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## NEWS RELEASE

23rd May 2013

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# 18 libraries, a castle and a tent: author goes on the road to meet readers for Crime Writing Month

A South Yorkshire library will be the first stop on a six-week tour for an award-winning crime novelist to mark National Crime Writing Month.

Stephen Booth is the creator of two young Derbyshire police detectives, DS Ben Cooper and DS Diane Fry, who have appeared in twelve crime thrillers set in and around the Peak District. A thirteenth book in the series, *Already Dead*, is due for publication in June.

On Tuesday 4th June, Stephen will embark on a series of reader events which will see him visiting eighteen libraries in Yorkshire and the Midlands, as well as bookshops and other venues ranging from a castle to a story-telling tent.

"I'm a keen supporter of libraries," said the author. "And there's been a fantastic response from library staff around the region eager to host events for Crime Writing Month. They know how much their readers enjoy crime fiction, which remains one of the most popular genres year after year. I love meeting readers too, so I'm really looking forward to the next few weeks. I'll be talking about how I became a writer, why I chose to write crime fiction - and of course about the Cooper and Fry series, which is what I'm best known for. Readers write to me all the time about the characters and the locations used in the books."

Stephen was a newspaper journalist for more than 25 years, but left journalism in 2001 to write crime novels full-time after the success of his first book, *Black Dog*.

Since then, he's won awards on both sides of the Atlantic, and in 2003 he was presented with the Dagger in the Library Award by the Crime Writers' Association for "the author whose books have given readers most pleasure." One of his characters, Detective Sergeant Ben Cooper, was a finalist for the Sherlock Award for the Best Detective created by a British author. Stephen has been described by the Sunday Telegraph as "one of our best story tellers" and by The Guardian as "a modern master of rural noir".

The author will be at Mexborough Library, near Doncaster, on Tuesday 4th June at 2.30pm to give a talk to readers, followed by a question and answer session, and a book signing.

From Mexborough, Stephen heads off for another library event in Cheshire. During the following weeks he'll also be in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Rutland. His

tour ends with a book festival in Nottingham on 14th July.

Stephen Booth's latest Cooper and Fry novel *Dead and Buried* was recently released in paperback, and a new book *Already Dead* will be published by Sphere on 20th June in hardback and ebook formats.

Author's website: <http://www.stephen-booth.com>

A full list of dates is at: <http://www.stephen-booth.com/events.htm>

\* National Crime Writing Month is a promotion by the UK Crime Writers' Association, which this year celebrates its 60th anniversary. Details of all their events can be found at: <http://www.crimewritingmonth.co.uk>

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

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**PHOTOS AVAILABLE:**

[Stephen Booth 1](#)

[Stephen Booth 2](#)

[ALREADY DEAD cover](#)