

How can I help?

I want to be involved...

- ...by **collecting materials** for story-packs.*
- ...by **becoming a fundraising co-ordinator** in my community/school/company/church.*
- ...by **introducing Bag Books** to my company/society/Lodge/professional group.*
- ...by **writing a new story** for Bag Books to turn into a multi-sensory title.*

*Bag Books will send you information.

...by joining the e-mail list, so that Bag Books can stay in touch without postage costs.

My e-mail address is

E-mailing Storyline, instead of posting it, saves Bag Books about 50p per newsletter.

Send me details of...

- ...**new multi-sensory story-pack titles**.
- ...**free training and/or storytelling sessions** in my local area.
- ...Bag Books' **attendance at upcoming professional conferences and exhibitions**.
- ...**Spring/Summer Fundraising** activities/ideas.
- ...**Overseas Challenges** for my company/me.

Q&A: How much money does Bag Books charge?

THE AVERAGE COST of a multi-sensory story-pack is £150.

We ask that organisations with a budget for books make a contribution of between £35 and £70 (depending on title).

Families ordering directly from us are never asked to give more than £25.

We hope you feel this is fair.

As a charity, Bag Books does not have shareholders or "owners" taking profits.

Money-spinner

PUT A COLLECTING TIN BY YOUR FRONT DOOR. Drop in a few coins each evening as you come in. Ask your visitors to do the same.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

At this traditional time to look back over a year's achievements, Bag Books can report on a great twelve months. In 2004, we published four new multi-sensory titles, maintained relationships with dozens of beneficiary organisations, provided training to hundreds of professionals and put a total of 806 story-packs into the hands of thousands of children, teens and adults with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties and disabilities.

2004 saw us continue to engage the support of important funders. As News International Staff Charity of the Year, we had a major presence at the NASEN & TES Special Needs South event. Bank UBS's support included a donation of over £9,000 following their Staff Children's Christmas Party.

Sadly, 2004 saw the retirement of Rodney Milne-Day as our Chairman of Trustees. For over a decade, his steady hand and wise counsel have helped move Bag Books from (literally) "kitchen table charity" to leading national organisation.

Rodney's successor is long-time Trustee, Caroline Peel. Jill May, a Managing Director at UBS, joined the Board, bringing expertise in strategic planning and management, which will prove vital as Bag Books continues to grow throughout 2005.

A very happy new year - to those we aim to help and those who aim to help us - from all at Bag Books.



Project Reviews

Reach - library *storytelling to children with SLD/PMLD*
 Libraries across England have hosted sessions, along with Llangefni, Caernarfon, Rhudlan and Rhyl in Wales. There is now interest in Cardiff and we plan to extend the Project, via a new "Reach Scotland" proposal.



Beam - *for teens and adults*
 Three new titles were published (ahead of target) and training was provided to special school staff and public librarians.

Take My Hand - *for pre-teens*
 A new title was launched (on target) and training was given to primary-level special school teachers and registered child-minders (at the Childminders Association AGM).

Back to Work - *workshop experience for SLD/PMLD adults*
 The two participants completed their packs in November (on target). Two new participants began attending in December.

New Faces of 2004!

Jill May joined the Board of Trustees, **Jason Longbottom** became Fundraising Manager and **Anna Overton** started as a volunteer (organising our response to the BBC Radio 4 Appeal).



At Christmas we said goodbye to **Vicky Garside**, our Deputy Craft Artist, who is off on the trip-of-a-lifetime to Australia. But we are pleased to greet **Kate Piggot** (pictured) to the team.



BBC Radio 4 Appeal - Update

WE ARE DELIGHTED to confirm that Michael Morpurgo's Radio 4 Appeal for Bag Books raised **over £11,000**. We thank Michael for his support and gratefully acknowledge, once again, the many hundreds of individuals who were moved to give to us. **Thank you!**

Planned Giving...?

CHARITIES RELY ON DONORS. So most (like

Bag Books) will plan how they thank you: keeping you updated on services and sending regular news of activities.

If you want to plan your giving, a Standing Order is the answer. Would you like to donate £3 per month? £25 per quarter? You decide and cancel if you change your mind.

So, take control – plan your giving!

Library Bag Books



Since launching the Reach Project (storytelling to children with SLD/PMLD in libraries) Bag Books has noticed that many public libraries have started requesting story-packs.

For example, Bexley Library Service now has five story-packs in each of their five branches. These story-packs are available for lending, just like books for mainstream children. Of course, this means that they are available to many more children, and families can try several stories to see which they prefer before ordering their own.

If your library might be interested in Bag Books, we would like to offer them a free multi-sensory storytelling session. Put them in touch with us.

Q&A: Why do multi-sensory stories work?

WE CAN ALL DISCERN EMOTION in a storyteller's voice, even if we can't understand the words' meanings.

Through repeatedly linking this emotion to a physical, sensory action, the listener can remember the order of events. By-passing the "understanding" process means that anyone can start to anticipate - and learn - the story!



How can I help?

I want to give...

...a donation of £_____ by cheque (payable to Bag Books) or by Visa/MasterCard.

Card Number

Expires End / Name on Card _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

...by Standing Order in the amount of £_____ to be paid every month/quarter/year, starting on __/__/2005 until further notice, from my account.

Acct No. Sort Code

Bank Name _____

Bank Address _____

...even more by letting Bag Books reclaim tax under GiftAid. I have paid income tax or capital gains tax equal to the amount to be reclaimed on my gifts in the tax year. Signed: _____

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Address: _____
 (incl Postcode) _____

Telephone: _____

Greenland Trek

JAMES ALEXANDER OF NEWS INTERNATIONAL is planning to trek across the Greenland Ice Cap raising money for Bag Books. Please sponsor him at www.justgiving.com/greenland2005 or by sending a donation directly to us. James sets off in April.