



CHILDREN'S BOOK TOUR TO TAKE BEST OF SCOTLAND SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Popular children's author and illustrator, Debi Gliori, will visit primary schools across north-east England next week as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, which is making its first ever trip south of the border.

Debi, whose award-winning fiction novels and picture books are adored by children throughout the UK, is hoping to inspire children across Newcastle and the surrounding area between 11-16 October, when she will be talking about reading, writing and illustration, as well as showing pupils some of her newest work.

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 visits over 15,000 children and young people across Scotland every year, with a particular emphasis on reaching those in rural, remote and deprived areas. It aims to encourage a love of literacy in children and promote the benefits associated with reading and illustrating.

The six day tour of the north east has been organised in conjunction with Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books. It will give English children the chance to see the work of one of Scotland's best-loved children's authors and begins with a public family event at Seven Stories in Newcastle's Ouseburn Valley, where Debi Gliori will introduce her latest picture book, *Stormy Weather*.

Calum Bennie, marketing manager at Scottish Friendly, which has sponsored the touring programme for over 10 years said: "For many years this tour has provided a unique opportunity for children all over Scotland to meet some of the most inspiring authors and illustrators.

“For the first time, we are taking the tour south of the border to provide the same opportunity to children across the north east. Debi’s visits 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 across the north east are in for a fascinating visit from Debi. Her audiences will leave with a newfound love of books and armed with top tips on how to express their imagination through illustrations.”

Debi Gliori is celebrated for her hugely successful *Mr Bear* series and her most successful book to date, the highly acclaimed *No Matter What*. She won the Children’s Book Award picture book section and has been shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal twice. A number of the UK’s most acclaimed authors and illustrators have taken part in the tour in recent years including John Fardell, Michael Rosen, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson and Andy Stanton.

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.

Ends.

North East Tour Dates:

- **On Sunday 11 October, the media is invited to attend Seven Stories, The Centre for Children’s Books in Newcastle, to take pictures and interview the author.**

Thereafter, media attendance is welcomed at all events throughout the week. Please call Ashley Reid on 0141 221 0707 if you intend to go to any of the events.

All media who intend to attend any of these events should arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the event to allow time for photos/interviews.

Contact on the day:

Jasmine Frassl: 07706 076 799

Ashley Reid: 07729217581 / 0141 221 0707

Date & Time	School/Venue
Sunday 11 th October 2009 – 1.45pm	Seven Stories – PUBLIC FAMILY EVENT
Monday 12 th October 2009 – 10.45am	Regent Farm First School Wansbeck Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3PE
Monday 12 th October 2009 – 1.15pm	Regent Farm First School Wansbeck Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3PE DEBI GLIORI WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY
Tuesday 13 th October 2009 – 10.30am	Our Lady and St Anne's Primary School, Summerhill Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6EB
Tuesday 13 th October 2009 – 1.15pm	Our Lady and St Anne's Primary School, Summerhill Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6EB
Wednesday 14 th October 2009 – 9.15am	Appletree Gardens, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne And Wear NE25 8XS
Wednesday 14 th October 2009 – 10.30am	Appletree Gardens, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne And Wear NE25 8XS
Thursday 15 th October 2009 – 9.15am	Dinnington First School, Sycamore Avenue, Dinnington NE13 7JY
Thursday 15 th October 2009 – 1.15pm	Atkinson Road Primary School, Atkinson Road, Benwell, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 8XT
Friday 16 th October 2009 – 10.45-12am	Beech Hill Primary School Linhope Road, West Denton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE5 2LW
Friday 16 th October 2009 – 12.15pm	Beech Hill Primary School Linhope Road, West Denton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE5 2LW

Notes to Editors:

- 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
- 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 north-east tour has been organised in collaboration with Seven Stories, the Centre for the Children's Book, the first museum in the UK wholly dedicated to the art of British children's books. www.sevenstories.org.uk
- 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

Issued by:

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