

11 March 2010

CHILDREN'S BOOK TOUR SET TO BE A SCREAM!

Popular children's author, Tommy Donbavand, will be sending shivers down the spine of over 1,800 pupils at primary schools across Inverclyde and East Dunbartonshire in the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, which kicks off on 15 March!

The tour, which will last five days, will see Tommy bring the magic of reading and writing to schools across the regions with a series of fascinating interactive workshops.

Donbavand's books are adored by children throughout the UK and beyond. He is particularly well known for his hugely popular, blood curdling *Scream Street* series of comedy horror novels. Tommy's eighth book, *Attack of the Trolls*, will be released early, exclusively for this tour, for one week only.

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 give children across Scotland, even those in the most rural and remote areas, access to the best UK children's authors, thereby encouraging a love of reading for pleasure. A dedicated Facebook page has been set up to keep fans up to date with the latest authors' news and tours at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Meet-Our-Authors/295786244730>.

The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour has visited all 32 Scottish local authorities in the last three years, bringing the best children's authors directly to their readers. Most recently Scottish Friendly has extended its commitment to encouraging more children to read through the innovative *Meet Our Authors* project, which will allow children, parents and teachers across the world to get up close and personal with some of the world's leading children's authors via quality digital footage of them and their work, including a series of live events filmed and broadcast over the internet. More than 105,000 children in 1,400 schools across the UK and overseas have already taken part.

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly, which has supported the touring programme for more than 11 years, said: “For many years this tour has provided an exclusive platform for children across Scotland to meet some of the most inspiring authors of our time. Scottish Friendly remains devoted to nurturing literacy in Scotland’s young people.”

Jasmine Fassel of the Scottish Book Trust added: “We are very excited to welcome Tommy Donbavand in Scotland. Our mission is to inspire children across the country through reading, writing and imagery and Tommy’s books fit right in with the current trend of vampires, werewolves and mummies. It’s a great way to introduce children to some of the country’s most popular and highly acclaimed authors.”

Scottish Friendly Children’s Book Tour with Tommy Donbavand

15th - 19th March 2010

Date, LA & Time	School/Venue
Monday 15 th March 2010 09.05am	Newark Primary Bridgend Avenue Port Glasgow Inverclyde PA14 5SU
Monday 15 th March 2010 1.20pm	St Particks Primary Broomhill Street Greenock PA15 4HL Inverclyde
Tuesday 16 th March 2010 09.05am	Sacred Heart Primary School Westmorland Street Greenock Inverclyde PA16 0TS
Tuesday 16 th March 2010 1.20pm	Lady Alice Primary School Inverkip Road Greenock Inverclyde PA16 9EH

Wednesday 17 th March 2010 09.20am	Inverkip Primary School Station Road Inverkip Inverclyde PA16 0AY
Wednesday 17 th March 2010 1.20pm	All Saints Primary School Cardross Crescent Greenock Inverclyde PA15 3HT
Thursday 18 th March 2010 09.05am	Auchinairn Primary School Beech Road Auchinairn Bishopbriggs East Dunbartonshire G64 1NE
Thursday 18 th March 2010 1.20pm	Oxgang Primary School Lammermuir Road Kirkintilloch East Dunbartonshire G66 2AB
Friday 19 th March 2010 09.20am	Lenzie Moss Primary Lenzie East Dunbartonshire G66 4HW Attending: Lenzie Primary School
Friday 19 th March 2010 1.05pm	Colquhoun Park Primary School Canniesburn Road Bearsden East Dunbartonshire G61 1HD Attending: St Joseph's Primary

Ends.

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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.
-  The Scottish Friendly Children’s Book tour launched the digital project *Meet Our Authors* in March 2010, which will allow children, parents and teachers across the world to get up close and personal with some of the world’s leading children’s authors via quality digital footage of them and their work, including a series of live events filmed and broadcast over the internet. More than 500,000 children will be involved over two years and participating authors include household names such as **Michael Rosen, Julia Donaldson, Eoin Colfer, Philip Pullman** and **Jacqueline Wilson**.
-  Scottish Friendly Assurance is a progressive and modern financial services group. It provides investors and their families with a wide range of products, from simple savings solutions, such as friendly society tax-free savings plans and a Child Trust Fund, to administration of sophisticated whole of market open architecture ‘wrap’ investments. 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

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