our desire to support and participate in the local communities in which we work and live. We are therefore excited to be partnering once again with Alistair and the team. The Borders Book Festival is in a class of its own and mirrors our own aspiration to provide a personal discretionary investment management service of the highest quality.'

The Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival is this year 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.

Tickets for this year's Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival are available from Hub Tickets, at www.bordersbookfestival.org or at 0131 473 2000.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The **Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival** takes place in Harmony Garden, Melrose from Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th June 2018.
The full programme is available at www.bordersbookfestival.org
Tickets are available from Hub Tickets, at www.bordersbookfestival.org or at 0131 473 2000.
2. A **teaser video** for the Baillie Gifford Borders Book Festival is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/V4wjnXCYvW8>. This can be embedded in online articles. The video can also be downloaded here:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QdUMf8fJ2mfOlpoW2BFNxRirFR_tp0fb?usp=sharing

3. Author pictures can be downloaded and used free of charge here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ds9b51vwwgfqo9q/AACqSpST-KUGuX5Dg5YyWeSza?dl=0>

Generic 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. Found 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.