



Bloody Scotland
Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival
2-11, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3JD
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NEW SPONSOR FOR BLOODY SCOTLAND IN KEEPING WITH THEIR ETHOS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

Scottish Crime writing festival Bloody Scotland will have a headline sponsor this year, following a deal with Galashiels-based social enterprise Bookdonors who reflect their ethos of social inclusion.

Last year Bloody Scotland, which is held annually in Stirling each September, was the first festival in the UK to open its doors for free to the unemployed, reducing barriers to participating in the arts. The festival is a charity, an accredited Living Wage Employer and offers a fee to all participants taking part in the programme.

Bookdonors is a not for profit social enterprise based in Tweedbank in the beautiful Scottish Borders. The organisation trades in used books for the benefit of people, charities and the environment with 100% of sales are used to fulfil a social mission. Bloody Scotland co-founder Lin Anderson visited Bookdonors' Tweedbank hub earlier this month to help launch the company's new website.

Bloody Scotland will benefit from a sponsorship package of cash and business support, enhanced by the The New Arts Sponsorship Grant scheme operated by Arts & Business Scotland.

In addition each attendee at Bloody Scotland will receive a free book from Bookdonors at the festival this September.

Bloody Scotland in association with Bookdonors will announce the 2016 programme on Wednesday 1 June.

COMMENT

Bookdonors Managing Director Tom Murdoch-Kenny said "Our on-line book business has grown substantially over the last three years, to the point where we now employ 32 people who process the 600,000 used books that we collect each month from Charity Shops across Scotland. As a Community Interest Company, with a strong ethical dimension, we are delighted to be able to support the excellent work of Bloody Scotland and endorse their initiatives to widen public access and to support emerging and established authors alike."

Bloody Scotland Director Dom Hastings said "Bloody Scotland is already a very socially aware organisation and we're delighted to partner with a sponsor that shares our ethos in many ways. I'm really pleased that a social-enterprise like Bookdonors sees the value in partnering with a book festival to support the work that we do with authors at all stages of their careers. With the support of Arts & Business Scotland, we've created a really fantastic partnership that will provide significant benefit for us all."

Arts & Business Scotland Chief Executive David Watt said "The partnership between Bloody Scotland and Bookdonors is a fantastic illustration of what can be achieved through collaboration between like-minded organisations and we're delighted to support the partnership through the New Arts Sponsorship Grants programme."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Bloody Scotland is Scotland's international Crime Writing Festival and takes place in a number of venues in Central Stirling each September. Established in 2012, the festival aims to showcase the very best Scottish and international crime writing, nurture the next generation of writers through masterclasses and provide opportunities to highlight Scottish crime writing on an international stage. The 2016 Festival runs from 09 -11 September 2016 and the full programme will be announced in June 2016. Tickets for the Festival are available from www.bloodyscotland.com, by phone on 01786 27 4000, or in person from the Tolbooth Theatre Box Office, Stirling (phone and box office: Tuesday to Saturday 10am–6pm, closed Sunday and Monday). High res images from the festival weekend are available on request.

Bloody Scotland is funded by Stirling Council and Creative Scotland.

Bookdonors is located in Galashiels, close to the new Borders Railway terminus at Tweedbank. It has been trading on-line on a range of sales channels since 2005. It trades in used books for the benefit of people, charities and the environment. All of its sales are used to fulfil the triple social mission; to provide flexible and adaptable employment opportunities, to help protect the environment by promoting re-use and to provide additional income to a range of charities. With an inventory of over 250,000 titles, which regularly change, a wide range of books can also be purchased from its web site at www.bookdonors.co.uk

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Arts & Business Scotland (A&BS) is a national charity which encourages and promotes new and sustainable collaborations between the creative and business sectors. It fosters dynamic cross sector relationships to enable Scotland to benefit from a vibrant cultural community.

The New Arts Sponsorship (NAS) Grant scheme encourages private sector sponsorship of cultural activity in Scotland. Funded by the Scottish Government and administered by A&BS it offers £1 for £1 match funding to cultural organisations which have secured sponsorship from an eligible business.

In total, over £7 million has been invested in culture through NAS with Scottish Government investment exceeding £3 million since the grant scheme began in 2006

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