



Pitch It Returns for Book Week Scotland

Jack Monroe, Frank Quitely, Jenny Colgan and Dean Atta join line-up

An opportunity for organisations, libraries and individuals to pitch their dream event returns this year for Book Week Scotland. Scottish Book Trust, the national charity transforming lives through reading and writing has today revealed the big names joining the [Pitch It](#) line-up: food writer and anti-poverty campaigner Jack Monroe; critically acclaimed comic artist Frank Quitely; award-winning romance author Jenny Colgan and poet and author, Dean Atta.

Scottish Book Trust encourages pitches from all libraries and community groups: the charity is especially looking for events that get people talking and change the conversation, with innovative and interesting slants on book events. Events should be engaging and welcoming to audiences and communities in inclusive and interesting ways. This is your chance to plan a book event that will get tongues wagging!

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:

"Building on the success of last year's Pitch It programme, we're excited to offer four fantastic writers from different genres and experiences for 2019. We encourage community groups and libraries to submit their ideas, even if they've never planned a Book Week Scotland event before. Scottish Book Trust looks forward to the interesting pitches based on the theme of conversation, and will be on hand to offer support that may be required."

2019 Pitch It Line-up:

- **Jack Monroe:** a campaigner against hunger and poverty in the UK and an award-winning cookery writer. She is author of *Tin Can Cook* and *Cooking on a Bootstrap*. Jack was awarded the Fortnum and Mason Judges' Choice Award in 2013 and the OFM Best Food Personality Readers' Award in 2018. Her new title, *Vegan(ish)*, will be released in December 2019 by Pan Macmillan.

Jack Monroe is available to attend events on Wednesday, 20 November.

- **Frank Quitely:** started to write and draw comics in the late 1980s as part of the Glasgow underground comic Electric Soup, then the UK-wide Judge Dredd Magazine, followed by American publishers including DC, Marvel and Image. His largest exhibition to date was a retrospective in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. His current titles include *New X Men*, *All Star Superman* and *Batman & Robin*. The Netflix TV show based on his comic with Mark Millar, *Jupiter's Legacy*, is out next year.

Frank Quitely can be pitched for events on Friday, 22 November.



- **Jenny Colgan:** writer of romantic comedy fiction and science-fiction. She has also written for the *Doctor Who* line of stories. Her latest title, *The Bookshop on the Shore* (Sphere) features single mother Zoe and her escape to the Scottish Highlands where a tiny bookshop perches on the edge of a loch.

Jenny Colgan is available for events on Thursday, 21 November.

- **Dean Atta:** Named as one of the most influential LGBT people in the UK by the Independent on Sunday and “one of poetry’s greatest modern voices” by Gay Times, poet Dean Atta’s work has appeared on BBC One, BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service and Channel 4, often dealing with themes of gender, identity, race and growing up. Dean's debut poetry collection was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize. His latest book, *The Black Flamingo* (Hodder), follows a mixed-race gay teen as he spreads his wings at university as a drag performer.

Dean Atta is available for events on Monday, 18 November.

Last year during Book Week Scotland, *Chocolat* author Joanne Harris visited the small Scottish town Callander and Edinburgh Caribbean Association had the opportunity to programme rapper and activist Akala.

Book Week Scotland is a national celebration of reading and writing and runs this year from 18 November to 24 November, linked to the theme of Conversation. The event must take place during the specified dates and times for each author. Only one event per author will be selected, but all will be considered.

In addition to covering the authors’ fees, Scottish Book Trust are able to provide a budget of up to £500 to help deliver the most creative event possible. This can be supplemented with other funds from the organisers of the event.

The deadline for pitches is Monday 30 September at midday. Successful pitches will receive confirmation on Friday 4 October, 2019.

For more information about Book Week Scotland 2019 and how you can get involved, visit www.bookweekscotland.com where you can find information about all the events taking place in your local area.

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries please contact Keara Donnachie, PR and Marketing Manager at Scottish Book Trust, on Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0184.



Scottish Book Trust

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity changing lives through reading and writing. We inspire and support the people of Scotland to read and write for pleasure through programmes and outreach work that include:

- Gifting books to every child in Scotland to ensure families of all backgrounds can share the joy of books at home.
- Working with teachers to inspire children to develop a love of reading, creating innovative classroom activities, book awards and author events.
- Supporting Scotland's diverse writing community with our training, awards and writing opportunities.
- Funding a range of author events for the public to enjoy and promoting Scottish writing to people worldwide.

In addition to the funding we receive from the Scottish Government and Creative Scotland, we need the constant support of trusts and foundations, corporate sponsors and individual donors.

www.scottishbooktrust.com @scottishbktrust www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust

Book Week Scotland

Initiated by the Scottish Government and supported by £200,000 from the National Lottery through Creative Scotland Targeted Funding and £26,000 from SLIC, Book Week Scotland 2019 will be delivered by Scottish Book Trust from 18 November – 24 November.

Creative Scotland

Scottish Book Trust is supported by Creative Scotland through Regular Funding. Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com. Follow us @creativescots and www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

A Year of Conversation 2019

A Year of Conversation 2019 is about us all celebrating, initiating and exploring conversation in our lives. There will be some events involving many people at places you might expect – festivals for example. But there will be many conversation events that are smaller and more intimate too. What is a 'conversation event'? It's simply something that's been planned – that you might have planned



– in which conversation plays a significant part or which gives rise to conversation. So it may be a performance of some kind or it may be a group of people (you have) chosen for a special reason to share a meal. There will be information about events on the website, but there will also be space for you to reflect on your own experiences of conversation.