



7 May 2007

Popular children's author visits Clackmannanshire schools Words on Wheels book tour rolls into town on Thursday 17 May

John Fardell, one of Britain's most inventive children's authors, is visiting Clackmannanshire primary schools next week to encourage pupils to develop a love of reading and writing.

The tour kicks off at St Mungo's Primary School in Alloa on 17 May, then on to Strathdevon Primary in Dollar later that day. The tour continues on 18 May at Claremont Primary School in Alloa in the morning, which will also be attended by St John's Primary pupils, before heading to Tillicoultry Primary School in the afternoon, which will also be attended by Coalsnaughton Primary pupils.

The Edinburgh-based father of two earned his living as a freelance cartoonist and illustrator before he entered the world of children's literature. Much of John's inspiration comes from childhood memories of family holidays and drawing madcap inventions. His love of writing shines through on school visits which are packed full of activities to help inspire the pupils' creative thinking.

Fardell's debut novel *'The 7 Professors of the Far North'*, has captivated children throughout the UK and US, taking readers on a magnificent journey full of secrets, inventions and mysteries. The sequel, *'The Flight of the Silver Turtle'*, which is partly set in Scotland, was released in 2006.

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, which aims to provide access to book related activities and promote a love of reading across Scotland, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Jasmine Fassl of the Scottish Book Trust said: "This is a rare opportunity for Clackmannanshire pupils to meet John Fardell and we hope his characters' adventures will inspire pupils to develop a love of literature both in 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 Clackmannanshire."

NOTE TO EDITORS

Tour Schedule

Thursday 17th May

1030 - 1130 hrs

St Mungo's Primary School
Alloa

1315 - 1415 hrs

Strathdevon Primary School
Dollar

Friday 18th May

1030 - 1130 hrs

Claremont Primary School
Alloa

1330 - 1430 hrs

Tillicoultry Primary School
Tillicoultry

- John Fardell's first book, *'The Seven Professors of the Far North'* was published in 2004 by Faber & Faber, who, because of the book's success, quickly requested a sequel: *'The Flight of the Silver Turtle'* was published in 2006.
- 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 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

Media enquiries:

Clare Meikle/Laura McGinness

3x1 PR

Tel: 0141 221 0707