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2019 Bookbug Picture Book Prize winner announced **Over 17,000 children voted for their favourite picture book**

Scottish Book Trust has today announced the winner of the 2019 Bookbug Picture Book Prize as *One Button Benny* by Alan Windram and illustrated by Chloe Holwill-Hunter (Little Door Books). Over 17,000 votes were cast for the award by post and online.

The award is run by Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, with support from Browns Books for Students. The Bookbug Picture Book Prize celebrates the most popular new picture books by Scottish authors or illustrators. The runners-up were *Eric Makes a Splash* by Emily MacKenzie (Bloomsbury) and *I am Bat* by Morag Hood (Two Hoots Books).

Alan Windram is an author and co-founder of Little Door Books, which has published work from Vivian French, Emily Dodd and Barry Hutchison. Earlier this year, Little Door Books was highly commended at the Saltire Literary Awards in their Emerging Publisher of the Year category.

A free copy of each of the three books on the shortlist was gifted to every Primary 1 child during Book Week Scotland (19 to 25 November), in the Bookbug P1 Family Bag.

The winner was chosen by children across Scotland, aged between three years and seven years old, who voted for their favourite by submitting a class vote online or at home, via the [Scottish Book Trust](#) website.

Alan Windram said: “I don't really know quite what to say, I am so thrilled, excited and humbled that so many children have voted for my book with Chloe to win this fabulous prize. Like Benny, I am absolutely over the moon. Congratulations go to Morag and Emily on their fantastic picture books and thank you so much to everyone who took Benny to their hearts and voted for *One Button Benny* to win. We are all different, we are all special and we all have something to give.”

The winning book was announced in an [exclusive video](#) to schools and registered groups today (16 January 2019). Shortlisted authors and illustrators will receive £500 per book, and the winner will receive £3,000.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:

“Many congratulations to Alan Windram and Chloe Holwill-Hunter for winning this year's Bookbug Picture Book Prize. It's wonderful to see so many children taking part in the voting process, and we hope they enjoyed reading the shortlist, which was gifted recently in the Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag.”

Claire Smith, Sales Manager for Browns Books for Students, said:

“Very well done to all of the shortlisted authors and illustrators for this year's Bookbug Picture Book Prize, and a huge congratulations to Chloe Holwill-Hunter and Alan Windram for winning

this year's award. Browns Books for Students are proud of our ongoing partnership with Scottish Book Trust. It is a privilege to have such a strong association with Scottish Book Trust and supporting them with their outstanding work, in the development of reading and literacy in Scotland."

Mairi Kidd, Interim Head of Literature, Languages & Publishing, said:

"Reading for pleasure is a precious gift and it's great to see Bookbug encourage children to think about their reading choices, discuss books with those around them and make their voices heard. Huge congratulations to illustrator Chloe Holwill-Hunter and especially to author Alan Windram, whose young company Little Door Books also published *One Button Benny*. This is a brilliant endorsement for all Alan's hard work and belief in the power of stories."

Notes to editors:

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The Bookbug Picture Book Prize

The Bookbug Picture Book Prize is managed by Scottish Book Trust in partnership with Creative Scotland and Browns Books for Students.

Teachers, librarians and book group leaders sign up their groups, then the children read and vote for their favourite books. Children can also vote online at home via the [Scottish Book Trust website](#).

Videos of each author/illustrator reading and talking about their book are available on the [Scottish Book Trust website](#).

A Reading Buddies scheme involves older children reading to their younger buddies. It is taking place in Stirling, South Ayrshire and Glasgow and is supported by The Barcapel Foundation, players of The People's Postcode Lottery and South Ayrshire Council.

Bookbug P1 Family Bag

The Bookbug P1 Family Bag was produced by Scottish Book Trust in conjunction with Education Scotland and the Scottish Government as part of [Read, Write, Count](#) – a literacy and numeracy campaign aimed at parents and carers of children in Primary 1 to 3. Gaelic Bags will again be available for P1 children in Gaelic Medium Education. These bags will be gifted alongside the English bags this autumn. To find out more about the Gaelic bag, please visit the Gaelic section of our [website](#).

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 includes:

- 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.

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Browns Books for Students

Browns Books for Students, sponsor of the Bookbug Picture Book Prize, supplies books, eBooks and DVDs for schools, colleges and businesses. More information on Browns Books for Students, is available at www.brownsbfs.co.uk/

Creative Scotland

In addition to general fundraising, Scottish Book Trust receives Creative Scotland support 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