

DTAS Annual Conference 2024

Speakers



Lesley Riddoch, Broadcaster

Speaker for Day One Talk 'Scottish Democracy: How can our Democracy Thrive and Exploring Intrinsic Drive Within Us'



Lesley Riddoch is an award-winning broadcaster, journalist, author, filmmaker, podcaster, cyclist, land reform campaigner & lover of all things Nordic. Lesley is best known for broadcasting with programmes on BBC2, Channel 4, Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland, for which she won two Sony speech broadcaster awards. She was a member of the trust that helped the people of Eigg buy their own island in 1997 and in 2020 she won the Saltire Society Fletcher of Saltoun Award for her contribution to public life.

Lesley has co-presented a weekly Lesley Riddoch Podcast for more than a decade - now with North Fife neighbour Patrick Joyce. She has written five books (the latest Thrive explores the case for independence) and co-produced/presented six films (the latest about Denmark was screened across Scotland in early 2024).

Alistair McIntosh, Writer and Lecturer

Speaker for Day One Talk 'Scottish Democracy: How can our Democracy Thrive and Exploring the Intrinsic Drive Within Us'



Alastair McIntosh is best known for his work on community empowerment, human ecology and poverty of body and soul. His books include *Soil and Soul* on land reform, *Poacher's Pilgrimage* on spirituality and *Riders on the Storm* on climate change. Raised in the Isle of Lewis,

he has lived for the past 20 years in Govan where he is a founding Trustee of the GalGael Trust and an honorary professor in the School of Education at the University of Glasgow. Through his work, he continues to advocate for communities to be empowered, to reclaim their heritage, steward their environments, and forge a more just and sustainable future. Alastair has a unique blend of academia and a profound spiritual insight, reflecting his deep commitment to both the environment and the communities that depend on it.

Tom Sneddon, Carluke Development Trust

Speaker for Day One Talk 'Scottish Democracy: How can our Democracy Thrive and Exploring the Intrinsic Drive Within Us'



Tom is co-founder and Trustee of DTA Scotland, a Director of Scotland's Towns Partnership, Chair of Carluke Development Trust and an architect. He works between strategy, policy, implementation, theory and practice with an invaluable perspective of the complexities of place making, regeneration, local governance and economic development.

Tom is particularly interested in towns because like almost 70% of our population, he lives in one and believes they should be the powerhouse of our economy and that our towns are a barometer of the nation's economic health and social wellbeing.

Tom says "Our places and local environments matter, so, local decision making, finding local solutions to local needs, attracting investment and putting community into community wealth building are critical going forward. We need to find ways to harness this sense of place, of pride, local knowledge and enthusiasm to improve the overall social, economic and physical environments within our places."

Michael Roy, University of Stirling

*Speaker for Day Two Talk 'Unleashing
Development Trusts'*



Michael (PhD) is a Professor of Social Innovation and Sustainable Organisations at Stirling Management School, University of Stirling. He is internationally recognised for his groundbreaking research on the health and wellbeing impacts of social enterprises and other organisations in the social economy. He is Editor in Chief of the longest-established scientific journal in the field, Social Enterprise Journal, and is Associate Editor of the Journal of Social Entrepreneurship. Michael is also Secretary of Antermony Development Trust based in Milton of Campsie, and Chair of the Development Trusts Association Scotland.

Mike Danson, Heriot-Watt University

*Speaker for Day Two Talk 'Unleashing
Development Trusts'*



Mike is Professor Emeritus of Enterprise Policy, Heriot-Watt University and Visiting Professor in Government and Public Policy University of Strathclyde. He lives in Strathnairn where he is Chair of Strathnairn Development Company and involved in several community initiatives.

Mike continues to research on land reform, Gaelic and community development.

Bill Gordon, Acorns to Trees

Speaker for Day Two Talk 'Unleashing Development Trusts'



Bill Gordon and his wife Fiona founded Acorns2Trees in 2019 with the aims of supporting the development and growth of the Community Development Trust movement in Scotland as well as promoting and supporting the need for more committed inclusion of adults with learning disabilities in the workplace.

Prior to setting up the charity Bill was CEO of Red Torpedo Ltd , a casual wear brand for motorcyclists, which he set up in 2004 after a career in sales and marketing.

Sarah Compton-Bishop, Isle of Jura Development Trust

Speaker for Day Two Talk 'Unleashing Development Trusts'



Sarah is a Board member of DTAS and currently a volunteer with the Isle of Jura Development Trust; an organisation she has been connected with for over a decade holding positions including Chair and Company Secretary. Prior to this, Sarah worked delivering community led projects in her local area, drawing on her previous management and project

delivery experience. She has a broad range of governance experience across public and third sector organisations, with a particular specialism in healthcare governance. Sarah is Chair of NHS Highland and previously Chair of the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board. Sarah lives on the Isle of Jura with her family and has particular experience and interest in supporting thriving communities in rural and island areas.

Miriam Brett, Future Economy Scotland

*Speaker for Day Two Talk 'Unleashing
Development Trusts'*



Miriam is one of the Co-Directors of Future Economy Scotland. She is also an advisory group member of Common Wealth think tank, a board member of Green New Deal Rising, and a research fellow at The Democracy Collaborative and the Wellbeing Economy Alliance. She sits on the expert panel for the North Ayrshire Community Wealth Building strategy, and was also a member of the Scottish Land Commission tax and land working group. Miriam most recently worked as director of research and advocacy for Common Wealth think tank. Prior to that, she was international development finance manager for an independent watchdog to the IMF and World Bank, Bretton Woods Project. Before this, Miriam was senior economic advisor to the SNP Westminster group, and a policy analyst at the Common Weal.

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