



## Digital Festival returns for Book Week Scotland

### Line-up of virtual events including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

Book Week Scotland's award-nominated Digital Festival will return for a second year, after the success of 2017's inaugural virtual event programme.

After engaging over half a million people last year during the week that celebrates all things reading and writing, the charity Scottish Book Trust has unveiled a series of new and exciting online events taking place between 19-25 November 2018.

Things are even set to get rebellious this year, with a rabble-rousing line up as part of Book Week Scotland's 2018 theme of 'Rebel'. Featuring the First Minister, top football pundits like Pat Nevin and well-known authors and poets like Maggie O'Farrell, Joseph Coelho and Kevin Williamson, the week has as something for everyone.

#### Monday

On Monday 19 November, the week starts with a debut film from Scottish Book Trust showcasing the charity's key areas of work. *'I Read'* features a poem written by Edinburgh poet Tom Pow especially for the charity.

Then on Monday evening, 'Scotland's Greatest Football Rebel' kicks off live at 7:30pm on [Facebook](#). In partnership with Nutmeg Magazine, a panel including: Pat Nevin, former Scotland international and BBC pundit; Alan Pattullo, top Scottish sports journalist and biographer; Ginny Clark, former sports editor at Scotland on Sunday; [Daniel Gray](#) 'Saturday, 3PM' author, and [Chris McQueer](#), rising star author of *'Hings'* and *'HWFG'*, will debate who Scotland's greatest football rebel is. Poet Thomas Clark will also perform a selection of work inspired by the beautiful game. Online viewers will be able to interact digitally with the event throughout the evening and will be able to vote for their own greatest football rebel via [Facebook Live](#). Buy tickets for the event at the Scottish Storytelling Centre [here](#).

#### Tuesday

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, Scottish Book Trust will encourage the public to take part in #BookWeekScotlandSpinePoem: can you spell out a poem by stacking your books? Send your pictures to @BookWeekScot on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) (@scottishbooktrust).

In the evening, top poets Tom Pow, Nadine Aisha Jassat and JL Williams will do battle. Starting at 7pm, the 2018 Book Week Scotland Poetry Slam will be themed around 'Rebel'. Returning champion, Katie Ailes, will also perform. Hosted by Edinburgh City of Literature's Sian Bevan at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, this promises to be a pulsating night of competitive live poetry. Viewers can tune in via [Facebook Live](#).



## Wednesday

It's all about Wikipedia on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Delphine Dallison, Wikimedian in Residence at Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), will host a livestream workshop about using Wikipedia like a rebel. Delphine will set tasks and answer questions from the public via [Facebook Live](#) from 11:00am.

## Thursday

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, schools across Scotland can tune into BBC Authors Live with Joseph Coelho from 11:00am. The poet and author will share his picture book *If All The World Were* and will talk about how to create poetry. Classes can register via Scottish Book Trust's [website](#) and can submit questions for the author through Twitter (#BBCAuthorsLive).

The winner of the Rebellious Reads of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century vote will also be announced via social media. With a record number of votes received this year, since the beginning of October, the public has been voting for their favourite non-fiction Rebellious Read of the 21st Century via Scottish Book Trust's website. Titles in the running include *Poverty Safari* by Darren McGarvey, *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai and *The Good Immigrant*, edited by Nikesh Shukla. Members of the public can continue to cast their vote until midnight on Wednesday 21 November.

In the evening, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and award-winning author Maggie O'Farrell will be in conversation at an exclusive event at Stirling Castle. The event itself sold out 48 hours after tickets went on sale, but the public can still drop into this exclusive event online. The First Minister and Maggie O'Farrell will discuss what being a feminist means to them, and how their reading lives have shaped their identities. The event will be held in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), and Scottish Book Trust will live-stream the event via [Facebook](#).

## Friday

Pamela Butchart, award-winning children's author of *The Phantom Lollipop Man*, will take part in a live twitter Q&A with primary schools at 10am via the [First Minister's Reading Challenge](#) using #PamelaBookChat.

At 11.30am, author and illustrator of *Mortal Engines*, Philip Reeve, will take over. Tweet your questions to @philipreeve1 for our @FMReadChallenge Twitter Q&A tagged #PhilipBookChat.

Watch the 'Story of Rebel Inc' as Scottish Book Trust takes activist Kevin Williamson and writer Jenni Fagan around Edinburgh to revisit famous landmarks from one of Scotland's most important literary magazines. Williamson launched *Rebel Inc.*, which was one of the first places to publish Scottish writers such as Irvine Welsh, Laura Hird, Alan Warner and Toni Davidson. Later Williamson joined forces with Canongate Books to create the Rebel Inc imprint, which published 52 titles, mixing Scottish fiction with the international counter-culture and the politics of dissent. The video will be published across social media and Scottish Book Trust's website.

## Saturday



On Saturday 24 November, Scottish Book Trust will search for your rebellious #HiddenBookTreasure. Tweet about an under-the-radar book that more people should really read using the hashtag, to [@ScottishBookTrust](https://twitter.com/ScottishBookTrust).

Well known book bloggers will also share their Hidden Book Treasures: [Simon Savidge](#), previous judge of the Costa Book Awards; [Jen Campbell](#), poet and author of *Franklin's Flying Bookshop* and [Jean Menzies](#), podcaster of [That's Ancient History](#).

In addition to the Digital Festival, hundreds of free events and activities will take place all across the country for Book Week Scotland. View the full programme of events [here](#).

**Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:**

“At Scottish Book Trust, one of our key aims as a charity is to create digital content that can be accessed by all. The Digital Festival allows us to reach a more diverse audience from the comfort of their own homes. We hope even more people will take part in the Digital Festival this year, and we look forward to the public’s interactions via our social media channels and website.”

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

“The Digital Festival takes Book Week Scotland onto new platforms, meaning that more people across Scotland and further afield can join in with our national celebration of reading. Getting to meet authors and illustrators can be a powerful way into books and the Digital Festival brings a host of amazing events right into readers’ homes, including the exclusive evening at Stirling Castle with Maggie O’ Farrell and the First Minister. It’s especially great to see the sport world getting in on the action, inspiring more Scots to give reading a try.”

**Ali Bowden, Director of Edinburgh City of Literature, said:**

“It’s fantastic that Scottish Book Trust run a Digital Festival as part of the Book Week Scotland celebrations. I love the variety of what’s on offer and that we can all be part of it, just by hopping online and firing in our questions and photos, and sharing our comments and thoughts.”

**Notes to Editors**

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.

For more information or images please contact Keara Donnachie, Press Officer, on [Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com) or 0131 524 0184.



**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.

[www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)    [@scottishbktrust](https://twitter.com/scottishbktrust)    [www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust](https://www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust)

For more information about **Book Week Scotland**, visit [www.bookweekscotland.com](http://www.bookweekscotland.com). Follow [@Bookweekscot](https://twitter.com/Bookweekscot) on Twitter, check out #bookweekscotland or like the [Book Week Scotland Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BookWeekScotland) page.

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](http://www.creativescotland.com). Follow us @creativescots and [www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland](https://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), 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.

### **Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust**

The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust is the development agency for Edinburgh as a UNESCO City of Literature. It works to bring literature to the streets of Edinburgh, involving people



in the city's literary life, bringing organisations to work together collaboratively for greater impact,  
and sharing Edinburgh's literary story with the world.

[cityofliterature.com](http://cityofliterature.com)

[@EdinCityofLit](https://twitter.com/EdinCityofLit)