







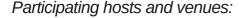
The Association of Wigtown Booksellers invites you to join us over the last weekend in April to enjoy a host of events to suit all ages and interests. This year's programme - our first weekend since 2019 - is packed full of great talks, walks, music and exhibitions - to inform, entertain and stimulate, whatever your age and whatever your particular interests. Wigtown is a friendly and inclusive small town in an area of beauty and history.

ASSOCIATION OF

WIGTO

We all look forward to welcoming you back or meeting you for the first time.

www.wigtown-booktown.co.uk



At the Sign of the Dragon, St Ninians, Wigtown, DG8 9JL, 01988 403446 Byre Books, 24 S Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9EH, 01988 402133 Briars Engravers, 12 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HL, 01988 402287 Cafe Rendezvous, 2 Agnew Crescent, Wigtown, DG8 9DS, 01988 402074 Church Hall, Lochancroft Lane, Wigtown, DG8 9JA County Buildings, Wigtown, DG8 9JH Craigard Gallery, 13 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HL, 07903 044929 Faodail, 6-7 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HN, 07880 359943 Foggie Toddle Books, 18 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HL, 01988 402896 Harrisons Coffee House & Beltie Books, 6 Bank Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HP, 01988 402730

New Chapter Books, 25 South Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9EH, 07938650944 Number 11 Bookshop, 11 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HN, 01988 402036 ReadingLasses Bookshop and Cafe, 17 South Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HH, 01988 403266

The Book End Studio, 23A North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HL, 07712 632485
The Bookshop, 17 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HL, 01988 402499
The Old Bank Bookshop, 7 South Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9EH, 01988 402111
The Open Book, 2 High St, Wigtown, DG8 9HQ, 01988 402010
The Print Room, 8 New Road, Wigtown, DG8 9JE, 01988 403222
The Wigtown Emporium, 1 High Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HH, 01988 402278
The Wigtown Lounge, 33 North Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HJ, 07919 505256
Well-Read Books of Wigtown, 1-3 Agnew Terrace, Wigtown, DG8 8DS, 01988 402873
Wigtown Parish Church, Church Lane, Wigtown, DG8 9HS



With so many events to choose from we've added a tick beside each one so you can track your progress through the weekend!

Or use the tick to pick out your favourites.

Where possible we have made events at our Spring Weekend free to attend. If applicable you will see information regarding booking and charges beside the event in the programme.

Parking is free at various locations throughout the town.

Events to enjoy all weekend:

Exhibition - Disappearing Lines

10.00am to 4.00pm /The Hut @ ReadingLasses/Free Disappearing Lines - An evocative installation capturing the disappearing lines of traditional wooden boats, their communities and their shores. Visitors to the exhibition will be immersed in a disappearing world of images, voices and memory objects of the sea. This audio/visual exhibition is curated by traditional wooden boat builder Gail McGarva.



Photo courtesy of Portland Museum



Exhibition - Decoupage and Textiles

10.00am to 5.00pm/New Chapter Books/Free

An exhibition of decorated boxes alongside examples of the sumptuous textile pieces by Wendy Erskine from Eden Textiles. Come and see Wendy's sheep, who provide her raw material, in the back yard at New Chapter Books and experience some of the processes used in Wendy's work. Children, with an accompanying adult, very welcome.



10.30am to 4.30pm/Faodail/Donation

You are invited to bring items to our shop for valuation during the duration of the festival. We'll be on hand to assess a wide variety of antiques and collectables including jewellery, paintings, glassware, ceramics, silver, cameras, vinyl LPs etc. If you have a large item which is not easily transportable, please feel free to bring along images.

Customers are invited to make a donation of £1 towards the forthcoming Relay For Life event at Bladnoch Park.



Exhibition - Sheena Ramsay

9.00am to 5.00pm Fri and Sat/Briars Engravers/discounts

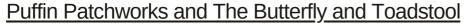
During the Spring Festival Briars Engravers are offering a 20% discount on all our gifts on production of the Spring Weekend Programme. We are also promoting local photographer Sheena Ramsay's amazing wildlife photographic prints with a 10% discount on any purchases of her work. Please pay us a visit at Briars Engravers, 12 North Main Street, Wigtown and admire Sheena's outstanding images.



10am-6pm Fri - Sun/The Wigtown Lounge/Free

Featuring paintings, prints and photography by Maggie Kellie, a Wigtown artist whose work is inspired by the power of nature and inter-relationship between the human and non-human world.

Plus Wigtown author Tim Cowen will be signing copies of his novel *Banquet of the Beasts* - 'a truly original story which mixes politics, fantasy and wonderful descriptions of the natural world'. Short book readings will take place each day at 12 midday and 5pm.



10am to 4pm/Foggie Toddle Books/Free

Beautifully crafted textiles, cards and stationery displayed in the back room at Foggie Toddle Books..



10am to 4pm daily in the Louis McGuffie Gardens

Choose a plain wrapped book and make a donation to Cancer Research UK.











Friday 28th April 2023

Kathleen Hart & Shaun Bythell

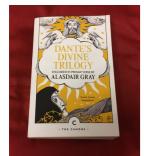
11.00am/The Bookshop/Free

Two of the town's published authors start off the weekend in conversation, discussing the highs and lows of writing, the sometimes fraught process of getting their work published and the travelling and talking required to get their books recognised - and bought - by booksellers and readers alike.

<u>Creative Bookbinding Workshop</u>

10.00am to 1.00pm/Craigard Gallery/£25pp. Booking essential. Tickets can be purchased from www.craigardgallery.co.uk

This three hour workshop will introduce you to a variety of creative bookbinding techniques that can be used to create your own artists' books and zines. From simple cut-and-fold techniques such as the Jacob's Ladder and the Map Fold to sewn bindings you will leave the workshop with a handful of books and the knowledge to make them again.



Alasdair Gray: Magnificent Citizen, Talk by David Sumner

<u>12.15pm/The Print Room/Free but ticketed, tickets available from wigtownbookfestival.com</u>

The writer and artist Alasdair Gray (1934-2019) has been described as "the father figure of the renaissance in Scottish literature and art". His groundbreaking novel Lanark was published in 1981, and inspired a new generation of Scottish writers. This talk will include readings from Gray's rich and diverse output, including his translation of Dante's Divine Comedy.

Poetry in The Emporium: The Unit3 Galloway Poets

1.30pm/The Wigtown Emporium/Free

Dumfries and Galloway has inspired poets for generations and continues to do so with its glorious landscapes, stunning wildlife and tales of local folk going about their daily lives.

Contemporary Galloway poets known as The Unit3 have been meeting in Wigtown for several years and would love you to join them and listen to an informal poetry session as they share their

years and would love you to join them and listen to an informal poetry session as they share their own writing and influences from past and present from other peoples and cultures. This promises to be a bit of Galloway heart and soul.

MAC-CAN: Spread the Word

3.00pm/Well-Read Books/Free

Spread the Word...about the Climate Crisis. Members of MAC-CAN (Machars and Cree Valley Climate Action Network) invite you to share written works relating to the environment and wildlife by favourite authors or by themselves. Books can help us understand and share what is happening to our world and our fellow creatures and how we might help. Audience members are welcome to read any of their favourites or own work along with



Bullets and Burnswark: A Roman Assault in Scotland? with Andrew Nicholson

3.30pm/The Print Room/Tickets £5, from Byre Books or cash on the door at The Print Room

At Burnswark near Lockerbie the true nature of the events that played out in the 2nd century AD has long excited speculation. Two Roman Camps were aggressively positioned to hold a former native hillfort in a vice-like grip, but does this dramatic arrangement testify to a rigorous military training regime, or to a military assault at the opening of the Antonine invasion of Scotland? Andrew Nicholson, co-director of The Burnswark Project and regional archaeologist, discusses the findings of the recent investigations at the site.











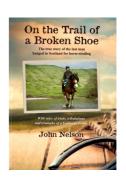


Friday 28th April 2023 continued

John Nelson: On the Trail of the Broken Shoe

4.30pm/New Chapter Books/Free but ticketed, tickets available from New Chapter Books

John Nelson, a farmer from Crossmichael, had long known about a family tale concerning a trek on horseback to apprehend a horse thief in 1811. He decided to re-enact the journey, on horseback, in 2011. John recounts his trip in the book "On the Trail of the Broken Shoe", along with other family stories.





Whisky Tasting

5.45/The Bookshop/£10pp. at the door/over 18s only
Alex Bruce, who runs the Adelphi Distillery in Ardnamurchan, will talk
about what makes whiskies distinct from one another, with a tasting.



Electric Night H'Owls

The Print Room/Tickets £5, from Byre Books or cash on the door at The Print Room

7.30pm Maxine McKenzie a.k.a. Madam Kadmon Maxine draws on diverse musical influences including rock, jazz, improvisational sound scaping and industrial electronica in a solo performance using one electric guitar and various effects pedals.





8.15pm Hope London

Hope started life as an artist in a studio squat in Queens, New York and never had great expectations, hence the title of her first album of original work "Aim Low", available on Spotify and iTunes.

"There's some Amanda Palmer, some Tom Waits, Kafka is name-checked, there's jazz, torch songs being touched on, there's the New Orleans barfly communing with the New York bar-tender at 3am. There are the ghosts of beat poets, the ring-stain of a Bukowski memory" - review - Alex Main, New Hellfire Club.



Paul Tarling - Bat Walk

<u>8.00pm/meet by Wigtown County Buildings/Free but ticketed, tickets available from wigtowbookfestival,com</u>



Paul Tarling will guide you on gentle walk of half an hour in search of Wigtown's bats.



Book at Bedtime

9.15pm/New Chapter Books/Free

Wind down with Renita Boyle and friends with a hot chocolate in the comfortable surroundings of New Chapter Books. Listen to a story, a song, a poem. Optional hugs. Feel free to contribute.



Saturday 29th April 2023

<u>The Wigtown Hanging: an exhibition of paintings displayed on the garden railings</u>



10am to 4pm/Louis McGuffie Gardens/various

Parisian style outdoor exhibition of paintings by local artists.



Lynne McEwan

10.00am/The Print Room/£7.00, tickets available from wigtownbookfestival.com or from The Old Bank Bookshop

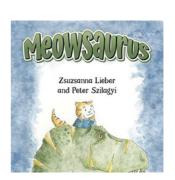
Lynne McEwan, the new star of tartan noir, returns to Wigtown with the third instalment of the DI Shona Oliver series set in Dumfries and Galloway, published by Canelo, and due for release in May 2023. Join the former newspaper photographer turned crime writer as she gives us a sneak peek of The Girls in the Glen.



Meowsaurus

11.00am/Foggie Toddle Books/Free

Meet Meowsaurus! Join Zsuzsanna Lieber and Peter Szilagyi who have written and illustrated a lovely story about a unique creature who leaves home to search for others who might look like him. Instead he finds that everyone is different in a unique way. Readings and activities suitable for pre and early school children. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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The Open Book Takeover by The Bookshop Band

11.00am to 5.30pm Sat 29th/The Open Book/Free



The Bookshop Band are running The Open Book for one day only. As they get ready for their evening show they will be performing free little 15 minute sets of literary inspired songs during the afternoon in the shop (12pm, 2pm & 4pm). Drop in and say hello. Check the notice board outside for other things happening, and special offers on their albums all day.

"The band are amazing!" Margaret Atwood



Hear No Evil: Sarah Smith

11.30am/The Print Room/Free but ticketed, tickets available from Well-Read Books.

Sarah Smith's first novel, now out in paperback, and winner of Waterstone's Scottish Book of the Month in February, is an absorbing fictional account of a suspected infanticide set principally in Glasgow and Edinburgh in the early nineteenth century, and based on true events, which became a landmark case in Scottish legal history.





Elizabeth Tindal: Environmental Art

12.00 midday/Church Hall/£4.00, tickets available from wigtownbookfestival.com

Freelance Ranger, Elizabeth Tindal will be unlocking your creativity to make some environmental art. She will show you some simple techniques to make garden hangings and sculptures out of the willow surrounding the play ground. From simple leaf shapes and hoops to whatever artworks your brain comes up with. Family friendly, children must be accompanied by an adult.



Saturday 29th April 2023 continued

Willie Johnston

12.45pm/The Print Room/£5.00 on the door

Willie Johnston was the BBC's reporter for south west Scotland for 35 years. He covered the Lockerbie air disaster, the loss of the Solway Harvester and the Foot and Mouth crisis. He'll talk about his experiences working for the BBC and the news stories that he covered.

Papercrafting with Julie Houston

2.00pm/The Bookend Studio/£10.00 booking essential by emailing houston1974@hotmail.com

Join Julie at the Bookend Studio to create one or two little critters from a book! Fold your way through this fun and therapeutic session that should last around an hour. All ages welcome.

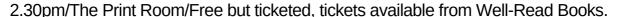


Metal Detecting with Sandy

2.00pm/meet at The Bookshop/£5.00

Scotland's most tattooed man Sandy McKnight will lead a metal detecting walk. No quarantees of finding the next Galloway Hoard, but you never know. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Lockerbie Disaster



Lord Bracadale (Alastair P Campbell KC as he was then) was lead prosecutor in the trial of Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi and Lamen Khalifah Fhimah which took place at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands between May 2000 and January 2001. There were aspects of the trial itself which were unique. The High Court of Justiciary sat in another country with three judges and no jury. Since the conviction of Megrahi interest in the trial, the various appeals, and the tragedy has continued.



MAC-CAN: Spread the Word

3.00pm/New Chapter Books/Free

Spread the Word...about the Climate Crisis. Members of MAC-CAN (Machars and Cree Valley Climate Action Network) invite you to share written works relating to the environment and wildlife by favourite authors or by themselves. Books can help us understand and share what is happening to our world and our fellow creatures and how we might help. Audience members are welcome to read any of their favourites or own work along with us.



Wigtown is situated within the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Unesco Biosphere. The AWB is committed to ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment where possible.

Please use the waste bins provided around the town. There are glass recycling bins in the Lorry Park just by the County Buildings and recycling points in the gardens for your plastic waste.







Saturday 29th April 2023 continued

Scottish Witches - Persecution and Pardon





4.00pm/The Print Room/£5.00, tickets available from Well Read Books

Witches of Scotland is a campaign run by Claire Mitchell KC and Zoe Venditozzi to pardon and appropriately memorialise those killed as witches under the Witchcraft Act 1563. The Campaign began on International Women's Day 2020 and since then the First Minister has made a formal state apology, and a Private Member's Bill to pardon those accused is under consideration. Claire and Zoe host the Witches of Scotland podcast.

The Brontes of Haworth and Emily Bronte, the Rebel Poet

5.00pm/The Wigtown Emporium/Free

Stuart Davies, a volunteer at the Parsonage Museum, Haworth, will be coming to Wigtown to talk about the Brontes. He will be sharing his fascinating insight into Emily's poetry and her great novel Wuthering Heights. Stuart will demonstrate how the quality of Emily's poems is undeniable, place her amongst the leading poets of the 19th Century and reveal her pantheism, mysticism and rebellion against Orthodox Christianity.





The Bookshop Band in Concert

8.00pm - 10.00pm/The Print Room/£10 / U18s £5, tickets available at the door or pre-book at New Chapter Books



Ivor Novello nominated musicians The Bookshop Band host a magical evening of music inspired by books to round off Saturday night at the Spring Book Weekend: from Margaret Atwood to Philip Pullman, J.M. Barrie to Shakespeare. No prior literary knowledge required, just bring a bottle, snuggle up and enjoy. "Not just good, but achingly good" The New York Times.

Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle

7.30pm/Church of Scotland/£10 on door, or from members

Performed by the Newton Stewart Singers Conductor - Nicola Junor Piano - Katherine Durran Harmonium - Christina Montgomery

Soloists - Rebecca Murphy, Lynn Bellamy, Christian Schneeberger and Robert Lind



9.15pm/New Chapter Books/Free

Wind down with Renita Boyle and a hot chocolate in the comfortable surroundings of New Chapter Books. Listen to short readings and poetry, be prepared for optional hugs. Feel free to contribute.









Sunday 30th April 2023

Bird Walk with Paul Tarling

<u>9.30am/meet by the County Buildings/Free but ticketed, tickets available from wigtownbookfestival.com</u>

Join Paul Tarling and local poet John Atkinson on a bird walk with a difference - as you walk along watching and listening for the birds, John will recite poems inspired by the birds residing in Wigtown's beautiful surroundings.

Coffee with a Criminal (Silk)

10.45am/Cafe Rendezvous/£5.00

Join Frances McMenamin KC for coffee, freshly baked scones and great conversation. Frances is, as the tabloids like to say, a "top KC", who has spent the last 40 years in the highest criminal courts in Scotland, sometimes prosecuting but mostly defending. She is the senior woman in the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland and has a wealth of experience and a fund of stories to share with you.



Mark Vernon Thomas

12.00noon/Cafe Rendezvous/£5.00

For a change of pace come and listen to poet Anne Dunford, over coffee and scones, in conversation with Mark. He is a poet living deep in the Machars. He has been a musician, a singer of Georgian polyphony, a Gestalt psychotherapist, and his first collection *Dances with Shadows and Stones* is published by Drunk Muse Press.

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists

2.00pm/The Print Room/£12/ £10 (unwaged) & £5 student rate

Adapted by Neil Gore from the book by Robert Tressell, and directed by Louise Townsend. Neil Gore presents a one-person version of the classic novel by Robert Tressell featuring projection, political conjuring tricks, live music and song. Meet the famous characters and enjoy the scenes, speeches and songs, featuring the Great Money Trick as its centrepiece. This enduring and absorbing classic story of a year in the life of a group of Edwardian painters and decorators is brought to life by Neil using his extensive knowledge of the book and the play. The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists follows a group of workers as they renovate 'The Cave', a threestorey town house, for Mayor Sweater. It traces their hardships and struggles for survival in a complacent and stagnating Edwardian England. These workers are the 'philanthropists' who throw themselves into backbreaking work for poverty wages in order to generate profit for their masters. They are joined by artist Owen, whose spirited attacks on the dishonesty of Capitalism along with his Socialist vision, highlight the exploitation in their workplace but also focus on the inequality in society as a whole.





"Tremendous" The Times

"A one person Tour-De-Force" Clare Brennan (The Observer)

> "10/10 Sensational" Liverpool Echo

BOOKING DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE







Sunday 30th April 2023 continued

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists: booking details

Running time/interval - Act 1 lasts 40 minutes and Act 2 lasts 30 minutes with a 20 min interval. Age suitability – 11 plus.

Tickets available online from Ticket Source or scan the OR code.

Tickets available online from Ticket Source or scan the QR code.

"A strong and robust show that brings the characters, humour and inspirational ideas of this great book to life. It is needed now more than ever. You'll leave the theatre and join the struggle!"



Ken Loach, Film Director



Eden Textiles: talk and demonstration

2.45pm/New Chapter Books/Free

Join Wendy Erskine from Eden Textiles to hear her speak about her work with wool, from the fleece to the final item, whether it be a felted bowl or a cosy shawl. The talk will show Wendy's love of textiles and her determination to discover all she can about this diverse craft and promote the sustainability and use of wool. There will also be opportunities to try out some of the processes.



<u>Donnie Nelson: A Peep at the Past,</u> with Julia MacDonald

4.00pm/County Buildings, Main Hall/Free but ticketed, tickets available online or from The Old Bank Bookshop

Donnie Nelson, who was the first Chair of Stranraer and District Local History Trust, amassed a vast collection of photographs and postcards whilst working for the Free Press. Julia MacDonald pays tribute to the much missed local historian, known as 'Mr Stranraer' through photographs and stories.







Tricia O'Malley: Wild Scottish Night

5.15pm/The Open Book/Free but ticketed, tickets available from wigtownbookfestival.com

NY Times, USA Today, and WSJ bestselling author, Tricia O'Malley talks with Jessica Fox about her latest romance novel. Opposites attract in this modern-day fairytale when American, Sophie MacKnight, inherits a Scottish castle along with a hot grumpy Scotsman who is tasked with training her to be a magical knight before the Kelpies wreak havoc on the people of Loren Brae. Who will win in this (Highland) game of love?



The Jones Family & Friends

<u>7.30pm/The Print Room/donation, tickets available from wigtownbookfestival.com or from The Old Bank Bookshop</u>

The Newton Stewart & Minnigaff Traditional Music Festival is a significant cultural event in Galloway. Now in its 9th year, the Jones Family are pivotal to the festival. Join them in this fundraising concert for an evening of great music (to be followed by a session) and help bring the absolute best in traditional music to our corner of Scotland. Bring your own bottle.





Food and Drink

Pop-Up Bar@**Lochancroft**, Martyn and Becky are back by popular demand - 24 Lochancroft Lane, Wigtown, DG8 9JA

The Bladnoch Inn: rooms and food, Bladnoch, DG8 9AB, 01988 402200

Cafe Melba (at the Bladnoch Distillery): lunch menu 10.00am to 4.00pm daily, Bladnoch, DG8 9AB, 01988 402605

Cafe Rendezvous: dine in and takeaway service, 2 Agnew Crescent, Wigtown, DG8 9DS, 01988 402074

Cobwebs: dine in & takeaway service, 31 South Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HG, 01988 402097

The Galloway Bar: drinks and live entertainment, 24 South Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9EH, 01988 402431

Harrisons Coffee and Beltie Books: dine in, 6 Bank St, Wigtown, DG8 9HP, 01988 402730

ReadingLasses: lunches, cakes and hot drinks, 17 South Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9EH, 01988 403266

The Talking Horse coffee van, situated in the centre of Wigtown serving hot coffees and snacks

The Machars Farm Shop: specially prepared burgers and falafel wraps as well as farm produce, 2 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HN, 01988 402435

The Frying Scotsman: family run fish and chip shop, 24 North Main St, Wigtown, DG8 9HG

Further information on the area, how to get here and where to stay can be found on the Wigtown Book Festival website **www.wigtownbookfestival.com**, and many thanks to the Festival Office for their help with bookings and hosting events for our Spring Weekend.

Molten Fire & Friends, Creative Crafts

We would like to welcome you to our shop which is full of art and crafts from ourselves and other local crafters.

There is something for everyone. We have a wide selection of items including textiles, candles, soap, jewellery, wood and glass.

We also have a wide range of art including original paintings, prints and photographs.

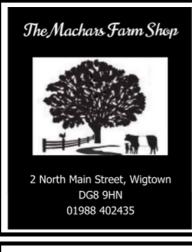
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18 North Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HL

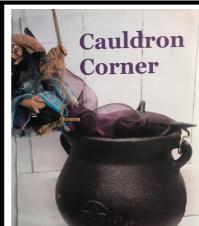
Children's bookshop
and publisher
with titles from
tots to teens
Wide range of
handcrafted and
fairtrade gifts.

www.foggietoddlebooks.co.uk



We are honoured to be a part
of the Wigtown Spring
Weekend
and will be serving a hot
menu of:
Robertson's BBQ Pulled Pork
Burgers and a Falafel Wrap
with Mediterranean
Veggies.

Our produce is fresh and locally sourced where possible.



Trinkets and Treasure

"Gifts with a difference"

1 North Main Street, Wigtown 01671 830736

The Galloway Bar

Supporting Wigtown Spring Weekend

A huge welcome and drinks, a warm fire and garden to enjoy.

A pet friendly, traditional pub offering live music, sports TV, darts, dominoes and pool.



24 South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9EH 01988 402431



Pop-Up Shop

Country Inspired Home and Garden Wares

The Hut, ReadingLasses

Spring Weekend Opening Times: Friday 28 - Sunday 30 April, 10am - 4pm

www.nestgalloway.co.uk



the bookshop

FOR CURIOUS MINDS

6 Bank Street Wigtown DG8 9HP

01988 402730

The Postie

GIFTS and GALLERY

27 South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HG 07436246324

Formerly known as Wigtown Post Office, The Postie now offers beautiful gifts and a gallery space within our local community. We love supporting and promoting local wares and artists.

We continue to provide post office services including banking services/deposits/withdrawals, bill payments and mail services and stock an extensive range of stationary, packaging and cards.