



Media Release

Stirling marks city status anniversary with exciting cultural programme

Stirling will celebrate its 20th anniversary of city status with an exciting programme of cultural events and activities.

Since being awarded the honour as part of Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee in 2002, Stirling has built on its rich history and heritage, harnessing the creative spirit of local communities to develop a dynamic and diverse cultural offering.

This legacy will be highlighted during the milestone, with the Council working with partners and communities to deliver an inspiring and inclusive culture and events programme that will include concerts, festivals, exhibitions, workshops, screenings, open days and talks.

The vibrant programme will be based in a variety of locations in both the city centre and surrounding area, bringing residents and visitors together to celebrate what Stirling means to Scotland and the world.

Some of the major events include:

- Scottish pop-rock favourites Texas headlining a special summer show that includes Skippinish at the City Park in August
- The return of the hugely popular Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival in September for its 10th anniversary
- Stirling hosting the prestigious Scottish Album of the Year Award ceremony for the first time at the Albert Halls in October
- The historic Tolbooth venue hosting 20 special events and activities to mark its 20th anniversary, featuring music, art, film and workshops
- An expanded Albert Smalls two-day free family festival in July, with entertainment, activities and live music by young performers as well as a series of small outdoor concerts.

More events and festivals showcasing Stirling and the cultural passion of its people will be announced in the coming months.

Young people who have grown up or studied in Stirling since it became a city will also be at the heart of the celebrations, giving their perspectives via short social media videos.

Convener of Stirling Council's Community Planning and Regeneration Committee, Councillor Gerry McGarvey, said: "Securing city status was a major milestone in Stirling's rich history and it's fitting we are marking this special anniversary with such an exciting and diverse programme of events.

“Over the past 20 years, Stirling has strengthened its reputation as a key events location and a must-visit destination so it’s fantastic that huge concerts and international festivals such as Bloody Scotland are returning to the city in 2022 following the pandemic.

“This will provide a significant economic boost to the area and will raise the profile of Stirling to a wide audience, boosting our recovery from the challenges of the past two years.

“We will also use this opportunity to celebrate Stirling’s creative spirit, innovation and youthful vigour by giving a platform to our communities and incredible young people.

“This inspiring programme underlines the Council and its partners’ commitment to investing in culture to regenerate and grow our communities.”

More information on the events taking place in Stirling can be found on [Stirlingevents.org](https://stirlingevents.org).