

**21 April 2009**

### **Acclaimed children's sci-fi author to visit Orkney and Shetland schools**

Steve Cole, the acclaimed children's science-fiction author, will be beaming down to schools on Orkney and Shetland as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, organised by Scottish Book Trust.

Steve, famous for his *Astrosaurs* books and a series which accompanied the popular BBC television series *Doctor Who*, will tour schools and public venues between 27 April and 1 May.

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, 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 has supported the touring programme for over 10 years, said: "For many years this tour has provided a unique opportunity for children to meet some of the most inspiring authors and illustrators. We are committed to ensuring the tour reaches Scotland's most remote areas to enable children to discover the appeal of reading and writing. As one of the country's top science-fiction authors, we're sure the visit will be out of this world."

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

#### **Tour Dates:**

<b>Monday 27 April</b>	9.30am: Papdale Primary School, Willow Road, Kirkwall, Orkney	1.50pm: Dounby Primary, Dounby, Orkney
<b>Tuesday 28 April</b>	10.30am: Hope Primary, St Margaret's Hope, Orkney	1:35pm: Kirkwall Grammar School, The Meadow, Kirkwall, Orkney
<b>Tuesday 28 April – PUBLIC SESSION</b>	4:30-5:30pm: CPD Session Kirkwall Library, 44 Junction Road	
<b>Wednesday 29 April</b>	10:30am: Bells Brae Primary, Gilberston Road, Lerwick	2.00pm: Sound Primary, Lerwick, Shetland
<b>Wednesday 29 April – PUBLIC SESSION</b>	4:30-5:30pm: CPD Session Kirkwall Library, 44 Junction Road	
<b>Thursday 30 April</b>	9.00am: Aith Junior High School, Aith, Shetland	1:45pm: Mossbank Primary, Mossbank, Shetland

<b>Friday 1 May – PUBLIC SESSION</b>	11am: Lerwick Library, Lower Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland,	
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## Ends

### Issued by:

Jennifer Butler / Lucy Penman  
3x1 Public Relations  
T: 0141 221 0707  
jbutler@3x1.com / lpenman@3x1.com

### To arrange photography please contact:

Olivier Joly  
Scottish Book Trust  
[olivier.joly@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:olivier.joly@scottishbooktrust.com)  
0131 524 0160

### Notes to Editors:

- The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, organised by Scottish Book Trust, has been running since 1998. It tours throughout Scotland's urban, rural and remote communities and has visited every single Scottish local authority.
- Scottish Friendly is one of the UK's leading friendly societies, providing Child Trust Fund accounts, tax-free savings plans, ISAs, investment plans and term assurance to savers throughout the UK. For more information please visit [www.scottishfriendly.co.uk](http://www.scottishfriendly.co.uk)
- Scottish Book Trust is the leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing in Scotland, developing innovative projects to encourage adults and children to read, write and be inspired by books [www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)
- Every year Scottish Book Trust:
  - Invests £1.5 million in growing readers and writers in Scotland
  - Funds over 1,200 literature events connecting 70,000 readers with writers
  - Reaches people in all 32 local authorities in Scotland
  - Supports over 500 Scottish writers and illustrators
  - Runs the Royal Mail Awards for Scottish Children's Books, which are judged by over 9,000 children
  - Promotes Scottish writing to over 10 million people worldwide