

NEWS RELEASE

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Well-known author to visit Oban schools - Words on Wheels tour rolls into town -

Kenneth Steven, the famous Scottish children's author, poet and novelist, is set to visit a number of schools in Oban for a series of storytelling sessions and poetry readings.

The tour has been organised by Scottish Book Trust as part of the Scottish Friendly 'Words on Wheels' touring programme which aims to encourage a love of reading and promote literacy across Scotland, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Kenneth has published over 20 books and is passionate about writing and making writing matter. To this end, he has undertaken a rolling programme of talks and workshops, both in schools and the wider community.

During his visit to Oban (25-29 September), he will be talking about his newest picture book, *The Sea Mice and the Stars*, which has been translated into ten languages and is shortlisted for the Royal Mail awards for Scottish Children's Books. He will also hold a creative writing session for older pupils.

Catriona Scott of Scottish Book Trust, said: "this is a great opportunity for children in Oban to meet a well-known author and find out about the inspiration behind his stories and poems. As a local author, Kenneth is certainly a good role-model for young people who love writing, so we are sure that all of the schools involved will benefit from this tour."

Neil Lovatt, marketing director at Scottish Friendly added: "We have been involved with the Words on Wheels tour for many years now and are always delighted by the positive reception authors receive from the local community. Kenneth is very enthusiastic about his work, so we hope that he will inspire pupils in Oban to think more about their own creative writing."

Ends

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- Kenneth Steven is a full-time poet, children's author, novelist and translator. He's published some 20 books, and for many years has undertaken a rolling programme of talks and workshops, both in schools and the wider community. He's passionate about writing, and about making writing matter, and his primary intention is to pass on that love with all the groups he encounters.
- The Scottish Friendly 'Words on Wheels' Touring Programme, organised by Scottish Book Trust, has been running since 1998. It aims to support literacy and provide access to book related opportunities for all, touring top authors throughout Scotland's urban, rural and remote communities.
- Scottish Book Trust also aims to run national programmes like Live Literature Scotland, author tours and events, and readership development programmes.
- To find out more about programmes, events, publications or services, please visit www.scottishbooktrust.com
- 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