

Christmas Shopping

With Christmas on the way, why not do your shopping and earn commission for Bag Books at the same time.

In the left hand column of every page on our website www.bagbooks.org you can click on links to "Amazon" or "Buy.At"

Amazon is known for books but also sells a wide range of other goods such as electrical products and toys plus they offer free delivery on orders over £5. By clicking through from the Bag Books website, you still pay the standard Amazon discounted price but we earn up to 5% commission from them. So far this year we have received £48.83.

Buy.At has a wide range of retailers: we get 8% commission from JJB Sports; 4% from Early Learning Centre; and 4% from HMV for example. Current special offers include 10% off at the checkout with Teleflorist and free UK standard delivery on orders over £30 from Marks & Spencer. So far this year we have received a total of £72.94 in commission.

Car Raffle

In the last edition of Storyline we told you about the car raffle we were taking part in organised by The Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI) on behalf of several small charities. We sold £662 worth of tickets and, with the FSI just taking 4.8% for their administrative costs, that means we raised over £630. Many thanks to all those who sold tickets for us.

The Fiat 500, kindly donated by Zurich, was won by Adelle Coakley.

We produce pdf and print versions of this newsletter. If you would like to change the format you receive in future please contact Dean Casswell. Similarly please let us know if you'd rather not receive future editions.



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Christmas Stickers

We're not yet big enough to have our own range of Christmas Cards so we've come up with a wizard way of adding that Bag Books feel to your own Cards - Christmas Stickers. They can also be used to secure presents, seal envelopes or put on gift tags.

Each Christmas Sticker tells the recipient it represents a 10p donation to Bag Books so a sheet of twenty costs £2. They not only raise vital funds for Bag Books, they also help raise awareness of our charity by displaying our name and website address.

To order, simply complete the order form at www.bagbooks.org/stickers.html and tell us which of the designs you require.



Objects needed

Many of our stories make use of recycled items – you can help us by collecting items such as old keys, old aerosol tops and sardine tins. For more details see our website <http://www.bagbooks.org/objectsneeded.html>

Many thanks to Peter Wilkinson of P Wilkinson Containers for donating over 200 empty tins to us and to Paul Humphreys of W S Jenkins for filling them with pure bees wax for use in our Gran's Visit story.

Storyline

Issue 12, November 2009



The news from Bag Books

Storytelling

Our "Story-Go-Round" storytelling tour of the UK began in 2007 and has now reached the West Midlands.



Our storyteller, Bernard, in action.

We are now planning tours of the East Midlands and Scotland for 2010 followed by Northern Ireland in early 2011.

Hot on the heels of the "Story-Go-Round" tour is a new two year "Telling Tales" England-wide project which has been funded by the Big Lottery Fund. It has more of a focus on training librarians to tell our stories and will be taking place in the South West, South East, London and East Anglia in 2009/10 and over the whole of England in 2010/11. It should double the number of children we reach each year through storytelling.



Shark or Turtle?

One of our new books for children is "Yolande's Swim" written by Elena Lopez from Jack Tizard School.



In the story, Yolande and her Dad live by the Caribbean and take their little boat out fishing. While Dad waits for the fish, Yolande goes swimming. But one day a scary dark shadow passes overhead! Is it a shark? No, it's just a turtle!



Making books

Our new premises enable us to work much more efficiently and also means we can accommodate more volunteers. As well as our regular volunteers, over the summer we've also had corporate teams from Standard Chartered and Ashurst (picture below). All this has helped to boost production and so far this year we've made around 15% more books than the same time last year - that equates to an additional 2,500 people with severe learning disabilities who'll benefit from our books. Many thanks to all our volunteers.



Fantastic feedback

We are always collecting feedback about our work but usually it's just in the form of statistics e.g. 95% of teachers thought that the children in the class had benefited from a Bag Books storytelling session. However, over the summer we've had several more detailed responses that we wished to share with you.

Ray Stearn, the Children's Services Manager at the Wheatsheaf Library in Rochdale, wrote "I can't remember when I've had more personally rewarding story sessions. To see the smiles and the looks of anticipation on the children's faces as the next part of the story came along was an experience not to be missed. Staff commented on how long the children stayed settled to participate in these stories, some who would not settle at all usually."



Sue Griffiths, a teacher from Exhall Grange School, wrote "Hello, we have just returned from our story telling session at Bedworth Library. I would like to say on behalf of the pupils and staff a huge thank you for a fantastic time. The children were enthralled, amazed and delighted, their attention was held for every second of the story telling. It was lovely to see the children so engaged and at ease with the story teller, the level and pace of the production was pitched exactly within the children's abilities and communication skills."

Paul Buckroyd and Mel Delamare, PMLD Teachers at Mary Elliott School wrote "It was a great pleasure to meet [the Bag Books storyteller] yesterday and for our students to be enthralled by you bringing to life the various stories. Some of our students showed a level of participation we hadn't seen before."

Kathie Johnston, Bookstart Co-ordinator working within Young Peoples Services at Torquay Library in Devon, wrote "I delivered a storytelling session this morning at a local school using your book "The Uninvited Guest". This book had previously been used during the Bag Books demonstration storytelling session we hosted almost a year ago at the Library. At the beginning of the session at the school I asked a rhetorical question, "and do you know what she said?" One of the children shouted out "Don't make a mess!" – the exact phrase from your story. She had attended the session in the Library last year and obviously remembered the story very well indeed almost a year on! Everyone was quite amazed, the child really had a chance to shine and was evidently very pleased with herself!"

Silver donations

Many thanks to Tony and Andrea Thorlby from Bicker, Lincolnshire who raised £750 for Bag Books. When planning their Silver Wedding Anniversary party, they asked guests not to buy them presents and suggested donations be made to us instead. What a wonderful idea and many congratulations to them.



Y Dywysoges Fach

Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson launched our first multi-sensory book to be translated into Welsh at the National Eisteddfod in August.

Our story "The Little Princess" was translated by the charity Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin to become "Y Dywysoges Fach". It tells the tale of a Princess who is lonely until a kitten comes to stay. The kitten gets lost but is eventually found and rescued and they live happily ever after!

"This is the first of our books to be translated into Welsh and it's a very exciting step for us," said Dean Casswell, our Chief Executive. "We hope that this will be the first of many translations."



Dean Casswell, Dame Tanni and Siân Owen.

Siân Owen, Director for Inclusion for Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin said, "This is a wonderful multi-sensory story which allows all children to enjoy story time - especially those children with additional needs."

Dame Tanni, the 11-times Paralympic gold medal winner and 6-times London Marathon winner, read the story in Welsh to a group of children visiting Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin's unit at the Eisteddfod. She said, "I love books and reading with my daughter, and now children and adults with profound disabilities will be able to experience the pleasure that books can bring. What a wonderful resource for interaction and inclusion."



Siân Owen and Dame Tanni read the story to children at the Eisteddfod.

Sharing the benefits

ShareGift specialises in accepting smaller numbers of shares of low value, which are not worth selling on their own. Since it was established in 1996, ShareGift has now given over £12 million to almost 1,500 different UK registered charities.

ShareGift can accept any number of shares. All you need to do is send your unwanted share certificates to ShareGift. They will re-register and combine shares, sell them and distribute the proceeds to charities such as Bag Books.

There is no charge to you or to Bag Books for using ShareGift.

Since registering with ShareGift earlier this year, we have already received £500 through them from an anonymous donor. For more information visit www.sharegift.org where you can download a Donation Coupon – please remember to tell them that you support Bag Books.

