

Cult children's writing duo embark on Highlands tour

Scottish Book Trust is about to embark on one of its longest children's book tours ever when it takes authors Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell around the Highlands in September.

Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell, the acclaimed writing/illustrating duo behind the publishing phenomenon *The Edge Chronicles*, will be talking to – and inspiring – more than 3,000 children across the Highlands between September 14 and 23. They will visit local schools in **Nairn, Boat of Garten, Fortrose, Dingwall, Inverness, Fort William, Arachacle, the Isle of Skye, Ullapool, Golspie** and **Wick**, as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour.

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. In the last three years, the touring programme has visited all 32 Scottish local authorities, bringing the best children's authors directly to their readers.

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly which has supported the touring programme for more than 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 and we are delighted to be supporting the tour again this year. In the same way, Chris and Paul's visit will provide a stimulating environment in which local children can discover the appeal of reading and writing."*

Jasmine Fassel, of the Scottish Book Trust, added: *"Children in the Highlands are in for a fascinating visit from Paul and Chris, who will leave their audiences with a newfound love of books and armed with top tips on how to write like a professional."*



The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour has been shortlisted for the 2009 Arts & Business Scotland *Sustainability Award*, which celebrates established on-going partnerships that set standards in creative arts-business collaborations.

Highlands Tour Dates:

Monday 14th September

10.00am: Nairn Academy / 1.30pm: Boat of Garten Community Hall

Tuesday 15th September

10.30am: Fortrose Academy / 1.30pm: Dingwall School & Community Library

Wednesday 16th September

10.30am: Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

Thursday 17th September

9.30am: Upper Achintore Primary, Fort William / 1.30pm: The Sunart Centre, Arachacle

Friday 18th September

10.30am and 1.45pm: Portree Community High School, Isle of Skye

Monday 21st September

10.30am: MacPhail Centre and Theatre, Ullapool

Tuesday 22nd September

10.30am: Golspie Primary School / 2.00pm: Golspie High School

Wednesday 23rd September

10.30am: Wick High School / 1.30pm: Pultneytown Academy, Wick

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 already 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

- 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

- 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

- Chris Riddell has also worked with Neil Gaiman and recently illustrated The Graveyard Book

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