

Black Isle Words

2010

# Where Wild Things Are

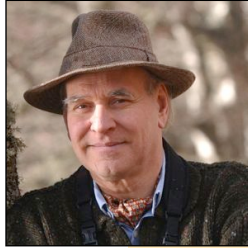
Tenth Black Isle  
Words Festival  
2010

Friday 10th to  
Sunday 12th  
September at  
The Old Brewery,  
Cromarty  
(Cromarty Training Centre)

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**Sir John Lister-Kaye**  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 2-3pm at  
The Old Brewery

### At The Water's Edge

Sir John Lister-Kaye is one of Scotland's best-known naturalists and conservationists as well as being a professional lecturer of international repute. He is a Times columnist and the author of nine books on nature and wildlife. His best-selling non-fiction, *Song of the Rolling Earth*, was published in March 2003, and its sequel, *Nature's Child*, in April 2004. His new book, *At the Water's Edge*, was published in 2010. He lives at Aigas, near Beaulieu, where he is director of the internationally acclaimed Aigas Field Centre, which he founded in 1970, and where he is currently running a European beaver demonstration project.



**Margot Henderson**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm at  
The Old Brewery

### Wild Honey

Margot is a Poet, Storyteller and Community Artist. She was Storyteller in Residence for 3 years with Coral Arts Environmental Theatre Company in Oxford. She was Storytelling Fellow for Aberdeen, Writer in Residence for the Cromarty Arts Trust and is currently Expressive Writing Tutor at Maggies Highlands.



**Gerry Cambridge**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>,  
10am-12noon at The  
Old Brewery

### Nothing but Heather

Gerry Cambridge lived in a caravan in rural Ayrshire for twenty-five years, where he first discovered the natural world. A poet and photographer who often takes nature as his subject, his work is collected in *Nothing But Heather: Scottish Nature in Poems, Photographs and Prose* (Luath Press, reprinted 2008) and in *Aves*, prose poems about wild birds (Essence Press, 2007) and elsewhere. Cambridge is the founder-editor of the Scottish-American poetry journal, *The Dark Horse*. His website is at: [www.gerrycambridge.com](http://www.gerrycambridge.com)



**Mairi Hedderwick**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, 2.15pm  
at Cromarty East  
Church

### Island Life

A graduate of Edinburgh College of Art, Mairi Hedderwick was a teacher before she started illustrating children's books. As an author and illustrator her most popular character, Katie Morag, was created in 1984. Katie Morag's home on the fictional Hebridean island of Struay is not a million miles away from her author's own island home on Coll.

Mairi Hedderwick has also written and illustrated many other books for children and adults, all with the backdrop of the Highlands and Islands. She was awarded an Honorary Degree from Stirling University in 2003 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to writing and illustration in Scotland, especially for children.



**Dr Fiona Thompson**  
Saturday 3.30 -4.30pm  
at Cromarty East  
Church

### The importance of place in the novels of Jane Duncan

After a career in academia and TV, Fiona became Dean of the Faculty of Media, Business & Marketing of Leeds Trinity University in 2005, the same year as she was awarded her PhD in Theology. Fiona's first encounter with "Jane Duncan" was at her local library in Solihull where she picked up *My Friend Cousin Emmie* when she was 17 and became hooked into the world of *Janet Sandison* and *Reachfar*. After a chance encounter between her partner, Rachel, and Christine Cameron (wife of Jane Duncan's nephew, Neil) Fiona was given access to Jane Duncan's correspondence and diaries and she is now working her way through them, mapping fact on to fiction.



**Linda Cracknell**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>,  
10am-12noon at The  
Old Brewery

### A Wilder Vein

Linda Cracknell has published two collections of short stories, *Life Drawing* (2000) and *The Searching Glimpse* (2008). She has also edited *A Wilder Vein*, an anthology published in 2009 by Two Ravens Press, linking writers with the natural world. She writes drama for BBC Radio Four and received a Creative Scotland Award in 2007 for a collection of non-fiction essays in response to journeys on foot. She teaches creative writing in workshops across Scotland and internationally. In 2002 to 2005 she was writer-in-residence at Brownsbank Cottage near Biggar, the final home of Hugh MacDiarmid. She lives in Highland Perthshire.



**Sharon Blackie**  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>,  
11am-12noon at The  
Old Brewery

### Two Ravens Press: two writers in the wilderness

In November 2006 Sharon Blackie set up a small literary publishing company with her husband, former RAF Tornado pilot and poet David Knowles. Two Ravens Press began its life on a working croft by a sea-loch just outside of Ullapool, but recently took a further step into the wilderness, relocating to a coastal croft at the very end of the last road on the far western coast of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. Sharon will talk about how living in the wild informs both her writing and the Two Ravens Press approach to publishing.



**Jay Griffiths**  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 3-4pm at  
The Old Brewery

### Wild: An Elemental Journey

Jay Griffiths is a British writer, living in Wales, and author of *Pip Pip: A Sideways Look at Time* and *Wild: An Elemental Journey*. Winner of the Barnes & Noble Discover award for the best new non-fiction writer to be published in the USA. Shortlisted for both the Orwell prize and for the World Book Day award. Winner of the inaugural 2007 Orion Book Award in the USA.

## Tenth year for Black Isle Words Festival

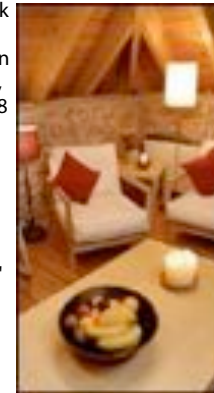
**The Black Isle Words Festival 2010 will take place on the second weekend of September (Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>) at the usual venue in Cromarty, "The Old Brewery," aka Cromarty Training Centre.** This will be the

10th Festival on the Black Isle. It began as the Cromarty Book Festival in the autumn of 1999 and, with one gap of about 18 months earlier in this millennium, has happened every year since then.

In 2010, the main theme will be "Where Wild Things Are," explored by a range of contributors, including authors Linda Cracknell (Saturday), Sir John Lister-Kaye (Sunday), poet Gerry Cambridge (Saturday), storyteller Margot Henderson (Friday evening) and publisher and novelist Sharon Blackie (Sunday). As an opening on the Friday evening local authors Jim Miller, Angus Dunn and Anne MacLeod, "on the couch," will discuss the sense of

place in their writing with fellow author and Black Isle Words Chairman, Kenny Taylor. We will also be celebrating the centenary of Black Isle author, Jane Duncan on the Saturday afternoon. At the East Church, Cromarty, Dr Fiona Thomson of Leeds Trinity University will give a talk about the

Saturday night will see the return of the popular Black Isle Words Ceilidh, where Festival contributors and members of the public alike can get together to do their party piece and share stories, poems, music, etc. over a glass of wine or two.



importance of place in the novels of Jane Duncan. Mairi Hedderwick, illustrator of the Jane Duncan 'Janet Reachfar' children's books, will also speak and the afternoon will finish with harp music from one of the musicians attending the Cromarty Arts Trust's 'Harp Village' weekend.

### BLACK ISLE WORDS 2011

Join us for a Rabelaisian weekend to celebrate 400 years since the birth of Sir Thomas Urquhart (1611-1660), son of Cromarty, translator of Rabelais, inventor of a universal language. We hope that you will join us at next year's Black Isle Words Festival - the dates for your diary are September 9 - 11, 2011 (the second weekend in

September). Watch our website in 2011 for details of speakers and events - <http://www.blackislewords.co.uk/> If you have suggestions for speakers/contributors you would like to see taking part in next year's Festival, please do let us know.



## 'WHERE WILD THINGS ARE' BLACK ISLE WORDS FESTIVAL PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2010

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

**10am meet at THE OLD BREWERY**  
£10 (£7.50 concessions)

**Nature writing - Poetry and Prose workshop - Where Wild Things Are ( 1 )**

"Walking Through Words"- **Gerry Cambridge and Linda Cracknell** lead a workshop for those interested in either writing poetry or prose, inspired by an undemanding walk in the environs of Cromarty. Please wear waterproofs and sturdy footwear and bring along a notebook and pen. Numbers restricted to 15.

**Booking essential**

**2pm at CROMARTY EAST CHURCH**  
£7.50 (£5 concessions)

**Reachfar, Jane Duncan's Black Isle - talks and discussion**

**2pm - Caroline Vawdrey and David Alston** give an introduction to Cromarty's pre-Reformation East Church, featured in the BBC Restoration series, and recently opened after renovation.

**2.15pm - Mairi Hedderwick** talks about her illustrations of Jane Duncan's children books and how they influenced the development of her own work, including the Katie Morag series.

**3.30pm - Dr Fiona Thompson** talks about the importance of place in the novels of Jane Duncan.

**4pm - Audience discussion** - Memories of Jane Duncan and thoughts about her books.

**8pm at THE OLD BREWERY**  
£4 (No booking required)

**BLACK ISLE WORDS CEILIDH**

Music, words and party pieces from Festival contributors and anyone else who feels inclined. Includes readings of creative writing from Fortrose Academy 6th year students. Great family entertainment. Chaired by Janet Macinnes, Fear an Tigh.

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

**11am at THE OLD BREWERY**  
£4 (£3 concessions)

**Nature writing Where Wild Things Are ( 2 )**

"Two Ravens Press: Two Writers In the Wilderness" **Sharon Blackie** talks about how living in the wild informs both her writing and the Two Ravens approach to publishing.

**2pm at THE OLD BREWERY**  
£7.50 (£5 concessions)

**Nature writing Where Wild Things Are ( 3 )**

**2pm - "AT THE WATER'S EDGE"** **Sir John Lister Kaye** of Aigas talks about his recently published book - a lyrical hymn to the wildlife of Britain and a powerful warning to protect and respect it.

**3pm - "WILD: AN ELEMENTAL JOURNEY"** **Jay Griffiths** talks about her book-journeys to visit Amazonian shamans, walking in the Highlands of West Papua and staying in the Central Deserts of Australia.

**The Old Brewery** is situated on Burnside Place, Cromarty, IV11 8XQ. Refreshments, snacks and meals will be available there throughout the weekend.

**The East Church** is on Church Street, literally round the corner from the Old Brewery.

**Tickets** will be on sale at the Old Brewery during the festival, including weekend tickets for £25 (£17.50 concessions) and family tickets at twice the session price.

**Concessions** apply for the unwaged, OAPs and under 16s

For bookings and enquiries telephone **01349 864312/864151** or email [jane.dewar@tesco.net](mailto:jane.dewar@tesco.net) <http://www.blackislewords.co.uk/>