

**Date: 29 May 2007**

## **Acclaimed children's author to visit East Ayrshire schools Words on Wheels book tour rolls into town on Monday 4 June**

Barbara Mitchelhill, one of Britain's best loved children's authors, is visiting East Ayrshire primary schools next week to get kids involved in reading and writing.

The tour begins in Kilmarnock at Mount Carmel Primary on 4 June in the morning, then onto Annanhill Primary in the afternoon. The tour continues on 5 June at Hurlford Primary then Crossroads Primary later that day. The last Ayrshire stop of the tour is on 6 June at Patna and Dalrymple primary schools.

Mitchelhill's latest novel, '*Storm Runners*', released in May, is an action-packed, gripping adventure set on a fictional island off the coast of Scotland. Inspiration for much of the novel came from the unique and wild beauty of the Scottish Highlands where she spent many holidays as a child.

Barbara, a former teacher, loves to visit schools and host workshops for children, in a bid to inspire them to create their own stories and tales.

The 'Words on Wheels' tour aims to provide access to book-related activities and promote a love of reading across Scotland, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The tour has been organised by Scottish Book Trust, Scotland's national agency for readers and writers, as part of the Scottish Friendly 'Words on Wheels' touring programme.

Jasmine Fassl of the Scottish Book Trust said: "This is a rare opportunity for pupils to meet Barbara Mitchelhill and learn how she creates her characters and develops storylines. We hope pupils will be inspired by her novels to develop a love of reading and creative writing."

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly, added "This programme is a great way to encourage interest in reading and writing. We are proud of our role in bringing the Words on Wheels tour to East Ayrshire."

## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

### **Tour Schedule**

#### **Monday 4 June**

**1100 hrs**

Mount Carmel Primary

Kilmarnock

**1400 hrs**

Annanhill Primary

Kilmarnock

#### **Tuesday 5 June**

**0930 hrs**

Hurlford Primary

**1330 hrs**

Crossroads Primary

Hurlford

#### **Wednesday 6 June**

**1000 hrs**

Patna Primary

**1330 hours**

Dalrymple Primary

- The Scottish Friendly 'Words on Wheels' Touring Programme, organised by Scottish Book Trust, has been running since 1998. It tours top authors throughout Scotland's urban, rural and remote communities.
- Scottish Book Trust provides free, independent, quality advice and information for readers and writers. It aims to support literacy initiatives and provide access to book related opportunities for all in Scotland. Its projects, activities and events programmes include Live Literature Scotland, Words on Wheels Touring Programme and BRAW - Books, Reading and Writing. It is funded by a range of businesses and organisations including Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Friendly Assurance, Arts & Business, Scottish Executive, Standard Life, The Royal Mail and Whyte & Mackay. Visit [www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com) for further details.
- 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)

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