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**Photo caption: Scottish Book Trust have adopted their very own phonebox on the Royal Mile to mark Book Week Scotland's 2019 theme of conversation. Frank Quitely, pictured with Superman (SCosplay) and copies of *Blether*.**

## BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND LAUNCHES 2019 PROGRAMME

Book Week Scotland, Monday 18 November - Sunday 24 November

Scottish Book Trust today launched Book Week Scotland's 2019 programme with comic book artist Frank Quitely of DC Comics *All Star Superman* and *Batman and Robin* fame. Book Week Scotland, the country's biggest celebration of reading and writing, returns for its eight year with hundreds of events taking place all over Scotland from intimate community gatherings to flagship events with well-loved authors. A special book, *Blether*, created from real-life stories submitted by members of the public was also unveiled.

Working with a wide range of partners, Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, will deliver a diverse range of events and activities, many tying in with the Year of Conversation, including the Digital Festival with free events that can be accessed online by all.

From events such as Souper Stories, Murder Mystery, Books Beer & Banter, The Blether Bus, Drag Brunch and The Human Library to an astronomy and poetry event, there really is something for everyone.

100,000 free copies of the *Blether* book, celebrating the theme of conversation, will be available from libraries and other community venues during Book Week Scotland. The free book can also be [ordered](#) via Scottish Book Trust's website, which features each and every personal story submitted by the people of Scotland. A selection of 30 stories are featured in the book, which also includes work from Still Game actor Jane McCarry; *Hings* author Chris McQueer, *The Boxer* author Nikesh Shukla and *Bird Summons* author Leila Aboulela.

**Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:** "Book Week Scotland brings people of all ages and walks of life together to share and enjoy books; it is a week of books and reading for everyone. We have an exciting range of inspiring, unusual and accessible events with a diverse mix of authors, writers and illustrators. This year we are celebrating the theme of conversation in all its forms, from a wee blether to the life changing heart-to-heart. We hope you can join us at a local Book Week Scotland event, or online through our Digital Festival."

**Frank Quitely, Scottish comic book artist, said:** "I am excited to share my journey to becoming a comic artist with young people in Glasgow. This is the sort of event I wish I had been able to attend at the start of my career, and hopefully I can share a few useful insights into entering this competitive industry."

**Book Week Scotland event highlights:**



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**Ian Rankin will launch his lost novel, *Westwind*, at an exclusive event with bestselling crime author, Stuart MacBride.** Published for the first time in 28 years, the espionage thriller about spies, satellites and a global conspiracy of sinister surveillance, is strikingly relevant in today's political climate. Tickets for the event, held on Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm at the Apex Hotel in Dundee, can be purchased [here](#). The event will be live-streamed via Scottish Book Trust's social media channels.

There will also be two special BBC Authors Lives for Book Week Scotland 2019. **Nikesh Shukla will discuss his latest novel *The Boxer for International Men's Day* on Tuesday, 19 November.** Then on Thursday, 21 November, a **celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of *The Gruffalo***: Julia Donaldson's classic tale will be read by James Robertson in Scots and Catriona Lexy Campbell in Gaelic.

The BBC will host a **Novels That Shaped Our World** event on Saturday, 23 November at The Mitchell Library in Glasgow, **complementing the new three-part BBC Two TV series.** BBC Arts will be asking guests to discuss the novels that have shaped their worlds, from the established classics to the popular contemporary hits, and possibly some interesting surprises. Featuring award-winning crime writer Denise Mina: information and tickets can be found [here](#).

Others holding events during Book Week Scotland include: **Jack Monroe, Helen Fields, Melanie Reid, Frank Quitely, Claire Askew, Doug Johnstone, Helen Fitzgerald, Sara Sheridan, Alan Bissett, Stuart Cosgrove and Christopher Brookmyre.** The full programme can be viewed here [here](#).

**Book Week Scotland's popular Digital Festival will return for a third year,** aiming to change and challenge conversation and broaden accessibility. Events include:

- A series of podcasts curated by **poet Tom Pow**, tying in with the Year of Conversation. Guests include Marjorie Lotfi Gill; Catherine Simpson; Mara Menzies; David Keenan; Meghan Delahunt; James Robertson and Peter Mackay.
- **Illustrator Alex T Smith** will doodle his favourite Scots words, inspired by Scottish Book Trust's recent public vote. The winner will be revealed on Thursday, 20 November.
- [StoryMag](#), part of the What's Your Story? programme, will launch its new Blether issue during Book Week. The stories have been collated from young people across Scotland.

**Mairi Kidd, Head of Literature, Languages & Publishing, Creative Scotland said:**

"From the Gruffalo to gardening and crime to cookery, there's something for everyone in Book Week Scotland. There are so many ways to get involved – online or in venues across the country, from telephone boxes to local libraries, where you'll find books in English, Gaelic, Scots and other languages as well as audio books, e-books, braille books and more. With a huge range of partners across the length and breadth of Scotland hosting an incredible programme of events, we hope the whole country has a blast blethering about books and stories."

**Pamela Tulloch, Chief Executive of The Scottish Library & Information Council (SLIC) said:**

"Libraries across Scotland will be joining in the Book Week Scotland celebrations, meaning everyone has the opportunity to get involved. Libraries offer the perfect place to celebrate the joy of reading and, with a range of digital resources available, people can use their local library to get



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involved in the Digital Festival. In keeping with the Year of Conversation, libraries are trusted spaces where people can connect with others and engage in new experiences. Get along to your local library and get involved.”

Book Week Scotland also features a **fundraising initiative, Big Book Swap**, to support Scottish Book Trust. Join hundreds of schools, workplaces and community groups on Friday 22 November to swap books and raise money to help Scottish Book Trust to continue to support people in Scotland to reach their potential through reading and writing. To sign up and receive your free fundraising guide, visit [Big Book Swap](#).

The Book Week Scotland 2019 programme is available to view [here](#).

Ends

## #BookWeekScotland

### Notes to Editors

Please direct all media requests to PR and Marketing Manager:  
[Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com) or call 0131 524 0184.

### Scottish Book Trust

Scottish Book Trust runs Book Week Scotland. A national charity changing lives through reading and writing, Scottish Book Trust inspires and supports 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](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com) @scottishbktrust [www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust](https://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.

For more information about Book Week Scotland 2019 and how you can get involved, visit [www.bookweekscotland.com](http://www.bookweekscotland.com) where you can find information about all the events taking place in your local



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area. Follow @Bookweekscot on Twitter, check out #bookweekscotland or like the Book Week Scotland Facebook page.

### **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](http://www.creativescotland.com).

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**The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC)** is the independent advisory body to the Scottish Government on library and information services. It leads the implementation of Ambition and Opportunity: A strategy for public libraries in Scotland 2015–2020, develops innovative projects like Film Education in Libraries and provides support for libraries in the form of advocacy, consultation and research. It administers Scottish Government funding for public libraries (Public Library Improvement Fund), for school libraries (School Libraries Improvement Fund) and funding for the wider library and information sector (Innovation and Development Fund). It supports public libraries to participate in Book Week Scotland by providing Scottish Book Trust with event funding for every public library service and Further Education College Libraries.