

Christmas Stickers



It's that time of year again and you can add that Bag Books feel to your own Christmas Cards with our range of Christmas Stickers. The stickers can also be used to seal envelopes or to wrap up presents.

We have two ranges available: 20 small gold stickers for £2 per sheet or 12 larger contemporary stickers for £3 per sheet. The important thing is that each sticker represents a donation to Bag Books.

Order at www.bagbooks.org/stickers.html or call us for an order form. You might also be interested in our new range of Multi-sensory Gifts which can be seen at www.bagbooks.org/gifts.html or again just ask us to send you an order form.

Running & Cycling

Huge thanks to Martin O'Gorman and Martyn Church who raised just under £2,000 in sponsorship for Bag Books through the inaugural RideLondon-Surrey 100 mile cycle and also to Tyson Brown who raised over £800 running the British 10k London Run.

We have guaranteed places at both events again next year. The Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 is on 10th August 2014 and the British 10k London Run is on 13th July 2014.

For further details, please contact Camilla John, Fundraising & Communications Manager email camilla@bagbooks.org

A Day At The Seaside

In our new story, Ivan and Ruth are at the seaside looking at the shells and seaweed. They catch a fish in a net and decide to have an ice cream to celebrate but then a huge seagull swoops down. It is available via our book shop www.bagbooks.org/books.html



Storyline is published three times a year and is available in email and print versions. If you would like to change the format you receive in future please contact us. Similarly, please let us know if you'd rather not receive future editions.



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Storyline

December 2013

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities



Reaching families at Children's Hospices

Our two-year BBC Children In Need funded project with children's hospices is now well underway and we've visited 12 hospices since May. The feedback from the hospice staff has been very positive:

"The stories were fun and every child was able to take an active part. One of the children who finds it difficult to concentrate managed to sit and listen to four stories." **Bluebell Wood, Sheffield.**

"It included children with severe learning difficulties in a way they could participate and enjoy. The children smiled, laughed and were relaxed throughout the session." **Hope House, Oswestry.**

"The storyteller got everyone involved. He captivated the audience, treating everyone with respect and responding to them. He engaged all the children, was spontaneous, fun and sensitive to their needs. A lovely interactive activity." **Charlton Farm, Bristol.**

Although our Storytellers only see a handful of children when they visit, the idea is to demonstrate how our multi-sensory books can help and to train the hospice staff to tell them independently. For example, our Storyteller



saw five children when she visited **Claire House, Wirral** in July. The hospice staff have since told us, *"The number of children and young people that we would use Bag Books with is approximately 85 over the course of the year. Our hospice to home team also use them on their visits - almost on a daily basis to difficult children and young people."*

Another benefit for us has been that the families of the children also tend to be present and are introduced to our work:

"We have just received our order of three Bag Books and I wanted to feedback how impressed we are with them! Our son is just coming up to three and is profoundly disabled so choosing Christmas presents for him is always tricky. After attending one of your storytelling sessions at our local hospice we decided to club together with grandparents and invest in some Bag Books for Christmas. I am astounded at the quality of the props. It is clear to see they are well worth the money. I shall be recommending them to all my other special needs mum friends! Thank you again for the great service, for making a great product and for providing something meaningful for children like my son." **A parent.**



2013 charitytimes Awards

Recognising leadership and professionalism

Highly Commended

We are proud to announce that we were "Highly Commended" in the Charity of the Year (under £1m) category at the Charity Times Charity Awards 2013 in October. The judges' citation was "A simple but highly effective approach with a huge reach."



Our Chief Executive, Dean Casswell, was presented with the award at a dinner attended by over 600 people from the Charity world.

Raffle Tickets

We are participating in 'The Great Big Small Charity Draw' to raise funds from the sale of raffle tickets. Tickets are priced at just £1 each and prizes include a £2,000 luxury holiday voucher, a weekend in Lake Windermere and I-Pad Mini's. You can purchase tickets online at www.smallcharitydraw.org – remember to select Bag Books when choosing your charity to support. Books of paper tickets are also available for selling to friends and family or at a forthcoming event - contact camilla@bagbooks.org

A record year?

The number of hours donated by volunteers has doubled compared to a year ago and this has helped us increase the number of books made by 50%. Over the summer we had books piling up everywhere because our main customers, Special Schools, were on holiday. In early September we were able to send out the most books in a single day ever - 66 parcels containing 130 books. The courier company needed two transit vans to collect them!



Marion Mason (left) who logged the parcels with the courier company, Patricia Antunes (centre) who wrapped all the parcels and Sophie Baker our Workshop Manager are surrounded by multi-sensory books.

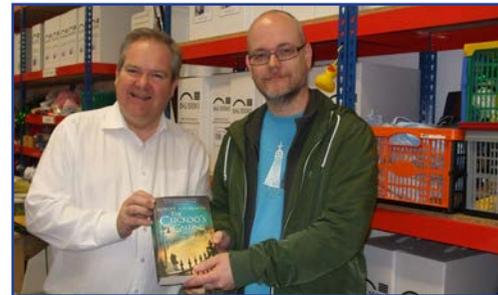
We are always on the look-out for more craft volunteers. If you have craft skills and live in or near London perhaps you could come into our craft workshop in Vauxhall/Battersea for one day each week. Alternatively, if you can knit or sew, perhaps you could volunteer at home and post your work to us.

See www.bagbooks.org/volunteers.html for more details or contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Rosie Martin, Tel 020 7627 0444 email rosie@bagbooks.org

A valuable cuckoo

You may recall an article in the national press about a book called "The Cuckoo's Calling" by Robert Galbraith when it was discovered that this was a pseudonym for J. K. Rowling.

We were delighted when Scott Pack, former Head Buyer at Waterstones, and now a Publisher for HarperCollins, contacted us to say he had a signed first edition and would auction it off for us. A nervous week went by with the auction total gradually increasing and we were delighted to receive over £3,000 including Gift Aid.



Scott Pack (right) subsequently visited our craft workshop and is pictured with our Chief Executive, Dean Casswell, and an £8 paperback edition of the book.

Thanks Mary

One of our volunteer knitters, Mary Atkinson, sadly passed away earlier this year. Mary had been a volunteer with us for 13 years before a fall in 2011 forced her to retire. We were honoured to discover that Mary had left us a generous legacy in her will and we plan to name a character after her in a future story.



Once Upon A Time



Our Once Upon A Time project aims to introduce multi-sensory storytelling to all 658 of the UK's Special Schools catering for pupils with Severe or Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities. So far this year we have increased the proportion reached from 67% to 77% and the teachers in the schools visited have judged that 98% of their pupils have benefitted from the multi-sensory storytelling.



"All children were involved and engaged. All got turns in feeling, pressing and listening to the various book boards. I think a big percentage at our school would benefit and enjoy sessions like these." A Teacher from Phoenix Special School, Keighley.