

## Tesco Bags for Life

Bag Books has been selected to benefit from the Tesco Bags for Life Scheme and we could win up to £4,000. Along with two other charities in the region, Bag Books has been put forward to a vote in a number of Tesco stores. Customers will decide the outcome by voting for their favourite charity project each time they shop. Voting will take place from Saturday 1st July to Thursday 31st August. If you shop at Tesco in any of the following locations in South London, please do vote for Bag Books: Brixton, Clapham, Dulwich, Kennington, Lambeth, Herne Hill, Streatham, Tulse Hill, Lambeth, Stockwell, West Norwood and Waterloo. Thank you.

## Radio 4 Appeal

The BBC Radio 4 Appeal by best-selling author, Michael Morpurgo, is still available to listen to on iplayer via [tinyurl.com/R4BB2016](http://tinyurl.com/R4BB2016)

To date his appeal has raised over £15,100 – many thanks to everyone who donated.

## 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](http://tinyurl.com/BBSOForm). Alternatively, you can make a regular donation via [www.justgiving.com/bagbooks/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/bagbooks/donate)

*Storyline is published two or 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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Registered Charity No. 1026432

## Arsenal FC

We are continuing our partnership with Arsenal and have recently hosted storytelling and Build-a-Book sessions at the Emirates Stadium, the Arsenal Museum and the training ground. We were joined at the training ground by Arsenal and England striker Danny Welbeck, pictured below taking part in a storytelling session.

Following a generous donation from the Arsenal Foundation, we will be creating a bespoke Arsenal-themed multi-sensory book specifically for over twenty special schools in their local area. Huge thanks to Arsenal for its ongoing support – we're very excited to be working together. We've also had some promising conversations with a number of other football clubs.... watch this space for news.



# Storyline

July 2017

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities



## Hot and Cold

"Home for Christmas" has been developed thanks to funding from Annington Homes. It tells the story of Aunt Sue coming to stay for Christmas and the need to paint the spare room, tidy the house and get the decorations up. Amid the preparations there is time for some piano practice and exclamations of delight as it begins to snow just as she arrives.

Our Storytelling Manager, Nina Martinez, was trialling the new story at The Village School, Brent on what turned out to be the hottest June day for 40 years so thinking about snow was a great way to cool down!

The new book will go into production over the Summer ready for launch in the new school year.



*"I need to practice my song for her."*



*"We need to paint the spare room."*



*"Aunt Sue loves the smell of orange and cloves."*

## Open Training Day

We will be holding an open multi-sensory story training day on Monday 25th September at Marlborough School, Sidcup. The school is walking distance from Sidcup train station which has links to many major London stations. Also nearby is a Premier Inn for those that require accommodation.

Places cost £100 per person inclusive of lunch. Participants can also buy a copy of our DVD training pack for a further £100 – a saving of £50. For more information and to book a place please contact Nina Martinez, Storytelling Manager, email [nina@bagbooks.org](mailto:nina@bagbooks.org)

## National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day

Friday 22nd September 2017

Please put it in your diary

## Volunteering

A warm welcome to Christie Monahan who has joined us as our Volunteer Co-ordinator.



Volunteering is very important to Bag Books and volunteers contribute over a third of our total workforce for making books - a crucial part of our team as each book takes an average of eight hours to make.

Bag Books' volunteers assist with a wide range of craft skills from knitting, sewing and sawing to painting, sticking and drilling. They are invaluable and help to keep down the cost of book production.

We are always on the look out for volunteers with a range of skills. We are especially keen for experienced sewers and knitters but all levels of craft skills are welcome along with a genuine passion for creating high quality multi-sensory resources for people with learning disabilities.

Smaller, lighter tasks such as sewing and knitting can be done from home and posted to us. Larger, heavier jobs such as woodworking can also be done from home but you need to be able to get to our workshop in Vauxhall with the finished goods. The majority of our volunteers actually come into the workshop and work along side other volunteers and staff.

If you are interested in lending your time, please contact Christie Monahan, Volunteer Co-ordinator, email: [christie@bagbooks.org](mailto:christie@bagbooks.org)

## Storytelling

During 2016 our storytellers ran sessions involving over 5,000 people with learning disabilities. Most of them were in special schools and we received feedback from 583 Special Needs teachers who collectively observed 3,887 of their pupils participating in one of our storytelling sessions. Those teachers rated their overall satisfaction with our service at 96.4%. They also judged that 97.9% of the children in their class benefited from the Bag Books multi-sensory storytelling session. Hopefully the photos below also show just how beneficial our stories are.



*"If you go near the trees, watch out for the snakes!" from A Pirate Adventure*



*"CRASH – down went a whole stack of tins!" from He's A Winner*

## Children's Hospices

Children's hospices throughout the UK have recently received copies of our two newest books "The Great Train Rescue" and "He's A Winner". These have been donated following two generous grants from the Morrison's Foundation and St James's Place Foundation. Thank you to these funders for enabling this. Both funders received some wonderful handmade thank you cards from benefiting children at a number of the hospices. In addition we received a number of letters from the hospices such as:

*"We are very grateful to the St James's Place Foundation and the Morrison's Foundation for their generous donations. Young people with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions, particularly those with PMLD so often get*

*donations but rarely are they suitable or adaptable to the specific limitations of these young people's conditions. Bag Books however have got it just right with their sensory and interactive stories and to have them donated means so much to us. The stories give so much pleasure and indeed learning experiences so much fun! That in itself is priceless."* Little Harbour Children's Hospice, St Austell.

*"A very big thank you for the two bag books that arrived in the post. We were delighted to get them and they really are one of our most useful and sought after resources that our Play Specialists use with children and young people here at EACH. We don't have the budget to buy as many as we'd like so both these were very welcome new additions."* East Anglia's Children's Hospices, Norwich.

## Sad Farewells

**Dr James Duff Grice**

**23rd July 1928 – 10th February 2017**

James served as a medic during the Berlin Airlift and then trained to become a GP. He eventually took over his father's practice in Sutton, Surrey and his son became the third generation to run the practice when James retired in 1992.

James had made regular donations to Bag Books for several years (his son-in-law, Dean Casswell, is our Chief Executive). To date over £1,700 has been raised in his memory for Bag Books.



**Jill Willder**

**27th December 1936 – 27th May 2017**

As the sister-in-law of our founder, Chris Fuller, Jill volunteered to help in the very early days of Bag Books. She was a keen knitter, creating the pattern for and knitting the first 50 "Desmonds" in our very first title. The pattern is still being used today and since then our home-based volunteers have knitted over 1,100 Desmonds.

We are grateful to Jill's family for choosing Bag Books as a beneficiary for donations in her memory.

