



Scottish Parliament celebrates Book Week Scotland

MSP will gift *Rebel* books at Scottish Parliament

Gordon MacDonald MSP will join Book Week Scotland celebrations on Tuesday 20 November at the Scottish Parliament. The MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands will gift copies of the *Rebel* book to those taking part in Pentland Book Festival's 'Can You Crush a Radical?' Thomas Muir walk.

The event, led by Liz Beevers, will walk from the top of the Royal Mile to Holywood to explore Thomas Muir's time in Edinburgh. The tour will visit site of his 1792 Convention of Societies of Friends of the People and then Parliament Hall where Muir was tried for sedition. It will also visit the Political Martyrs' Monument in Calton cemetery erected to commemorate Muir and his colleagues before finishing at the Scottish Parliament where Gordon MacDonald MSP will give a tour of Holyrood.

Afterwards, the tour will be greeted by Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, who will gift copies of *Rebel* alongside the MSP. The book contains real-life stories of opposition and change from writers across Scotland. 100,000 free copies of *Rebel* will be distributed through libraries and community groups during Book Week Scotland. The book contains 40 stories, including work from: bestselling author Sara Sheridan; playwright and performer Jo Clifford; Book Week Scotland ambassador and forensic anthropologist Professor Dame Sue Black, and Gaelic writer David Eyre.

An ebook and audiobook version of *Rebel* will also be downloadable from Scottish Book Trust's website. Scottish Book Trust has once again partnered with Royal National Institute of Blind People, giving writers the opportunity to record their stories for the audiobook.

Working with a wide range of partners, Scottish Book Trust – the national charity changing lives through reading and writing – will deliver events and activities across the country during Book Week Scotland 2018, which runs from 19 November to 25 November, linked to this year's theme of Rebel.

There are hundreds of free events taking place across many different local authorities, funded by Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC). Authors holding events include: bestselling YA writer and activist Juno Dawson; crime writer Ann Cleeves and outdoors expert and broadcaster Cameron McNeish.

Initiated by the Scottish Government and supported by National Lottery funds through Creative Scotland Targeted Funding, Book Week Scotland is delivered by Scottish Book Trust and its partners from 19 November to 25 November 2018. There are hundreds of free events taking place across many different local authorities, funded by Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC).

For more information about Book Week Scotland 2018 and how you can get involved, visit www.bookweekscotland.com where you can find information about all the events taking place in your local area.



Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:

“There are hundreds of rebellious events taking place for Book Week Scotland across the country, and we’re pleased that Pentland Book Festival will be highlighting the work of Thomas Muir during their tour. We hope many people will pick up a copy of *Rebel*, which celebrates the spirit of Scotland, by challenging conventions and inspiring future generations of writers.”

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

“It’s great to see Pentland Book Festival taking reading to the streets for Book Week Scotland, our national celebration of books and reading. It seems very apt that a tour exploring the life of the radical Thomas Muir will culminate in the gift to the participants of this year’s *Rebel* book. Book Week Scotland gives all Scots the chance to get involved with books and reading, whether it be in the streets, the parliament or in homes and libraries across the country, and we wish every success and enjoyment to all involved.”

Notes to Editors

Please direct all press queries to:

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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.

www.scottishbooktrust.com @scottishbktrust www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust

For more information about **Book Week Scotland**, visit www.bookweekscotland.com. Follow @Bookweekscot on Twitter, check out #bookweekscotland or like the Book Week Scotland Facebook page.

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.

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.

Pentland Book Festival

The Pentlands Book Festival is a collaborative project by the community councils of Juniper Green, Colinton and Currie, and Colinton and Currie Library. It runs from Friday 2 November to Friday 30 November 2019.

The full event programme can be found at: <http://www.pentlandsbookfestival.org/events.htm>