

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 eighteen 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 - Festive Lunch

How about asking your office Xmas party organiser to add a pound or two to the price of the company Festive Lunch? Or

have a Christmas Colours day, where everyone pays a sub and wears red and green.

Desmond's Scrapbook

I've been all over the place, trying to keep up with Bernard and Janet, our Story-Go-Round Trainer-Storytellers. What with all the running around, I thought I'd have a nice night out with my mates from Linklaters, at their fundraising Quiz Night. Unfortunately, all I remember is waking up with a headache: better get back to bed, I think.

If you want to get in touch, contact me at desmond@bagbooks.org or via my Facebook profile (search for Desmond Bagbooks).

love Des



SGR: London and Wales



country and we could never hope to visit them all. But by helping to establish centres of excellence, we are moving the agenda and (so far) achieving results beyond what we had expected.

With Wales and London in 2007, and with the next Tour – to the Southwest – in January 2008, Story-Go-Round is rolling out across the country.

We desperately need your help to keep things going, to come into more communities, to train more library staff and to reach even more children. We are especially keen to secure funding for the subsequent Tours: to the Southeast and the North.

Please, if you know of a community group (maybe a local WI, church group, Lodge or sports club) or a company that may be able to support this work, put them in touch with us. Funding for London was provided by UBS and Give-It-Away; Wales was funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation and several smaller donors.



On Friday 7 September, children from Y Bont School, Llangefni took part in the first storytelling sessions of Story-Go-Round: Wales at their local library. Two weeks later the London Tour (in association with UBS) kicked off the autumn term with youngsters from Bridge School, at Archway Library in Islington.

Glenda Williams, Children and Young People's Librarian at Llangefni said *"The delight on the faces of the children this morning was wonderful to see... We are going home inspired!"* Geoff James, Islington's Manager of Library Services to Children & Young People said that the training had *"shown how we can include children with disabilities in our day to day work to a greater extent."*

There is still a long way to go to fully include children with complex needs; there are thousands of libraries around the

It's a Snap

Children's Book Week 2007 was marked by the launch of Bag Books' new title for primary-schoolers, "Snapped". Stratford Library, in East London, played host to youngsters from two local special schools, who were the first to hear the story.

Pierre the bear and Elkie the moose get a nasty surprise when they find a man in their forest. If you want to know what happens, you'll have to ask your local library or special school to get a copy! The title was funded by the wonderful folks at Toronto Dominion bank. Thanks for the support.



Mariam Salim at Stratford Library

So-phie, so good!

Autumn saw big changes in our workshop. Sophie Baker took over as Craft Workshop Manager from Sarah Lewis, who left us after four years in post. We all wish Sarah well in her Occupational Therapy studies at Brighton University.



Sophie's experience in both craft production and team management make her a fitting successor.

In a stroke of luck, another of the shortlisted candidates has agreed to join us too: Karen Meddick will be



working as Sophie's Deputy, during Kate Piggott's maternity leave. (Good luck to Kate and Ron from all at BB!)

Sophie (left) and Karen in the workshop

Do you know ...

Bag Books needs employees in all sorts of companies to suggest us for support: we will provide any information you need! Please e-mail:

jason@bagbooks.org if you know anyone who works at... Accenture, ABN AMRO, Barclays/BarCap, Cazenove, Man Group, ZIFA, or another big company.

Mini Updates

A gift for Gran – Thanks to Peter Wilkinson of P. Wilkinson Containers Ltd. for long-term donating dozens of tins for our story-pack "Gran's Visit"; thanks to Paul Humphrey of WS Jenkins & Co. Ltd. for filling them with beeswax polish!

Good Charlotte – Philanthropist Charlotte Grobien funded an extension of the Story-Go-Round London Tour. Charlotte surprised Chris Fuller with a cheque at a reception with other beneficiaries. She also joined us for a storytelling demonstration at Kingston Library.



The write stuff – The lovely folks at Pentel have donated a year's supply of one of their pens for adult title "The Big Story". We chose a pen that is brightly coloured and soft, but chunky enough for bigger hands.

Worth the Waters – In 2007 we came to the end of a grant from the Waters Foundation, who had funded the development of several new titles. In the summer, Mrs Jane Waters kindly presented a copy of "Kofi and the Magic Shaker" – one of their stories – to Fulham Library.



Grand folks – The Freemasons' Grand Charity agreed to fund 100 free multi-sensory story-packs. They will go to those Story-Go-Round host libraries who are keenest to continue involving children with profound special needs in library life.

Towering Achievement



Under a special commission from the Tower of London, Bag Books created a one-off title, "Locking Up the Tower", to help teenagers with profound additional needs get the most out of their visit.

Before they come, they will be told the story, offering them a chance to start to remember some of the Tower's sensory experiences. Then, during their visit, they will not only be able to have the story told to them again, but they will get to see, feel, smell and hear the same stimulating items for real. We are honoured to be helping unlock the nation's most historic site for new young people.