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