

Bag Books in Portugal

In September 2017, Joao Canossa Dias from ARCIL, came over from Portugal to learn more about Bag Books and multi-sensory stories. ARCIL (Arcil-Associação Para A Recuperação De Cidadãos Inadaptados Da Lousã) is an organisation established in Portugal to promote care and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities with a view to their social and professional integration.

Joao was so impressed, that he invited our Storytelling Manager, Nina Martinez, to go to Portugal and deliver training to his team of Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists and other multi-disciplinary professionals in April 2018. Hoping to open up the training to a few others he advertised the course and the take up was so great that the planned one day turned into three days!

ARCIL 



Across the three days, Nina trained 66 people and supported storytelling at three schools and a bookshop with a group of adult participants.

A very rewarding trip and hopefully a lasting relationship with ARCIL.

Regular Giving

One of the best ways to support our work is to make regular donations which enable us to plan and develop our work more effectively as it gives us a regular income.

It also allows the donor to spread the cost evenly. With a standing order, the donor is in complete control and can cancel at any time.

Our Standing Order Form can be downloaded from tinyurl.com/BBSOForm. Alternatively, you can make a regular donation via www.justgiving.com/bagbooks/donate

Storyline is published twice 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.


BAG BOOKS

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Storyline

July 2018

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities


BAG BOOKS

A busy six months

The first six months of 2018 has seen a busy start to the year for Bag Books. Our 12 regional multi-sensory storytellers have told stories to over 3,200 people with learning disabilities - a 20% increase on the same period last year.



We've had some wonderful feedback from teachers highlighting how much Bag Books stories continue to be enjoyed and bring benefit to those who use them.

"All the children were attentive and so excited! The BEAUTIFUL resources kept their attention so well, even to the point that they leapt up to look at the map at one point! It was so nice to hear the giggles. Some of the children vocalised more than usual when using some of the resources and did so completely independent of adult input. With very little guidance the children interacted beautifully, opening, smelling, listening and clearly enjoyed doing so. At one point, one of the girls was SO focused that she counted along with each child as the storyteller went round. This was excellent. It was so beneficial to not just have access to the resources but to watch a story being told. To see how to use the resources, how to engage with every child and prompt (not always verbally) through many methods to have the children engage.

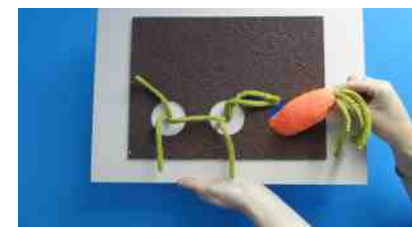
The children really enjoyed the sessions and listened, interacted and were very attentive. As staff we were impressed with the verbalisation and levels of attention that the children showed. We can't wait to use them and the children asked for more." **Treetops School, Grays**

Carrot cake

We are just putting the finishing touches to our latest story, "Anna's Allotment Bake". Anna visits Pete's allotment and they sow carrots and pull some sown previously. Back at home they decide to make a carrot cake but how long will it take to bake?

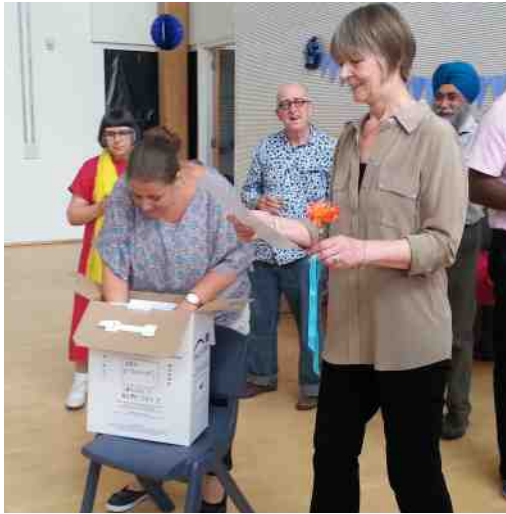


The development of the new story has been funded by The St James's Place Foundation whose grant also includes the production of 45 copies for special schools catering primarily for pupils with severe autism spectrum disorder.



Jan in the chair

Bag Books is delighted to announce that Jan Stogdon has taken up the role of Chair of Trustees. Jan is the former Head of a special school in Lambeth and has been a Trustee of Bag Books for seven years so brings valuable knowledge and experience to her new role.



Former Chair, Philip Wilson will continue as a Trustee and Bag Books would like to thank him for steering the charity so well over his 10 years as Chair during which time we have won several awards.



Congratulations Tony

The workshop has been very busy in the first six months of 2018 due to our highest ever number of volunteer days.

We nominated one of our long-standing volunteers, Tony Robinson, for a Marsh Heritage Crafts Volunteer Award and we're pleased to say that he was one of the finalists.

Tony first heard of Bag Books in 2012 via the Radio 4 Appeal by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson. Since then he has been working away in his garden shed making items for our books. He has made over 500 wooden seeds for "The Little Seed", over 200 locks and treasure chests for "A Pirate Adventure", and over 100 space shuttles and roman legionnaires' uniforms for "Museum Mystery".

Tony is a hugely dedicated member of our volunteering team and we are so pleased that his work for us has been recognised.



BS Fest

Every year, a group of friends usually meet up at the Glastonbury festival. However, this year there was no festival at Glastonbury so they decided to hold their own and to raise money for Bag Books at the same time.

The invitation-only event was held near Bishop's Stortford and chiefly organised by Andy Crossley and his family. Thanks are also due to the initial funders: John Adler, Shaun Dobson, Mal Ogg and Guy Wiehahn who, together with their families assisted in the organisation.



All the bands played for free: Green Dolphin, AMY VIX, Liv Austen, Andy Wilson and Band, The Catch, Jamie Williams and the Roots Collective, Tom Ryder, Embassy, Deep City, Club Drive and Frazer. Thanks also to the management companies who allowed their bands to support this event, especially NUA Entertainment and Off The Chart Promotions. Kaurus Limited and Christie Digital lent us a powerful external projector whilst Joe Crossley funded a photobooth.

Over 400 people attended the event and it has made a profit of over £12,000 for Bag Books. Thanks so much to everyone involved.



25 Years of Bag Books

September 2018 will see Bag Books celebrate its 25th birthday. What an exciting year it promises to be. Many thanks to all our supporters and volunteers – without you, none of it would be possible.

Since 1993 we have made 18,750 multi-sensory books and told stories to over 60,000 people with severe learning disabilities.

National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day

**Monday 24th
September 2018**

Please send photos of your activities to

nina@bagbooks.org