

## Welcome to Storyline - Welcome to Bag Books!

### *Q&A: Why aren't there more stories?*

Bag Books produces 20 titles; two for adults, six for teens and twelve for younger children.

Each new book has a very long journey from idea to story-pack.

After a suitable story has been devised, "sensory cues" unique to that story must be worked out.

Then a prototype story-pack is trialled and final adjustments are made.

We then create workshop instructions, so that our team of craft artists can start making the story-packs to send out!

IF YOU ARE READING THIS NEWSLETTER, you have probably had some past contact with Bag Books.

But if not, welcome. We hope that Storyline will give you a peek into the world of Bag Books and the very special children and adults we help.

So what is Bag Books?

Well, we are a charity which uses the magic of stories to bring communication to some of the most profoundly disabled children and

adults in our society.

Many of them cannot speak, but interacting through multi-sensory stories lets their storyteller recognise their sounds, movements or expressions and "reply", encouraging them to develop their individual way of communicating.

If you never learned the power of communication, how can you even

If you use our story-packs, we'd love to share your experiences or your pictures with others. E-mail your contributions for the newsletter to [storyline@bagbooks.org](mailto:storyline@bagbooks.org) or post them to us.

make choices? Without choice, it is easy to learn to be helpless.

Our story-packs provide the chance for physical experiences linked to emotional experiences, and the choice to express those feelings to someone else.

Bag Books produces 20 titles and offers training in how to tell and create multi-sensory stories.



## Minister's Beeline for BB



Jane Davidson, AM is Education Minister in the devolved Welsh Assembly.

BAG BOOKS HAD A SPECIAL VISITOR at the *Wales Education 2004 Addysg Cymru* show in May.

Jane Davidson, Welsh Minister for Special Educational Needs and Lifelong Learning, was there to give the keynote address.

But as she arrived, she surprised organisers by making a special request to see Bag Books' stand.

BB's Director, Chris Fuller, chatted with the Minister and showed

her some of the books on display.

Jane heard that there has been a relatively low uptake of Bag Books story-packs in Wales. She pointed out that her department has made money available for multi-sensory resources in Welsh schools. Thank you Minister!

**Tuesday 12 October:** Are you attending *Special Needs Norfolk 2004*, at the Norwich Sports Village Hotel, Hellesdon? Come to our workshop at 10.15.

## Issue 1 Summer 2004

Over 450 Bag Books distributed so far in 2004

### *Q&A: What are multi-sensory stories?*

They are stories for telling!

But attached to individual "page-cards" are materials and objects with inviting shapes, sounds, textures, smells, and patterns.

Using them, hand-over-hand with a storyteller, is great fun and all the time the listeners are learning.

Bag Books is the only publisher of multi-sensory story-packs in the UK.

### *How can YOU help support Bag Books?*

Organise an office raffle for an extra day's leave.

Collect a Smartie tube full of 20p (or even £1) coins.

Suggest that your library holds a free story-telling session for children.

Every Bag Book we send out costs the charity at least £150.

WE ARE DELIGHTED to be able to recognise the generous support of the following:

Berkeley Group, Bridge House Grants, BBC Children In Need, the City Parochial Foundation, the Roald Dahl Foundation, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Greendale Charitable Foundation, Help a London Child, Lazard, the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, the Lloyds TSB Foundation, Ragdoll, the Sapp Family Foundation, Baily Thomas Charitable Foundation, UBS, and the Valentine Charitable Trust.

**STOP-PRESS-STOP-PRESS**

BAG BOOKS IS APPEALING on  
BBC Radio 4!

You can tune in to hear us  
at 7.55am or 9.26pm on  
**Sunday 31 October,**  
and again at 3.27pm on  
**Thursday 4 November!**

**STOP-PRESS-STOP-PRESS**



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**E-mailing Storyline,**  
instead of posting it,  
saves Bag Books over  
30p per newsletter.

## News International **GREAT NEWS International**

NEWS INTERNATIONAL, publishers of the Sun, the Times, the News of the World and the Sunday Times, have chosen Bag Books as their Staff Charity of the Year! Chris Fuller, BB's Director, was thrilled: "The support of the staff at News International is huge for us: Potentially it represents help to over 2,000 people with profound disabilities."

We are looking forward to a fantastic year in partnership with News International, who also publish the Times Educational Supplement, the Times Higher Education Supplement and the Times Literary Supplement. Thanks for picking us!



**Charity Award Shortlist**

YET MORE TO SMILE ABOUT came with the news that Bag Books was shortlisted for the Guardian Charity Awards 2004. From over 700 entries, we were placed in the last 30, to win one of five prizes. The Awards are sponsored by Sainsbury and smartchange and "recognise and encourage small charities that are making an outstanding contribution to social welfare."



## Coming soon: A New Story

AS IF THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TO CELEBRATE, Bag Books will soon be launching our latest story-pack title. We're not giving much away right now, but we can tell you that it will be age-appropriate for teens and adults, and will involve a mix-up in an office's post...

The story-pack is about to go into trials and should be in distribution by November.



THERE IS A NEW FACE in the Bag Books office: Jason Longbottom joined us in April as our Fundraising Manager.

Every story-pack costs us over £150 to make, so we rely on charitable donations. Jason's appointment frees up Chris Fuller to create new stories and run training and storytelling sessions.

Jason is looking for your fundraising ideas, so give him a call on 020 7385 4021 or e-mail **jason@bagbooks.org**

UNLESS YOU SPEND a lot of time at Bag Books' office and workshop in Fulham, west London, you might not know who's who:

**Chris Fuller**, Director of Bag Books, started the charity a decade ago and still manages things day-to-day. She also develops the BB stories and runs our training courses.

## Who's Who at Bag Books?

**Sarah Lewis** is our Senior Craft Artist. She manages the production workshop and Bag Books' small team of talented, dedicated craft artists.

**Jason Longbottom** is our Fundraising Manager (see the article to the left).

**Vicky Garside**, our full-time craft artist, and

our team of part-time artists produce all of our multi-sensory story-packs by hand.

**Richard Fuller** is part-time administrator.

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**Call or e-mail us to get involved.** Run your own fundraising event, tell your friends about our work, recommend us to your company or just stay in touch!