

Kidz Exhibitions

We showcased our brand new exhibition stand at the "Kidz in the Middle" exhibition in Coventry in March. Organised by Disabled Living, this event was attended by over 2,300 healthcare professionals together with parents and carers.

It was a great opportunity for us to demonstrate and sell copies of our popular "Captain's Hat" book. Aimed specifically at parents and carers, this book is priced at just £10 – please see our website for further details.

These exhibitions are a very effective way for Bag Books to reach out to parents and carers of children with learning disabilities and we look forward to exhibiting at future events. The next one is Kidz South on June 12th in Reading – please pop along to our stand if you are attending.



Build-a-Book

Following a very successful series of Build-a-Book workshops in special schools, we secured funding to run this project in five day centres for adults with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Build-a-Book involves small groups taking part in a range of craft activities that comprise the making of a bespoke Bag Book, "The Queen's Visit". The craft skills involved include sawing, hammering, painting, gluing, sanding and using a screwdriver. In total, 38 adults with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities participated in the five sessions.

"What a positive experience. Lots of involvement and lots of laughter. Even people we didn't expect to manage some of the tasks, joined in. Thank you."

"This is a very interesting and entertaining project. All our service users enjoyed the session and got involved in all aspects of making the book. It was great to see them getting so much pleasure from a new experience."



Storyline

June 2014

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities



National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day

Bag Books became a registered charity on 23rd September 1993 so our 21st Birthday is approaching later this year. In order to celebrate, we're organising the first ever National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day on 23rd September 2014.

Our own team of storytellers will be attempting to run sessions in 21 venues across the UK but we'd like schools, day centres, hospices, libraries etc to join in and organise your own sessions on that day. If you plan to do something then please let us know by sending an email to 21@bagbooks.org



"The ghost ride was very dark and spooky with spider webs" from The Fairground.



A record breaking year

2013 was a record year for multi-sensory storytelling with the number of participants at our sessions increasing by 46% to just over 7,000. Considering that the average number of participants at a storytelling session is under six, that's an enormous number of sessions – many thanks to everyone involved.

In addition, the number of separate orders for our books increased by 37%. This has put some strain on our craft workshop but we have managed to increase book production thanks in part to a record number of days contributed by volunteers.



"There's a sea urchin under the seaweed! It's moving!" from A Day At The Seaside.

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.



1 Stewart's Court, 218-220 Stewart's Road, London SW8 4UB
Tel: 020 7627 0444 Fax: 020 7627 0999
email: office@bagbooks.org web: www.bagbooks.org
Registered Charity No. 1026432

New Website

Our website has been completely redesigned to make it easier to use and more up-to-date. It's also now scaleable so that it can be easily viewed on a tablet or mobile as well as on a computer. The photographs of our range of multi-sensory books have been retaken and are now much larger to give you a better idea of what is currently available. Please have a browse at www.bagbooks.org



Storytellers gathering

Michael Tippett School in Lambeth hosted our second ever gathering of multi-sensory Storytellers in May. Our storytellers from all over the UK gathered to share ideas, observe each other in action and give feedback.

Stuart Cummings, Director of Services, organised the day and said, "It was an inspiring day with an amazing group of creative people."



Our team of multi-sensory Storyteller-Trainers.

Lost in Kyoto

Professor Takano from the Faculty of Special Needs Education at Hyogo University of Teacher Education in Japan came to visit us for a few days in January 2013. She is also a member of IASSID, the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She has now returned to the UK for a few months as a visiting professor at City University, London. She's aiming to come into our workshop on a regular basis and make Japanese versions of our multi-sensory books, "The Fairground" and "Lost in London" which will become "Lost in Kyoto". We made a start by changing the giant £1 coins in "The Fairground" into 100 Yen ones.



Professor Takano displays some newly minted coins with Sophie Baker, Craft Workshop Manager.

Shortlisted for Award

Our Tall Stories project was shortlisted for "The Supporting Older People with Learning Disabilities (Brian Rix) Award" at The National Learning Disability Awards 2014.



Training Teachers

We are planning a multi-sensory storytelling training day for Teachers and Teaching Assistants in the Autumn Term in London. The cost will be £200 per head which will include a copy of our training pack worth £150.

If you are interested please contact Stuart Cummings, Director of Services, email stuart@bagbooks.org

Visit from Korean teachers

A group of four Special Education Teachers studying for Master's and PhD degrees at South Korea's School for Special Education in Seoul came to visit us earlier this year.

We arranged for them to observe one of our multi-sensory storytelling days at Swiss Cottage School, Camden and they then spent a few days at our craft workshop looking at how the books are made and talking to our staff.

They bought several books to take home with them and invited us to go there for a reciprocal visit but we'll need obtain sponsorship to fund that.



Our visitors were excited to be taking five multi-sensory books home with them although we did wonder about how they would fit them all in their luggage!

Ice-cream knitting morning

We were expecting to make just 10 or 20 copies of our new title, "A Day At The Seaside" in the first few months of the year. However, a donor kindly funded the production of a further 80 copies and we had to dramatically increase production.

The story has a knitted ice-cream cone and to help our fantastic knitting volunteer, Ruth Manny, cope with the increased demand we held the first ever knitting morning at our workshop. 11 volunteers gave up their Saturday morning and came in to knit ice-cream cones.



The volunteers came in on a Saturday morning to knit and chat.

Murder in the Library

The staff at Wrexham Library raised £260 for Bag Books by hosting a Murder Mystery evening on World Book Night in April. Many thanks to Shan Cooper and everyone else involved.



The amateur detectives consider the clues.