



## The Bookbug Picture Book Prize winner visits North East

### Alan Windram on Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour

Award-winning author Alan Windram will visit schools across Northumberland as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour. From 19 – 24 January, Alan will visit nearly 1000 pupils from 9 different schools in Newcastle, Hexham and Morpeth. There will also be a special public event at Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Literature, in Newcastle as part of the tour.

The Children's Book Tour is supported by Scottish Friendly and organised by Scottish Book Trust, the national charity transforming lives through reading and writing. Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tours visit both primary and secondary schools, and have enthralled more than 100,000 children with visits from over 100 individual authors since they began in 1998.

Alan Windram is a children's writer and publisher. His Sticky Kids theatre show regularly tours schools and theatres throughout the UK. Alan is an accomplished singer-songwriter with four independent albums of original songs under his belt. He has toured extensively with some of Scotland's top musical artists. As a publisher, Alan co-founded Little Door Books, recently winning Emerging Publisher of the Year at the 2019 Saltire Society Awards. Alan lives in the Scottish Borders with his wife and two cats.

During the Scottish Friendly Children Book Tour, Alan will focus on *One Button Benny*, which won the 2019 The Bookbug Picture Book Prize. Alan will deliver an interactive workshop with songs, stories, dancing and audience participation. He will give pupils an insight into how he worked with illustrator Chloe Holwill-Hunter to create the world of Benny, so they can see how characters develop.

**Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:** "We're delighted that Alan Windram is joining us on the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, and we're sure the students will be bowled over by his entertaining picture books. Alan is a wonderful storyteller and her books are sure to inspire the next generation through the power of stories."

**Alan Windram said:** "I am so excited to be on the Scottish Friendly Book Tour, one of the real joys for me as an author is to take my books and stories to events in schools, libraries and other venues, meeting children and hopefully inspiring the next generation of readers, writers and illustrators. My events are highly interactive with the stories, images, lots of songs and audience participation, there is even some robot dancing. I am sure we will all have loads of fun."

**Alice Carthy, Events Coordinator at Seven Stories, said:** "We're really looking forward to welcoming Alan to Seven Stories for a fun-filled morning of storytelling, singing and robot dancing and very pleased to be working in partnership with Scottish Book Trust."

### Touring Dates

#### Sunday 19 January

11am: Seven Stories, 30 Lime St, Ouseburn Valley, Newcastle upon Tyne



Free – [Ticketed](#)

### **Monday 20 January**

AM: Allendale Primary School, Hexham

PM: Humshaugh C of E First School, Hexham

### **Tuesday 21 January**

AM: Bedlington Station Primary School, Bedlington

PM: Shanklea Primary School, Cramlington

### **Wednesday 22 January**

AM: St Robert's of Newminster's R C Church, Morpeth

PM: Rothbury First School, Morpeth

### **Thursday 23 January**

AM: Ellingham C of E First School, Chathill

PM: Wooler First School, Wooler

### **Friday 24 January**

AM: St Cuthbert's RC First School, Morpeth

### **Notes to Editors**

For all press queries, please contact:

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### **About Scottish Friendly**

Scottish Friendly is one of the UK's largest mutual life offices. At Scottish Friendly we believe saving and investing should be for everyone, which is why we offer a range of affordable investment and savings products to help individuals and their families achieve their financial goals.

Scottish Friendly has sponsored the programme for the past 20 years, touring some of the finest children's authors and illustrators including former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell, Malorie Blackman, Michael Rosen, Jacqueline Wilson, Melvin Burgess, Steve Cole, Michael Morpurgo and Sophie McKenzie.



**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.

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