

Questions & Answers

Who does Bag Books help?

Bag Books, the learning disability literacy charity, exists to help enrich the lives of children, teenagers and adults with the most profound intellectual impairments and physical disabilities.

How does Bag Books help them?

We provide educational resources (multi-sensory story-packs) and training to their carers and educators. Story-packs are specifically devised for those who cannot understand words and pictures. They offer learning, communication and fun to those with severe learning disabilities (a developmental age of up to six years) or profound learning disabilities (a developmental age of under 18 months).

What is a multi-sensory story-pack?

Multi-sensory stories are told through actions, linking emotional and physical experiences. A story-pack contains a simple tale and relevant actions which capture the listener's attention through sight, touch, motion, sound or smell.



Topical Fundraiser - a Day at the Beach

A summer twist on "dress down Friday": In return for a donation, you and your colleagues can sport your best beachwear at the office. How about

a prize for the best decorated desk or a beach bar making (non-alcoholic) cocktails in the staff restaurant?

Desmond's Scrapbook

In seek of inspiration for new stories, I've been off around the world again! I worked off that amazing UBS dinner with a trip to the top of the John Hancock Centre in Chicago. If you feel inspired to write us a story, e-mail it to me at desmond@bagbooks.org Unfortunately, the altitude got me quite dizzy: I think I'd better get back to bed. See you in the summer.

Love Des



Storyline

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The news from Bag Books

Still Going Round

Bag Books' new Story-Go-Round Project has got off to a tremendous start.

In January, Phase 1 saw professional storyteller Bernard Tagliavini visit community libraries across the Eastern Counties, where local groups of children with learning disabilities were invited to storytelling sessions. In parallel, Bag Books' Director, Chris Fuller trained library staff in the special techniques which make multi-sensory story-packs so effective.

Well over 250 children participated in 42 sessions at 19 venues, with 58 library staff trained (more librarians in that single month than in the whole of 2006).

We now move on to Phase 2, Inner London. This work is being funded by UBS and will go ahead in a few months. Over the coming three years, the Project will cover the whole of England and Wales, region by region.

Bag Books is now seeking funding partners in various parts of the country to expand this exciting and challenging work. We are keen to hear from companies and organisations which can help us achieve the goal of the Story-Go-Round Project: to enrich the creative environment for these children. We want



to provide the motivation, skills and resources to maintain their access to multi-sensory stories, within their own community, long after Bag Books has moved on to help elsewhere!

If you know someone who may be able to help, please put them in touch with us.

We will also be looking for more library partners, so if you think that your local library should offer multi-sensory storytelling for local children with special needs, ask them to get in touch to talk about a free session.

... and the news is ...

Our latest title “The Big Story” (see opposite) has been launched. In a similar vein to “Just In Time”, this title carries its listeners through a real-world process they would never otherwise experience. This time, instead of a letter going through a sorting office, the listeners experience the creation of a newspaper story, from news event to front page and beyond.

If you were hoping to hear about our other new title, “Snapped”, sorry but you’ll just have to wait until the next edition of Storyline.



Thanks for dinner

Bag Books was the chosen charity of the UBS CAS Charity Dinner 2006. Ursula Lonergan and Bernard Hawes were both inspirational and tireless in



making the event an incredible success. After a reception on board the Damien Hirst-decorated Tate Boat a sumptuous meal was served at Tate Modern.

Diners were even treated to a special multi-sensory telling of “Desmond”, courtesy of 15 trained UBS volunteers.

A few weeks later, Bernard and Ursula presented Chris and Bag Books Chair Caroline Peel with a cheque for £21,000. We don’t mind being stuck with that dinner cheque!

Mini Updates

Co-operating – Two grants from the Co-operative Membership Community Fund paid for nine multi-sensory story-packs to help children in London special schools. The story-packs will be used by around 200 youngsters across the capital.

Will you? – Leaving a legacy to charity is one way to make the kind of difference that you could simply never afford during your lifetime. Since this is such a personal decision, Bag Books does not solicit bequests, but we can send information if that would be of help.

The Best Ever!

At an emotional champagne reception on 19 February 2007, Bag Books and News International finally parted ways. After an amazing two-and-a-half year partnership, the folks at Wapping have moved on to support another lucky charity.

But during BB’s time with them, they have become our largest ever corporate supporter. Since summer 2004, they have given Bag Books a staggering £55,000.

Sunday Times Deputy Managing Editor Kathleen Herron handed over the last cheques to Chris Fuller, describing Bag Books as “our favourite charity.” Well Kathleen, the feeling is mutual!



In recognition of the amazing bonds we have formed and the great success News International’s team have made of the partnership, Bag Books presented Kathleen with a full-size “front page”



from “The Big Story” – Kathleen’s own multi-sensory title, released on the same day to celebrate the partnership.

Chris Fuller pointed out that this year’s cheque alone represented over 130 story-packs, potentially helping thousands of children. She went on to tell “The Big Story” to members of the News International Charity Committee.



Roy Parsons showed Sarah Lewis, Bag Books’ Craft Workshop Manager, and some of her team around the Press Rooms at Wapping, where the Sun, the News of the World, the Times and the Sunday Times are printed.

All in all, it was a tremendous afternoon, and a great way to say farewell to some wonderful friends. We’ll miss you guys.

Appealing Company

Many companies will not even consider a charity’s appeal unless it is proposed by an employee. Do you know anyone who might be willing to support a request by Bag Books, who works

for Accenture, ABN AMRO, Barclays/ BarCap, Cazenove, Man Group or ZIFA? Please ask them to e-mail jason@bagbooks.org