



THE STORY OF ITCHY COO



EVALUATION REPORT 2001 – 2011

***Compiled and written by
James Robertson, Matthew Fitt & Marianne Mitchelson***



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THE STORY OF ITCHY COO



EVALUATION REPORT

SUMMARY

Itchy Coo is the name of a publishing imprint which produces books in Scots, mainly but not exclusively for children and young readers. It was created by writers Matthew Fitt and James Robertson in partnership with Black & White Publishing Ltd, with the financial support of the Scottish Arts Council. Its first books appeared in August 2002 and by March 2011 it had published 37 titles. All but two of these titles remain in print, many have been reprinted several times, and the Itchy Coo list as a whole continues to flourish.

Concurrent with the creation and development of the imprint and as an integral part of the overall Itchy Coo project, Fitt and Robertson operated an extensive programme of educational and community outreach to ensure that the books produced had the widest possible readership and usefulness, particularly within primary and secondary schools. This programme ran from 2002 to 2011.

In addition Fitt and Robertson actively engaged in the development of strategic policy for the Scots language, placing particular emphasis upon its educational value: this involved the lobbying of and liaison with national and local government, educational institutions and literature organisations, and engagement with international bodies.

In terms of public investment, the Itchy Coo project has been very good value for money. Adding together the original Scottish Arts Council (SAC) National Lottery grant for the project's first two years, subsequent SAC support for Dub Busters' editorial, education and outreach activities and for some of Black & White Publishing's production costs, and income sourced by Dub Busters from local authorities' education and culture departments, the total public spend on Itchy Coo over ten years averages out at £50,000 per annum. In other words, all the achievements and developments described in this report cost, in public spending terms, approximately one penny per Scottish citizen per year. It is remarkable that so much was delivered for so little public investment.

The education, outreach and strategic liaison elements of the Itchy Coo project were brought to an end in March 2011.

The purpose of the project, as defined in the original application for National Lottery funding via the Scottish Arts Council, was:

'To establish a publishing imprint, Itchy Coo, which will provide a range of high quality texts and other resources in Scots, for use in education from nursery to Advanced Higher; and through these to work with teachers and young people in developing appreciation of and confidence in their Scots usage.'

Between 2002 and 2003, the first phase of the project, Itchy Coo achieved these aims, and from 2004 to 2011 it built upon them and expanded its work in different ways. It would be wrong to suggest that indifference or hostility to Scots and ignorance of its cultural and literary heritage, value and importance are not still common, but by 2011, when Fitt and Robertson decided to end the education, outreach and strategic liaison elements of the project, it had become evident that a positive change in attitude towards the Scots language had taken place within Scottish education, in literature organisations and at local and national government levels. While no single enterprise or activity can be credited with having produced this change, Fitt and Robertson believe that the range and quality of Itchy Coo's various outputs reflected and, to some considerable extent, were instrumental in enabling a widespread re-evaluation and embracing of the Scots language.

The aim of this report is to make a considered and reasonable assessment of the achievements of Itchy Coo from 2002 to 2011.

The major strengths of the project have been....

Delivering consistently high quality publications and education and outreach services;

Managing and delivering all aspects of the project on budget and on time, with extremely cost-effective use of the public funds invested;

Embedding the use and appreciation of Scots language in the teaching practice of many teachers and schools;

Adopting a non-prescriptive, inclusive approach to Scots language learning;

Supporting the generation of a more positive attitude towards Scots;

Creating a new readership for books entirely in Scots;

Empowering the primary school sector to incorporate Scots as part of mainstream teaching;

Taking a strategic, targeted approach to effecting change;

Fulfilling the guiding principles of *Curriculum for Excellence* through its contribution to Literacy, Social Inclusion and Scottish Identity;

Influencing key policy changes which have impacted on current and future service provision in education and elsewhere;

Putting in place effective and efficient business practices;

Being sufficiently flexible to respond to changing and increasing demand;

Taking a proactive approach to publicity and marketing;

Securing the interest and support of key individuals and organisations.

Areas of difficulty encountered have been....

Having aspirations which outstripped the ability of the project's resources to deliver which resulted in over-commitment and opportunity costs;

Creating expectations and demands which were sometimes difficult to satisfy;

Enthusiasm, commitment, rapidly growing demand and limited resources leading to fatigue, exhaustion and opportunity costs for both Matthew Fitt and James Robertson;

Achieving only limited success in encouraging and enabling the use and appreciation of Scots language in secondary schools owing largely to the absence of assessment of Scots language and Scots literature in S3 and S4;

The time required by the education system to respond to new ideas and resources;

The sense that, owing to its perception as a project aimed primarily at children and one concerned with Scots language, Itchy Coo was sometimes not taken seriously by policy makers;

A wider indifference or negativity exhibited towards Scots, and a consequent reluctance to engage in discussion, by **some** people in politics, the civil service and education.

After nearly ten years of constant effort, Fitt and Robertson believe that much has been achieved far beyond the successful establishment of the imprint and the publication of 37 titles. Itchy Coo books and their continuing availability are the most visible legacy of the entire project, but equally important is the much higher profile now accorded to the Scots language in the Scottish education system, particularly at primary level. This has resulted in new levels of self-confidence and linguistic awareness among many thousands of children, and also among hundreds of teachers. Itchy Coo would not have succeeded if there had not been an existing need and desire for Scots language resources and activities: what the project accomplished was to identify that need and desire and to produce books and services in response. That this outcome was achieved is supported by feedback received from across the range of project users, partners and observers as demonstrated later in the report. (See Appendix 3)

However, there remains much more to be done. There is as yet no coherent, formally articulated government policy towards the Scots language at either national or local level, and while the project's experience would warn against heavy-handed, top-down imposition of language policy, nevertheless a more proactive attitude to Scots shown by government would have the effect of encouraging and enabling further progress to be made within the education system. For example, the implementation of even some of the recommendations of the Ministerial Working Group on the Scots Language, of which James Robertson and Matthew Fitt were members, would have a beneficial effect. Two of those recommendations in particular would enable the educational work achieved by Itchy Coo to be built upon and further expanded: first, that a dedicated Scots Language and Literature Bureau be established within the new Scottish Education Quality and Improvement Agency (SEQIA) to meet the increasing demand from teachers for high-quality training, information and resources on Scots; and second, that a nationwide Network of Co-ordinators able to deliver Scots language training and advice on resources should be formed.

A similar situation exists in relation to Creative Scotland, which has described itself as 'the new national leader for Scotland's arts, screen and creative industries'. The authors of this report fully and gratefully acknowledge that Itchy Coo could not and would not have happened without the practical and financial support of the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) and latterly of Creative Scotland, specifically the support of SAC's Literature Department and its Head, Dr Gavin Wallace. It remains the case, however, that Creative Scotland does not, as yet, have any official policy for Scots. In its new corporate plan for 2011–2014, ***Investing in Scotland's Creative Future***, the intention to produce a Scots language plan is declared but no specific proposals for supporting Scots are articulated. Until such a policy exists, any support for Scots language development in the arts and culture is likely to remain piecemeal and unfocused. It is therefore essential that Creative Scotland demonstrates its long-term, strategic commitment to Scots by developing and publishing a policy for the language and putting in place a funded, operational plan to deliver on that policy.

Working with limited resources, Itchy Coo has demonstrated time and again not only that the Scots language is enjoyed and valued by children when it forms part of their education, but also that it can have far-reaching positive effects, including improvements in classroom behaviour and understanding of social responsibility, enhanced English language skills, increased aptitude for foreign languages and greater personal self-confidence and awareness of Scotland's culture and heritage. The evidence for these claims is part of the legacy of the Itchy Coo project and is referred to at various points in this report.

A clear rationale for the teaching and learning of Scots in the Scottish education system now exists which was not demonstrable before 2001, and it is therefore recommended that all relevant bodies, from national government to individual schools, including key arts and education agencies, strive to apply that rationale in theory and practice in the future.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide a legacy document which outlines the history of the Itchy Coo project, presents evidence and opinion from project users and contributors on the impact it has had and leaves an information base for those who may wish to develop Scots language provision further.

The report

- Outlines the rationale behind the creation of the Itchy Coo project;
- Describes how the project was constructed, organised, funded and operated ;
- Demonstrates the outputs from the project;
- Provides feedback and commentary on the nature, value and impact of the project;
- Suggests potential ways forward for national and local bodies and organisations.

PROJECT HISTORY

Rationale

The rationale for developing the Scots language project which eventually became Itchy Coo originated in a series of conversations, initially between Matthew Fitt and James Robertson, and subsequently involving Susan Rennie.

Robertson and Fitt were respectively the first (1993–95) and second (1995–97) holders of the Brownsbank Writing Fellowship, based at Brownsbank Cottage, former home of Hugh MacDiarmid (1892–1978). The Fellowship was hosted by Biggar Museums and supported by the Scottish Arts Council from 1993 until 2010. While in residence at Brownsbank, James Robertson compiled and edited a book of contemporary short stories in Scots, *A Tongue in Yer Heid* (B&W Publishing, 1994), featuring work by 28 writers. One of the stories was by Matthew Fitt and this was the initial point of contact between the two writers. The first discussion between Fitt and Robertson about a Scots language educational project took place at Brownsbank in 1996, during Fitt's tenure. The guiding principle behind this discussion was articulated in a letter written by William Soutar (1898–1943) to MacDiarmid in 1931, in which he stressed the importance of writing in Scots for children:

'If the Doric is to come back alive, it will come on a cock-horse.'

It is fair to say, then, that the Itchy Coo project was inspired by the examples of these two great poets, Hugh MacDiarmid and William Soutar.

Further discussions, which included the input of Susan Rennie, helped to shape and define the proposed project's aims, objectives and ethos. Each of the three individuals involved brought particular skills and knowledge to the table: James Robertson as an editor and writer of fiction and poetry, and as a former bookseller who also had publishing experience; Matthew Fitt as a writer of poetry and fiction, and as a qualified teacher with considerable experience of delivering in-service support on Scots; and Susan Rennie as a lexicographer specialising in Scots dictionaries, with experience of developing print, CD and web-based materials in Scots. All three had considerable knowledge of Scots language and literature.

The group (Robertson, Fitt and Rennie) was conscious that at this period (the late 1990s) the provision of Scots language materials in Scottish schools was completely haphazard. Whether Scots was read, written or studied in the classroom was almost

entirely dependent on the personal enthusiasm or interest of individual teachers. As a result, most Scottish school students were given only random or occasional access to Scots texts or none at all. Furthermore, spoken Scots was often systematically excluded from the classroom. Only in the annual run-up to Burns Night in January were Scots texts regularly accessed, usually for the purpose of recitation. These resources were, more often than not, well-used copies of single poems, by Burns or others, usually written decades or centuries ago and having little direct relevance to students' own lives. This led to the perverse situation that the language used by many Scottish children in their daily lives was excluded from their education – except on or around the day celebrating the birth of the national bard, whose spoken and written language was Scots!

The group, which was formally constituted as Dub Busters in January 2001, was very aware of previous efforts to address this situation. They were conscious that others had developed, produced and dispersed Scots language teaching materials and reading resources and that many of these were the outcome of immense amounts of, largely, unpaid work by dedicated activists. Scotsoun, a project run for many years by George Philp and Allan Ramsay, and the Merlin Press established in 1995 by Sheila Douglas, are two examples. Other publications of note include *Grammar Broonie: A Guide Tae Scots Grammar* (Rennie & Fitt, Scottish National Dictionary Association, 1999), *A Braw Brew* (ed. Niven & Fortune, Watergaw, 1997) and *The Kist/A' Chiste* (ed. Jarvie, Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum, 1996; revised edition, Learning & Teaching Scotland, 2001). This last publication was popular with teachers as it provided a range of texts, in English and Gaelic as well as Scots, suitable for language work as outlined in the pre-devolution Scottish Office Education Department's *National Guidelines on English 5-14* (1991). These guidelines emphasised the importance of acknowledging and valuing 'the language children bring to school' and this marked a major advance in progressive attitudes towards Scots language, dialects and accents. However there remained, in Dub Busters' view, a woeful inadequacy of Scots resources for teachers to work with.

A summary of the state of Scots language provision in education as of 2001 can be found in John Corbett, 'The Current State of Scots', on the website of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies (http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/scotlit/asls/Executive_Report.html)

The members of Dub Busters were of the opinion that all of the previous independent or non-government funded projects suffered from one or more of several problems. These included severely limited budgets, very little or no capital investment, necessarily short print-runs, poor distribution, little or no professional publishing expertise, and no long-term 'list' planning. Additionally, some of these projects were focused on one-off publications. These were often of poor quality and design, and illustrations, if there were any, were generally in black-and-white only. In other words, alongside the range of publications for children widely available in English, they looked like poor relations – mainly because, despite their creators' best efforts, they were.

In order to address these issues Dub Busters formulated project plans upon the following aims and objectives:

- It would be crucial to work with, and build upon, 'the language children bring to school' as highlighted in the Scottish Office Education Department's *National Guidelines on English 5-14* (1991).
- While always conscious of the value and importance of Scots as a language, the project would not be about 'saving' Scots or imposing a particular version of Scots upon children.

- It would aim to empower Scots-speaking children, by valuing and giving status to their language.
- It would aim to be inclusive, i.e. it would not exclude children whose first language was not Scots or whose knowledge of Scots was limited or non-existent.
- It would aim to produce resources that provided continuity throughout the different stages of a child's education. At each year, at least one suitable book or other resource in Scots would be available.
- It would aim to publish books which matched in quality the best of children's books available in English or other languages.
- Books published by the project would be fully supported by a programme of teacher-training, through classroom engagement by the project's personnel and via a dedicated website with, for example, on-line teaching notes.
- At every stage of the project, forward planning and review of what had already been done would be essential. The project would be breaking new ground and so would need to be flexible, prepared to change course and revise aims and objectives and redirect energies as circumstances required.

This was an ambitious agenda and it became clear at an early stage that in order to deliver effective results substantial capital investment would be required. Initial discussions with the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) proved positive and Dub Busters was invited to draw up and submit more detailed project plans for consideration.

Following further discussion with the Literature Department of SAC, Dub Busters produced 600 copies of a sampler pamphlet of Scots language educational texts and distributed them to a range of teachers and educationalists who were asked to test the material and report back their findings. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and indeed some teachers reported that this pamphlet, *The Swatch*, was the best Scots language resource they had ever seen. This confirmed the members of Dub Busters in their view that there was not only a need but a demand for such material, and they developed their project plans accordingly.

Dub Busters originally proposed not only writing and/or commissioning 30 titles over a two-year period, but also overseeing the production, distribution and marketing of the list as well as establishing and maintaining a website and delivering a Scotland-wide schools liaison and teacher training programme.

After further consultation with SAC in the run-up to submitting an application for funding, it became apparent that this plan was too ambitious. SAC recommended partnership with an existing publisher who would take responsibility for the production, distribution and marketing aspects of the project, and this advice was followed. Dub Busters entered into an agreement with the Edinburgh-based publisher, Black & White Publishing Ltd (see p.10). A joint application was made to SAC for National Lottery funding support for a two-year project, which would aim to publish 16 titles, supported by an information website and a schools and communities liaison programme. Funding of £150,000 was requested against a total projected budget of £289,000 and the application was submitted to the SAC in May 2001. Funding approval was received from SAC on 10th September 2001 and the project formally commenced on 1st January 2002 although, owing to logistical and practical issues, the first funds were not released from SAC until April 2002.

All parties involved agreed that the choice of name was important as it would be central to creating a project identity and to all marketing and publicity campaigns. The name Itchy Coo was decided upon: an itchy-coo is defined in the *Concise Scots Dictionary* as 'anything causing a tickling; specifically the prickly seeds of the dog-rose etc., put by children down each others' backs'. The name was chosen as it was considered to be lively, humorous, memorable and Scots. This was reflected in the kicking coo logo designed by illustrator Karen Sutherland.



Together with the slogan 'Braw books for bairns o aw ages', the name Itchy Coo would prove highly effective in announcing the arrival of the new imprint and indicating Scots language content in a non-threatening and engaging way to a public that was largely unused to the idea of books for young readers written entirely in Scots. The 'Itchy Coo' would in time become an instantly recognisable symbol for the work of the project.

Publishing Partner: Black & White Publishing

In order to develop the project, Dub Busters agreed to work with an established publisher and chose Black & White Publishing as their publishing partner. Black & White brought a wide range of skills and experience to the project as well as enthusiasm, commitment and the benefits of a previous working relationship with James Robertson. Black & White took on the task of liaising with Dub Busters on all aspects of the publishing process, including detailed discussion of new titles, suggesting formats and pricing which would work commercially, sales and marketing of all titles, distribution and press and media work. Black & White were committed to making the Itchy Coo list different to previous publications in Scots by giving the list a modern, relevant and contemporary look which would appeal to the market.

Part of the crucial early work with Itchy Coo was researching the market and identifying how the book ideas proposed by Dub Busters could best be brought to that market. Black & White secured input from Angie Crawford, then the UK children's book buyer at Ottakars (now Waterstones), whose invaluable expertise helped the partnership produce high quality titles that were well targeted and relevant to the market from the outset.

The commitment to launch an entirely new imprint and produce 16 new titles in two years was challenging but it was recognised from the start that producing high quality books relevant to the market would also produce media interest and give Itchy Coo a high profile, which could then be extended into the educational sector. The first batches of books produced in 2002 quickly achieved this aim through the joint efforts of Dub Busters and Black & White.

There was, of course, no guarantee that the Itchy Coo list would succeed commercially, but the creative ideas from Dub Busters combined with publishing expertise and commitment from Black & White produced a vibrant new list that attracted booksellers and the public and presented Scots in a new way.

DELIVERY AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

With funding secured, the work of the project began in earnest.

To facilitate delivery and engagement additional partners had been enlisted at the project planning stage. These included eight local authority education departments and two higher education institutions, all of whom undertook to provide either financial or in-kind support for the project. For example, the University of Dundee provided rent-free accommodation for the Dub Busters office; North Lanarkshire Council agreed to donate staff time to support the development of an in-service training programme and also to pay the project for creative writing and storytelling workshops. Such investments gave the project credibility in its early stages as well as helping to construct extremely useful long-term relationships.

A detailed operational plan was put in place and responsibilities and tasks assigned to the core members of the Dub Busters team and to staff within Black & White Publishing according to their specific strengths, professional experience and identified ability to deliver. Unfortunately at an early stage (August 2002) in the delivery of this work programme differences of approach and vision developed between Susan Rennie on the one hand and the other members of Dub Busters and Black & White Publishing on the other. When it became clear that it was not possible to resolve these differences, Susan Rennie withdrew from the project. Although this resulted in a greatly increased workload for James Robertson and Matthew Fitt, as the full range of Dub Busters' responsibilities now fell to them, the project undoubtedly benefited from having a clearer vision and focus and a united view on how to develop the best possible publications.

Bearing this in mind, the division of labour and responsibilities for this initial two-year Itchy Coo project was as follows:

Editorial

List-planning, commissioning of writers and all editorial work: James Robertson and Matthew Fitt.

Writing of selected titles: James Robertson, Matthew Fitt, Susan Rennie and other commissioned writers.

Commissioning of illustrators, design and layout of books: James Robertson and Matthew Fitt, in close collaboration with Campbell Brown, Managing Director, Black & White Publishing and his staff.

Book production

Design, layout and printing of books: Black & White Publishing, in consultation with Dub Busters.

Distribution: Black & White Publishing.

Marketing: Alison McBride, Marketing Director, Black & White Publishing in collaboration with Dub Busters.

Education

School visits and communities liaison: Matthew Fitt supported by James Robertson.

Continuing professional development, teacher training and curriculum support: Matthew Fitt.

Website

Creation, maintenance and development: Matthew Fitt and James Robertson, with technical support from Roland Tanner, an independent website developer.

Administration and finance

Dub Busters: James Robertson.

Fund-raising from local authorities: Matthew Fitt.

Overall financial planning, budgeting, invoicing, payments and general responsibilities: Campbell Brown, Black & White Publishing.

Project monitoring

James Robertson, Matthew Fitt and Campbell Brown.

Liaison with SAC, other literature organisations, educational bodies, politicians and civil servants

James Robertson and Matthew Fitt.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DATES AND EVENTS

Activity and Outcomes of the Initial phase of the Project – 2002 - 2003

The purpose of the project, as defined in the original application for National Lottery funding, was:

'To establish a publishing imprint, Itchy Coo, which will provide a range of high quality texts and other resources in Scots, for use in education from nursery to Advanced Higher; and through these to work with teachers and young people in developing appreciation of and confidence in their Scots usage.'

The Itchy Coo project was different from any previous Scots language publishing and educational initiatives (see above). Its scope and scale, including the level of financial subsidy received and the high level of income it needed to generate in order to succeed, together with the intended speed and reach of its delivery, marked it out as a new departure.

From the outset, this created a range of expectations and opportunities as well as some significant stresses and obstacles.

The small size of the core team responsible for delivering the project was mainly an advantage in that it enabled quick and frequent communication and consultation, flexibility of planning, regular meetings which all key personnel could attend, and facilitated direct and rapid decision-making. It also meant however, a very heavy and unremitting workload for the individuals involved, and especially for James Robertson and Matthew Fitt, since they were engaged at some level, often as leaders, with every aspect of the project.

To illustrate some of these points, key events and activities from the life of the project in these first two years are listed below.

Key event - Official start of Project, 1st January 2002

Dub Busters was under pressure to finalise editorial plans for the 16 proposed titles. In liaison with Black & White Publishing a schedule for publication, in batches of four titles, was drawn up; authors and illustrators were identified for each title. This 16-title list would be revised several times during the first year of the project, as both editorial confidence increased and feedback from readers and teachers provided information on the style and content likely to prove most effective both educationally and commercially.

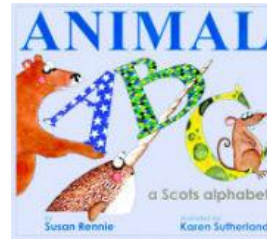
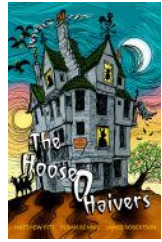
The first four titles produced were:

Animal ABC by Susan Rennie, illustrated by Karen Sutherland
Kat an Doug on Planet Fankle by Susan Rennie, illustrated by Dave Sutton
The Hoose o Haivers by Matthew Fitt, Susan Rennie and James Robertson
A Scots Parliament by James Robertson

A decision was taken that these titles would not only be edited but also authored 'in-house', partly to establish a house style and partly to ensure that these first titles covered the full age range (early primary to upper secondary) that Itchy Coo aimed to reach.

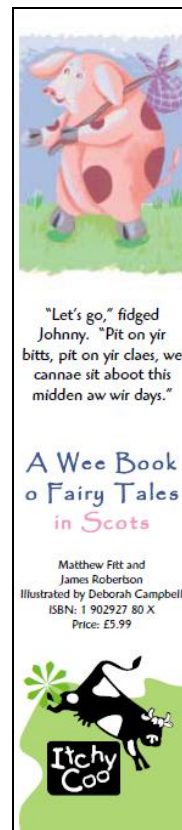
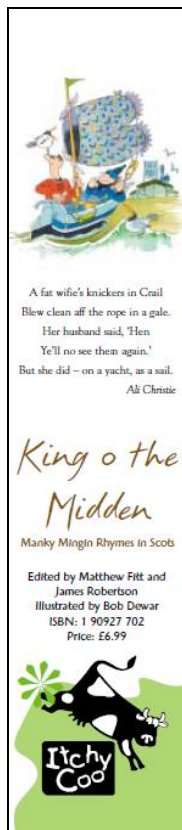
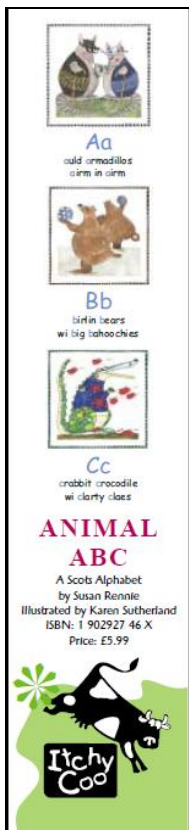
A special event to mark the publication of these books was planned for the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August 2002, when the brand, imprint, website and schools liaison programme would be publicly launched.

A key individual to come on board at this early stage was the illustrator Karen Sutherland. She produced the artwork for **Animal ABC** and designed the Itchy Coo logo. Her distinctive style was vital in establishing a brand 'look', and indeed by 2010 Sutherland had illustrated a total of 13 Itchy Coo titles. In addition her work was used on promotional material such as bookmarks, T-shirts, brochures, tote-bags and posters.



Key event - Official launch of Itchy Coo, Edinburgh International Book Festival, 20th August 2002

This launch, which was followed by a second event at DCA, Dundee on 3rd September, attracted a great deal of media and public interest. It was the start of a well-prepared and multi-faceted marketing programme, which continued over succeeding months, co-ordinated by Alison McBride of Black & White Publishing. This campaign was crucial in raising awareness of the new imprint. Marketing tools included the creation of a life-size Coo costume (usually worn at launches and similar events by a young actor but, on occasion, also inhabited by Robertson and Fitt!); the production and distribution (to schools, libraries, bookshops and individuals) of 10,000 brochures; balloons; bookmarks (examples shown below); posters; key-rings; badges; tote-bags; and T-shirts. A close promotional relationship was also established with the two leading bookshop chains in Scotland at that time, Ottakars and Waterstones.



Key Quotation - from the interim project report submitted to the Scottish Arts Council, December 2002

This quotation demonstrates how rapid the growth of enthusiasm was for Itchy Coo books in schools, and how clearly the books, when combined with the provision of teaching and learning support, were satisfying a hunger for Scots language resources within four months of their publication.

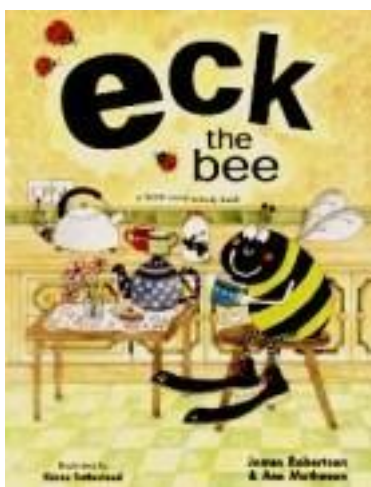
'Matthew [Fitt] has ... been working (since August 2002) in schools and on in-service programmes for teachers. The result of his activities is that increasingly education departments across Scotland are aware of Itchy Coo. They recognise that Itchy Coo produces quality Scots language books that they can really use in classroom contexts, that there are back-up resources accessible via the internet as well as the availability of Matthew as liaison officer. The effect has been little short of revolutionary in challenging and changing attitudes to Scots language materials, and in particular in unlocking the creative talent and linguistic energy of many school students who have never had their own language "legitimised" in this way.'

Key Event – Outcomes at End of First Year

By the end of the project's first year a further three titles had been produced and the project team was able to report that it had achieved the following:

- Establishment of the brand, logo and name Itchy Coo in the educational community, in bookshops and in the public consciousness
- Publication of 7 of 16 planned titles
- Establishment of the Itchy Coo website
- Higher than anticipated levels of sales
- Positive and widespread media coverage
- Publication of new and established writers in Scots
- Establishment of a high quality, positively received schools liaison service

There had been some teething problems. As noted previously Susan Rennie had left the project team, and the pressure on those remaining was intense, but there was a growing realisation that the project was gathering momentum, being received with widespread enthusiasm and hitting most of its targets.



Key Event – Book Award – February 2003

Itchy Coo's flagship title, **Animal ABC** was awarded the TESS/Saltire Society Prize for Educational Publications in 2002. Not only did this give Itchy Coo important educational validation, it confirmed that educational value and commercial success were not mutually exclusive, as sales of **Animal ABC** were substantially in excess of expectations. By 2010 this title had been reprinted seven times and a pocket-sized edition, published in 2005, had also sold well.

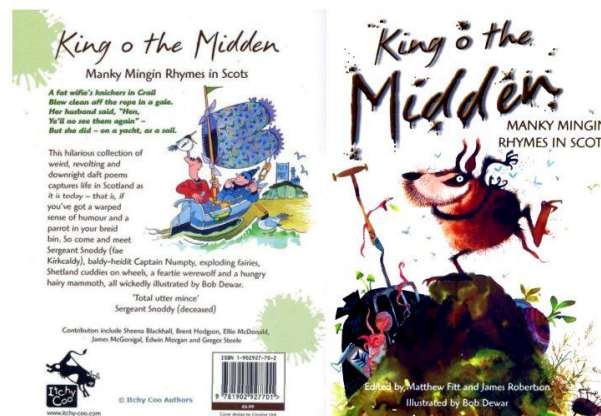
Key event – 3rd Phase of Publication Programme, May–June 2003

Four further titles were published bringing the total to eleven.

These titles signalled new departures for the project. One, **The Compact Coo**, a CD with over an hour's recorded readings from the Itchy Coo books, involved experienced actors Tony Roper and Forbes Masson, along with young actors from the Royal Scottish Academy of Drama and Music (RSAMD). This marked the start of a fruitful relationship with RSAMD, with Itchy Coo benefiting from the enthusiastic participation of young actors in performances in schools, at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, book launches and other events, and RSAMD students and staff benefiting from tutoring, mentoring and advice on Scots from both Matthew Fitt and James Robertson.



Two of these four titles featured work commissioned from other writers: **Double-Heider: Twa Novellas in Scots**, written by Hamish MacDonald (*The Girnin Gates*) and Sheena Blackhall (*Loon*); and **King o the Midden: Manky Mingin Rhymes in Scots**, which contained rhymes and poems from 18 different authors (some, such as Edwin Morgan, well-known, and some previously unpublished e.g. Gregor Steele) and introduced a new illustrator, Bob Dewar, to the list.



Key event – 4th Phase of Publication Programme – October–November 2003

Four more titles were published, bringing the total to fifteen.

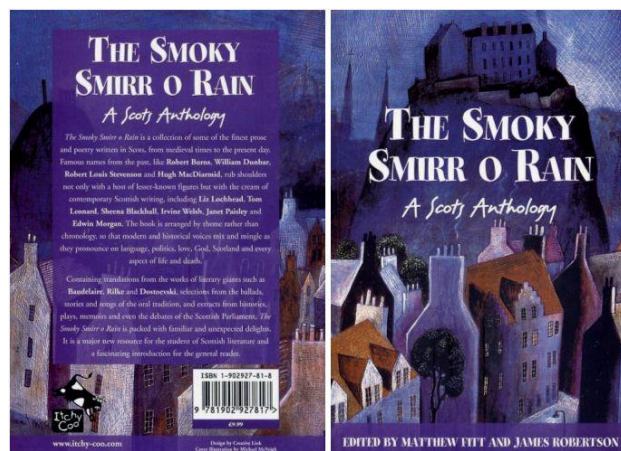
These included ***Tam o Shanter's Big Night Oot: Wee Plays in Scots***, which again involved extensive collaboration with RSAMD, and was celebrated in a showcase event in Glasgow, with the plays performed by pupils from different schools directed by RSAMD students.

'Tam o Shanter's Big Night Oot was one of the highlights of my teaching career, which has spanned more than 40 years. The project was genius from beginning to end, and really drew our school together in a very positive way; one of these crazy ideas which worked perfectly – and one which sparked off several others. MAGIC!'

Sam Gates, Faculty Head, Music, Arts & Drama,
St. Roch's Secondary School, Glasgow

Also published at this time was ***The Smoky Smirr o Rain***, an anthology of 600 years of writing in Scots, including work by Robert Burns, Robert Louis Stevenson, William Dunbar, Robert Henryson, Hugh MacDiarmid, Violet Jacob, Liz Lochhead, Edwin Morgan, Janet Paisley, Irvine Welsh, The Proclaimers and many others. The anthology, compiled and edited by Fitt and Robertson, is considered by them to be one of the most important titles in the Itchy Coo list.

One of the key aims of the project was to produce a range of texts to suit all stages of a child's school education – ***The Smoky Smirr of Rain*** was designed as the destination point for that journey. Although an excellent resource for Scots language study in S3+, this title is not yet widely used in secondary schools, but the editors remain convinced of its value as a wide-ranging introduction to literature in Scots for senior pupils, and that it has a crucial role to play in Scottish Government initiatives like *Studying Scotland* and the development of the new *Curriculum for Excellence* exam arrangements.



Key event - Publication of *The Braille Coo*, August 2003

The Braille Coo, the sixteenth Itchy Coo title, completed the project's original publishing remit. Published in collaboration with the Scottish Braille Press it took the work of Itchy Coo to a new readership as the first ever and so far the only Braille book to be published in Scots, and was welcomed and well received by the target audience.



Key event - Completion of the original two-year Project, 31st December 2003

The original project was completed on time, within budget and with most of the stated objectives achieved or surpassed. Feedback received from a variety of project users indicated that the project had been very warmly received. It had clearly met an existing need, but also appeared to have generated a demand for more books and related resources and more support for teachers in developing their confidence and skills around Scots language and literature.

The following quotation is taken from the end of project report submitted to the Scottish Arts Council in March 2004:

'The project has done a huge amount to raise awareness among the public of the existence of Scots as a spoken and written language with its own extensive literature. There has never before been such a significant and concentrated input of Scots language materials into schools, and we believe this has greatly enriched the education of those children and young people who have had access to the Itchy Coo books and the work of the schools liaison officer. Teachers and language and literature advisers have also benefited professionally from the arrival of Itchy Coo's books and resources, including the website www.itchy-coo.com. Furthermore, the continued availability of these books and resources means that these benefits will continue for many years. These benefits are very much as we predicted in our application for funding, viz: "The project will provide a lasting, long-term resource for teachers and schools, and, for the first time, gives Scots language a recognised validity and status within the education system. We believe this will achieve major benefits in terms of young people's appreciation of their own linguistic culture and heritage."

At the end of this stage of the project, one of the principal outcomes was that a new, Scottish, children's imprint had been established and that it had had proven educational and commercial success. Furthermore the fact that this imprint was dedicated to producing quality work in Scots was a significant development for Scottish publishing at the start of the 21st century.

The success of the initial two-year project exceeded even the most optimistic expectations of Dub Busters, Black & White Publishing and SAC.

What Happened Next ...? The Second Phase of the Project

It was mutually agreed by Dub Busters and Black & White Publishing that both the publishing and outreach aspects of the project should be continued. Further consultations with the Literature Department of SAC ensued which resulted in their continued support for the project.

For the next five years (2004-2009) Dub Busters received project funding on an annual basis to support the further development of its editorial and schools/communities outreach work. At the end of this five year period Dub Busters applied for and was awarded Flexible Funding status by SAC which covered the period 2009-2011. Regular discussion took place with SAC and activity and financial reports were prepared and submitted to them in accordance with the terms of the funding arrangements.

During this period Black & White Publishing received SAC funding on an occasional basis to support the production of new Itchy Coo titles.

Fitt and Robertson recognised that it was important to ensure that their outreach and editorial activities received professional advice and endorsement in order to help embed the work of Itchy Coo in mainstream educational service planning and delivery. To this end an Advisory Group was established with the following membership:

John Corbett, Professor of Applied Language Studies, University of Glasgow;
Jim McGonigal, Professor of English in Education, University of Glasgow;
Yvonne Manning, Principal Librarian, Young People's Services, Falkirk Council;
Janey Mauchline, Quality Improvement Officer, South Lanarkshire Council;

Although it met infrequently, this Group provided invaluable advice and support in the latter years of the Project.

In addition to the 16 titles published in 2002-03, a further 21 books were published between 2004 and 2011, the outreach and teacher-training programme was greatly expanded and Itchy Coo's on-line presence significantly enhanced.

Liaison with government, strategic educational bodies and literature and language organisations became an area of core activity for Dub Busters as did language advocacy at local, national and international levels.

Responsibilities were reorganised to take account of these revised priorities and changed workload. While the partnership between them continued, a clear separation was made between the activities of Dub Busters and those of Black & White Publishing. These responsibilities were divided as follows:

Editorial

List-planning, commissioning of writers and all editorial work: James Robertson (with support from Matthew Fitt) in consultation with Black & White Publishing.

Writing of selected titles: James Robertson, Matthew Fitt, and other commissioned writers.

Commissioning of illustrators, design and layout of books: Black & White Publishing in collaboration with James Robertson.

Book production

Design, layout and printing of books: Black & White Publishing in consultation with Dub Busters.

Distribution: Black & White Publishing.

Marketing: Black & White Publishing in collaboration with Dub Busters.

Education

School visits and communities liaison: Matthew Fitt with support from James Robertson.
Continuing professional development, teacher training and curriculum support: Matthew Fitt.

Website

Development and maintenance: Matthew Fitt, Roland Tanner until April 2009, and Mirka Ryjackova from 2008.

Administration and finance

Dub Busters: James Robertson and, from 2007, Marianne Mitchelson.
Fund-raising from local authorities and other sources: Matthew Fitt with support from James Robertson.
Black & White Publishing: Campbell Brown.

Project monitoring and reporting

James Robertson, Matthew Fitt, Marianne Mitchelson (from 2007) and Campbell Brown.

Liaison with SAC, other literature organisations, educational bodies, politicians and civil servants

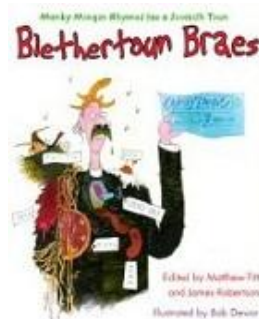
Matthew Fitt and James Robertson;
Marianne Mitchelson represented Itchy Coo at meetings of the Literature Forum for Scotland from 2007.

To illustrate the way in which the project continued to develop, some of the key events, dates and activities from 2004–2011 are listed below.

Key date - Phase Two of the Project begins, April 2004

Following the successful conclusion of the initial project, Robertson and Fitt determined to continue the outreach, educational and editorial work, and successfully applied to SAC's Literature Department for further funding to enable this to happen. Without this support the project would not have been able to continue.

The year 2004–2005 saw two further publications, a pocket-sized edition of ***King o the Midden*** and a new collection of poems by various authors, ***Blethertoun Braes***. This was also a period in which Robertson and Fitt strengthened and extended their contacts with a range of other organisations, and began to focus on developing a strategy for Scots language policy based on the success of the Itchy Coo project to date.



Across 19 local authority areas, some 85 school visits and 15 library events took place, and 10 in-service sessions were delivered. Additional, specific educational projects were also delivered in South Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Ayrshire and West Lothian. A three-day writing workshop for senior school students was held at Moniak Mhor Writers' Centre in February 2005.



A collaboration was begun with the Scottish Book Trust and Craigmillar Books for Babies to produce a board book of Scots rhymes for pre-school children.

Policy liaison was initiated with the Scottish Executive, Learning & Teaching Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe), and the General Teaching Council, whose magazine, *Teaching Scotland*, in January 2005 focused on Scots in schools and the work of Itchy Coo, and featured ***Blethertoun Braes*** on its front cover. The issue was delivered to all of Scotland's 50,000 teachers.

Fitt and Robertson formally submitted their recommendations in a paper, 'The Scots Language in a Future Scotland', to the Cultural Commission, and acted as consultants on a new Scots element to the SAC's own website. All of these activities suggested that the interest being generated by Itchy Coo was leading to organisations and institutions reassessing and upgrading their attitudes to Scots.

Key event - Mercator Symposium on Minority Language Education, Leeuwarden, Netherlands, November 2004

Fitt and Robertson participated in this conference which proved extremely useful in placing Scots in an international context, and which enabled constructive dialogue to take place with other language communities and education projects across Europe. Additional international engagements followed. These included an Itchy Coo tour of the Czech Republic by Matthew Fitt sponsored by the British Council and his attendance at a National Association of Writers in Education conference in York.

Itchy Coo books were also represented for the first time in what would become an annual event, the ASLS/Scottish publishers' stand at the Modern Language Association (MLA) conference in Philadelphia.

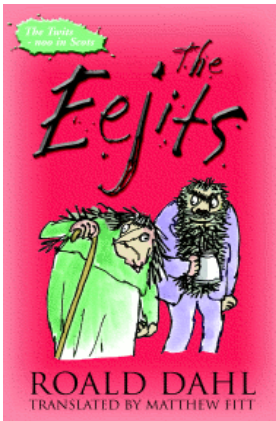


Key event - Publication of *Katie's Coo*, August 2005

This board book marked Itchy Coo's entry into a new sector of the market, books for pre-school and very young children. It was launched at the Edinburgh International Book Festival by Scotland's then First Minister, Jack McConnell, and was the first in what would become a highly popular series of six 'Katie' books. Again, Karen Sutherland's contribution as illustrator and designer (and also as author in the case of ***Katie's Beasties*** in 2009), was crucial to their success.



Key event - Publication of *The Eejits*, September 2006



This book was another new departure for Itchy Coo. Matthew Fitt's instinct that Roald Dahl's *The Twits* would translate well into Scots proved correct. After negotiations with the literary agents representing Roald Dahl's estate, the rights to produce a Scots version were secured and Fitt undertook the translation. The enthusiastic support of Dahl and Dahl Ltd and of the book trade helped to make ***The Eejits*** one of Itchy Coo's best-selling books, raised the imprint's profile and greatly enlarged its readership. Two additional Dahl titles, ***Geordie's Mingin Medicine*** (translated by Fitt) and ***The Sleekit Mr Tod*** (translated by Robertson) followed in 2007 and 2008 to further critical acclaim and considerable sales success.



Key date - Scots at the United Nations, May 2006

Matthew Fitt participated in the Poetry Conference on Endangered Languages in New York, and made history by speaking Scots at the United Nations.

Key event - Publication of *Kidnappit*, January 2007

This production of this title resulted from a collaboration with Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, which was promoting a 'city read' of *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson in a number of different formats. Itchy Coo learned that a graphic novel version was to be produced, and negotiated with the City of Literature team to translate and publish a Scots version, *Kidnappit*, under the Itchy Coo imprint. Translated by Fitt and Robertson, *Kidnappit* was another publishing milestone, being the first ever graphic novel written entirely in Scots. (A Gaelic version, *Fo Bhruid*, was published later in the year.)



Key event - Launch of Asda promotion of Itchy Coo books, January 2007

While this report concentrates on the editorial, education, outreach & wider strategic aspects of the Itchy Coo project it should be emphasised that the publishing partners in the project, Black & White Publishing Ltd, were working throughout – and continue to work – not only on the production and printing of the books but also at marketing, selling and distributing them. This involved regular liaison, co-operation and forward planning with wholesalers, booksellers and others in the trade.

The promotion of Itchy Coo books by Asda was a significant development. This major supermarket opted to stock a selection of Itchy Coo books in specially designed display units in all of its Scottish stores, using the slogan 'Itchy Coo Comes Tae Asda'. The costs involved in securing this promotion, including reprinting costs of several titles, were offset by the volume of books initially ordered and projected future sales. While the promotion again raised Itchy Coo's profile and introduced the list to a wider potential readership, the outcome was mixed, as Asda's original enthusiasm was not sustained, involved personnel moved on and the promotion was not continued. Other supermarkets and non-traditional outlets have also stocked selected Itchy Coo titles at different times and this has undoubtedly added to the accessibility and levels of sales achieved across the Itchy Coo range.

Key activity - Literature Forum for Scotland, May 2007–February 2011

Itchy Coo was regularly represented at this important national forum by Marianne Mitchelson. The aims, objectives and purpose of the Forum are directly relevant to the work of Itchy Coo and membership enabled the project to employ a partnership approach with other member organisations in achieving its aims and objectives. In addition it enabled Itchy Coo to inform and influence national and local decision making and ensure that the promotion of the Scots language became embedded in the work of the many relevant partner organisations.

Key event - Citizens Theatre performances and tour, Winter/Spring 2007–08

The Citizens Theatre, Glasgow, staged a weekend of extremely successful performances by TAG Theatre Company based on the book ***A Wee Book o Fairy Tales***. This led directly to a tour of the production between January and March 2008, with 52 performances taking place across eight local authorities attended by several thousand children. Matthew Fitt trained the three actors involved to run Scots language workshops before each performance and prepared an on-line teachers' resource pack for the Citizens Theatre website to support the tour. This was an excellent example of the enormous potential of Scots language to engage young children with different art-forms.



Key event - Inclusion of Scots in *A Curriculum for Excellence*, December 2007

The most successful element of Itchy Coo's outreach programme in 2007-08 was a campaign to secure the inclusion of Scots in the new Scottish curriculum guidelines, *A Curriculum for Excellence* (CfE). This campaign was an eighteen-month long process begun in 2006–07, and involved sustained lobbying of government ministers, MSPs, civil servants, Learning & Teaching Scotland, educationalists and many others. After a massive amount of work, especially by Matthew Fitt, the campaign was successful when in December 2007 the Curriculum Guidelines on Languages were updated to include Scots and in February 2008 the important Experiences and Outcomes Guidelines for Literacy and English were published in draft form with clear recommendations for the use of Scots at all CfE Levels.

Fitt and Robertson do not believe that this would have happened without their efforts. The potential outcome, had the campaign failed, was that the progress made since Itchy Coo's inception might have been reversed and the profile of Scots in education returned to its, virtually non-existent, pre-1991 position. The inclusion of Scots in *Curriculum for Excellence* was perhaps the most significant turning point in the history of the language in education. It ensured that the present and next generation of Scotland's teachers would have the right and validation to develop and deliver Scots language learning to pupils in all Scottish schools.

Key event - Publication of *Cuddy Brae: Language at Letham, a Scots language monitoring report, September 2007*

Initiated in 2006-07, the Cuddy Brae project was a collaboration with Cathrin Howells of Literature in Learning, West Lothian Council Education Department, and Professor Jim McGonigal and Dr. Beth Dickson of Glasgow University. Matthew Fitt led two teachers at Letham Primary School, West Lothian through an extensive series of Scots language training sessions and learning experiences over the course of a year. Launched at the Scottish Learning Festival, the *Cuddy Brae* report was mentioned in the Scottish Parliament and informed development of subsequent education policy on Scots. One of several outcomes of this project was that the General Teaching Council of Scotland (GTC) committed to registering both teachers for Professional Recognition for their Scots language work - a first for Scottish schools. (See below, February 2011.)

Key event - Itchy Coo's second National Scots Language Writing Competition, Autumn 2007

As part of Itchy Coo's mission to increase the quality and range of writing in Scots in Scottish schools, Matthew Fitt ran Itchy Coo's second national writing competition between September and November 2007. In total, 184 classes submitted entries from 125 schools across 18 local authorities. The high level of uptake and general success of this competition created its own practical and time management difficulties. It became apparent that this and any other major, collective interaction with schools across Scotland could only be sustained in future if the competition process was managed electronically. This, in part, led to the development of the Itchy Cool website in September 2008 - <http://www.itchy-cool.com/>.

Key event – Book Award, November 2007

Katie's Moose: a Keek-A-Boo Book for Wee Folk won the Early Years category of the Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book Awards.



Key activities - Sample year of liaison activities, 2008–09

It is impossible in this report to capture the full range of activities and events which Itchy Coo led, collaborated in or was instrumental in enabling to happen. School visits, teacher-training, website updates and development, general editorial, lobbying and policy development work were, of course, going on all the time. As an example of some of the *additional* liaison work carried out by Fitt and Robertson, the following is taken from the annual report submitted to SAC for 2008–09.

Matthew Fitt:

Nòs Ùr 2008, June 2008

British Isles qualifying event for the European regional and minority song contest Liet Lavlut; attended final on 20 June 2008 and supported organiser, Brian Ó hEadhra, in enhancing entries from Scots musicians Karine Polwart, Mairi Campbell and Siobhan Miller for Nòs Ùr 2009.

Festival of Politics, Scottish Parliament, August 2008

Panelist at debate on Scots and other European minority languages.

European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (EBLUL) Partnership for Diversity, Gdansk, Poland, 11-13 September 2008

Attendance on behalf of Itchy Coo as UK Secretary of the European and Vice Convener of the Scottish Sub-Committee of UK EBLUL.

Scottish Government, Education Directorate, Curriculum Division, November 2008

Presentations for and discussions with Emma Wilson and Carole Campariol about the place of Scots within *A Curriculum for Excellence*; attendance at Arts in Education Seminar at Lighthouse, Glasgow.

GLOW

Support on Scots language issues for Tina Stevens, GLOW Development Officer. Discussion of possible North Sea Neebors project linking Scots and Scandinavian schools through the GLOW network.

Homecoming Scotland 2009

Support for Ewan Fairweather, Marketing Manager, Homecoming Scotland 2009 on a Scots language component for the Homecoming website; provision of copy and translations in Scots; Homecoming website featured *Rabbie's Rhymes* in a special promotion.

A Multifaceted Perspective on Teaching Materials in Multilingual Education: Creation, Production and Implementation, Leeuwarden, Netherlands, 5-7 November 2008

Delivery of two papers on production and implementation of Scots teaching methods employed by the Itchy Coo project to Frisian, Basque, Welsh, Breton, Irish, Swedish, Hungarian and Estonian delegates.

Centre for Modern Languages Regional and Minority Languages Conference, Lyon, France, 26-28 November 2008

Delivery of two papers on the Scots language and the Itchy Coo project to education specialists from Occitan, Val D'Aoste, Corsican, Galician, Catalan and Breton speaking communities.

University of Lyon, November 2008

Organised visits to Abbeyhill PS, Edinburgh and Nethermains PS, Falkirk HS and Graeme HS, all Falkirk for James Costa, minority languages expert from University of Lyon.

When We Find the Gowd

Promotion of new ground-breaking Scots teaching pack produced by Inverclyde Education Department.

South Lanarkshire

Acted as consultant to Working Group with aim of developing Scots language classroom resources for S3 – S6 stages; wrote foreword for resource pack *Tak the Leid*.

Inveralmond High School

Assistance with development of Scots language resources for S1/S2.

Fit Like, Yer Majesty

Supported Aberdeen Reading Bus Initiative's project to produce a modern Doric poetry anthology with editorial and publishing advice, attendance and delivery of speech at book launch at Fyvie Castle on 11 September 2008 and attendance at Scottish Parliament to support Reading Bus visit to Holyrood on 18 January 2009.

Scottish Government Seminar on Scots, Stirling, February 2009

Attendee.

'Creative Sparks' Conference – Edinburgh, February 2009

Led two workshops on Scots in schools.

James Robertson:**Duncan Macrae Scots-speaking competition, RSAMD, Glasgow, May 2008**

Judge.

'The People behind the Pages' exhibition, Scottish Centre for the Book, Napier University, Edinburgh, July – October 2008

Liaised with exhibition organisers and provided display of *Rabbie's Rhymes* materials for inclusion in exhibition.

Burns Conference, University of Glasgow, January 2009

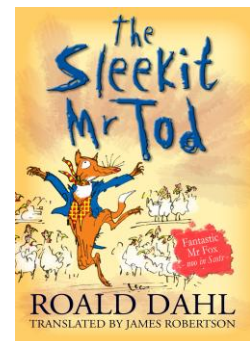
Chaired the seminar, 'Scots in Education'.

Scottish Government Seminar on Scots, Stirling, February 2009

Attendee.

Conference to introduce new Minister for Culture, Edinburgh February 2009

Attendee.



Key publication – *Winnie-the-Pooh in Scots*, August 2008

Building on the success of the Roald Dahl translations, this version of the classic A.A. Milne book translated by James Robertson reached yet another audience. It sold well not only to children but to parents and grandparents, attracted substantial publicity and again demonstrated the versatility both of Scots and of the Itchy Coo list. A key event resulting from this publication was held as part of the Biggar Little Festival in October 2009. This involved a gathering of children and parents at the Atkinson-Pryce Bookshop in the centre of Biggar followed by a procession through the town to the park where a reading from ***Winnie-the-Pooh*** was followed by a Woozle Hunt and a game of Pooh Sticks from the bridge.



This event was typical of the many and varied events which took place to promote Itchy Coo titles over the duration of the project.

A sequel, ***The Hoose at Pooh's Neuk***, was published in 2010.

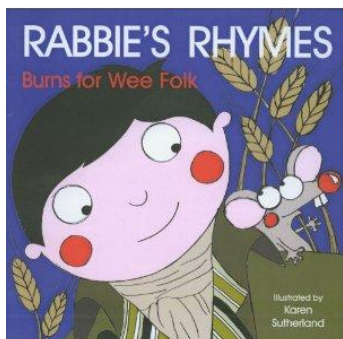
Key event - creation of new website (www.itchy-cool.com), September 2008

This site, aimed at schools, was developed by Matthew Fitt and Mirka Ryjackova to complement the main Itchy Coo website with the specific aim of making space available on-line for children's Scots poetry, artwork, games, competitions information and results, teaching suggestions and pupils' and teachers' feedback. Itchy Cool has grown into the most widely used Scots language on-line teaching resource with thousands of teachers visiting the website each month for Scots ideas and lesson plans.



Key publication - *Rabbie's Rhymes: Robert Burns for Wee Folk*, October 2008

Published in time for the 250th anniversary, in 2009, of the birth of Robert Burns, this board book, modelled on the successful Katie series, was Itchy Coo's contribution to the Burns celebrations. Its lift-the-flap format, once more created by Karen Sutherland, was designed to introduce very young children to phrases and rhymes from Burns's songs and poems.



Key activity - Audit of Scots Language Provision, 2008–09

In early 2008 the Scottish Government announced its intention to carry out an audit to determine the extent and nature of Scots language provision delivered across a wide range of services in the public, private and voluntary sectors. James Robertson and Matthew Fitt were invited to become members of the Audit Advisory Group. The group undertook its work from May 2008 to February 2009. Fitt and Robertson were fully involved in the work of the Group, attending regular meetings, providing professional expertise and information and enabling contact with other relevant organisations. In addition they undertook an extensive role in the editorial work required for the production of the final audit report and attended the resulting national conference which took place in February 2009.

This proved to be an extensive commitment for both Robertson and Fitt but one which was considered essential in working towards achievement of Itchy Coo's strategic aims and objectives.

Key event - Formation of Education Sub-Committee of the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on the Scots Language, April 2009

Formed by Matthew Fitt in April 2009 with administrative support provided by Mirka Ryjackova, this sub-committee had four meetings in its first year, one at the Scottish Parliament, one in Aberdeen, one in Glasgow and one in Kilmarnock. With a membership of 111 from all parts of Scotland which included classroom teachers, head teachers, language advisors, an acting head of education, teacher trainers, MSPs, a local authority education convener, academics, writers and others, the remit of this sub-committee was to raise awareness amongst MSPs and the Scottish Government of the good practice current in Scottish schools in the teaching of Scots.

Key event - formation of Scots Language Working Group, November 2009

Following on from the publication of the findings of the Audit of Scots Language Provision (2009) and the Scottish Government's one-day national conference on Scots (February 2009), the Minister for Culture announced the establishment of a ministerial Working Group, the remit of which would be to make recommendations for the development of government policy on Scots.

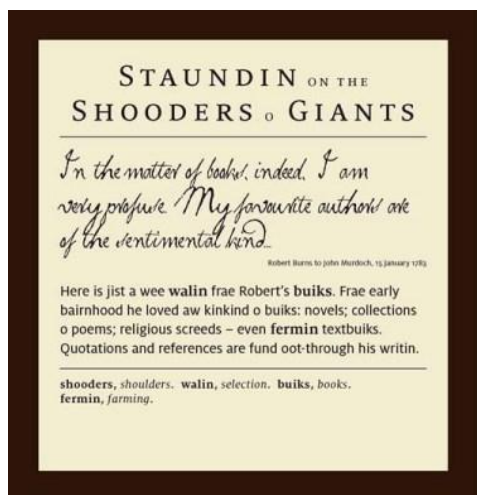
Fitt and Robertson both accepted invitations to serve as members of this Working Group, and attended meetings between November 2009 and October 2010. Various recommendations, including several on the future of Scots in education and Scots publishing, were agreed and the report was published in November 2010. A Government response was issued in March 2011. Both the report from the Working Group and the Government's response can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk.

Key event - Itchy Coo tour of Lochaber, November 2009

James Robertson embarked on a five-day tour of Lochaber, including Kinlochleven and Ardnamurchan, visiting some of the most remote schools in Scotland and bringing Scots language reading and writing activities to some 200 pupils aged between six and fourteen, in 10 different sessions. In an area more usually associated with Gaelic this series of visits was very well received by teachers and children alike and is an example of the diversity of Itchy Coo's outreach work.

Key Activity – Liaison with Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, July 2009 – October 2010

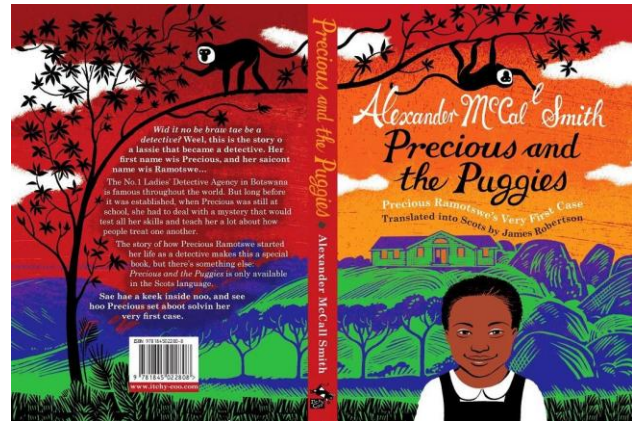
James Robertson acted as language consultant to the National Trust for Scotland as its flagship property at Alloway was prepared for its official opening in January 2011. Working with the Museum's Director and senior colleagues, Robertson advised on the use of Scots in artefact description and display information and produced Scots versions of the Museum's headline captions and interpretive texts. Matthew Fitt provided a feature on Scots for the Museum brochure.



Key publication - *Precious and the Puggies*, February 2010

Following discussions with James Robertson in early 2009, Alexander McCall Smith agreed to write a new story featuring his famous character Precious Ramotswe. In this story Precious, as a young child detective, would solve her first ever case. Mr McCall Smith was keen to show his support for Itchy Coo's work and for the Scots language and demonstrated this by donating his story and giving a significant amount of his time to assist with initial marketing of the book. After negotiations between Black & White Publishing and the author's literary agent, Itchy Coo was given exclusive publication rights to this story for one year from the date of publication, prior to the story appearing in any other language, including English. The book was translated into Scots by James Robertson and illustrated by Iain McIntosh. The high profile of Mr McCall Smith meant that the publication of this title received extensive media coverage, not only in Scotland, where it took up most of the front page of *The Scotsman* on publication day, but also

worldwide, generating further curiosity and interest in Scots and in Itchy Coo. The book was one of Itchy Coo's bestselling books in hardback, and its appearance in paperback in March 2011 was Itchy Coo's 37th publication.



Alexander McCall Smith said,

'I have always enjoyed reading the language and I admire people who are determined that we should not forget how to read and speak the Scots language, our native tongue. The publishers of this book are such people, and I am very grateful that they are bringing Scots to so many young readers by bringing out children's books translated into the language. I say to them: well done.'

Key Event – Professional Recognition of teachers for Scots language work, February 2011

An outcome of the *Cuddy Brae* project in 2006–07 was that the General Teaching Council of Scotland (GTC) committed to registering the teachers involved for Professional Recognition for their Scots language work. This was a hugely significant development for the validation of Scots in educational practice. Other teachers were similarly recognised. In February 2011, a total of twelve teachers received Professional Recognition awards from GTC Chief Executive Anthony Finn and Maureen Watt MSP, at an event at the Scottish Parliament.

On this occasion, Mr Finn said,

'The Scots language is an important part of our cultural experience; understanding it better helps us to achieve a different, enriched perspective of our country.'

Education and Outreach Report

2002 – 2011

Matthew Fitt

'If the Doric is to come back alive, it will come first on a cock-horse.'
William Soutar, 1931

'The Scots language did come back alive, and it came on an Itchy Coo.'
Matthew Fitt, 2011

Background

Itchy Coo brought Scots to life for a whole new generation of young people and their teachers. By visiting a breath-taking number of schools, training hundreds of teachers and promoting the educational benefits of Scots to policy makers at the highest level, Itchy Coo reconnected thousands of people to the possibilities of the Scots language. At the beginning of the project, only a handful of teachers used Scots on a regular basis in their teaching practice; at the project's close nine years later, many teachers said they believed it was 'part of their job' to teach Scots.

A positive change in attitude towards the Scots language has taken place within Scottish education since 2002. Whether this change can be attributed to the Itchy Coo project is perhaps debatable. But it was Itchy Coo that worked with thousands of pupils and teachers in schools from Lerwick to Stranraer. It was Itchy Coo that promoted Scots within local authority education departments, all of Scotland's Initial Teacher Education Institutes and key organisations like Learning & Teaching Scotland, the General Teaching Council for Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education. And it was Itchy Coo that fought tirelessly for the inclusion of Scots in *Curriculum for Excellence* and lobbied for an increase in provision for Scots speaking pupils in the Culture Education and Sport Committee's Languages Report (2003), Strategy for Scotland's Languages (2007), Scots Audit (2009) and the Ministerial Working Group on the Scots Language (2010). And again it is arguable that Scots would not have the profile it currently enjoys in education and in other fields such as broadcasting and the Census had it not been for Itchy Coo and the vision and work-rate of its two originators, James Robertson and Matthew Fitt.

Compared to the drought of Scots language provision in the twentieth century, the spate of new Scots books from Itchy Coo at the beginning of the twenty-first has absolutely transformed reading opportunities in the language for Scotland's children and young people. These exciting, attractive, readable books were undoubtedly the most common entry point for teachers who went on to incorporate Scots in their teaching practice. But an experienced Scots language teacher has warned that without more new resources like those produced by Itchy Coo it is likely that fewer teachers in the future will be as enthusiastic about or as committed to teaching Scots to their pupils.

And in spite of the increasing interest in Scots in education generated by Itchy Coo, many Scots speaking pupils in 2011 still have to contend on a daily basis with disapproval and discrimination for using their mother tongue in school. In February of this year one P5 pupil who had natural articulate Scots recalled almost in tears how her headmistress regularly called her immature and disrespectful for speaking

that 'horrible slang', warning the lass she would amount to nothing in life. The *Curriculum for Excellence's* key aim of supporting our young people to become 'Confident Individuals' seems in some cases not to apply to those of our young people who speak Scots.

The Itchy Coo Education and Outreach programmes are indebted to a large number of individuals in the arts and education. The majority of Itchy Coo visits to schools (particularly in the early years of the project) were delivered free of charge and this would never have been possible without the support of the Scottish Arts Council and the invaluable advice of its Head of Literature, Gavin Wallace. Another key supporter of Itchy Coo's schools programme was the Scottish Book Trust whose Live Literature scheme enabled many more young readers to meet the authors of their favourite Itchy Coo books and a great debt of thanks is due to Marc Lambert, Philippa Cochrane and the whole SBT team. And much of the profile Itchy Coo came to enjoy in schools across the country was a result of the commitment to Scots in education shown by Janey Mauchline, Quality Improvement Officer for South Lanarkshire, Melanie West of North Ayrshire's Children's Library Services, Margaret Foley, Dundee Quality Improvement Officer, Jenny Watson of the Aberdeen Reading Bus Initiative and Fiona Norris, Language and Literacy Advisor with Edinburgh, Inverclyde and Learning and Teaching Scotland.

Whatever else was achieved by Itchy Coo, the combination of its publication, education and outreach programmes did indeed put new life into Scots in schools. But whether that precious life will be sustained after March 2011 remains to be seen.

Raxin Oot

If there's yin pairt o ma nine year as Education Director for Itchy Coo that will stey wi me forever, it will be aw the drivin.

Drivin aw owre Embra, Glesga, Dundee, Aiberdeen and Paisley; drivin lookin for schules and libraries in Oxfgangs, Liberton, Whiteinch, Dennistoun, Ardler, Lochee, Northfield, Kincorth, Ferguslie Park; drivin roond East Kilbride, Cumbernauld, Kilmarnock, Livingston, Ayr, Galashiels, Greenock, Inverness, Kirkcaldy, Stirling, Dunbar and Dumfries; drivin wi maps on the passenger seat (mair recently cawin wi a GPS) tryin tae find schules at Annbank, Torphichen, Carrutherstown, Fairlie, Newarthill, Crombie, Toward, Collace, Dounreay, Killearn, Dalry, Breich, Portlethen, Kirkinner, Earlston, Newport, Catrine, Aberlour, Onich, Kilwinning, Broxburn, Strachur, Straloch, Brig o Turk, Duncow, Pirnmill and Ratho; passin Torness Pouer Station on the A1 doon tae Eyemouth High Schule, gaun roond Sullom Voe tae get tae Mossbank Primary on Shetland, fleggin scurries aff a waw rollin intae the caur park at Buckie Academy, trackin Ailsa Craig fae the Ayrshire Coast gaun tae Girvan Library, stappin for a jam piece at Rest-and-Be-Thankful en route tae Lochgoilheid Primary, stewin ahint tractors and coal lorries heidin for schules in Irvine, Largs and Kilbirnie, takkin the Arran, Dunoan, Cumbrae, Rothesay or Whalsay ferries, crossin and re-crossin the Kingston Brig, the Forth, Erskine, Kessock and Kincardine Brigs, threidin ma wey throu the A9's hair-preen bends on the seven oor journey hame fae Pulteneytown Academy Primary at Wick, back and forrit along the M8, up the M77, doon the M90, ayewis arrivin at or juist leavin anither Scottish schule.

James Robertson drave tae schules and colleges and conference haws in the name o Itchy Coo Education tae. Yin June day in 2004 his tyres skited on a dub o ile on the A70 in Lanarkshire and his Saab birlid intae the path o an oncomin van at speed, writin it aff and near killin him. Ye widna credit he wis bringin an Itchy Coo t-shirt fae Galashiels tae actors performin for weans at Kilmarnock, or the name o the exact

spot whaur he crashed – Carmacoup. Ye widna credit I had a smash masel when a truck reversed intae me yin time on the wey tae a teachers’ conference in Glesga.

Mair than a thousand schule and library visits. Ye widna credit it and yet we did it. We did it aw.

The Weans

And I’ll never forget the bairns. I mind bein telt aff on ma first day in the job in 2002 by a P1 lassie in Dundee that ‘Itchy Coo’s wrang, how’s it no ‘Itchy Cow?’; the S1 laddie in Hamilton wha on hearin the correct pronunciation o the name o Scotland’s Celtic language recalled how his maw had bocht him some o that ‘Garlic’ breid the ither day there; and the S2 pupil in Moray answerin ma question – what information do you learn about me from listening to my accent when I speak English? - wha said ‘Weel’, paused and then continued, ‘Ye’re a mannie.’

If bairns whyles got mixed up atween oxters and oysters, thocht a burn wis caused by playin wi matches or that stanes wis somethin ye got doon yir jumper efter eatin soup, or that it’s possible tae Skype yir bahookie insteid o skelpin it (a recent yin that), it aw addit tae the fun o learnin thegither aboot oor Scots tongue.

And that wis the engine hoose o the Itchy Coo Education Programme – fun wi language. On numerous occasions, pupils in aw pairts o Scotland commented that readin or writin in Scots wisna like ither cless work because they actually enjoyed daein it. Fun. Freedom tae speak in yir ain tongue. Enjoyment o literature. A rediscovery o readin for pleasure. And learnin richt across the Curriculum. Itchy Coo wis deliverin *Curriculum for Excellence* lang afore the heid bummers o Scottish education had even thocht it up.

An Itchy Coo visit wid see typically masel or aften James and whyles even the baith o us thegither traivellin tae a schule tae work wi twa or three clesses in a raw. In each cless, we wid stert the bairns thinkin aboot Scots by daein some introductory exercises. We wid get aw the glaikit ideas aboot Scots bein slang oot o the wey. We’d spier them aboot the Scots they used themsels at hame, wi their freends and wi their faimlies. And then we’d set aff on the journey tae literacy in Scots by readin fae yin or twa o the Itchy Coo books or reddin up tae dae some Scots writin.

The feedback awmaist fae the stert wis incredibly positive. Nae organisation or government initiative had ever afore offered sic a high volume or quality o Scots language teachin. It didna tak lang afore we were gaun intae classrooms whaur the weans had learned a poem fae oor ain books like *King o the Midden* or *Blethertoun Braes* and were hotchin tae recite it tae us. It wisna lang efter that teachers and education organisations were comin tae Itchy Coo tae ask us for oor expert advice on aw aspects o Scots learnin. Itchy Coo wis rapidly established as the ‘go-to’ place for information aboot Scots. (It’s worth notin though that every major success we had ainly ever doubled oor ain workload).

But whit bairns got oot o readin the books or bein pairt o an Itchy Coo visit wis worth aw the hard work and ilka penny o public money spent on the project. They learned that Scots wisna slang but that it wis as guid as English or French or ony ither language. They could choose for the first time no juist yin or twa foostie auld books but fae a haill range o brand-new titles in Scots. Coontless times teachers telt me that yin or twa o their boys wha had never picked up a book in their life had demandit tae ken whaur the local library wis and how they could get a haud o mair books in Scots. Yon wis success in improvin literacy standards mony ither organisations wid hae gien ye the semmit aff their back tae emulate.

The main benefit gained by Scottish children frae the Itchy Coo project wis confidence. Telt aff and aften humiliated for speakin Scots, maist o the bairns I encoontered had unsurprisingly reacted badly and in different weys tae this fundamental dunt tae their self-esteem. Some had become reticent, ithers were aye wantin attention and wid disrupt the cless tae get it. The Itchy Coo project challenged yon unwritten law in education that said children had tae be systematically reprimanded for speakin their mither tongue. Owre nine year Itchy Coo helped thoosans o Scottish bairns tae feel better and mair confident aboot themsels and the wey they spoke. And teachers aw owre Scotland hae reported a merked improvement in their pupils' attainment and attitude tae learnin as a result o workin wi Itchy Coo and the Scots language. Current and future policymakars wid dae weel tae consider the value o this in terms o social inclusion, access tae learnin and citizenship.

Itchy Coo schule visits did three things: they offered Scottish schules Scots language provision which maist hadna ever had or even thocht o haein afore; they challenged the idea that Scots wisna an appropriate language tae study in a Scottish schule; and, due tae the high nummer o visits in different local authorities, they brocht intae bein an incipient network o teachers across Scotland that wanted tae learn mair aboot how tae incorporate the language intae their ain teachin practice.

Provision, afore the Itchy Coo project, had been gey puir. It consisted mainly o a single Scots lesson or series o lessons aimed at preparin selected pupils tae compete in an annual poetry recitation contest. The rest o the schule year, pupils were forbidden or discouraged frae speakin in Scots. There were hardly ony attractive modern books for young people tae read and gey few opportunities tae learn mair aboot writin in the language.

Itchy Coo books and the Itchy Coo Education programme revolutionised the place o Scots in mony Scottish schules. It made readin in Scots excitin and relevant tae young readers. Wi each schule visit, mair pupils and teachers kent aboot the new Scots books available tae them. James and I directed pupils tae their local libraries and tae the Itchy Coo website whaur they could learn mair aboot readin in Scots. Schules didna need tae wait tae January and the Burns Recitation competition to dae Scots language. They could read and learn aboot Scots ony time.

The difference atween Itchy Coo and ither Scots books wis that Itchy Coo books were modern. There wis naethin sentimental or couthie aboot ony o them. There were books for aw ages and interests and there were plenty tae keep young readers gaun – 37 titles in aw.

And James and I were never didactic nor prescriptive aboot the children's ain use o Scots. Ither Scots language organisations hae socht tae 'correct' pupils' Scots and impose stylised forms o Scots on schules. Sic ploys tae standardise Scots ran coonter tae Itchy Coo's policy o giein value tae the language children bring tae the schule, an approach which proved extremely effective in buildin pupils' and teachers' confidence wi the language.

It wis a learnin process and bairns at first were no aw that sure even aboot whit tae caw the language. I lost track o the nummer o times pupils when tryin tae identify the language that contains words like heid, hoose, greetin, bonnie, etc said simply Latin. Some ither suggestions regularly includit Glaswegian, Fifish, Gaelic, Dadspeak, Scotwegian, neddish, teuchter and o course slang.

But oor young people aften ken a tremendous amoot o Scots language. Pupils in a certain pairt o Fife referred to sea-urchins as 'hairy hurcheons' while some pupils in

Paisley cawed a caterpillar a 'hairy oobit'. For thoosans o Scottish weans Scots words like haun, hame, greetin, bonnie, crabbit, mingin, spoot, scurrie, or fit-like are juist a normal pairt o their everyday lives. When askin a group wha speaks Scots, usually twa-thirds of a cless wid pit up their haun. And when asked wha in the faimlie speaks Scots, in middle-class catchment areas it wid be the grandparents and in workin-class communities the answer wis everyone or 'ma haill faimlie' or even 'ma fu faimlie'.

If Itchy Coo did naethin else, it gied a generation o Scottish bairns the chance tae enjoy their ain language at the schule. It'll be a lang time afore I forget Jack, a P1 in West Lothian, that had sic a muckle smile on his face because he wis the ainly yin in the cless that kent the Scots word for mouse wis moose. Or the P2 lassie in Faw Kirk that didna say a word in cless until her teacher sang a nursery rhyme in Scots, the first time she'd heard her language used by a teacher. Or James in P7 in Sooth Lanarkshire wha wis disengaged and uncooperative afore the local authority added a Scots element tae the schule week and suddently he wis tap o his cless and workin hard at his ither subjects. (James's success wis even mentioned in the Scottish Pairlament.) Or Kieran in S1 in North Ayrshire, confident in his use o English and Scots, wha wis able tae switch when the situation required, eident tae learn ither languages but no ready tae forget his mither tongue. Or the S6 pupil in North Lanarkshire that bravely wrote an Advanced Higher Folio creative writing piece in a mix o Urdu and Scots and wis awardit an A. Or Siobhan Miller, a recent Radio 2 Young Folk Award winner, that had thocht o Scots as slang even though she'd been singin in it aw her life. Fae the moment she learned it wis a language wi a lang pedigree and tradition, she wis convinced that that fact had made her a better sangster and a mair complete performer o Scots sang.

But for ilka guid story there were muckle mair sad yins. Unfortunately, discrimination against young Scots speakers even efter the Itchy Coo project remained standard in Scotland's schules. There wis the lassie in Aiberdeenshire wha wisna allowed tae talk tae her granny by her parents for fear gran nicht hae taught her tae talk 'that ugly way'. Or the smert articulate Scots speakin senior pupil in the Borders that wis gien a fail in a Talk Assesment for speakin whit his teachers cawed 'slang'. Or the awfie tale o the wee girl that wis bein subjected tae abuse at hame and ainly tellt her teacher aboot it efter twa year when that teacher spoke for the first time in Scots. The lassie heard the language she wis maist comfortable wi, opened up and the situation wis thankfully resolved soon efter.

For aw Itchy Coo's successes, we were ayewis owre sma a project tae redress completely the institutional hostility tae bairns wha speak in Scots. Itchy Coo shawed Scottish society how simple it is tae chyngie this but the leaders o cultural and education policy for whatever reason didna act tae pit in place a substantial structure or mechanism tae support Scots in schules durin the lifetime o Itchy Coo. And it wis tae Scotland's shame that discrimination against weans whase ainly offence wis tae speak in their mither tongue wis allowed tae continue intae the second decade o the twinty-first century.

The Dominies

As weel as the aye-gaun schedule o schule and library visits – ma personal best wis seeventeen in the yin week in October 2006 – I wis responsible for deliverin Itchy Coo's teacher trainin programme.

Fae the ootset, it wis clear that teachers wid need support tae mak the best use o the Itchy Coo books. Twa phone caws fae yin local authority said it aw: the first caw

wis tae order twa hunner copies o oor short story collection *Pure Ghosters*; the second caw wis tae say they didna ken how tae use them and could I shaw them?

I had led a guid few in-service trainin sessions afore the project started but I wis weel kent for weighin doon teachers wi haun-oots twinty pages thick fu o ideas and strategies for teachin Scots. But yince I had the first Itchy Coo books tae tak tae trainin sessions, the Itchy Coo in-service programme really took aff.

I wis ayewis struck by the wey the majority o teachers wid enter an in-service session. Maist wid heid strecht for the back. In some cases, fufteen and mair teachers hiddled thegither roon the yin wee table as faur awa fae me as possible. I didna think I wis that hackit and I aye aimed for high hygiene standards but whit thae teachers were admittin tae wioot sayin it wis a real anxiety about haein tae teach or even confront Scots.

And I learned gey quick that sayin Scots wis pairt o oor heritage and we maun teach it or it'll dee cairried nae weight wi practical-mindit hard-workin dominies. They micht hae been concerned about the language's future but they really wanted tae ken whit wey Scots can benefit their pupils.

I heard, tae, some horror stories about the wey teachers had been treated for speakin Scots when they were weans themsels. Yin couldna thole tae hear the common Scots word 'oxter' because ony time she'd used it as a bairn her faither hit her wi his belt. Anither dominie had been made by his teacher tae staun in the waste paper basket in the corner o the cless whenever he spoke in his ain natural Scots. In juist about every in-service session I led for Itchy Coo, yin or twa or even mair teachers described bein scoldit or humiliated or hit for their Scots speech. In 2010, a student teacher telt me that her Principal Teacher o English had stormed aff in a rage when she suggestit teachin a Scots lesson. And anither student explained the 'Sling Slang' project that wis in operation in her schule tae punish weans that spoke in Scots by giein them a task or a chore tae mak them stap speakin their mither tongue.

A typical Itchy Coo Scots in-service comprised an introduction tae the language, an exploration o whaur Scots fitted in tae 5-14 and syne intae *Curriculum for Excellence*, a discussion o strategies for developin pupils' Scots language readin and writin skills and a chance tae learn mair about the latest teachin resources.

I led trainin sessions like these in ilka local authority forby Orkney and the Western Isles. I'm eternally gratefu tae Janey Mauchline o Sooth Lanarkshire, Melanie West o North Ayrshire, Fiona Norris and Liz Gray at Edinburgh, Fiona Norris again at Inverclyde and LTS, Margaret Foley at Dundee and Jenny Watson o the Aiberdeen Readin Bus Initiative for the regular invites owre the years tae run CPD sessions in their areas. Whether presentin at Murrayfield or Hope Street in Hamilton or the Dreghorn teachers' centre or the auld Rockwell Secondary or at Summerhill, I'll aye mind the positive and generous responses fae teachers across the country tae the idea o includin mair Scots in their practice.

I'll aye mind Perth & Kinross teachers workin on Scots primin strategies at the AK Bell Library; staff at Mayfield Primary in North Ayrshire testin each ither on Scots animal names; Maureen Watt, the MSP wha taen her Pairlamentary oath in Doric, sittin in as Minister for Schools and Skills on a trainin event for Aberdeen teachers at Woodside Primary; discussin Galloway Irish wi teachers at Stranraer; and the session at Old Meldrum for Aberdeenshire teachers whaur the haill in-service wis conductit naturally and freely in Doric.

But I wis aye scunnered that I'd usually get juist the yin session wi staff that wid mak them enthused and eident tae gang forrit wi the language and hae nae chauce tae dae ony mair development wi them in a follaein session.

Janey Mauchline and Melanie West did set up a guid few series o warkshops in Sooth Lanarkshire and North Ayrshire respectively. And I worked wi Ann Moir, Cheryl Reekie and Jennifer McEwen at Kirkhill Primary in Broxburn owre a period o time tae support the schule's Scots language programme. But it wisna until I went tae a schule cawed Nethermains in a toun cawed Denny that the ambition tae set up a network o guid practice started tae look viable.

Fawkirk

On 28th o August 2007, I first met Caroline Winning and her cless o P6s. I mind the bairns' names tae this day – Tassia, Craig, Chantelle, Harry, Alexander, Kyle and young Mr Broun - as they, alang wi Caroline and Heid Teacher Mary Connolly, wid play a major role in takkin the concept o Scots in schules tae new levels.

We sterted by introducun the pupils tae Scots and Caroline noticed immediately the positive impact the language had on the bairns. Pupils read oot loud that hadnae afore. Pupils volunteered answers that had been owre shy tae dae sae afore. Based on this, Caroline incorporatit Scots as pairt o that cless' mainstream learnin for the nixt few months and the first evidence that Scots wis haein a guid effect on the bairns came soon efter at a schule performance led by the pupils for their parents. Mithers and faithers, grannies and granddads were astonished at how confident their children were on stage, able tae use baith English and Scots wi a self-assuredness that they had never seen in them afore. The second piece o evidence wis the improvement in that cless's annual readin and writin grades wi Heid Teacher Mary Connolly pointin oot that the ainly new strategy tried that year wis Scots.

Nethermains became weel-kent as a centre o excellence for Scots language teachin, somethin that wis brocht tae the attention o Falkirk's Director o Education, Julie Swan. Efter a series o discussions, Literacy Coordinator, Lynne Ferguson, invited me tae lead trainin sessions for fuften Falkirk teachers tae establish a Network o Scots language Coordinators and the first meetin wis aptly held at Nethermains Primary. The teachers learned a wide variety o Scots language teachin strategies, worked on their ain weys o usin Scots within *Curriculum for Excellence* and then delivered in-service Scots language trainin sessions tae ither teachers in the local authority. Falkirk wis the first local authority tae train and maintain a network o Scots language coordinators. It wis at that first o five meetins at Nethermains in September 2008 I met Katrina Lucas o Comely Park Primary in Falkirk. She and Caroline Stein, baith teachers in Falkirk schules, are amang the maist experienced and insightful practitioners in the field o Scots in education in the country.

Itchy Coo on-line

A pooerfu tool in Itchy Coo's mission tae pit mair Scots in schules wis oor strang on-line presence. Roland Tanner's excellent initial Itchy Coo website wis relaunched in 2009 by Mirka Ryjackova wi author profiles, news pages and updated information about Itchy Coo tae attract mair visitors tae the site. The website has had close tae a million unique visits durin the project's lifetime.

Mirka also built, designed and maintained a haill new website specifically aimed at schules. Itchy Coo's sister website, Itchy Coo www.itchy-cool.com, delivered Scots language activities an learning opportunities for schules fae 2008 tae 2011. It

received over 50,000 unique visits and its competitions, teaching ideas, projects, games and galleries proved extremely popular, engaging pupils and teachers in all local authority in the country. Teachers used the competition packs left on the site for this purpose as lesson plans to great effect. The Itchy Cool website was the only forum where pupils regularly displayed their Scots language poetry, writing and artwork.

Itchy Cool Books Facebook has been a massive success as well. Attracting over 250 Facebook friends, Itchy Cool's Facebook site has brought Itchy Cool books to a whole new audience.

Advocacy for Scots in schools

Itchy Cool came remarkably close to realising its goal of making the Scots language mainstream in Scotland's schools.

As well as our ambitious programme of school events and training courses across 32 local authorities, we took the case for ending language discrimination against Scots speaking children to the Scottish Parliament and beyond Scotland too.

One of Itchy Cool's most significant achievements was our successful campaign to have Scots included in *Curriculum for Excellence*. When the language was left out of the early drafts of the new Curriculum (even though it had been present in 5-14), Itchy Cool lobbied civil servants and MSPs (at one point on a daily basis) arguing that Scots had to be included alongside Gaelic, Urdu, Punjabi and Polish. The campaign started in the Autumn of 2006 but after dozens of e-mails, letters, phone conversations and a change of government in May 2007, Scots still wasn't part of the plan for *Curriculum for Excellence*. There was another six months' lobbying of the new government's Ministers until with the support of LTS, Scots was finally added to the new Curriculum by Maureen Watt MSP, Minister for Schools and Skills, in December 2007.

To make the case for better provision for the Scots language in our schools, Itchy Cool was instrumental in forming the Education Sub-Committee of the Cross Party Group on the Scots Language. With the consent of Rob Gibson MSP, Chair of the Cross Party Group on the Scots Language, I agreed to take on the Secretarial duties of the Sub-Committee and Mirka added a third website www.scotsinschools.com dedicated to the Sub-Committee's business.

The Sub-Committee set out to make MSPs aware of current good practice with the Scots language in Scotland's schools. With 120 members, the Sub-Committee became a strong voice for Scots putting together ground-breaking research and meeting with MSPs and Ministers. Several MSPs visited schools to observe the Scots language in the classroom. The Research group of the Sub-Committee led by Katrina Lucas compiled a seminal report on Teacher Attitudes towards Scots in *Curriculum for Excellence* providing the Scottish Government with all the evidence it needed to support Scots in schools. And the Sub-Committee sent three delegations to meet with Education Minister, Michael Russell, at the Scottish Parliament.

And the final milestone achieved at the end of this nine-year journey was securing the first ever Professional Recognition Awards for Scots language teaching by the General Teaching Council for Scotland. Twelve teachers from across Scotland were given official recognition for their work with the Scots language by Tony Finn, CEO of the GTC. The ceremony was held in the Scottish Parliament in the last weeks of Itchy Cool's Education Programme in 2011.

Itchy Coo's Education programme clearly demonstratit the learnin benefits o the Scots language tae education. It provided policymakers wi the evidence and information on which tae build meaningfu lasting provision for Scots speakin pupils. A rationale and a context for Scots in education noo exist whaur they had never been afore.

**Matthew Fitt
June 2011**

For a complete record of education and outreach visits and events undertaken by Matthew Fitt between 2002 and 2011, see Appendix 4

FEEDBACK

Key activities, events and outcomes have already been noted in this report but in order to demonstrate the impact Itchy Coo has had, the views and opinions of a cross section of people who have had direct contact with the project were sought and their feedback is presented in brief here, and in full at Appendix 3. As broad a range of opinion as possible was sought but it is recognised that the views and comments expressed here may not represent the full range of opinion.

Interviews, questionnaire development, distribution and analysis of responses were undertaken by Marianne Mitchelson on behalf of Itchy Coo. Eight face to face interviews were conducted and a total of forty four completed questionnaires were returned. Respondents included primary and secondary school teachers, university professors, head teachers, librarians, regional and national education professionals, language, literature and arts professionals, Itchy Coo contributors, politicians, dictionary editors, publishers and book festival representatives amongst others. (For a full list of respondents please see Appendix 2)

Forty nine of the fifty two respondents said that Itchy Coo had always met their needs and expectations. Approximately 20% noted that their expectations had been exceeded.

'I expected the best and got the best!'

'The materials produced were way beyond any expectations.'

'Would hold Itchy Coo up as a model of best practice.'

'It surpassed all expectations - particularly given the limited Itchy Coo resources available.'

'They fulfilled needs I didn't know I had!'

'My expectations were exceeded, as I had not envisaged such a direct impact on my teaching or the children's learning!'

'From the early stages of the project it has surpassed the expectations of all parties and has exceeded the levels of success anyone thought it would or could achieve.'

Of three respondents who noted that their needs were 'sometimes' met, each mentioned that they would have liked the project to be bigger, to have offered greater opportunity for collaborative working and more opportunities for writers of Scots language texts.

'I would like to have had an opportunity to do more work with Itchy Coo.'

'We would have welcomed access to Matthew Fitt's services much more but were aware of his restricted availability.'

'I'm disappointed only by what they don't do.'

'The demand grew beyond the ability of the project to deliver.'

Elements of the project which were identified by respondents as being particularly successful included the vision, commitment and professionalism of the project team:

'Every contact I've had with the Itchy Coo project has impressed me because of the professionalism, enthusiasm and expertise of the people involved.'

'The consistently high quality of the publications.'

'The books have always been of the highest quality.'

'Fantastic; innovative; attractive.'

'The standards – writing, illustration and design – all excellent.'

'The quality of the work of Itchy Coo (particularly the children's books) has single-handedly generated a resurgence of interest and pride in the Scots language and provided teachers and others with much needed resources with which to promote it further to the next generation of speakers of the language.'

'They have mainstreamed publishing in Scots in a way that wasn't being done previously.'

'The impact on teachers and pupils who engaged with Scots is immeasurable, excellent, outstanding.'

'Itchy Coo has made me aware of just how much a small organisation can change attitudes and practice in schools and communities.'

'Has brought about systemic change by getting in at the roots.'

'Hugely popular and influential work in schools - impact on both teachers and pupils.'

'The key role undertaken in strategic planning and policy development at both local and national level.'

'At a strategic level the project has always delivered.'

'They have provided very valuable input to policy and strategy committees.'

'The commitment of the team as advocates and champions of Scots was impressive and influential.'

'Their advocacy for Scots, undertaken with energy and passion and completely central to the achievement of their aims and objectives, was one of the biggest things they achieved.'

'It has had a profound impact on increasing awareness at a corporate level in relation to the equalities agenda and to the organisation's (SAC/Creative Scotland) understanding of Scotland's linguistic complexity.'

It was noted by a number of respondents that **the** major impact of the project was in the bringing together of all of the above elements.

Responses submitted highlighted how Itchy Coo had influenced and changed personal and organisational practice:

'Itchy Coo raised professional and personal expectations; they made me realise what could be done and made me try to improve the quality of my own materials and try to follow their example.'

'(I) have developed a much increased understanding of the role, place and importance of Scots in Scotland's linguistic landscape and have become impassioned about advocating for Scots language.'

'Itchy Coo's example clearly inspired many of the twenty five literary organisations which comprise the Literature Forum, who have all been impressed by the project.'

'Whole school programmes of work with Scots language and an appreciation for Scots culture at the centre are (now) part of regular practice.'

Books from the Itchy Coo list have been consistently well received:

'The series o buiks produced bi Itchy Coo fir weans are, in ma personal estimation, the ae maist important thing that haes heppent fir young fowk, in regaird tae Scots language, in the past hunnert years!'

'Fantastic; innovative; attractive. The standards – writing, illustration and design – all excellent.'

'The Itchy Coo books have made Scots attractive, fun and accessible for both children and adults.'

Respondents identified that the impact of the Itchy Coo project on the education sector has been significant:

'It has raised the profile and continued relevance of the Scots tongue within the educational context.'

'The use of Scots in the curriculum has led to links with other departments and faculties – Drama, English, Communications, Learning Support, Art and Social subjects to name a few.'

'The revolution in the inclusion of Scots in the Curriculum for Excellence would not have happened without Itchy Coo.'

The legacy the Itchy Coo project will leave appears to be wide ranging:

'Itchy Coo changed the attitudes of many teachers who realised that Scots learning was beneficial rather than detrimental to children's linguistic development.'

'A huge, popular resource for teachers to engage children.'

'One enormous step forward in the way Scots is regarded within education.'

'The Itchy Coo books have set a benchmark for Scots language publishing and have produced a level of sales which clearly demonstrate a high demand for the right quality of publications.'

'It has opened doors that were not open before.'

However, concerns have been expressed about the continuation of this legacy in the absence of the project:

'Its legacy will suffer for not having the human energies behind it any more.'

'The project must be backed up and followed up if that legacy is to be long-lasting.'

Without the continued existence of Itchy Coo gaps in provision are anticipated with no real clarity about how or by whom these gaps might be filled:

'At a strategic level there will be immediate, direct gaps in the provision and enabling of continuing development of Scots.'

'The first and instant issue is a gap in the educational side and how the loss of the work Matthew Fitt has been doing will be filled.'

'It will leave a gap of expertise. There will no longer be a resource available to go to for support.'

'There will no longer be a central point of reference for advice and support and we will have lost a key publishing programme.'

'There will be a huge hole in the middle of Scots in education.'

Various ideas for filling the gaps left by Itchy Coo have been suggested amongst which were classroom teachers, librarians, Learning Teaching Scotland, Scottish Book Trust, Scottish Government, Creative Scotland and Scots language activists but the majority of respondents were unclear about how or by whom this could best be achieved:

'Goodness knows! Don't know the answer.'

'Although Itchy Coo has trained a new generation of champions currently there is nobody who has as loud, convincing, targetted and persuasive voice.'

Equally, respondents appear uncertain about who they will turn to post Itchy Coo for support, training and Scots language resources

'No plans as yet.'

'I think this will be a struggle.'

'Wherever scant resources are available.'

'Apart from LTS I would really struggle.'

'Pass!'

DISCUSSION

Robertson and Fitt decided not to seek renewed funding from Creative Scotland for Dub Busters as a Flexibly Funded organisation after March 2011.

In taking this decision they effectively brought to an end the schools and communities education and outreach programme and the strategic liaison element of the Itchy Coo project. The Itchy Coo imprint and its books continue to exist and are the most visible part of the legacy of the project. In terms of education, outreach and strategic development, however, Robertson and Fitt concluded that, while important issues remain outstanding in the field of Scots language educational provision, continuing the Itchy Coo project would not necessarily be the most effective mechanism by which these would be addressed. On the one hand, Robertson and Fitt recognised that significant personal and professional opportunity costs would result for each of them if they continued to focus their attention and energies on the project. On the other hand, there was a sense of frustration that, despite Itchy Coo's undoubted successes, the project had not been able to grow sufficiently for its full potential and longer-terms ambitions to be realised.

Notwithstanding this decision, the experience and outcomes of the project have been overwhelmingly positive. Prior to 2002, the condition of Scots language publishing and Scots language provision and support in schools was very different compared with the situation in 2011. Without the work of Itchy Coo some of the following outcomes would not have happened, and arguably none of them would have happened in the same way or to the same extent:

The publication and continued availability of a wide range of high quality books in Scots, suitable for children and young people from pre-school years through to secondary school level;

Recognition and acknowledgment of Scots in *Curriculum for Excellence*;

The creation of a variety of web-based resources, information and support for teachers working with Scots language;

A *general*, widespread recognition of the intrinsic value of Scots language in education across Scotland;

Specific recognition of the value of Scots language in education, as shown, for example, through the experience of Falkirk Council, and the General Teaching Council of Scotland's Professional Recognition Awards;

Development of new Scots language teaching resources in different local authority areas;

Greatly increased recognition of and engagement with Scots language by literature, arts, cultural and other organisations;

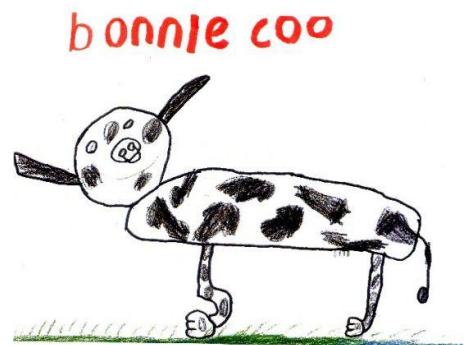
Increased recognition of and engagement with Scots language by national and local government, politicians and civil servants.

It is difficult to gauge accurately or fully the impact the Itchy Coo project has had on these different areas of Scottish life and work, and almost impossible to estimate the longer-term impact. Without Itchy Coo's ongoing outreach and strategic liaison activities it is possible that much of the progress outlined above may falter, decline or

even go into reverse. It is Fitt and Robertson's view that the change in attitudes to and engagement with Scots are profound enough to prevent this happening, and in any case they do not believe that the healthy sustainability of the language can, should or does depend on the activities of one small organisation. Nevertheless, despite the increased enthusiasm and engagement of many in education, libraries, the arts and political spheres, they are disappointed that in some quarters, at both national and local government levels, commitment to the support and development of Scots appears to remain only lukewarm. In the current economic climate this means that substantial financial input into Scots language provision is unlikely to be forthcoming unless specific changes in policy occur.

Fitt and Robertson believe that the Itchy Coo project has amply demonstrated over this ten year period what can be done with very few resources and the positive outcomes which can be achieved. They are of the opinion that it would be a derogation of responsibility if the opportunity to consolidate these and to secure further positive educational and cultural outcomes was not seized.

We hope that other agencies and organisations, including national and local government, will grasp this nettle and we look forward to seeing what policies they develop, what resources they make available and what results they achieve.



**James Robertson
Matthew Fitt
Marianne Mitchelson**

July 2011

COMPLETE LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Animal ABC: A Scots Alphabet

By Susan Rennie. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland. Full colour paperback, 2002

ISBN13: 9781902927466

Kat an Doug on Planet Fankle

By Susan Rennie. Illustrated by Dave Sutton. Full colour paperback, 2002

ISBN13: 9781902927459

The Hoose o Haivers

By Matthew Fitt, Susan Rennie and James Robertson. Paperback, 2002

ISBN10: 1902927443

A Scots Parliament

By James Robertson. Illustrated paperback, 2002

ISBN13: 9781902927453

Kat an Doug on Planet Perjink

By Susan Rennie. Illustrated by Dave Sutton. Full colour paperback, 2002

ISBN13: 9781902927565

Gaberlunzie Joe's Pure Ghosters

Edited by Matthew Fitt; 12 stories by Sheena Blackhall, Christine de Luca, Des Dillon, Matthew Fitt, Delia Gallagher, Willie Hershaw, John Hudson, Hamish MacDonald, Janet Paisley, James Robertson, Suhayl Saadi, Gail Stepó. Paperback, 2002

ISBN13: 9781902927572

Eck the Bee: A Scots Word Activity Book

By Ann Matheson and James Robertson. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland.

Full colour paperback, 2002

ISBN10: 1902927559

Sweetieraptors: A Book o Scots Dinosaurs

By Susan Rennie. Illustrated by Julie Lacome. Full colour paperback, 2003

ISBN10: 1902927583

The Compact Coo: Highlights fae the Itchy Coo books (CD), 2003

ISBN13: 9781902927718

Double Heider: Twa Novellas in Scots

(Loon by Sheena Blackhall & The Girnin Gates by Hamish MacDonald). Paperback, 2003

ISBN13: 9781902927725

King o the Midden: Manky Mingin Rhymes in Scots

Edited by Matthew Fitt and James Robertson

(poems by Sheena Blackhall, Aimee Chalmers, Ali Christie, Katie Dunn, Matthew Fitt, Brent Hodgson, Tom Hubbard, Anne Kelly, Hamish MacDonald, Ellie McDonald, James McGonigal, Mary McIntosh, Edwin Morgan, Lydia Robb, James Robertson, Gregor Steele, Margaret Tollick, Dougie Watt). Illustrated by Bob Dewar. Full colour paperback, 2003

ISBN13: 9781902927701

A Wee Book o Fairy Tales in Scots

By Matthew Fitt and James Robertson. Illustrated by Deborah Campbell.

Full colour hardback, 2003

ISBN13: 9781902927800

The Braille Coo: The Itchy Coo Braille Collection

(in association with the Scottish Braille Press)

Edited by Matthew Fitt, 2003

Tam o Shanter's Big Night Oot: Wee Plays in Scots

Edited by Matthew Fitt and James Robertson. Paperback, 2003

ISBN13: 9781902927732

A Moose in the Hoose: A Scots Counting Book

By Matthew Fitt and James Robertson. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland.

Full colour paperback, 2003

ISBN13: 9781902927794

The Smoky Smirr o Rain: A Scots Anthology

Edited by Matthew Fitt and James Robertson. Paperback, 2003

ISBN13: 9781902927817

The Wee King o the Midden: Manky Mingin Rhymes in Scots

Pocket-sized edition of King o the Midden, 2004

ISBN13: 9781845020316

Blethertoun Braes: Manky Mingin Rhymes fae a Scottish toun

Edited by Matthew Fitt and James Robertson

(poems by Sheena Blackhall, Ali Christie, Matthew Fitt, Angus Glen, Kirsty Grieve, Brent Hodgson, Hamish MacDonald, James McGonigal, Lydia Robb, James Robertson, Gregor Steele). Illustrated by Bob Dewar. Full colour paperback, 2004

ISBN13: 9781845020231

Wee Animal ABC: A Scots Alphabet

Pocket-sized edition of Animal ABC, 2005

ISBN13: 9781845020804

Katie's Coo: Scots Rhymes for Wee Folk

Traditional rhymes, edited by James Robertson and Matthew Fitt.

Illustrated by Karen Sutherland. Full colour board book, 2005

ISBN13: 9781845020590

Hercules: Bampots and Heroes

By Matthew Fitt. Illustrated by Bob Dewar. Full colour paperback, 2005

ISBN13: 9781845020569

Kidnappit

By Robert Louis Stevenson. Adapted by Alan Grant. Translated by Matthew Fitt and James Robertson. Illustrated by Cam Kennedy. Full colour paperback, 2006

ISBN13: 9781845021382

Katie's Moose: A Keek-a-boo Book for Wee Folk

By James Robertson and Matthew Fitt. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland.

Full colour board book, 2006

ISBN13: 9781845020965

A Wee Moose in the Hoose: A Scots Counting Book

Pocket-size edition of A Moose in the Hoose, 2006

ISBN13: 9781845020859

The Ejits

By Roald Dahl. Translated by Matthew Fitt. Illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Paperback, black and white illustrations, 2006

ISBN13: 9781845020972

Katie's Ferm: A Hide and Seek Book for Wee Folk

By James Robertson and Matthew Fitt. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland.

Full colour board book, 2007

ISBN13: 9781845021498

Geordie's Mingin Medicine

By Roald Dahl. Translated by Matthew Fitt. Illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Paperback, black and white illustrations, 2007

ISBN13: 9781845021606

Mini Katie's Coo: Scots Rhymes for Wee Folk

Pocket-sized edition of Katie's Coo, 2008

ISBN13: 9781845022075

The Sleekit Mr Tod

By Roald Dahl. Translated by James Robertson. Illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Paperback, black and white illustrations, 2008

ISBN13: 9781845021986

Winnie-the-Pooh in Scots

By A.A. Milne. Translated by James Robertson. Illustrated by E.H. Shepard.

Paperback, black and white illustrations, 2008

ISBN13: 9781845022129

Rabbie's Rhymes: Robert Burns for Wee Folk

Edited by James Robertson and Matthew Fitt. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland.

Full colour board book, 2008

ISBN13: 9781845022204

Katie's Beasties: Creepie-Crawlies for Wee Folk

By Karen Sutherland. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland. Full colour hardback, 2009

ISBN13: 9781845022037

Katie's Year: Aw the Months for Wee Folk

By James Robertson. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland. Full colour board book, 2009

ISBN13: 9781845022648

Precious and the Puggies

By Alexander McCall Smith. Translated by James Robertson.

Illustrated by Iain McIntosh. Hardback, 2010

ISBN13: 9781845022808

The Hoose at Pooh's Neuk

By A.A. Milne. Translated by James Robertson. Illustrated by E.H. Shepard.

Paperback, black and white illustrations, 2010

ISBN13: 9781845022945

Katie's Zoo: A Day Out for Wee Folk

By James Robertson. Illustrated by Karen Sutherland. Full colour board book, 2010
ISBN13: 9781845023140

Precious and the Puggies

By Alexander McCall Smith. Translated by James Robertson.
Illustrated by Iain McIntosh. Paperback 2011
ISBN13: 9781845023324

LIST OF RESPONDENTS

Caroline Beaton	Senior Librarian, Perth & Kinross
Jill Bennett	Author; Member, Scottish Government Cross Party Group on Scots Language
Velma Bevan	Principal Teacher of English, Auchinleck Academy, Ayrshire
Sheena Blackhall	Primary Teacher, Aberdeen, the Reading Bus, Itchy Coo Contributor
Laura Brandon	Departmental Head Teacher, Staff Development, Carrick Knowe Primary, Edinburgh
Campbell Brown	Managing Director, Black & White Publishing (Publisher for Itchy Coo Project)
Alison Christie	Itchy Coo Contributor
Philippa Cochrane	Children's Manager & Learning Manager, Scottish Book Trust
John Corbett	Professor of English Language, University of Glasgow, Member of Itchy Coo Advisory Group
Rhona Craig	Head Teacher & Creativity Development Officer, Fife Council
Nat Edwards	Education & Interpretive Services Manager, National Library of Scotland, subsequently Director, Robert Burns Birthplace Museum Director, Robert Burns Birthplace Museums
Moira Foster	Education Support Officer, Learning Resources, Dundee City Council
Sam Gates	Faculty Head, (Music, Art & Drama), Secondary School, Glasgow
Douglas Gifford	Emeritus Professor, Scottish Literature, University of Glasgow, Chairman, Scottish Literature Forum
Michael Hance	Director, Scots Language Centre
Wullie Hershaw	Principal Teacher of English, Beath High School, Fife
John Hodgart	Principal Teacher of English, Garnock Academy, Ayrshire
Lorna Irvine	Education Officer, Scottish Poetry Library
Laureen Johnson	Convener, Shetland fir Wirlds
Billy Kay	Broadcaster & Scots language activist
Marc Lambert	Chief Executive, Scottish Book Trust
Katrina Lucas	Primary school teacher, Falkirk Council
Hamish MacDonald	Writer
Jim McGonigal	Head of Language & Literature, Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow
	Member of Itchy Coo Advisory Group
Ross McGregor	GLOW Development Officer; Librarian, East Ayrshire
Irene McGugan	Member of Scottish Parliament (1999-2003) First Chair, Cross Party Group on Scots Language
Iseabail MacLeod	Scots Dictionary Editor
April McMahan	Professor & Vice Principal, Planning, Resource & Research Policy, University of Edinburgh
Allan McMillan	Principal Teacher of Art, Auchinleck Academy, Ayrshire
Yvonne Manning	Principal Librarian, Young Peoples Services, Falkirk Member of Itchy Coo Advisory Group
Robyn Marsack	Director, Scottish Poetry Library
Annie Matheson	Itchy Coo contributor
Janey Mauchline	Languages Adviser, South Lanarkshire Member of Itchy Coo Advisory Group
Joan Michael	Chair, Ullapool Book Festival
Liz Moffat	Librarian, Stirling
Caroline Neilson	Art Teacher, Baltasound Junior High School, Shetland
Wullie Oliphant	Depute Head Teacher, Moncrieffe Primary School, Perth

Janet Paisley	Writer & Itchy Coo contributor
Carol Porterfield	Teacher, Tulliallan Primary School, Fife
Alan Riach	Professor of Scottish Literature, University of Glasgow, President of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies Member, Scottish Government Cross Party Group on Scots Language
Chris Robinson	Director, Scottish Language Dictionaries
Eileen Rowney	Teacher, Sandford Primary School, South Lanarkshire
Marion Sinclair	Chief Executive, Publishing Scotland
Donald Smith	Director, Scottish Storytelling Centre
Nancy Somerville	Writer & Translator
Gregor Steele	Itchy Coo contributor
Jim Tough	(previously) Chief Executive, Scottish Arts Council
Emma Turnbull	Literature Development Officer, Creative Scotland, (previously Scottish Arts Council)
Gavin Wallace	Head of Literature, Scottish Arts Council, subsequently Portfolio Manager for Literature, Publishing and Language, Creative Scotland
Jenny Watson	Development Officer, the Reading Bus, Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire
Elaine Webster	Education Outreach Officer, Scottish Language Dictionaries
Rab Wilson	Poet & Robert Burns Writing Fellow, Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association

INTERVIEW AND QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES***In what way did Itchy Coo meet your expectations?***

- Every contact I've had with the Itchy coo project has impressed me because of the professionalism, enthusiasm and expertise of the people involved.
- Professional expertise emerging from deep knowledge, wide experience, sharp critical intelligence and broad sympathies were evident in my experience with each member of the project, at ASLS Council meetings, Literature Forum meetings, government meetings, and in informal reports I've had about Itchy Coo work in schools and colleges in various parts of Scotland.
- The overall collaboration has been excellent; all parties got on well and the project has been a success.
- The project produced a balance between commercial and educational requirements which fulfilled the overall remit.
- The number of titles issued early on in the project was a very hefty workload but because there was so much commitment from all parties it made it a pleasure to do it.
- Both James and Matthew were wonderfully evangelistic (in a good sense!) about the Scots language and about their books; both were able to present the contents really brilliantly.
- Very high quality materials; a fantastic example of classroom presentation of Scots.
- They have provided very valuable input to policy and strategy committees.
- By providing good advice and guidance.
- They fulfilled needs I didn't know I had!
- They made people aware of how little was available to support Scots before they started and just how much the game could be raised!
- The materials produced were way beyond any expectations.
- Itchy Coo's dozens of titles, projects and school activities impressed me as the most innovative and children friendly of their kind.
- Tuning into the imaginations and instincts of children of all ages with vivid, lively and sometimes outrageous original and translated work.
- The range of books has been astonishing.
- It is no surprise that Itchy Coo has received frequent awards like those given to Katie's Moose from Royal Mail in 2008 and Publisher of the Month in 2009!
- Would hold Itchy Coo up as a model of best practice.
- At a strategic level the project has always delivered.
- It has been imaginative, innovative, far reaching, made contacts across an extensive range of organisations and locations.
- It has been a project not afraid to take risks.
- At the level of practical content/outputs the project has been exemplary in its direct contact with children and educators, in its production and publication of books and other resources; this has been demonstrated by the reaction to the books e.g. winning awards voted for by over 200,000 children!
- Itchy Coo has raised the profile for Scots in many different forums; this has been important for the Scottish Arts Council.
- The project has become respected internationally and has had a voice on various, appropriate educational and cultural platforms e.g. Greater North and the national Literature Forum.
- Itchy Coo has always met all of the accountability requirements laid down by the Scottish Arts Council/Creative Scotland.

In what way did Itchy Coo meet your expectations? (contd.)

From the early stages of the project it has surpassed the expectations of all parties and has exceeded the levels of success anyone thought it would or could achieve.

- Having the resource of Itchy Coo books during the term of this post proved hugely advantageous.
- The response from primary and secondary school pupils was extremely positive.
- I would like to have had an opportunity to do more work with Itchy Coo.
- The quality of the work of Itchy Coo (particularly the children's books) has single-handedly generated a resurgence of interest and pride in the Scots Language and provided teachers and others with much needed resources with which to promote it further to the next generation of speakers of the language.
- The enthusiasm and dedication of Matthew and James for this work has been inspirational and their writing has deservedly been widely acclaimed.
- It was doing a great deal to encourage Scots in schools.
- Itchy Coo produces superb books, attractive, appealing, and readable.
- What they do, they do brilliantly, and to a high standard.
- I'm disappointed only by what they don't do.
- They always met or exceeded expectations!
- Yes - far exceeded expectations.
- The impact and involvement from Itchy Coo has been enormous.
- The time and energy that Matthew has given the Reading Bus project has been quite remarkable.
- I worked with older groups in my Scots language course and they loved Itchy Coo Books and bought them for their grandchildren.
- There was always a sense of great energy, commitment, wit, literary flair, and empathy with young people and their communities in the work of Itchy Coo. This related both to the books produced and to the observed relationships in schools.
- I believe Itchy Coo, through its publications and work in schools played an important role in making the Scot's language a live and relevant aspect of the cultural lives of many children.
- The quality of the publications was consistently strong and clearly tapped into a rich vein of interest in children and their parents.
- The commitment of the team as advocates and champions of Scots was impressive and influential.
- The creative energies of Matthew and James did not require much stimulus or guidance.
- Firstly I was very impressed by the quality of Matthew's work with youngsters and staff
- Secondly the enthusiastic response of our pupils during the visits and in their follow-up work
- Thirdly the huge popularity of the texts in my department.
- My expectations were exceeded, as I had not envisaged such a direct impact on my teaching or the children's learning!
- Through my involvement with Itchy Coo I have been able to put the theory of *Curriculum for Excellence* into practice; I have seen confident individuals and effective contributors flourish through their Scots language work, and I have been encouraged to bring active and imaginative approaches to language lessons.
- The children's enthusiasm for Scots has been infectious, with parents learning alongside them and enjoying the experience. The parents have also been keen to source Itchy Coo titles for friends and family, and have loved seeing their child's work on the Itchy-Cool website (a highly motivating tool for reluctant writers!)
- Motivated staff and gave excellent resources for staff to successfully take Scots Language forward in the classroom.

In what way did Itchy Coo meet your expectations? (contd.)

- Bairns responded to them and their work; lively presentation; respect shown for the local speech and acceptance of regional variations.
- Existence of different languages was introduced as an interesting, positive fact of life!
- Pupils are enthusiastic with them; interested to hear their teachers discuss the benefits of Scots in their schools at Stirling conference.
- We would have welcomed access to Matthew Fitt's services much more but were aware of his restricted availability; therefore from an early stage we made limited direct requests of Matthew to do workshops.
- The texts and the websites were especially useful.
- Being able to have direct access to Matthew Fitt and James Robertson for support and information was very helpful.
- We would have aspired to having a much closer relationship with Itchy Coo but because of time commitments and the availability of the Scottish Poetry Library Education Officer we were unable to have as many 'pow-wows' as we would have liked and this therefore limited the possibilities of what we might have achieved.
- The sheer quality of what was being produced – this was absolutely critical to the success of Itchy Coo.
- Being prepared to work with Scottish Book Trust at any point where it was relevant to do so.
- Itchy Coo did Scottish Book Trust some real service; they almost single handedly put Scots firmly on the stage in education. They also put it firmly on the stage more generally, and at different levels of Scottish society, with politicians, teachers and parents. They did a fantastically broad job across Scottish society.
- Their advocacy for Scots, undertaken with energy and passion and completely central to the achievement of their aims and objectives, was one of the biggest things they achieved.
- They have mainstreamed publishing in Scots in a way that wasn't being done previously – through the use of high-profile writers, excellent production values, and imaginative titles.
- Itchy Coo staff seemed aware of many of the larger policy issues and worked within the Scots language community and wider world to promote a positive attitude towards the language and its speakers.
- The Itchy Coo name is synonymous with high quality, well produced texts which engage their audience.
- Itchy Coo consistently provided excellence in all areas, including advice & expertise; resources; delivery and most importantly in pure inspiration.
- Surpassed all expectations, particularly given our understanding of the limited Itchy Coo resources available.
- Itchy Coo provided Scottish Book Trust with resources and expertise in Scots that we would not otherwise have had.
- Although there was a number of other providers, Itchy Coo proved to be a partner we could go to for support if we received requests for particular knowledge and expertise, particularly around children and young people and the education side.
- 'Our contact was always mutually beneficial – a genuine partnership.'
- Expectations of Itchy Coo were always very high and not always realistic. There was such an appetite in schools once they were aware of the Itchy Coo project, the quality offered re. books, workshops and professional development. The demand grew beyond the ability of the project to deliver.
- Ah ayeweys fin that audiences are 'hungry' fir accessible writing in Scots. The Itchy Coo material is sae weel thocht oot that it can be applied tae ony age group; adults an weans alike enjoy hearin stuff in Scots! The reaction is aye amazingly positive, an e'en thaim wha are aiblins initially resistant verbally tae Scots aye admit, eftir hearin it, that it is much mair relevant than they thocht.

In what way did Itchy Coo meet your expectations? (contd.)

- Matthew inspired teachers and pupils alike.
- The Itchy Coo publications gave a tremendous boost to Scots speakers by giving the culture professional show-casing.
- We fund aw information tae be useful. The bairns thocht it wis great tae see whit the either schules wir daein an aw.

How has the Itchy Coo project made a difference to practice within your organisation?

- Itchy Coo publications and involvement has ranged across primary, secondary and to some extent also, tertiary levels. The inspiration here has been to demonstrate conclusively how a coherent approach to provision of Scottish literature and the languages of Scotland might be made available at all levels and to all young people and students and readers throughout Scotland.
- It helped to highlight the Scots language as a living and creative force which is still spoken and still has relevance & is one of the central ways in which we define ourselves as Scots.
- Itchy Coo raised professional and personal expectations; they made me realise what could be done and made me try to improve the quality of materials and try to follow their example.
- Their example made me demand higher standards from others.
- Their approach has broken the ice with people who are resistant – teachers are aware of, like and use the Itchy Coo materials – this has opened doors for us in our work at Scottish Language Dictionaries.
- It has felt like working in a partnership.
- Storytellers have been encouraged to affirm Scots in their work in educational settings and in other creative ways.
- There has been an Itchy Coo bounce/lowp effect!
- Itchy Coo's example clearly inspired many of the twenty five literary organisations which comprise the Literature Forum, who have all been impressed by the project'
- SAC/Creative Scotland would not have had an understanding of Scots – educationally, culturally or linguistically. 90% now have an understanding and an increased awareness of the importance – developed through staff/team development days where Head of Literature (Gavin Wallace) has used the Itchy Coo project and the Itchy Coo books as examples of work being funded and an example of good practice.
- Itchy Coo was initially perceived as having an element of risk from a funding perspective. However, given the model and practice the investment has proven more than sound and has had a positive impact on organisational risk taking in relation to funding of other projects.
- Itchy coo has been instrumental in the work of the Literature Forum and its sub-groups, particularly the Mission, Models & Money work and has helped demonstrate how collaborative working can produce positive results.
- It has had a profound impact on increasing awareness at a corporate level in relation to the equalities agenda and to the organisation's (SAC/Creative Scotland) understanding of Scotland's linguistic complexity.
- It has acted as a model for our funding of the publishing industry in that it is not conventionally structured.
- Itchy Coo has created a new exemplar and has influenced our decision making, principally in the education sector; it has been used as a benchmark for a different kind of partnership with funded projects.
- There was a noticeable increase in the use of Scots in literature classes, particularly in primary schools and younger secondary school classes.
- By taking Scots language workshops to a range of primary schools in the Highlands, and by the visits of school groups to Moniack Mhor, using Itchy Coo books to lead workshops and discussions.
- It is worth mentioning that visits were not exclusively by Scottish schools – readings to a secondary school from London in 2010 produced a very stimulating and encouraging response – there was a genuine fascination in the language and its rhythms –and for its humour.

How has the Itchy Coo project made a difference to practice within your organisation? (contd.)

- The Itchy Coo project has assisted many schools and families in introducing more people to reading as well as speaking the Scots language.
- The impact in South Lanarkshire Council on teachers and pupils who engaged with Scots is immeasurable, excellent, outstanding, supportive, etc and pupils get the benefit.
- It has made a difference to practice in many establishments and in how Scots is used for learning and teaching, but South Lanarkshire Council is a local authority and I would be lying if I said I could comment on the impact in the Council beyond education.
- Staff in teacher education gained from their observations of classroom techniques that 'worked' and could be shared with other teachers and students.
- Students, as beginning teachers, were able to reflect on the inter-relationships of home, school, language and community, and several chose Scots Language in Schools as the topic for their final dissertation.
- Research staff could observe and document the impact on pupils of a language focus on dialect and usage, particularly as this related to 'disaffected boys' in the upper primary. School staff too remarked on the effect.
- It was also clear that this was a topic for further research, particularly in relation to different school stages and to staff development.
- Matthew Fitt delivered three author sessions using Scots on the Reading Bus. These were so successful and Matthew so enthusiastic and positive that we went onto publish a book of Doric poems called 'Fit Like, Yer Majesty?' This would not have been possible without the support, advice and encouragement from Matthew. We launched the book with CPD sessions in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire which were very well received.
- We now have a programme onboard the Reading Bus with Sheena Blackhall - in the Millie Tour alone over 3,000 children will have a Doric session from Sheena onboard the bus and then have a dedicated website for teachers to further develop back in school. We don't have exact records of the impact of Fit Like, Yer Majesty and Nae Bad Ava but would estimate that each year we reach over 12,000 children and we now the books and resources we've developed are being used across City and Shire.
- The Itchy Coo project has paved the way for us and our own brand of Scots which I think complimented but didn't copy the project.
- Raised awareness of and support for Scots as an important aspect of the country's cultural life and this was increasingly recognised within the Scottish Arts Council.
- The books are excellent examples of good practice.
- Helping to develop a more positive and confident attitude among staff in using Scots material and in speaking Scots to pupils.
- As Literacy co-ordinator for my school I have been asked to develop a progression for Scots language by my Head Teacher to be implemented across all the Levels. This is a departure, changing a culture of Burns recitations at a January assembly to one that embraces Scots across the curriculum.
- Itchy Coo has been a constant support for all staff and pupils. The children engaged with the on line competitions.
- Since our most direct experience of it came when we were just getting under way, it influenced us in *forming* our practice.
- We were encouraged in our intention to make our own materials as lively and attractive as possible, and we had excellent examples of the power of good illustrations.

How has the Itchy Coo project made a difference to practice within your organisation? (contd.)

- This was one of the most successful projects which Scottish Poetry Library has been involved in but we were unable to take it forward due to time, financial pressures and other priorities.
- The Itchy Coo texts have become central to what Scottish Poetry Library can offer and recommend to schools, teachers and general readers.
- Itchy Coo has most definitely changed practice within Scottish Book Trust.
- For someone like me – I came into this job needing an education - Itchy Coo was a significant point of reference and working with them demonstrated to me the importance of Scottish Book Trust getting behind this effort. Had Itchy Coo not been there it is arguable that Scottish Book Trust would not have been as aware of Scots as a language and all the related social, educational and cultural aspects of Scots. They have done us an enormous service – provided a real education!
- Itchy Coo became an exemplar of minority-language publishing that wasn't defensive, but bright and confident, and aimed at revitalizing the use of the language.
- The imprint was cited in reports as a success and this helps the overall picture of the sector in Scotland.
- Through awareness of Itchy Coo's work and the research evidence informing the project, I am more confident in justifying and promoting the use of Scots to participants and colleagues, sometimes in the face of initial scepticism and even hostility.

Itchy Coo's tireless & creative advocacy and excellent quality of resources and practice have inspired us to place Scots language at the heart of our (Robert Burns Birthplace Museum) interpretation – which other museums are already having to respond too (see 2010 December Museums Journal).

- Quite simply, they have helped to change the face of Scottish museums forever.
- There is a much increased awareness and understanding of the way Scots language and texts can and should be used in schools.
- The real benefit that Scots writing has for young people particularly those who are not engaged or enthusiastic with language work.
- We are better armed to respond to needs and interests and provide support with texts e.g. our first on-line teacher residency was on Scots language.
- The whole Scots language aspect of the Royal Mail Children's awards has been done in partnership with Itchy Coo who have informed, supported and shaped this programme.
- Itchy Coo has provided a resource that just didn't exist a priori its creation.
- Whole school programmes of work with Scots language and an appreciation for Scots culture at the centre are part of regular practice.
- From the library perspective it has brought Scots a higher profile and highlighted its validity as a language.
- It has raised the profile of our leid and for the first time the bairns have seen that ye can write an work oan the computer in Scots. Afore noo they jist hadnae thocht o daein that!
- A network of teachers trained in the delivery of Scots in their classrooms. The Itchy Coo resources have massively improved the quality of the resources we can now offer to the schools.

How has the Itchy Coo project made a difference to your personal practice?

- It has given me the confidence and scope to incorporate poetry, history and cultural imagery into my art lessons.
- There is more creative thought behind teaching and learning.
- The Itchy Coo project has contributed an unqualified amount of work to building confidence and strengthening the validity of the Scots language.
- More confident in delivering Scots language activities in school
- Realise the benefits of bringing Scots into the classroom – some children write with much more confidence in the language they use day to day
- I have been both inspired and impressed by what the project has achieved
- The quality of the books gives Scots proponents ammunition against the language's detractors and those who say it belongs to the past.
- The new resources and the active way they were marketed made me think about Scots and about what we appeared to be in the process of losing at worst, or at least ignoring. I find myself more Scots language-conscious now.
- Itchy Coo raised professional and personal expectations; they made me realise what could be done and made me try to improve the quality of my own materials and try to follow their example.
- They set the tone; they encouraged others to have a go.
- Itchy Coo has made me aware of just how much a small organisation can change attitudes and practice in schools and communities
- Deeper cultural understanding of importance and application of Scots.
- It has provided me with a profound professional and intellectual stimulus and has offered me a model of best practice for sharing with colleagues both within and outwith Scottish Arts Council/Creative Scotland.
- In my role as a part time columnist for the Times Educational Supplement in Scotland, I am more likely now to use Scots.
- When teaching Scots through Itchy Coo I often end the lesson by drawing a map of Europe, showing where many of the words come from, as I feel it is very important to show that Scots, like all other languages, is a sum of parts from various corners of the world. This also helps to explode the myth of Scots being a 'slang' or 'lazy' form of speech.
- The cartoon element of the Itchy Coo books also led to working in a combined medium of art and language, I often used drama and music too, with Itchy Coo material playing a vital role in initially familiarising the workshop to the sounds and rhythms of Scots. The humour of the material played a very important role in this
- It has been very good to see the range of Itchy Coo books and materials widely available in good bookshops and to be able to give these books as gifts over the years – something which it just was not possible to do previously.
- If Itchy Coo had not existed then I would not have been able to support the development of Scots use in educational establishments as effectively as I did.
- It has given us the confidence, skills and knowledge to publish our own books and develop resources to complement them.
- As a poet taking Scots into schools I feel the Itchy Coo Project has made our contribution more acceptable.
- I am much more convinced of the validity of Scots as a focus for classroom language study that both engages young people and also enables them to think coherently about both their home language(s) and the more Standard English usage that education demands.
- The 'translation' aspect of Itchy Coo publication of myths and children's classics is one of the most interesting and worthwhile pieces of curriculum development that I ever observed in a long career in schools and teacher education.

How has the Itchy Coo project made a difference to your personal practice? (contd.)

- It helped give me confidence in my role as CEO of the Scottish Arts Council to recognise, value and champion the diversity and legitimacy of our cultural experiences and interests.
- It made me rethink what is possible in cross-generational language education.
- The attractive nature of the books and their strong educational content, coupled with Matthew's outreach activities created a model for future Scots literacy education.
- I used a lot of Scots and Scots texts throughout my teaching career (38 years), but it provided me with a whole new set of brilliant texts and resources which led to the creation of further support material by myself and others.
- I am much more confident to 'have a go' at teaching Scots!
- I can now understand the value of using Scots- not only on a cultural level, but in terms of social inclusion and academic rigour.
- It has encouraged me to be more creative when delivering Scots Language in the classroom
- It has given me inspiration and encouragement
- Scots has always been an issue in personal literature choices and my delivery of education but it has never been backed up by availability of suitable or appropriate texts; the Itchy Coo texts give confidence to me in my work and to the teachers I want to work with.
- The texts are a legitimization of Scots – ordinary punters consider something legitimized when it is in a book; The Itchy Coo books have fostered and enhanced interest, good practice and not least enjoyment and curiosity.
- It has improved my knowledge of social, cultural and linguistic issues that I, in my role with Scottish Book Trust, have a significant role in supporting. I would not have been aware of this without Itchy Coo.
- I think it might have been easier to overlook Scots publishing before – something which isn't possible now.
- Before the Itchy Coo imprint I did not really promote Scots language texts.
- The positive feedback I received from Itchy Coo about my Scots poetry has encouraged me to write more in Scots.
- Prior to encountering the work & resources produced by Itchy Coo, I had a certain amount of scepticism about the Scots language movement – as a modern and relevant strand within contemporary culture. I can say in all honesty that Itchy Coo helped me to achieve a volte face.
- YES – Absolutely – no question!
- Have developed a much increased understanding of the role, place and importance of Scots in Scotland's linguistic landscape and have become impassioned about advocating for Scots language.
- I have personally seen, over time, a real shift in young people's knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of Scots.
- As a non-Scots speaker, I have become much more comfortable about speaking Scots and words I now use regularly include – blether, fankle, haud yer wheesht (probably far too much!), dreich and much more.
- Ower the years ah hae made full uise o their buiks tae heize up the Scots language in schuils, reading groups, poetry readins, an cultural events whaur leeterature is promoted.
- Scots language is a natural part of my teaching now. The books and activities are very user friendly and working with them has put me on the road to wanting to do more to embed Scots in the Primary classroom.
- It's set a high bench mark...

***How has the Itchy Coo project made a difference to your personal practice?
(contd.)***

- A maist ony Scots language warkshoap ah dae in schuils nou uises as its core material buiks frae Itchy Coo. Ah cannae imagine hou fowk managed tae promote Scots in schuils afore the advent o Itchy Coo – it hus totally re-inventit the approach tae Scots in schuils, an gien teachers (wha wir aye totally in the daurk as tae hou tae access sic material!) a resource that is 'state o the art' an the equal o ony ither textual material they micht uise, in ony leid, in their schuils.
- Made me feel I could use Scots (even though I am English) which is important to me because I want my pupils to be able to express their opinions which is often best done in their own tongue!
- Aye, definitely! Wance mair, it has shown me that at last somebody has grasped the nettle and is daein sumethin aboot yaisin oor leid in schules. A hae been teachin fir aboot 30 years an niver ever thocht a wid see the day when it wis bein actively promoted (and at last valued) in ma day tae day an week tae week work!
- I am more confident in reading Scots to groups of teachers and/or pupils and in promoting Scots in the classroom based on the positive impact on young people that I have witnessed.

What is your impression of the Itchy Coo Books and how do you think they have been received?

- They're great
- They have clearly been received with enthusiasm by readers who have simply been charmed or exhilarated by their brilliance and contagious good fun.
- The Itchy Coo Books, are bright, beautifully illustrated, and above all, they are written in Scots in a funny, modern style, essential for today's bairns
- They have a fine reputation within schools.
- Fantastic; innovative; attractive. The standards – writing, illustration and design – all excellent.
- Started off very well and improved. They have been very well received.
- Sales have been in excess of expectations across the range.
- My experience of the books is that have always been well received.
- They were always bright, usually funny and often celebratory in tone which made them great to read and to share.
- The translations of Roald Dahl and of course Winnie the Pooh were brilliant.
- They have been very positively received by teachers, parents, grandparents and children.
- They have played a very strong and important role in the inter-generational transmission of language.
- The illustrations are bold, modern and humourous
- The quality of the writing is superb.
- They have provided materials for a wide age range - relevant Scots language materials for these age groups did not exist before Itchy Coo.
- Karen Sutherland's illustrations have complimented the texts perfectly.
- Excellent content and design; very age appropriate and very enthusiastically received
- I believe the books are ideally suited to their audiences and that they have been enthusiastically welcomed as filling a large gap in linguistic provision for children.
- The books have been ground breaking and of massive cultural significance.
- The fact that they have won awards where they have been voted for by over 200,000 children is absolutely amazing.
- They are of the highest artistic and technical quality.
- They have had remarkable success both critically and publicly.
- They have revolutionised Scots language publishing almost overnight.
- Everyone I know who has come across the books has been delighted by them.
- Many books have found homes with adults as well as children.
- There has been no hint of "worthy but dull" about them as production values have been very high and they have been written to entertain.
- Whilst the main purpose of Itchy-Coo has been to raise the profile of the Scots language, the publishers have never lost sight of the goal of doing this through books that were funny, exciting, colourful or charming (and often several of these at once).
- Very positive. My direct experience has shown, in general, a hugely positive response to Itchy Coo material.
- I was also very happy to learn that some poems I'd written for Itchy Coo had been used in children's spoken word festivals, and also in a government project to familiarise asylum seeking children in Glasgow with language and imagery common to their own cultures.
- FANTastic! And I know they have been very enthusiastically received
- Very attractive, with solid readable context at all levels
- Itchy Coo books are top-notch, glossy, eye-catching and reader-rewarding
- I know they create delight in readers who are thrilled to find their native tongue between the covers of glamorous-looking books.

What is your impression of the Itchy Coo Books and how do you think they have been received? (contd.)

- Provides a great sense of joy and fun, as if a snook was being cocked at some authority or an illicit pleasure enjoyed with impunity
- The books are fantastic on a number of levels and anyone who uses or has used them finds them excellent.
- Content and quality brill!
- The books are fantastic and are very well received
- Very well. It was a breath of fresh air. The books are a delight
- The books were in many ways a revelation, with genuine appeal across the generations.
- The design elements and standards were high, and they had an immediacy of appeal to children together with (from a teacher's point of view) a realistic and un-patronising sense of classroom needs.
- They engaged with the contemporary world and yet also gave a new access to the mythical and supernatural worlds.
- It is a great pity that support for the project was not extended.
- A particular strength of the books was to act as a focus for staff development in schools. This is a pressing need if the full impact of the *Curriculum for Excellence* is to be realised in terms of language confidence and a sense of engaged citizenship. For this to happen, there needs to be a developing sense of English and Scots language as distinctive and useful partners in communication, giving access to different ways of thinking and being which are complementary. Young people need to develop confidence in talking about, describing and using both, and relating these to context, purpose and audience. This also relates, of course, to historical and cultural studies within a Scottish school curriculum.
- Enjoyed and appreciated by readers, valued by educationalists and respected by peers (recognised in their involvement in the Government's Literature Review Group, Literature Forum of Scotland etc)
- The books are wonderful – and make the Scots language so accessible.
- Great content, great production values, accessible and popular.
- Absolutely brilliant / pure magic / direach sgoinneal. Very well received.
- The Itchy Coo books have made Scots attractive, fun and accessible for both children and adults.
- They have been a fantastic resource for teachers, parents and children – presenting Scots in a non -threatening and modern way.
- These treasures have encouraged and delighted their readers, and as a teacher I am continuously asked by parents about where to buy them!
- Great resource for educators and exciting children about using Scots as a language
- Both staff and children love them. They are constantly used within the school
- I like their style, energy and presentation.
- They are very well received in our libraries and issue well
- Itchy Coo books are arresting, vibrant; they make a strong statement.
- They are relished by children, their teachers and carers.
- The books act as a major stimulus to engagement with language – particularly for 'early years' education.
- The clarity of intent and purpose of the Itchy Coo books make it easy for teachers to work around. The Itchy Coo books have made Scots attractive, fun and accessible for both children and adults.
- The books have always been of the highest quality; they have been hugely well received, the sales figures are testimonials to that, as are the numbers of children and teachers who use them in schools and at home and are delighted with them.
- The books have been consistently lively, well-produced, witty, entertaining, and have filled a gap in attractive material in Scots for younger readers.

What is your impression of the Itchy Coo Books and how do you think they have been received? (contd.)

- Itchy Coo Books have been part of the publishing output of Scotland in the last 10 years and due to the unique nature of the books they have played a large part in displays at book fairs both at home and abroad.
- The books are widely acknowledged to be of a high standard. The writing and illustrations are excellent.
- The books and the brand are well known and sales figures appear to demonstrate that they are popular in the market place and education sector.
- I think they are excellent and I believe they have been well received.
- I like them on a personal as well as a professional level and have bought quite a few as gifts. I am always recommending Winnie the Pooh in Scots because I am fascinated by the impact of the Scots language on the character of Christopher Robin. I never enjoyed these stories when I was wee and I don't think I ever read a full volume. I read the Itchy Coo translation from cover to cover over a couple of nights. The Hoose of Haivers had the same impact and made me laugh out loud.
- I think they're wonderful!
- The series o buiks produced bi Itchy Coo fir weans are, in ma personal estimation, the ae maist important thing that haes heppent fir young fowk, in regaird tae Scots language, in the past hunnert years!
- I have seen strong evidence of their value – we sell many copies in our museum shops; at the Literature in Learning stand Scottish Learning Festival, Itchy Coo books were consistently the most enquired after resource by teachers & I have seen first hand how young children respond to the books.
- High quality writing has been delivered for a range of age groups – early years to secondary. It has been properly targetted and age appropriate.to consistency,
- The range, breadth and diversity of language has been grasped, represented and showcased.
- Once people (children, teachers, librarians, parents) have become aware and comfy, the books have been really well received.
- Ah luv the vibrant colourful presentatioun o their buiks! Weans (an adults!!) juist want tae pick thaim up, luik at thaim, read thaim, an uise thaim! Tae hear a clessroom fou o weans lauchin, an uisin Scots wirds they ne'er knew afore is somethin ye need tae experience tae appreciate! Teachers wha arenae awaur o the Itchy Coo buiks (an amazingly, there seems tae be some o thaim oot there yet wha arenae awaur!?) are aye dumfounert an thrillt tae discuiver sic a resource is readily available tae thaim!
- It is an amazin achievement they hae wrocht wi these buiks.
- Colourful, imaginative with great humour. They have been very well received by teachers and pupils alike.
- They were the most attractive and lively books of poetry in Scots for young people that we collect and lend.
- The books for wee weans are incredibly attractive; one of the Itchy Coo's strengths has always been their illustrations.
- Across the generations they have been widely praised and welcomed, giving Scots the exposure it deserves.
- Good, well written and presented, thoughtful texts providing an opportunity for pupils to explore and develop their knowledge of their own language.
- These texts have also provided a focus for staff to develop teaching materials and units of work covering reading, writing, talking and listening activities.

What is your impression of the Itchy Coo Books and how do you think they have been received? (contd.)

- They have been very well received due to the freshness of the writing, the quality of their production – colourful, vibrant, and for all age groups which facilitated easy progression from nursery to secondary.

What impact has the Itchy Coo project had on Scottish education?

- Good, well written and presented, thoughtful texts providing an opportunity for pupils to explore and develop their knowledge of their own language.
- Texts have provided a focus for staff to develop teaching materials and units of work covering reading, writing, talking and listening activities.
- It has raised the profile and continued relevance of the Scots tongue within the educational context
- It has created a rich and stimulating resource for all teachers to draw upon.
- It has helped children to achieve and connect with language outcomes/targets
- Pupils have been exposed to Scots in a FUN way.
- Teachers feel more confident in teaching Scots
- Scots language is recognised and has more importance
- Greater variety of books written in Scots – to suit varying reading levels
- From the library perspective it has brought Scots a higher profile and highlighted its validity as a language
- I believe teachers now feel much more at ease in using Scots in the classroom
- The project has been punching above its weight on the educational side and may well be missed more than realised.
- The Itchy Coo project has planted a seed of self respect, particularly in the minds of children in the primary sector, helping them appreciate the value of their own culture.
- Pupils loved the project; it gave credence to their own patter, and they enjoyed sharing and collecting other colloquial words and expressions with pals, family members and teaching staff.
- These books – and many others – have been a refreshing and much appreciated resource for Scottish teachers.
- The resources are excellent for pupils.
- Above all, Itchy Coo has helped give the use of Scots in the classroom a relevance in the eyes of teachers, pupils, parents and guardians. With the curriculum being constantly squeezed and some subjects even phased out, this is very welcome.

In what ways do you think the Itchy Coo project has supported the aims of Curriculum for Excellence?

- It helps to promote confident individuals and effective contributors in the classroom, due to the accessible nature of the resource.
- Hits the four capacities – citizenship in particular
- Allows for creativity; building on literacy skills; cross-curricular opportunities; engages the children
- Confident individuals; confidence in our own language and culture is a basic requirement for success
- For many pupils, being able to use Scots will help them to feel much more like effective, confident contributors
- The use of Scots in the curriculum has led to links with other departments and faculties – Drama, English, Communications, Learning Support, Art and Social subjects to name a few.
- Teachers now feel much more at ease in using Scots in the classroom - this can only be a positive thing in terms of communication and relationships with pupils
- Building confidence in learners to use Scots; contributors because they feel they can use Scots in English classes and not be penalised.
- Awareness of local studies and language has global implications too, and speaking personally, the use of Scots in the curriculum has led to links with other departments and faculties – Drama, English, Communications, Learning Support, Art and Social subjects to name a few.
- Promotion of Scots; building confidence in learners to use Scots; contributors because they feel they can use Scots in English classes and not be penalised.
- If you wish to create confident individuals you cannot discourage them from speaking the language of their home and community.

What do you consider to be the major strengths of the Itchy Coo project?

- The personalities of the Itchy Coo staff, particularly their wisdom, knowledge, experience, professionalism, generosity and senses of humour.
- The translations into Scots were superb; Comedy that teaches subliminally
- The range of material covered was immense, therefore appealing to a broad spectrum of readers.
- Web-site back-up was excellent, especially for schools
- I have found colleagues involved in the Itchy Coo project unfailingly helpful, positive and proactive in attempts to bring Scots onto the radar for teachers, students and parents alike
- The initial vision of James and Matthew to put the list together.
- The strength of the team.
- Scottish Arts Council support has been invaluable – in particular the support of Gavin Wallace who championed the project and has shown on-going commitment.
- The educational element of the project has been a big support in overall promotion of the project and the book list
- Great content always well chosen; High production values; Single-minded approach to promoting Scots to children, parents and teachers; Hands-on promotion by the principal author.
- The promotion of the Scots language & making that fun!
- Quality and variety.
- Support for teachers.
- Their hard work - this kind of result does not happen by accident – it has to be serviced.
- The quality and creativity of the books
- Linguistic verve and freshness
- Clear links between workshops, educational activity, book and materials production and other related creative activity – huge benefits
- Cheek! There has been a lovely cheek about the whole project;
- Very Scottish anti-establishment flavour which appeals
- The publicity has always been very well done.
- They have always exploited their opportunities well and have been received well owing to a genuine public and media interest.
- They really succeeded in breaking out of what could have been viewed as an 'arty minority' and getting to 'the public'
- Their work has been a significant element in the emerging discussion concerning teacher training in Scotland (the Donaldson Review).
- Their strategic work aimed at securing the inclusion of Scots in the *Curriculum for Excellence* and in the training of teachers.
- Product, communication, variety of strategies and enormous talent from the likes of James Robertson and Matthew Fitt, as well as huge commitment from Marianne Mitchelson.
- The project is the highly successful sum of its parts
- Imaginative; Bold; did not hold back; Expansive; Well joined up – linked well with other organisations but has always had its own USP!
- IS FUN!! Educational; has brought about systemic change by getting in at the roots;
- Training programme for teachers; Production of books and other resources;
- Has always operated strategically; Has been an advocate for Scots, working at different levels – political, educational etc.; Could be serious or fun when required.
- Theory and practice have been linked;
- Public profile.
- The extent of awareness raising.
- The strategic impact in the education sector.

***What do you consider to be the major strengths of the Itchy Coo project?
(contd.)***

- High levels of national and international recognition
- Managing to tie the project closely with schools without the books seeming to be school texts was also cleverly handled.
- As an Itchy-Coo author, I was always made to feel part of the project.
- Approaching the language in its contemporary forms, thus avoiding a straitened, orthographic approach.
- This allowed writers to work in a naturalistic form.
- Ambitious approach to translated works – such as Roald Dahl.
- Excellent artwork.
- Humour.
- Matthew and James have uncompromisingly pursued their intention of generating reading material for children, from toddlers to older teens, in Scots and in doing so, have allowed young speakers of the language to enjoy reading and taking pride in their language.
- Although there are various “factions” within Scots language organisations, Matthew and James have not allowed Itchy Coo to become embroiled in the various issues and have devoted their time instead to creating these lasting legacies of the project, in what is widely regarded as a very accessible form of the language.
- Presentation of Scots language in an accessible form for all school ages.
- Use of an authentic modern variety of Scots.
- The publicity back-up of outreach work in education which maximised sales and readership;
- The obvious – books are in Scots and only Scots
- Illustration and product values are high
- That some books made the supermarket shelves!
- You are kidding!! The texts are great; Matthew and James are fantastic and I can't fault anything.
- Knowledge, Skills, Expertise, Enthusiasm, Commitment – perhaps the biggest strength is the generosity of Matthew and James to share their knowledge so widely.
- Illustrations and the translations.
- The websites and the kids' competitions were terrific – second to none.
- And not forgetting the most important – Itchy Coo's work in Schools.
- An energetic team, possessing great commitment and creative skills.
- A clear focus on the needs of schools, and the ability to meet those needs in realistic ways.
- Gifted liaison with schools, through a confident but not doctrinaire or backward-looking approach to Scots language, based on knowledge and humour.
- High production values, with a fund of good ideas for development.
- Artistic quality; Accessibility; Integrity; Passion; Commitment.
- Forward-looking, street-credible, professional appearance, no concession to twee nostalgia. The use of translated texts was inspired.
- Providing a wealth of highly original and stimulating Scots texts and resources suitable for different age groups.
- The literary quality of the texts is complemented by the superb illustrations.
- The work with pupils and staff has also been hugely influential and will be much missed
- In my view the main strengths are that a love of Scots and Scotland's children shine through every title.
- The books are modern, attractive and appeal to a wide age range.
- I have used picture books aimed at younger readers successfully with much older children, and novels aimed at older children with younger classes who love to listen to the rhythm of the language and discuss the vocabulary.

***What do you consider to be the major strengths of the Itchy Coo project?
(contd.)***

- Great resource for educators and exciting children about using Scots as a language
- Attractiveness of publications: suitability of texts, top-class illustrations.
- Quantity as well as quality: building up audience, increasing availability of Scots to read.
- Good web presence – this is important for reaching all areas of Scotland.
- Interactive with schools, even in remote areas like ours: e.g. visits, competitions
- Work with teachers, especially at teacher training level. (New teachers often talk about this)
- Work with HMIE
- Most of all, Matthew and James, personally: their own talents, energy and huge commitment.
- Itchy Coo has become the voice of Scottish literature for young people; it is highly relevant to the curriculum.
- The vivacity, energy and accessibility of James Robertson and Matthew Fitt.
- The extent of the titles; the amount of work that has been achieved.
- The fact that children talk about the books – not just teachers.
- The quality of the book production – the content, the illustrations, the sheer quality of the physical product.
- The quality of the thinking behind the project has always shone through the production. The thinking, not just the specialist language and educational elements but over and above all other aspects, the quality of the thinking applied to the social, cultural and political implications.
- I especially liked the fact that Itchy Coo was always rooted in a deep well of social and cultural relevance but never 'done' in a way that was strident, defensive or embattled. I think that was one major reason for their considerable success.
- There was a huge commitment demonstrated by James Robertson and Matthew Fitt not just to the project but also to their engagement in that much wider context.
- Over and above the immediate work of the project, Matthew and James did a huge amount of work at a policy level, and while always difficult to change the perceptions of politicians and civil servants, there is no doubt that they established Scots as a policy issue that will never go away again. This is a massive issue.
- Its confidence, imaginative translations, its wit, and humour, great production values.
- High level of personal commitment, innovative practice and excellent product.
- High quality; Engaging text; Contemporary feel; In the main, good design; Interesting variety of texts; Appealing; High profile; Continuity in terms of Matthew and James' involvement.
- It's evidence-based practice.
Its fun approach to work with children
Its willingness to value 'new' and urban Scots.
- The books are easily readable with a wee bit effort and so don't put children (or adults) off trying.
To my knowledge, the schools which have been involved all recognise the benefits for children in speaking, using and valuing their own language.
Firstly: Matthew Fitt and James Robertson
- Secondly: finding effective and accessible formats
- Thirdly: having a modern and inclusive attitude to Scots language
- The diversity of writing and writers.
- The extent of the rich resource produced.

**What do you consider to be the major strengths of the Itchy Coo project?
(contd.)**

- Always had commitment to not just publishing books but support for teachers, librarians with Scots language – the project would not have worked without this structure around it. This shifted Itchy Coo from being just a publisher.
- Preparedness to engage with policy and policy makers, (e.g. Learning Teaching Scotland) and to keep going until something meaningful came out of it.
- Commitment to pursue aims despite limited resources.
- Willingness to develop new work and take on translation of existing work into Scots. Translations brought playfulness home – the Eejits is a good example as is Precious and the Puggies.
- The playfulness of the publications.
- Itchy Coo was never boring. It was fun – people could play with the language.
- The illustrations were key.
- It is pertinent, it is practical, it is fun, it is educational, it is accessible, it is aathing that weans need tae lairn about Scots!
- The intelligent wey that the buiks hae bin set oot; frae the maist basic o 'wird pictur' buiks fir wee nursery bairns, til colourful, attractive, braw story buiks fir eicht tae ten year aulds, til crackin ghaist stories fir young teenagers, an brilliant owersettins o modren classic fir weans, lik the buiks o Roald Dahl.
- The hale thing is a byornar brilliant concept, executit wi skeelie aefauld care bi the authors. The design o the buiks; the wey they luik an feel, appeals tae a wide readership. The 'accessibility' o the language; the buiks are purposefully pitched fir each stage o a wean's development. An the weans juist luve readin thaim!
- Whit better evaluation wid ye need!?
- Personal contact. Non-threatening/ non-judgemental approach to those teachers who have never taught Scots before.
- Learning through fun!
- Itchy Coo has been full of innovative ideas.
- It is well planned.
- Lively, contemporary, professionally produced books – avoided that 'worthy' aspect of presentations in Scots that can put young people off.
- Obviously the books were only one aspect – the website and even more, the personal involvement of two great ambassadors for Scots was crucial to the success of the project.
- Approachable and friendly support.
- A think fir the bairns it has to be the fact that it's on-line. That maks it modern and immediate.
- A think maybes that a when o folk (bairns included) thocht that Scots wis jist fir auld folk and that ye didnae really get tae speak it in schule or yais it oan yir pc / i.pod / mp3 player / Blackberry (or should that be bramble!?) That, an the fact that probably fir the first time ye can get books fir bairns written in Scots that are modern, braw and bricht, and appealin are the major strengths o yir project.
- Matthew Fitt and James Robertson
- The quality of the resources
- The impact on teachers and young people
- The website which is interesting, informative, fun.

What could Itchy Coo have done differently or better?

- It's what the state could have done, or could yet do, to recognise the qualities Itchy Coo embodies and to further them
- They should have made audio recording of the material as well
- I wasn't crazy about the (2) 'disgusting' book(s) with its plooks and snotters!
- Not much to say on this really
- The only real problem is that the project was just too small; if only it could have cloned itself!
- By doing so much beyond the funded scope of the project they have perhaps created unrealistic expectations.
- Because both Matthew Fitt and James Robertson were always so busy it was difficult to know how to help without creating more work for them – this was sometimes frustrating.
- Did the people involved, James and Matthew, make enough money out of it for the effort that they put it? I expect not.
- I would like to have seen more training up of others to become advocates for Scots.
- It might have produced more adult books and more books for secondary age children.
- If more staff had been involved there could have been greater input on all fronts.
- One area where it did not deliver was in the development and nurturing of a new, younger generation of writers in Scots. This was not a fault of the project per se but more likely to be a symptom of the success of the project.
- A curious feature of Itchy Coo is that it did not breed imitators which I consider to be a measure of its success and uniqueness.
- It is regrettable, as we reach this juncture, that the high impact Itchy Coo has had on all stakeholders has not resulted in a major policy shift in Government.
- What Itchy Coo has exemplified is the need to have a support structure for Scots language analogous to that for Gaelic.
- In a paradoxical way Itchy Coo could not, in the long term, withstand the impact of its own success.
- I think there was room for a third poetry book
- More could have been made of the project in the media, particularly TV and radio - I'm surprised I didn't come across any documentaries about Itchy-Coo.
- Can't think of anything.
- What they do could not be done better in terms of product quality without a huge injection of financial support to increase production of a greater range and the publicity to sell it.
- That might also have allowed them to expand and do some things differently, such as publishing volumes by authors who write in Scots and/or actively marketing the books with increased outreach work in more schools and communities. But, until literacy in Scots is achieved, the marketplace for the language can't reach its full potential and only educational investment in teaching Scots can achieve literacy in it. That responsibility rests with government, not with publishers.
- Nothing
- I think in the poetry there was too much emphasis on humour. I would have liked to have seen more dealing with kids' lives
- I can't really say.
- Much of the staff development work depended on a key communicator, Matthew Fitt, and so to that extent was 'vulnerable'.
- Nothing that springs to mind.
- The adult market might have been more strategically targetted but there is a limit to what two folk can do.
- They have achieved and created a huge amount over the past decade, but maybe more drama texts for secondary pupils would have been welcomed.

What could Itchy Coo have done differently or better? (contd.)

- It would have been nice to see Itchy Coo enter the digital age with ebooks and resources for Smartboards linked to some of their titles.
- More graphic novels would have been great for older readers, and boys in particular – and some non-fiction books linked to popular school topics would have encouraged a more integrated use of Scots.
- The project might have benefited from a larger team.
- I would like to have seen a team grow around them or to have been trained by them and to become part of that wider team and to have taken work forward in partnership with them; unfortunately that was not possible because there was not enough time or resources available within either Itchy Coo or the Scottish Poetry Library to do that.
- It is very difficult with a two person initiative to change the perception of a nation. Perhaps the only observation I would make is that in the delivery of the educational input Itchy Coo did not take a strategic enough approach with the result that after 10 years the project team is exhausted. This is not a sustainable model.
- Differently - the era of digital publishing is upon us and an e-book extension of the brand may be possible.
- However, the illustrated titles may lend themselves less to this idea.
- Better - it's been handled very well.
- We would have been pleased to have had more opportunities to work collaboratively with the project but sadly this did not happen.
- I really don't know.
- More work with adult groups, e.g writers groups and parents, as well as with children.
- Not sure really – perhaps some online video/animation resources based on the books
- With more people, more time, I think Itchy Coo could have had a greater impact and we would not need to be having discussions about what will happen after Itchy Coo comes to an end.
- Some kind of formal, structured engagement with teacher training and/or increased awareness of this work.
- Ah cannae think hou this cuid hae bin impruived upon. It is an amazin achievement they hae wrocht wi these buiks.
- A jist wish a hud kennt about it much earlier.
- Wi mair siller ye could hae done mair wi the website and hud mair regular projects fir bairns tae get intae.
- It leaves behind a body of work that serves as best practice for language publishing; has given writers in Scots a major boost to their confidence and skills, and, crucially, has boosted readers who have seen their everyday language and idiom used imaginatively on the page.
- Clearly the main legacy is the books themselves. We hope that these will remain in print for as long as is possible.
- A wonderful collection of books that will inspire for many years to come.
- Many children who will grow up more confident as a result of their language being acknowledged and valued.
- Discourse about Scots will belong to everyone (not just those with leather patches on their elbows). Scots won't be a surprise when you trip over it in schools – and even other places.

How has Itchy Coo changed during the period of the project?

- There was a steep learning curve for everyone in determining how the project should work
- Moved towards translations more – which I like as much as the original titles.
- They have, from nothing, become the major Scots language organisation.
- They have created tremendous stature and respect for themselves from the whole Scots language 'industry'.
- Simply better and richer
- In terms of influence Itchy Coo has grown very long tentacles and has reached into unexpected places
- Early on the project surpassed all anticipated success.
- At the outset it was never envisaged that it would become a public institution for the development of Scots language – but it did and that was its biggest success.
- It seemed to become less overtly educational - I felt there was more use of the books in school when the "fun" books and the translations came out.
- The project has gained the respect of key decision and policy makers over the years which is hugely to the credit of Matthew and James.
- Am willing to be wrong about this but it seems to me that the focus shifted from the general, and quite often adult, reading public to primary age readers.
- Got better and wider...
- I think it did more and more translations which on the whole was a good thing
- There was a movement from the provision of resources to demonstration in schools to more strategic thinking about the shifts in curriculum and assessment that would be needed to develop the vision more widely across Scottish schools.
- My impression is that as the project developed its range of work grew as did its reach
- I think that Itchy Coo has become respected and recognisable as a source of quality children's books which just happen to be in Scots!
- Like all great projects based on very firm quality foundations, it has just grown. Not changed enormously, just more and more comprehensive; they have learned by experience. The project has become bigger as it has become more successful and the demand for what they are offering has increased.
- Growing confidence in tackling children's classics and translating them.
- There has always been variety and I think that has helped to keep it fresh.
- The ambition of the project and what it was trying to do have grown over the years.
- The translation work seemed to gain in ambition; the Sandy McCall Smith book (Precious and the Puggies) – Wow – what a stake in the ground with such a major writer coming on board. That was a really, significant, bold thing to have done and the fact that he was prepared to do it was significant for the project.
- The role of Itchy Coo in the Scots language landscape and policy debate has certainly grown over the years.
- Ah believe they wir expandin an 'pushin the envelope' o their material, an wi the likes o the 'graphic novels' in Scots, they wir beginin tae tap intae a mercat that micht hae convertit that maist deeficult o audiences (mid tae late teenagers) intae bein confident readers an uisers o Scots – as they micht hae achieved thon 'haly grail' o makkin somethin 'cool' tae teenagers! Itchy Coo becam much mair mature an confident as publishers, an gien the chaunce, the investment, an the fundin, wid hae went oan tae revolutionise the approach tae Scots language in oor schuils; they wir juist beginning tae tackle thon maist important an crucial area, saicendary schuil teenagers!
- I think it has gained a solid professional reputation – the books and the presence in the Cross-Party Group bears this out – without losing its imagination and element of sheer enjoyment.
- Itchy Coo became a successful branding associated with Scots and great resources.

What will be the legacy of the Itchy Coo project?

- It has shown a generation of children that the Scots language is for today, and is part of their heritage.
- Itchy Coo changed the attitudes of many teachers who realised that Scots learning was beneficial rather than detrimental to children's linguistic development
A huge, popular resource for teachers to engage children
- The Itchy Coo books have set a benchmark for Scots language publishing and have produced a level of sales which clearly demonstrate a high demand for the right quality of publications.
- A greater awareness of Scots as part of our linguistic heritage
- One enormous step forward in the way Scots is regarded within education.
- Growing expectations of children and teachers.
- Increased confidence of teachers and children in their use of Scots.
- They have wakened up a lot of teachers to the importance of Scots in education.
- They have created a demand for CPD where none existed.
- They made teachers think and recognise the need for increased knowledge and skills in Scots and therefore they have continued to raise standards within education.
- Their significant involvement in *Curriculum for Excellence* discussions which resulted in the inclusion of Scots language elements.
- It could mark a real generational shift in attitude towards Scots
- The social confidence of the public has grown in using creative, contemporary Scots.
- The very high quality publications and resources
- A permanently enhanced profile for Scots, as well as a developed audience of younger readers and an impact on adults far beyond this.
- A whole generation of children who do not feel embarrassed about using Scots; who are happy to read, write and express themselves in Scots – who get it! HOPEFULLY THIS WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON POLICY DECISIONS.
- Teachers, who have taken part in training, either in schools or teachers training college, are more likely to, or will, use Scots in their practice.
- Scots is now on various political and cultural agendas - this is undoubtedly because of Itchy Coo.
- Its energy, determination and quality of output.
- It has created a whole group of new advocates for Scots who now champion it where they would not have done before.
- I am totally confident that Itchy Coo will be seen by subsequent generations as the most important milestone in the status and development of Scots since Hugh MacDiarmid.
- The revolution in the inclusion of Scots in the *Curriculum for Excellence* would not have happened without Itchy Coo.
- It has provided a colossal contribution to professional development for a generation of Scottish school teachers, teachers in training and other educational professionals.
- More use of Scots in schools and, hopefully, in wider society. People should be less embarrassed to use Scots language.
- The legacy of the Itchy Coo project will be to have made some impact towards redressing a highly negative and damaging perception of Scots as unworthy, and to have given self-esteem and confidence to a language.
- The books will also be regarded as having been very engaging and a great deal of fun.
- A better informed approach to Scots, which has been subject in the past to an unfortunate association with slang or improper speech.
- Itchy Coo appears to have worked very hard towards redressing this perception by using Scots in an inventive and imaginative way, and by publishing an anthology

What will be the legacy of the Itchy Coo project? (contd.)

- where classical medieval poetry, modernist poetry, folk song and tradition are shown alongside contemporary writing in Scots, thus showing Scots as both a historical and living language.
- Their pre-school books are excellent.
 - The focus which they have sustained on the language and its need for support both financial and political has been considerable.
 - Sorry, but if it ends and is not immediately replaced by a similar project, the achievements, which were many and of great value, will vanish rapidly.
 - Those wonderful texts, the teachers who use Scots and influence other teachers and the children who will leave school with a love for and an understanding of Scots Literature and Language.
 - I feel the main legacy has been a turn around in public opinion - that far more teachers, children and parents now are beginning to feel proud of the Scots language and to treasure it as part of our rich heritage and culture.
 - I think the Itchy Coo Books will be used in schools for years to come because it empowered youngsters, especially disaffected boys, and gave them back their culture.
 - The books and resources, the positive memories among staff of visits to many schools, and the demonstration of what is actually possible in this area.
 - At a political level it gave form to the appetite for Scots language amongst readers in the educational arena.
 - It has given Scots a status it didn't seem to have before
 - A series of very attractive books and demonstrations of how they can be used in schools.
 - A reinvigorated sense of what is possible.
 - Their hugely popular and influential work in schools and its impact on both teachers and pupils.
 - The quality of the texts, plus their popularity outside schools.
 - I think they have played a key role in helping Scottish children and parents to develop a greater appreciation of the Scots language, plus a greater confidence and pleasure in using it.
 - They have helped to raise the profile of the Scots language in schools and homes around the country; given much needed resources and confidence to teachers; encouraged a generation of young readers (many of whom were reluctant) to see the possibility of becoming writers themselves.
 - A goodly number of young Scots speakers who have few worries about reading their mither tongue, and who are more confident and more literate as a result.
 - A wider group of young folk - and teachers - in Scotland with a better understanding of and a better attitude to Scots.
 - A better appreciation of the value of Scots in school in education circles.
 - BUT the project must be backed up and followed up if that legacy is to be long-lasting.
 - I think it will change the way the Scottish Publishing industry and writers will think and work.
 - It has opened doors that were not open before.
 - The texts - that may be all there is if Itchy Coo ends.
 - Its legacy will suffer for not having the human energies behind it any more.
 - Can only hope that the legacy will remain with teachers - but direct work with teachers in training needs to continue.
 - If Itchy Coo is winding up the question for the rest of us is 'What are we going to do to make good their legacy?'
 - The most valuable thing is to ensure that Scots is part of our mainstream everyday educational life and diet. Itchy Coo has established a very firm platform from which to do that but if it simply 'remains' and nothing is done to build on their good work, then it is likely to peter out a little.

What will be the legacy of the Itchy Coo project? (contd.)

- Earlier this year I chaired an Itchy Coo event at the Edinburgh Book Festival with James Robertson and Sandy McCall Smith talking about Precious and the Puggies. I had previously chaired other Itchy Coo public events involving Matthew Fitt. These were all public events – not school events. Hands went up all over the room from children wanting to ask or answer questions – the children were confident and knowing. ‘To my mind that appears to be a really significant change directly due to the work of Itchy Coo.’
- A bunch of really good books has been produced – this should not be underestimated. These were not there before and they are now in schools and libraries all around Scotland.
- Howpfully a new generation o Scots speakers an readers wha wull hae the confidence tae uise Scots an, fir the first time in generations, be proud o their ain leid an no view it as some devalued ‘slang’, seein Scots fir whit it truly is; ane o the maist important leids in European leeterary tradeetion.
- Great resources, more confidence in the language felt by anyone involved in CPD and workshops.
- The first REAL attempt to ‘legitimise’ the use of Scots in schools.
- A hope yir legacy will live oan fir mony mony years and maybees wan day ye’ll even see notices in the parliament hoose in Embra written in Scots! Dinnae forget that Catalan wis a ‘hidden’ leid fir a gie lang time but noo its richt up there.
- The resources and the many children and young people who will talk about the way that Scots opened up learning for them and how they engaged in the opportunities offered to them.

What gaps will be left by the ending of the Itchy Coo project?

- **Educationally:** the work done has created energy amongst teachers; as new teachers come in the expectation is that the teachers who have had the training will cascade the information and other elements of the training. This is not ideal but it is probably the only way at present.
Strategically: Hard one to fill; Itchy Coo has done so much to advocate for the value and place of Scots;
Although Itchy Coo has trained a new generation of champions currently there is nobody who has as loud, convincing, targeted and persuasive voice.
At a strategic level there will be immediate, direct gaps in the provision and enabling of continuing development of Scots.
Fun: the fun element is not done by any other project.
Writers: There needs to be a programme of mentoring available for people who want to deliver workshops around the use of Scots in schools. This is necessary to ensure quality control. Perhaps a mentoring programme could be funded via an existing organisation who could host such a project.
Advocacy: Although Itchy Coo is not the only organisation to act as advocate for the Scots language, it has been a very dynamic organisation focused on Scots and young people. Itchy Coo is a force that is going to be missed in that landscape.
- The competition will be missed as it was a fantastic way to engage.
- Matthew Fitt's role in promoting Scots in schools directly to teachers and pupils through Itchy Coo will be sorely missed
- The success of the project so far shows that there is a demand.
- The first and instant issue is a gap in the educational side and how the loss of the work Matthew Fitt has been doing will be filled.
- There will be gaps particularly in the educational workshop side
- A gap for accessible Scots for young people
- The numerous books and other resources which have been produced
- The focus which they have sustained on the language and its need for support both financial and political has been considerable
- Gaps? There is almost no publishing in Scots, even with Itchy Coo.
- Without Itchy Coo, there will be nothing in print with any substance or continuity, no support for schools or readers, no publishing knowledge base. That's not a gap – that's a black hole of shame. Several!!
- There will be gaps!!
- What is needed is more funding - more resources - more training - it needs to be mainstreamed!
- Teachers have relied on the Itchy Coo books and the expertise of Mathew and James.
- There has been no other publishing house in Scotland which has promoted the Scots language more and worked with the teachers in in-service and with children in the classroom.
- This is difficult, because the personal and creative skills of the Itchy Coo team cannot be easily replicated.
- I think that the contrast in funding between Gaelic and Scots language support in schools is really marked, and quite shocking.
- The gap I imagine is simply in not having a growing imprint of accessible Scot language texts for pleasure and education.
- The offer to schools to have that liberating recognition of native tongues in the education system likewise a loss.
- Huge gaps.
- Itchy Coo's demise will leave a huge gap – not just in Scots language provision, but in Scottish education as a whole.

What gaps will be left by the ending of the Itchy Coo project? (contd.)

- I would not go to any other agency for the information and support I have gone to Itchy Coo for – for the Scottish Poetry Library it is about extant poetry that works with young people and it is a tool for effective learning – so other existing organisations do not have 'it'.
- It will leave a gap of expertise. There will no longer be a resource available to go to for support.
- There will no longer be a central point of reference for advice and support and we will have lost a key publishing programme.
- There will be a huge hole in the middle of Scots in education.
- Itchy Coo is definitely the only publisher of books for a younger and early years audience of any comparable quality to mainstream UK publishers and its demise leaves Scotland without any early years and primary school age publishing.
- It will leave a significant gap in expertise in Scots language. Matthew Fitt and James Robertson have done a lot to train teachers and increase awareness but what about future teachers? If the expertise is not constantly there and available then the knowledge base will quickly decline.
- As Itchy Coo was the main provider of Scots language teaching opportunities in primary schools its absence will clearly leave a gap. Workshops with children and professional development work. This has had a huge impact.
- ` Looking in from the outside, there have been points when Scots language organisations appear to have had tensions due to difference in organisational ethos with each having different priorities about what the focus should be. This has not been helpful. If anyone is going to pick up the gaps left by Itchy Coo on the advocacy front from the remaining organisations, then they have to do it and continue it in the spirit, style and ethos with which it has been started. Itchy Coo's work with schools has always been open armed – 'come and join us' – rather than being negative, accusatory and combative.'
- Yes, in educational terms, certainly: who will fly the standard for Scots in education with such imagination and flair and expertise? Who will provide the print/web resources?
- Both in terms of CPD and print resources there will be a significant absence.

How and by whom should these gaps be filled?

- This gap should be filled by professionals appointed directly by government taking best advice from Itchy Coo staff and / or other Scottish literature and language specialists
- I have no idea!
- Maybe the Scottish Government should be using some *Curriculum for Excellence* funding for this
- The idea of Scots co-ordinators proposed in the Report by the Ministerial Working Group could build on the work of Itchy Coo
- Goodness knows! Don't know the answer.
- The pair of them are probably irreplaceable
- The teachers they have inspired need to take this work forward
- We desperately need more input to teacher training and colleges of education generally
- What is required is a Scots language co-ordinator in every local authority region to support and promote Scots – the Scottish Government should give this consideration.
- Learning Teaching Scotland (LTS) need to prioritise Scots and give much more coverage to it in their website information and materials
- Scottish Language Dictionaries would be willing to work with other organisations e.g. Scottish Book Trust, Scottish Poetry Library, Scottish Storytelling Centre, to promote awareness of Scots in schools and the wider community, to provide materials and deliver CPD to relevant professional groups.
- Scottish Book Trust has a good opportunity via its on-line forum to promote Scots writing, writers and spoken Scots and should increase its focus on Scots.
- HMIE should give consideration to recognising more schools who deliver Scots well.
- All relevant and interested parties need to come together to formulate a national strategy for Scots.
- Government has a cultural responsibility to the language
- This needs to be addressed by the Scots organisations talking together, working together and using resources together and pressuring for Scots.
- Hopefully by other publishers who have recognised the huge achievement of Itchy Coo and the need to follow their inspiration.
- Ideally, to fill the strategic and policy gap, there should be a national co-ordinator post to act as champion for Scots, to liaise internationally with other minority language groups/interests. The post would ideally sit with Scottish Government, if this was not possible, then a strategic body such as Learning Teaching Scotland or Creative Scotland.
- These gaps must be addressed by Creative Scotland and Government.
- There should be long term investment in greatly enhanced support structures for Scots; without this there will be a real risk of serious decline in the status of the Scots language.
- I don't know who will fill the gap left by Itchy-Coo for modern Scots.
- Government funding – and legislative commitment - that allows Scots to be continually supported as a contemporary language.
- Education authorities by ensuring that the kind of work done by Itchy Coo continues to be supported by curricular involvement.
- By funding an extension of the Itchy Coo project.
- There is a continuing need for this kind of material. Even if resources are too tight, it should at least get encouragement from education authorities
- Education, education, education until literacy in Scots is achieved as a normal standard throughout the population, which can only be achieved and sustained if there are sufficient financially supported publishers of educational texts and recreational books. Itchy Coo would need to be re-invented, and expanded for

How and by whom should these gaps be filled? (contd)

secondary and adult readers. Educational publishers would need to be engaged and encouraged to produce the necessary texts.

- The Scottish Government
- The gaps could be filled by other publishers wishing to publish for a market that's been revitalized. Whether this will happen without funding Whether this will happen without funding is another issue. There are commissions that could be made by the language body that could be taken up by publishers if they don't want to fund an entire imprint, but it would be a pity to lose the coherence of the imprint – as it helps marketing, design, and sales to publish under an imprint.
- We would suggest that the relevant authorities, i.e. the Scottish Government and its agencies along with Scots language organisations should look at this matter in detail with the purpose of exploring the best ways of filling the gaps. That's difficult. I have no idea how financially viable it is to produce books in Scots for children. I think it is unlikely that a commercial publisher is going to produce a range equal to Itchy Coo's.
- An organisation to continue to build on the foundations laid by Itchy Coo, preferably operating Scotland-wide.
- Recently, someone new to Scotland asked me if there was anywhere he could learn to speak Scots. Maybe that thistle needs to be grasped.
- Also, I come into contact with many ESOL learners (English for Speakers of Other Languages.) They often express an interest in learning about the Scots language and say it would help them to communicate and adjust to life in Scotland
- Local education authorities will need to invest in effective in-class/outreach facilities to help teachers teach Scots; Glow will need to build on the excellent work already done on intranet resources; more museums and libraries will need to establish out-of-classroom learning environments using Scots.
- The financial support provided by the Scottish Arts Council has been very important to the publishing work of Itchy Coo and this should be maintained.
- 'Scots language is in the curriculum and should be part of teacher training. The relevant Colleges should be taking this into account and building it into their future training programmes and should be looking to engage with the experts – Matthew Fitt's involvement should not end because of the end of Itchy Coo.'
- Ah think it is utterly vital that the wark duin bi Itchy Coo is conteenued an built upon. The mercat fir this material haes bin pruiven; ah think the Scottish Educational establishment, at government level, shuid be takkin this wark forrit – here we hae a Scottish success story! Embrace it an build upon it.
- Not sure, but a network of like minded teachers supporting one another and sharing programmes of work and resources may help a little.
- By an individual or team of individuals as highly qualified as the current team...folk with knowledge of current educational practice and thinking, passionate about the promotion of Scots.
- A really hope that the proposed Scots leid co-ordinators in schules will help tae fill any gaps that micht open up.
- Difficult one. The network of teachers and librarians who have been inspired by the project will carry on the good work.

Which organisation/s will you access for Scots language resources, training and support once the Itchy Coo project ends?

- No plans as yet
- I think this will be a struggle
- Wherever scant resources are available
- Apart from LTS I would really struggle
- Pass
- Learning Teaching Scotland website?
- Em – pass
- The Scots Language Centre and other websites

Additional comments

- I'll be very sad to see Itchy Coo end
- I just hope someone else takes the risks and does all the hard work that Itchy Coo has and brings Scots books to such a wide and willing audience. Thank you!
- Tam O Shanter's Big Night Out was one of the highlights of my teaching career which has spanned more than 40 years. The project was genius from beginning to end and really drew our school together in a very positive way. It was one of these crazy ideas which worked perfectly and one which sparked off several others. MAGIC!
- It would be a wise government that set about ensuring such provision was built into the curriculum as an entitlement.
- I have a feeling that this has been a unique project – and I would be surprised if anyone else comes up with anything to rival it.
- Matthew Fitt is a credit to our race! He works tirelessly to keep our Scots culture alive and to persuade a diverse group of educators to use Scots in their daily practice, thereby passing on our rich heritage to the next generation.
- A milestone in the history of the Scots language
- It's painful to think this was just a brief bright period and that the momentum will die when there are no new texts.
- Itchy Coo has been a real force for good and I am very sorry to see the project ending
- Very sorry to see the project come to an end.
- Ultimately a few individuals, no matter how committed, cannot sustain a culture by themselves.
- You have made an enormous contribution to the cultural well being of Scotland, so you should be proud of what you have achieved.
- Would have to offer praise for James and Matthew's vision – in addition the timing was right for Itchy Coo.
- I didn't realise that it was such a small organisation - I thought it was a whole industry – a large scale organisation
- It has not been just a fun project; it has done a significant amount of work behind the scenes on policy and strategy.
- Itchy Coo has raised questions deserving of serious research study e.g. the effect of Scots on linguistic, literacy and literary development and motivation especially amongst boys and low achievers. This needs and deserves follow up.
- They are part of the scene and their departure is going to leave a huge hole'
- Itchy Coo has been unique.
- A wonderful combination of unusual and significant talents – very humourous
- Thank you Itchy Coo! It has been absolutely fantastic – we have enjoyed every minute of it!
- DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE how much influence Itchy Coo has had – It has had A LOT!
- What marvellous energy and variety of activities, far beyond their many books, in schools, theatres, radio and TV and even at the United Nations Poetry Event, where they helped bring about formal recognition of Scots as a language.
- It's been a gas!
- It has been a privilege to work with the Itchy Coo Project.
- I hope all the good work that has been achieved can be built upon.
- Itchy Coo has definitely set down an important and solid foundation.
- Itchy Coo is the most successful and rewarding project on which I have ever worked.
- Itchy Coo has provided, to a significant extent, a paradigm for the role of bi-lingualism in improving learning across the curriculum.
- Thank you for all your good work in the Itchy Coo project. It can be very easy to take such a good initiative for granted and forget just how low the profile of Scots was before Itchy Coo was established.

Additional comments (contd.)

- A HUGE THANK YOU TO JAMES AND MATTHEW
- Thank you to all involved for their energy, commitment and imagination!
- *Thank you very much, Matthew and James. You sood trully be prood o yoursels; whit you're dōn is an example tae wis aa.*
- There have been opportunities for me to engage with aspects of the work of Itchy Coo at strategic and policy levels but I have not been able to participate wholeheartedly because of time constraints; as the project is coming to an end I now realise that perhaps I should have given this a higher priority as I now appreciate the gaps that will be left.
- There is no doubt that without Itchy Coo we would not be where we are today with Scots in both an educational and socio-political sense.
- It is utterly vital that Scotland takes possession of its languages. There is absolutely no reason why people can't switch between languages as occasion demands.
- 'The single most important development in linguistic joy, capability and capacity has come from Itchy Coo over the last 10 years.'
- A framework of support needs to be created to support teachers already involved, new teachers coming on stream and to provide direct sessions with pupils in schools.'
- Support and training needs to be provided for writers to enable them to deliver their sessions in Scots in schools.
- There needs to be a delivery framework and mechanism put in place which must have political support at national and local levels.
- Without the support of key organisations i.e. Learning Teaching Scotland, HMIE, SQA and the Local Authorities, then a delivery framework is unlikely to work either effectively or efficiently.
- If such a framework and delivery mechanism is not put in place we are likely to have frustrated teachers, disenfranchised children – effectively rendered invisible, and another ten years of inconclusive argument about the locus and importance of Scots.
- 'It was an absolute joy'
- Itchy Coo will be sorely, sorely missed.
- 'I have really enjoyed working and learning with you guys!'
- Itchy Coo hus bin the singular maist important thing tae happen wi regairds tae Scots language in generations. The wark it hus pitten oot, realised an achieved, is utterly remarkable!
- The visionary wark cairriet oot here bi James Robertson, Matthew Fitt an their team desairves aa the accolades their kintra can gie thaim. Scotland's leid owes a mighty debt tae these fowk!
- I can quite understand that this has taken over two writers' lives for 10 years, and that they might want to step back from the project at this point. But such things so easily lose momentum, and that is the concern – that established ground will be lost in the rush to cut costs and count profits.
- I'll be very sad to see Itchy Coo end.
- I just hope someone else takes the risks and does all the hard work that Itchy Coo has and brings Scots books to such a wide and willing audience. Thank you!
- A special mention to Itchy Coo for supplying our school with a Braille version of the Trauchles of Hercules.
- The demise of Itchy Coo will be much lamented.

ITCHY COO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH 2002–2011

These visits and events were delivered by Matthew Fitt as Itchy Coo Education & Outreach Officer between June 2002 and March 2011. The visits and events were funded in some cases by local authority education departments or by part-funding by Scottish Book Trust’s Live Literature scheme but the overwhelming majority were covered by the Itchy Coo project funded directly by the Scottish Arts Council/Creative Scotland.

2002

School visits, class projects and workshops: St Fergus PS Dundee : Charleston PS Dundee : Harris Academy Dundee : Eastern PS Dundee : Lawside Academy Dundee : Menzieshill HS Dundee : Newarthill PS North Lanarkshire : Brannock HS Newarthill North Lanarkshire : St Gerard’s PS Bellshill North Lanarkshire : Our Lady’s HS Cumbernauld North Lanarkshire : St Andrew’s HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Netherburn PS South Lanarkshire : Strathaven Academy South Lanarkshire : Forfar Academy Angus : Drummond HS Edinburgh : Royal HS Edinburgh : Liberton HS Edinburgh : Firrhill HS Edinburgh : St Augustine’s HS Edinburgh : Wester Hailes Education Centre Edinburgh: Cumbernauld HS North Lanarkshire : Cumbernauld PS North Lanarkshire : Whitelees PS North Lanarkshire : Abronhill HS North Lanarkshire : Northfield Academy Aberdeen : Crawfordjohn PS South Lanarkshire : St Augustine’s HS Edinburgh : Eastern PS Dundee : Charleston PS Dundee : South Esk PS Montrose Angus : Rosemount PS Montrose Angus : St Augustine’s HS Edinburgh : Ferryden PS Montrose Angus : Borrowfield PS Montrose Angus : Kinloch PS Carnoustie Angus : James Young HS Livingston West Lothian : St Margaret’s Academy Livingston West Lothian : Loreburn PS Dumfries Dumfries & Galloway : St Augustine’s HS Edinburgh : Royal HS Edinburgh : Bell Baxter HS Cupar Fife : Wade Academy Anstruther Fife : Eastern PS Dundee : Wester Hailes Education Centre Edinburgh : Royal HS Edinburgh : South Lanarkshire Advanced Higher Scots Language Conference Blantyre: St Margaret’s Academy Livingston West Lothian : Wester Hailes Education Centre Edinburgh : Royal HS Edinburgh : Bell Baxter HS Cupar Fife : Beath HS Cowdenbeath Fife : Inverkeithing HS Fife : Wade Academy Fife : Northfield Academy Aberdeen : Kemnay Academy Aberdeenshire : Broughton HS Edinburgh : Liberton HS Edinburgh : St Andrew’s HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Strathaven Academy South Lanarkshire : Woodmill HS Dunfermline Fife : Glenwood HS Glenrothes Fife : Woodmill HS Dunfermline Fife : Glenwood HS Glenrothes Fife : North Lanarkshire S6 Scots Creative Writing Conference Coatbridge : Dundee S6 Scots Creative Writing Conference : Angus S6 Creative Writing Conference Arbroath : James Young HS Livingston West Lothian : Denny HS Falkirk : St Roch’s Secondary Glasgow : Northfield Academy Aberdeen : Lawside Academy Dundee : Biggar PS South Lanarkshire : New Lanark PS South Lanarkshire : Stonelaw HS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire : Udston PS Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Strathaven Academy South Lanarkshire : Talk for Drama Students at Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama : St Andrew’s HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Portobello HS Edinburgh : Stonelaw HS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire

Teacher Training: Association for Scottish Literary Studies Annual Conference Glasgow University : Teachers’ Conference Jordan Teacher Training Institute Glasgow : Edinburgh City Primary Teacher Training Redhall Teachers’ Centre Edinburgh : South Lanarkshire Primary Teacher Training Hope Street Education

Resource Centre Hamilton : Scots Language for Probationer Teachers Training Event
Dundee : Edinburgh City Secondary Teacher Training Redhall Teachers' Centre
Edinburgh : Training for St Margaret's Academy English Department Livingston West
Lothian

Events: Bo'ness Library : Grangemouth Library : Falkirk Library : Slamannan Library
: Larbert Library : Bonnybridge Library : Denny Library : Duns Library : Eyemouth
Library : Galashiels Library : Earlston Library : Peebles Library : South Lanarkshire
Summer School : Edinburgh Schools Conference : North Lanarkshire Summer School
: Ferryhill Library Aberdeen : Airyhall Library Aberdeen : Kincorth Education Centre :
Hoose o Haivers Event Edinburgh Children's International Book Festival : Launch of
Itchy Coo Books Edinburgh Children's International Book Festival : BBC Radio
Scotland interview for Brian Morton's Usual Suspects : Portobello Library : Itchy Coo
Schools Treasure Hunt Edinburgh Children's International Book Festival : Launch of
Itchy Coo Dundee Contemporary Arts Dundee : Ottakars Bookshop Dumfries : Oor
Toun Project DCA Dundee : Mitchell Library Glasgow : Launch of Itchy Coo with
Atkinson-Pryce Bookshop Biggar South Lanarkshire

2003

School visits, class projects and workshops: New Lanark PS South Lanarkshire :
Craigbank PS Larkhall PS South Lanarkshire : Broughton HS Edinburgh : St Bride's
PS Cambuslang South Lanarkshire : Udston PS Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Biggar
PS South Lanarkshire : Stonelaw HS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire : Gracemount HS
Edinburgh : Coatbridge HS North Lanarkshire : Drum Park School Bargeddie North
Lanarkshire : Gracemount HS Edinburgh : Portbello HS Edinburgh : Lochgelly HS
Fife : Beath HS Cowdenbeath Fife : Viewforth HS Kirkcaldy Fife : Inverkeithing HS
Fife : Preston Street PS Edinburgh : Coatbridge HS North Lanarkshire : Carronshore
PS Falkirk : Lamington PS South Lanarkshire : Our Lady's HS Cumbernauld North
Lanarkshire : Coatbridge HS North Lanarkshire : Preston Street PS Edinburgh :
Workshop with students at Royal Scottish Academy for Music and Drama Glasgow :
Crawfordjohn PS South Lanarkshire : Broughton PS Scottish Borders : Cowie PS
Stirling : St Margaret's PS Cowie Stirling : Woodmuir PS West Lothian : East Calder
PS Breich West Lothian : St Patrick's PS Lochgelly Fife : S3 Conference Angus
College Arbroath : Broughton HS Edinburgh : Dyce Academy Aberdeen : Bankhead
Academy Aberdeen : Kincorth Academy Aberdeen : Crown PS Inverness : Greenhills
PS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Libberton PS South Lanarkshire : Mayfield PS
Saltcoats North Ayrshire : Kildrum PS Cumbernauld North Lanarkshire : Coatbridge
HS North Lanarkshire : Moniave PS Dumfries & Galloway : Dumfries Academy
Dumfries & Galloway : St Ninian's PS Prestwick South Ayrshire : Annbank PS South
Ayrshire : Pennyburn PS Kilwinning North Ayrshire : Fairlie PS North Ayrshire :
Kirkstyle PS Kilmarnock East Ayrshire : Muirkirk PS East Ayrshire : St John Ogilvie PS
Paisley Renfrewshire : Lochfield PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Kirklandneuk PS Renfrew
Renfrewshire : Bargarran PS Erskine Renfrewshire : St Fillan's PS Houstoun
Renfrewshire : Banchory PS Clackmannanshire : Stirling HS, Dalry PS North Ayrshire
: Dalmeny PS Edinburgh : Queensferry HS Edinburgh : Tinto PS Symington South
Lanarkshire : Walston PS South Lanarkshire : Braidfield HS Clydebank West
Dunbartonshire : Baldragon Academy Dundee : Ravenscraig PS Greenock Inverclyde
: Campie PS Musselburgh East Lothian : Lochgelly HS Fife : Stonelaw HS Rutherglen
South Lanarkshire : Coatbridge HS North Lanarkshire : Langlands PS Forfar Angus :
Kirkriggs PS Forfar Angus : Chapelpark PS Forfar Angus : Wellbrae PS Forfar Angus :
Northfield Academy Aberdeen : Lawside Academy Dundee : Our Lady's PS Dundee :
Advanced Higher Conference Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Advanced Higher
Conference Restenneth Angus : Currie HS Edinburgh : Kelso HS Scottish Borders :
Advanced Higher Conference North Ayrshire : St Joseph's PS Inverclyde : Broughton
PS Scottish Borders : Newlands PS Romanno Bridge Scottish Borders : Forfar
Academy Angus : East Calder PS West Lothian : Braidfield HS Clydebank West

Dunbartonshire : Linlithgow PS West Lothian : Kilsyth HS North Lanarkshire : Balmalloch PS Kilsyth North Lanarkshire : Crawford PS South Lanarkshire : Preston Lodge HS East Lothian : Our Lady's PS Dundee : Marr College Troon South Ayrshire

Teacher Training: Training for Whole Staff at Udston Primary Hamilton South Lanarkshire Linlithgow PS West Lothian : Edinburgh City Secondary Teachers Advanced Higher Training Redhall Teachers' Centre Edinburgh : Training for Quality Improvement Team at Auchterderran Education Resource Centre Fife : Edinburgh City Primary Teacher Training Redhall Teachers' Centre Edinburgh : Training for Denny High School English Department Falkirk : West Lothian Secondary Teachers Inservice St Kentigern's Academy Blackburn : Briefing for Gaelic and Scots Development Officer East Ayrshire : Training for Secondary English Postgraduate Teaching Courses Jordanhill Teacher Training Institute Glasgow : Briefing for Quality Improvement Officer North Lanarkshire : Training for East Lothian Secondary Teachers Preston Lodge HS Prestonpans : Presentation to Network of English Principal Teachers Airdrie North Lanarkshire : Briefing for Quality Improvement Officer East Dunbartonshire : Training for Probationer Primary Teachers from South Lanarkshire and Dundee hosted by the Scottish Poetry Library Edinburgh : Edinburgh City Primary Teachers Twilight CPD : Edinburgh City Secondary Teachers Twilight CPD : Training for South Lanarkshire Probationer Teachers' Police College East Kilbride : Edinburgh City Secondary Teachers Twilight CPD : Briefing for Quality Improvement Officer Falkirk: Training for Whole Staff of Curriehill Primary School Edinburgh : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers' In-service Training Hope Street Education Resource Centre Hamilton : Falkirk Teachers In-service Day Victoria PS Falkirk : Edinburgh City Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Murrayfield Stadium : Briefing for Quality Improvement Officer Renfrewshire : Training for Whole Staff at Campie Primary School Musselburgh East Lothian

Events: Itchy Coo Launch Sanquhar Dumfries & Galloway : Busby Library East Renfrewshire : Lochgelly Centre Fife : Scottish Poetry Library : Craigmillar Library : Scots Writing Workshop Peebles Scottish Borders : Ottakars Bookshop Inverness : Grangemouth Library Falkirk : Templehall Library Fife : Scots Writing Workshop Johnstone Renfrewshire : East Renfrewshire Summer School : Musselburgh Library East Lothian : Keynote Speech to Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Annual Conference Peebles Hydro : Haddington Library East Lothian : Ottakars Bookshop Kirkcaldy : Renfrewshire Summer School Ferguslie Park Paisley : Linlithgow Library : Itchy Coo Events for Blast-Off Books Linlithgow West Lothian : Manky Mingin Dinosaur Show Edinburgh International Children's Book Festival : Tam o Shanter's Big Night Oot Launch Glasgow: Tam o Shanter's Night Oot Showcase with 6 plays performed by pupils of St Roch's HS Glasgow, Queensferry HS Edinburgh, Lawside Academy Dundee; Northfield Academy Aberdeen, Coatbridge HS North Lanarkshire and Stonelaw HS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire at Alexander Gibson Theatre Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama Glasgow : Tam o Shanter's Big Night Oot performance by pupils of Stonelaw HS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire at Association for Scottish Literary Studies Conference University of Strathclyde Glasgow : West Calder Library : Blackburn Library : Arts & Disability Conference Edinburgh International Conference Centre with actor Tommy Cannon : Evening Event with Parents and Whole School at Linlithgow PS West Lothian : Falkirk Library : Bo'ness Library : Braes High School Library : Denny Library : Bonnybridge Library : BBC interview at Darnley Visual Impairment Unit Pollok Glasgow

2004

School visits, class projects and workshops: St Ninian's PS Stirling : Brig o Turk PS Stirling : Lochrutton PS Dumfries & Galloway : Castle Douglas PS Dumfries & Galloway : Duncow PS Dumfries & Galloway : St Theresa's PS Dumfries Dumfries &

Galloway : Woodmuir PS Breich West Lothian : Torphichen PS West Lothian : Westfield PS West Lothian : Greenrigg PS West Lothian : Workshop with students at Royal Scottish Academy for Music and Drama : Newarthill PS North Lanarkshire : Kelso HS Scottish Borders : Whitehirst PS Kilwinning North Ayrshire : Glebe PS Irvine North Ayrshire : Wester Hailes CHS Edinburgh : Dalry PS North Ayrshire : Moorpark PS Kilbirnie North Ayrshire : Craigie HS Dundee : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Beith PS North Ayrshire : Gateside PS North Ayrshire : Glengarnock PS North Ayrshire : Blacklands PS Kilwinning North Ayrshire : Corsehill PS Kilwinning North Ayrshire : Wester Hailes CHS Edinburgh : Killearn PS Stirling : Bannockburn PS Stirling : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Carmichael PS South Lanarkshire : Walston PS South Lanarkshire : Wiston PS South Lanarkshire : Abington PS South Lanarkshire : Leadhills PS South Lanarkshire : St Roch's RC PS Glasgow : Trinity PS Edinburgh : Nitshill PS Glasgow : John Ogilvie RC HS Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Robert Owen PS Lanark South Lanarkshire : Sighthill PS Edinburgh : High Blantyre PS South Lanarkshire : Balwearie HS Kirkcaldy Fife : Eyemouth HS Scottish Borders : St Michael's RC PS Glasgow : Ibrox PS Glasgow : Sighthill PS visit with Culture Minister Frank McAveety MSP : Newarthill PS North Lanarkshire : Greenrigg PS North Lanarkshire : Biggar PS South Lanarkshire : Touch PS Fife : Balwearie HS Kirkcaldy Fife : Lanark PS South Lanarkshire : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Broxburn PS West Lothian : West Calder HS West Lothian : Lanark PS South Lanarkshire : Gleniffer HS Renfrewshire : Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Springburn Academy Glasgow : Kirkcowan PS Dumfries & Galloway : Kirkiner PS Dumfries & Galloway : South Lanarkshire Advanced Higher Scots Creative Writing Conference Hamilton : Ravenscraig PS Greenock Inverclyde : Sacred Heart PS Greenock Inverclyde : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Eastbank Academy Glasgow : Whitehill Secondary School Glasgow : Rosshall Academy Glasgow: Kings Glen PS Greenock Inverclyde : St Joseph's PS Greenock Inverclyde : Knightswood Secondary School Glasgow : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Windyknowe PS Bathgate West Lothian : St Lawrence's PS Greenock Inverclyde : Earnhill PS Greenock Inverclyde : Cowie PS Stirling : St Margaret's PS Cowie Stirling : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Broomlands PS Kelso Scottish Borders with Deputy Education Minister Euan Robson MSP : Lanark PS South Lanarkshire : Dunbar Grammar School East Lothian : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Uplawmoor PS East Renfrewshire : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : St Bride's High School East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Cuiken PS Penicuik Midlothian : Kirkhill PS West Lothian : Lanark PS South Lanarkshire : Chapelpark PS Forfar Angus

Teacher Training: Edinburgh City Primary Teachers CPD Creative Writing in Scots Murrayfield Stadium : Edinburgh City Primary Teachers CPD Using Scots Language P1 – P3 Murrayfield Stadium : Edinburgh City Primary Teachers CPD Using Scots Language P4 – P7 Murrayfield Stadium : Edinburgh City Primary Teachers CPD Scots Language for Non-Scottish Teachers Murrayfield Stadium: Training event for Principal Teachers of all Glasgow Secondary Schools Hampden Park Stadium Glasgow : South Lanarkshire Secondary Teachers Creative Writing for S1/S2 Hope Street Education Resource Centre Hamilton : Stirling Teachers Creativity in Scots Workshops Dunblane : Training for Secondary English Postgraduate Teaching Courses Jordanhill Teacher Training Institute Glasgow : Training for Whole Staff at St Mary's PS Larkhall South Lanarkshire : Training for Probationer Teachers Biggar PS South Lanarkshire: Training for Whole Staff at Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers Scots in the Primary Classroom P1 – P3 Hope Street Education Resource Centre Hamilton : East Lothian Primary Teachers In-service Kingsmeadow PS Haddington : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers Scots in the Primary Classroom P4 – 7 with writer and teacher Gregor Steele

Events: Dick Institute Kilmarnock : Stirling Smith Museum : Cardonald Library Glasgow : Bridgeton Library Glasgow : Hillhead Library Glasgow : Larbert Library Falkirk : Dalrymple Library East Ayrshire : Catrine Library East Ayrshire : Learning &

Teaching Scotland Language and Literacy Conference Jordanhill Glasgow : Prague International Book Fair Czech Republic : Edinburgh Festival of Writing Oxfangs Library : Kings o the Midden Burns an aw that Festival Tour with RSAMD actors Mark Wood, Gary Lamont and Helen Mallon at Dick Institute Kilmarnock East Ayrshire, Stanley PS & Lowden Montgomery PS North Ayrshire, Newton PS & St John's PS South Ayrshire : Writers at Work International Conference Edinburgh : Workshop at Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Annual Conference Peebles Hydro : Performance at Arts & Business Awards Ceremony Festival Hall with actor Tommy Cannon : Grangemouth Library Falkirk : Edinburgh International Book Festival Kings o the Midden Show with actors Mark Wood, Helen Mallon and Gary Lamont : Itchy Coo Showcase Library Resource Centre Coatbridge North Lanarkshire : BBC interview for Newsdrive : meeting with David Brew, Cultural Policy Division Scottish Executive Edinburgh : Torrance Community Hall East Dunbartonshire: Kirkintilloch Community Centre East Dunbartonshire: Bearsden Community Hall East Dunbartonshire : Milngavie Community Hall East Dunbartonshire : Bishopbriggs Community Hall East Dunbartonshire : Partick Library Glasgow with St Peter's PS and Whiteinch PS : Larbert Library Falkirk : Grangemouth Library Falkirk : Pumpherston Library West Lothian : Filming for Writing Scotland, Chapelpark PS Forfar Angus : National Association of Writers in Education Conference York : Children in Scotland Annual Conference Dundee : Giffnock Library East Renfrewshire : Carnoustie Library Angus : Itchy Coo British Council Tour of Czech Republic lecturing at university pedagogical faculties in Prague, Brno, Usti nad Labem, Hradec Kralove, Pardubice and Plzen : Representing Scots in Education at Mercator Minority Languages Conference in Leeuwarden/Ljouwert Friesland Netherlands

2005

School visits, class projects and workshops: Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Wardie PS Edinburgh : South Morningside PS Edinburgh : St Charles PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Sighthill PS Edinburgh : Bathgate West Nursery School : Balbardie PS Bathgate West Lothian : Lochgelly HS Fife : St Charles PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Wemyss Bay PS Inverclyde : St Mungo's HS Falkirk : Abbey PS Kilwinning North Ayrshire : Newarthill PS North Lanarkshire : Lochgelly HS Fife : St Charles PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama : Beckford PS South Lanarkshire: Kirklandpark PS Strathaven South Lanarkshire : St Charles PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Lochgelly HS Fife : Gourock High School Inverclyde : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Roseburn PS Edinburgh : Carmondean PS Livingston West Lothian : St Palladius PS Dalry North Ayrshire : Mayfield PS Saltcoats North Ayrshire : Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Wester Hailes Community High School Edinburgh : West Kilbride PS North Ayrshire : Hayocks PS Stevenston North Ayrshire : John Galt PS Irvine North Ayrshire with Jennica Haga from University of Helsinki Finland observing : St Stephen's PS Glasgow : Lanark PS South Lanarkshire : Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Wester Hailes Community High School Edinburgh : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : South Lanarkshire Advanced Higher Scots Creative Writing Conference : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Rothesay PS Isle of Bute North Ayrshire : Edinburgh Home Schooling : Williamston PS West Lothian : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Angus S6 Scots Creative Writing Conference : Burnt Island PS Fife : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Bannockburn PS Stirling : Carlton PS Glenrothes Fife : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Ullapool High School Highland : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Coulter PS South Lanarkshire : Rothesay PS Isle of Bute North Ayrshire : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : St Mun's PS Dunoon Argyll & Bute : Balgreen PS Edinburgh : Blackford Brae PS Edinburgh : Bonnington PS Edinburgh : Broughton PS Edinburgh : Gateside PS Fife : Pitlochry HS Perth & Kinross : Harmeny School Edinburgh : Kingsinch PS Edinburgh : Saltergate School Dalkeith Midlothian : Springhill PS

Barrhead East Renfrewshire : St Anthony's PS Armadale West Lothian : St Cuthbert's PS Edinburgh : Westerton PS East Dunbartonshire : Forfar Academy Angus : Earnock HS Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Hunter HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Craigiebarns PS Dundee : Park Place PS Dundee : Rosebank PS Dundee : Glebelands PS Dundee : Broughton PS Edinburgh : Stonehouse PS South Lanarkshire : Cowie PS Stirling : Eastwood HS Newton Mearns East Renfrewshire : Low Port PS Linlithgow West Lothian

Teacher Training: Training for Whole Staff at Campie PS Musselburgh East Lothian : Training for Whole Staff at Kirklandpark PS Strathaven South Lanarkshire : Training for staff at Kirkhill PS Broxburn West Lothian : Training for Whole Staff at Carlton PS Glenrothes Fife : Training for Hillhead High School English Department Glasgow : Training for Cartvale School staff Govan Glasgow : Dundee Primary Teachers Twilight CPD : Training for secondary teacher West Calder HS West Lothian : Inverclyde Primary Teachers in-service St Columba's HS Gourock : Language in Scottish Schools Conference New College Edinburgh : Training for Whole Staff at Echline PS staff South Queensferry Edinburgh with Pauline Millar from West Lothian observing : Clydesdale Primary Teachers Twilight CPD : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers CPD Hope Street Education Resource Centre Hamilton : Training for Kirkhill PS staff Broxburn West Lothian : East Lothian Primary Teachers CPD Scots Language in the Primary Classroom P1 – 7

Events: Cultural Connections Paisley Town Hall : Moniack Mhor S6 Scots Writing Course with pupils from Lawside Academy Dundee, Harlaw Academy Aberdeen, Carluke HS, Uddingston Grammar and St Bride's HS South Lanarkshire, Garnock Academy North Ayrshire and Simon Hall Kirkwall Grammar Orkney : Aye Write Festival Glasgow : Dundee Expressive Arts Forum : Confident Creativity Conference Glasgow : Blethertoun Braes Show at the Edinburgh International Book Festival with Martin McCormick and Richard Madden : Citizens' Advice Bureau National Conference Dundee : Hopscotch TV filming at Mayfield PS Saltcoats North Ayrshire : Steps Theatre Dundee : Rothesay Schools Poetry Festival : Blairgowrie Library : AK Bell Library Perth : Carnoustie Library : Borders Books Fort Kinnaird Edinburgh : Borders Books Glasgow Fort : Scottish Poetry Library

2006

School visits, class projects and workshops: Ratho PS Edinburgh: Broughton PS Edinburgh with Sigve Gramstad and Joerg Horn from ECRML Council of Europe observing : St Joseph's PS Greenock Inverclyde : Ravenscraig PS Greenock Inverclyde : Heathery Knowe PS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Bankhead PS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire : John Ogilvie RC HS Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Broxburn PS West Lothian : Clune Park PS Port Glasgow Inverclyde : Kilmacolm PS Inverclyde : Pitteuchar West PS Fife : Glenrothes HS Fife : Sighthill PS Edinburgh : Auchenbank PS Barrhead East Renfrewshire : Park School Kilmarnock East Ayrshire : Winton PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Nesting PS Shetland : Ollaberry PS Shetland : Mossbank PS Shetland : Scalloway PS Shetland : Earnock HS Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Hunter HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Gourock PS Inverclyde : Bannockburn PS Stirling : Inveralmond HS Livingston West Lothian : Windyknowe PS Bathgate West Lothian : Springside PS North Ayrshire : St John's PS Stevenston North Ayrshire : St Andrews PS Airdie North Lanarkshire : Ladywell PS Motherwell North Lanarkshire : Sacred Heart PS Motherwell North Lanarkshire : Tollcross PS Edinburgh : Williamsburgh PS Paisley Renfrewshire : St John Ogilvie PS Paisley Renfrewshire : St Fillan's PS Erskine Renfrewshire : Bankhead PS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire : Halfmerke PS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Glencairn PS North Ayrshire : Ardeer PS North Ayrshire : Millport PS Cumbrae North Ayrshire: West Kilbride PS North Ayrshire : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : St Bridget's PS Kilbirnie North Ayrshire : Moorpark PS Kilbirnie North Ayrshire : St Patrick's PS

Inverclyde with actor Martin McCormick : Pirnmill PS Arran : Lamlash PS Arran : Kilmory PS Arran : Brodick PS Arran : Whiting Bay PS Arran : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Letham PS Livingston West Lothian : Straloch PS Perth & Kinross : Charleston PS Dundee : Armadale PS West Lothian : Balgreen PS Edinburgh : Blackford Brae PS Edinburgh : Cramond PS Edinburgh : Crianlarich PS Edinburgh : East Craigs PS Edinburgh : Harmeny School Edinburgh : Hermitage Park PS Edinburgh : Lorne PS Edinburgh : St Mary's PS Edinburgh : Winton PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Edinburgh S6 Creative Writing Conference : Minigaff PS Newton Stewart Dumfries & Galloway : Creetown PS Dumfries & Galloway : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Tulliallan PS Kincardine Fife : Hallglen PS Falkirk with civil servants from *Curriculum for Excellence* team observing : Biggar PS South Lanarkshire, Dundee schools : Rosebank PS Dundee : Crawford PS South Lanarkshire : Abington PS South Lanarkshire : Wiston PS South Lanarkshire : Carmichael PS South Lanarkshire : Libberton PS South Lanarkshire : Broughton PS South Lanarkshire : Biggar PS South Lanarkshire : South Lanarkshire Advanced Higher Conference Hamilton : Knox Academy Haddington East Lothian : Wallacestone PS Brightons Falkirk : Ralston PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Newmains PS Paisley Renfrewshire : St James PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Claremont HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Tynecastle PS Edinburgh with Emma Turnbull from Scottish Arts Council observing : Loirston PS Aberdeen : Harlaw Academy Aberdeen : Armadale PS West Lothian with poet Andrew Philip observing : Letham PS Livingston West Lothian : St Anthony's PS Johnstone Renfrewshire : Gryffe HS Johnstone Renfrewshire : Knoxland PS Dumbarton West Dunbartonshire : Leith Academy : Brackens PS Dundee : Williamsburgh PS Paisley Renfrewshire : Letham PS Livingston West Lothian

Teacher Training: Training for Secondary English Postgraduate Teaching Course Moray House Teacher Training Institute Edinburgh : Training for Mayfield PS staff Saltcoats North Ayrshire : Training for Troqueer PS staff Dumfries Dumfries & Galloway : Training for Broxburn PS staff West Lothian : Training for Secondary English Postgraduate Teaching Course Northern College Teacher Training Institute Dundee : Twilight CPD for Winton PS staff Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Twilight CPD for Braehead PS South Lanarkshire : Training on Scots language for British Council Scotland staff Edinburgh : Renfrewshire Primary Teachers CPD training Kilbarchan : CPD for Windyknowe PS staff Bathgate West Lothian : East Lothian Primary Teachers CPD : Hunter HS and Claremont HS staff training session : University of Paisley Craigie Campus Ayr student teachers workshops : North Ayrshire Literacy Coordinators Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn : Keynote address to British Council International Teachers Seminar Edinburgh : Arran Primary Teachers CPD Brodick : Keynote address to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Conference Lauder College Fife : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers CPD Scots Language for P1 - P3 Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers CPD Scots Language for P4 - P7 Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn : Arran Primary Teachers CPD Scots Language for P1 - P4 Brodick: Arran Primary Teachers CPD Scots Language for P4 - P7 Brodick : Lecture for 180 student teachers at University of Dundee : Charleston PS staff Dundee : Letham PS staff Livingston West Lothian : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers CPD Creative Writing in Scots Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn: Edinburgh Primary Teachers Scots in the Primary Classroom CPD Haymarket : Edinburgh Secondary Teachers Scots for High School Pupils CPD Haymarket with Albinal Lorences visiting teacher of Galician observing : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers Twilight CPD : Perth & Kinross Primary Teachers CPD AK Bell Library: BEd Primary Students Teachers St Andrews Teacher Training College Glasgow : Falkirk Primary Teachers CPD : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers CPD Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn: BEd Primary Students Teachers St Andrews Teacher Training College Glasgow : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers CPD Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn: Tulliallan PS Fife CPD : Bannockburn PS staff training with Ann Milovic from *Curriculum for Excellence* observing : West Lothian

Secondary Teachers Inveralmond HS Livingston : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers CPD Blantyre: South Lanarkshire Secondary Teachers CPD Blantyre: Brackens PS Dundee staff training : Loirston PS staff Aberdeen : Knoxland PS staff Dumbarton West Dunbartonshire : North Ayrshire Secondary Teachers CPD Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn : West Lothian Secondary Teacher Advanced Higher Creative Writing in Scots Inveralmond HS Livingston : Letham PS CPD Livingston West Lothian : North Ayrshire Teachers Robert Burns and the Scots Language CPD Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn : Renfrewshire Primary Teachers Twilight CPD : Student Teachers Postgraduate Secondary English University of Dundee : Training for Secondary English Postgraduate Teaching Course Moray House Teacher Training Institute Edinburgh : Scots Language CPD at Wallacestone PS Brightons Falkirk with civil servants from *Curriculum for Excellence* Development team observing : Scots Language CPD at Bannockburn PS Stirling with civil servants from *Curriculum for Excellence* Development team observing

Events: Meeting with European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages Committee of Experts : Edinburgh S6 Creative Writing Loaningdale Centre Biggar : Largs Library : Saltcoats Library : North Ayrshire Scots language information event for parents Ardrossan: Scottish Poetry Library : Edinburgh parents Scots language information event Bonnington PS : Falkirk adult writers Scots workshop : Stones of Civilisation Conference United Nations New York USA : Schools Gala Day Bampots and Heroes Show at Edinburgh International Book Festival with actors Richard Madden, Joseph Arkley and Ashley Smith : Fruitmarket Gallery : Filming for Scots television programme, Mayfield PS : Roald Dahl National Eejits launch Falkirk: Borders Books Schools Event Fort Glasgow : Storytelling Centre: Inverness Book Festival : Auchterarder Library : Crieff Library : Carmondean Library : Almondbank Library : Atkinson-Pryce Bookshop Biggar : The Bridge Glasgow

2007

School visits, class projects and workshops: Burnside PS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire : Letham PS Livingston West Lothian : St Patrick's PS Glasgow : Anderston PS Glasgow : Annette Street PS Glasgow : Cuthbertson PS Glasgow : Elmvale PS Glasgow : St Constantine's PS Govan : St Gregory's PS Glasgow : St Blane's PS Glasgow : Parkview PS Glasgow : Liberton HS Edinburgh : Forrester HS Edinburgh : Tollcross PS Edinburgh : Queensferry HS Edinburgh : St Joseph's PS Greenock Inverclyde : Wemyss Bay PS Inverclyde : Inverkip PS Inverclyde : Gourrock HS Inverclyde : St Francis PS Port Glasgow Inverclyde : St Michael's PS Port Glasgow Inverclyde : Ravenscraig PS Greenock Inverclyde : St John's PS Port Glasgow Inverclyde : King's Oak PS Greenock Inverclyde : Greenock Academy Inverclyde : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : Broomlands PS Irvine North Ayrshire : Letham PS Livingston West Lothian : Canongate PS St Andrews Fife : Burnside PS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire : Claremont HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Broomlands PS Irvine North Ayrshire : Stanley PS Ardrossan North Ayrshire : St Machar Academy Aberdeen : St Peter's PS Aberdeen : Seaton PS Aberdeen : Mastrick PS Aberdeen : Brackens PS Dundee : St Fergus PS Dundee : MacAlpine PS Dundee : Inellan PS Argyle & Bute : Toward PS Argyle & Bute : Ardler PS Dundee : Moffat Academy Dumfries & Galloway : Beattock PS Dumfries & Galloway : Bannockburn PS Stirling : Gowriehill PS Dundee: Hillside PS Dundee: Ardler PS Dundee : Charleston PS Dundee : Mid Craigie PS Dundee : Mossgiel PS Dundee : Whitfield PS Dundee : Eastern PS Dundee : Lochee PS Dundee : St Mary's PS Lochee Dundee : St Joseph's PS Dundee : St Ninian's PS Dundee : Our Lady's PS Dundee : Park Place PS Dundee : Seaton PS Aberdeen : Portobello HS Edinburgh : Newtongrange PS Midlothian : Duloch Park PS Fife : Lochnell PS Oban Argyle & Bute : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : Edinburgh S6 Creative Writing Conference : Cranhill PS Glasgow with Director of Glasgow City Culture & Sport Bridget McConnell observing : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk :

Girvan Academy South Ayrshire : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : Sunnyside PS Glasgow : Melrose PS Scottish Borders : Knowepark PS Selkirk Scottish Borders : Earlston HS Scottish Borders with Scottish Borders Councillors observing : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : Sacred Heart PS Greenock : St Gabriel's PS Greenock : St Joseph's PS Greenock : St Ninian's PS Gourrock: St Columba's HS Greenock : Ravenscraig PS Greenock : Duncanrig HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Slamannan PS Falkirk : Whiteinch PS Glasgow : Douglas Ewart HS Newton Stewart Dumfries & Galloway : Broughton PS Scottish Borders : Drumbrae PS Edinburgh : St Gregory's PS Glasgow : Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire : Fraserburgh Academy Aberdeenshire : Crombie PS Aberdeenshire : St Gregory's PS Glasgow : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : Abbeyhill PS Edinburgh : St Fillan's PS Houstoun Renfrewshire : Kirkton PS Carluke South Lanarkshire : Letham PS Livingston West Lothian : Inveralmond HS Livingston West Lothian

Teacher Training: Lecture on Scots Language to 130 BEd Primary Students Teachers Craigie Campus University of Paisley Ayr : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers Greenwood Education Centre Dreghorn : Training for Renfrewshire teachers at Cultural Connections Conference Renfrew : Whole Staff Training at Canongate PS St Andrews Fife : Whole Staff Training at Hallglen PS Falkirk with Mary Ritchie of HMIE observing : Glasgow Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Sunnyside PS: Fife Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Burntisland PS : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers Greenwood Education Centre Dreghorn : Keynote address to East Ayrshire Teachers Conference Park Hotel Kilmarnock : Aberdeen City Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Summerhill Education Centre : Briefing for Quality Improvement Officers National Network Meeting Camelon Education Centre Falkirk : Argyle & Bute Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Toward PS : Midlothian Primary Teachers CPD Twilight with James Costa of University of Lyon France observing : Fife Teachers Conference Auchterderran Centre Cardenden: Aberdeen Teachers Conference University of Aberdeen: Aberdeen Teachers CPD: Keynote Speech to Newly Registered Teachers Reception Event at General Teaching Council Scotland Event Royal Society of Edinburgh with Cabinet Secretary for Education in attendance : South Ayrshire Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Girvan : Presentation of Cathrin Howells' Language at Letham Scots Monitoring Report at Scottish Education and Teaching with Technology Conference Scottish Exhibition Centre Glasgow : Inverclyde Primary & Secondary Teachers Twilight CPD Greenock : Scots Training for Falkirk Literacy Coordinators Victoria Buildings Falkirk : Staff training for Wigtown PS Dumfries & Galloway : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers Scots Language In-service Low Park Museums Hamilton : South Lanarkshire Secondary Teachers Scots Language In-service Low Parks Museum Hamilton : East Ayrshire Primary Teachers Scots Training Event Kilmarnock : BEd Primary Teachers Scots Language Training St Andrews Teacher Training Institute University of Glasgow : St Gregory's PS Glasgow : BEd Primary Teachers Scots Language Training St Andrews Teacher Training Institute University of Glasgow : Whole staff training for Nethermains PS Falkirk co-presented by class teacher Caroline Winning : Aberdeenshire Primary Teachers CPD Westburn House Aberdeen : Keynote address to 500 Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Teachers at Erskine Bridge Hotel : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers CPD Greenwood Education Centre Dreghorn : Dundee Primary Teachers CPD Ardler PS : CPD training for Kirkton PS staff Carluke South Lanarkshire with Aileen Campbell MSP observing : presentation to Creative Contexts Scots language conference Glasgow Caledonian University : Dundee Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Lochee PS

Events: Kidnappit Launch Edinburgh Castle : Kidnappit Event at Scottish Storytelling Centre Edinburgh with Martin McCormick and Joseph Arkley and pupils from Abbeyhill PS and Holyrood PS : Aye Write Festival Mitchell Library Glasgow : Linlithgow Library : Wee Fairy Tales performance Citizens' Theatre Glasgow : Innerleithen Library : Aberdeen Reading Bus Initiative : Kirkton Library Dundee :

Launch of Geordie's Mingin Medicine at Waterstones Sauchiehall Street Glasgow with pupils from Sunnyside PS : interviews promoting Geordie's Mingin Medicine with BBC Radio Borders and Borders TV : Galston Library : Auchinleck Library : Receiving Royal Mail Children's Book Award 2007 with Karen Sutherland for Katie's Moose Thistle Hotel Glasgow : Scottish Chamber Orchestra Scots Collaboration with Joanna Nicholson at St Gregory's PS Glasgow : Hands Up for Trad Music Awards Fort William

2008

School visits, class projects and workshops: Bridge of Weir PS Renfrewshire : Gourrock HS Inverclyde : Languages Work Conference Assembly Rooms Edinburgh with Edinburgh S1/S2 pupils : Abbeyhill PS Edinburgh : Mossneuk PS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : Robert Owen PS Lanark South Lanarkshire with Karen Gillon MSP observing : Collace PS Perth & Kinross : Mary Erskine School Edinburgh : Castle PS, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire : Cairnhill PS, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire : Nether Third PS, Cumnock, East Ayrshire : Greenmill PS, Cumnock, East Ayrshire : Hillside School, Cumnock, East Ayrshire : Logan PS, Logan, East Ayrshire : Beith PS North Ayrshire : Abbeyhill PS Edinburgh : Dalry PS North Ayrshire : Gateside PS North Ayrshire : Onthank PS Kilmarnock East Ayrshire : Newport PS Fife : Glengarnock PS North Ayrshire : Moorpark PS Kilbirnie North Ayrshire : Penicuik HS Midlothian : Greenwood Academy : Duncanrig HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : St Elizabeth's PS Hamilton South Lanarkshire : Our Lady's HS Cumbernauld North Lanarkshire : Newport PS Fife : Ancrum Road PS Dundee with Billy Kay recording the class for radio programme : Lossiemouth HS Moray : Milnes HS Fochabers Moray : Speyside HS Aberlour Moray : Keith Grammar School Moray : Elgin Academy Moray : Forres Academy Moray : Buckie HS Moray : Elgin HS Moray : St Bride's PS Onich Highland : Abbeyhill PS Edinburgh : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk with James Costa of the University of Lyon interviewing pupils about Scots language : Duncanrig HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire with James Costa of the University of Lyon interviewing pupils about Scots language : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : Claypotts PS Dundee : Durness PS Highland with pupils from Scourie PS : Reay PS Dounreay Highland : Pennyland PS Thurso Highland : Pultneytown Academy PS Wick Highland : North PS Wick Highland : Edinburgh S6 Creative Writing Conference Edinburgh University : James Hamilton HS Kilmarnock East Ayrshire : Market Place PS Inverurie Aberdeenshire : Georgetown PS Dumfries : Tulliallan PS Kincardine Fife : Burnside PS Rutherglen South Lanarkshire : Tulliallan PS Kincardine Fife : Baldragon Academy Dundee

Teacher Training: Postgraduate Education Secondary English course Moray House Initial Teacher Education Centre Edinburgh : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers Creative Writing in Scots CPD Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn : Scots Training Citizens' Theatre actors : North Ayrshire Primary Teachers Scots CPD Greenwood Teachers Centre Dreghorn : BEd Primary Student Teachers Moray House Teacher Training College Edinburgh : Fife Primary Teachers Twilight CPD Lochgelly Fife : Training and information event for delegates at Creative Nation Conference Edinburgh : Training for St Fillan's PS staff Houstoun Renfrewshire : Training for staff at Carrick Knowe PS Edinburgh : Introduction to Scots for 300 student teachers Moray House Initial Teacher Education Centre Edinburgh: Individual training for West Lothian English Teacher : Wallace PS Elderslie Renfrewshire : Training for East Lothian Council Employees Brunton Theatre Musselburgh : Staff training for East Ayrshire Primary Teachers at Greenmill PS Cumnock : Caithness Primary Teachers CPD at Halkirk PS : Fife Primary Teachers CPD Newport PS : South Ayrshire Inset Day Primary Teachers Craigie Campus University of the West of Scotland Ayr : Training for Falkirk Scots Coordinators Development Group at Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : Open Scots Language Training Event for Scottish Teachers at National Library of Scotland Edinburgh : Training with Carrick Knowe PS Scots Language Working Group Edinburgh : Perth & Kinross Primary Teachers Twilight CPD at AK Bell

Library Perth : Midlothian Primary Teachers Inset Training Event Hawthornden PS
Bonnyrigg : Keynote Speech to Scottish Learning Festival Scottish Exhibition Centre
Glasgow : Keynote Speech to Mercator International Minority Languages in Education
Conference Leeuwarden/Ljouwert Netherlands : Training for Falkirk Scots
Coordinators Camelon Education Centre : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers Inset
Training Low Parks Museum Hamilton : : South Lanarkshire Secondary Teachers
Inset Training Low Parks Museum Hamilton : Staff training for Wallace PS Elderslie
Renfrewshire : Training for Tulliallan PS staff Kincardine Fife : Aberdeen Primary
Teachers

Scots Language Training Events Woodside PS Aberdeen with Maureen Watt MSP
Minister for Schools and Skills observing : Aberdeenshire Primary Teachers

Scots Language Training Event Meldrum PS : Midlothian Primary Teachers Scots
Creative Writing Event Hawthornden PS Bonnyrigg: Training for Baldragon Academy
English Department Dundee

Events: Brechin Library : Montrose Library : Presentation to Creative Nation Event
at Edinburgh International Conference Centre : Keith Library : Lossiemouth Library:
Dundee Steps Theatre Dundee and Perth & Kinross Children's event with Michael
Rosen and Diane Hendry : Nos Ur European Minority Language Song Contest
Inverness : Festival of Politics Minority Languages Event Scottish Parliament :
Mitchell Library Roald Dahl Event for Glasgow Primary Pupils : Speech at Launch of
Aberdeen Reading Bus Initiative's Fit Like Yer Majesty at Fyvie Castle : Participation
in Partnership for Diversity Minority Language Conference in Gdansk Poland :
Thornhill Library : Crichton Campus Dumfries : Fountainbridge Library : Auchterarder
Library : Presentations at International Minority Language Project University of Lyon
France : Speech promoting Scots at Hands Up for Trad Awards 2009 Fruitmarket
Glasgow with Culture Minister Linda Fabiani in attendance

2009

School visits, class projects and workshops: Gargunnoch PS Stirling : Muirhouse
PS Motherwell North Lanarkshire : Visit to Aberdeen pupils aboard the Aberdeen
Reading Bus outside Scottish Parliament Edinburgh : Davidson's Mains PS Edinburgh
: Ardrossan Academy North Ayrshire : Largs Academy North Ayrshire : Glenburn PS
Prestwick South Ayrshire : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : North Lanarkshire Our
Heritage Event at Wishaw Library with North Lanarkshire primary pupils : Annbank
PS Mossblown South Ayrshire : Bearsden PS East Dunbartonshire : Hillpark
Secondary School Glasgow : Netherlee PS East Renfrewshire : Georgetown PS
Dumfries & Galloway : Edinburgh Academy : Raploch PS Stirling : St Mary's PS
Stirling : Banchory Academy Aberdeenshire: Kingswells PS Aberdeen : Netherlee PS
East Renfrewshire : Ayr Academy South Ayrshire : Sacred Heart PS Girvan South
Ayrshire : Cowie PS Stirling : Kirkcaldy West PS Fife : Broomhill PS Aberdeen :
Duncanrig HS East Kilbride South Lanarkshire : St John's PS Alloa Clackmannanshire
: Portlethen PS Aberdeenshire : Banchory-Devenick PS Aberdeenshire : Fishermoss
PS Aberdeenshire : Newtonhill PS Aberdeenshire : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk :
Edinburgh S6 Scots Creative Writing Workshop University of Edinburgh :
Aberdeenshire S5/S6 Write Fest Events Aberdeen University : Dumfries & Galloway
pupils at Wigtown Book Festival : St Mary's PS Dundee : Dens Road PS Dundee : LTS
filming at Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : LTS filming at Denny HS Falkirk

Teacher Training: Training for Falkirk Scots Coordinators Comely Park PS : Itchy
Coo Education Briefing for delegates at Robert Burns Conference at Glasgow
University : Training for PGDE student teachers at Moray House Initial Teacher
Education Centre Edinburgh : Dumfries & Galloway Primary Teachers (Dumfries
area) Scots language CPD : Training for staff at Carronshore PS Falkirk : Training for
staff at Kinnaird PS Larbert Falkirk : training for staff at Muirhead PS Troon South
Ayrshire : Dumfries & Galloway Primary Teachers (Castle Douglas area) Scots

language CPD : Training for East Lothian Primary Teachers at Dunbar PS : Training for South Ayrshire Teachers at Mossblown : Training teachers at national Creative Sparks conference Edinburgh : East Renfrewshire Primary Teachers Twilight CPD at Netherlee PS : Dumfries & Galloway Primary Teachers (Stranraer area) Scots language CPD : West Lothian Primary Teachers CPD Event at Livingston Village PS : Falkirk Scots Coordinators Evaluation Session : Training for East Ayrshire Primary Teachers at Darvel PS : Training for Aberdeen Primary Teachers at Broomhill PS : Briefing on Scots in schools for Glow Development team The Optima Glasgow : North Lanarkshire Primary Teachers at St Maurice's HS Westfield : : North Lanarkshire Secondary Teachers at St Maurice's HS Westfield : Glow Training The Optima Glasgow : Falkirk Scots Coordinators Camelon Education Centre : Dundee Primary Teachers CPD Event P1 – P3 Rockwell Education Centre : Dundee Primary Teachers CPD Event P4 – P5 Rockwell Education Centre : Dundee Primary Teachers CPD Event P6 – P7 Rockwell Education Centre : Training for staff at St John's PS Alloa Clackmannanshire : Scots Language CPD for Aberdeenshire Primary Teachers at SALT Festival 2009 at Newtonhill PS : South Lanarkshire Primary Teachers Scots Sangs Rhymes and Stories Low Parks Museum Hamilton : South Lanarkshire Secondary Teachers Scots for S1/S2 Low Parks Museum Hamilton : Training for staff at Dunearn PS Kirkcaldy Fife : Scots Across the Curriculum for staff at Auchinleck Academy East Ayrshire : LTS Literacy Network Dundee : Edinburgh Primary Teachers In-service at Broughton HS : CPD for Victoria PS staff Falkirk : training for staff at Harelees PS Larkhall South Lanarkshire

Events: Itchy Coe & Centre for Robert Burns Studies Scots Writing Awards at Glasgow University with pupils and parents from 10 local authorities and judges Janice Forsyth, Andrew Wolfe and Liz Lochhead : National Library of Scotland Children's Burns Supper Event : National Museum of Scotland Robert Burns Event : Ministerial Seminar on Scots with Linda Fabiani at Stirling University : Ministerial Literature Working Group meeting Victoria Quay Edinburgh : Word Festival Aberdeen S2 pupils Doric workshop University of Aberdeen : Duncan Macrae Scots Drama Competition Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama Glasgow : Meeting at my home with Culture Minister Michael Russell MSP : Falkirk Parent Conference Victoria PS Falkirk : Inaugural Meeting of Cross Party Group on the Scots Language at Scottish Parliament with 65 teachers and other education professionals in attendance : European Centre for Modern Languages Minority Language in Education project workshops in Graz Austria : Edinburgh International Children's Book Festival Roald Dahl Event : Cross Party Group on the Scots Language Education Sub-Committee Aberdeen Meeting : Nethermains PS Scots Information for Parents Event Denny : Presentation to Book Start Conference Signet Library Edinburgh : Scots Presentation at Scottish Learning Festival Scottish Exhibition Centre Glasgow : Presentation by Falkirk Scots Coordinators Network Scottish Learning Festival : National Trust for Scotland Aberlady East Lothian : Cross Party Group on the Scots Language Education Sub-Committee Glasgow Meeting : Inaugural Meeting Ministerial Working Group on the Scots Language Bridge of Allan

2010 – 2011

School visits, class project and workshops: Lasswade PS Midlothian : Carstairs PS South Lanarkshire : Abertay University Digital Media Students Dundee : Nethermains PS Denny Falkirk : Sanquhar PS Dumfries & Galloway : S3 Creative Writing Conference Howden Centre Livingston : Comely Park PS Falkirk : Dalbeattie PS Dumfries & Galloway : Leith Academy Edinburgh : Minishant PS South Ayrshire : Easter Carmuir PS Falkirk : Alloway PS South Ayrshire : Kincaidston PS South Ayrshire : Gargieston PS Kilmarnock East Ayrshire : Sheuchan PS Stranraer Dumfries & Galloway : Caldervale HS Airdrie North Lanarkshire : St Patrick's PS Coatbridge

North Lanarkshire : Inveralmond HS Livingston West Lothian : Kirkiner PS Dumfries & Galloway : Brechin Academy Angus

Teacher Training: Scots CPD for Highmill PS staff Carluke South Lanarkshire : East Dunbartonshire Primary Teachers Scots Language CPD at Twechar PS : South Ayrshire Primary Teachers Scots Language CPD at Craigie Campus University of the West of Scotland Ayr : Scottish Borders Primary Teachers Scots Language CPD at Howdenburn PS Jedburgh : Perth & Kinross Primary Teachers Scots Language CPD at Inch View PS Perth : Scots Briefing for Fife Digital Literacy Team Auchterderran Teachers Centre Cardenden : CPD Find LTS The Optima Glasgow : Scots Briefing for Chair of Bord na Gaidhlig : Scots Language Workshop for civil servants in Gaelic and Scots Unit Scottish Government Victoria Quay Edinburgh : Briefing on Scots in Education for Quality Improvement Officers Network, Learning & Teaching Scotland and Scottish Qualifications Authority The Optima Glasgow : Scots Education Sub-Committee Update on Scots Language Provision for Learning & Teaching Scotland Literacy Team The Optima Glasgow

Events: Scots Language Working Group Holyrood : Launch of Learning & Teaching Scotland Scots Language on-line Module Stirling University : Scots Language Working Group Saltire Society Edinburgh : Education Sub-Committee for Cross Party Group on the Scots Language Kilmarnock Meeting Robert Burns Memorial Centre : Update on Education Sub-Committee for Cross Party Group on the Scots Language Holyrood : European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages Meeting Glasgow : Scots Language Working Group Holyrood : Scots CPG Education Sub-Committee Meeting with Fiona Hyslop MSP Culture Minister at Scottish Parliament : Scots in Education Briefing at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum Alloway : Scots Language Working Group Holyrood : Scots CPG Education Sub-Committee Meeting with Michael Russell MSP Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning : Interview with Billy Kay for BBC Radio Scotland St Andrew's Day Scots programme : Scots Language Working Group Holyrood : Education Sub-Committee for Cross Party Group on the Scots Language Glasgow Meeting Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama : Scots CPG Education Sub-Committee Meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Education Michael Russell MSP and Learning & Teaching Scotland Scottish Parliament Edinburgh : Meeting with Association for Scottish Literary Studies Education Committee : General Teaching Council for Scotland Professional Recognition for Scots Language Teaching Awards Scottish Parliament Holyrood Edinburgh