

Turning a new page on travel writing in lockdown

Award-winning travel-writer Nick Thorpe and national newspaper journalist Jean West are hosting an online workshop in travel writing during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Newhaven-based Nick Thorpe has been a travel writer for more than 20 years and in his first book *Eight Men and a Duck* he voyaged to Easter Island by experimental reed raft.

His

Scottish boat-hitching odyssey *Adrift in Caledonia*, later serialised as BBC

Radio 4's Book of the Week, taught him the magic of learning to re-see the

landscapes on our doorsteps while his most recent book, *Urban Worrier*, tracks

his adventures in the "lost art of letting go".

Jean West, from Portobello, has written for all of the British nationals from *The Times* and *Sunday Times* to *The Mail on Sunday* and *The Guardian* and for magazines including *Marie Claire*, *the Big Issue* and *Geographical*. Working across news and features, the arts and culture, politics, health and campaigning journalism, she has turned her hand to most reporting – but travel is a passion.



Travel writers Jean West and Nick Thorpe
Nick

said: “A travel writing workshop in lockdown might sound like an impossibility – but what if you could strip the veil of familiarity from your own backyard and learn to describe it with all the freshness of a visitor from a foreign land?”

Jean
added: “This quirky half-day workshop will lean on decades of global reporting experience and put it to work on our Edinburgh doorstep – where we’ve unearthed some of our best stories.”

The Zoom workshop on Saturday (23 May 2020) at 2pm will guide participants on how to re-animate familiar landscapes, to wander locked-down neighbourhoods with new eyes, and provide writing and pitching tips and how to shape a first draft ready

for sharing with others. Another workshop on the same theme is scheduled for Thursday 25 June 2020. Further details on both workshops are [here](#)