



## Scottish Book Trust launches 'Pitch-It' programme for Book Week Scotland 2018

Have you ever wanted to meet a bestselling author or have them attend an event right on your doorstep? Well now's your chance. Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, is today launching 'Pitch-It', a new programme for Book Week Scotland 2018, where libraries and community groups can pitch for one of four stars to pay them a visit.

Book Week Scotland is a national celebration of reading and writing and runs this year from 19 November to 25 November, linked to the theme of Rebel.

Amongst the line-up offering their services to the best 'Pitch-It' idea are bestselling author Joanne Harris with her new book *Blue Salt Road* and award-winning rapper, writer and activist Akala.

Based around Book Week Scotland's theme for 2018, the best rebellious event ideas are encouraged. The charity is especially looking for events which break boundaries and break the mould, engaging and welcoming audiences and communities in inclusive and interesting ways. Unexpected or exciting venue suggestions are also welcome, as well as event formats that are innovative and engaging.

The writers that can be pitched for include:

### **Joanne Harris, available 19 November (Venue must hold 70 – 200 people):**

Joanne Harris is an author of novels, novellas and cookbooks, best known for her 1999 book *Chocolat*. She will be coming to Scotland to talk about her new book *Blue Salt Road*. The perfect autumn and Christmas read, it combines the harshness of nature with the spookiness of a ghost story and the comfort of a great folk tale, in one beautifully told novella, stunningly illustrated by Bonnie Hawkins, with a beautiful cover by Sue Gent.

### **Akala, available 25 November:**

BAFTA & Mobo Award winning musician, social entrepreneur and author of 'Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire', Akala educates and invigorates with personal, informative essays, poetry and music.

### **Sam Conniff Allende, available November 21 (Evening) or November 22 (Daytime):**

Professional public speaker, marketing consultant and author of lifestyle book *Be More Pirate*, Sam Conniff Allende harnesses the wisdom of rebels, pirates and world changers and teaches you how to take on the world and win.

### **Beerjacket AKA Peter Kelly, available 20 November (Evening):**

Alt-folk musician and author **Beerjacket** (Peter Kelly) is soon to release *Silver Cords*, his most ambitious project to date. More than just a new Beerjacket album, accompanying the songs is a beautiful hardback collection of twelve dreamlike short stories, intertwined with the music.



Submissions are now open, and must be received by 17 October 2018. To submit an event or for further information, please visit Scottish Book Trust's [website](#).

**Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:** "We're very excited to launch a new programme strand for this year's Book Week Scotland. 'Pitch-It' offers a fantastic opportunity for communities to come together and suggest event ideas that they wish to see. It's an honour to have such a star-studded line-up, and we wish those who are applying all the best of luck: we can't wait to see what shape their rebellious events take."

Book Week Scotland runs from 19 – 25 November 2018. 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 and rebellious event possible. This can be supplemented with other funds from the organisers of the event.

Successful pitches will receive confirmation on 26 October.

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 2018 will be delivered by Scottish Book Trust from 19 November – 25 November.

For more information about Book Week Scotland 2018 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 area.

## Notes to Editors

For all press queries, please contact Keara Donnachie:  
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**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.



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For more information about **Book Week Scotland**, visit [www.bookweekscotland.com](http://www.bookweekscotland.com). 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). Follow us @creativescots and [www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland](http://www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland).

**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) 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.