



## Lesley Riddoch

Journalist, broadcaster and Chief Executive of Feisty Productions

Lesley Riddoch is a writer, commentator and broadcaster. She runs her own independent radio, and podcast company, Feisty Ltd from Abertay University in Dundee which produces *Riddoch Questions*, a weekly topical phone-in programme fronted by Lesley every Friday lunchtime on BBC Radio Scotland.

She's also a weekly columnist for the *Scotsman*, shortlisted in 2006 for the Orwell prize for political

writing. In the run-up to the May 2007 Holyrood elections she co-founded Votepods - old fashioned husting events with bands and stand-up comedians "warming up the audience" and highlights on YouTube, and iTunes.

Lesley is currently a member of the Scottish government's Prisons Commission – charged with finding out why Scotland imprisons almost twice as many people as Ireland and Norway. And she's just been appointed to Chair the Task Force on Rum – one of the Inner Hebrides not the drink! – and is responsible for overseeing a transfer of control there from Scottish Natural Heritage to community control. She was a founding member of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust which led to the successful community buyout in 1997.

Feisty together with Fresh Film produced *The Great Tay Road Bridge Mystery* – a lottery funded film shown in 2007 at Dundee's DCA and distributed to all of the city's schools. It'll soon be available on DVD.

Lesley was founder of the feminist magazine *Harpies and Quines* in the early 90s, assistant editor of *The Scotsman* editing a special edition known as *The Scotswoman* written by its female staff in 1995, and contributing editor of the *Sunday Herald* in the late 90s.

But she's best known for broadcasting. After presenting Radio 4's *You and Yours* and BBC2's *Midnight Hour* in the mid 90's she came "home" after devolution to present her own daily radio *Lesley Riddoch Show* on Radio Scotland for which she won two Sony speech broadcaster awards.

She is founder and editor of *Africawoman*, an online newspaper written by 100 African women journalists.

Lesley Riddoch currently spends spare time fantasising about islands – her book *Riddoch; on the Outer Hebrides* about the challenge facing traditional Hebridean society was published in 2007 by Luath. All Feisty programmes are podcast on her website.

[www.lesleyriddoch.com](http://www.lesleyriddoch.com)