

Edinburgh-based author wins at The Scottish Children's Book Awards

Danny Weston, the Edinburgh-based author of four novels, was today announced as the winner of the Older Readers (12-16 yrs) category of the [Scottish Children's Book Awards 2016](#), which celebrate the most popular children's and young adult books by Scottish authors or illustrators.

Scotland's largest book prize for children's authors and illustrators, with each winning book receiving £3,000, the Scottish Children's Book Awards are voted for exclusively by children and are run by Scottish Book Trust and supported by Creative Scotland through Regular Funding.

Nearly 30,000 votes were cast in this year's awards, which are judged in three age categories – Bookbug Readers (3-7), Younger Readers (8-11) and Older Readers (12-16). Children across Scotland were encouraged to read the three shortlisted books in their age category and to vote for their favourite.



Danny, who lives in Tollcross, won the Older Readers (12-16 yrs) category for his book *The Piper*. Published by Andersen Press, the book follows Peter and his little sister, Daisy, who are evacuated from London to the countryside and find themselves on an isolated farm in the middle of a treacherous marshland. As Daisy gets drawn deeper into the secrets of their new home, Peter starts to realise that something very sinister is going on. What is that music they can hear at night? And who are the children dancing to it?

Danny has published three novels (under the name Philip Caveney) with Edinburgh-based publisher Fledgling Press. These

are time travel adventures, all set in Edinburgh at different points in its history. The first book *Crow Boy* is set in Mary Kings Close, *Seventeen Coffins* is all about the tiny coffins found on Arthur's Seat in 1836 and the most recent book, *One For Sorrow*, is all about Robert Louis Stevenson.

Commenting on his win, Danny said:

"I am absolutely thrilled to have won this award, especially because it has been voted for, not by critics and industry insiders, but by the people who matter most; the young readers for whom the story was actually written. Thanks to everyone who voted for 'The Piper'. You have rocked my world."

Jasmine Fassl, Head of Schools at Scottish Book Trust, said:

"It's a well-worn statistic that a love of books is more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status. Initiatives like the Scottish Children's Book Awards are intended to instill a love of books in children right from the very start, by making the process of reading fun, interactive and collaborative. But it's the teachers, librarians, parents, and of course the authors and illustrators, who bring this project to life for the pupils – who download the resources, who put on the silly voices, who cuddle and tickle and leap about. Today we're celebrating all the people who bring the magic of books to children and set them on a path to being booklovers for life."

Aly Barr, Head of Literature, Languages and Publishing at Creative Scotland, said:

"Once again the Children's Book Awards confirm Walt Disney's maxim that "there is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island". If you're only buying one book for your child this year, buy all three."

Simon Puttock was announced as the winner of the Bookbug (3-7 yrs) category for his picture book *Mouse's First Night* at

Moonlight School, illustrated by Ali Pye. Ross MacKenzie was announced as the winner of the Younger Readers (8-11 yrs) category for his book The Nowhere Emporium.