

# Open the Door 2018



Open  
*the*  
Door



## What is Open the Door?

Never before has Scotland's literary scene been as energised and bold as it is today, and a large part of that is thanks to the brilliance of contemporary women writers. It seemed only right to celebrate this achievement of women writers with a festival of their own and so Open the Door was born.

In May 2017, Glasgow Women's Library hosted the first Open the Door festival, a day-long event with authors including **Val McDermid**, **Leila Aboulela** and **Mary Paulson Ellis**. The format of the day invited some of the best to open the door to some of the newest practitioners of their art and the result was full of scintillating conversations and magical literary moments. From curiosity to world-building and film noir to the battle to get published, Open the Door 2017 emphasised the need to provide a platform for discussions around women writers and readers in Scotland.

## Open the Door 2018

We wanted our first literary festival to be unique; it broke down the barriers between writers and readers and generated poignant, important discussions. For 2018 we want to invite the world to Open the Door and so this year we're hosting the festival online. We want the online world to be abuzz with conversations around what it is to be a woman writer and reader. We've gathered content from contemporary writers and readers and designed a programme of discussion points and questions for you to ponder. Get creative and get involved!

As well as hosting discussions around modern women's writing, we'll be shining the spotlight on 3 women writers from history.

**Sandie Craigie (1963-2005)**

**Olive Fraser (1909-1977)**

**Muriel Spark (1918-2006)**

## How to Get Involved

We want as many individuals and organisations as possible to get involved with the conversations we'll be having on 18th May.

Below we've included links to our social media handles and a schedule of activities taking place throughout the day.

If you have any questions about getting involved, you can send an email to [hannah.wright@womenslibrary.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wright@womenslibrary.org.uk)

Network	Username/Handle	URL
Twitter	GWL / @womenslibrary	<a href="https://twitter.com/womenslibrary">twitter.com/womenslibrary</a>
Facebook	Glasgow Women's Library / @womenslibrary	<a href="https://facebook.com/womenslibrary/">facebook.com/womenslibrary/</a>
Instagram	Glasgow Women's Library / @womenslibrary	<a href="https://instagram.com/womenslibrary/">instagram.com/womenslibrary/</a>

# Open the Door 2018 cont.

## Schedule

Time	Online Activity
10am	<p><b>Introduction to Open the Door 2018</b></p> <p><i>Join us for a day of online events to discuss and celebrate women writers and readers in Scotland</i></p>
11am – 12pm	<p><b>Focus on Scots poet Sandie Craigie (1963-2005)</b></p> <p>Film by GWL Volunteer Jessica Secmezsoy-Urquhart <i>A film introducing the work of Sandie Craigie</i></p> <p><b>Sandie Craigie Poetry Discussion</b></p> <p><i>A pre-recorded conversation with pupils from St John Ogilvie High School, looking at poems by Sandie Craigie</i></p>
12pm	<p><b>Focus on Scottish novelist Dame Muriel Spark (1918-2006)</b></p> <p>Film by filmmaking graduate and GWL volunteer Eirene Wallace <i>A film introducing the life and work of Muriel Spark</i></p> <p><i>See more of Eirene's work at: <a href="http://cargocollective.com/eirenewallace">http://cargocollective.com/eirenewallace</a></i></p>
12.15pm – 1.00pm	<p><b>Spotlight on City of Glasgow College Muriel Spark Projects</b></p> <p><i>Throughout the day we'll be showcasing the work created by City of Glasgow College students on the Animation and Illustration courses. Join us as we share insights into their creative processes.</i></p>
1.00pm – 1.30pm	<p><b>Lunch!</b></p> <p><i>If you're joining us throughout the day, take this opportunity to grab some lunch and get yourself ready for prompts, discussions and a creative writing workshop in the afternoon</i></p>
1.30pm – 1.50pm	<p><b>Q&amp;A with Colin McIlroy</b></p> <p><i>Join Colin McIlroy, the Muriel Spark Project Curator at the National Library of Scotland, for an online Q&amp;A about The International Style of Muriel Spark exhibition, her remarkable work, and the Library's involvement in the Muriel Spark 100 celebrations. Twitter: @natlibscot</i></p>

## Open the Door 2018 cont.

Time	Online Activity
2pm – 3pm	<p><b>Virtual Merchant City Women’s Heritage Walk with SLIC</b></p> <p><i>Join SLIC virtually on the GWL Merchant City Women’s Heritage Walk as we uncover forgotten women’s histories and cultural markers that contributed to the Merchant City’s thriving past. They’re going interactive on Periscope and Twitter as they incorporate the WikiShootMe tool, increasing the online visibility of this historic area live as they walk. Presented by the Scottish Library and Information Council’s Wikimedian in Residence Project. Twitter: @SLIC1991 Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ScottishLibraries/">https://www.facebook.com/ScottishLibraries/</a> and Instagram @scottishlibraries.</i></p>
3pm – 4pm	<p><b>Creative Sparks</b></p> <p><i>Join us as we work through a creative writing workshop inspired by the works of Muriel Spark.</i></p>
5pm – 4pm	<p><b>The Young Women’s Movement Takeover</b></p> <p><i>Join YWCA Scotland and their Young Women Lead participants as they takeover the GWL accounts. Hear what young women are reading, and the importance of spaces like book clubs</i></p>
5pm	<p><b>Focus on Scottish poet Olive Fraser (1909-1977)</b></p> <p>Film by GWL Volunteer Katherine Midgley.  <i>A film introducing the life and work of Olive Fraser</i></p> <p><b>Olive Fraser Poetry Discussion</b></p> <p><i>A pre-recorded conversation with pupils from St John Ogilvie High School, looking at poems by Olive Fraser.</i></p>
5.30pm – 6pm	<p><b>Olive in the Archives</b></p> <p><i>Join PhD student Jess Orr as she recounts her experience of looking for Olive Fraser in the archives.</i></p>
6pm- 7pm	<p><b>Feedback</b></p> <p><i>This is your chance to let us know what you’d like from Open the Door in the future and your thoughts on the landscape of women’s writing in Scotland today.</i></p>