

**10 September 2008**

### **Award-winning children's author to visit Moray primary schools**

Simon Bartram, the award-winning children's author and illustrator, is set to inspire bookworms and budding authors from eight primary schools in the Moray area from 24-26 September as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour.

Local pupils may well be familiar with some of Simon's best-loved work already. He has enjoyed a celebrated career writing and illustrating children's books. In 2003 he was short listed for the Kate Greenaway Award and in 2004 won the prestigious Blue Peter Book of the Year Award for *Man on The Moon (a Day in the Life of Bob)*. Simon has also worked on a unique collection of poems, pictures and doodles for *Watch out for Sprouts!* And his new book, *Bob's Best Ever Friend*, will be published this month.

The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour is run by Scottish Book Trust, Scotland's leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing. The tour aims to promote a love of reading across Scotland, and bring live literature to children, particularly in rural and remote areas. The touring programme has visited all 32 Scottish local authorities in the last three years.

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly, which sponsors the tour, added: "This programme provides a unique opportunity for children to meet some of Britain's most inspiring authors and illustrators. We are sure young people in Moray will look forward to seeing and hearing from Simon during the tour."

Jasmine Fassl of the Scottish Book Trust, said: "The children of Moray are in for an enthralling visit from Simon. His audiences will leave with a newfound love of books and armed with top tips on how to write and illustrate like a professional."

Simon will visit the children of Eastend and Hopeman primary schools on 24 September before treating those at Greenwards, Millbank and St Peter's primary schools to a series of readings on 25 September. The tour winds down on 26 September, but not before the pupils of Andersons, Logie and Applegrove primary schools catch the reading bug from Simon.