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IAN RANKIN AND STUART MACBRIDE REVISIT LOST NOVEL WESTWIND

Exclusive crime event for Book Week Scotland

Ian Rankin will discuss his recently re-launched lost novel, *Westwind*, with bestselling crime author Stuart MacBride at an exclusive event during Book Week Scotland. Published for the first time in almost 30 years, the espionage thriller about spies, satellites and a global conspiracy of sinister surveillance, is strikingly relevant in today's political climate. Tickets for the event, Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm at the Apex Hotel in Dundee, can be purchased [here](#).

After a fan told Rankin they had enjoyed *Westwind*, he re-read it for the first time since its original publication in 1990, leading him to reconnect with the novel. He returned to the manuscript with his publisher, Akhtar, changing some aspects from the first edition in order for the book to join the rest of his backlist in print.

Book Week Scotland is the national celebration of reading and writing, and will run this year from 18-24 November 2019, centred on the theme of conversation. Hundreds of free events will take place across the country: the full programme can be viewed [here](#). Working with a wide range of partners, Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, will deliver a diverse range of events and activities, many tying in with the Year of Conversation, including the Digital Festival with free events that can be accessed online by all.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said: "We're very excited to be hosting an exclusive Book Week Scotland event with two of Scotland's finest crime writers. Despite being almost three decades old, *Westwind* proves to remain topical in the current climate. Fittingly, the theme of Book Week Scotland this year is conversation, and I'm sure this lost novel will prompt fascinating conversations with readers of Ian Rankin."

Westwind is a thrill-ride of espionage suspense set in Britain and America, in the near future from when the novel was originally published in 1990. It follows two main characters, Martin Hepton and Mike Dreyfuss, as they start unravelling a global conspiracy involving space shuttles and satellites – an undertaking which threatens their very lives.

Joining Rankin for an exclusive Book Week Scotland crime event is Stuart MacBride, bestselling Sunday Times author. His latest novel, *All That's Dead* (Harper Collins), is the thirteenth in the series and continues the story of Inspector Logan McRae.

During the event, there will be an opportunity for questions from the audience. There will be book signings after the event, supported by Waterstones.

Ian Rankin said: "Book Week Scotland is always a joy, a great way to celebrate Scotland's phenomenal array of authors, books and publishers – not forgetting all the enthusiastic readers of every age. I'm chuffed that *Westwind* will play a part this year."



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Book Week Scotland also features a **fundraising initiative, Big Book Swap**, to support Scottish Book Trust. Join hundreds of schools, workplaces and community groups on Friday 22 November to swap books and raise money to help Scottish Book Trust to continue to support people in Scotland to reach their potential through reading and writing. To sign up and receive your free fundraising guide, visit [Big Book Swap](#).

#BookWeekScotland

Notes to Editors

Please direct all media requests to PR and Marketing Manager:
Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com or call 0131 524 0184.

Ian Rankin

Born in the Kingdom of Fife in 1960, Ian Rankin graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1982, and then spent three years writing novels when he was supposed to be working towards a PhD in Scottish Literature. His first Rebus novel was published in 1987, and the Rebus books are now translated into thirty-six languages and are bestsellers worldwide. Ian Rankin has been elected a Hawthornden Fellow, and is also a past winner of the Chandler-Fulbright Award.

He is the recipient of four CWA Daggers including the prestigious Diamond Dagger in 2005. In 2004, Ian won America's celebrated Edgar Award. He has also been shortlisted for the Anthony Award in the USA, won Denmark's Palle Rosenkrantz Prize, the French Grand Prix du Roman Noir and the Deutscher Krimipreis. Ian Rankin is also the recipient of honorary degrees from the universities of Abertay, St Andrews, Edinburgh, Hull and the Open University. A contributor to BBC2's Newsnight Review, he also presented his own TV series, Ian Rankin's Evil Thoughts. Rankin is a No.1 bestseller in the UK and has received the OBE for services to literature, opting to receive the prize in his home city of Edinburgh, where he lives with his partner and two sons.

Westwind

Europe, 1990. As the US begins to pull out its troops in a tide of isolationism, Britain is torn between its loyalties to the USA and its continental neighbours.

In America, a space shuttle crashes on landing, killing all but one of the crew on-board: A British man named Mike Dreyfuss, who will become vilified by the US press and protesters.

Halfway across the world, Martin Hepton, an English ground control technician watches as they lose contact with the most advanced satellite in Europe. A colleague of Hepton's who suspects something strange is going on is signed off sick, and never comes back.

Hepton decides to investigate his friend's suspicions and his trail leads him to Dreyfuss, MI6, the American military, and back to his former girlfriend, Jill, who is an up-and-coming journalist with the contacts and the courage to cover the story.



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Stuart MacBride

Stuart MacBride is the No.1 Sunday Times bestselling author of the Logan McRae and Ash Henderson novels. He's also published standalones, novellas and short stories as well as a children's picture book. Stuart lives in the northeast of Scotland with his wife Fiona, cats Grendel, Gherkin, Onion, and Beetroot, some hens, horses, and a vast collection of assorted weeds.

All That's Dead

Inspector Logan McRae is looking forward to a nice simple case – something to ease him back into work after a year off on the sick. But the powers-that-be have other ideas...

The high-profile anti-independence campaigner, Professor Wilson, has gone missing, leaving nothing but bloodstains behind. There's a war brewing between the factions for and against Scottish Nationalism. Infighting in the police ranks. And it's all playing out in the merciless glare of the media. Logan's superiors want results, and they want them now.

Someone out there is trying to make a point, and they're making it in blood. If Logan can't stop them, it won't just be his career that dies.

Scottish Book Trust

Scottish Book Trust runs Book Week Scotland. A national charity changing lives through reading and writing, Scottish Book Trust inspires and supports the people of Scotland to read and write for pleasure through programmes and outreach work that include:

- Gifting books to every child in Scotland to ensure families of all backgrounds can share the joy of books at home.
- Working with teachers to inspire children to develop a love of reading, creating innovative classroom activities, book awards and author events.
- Supporting Scotland's diverse writing community with our training, awards and writing opportunities.
- Funding a range of author events for the public to enjoy and promoting Scottish writing to people worldwide.

In addition to the funding we receive from the Scottish Government and Creative Scotland, we need the constant support of trusts and foundations, corporate sponsors and individual donors.

www.scottishbooktrust.com @scottishbktrust www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust

Book Week Scotland

Initiated by the Scottish Government and supported by £200,000 from the National Lottery through Creative Scotland Targeted Funding and £26,000 from SLIC, Book Week Scotland 2019 will be delivered by Scottish Book Trust from 18 November – 24 November.

For more information about Book Week Scotland 2019 and how you can get involved, visit www.bookweekscotland.com where you can find information about all the events taking place in your local area. Follow @Bookweekscot on Twitter, check out #bookweekscotland or like the Book Week Scotland Facebook page.



Creative Scotland

Scottish Book Trust is supported by Creative Scotland through Regular Funding. Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com.

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The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) is the independent advisory body to the Scottish Government on library and information services. It leads the implementation of *Ambition and Opportunity: A strategy for public libraries in Scotland 2015–2020*, develops innovative projects like Film Education in Libraries and provides support for libraries in the form of advocacy, consultation and research. It administers Scottish Government funding for public libraries (Public Library Improvement Fund), for school libraries (School Libraries Improvement Fund) and funding for the wider library and information sector (Innovation and Development Fund). It supports public libraries to participate in Book Week Scotland by providing Scottish Book Trust with event funding for every public library service and Further Education College Libraries.