

**GIVE A
BOOK**



Annual Review 2019

www.giveabook.org.uk
Registered charity number 1149664

Because Reading Matters

2019 in numbers

With the help
of a few cups
of coffee,
Give a Book
has supported..



Books for First
Nighters in

18
prisons



547

Weekly
Doorstep
Library home
visits for 547
children

300+

7 Breakfast Book Clubs
supporting 300+ children



6
Mother
& Baby
Units

1



whole school
reading project
leading to reading

1160

children received books
at Family Days



1200
Prison Reading
Group participants

12

Books of
the Month

94

men & 150
children in family
reading projects



20,000+

This year we have sent out
over 20,000 books, including
mini dictionaries for the
Reading Ahead challenge



Give a Book is a charity that promotes books and the pleasure of reading in the hardest places. Our main areas of work are in prisons and with disadvantaged children & young people throughout the UK. Our core belief is that to pass on a good read — to give a book — is a transaction of lasting worth.

Numerous studies show that poor reading skills are inextricably linked to economic disadvantage and reduced life possibilities. Give a Book aims to help change this by working with others to inspire children and adults to pick up a book and read for pleasure.

We provide creative, bespoke ways of leading to reading and offer practical solutions to encourage an enjoyment of reading to help make a lasting difference to people's lives. We often work in partnership with other charities and groups in order to extend our reach. We provide books, book bags, writing materials and expertise to projects that benefit adults and children.

Current projects and recipients include; School Breakfast Book Clubs, Mother & Baby Units, Books in the Nick, mini-dictionaries for Reading Ahead, Books for First Nighters, Prison Family Days, Doorstep Library, Book Clubs in Schools, Mental Health Unit book clubs and various literacy projects.

Prison Reading Groups (PRG) started in 1999 to provide support and funding for reading groups in prisons across the UK. PRG is part of Give a Book.

“I do believe that something very magical can happen when you read a good book.”

J K Rowling



School Case Study

This year we started a **Whole School Reading Project** at Manorfield Primary school in Tower Hamlets, an area with a high level of deprivation.

To help encourage more reading across the school, as well as setting up a Breakfast Book Club, we worked with specialist reading trainer Anne Harding to train a group of parent reading volunteers at the school. The aim of the training was to ensure that the volunteers had knowledge, practical tips and confidence to help them as they embarked on their new role, as well as to share concerns and good practice. We also provided a selection of enticing new books. The volunteers are now working with children from Reception onwards to support them with one-to-one reading time. This will help to enhance their learning as well as encouraging a love of books and reading. The reading sessions have started and we look forward to following progress over the year.

“I have no doubt at all that these excellent volunteers will make a huge difference to many children’s reading and to their attitudes to learning more widely.”

Trainer



“The training was very informative, it gave me all the information I needed. It was fun, enjoyable and inspiring.”

Volunteer

“The children are always so engaged with the books and have even been recommending some of their favourite titles to their friends.”

Teacher

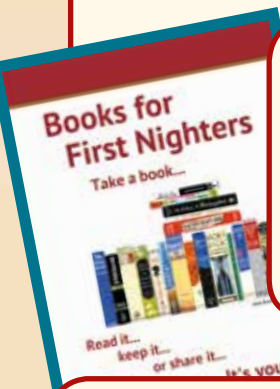


Prison Case Study

Books for First Nighters provides books for those on their first night in custody. Receiving or being offered a book by a member of staff on their arrival at the prison goes some way to allay the difficult and traumatic transition into prison life. Some of those coming into custody have a history of self-harm and are new to prison life - they are bewildered, scared and disorientated. The transaction of giving a book between staff and prisoner can ease the relationship.

Research confirms that rehabilitation is a process. With Books for First Nighters and our other reading projects, we hope that prisoners can start to realise their potential, even where it has not been touched before. Everyone deserves a second chance and we believe that reading for pleasure is one of the many doors to be opened for them.

We are currently running this project in over 18 prisons. The feedback so far has been very encouraging; ...



“First night in prison can be distressing and dangerous and a book in our first night accommodation could be a real godsend.”

Prison staff member



“I have a loving family and a 10 year old son and my first night away from them was very dark and lonely...a fellow inmate directed me to the bookstand and I found Wilbur Smith’s Pharaoh. It was fantastic escapism for me over the following 48 hours and made a huge difference in my adjustment to prison life.”

Prisoner

“This has proven to be an excellent example of restorative practice where not only is there the generous and humane act of giving a book to an individual, but they are being given ownership and responsibility.”

Prison Governor

Continuing projects

Prison Reading Groups celebrate 20 years this year, and now run more than 50 groups in more than 40 prisons.

The core elements of PRG are simple; the groups are voluntary and informal, the members choose the books they read and are given their own copies and the groups are open ended, where members can join or leave as they want. This is the key to the success of the groups which continue to grow and thrive under the care of committed volunteers and librarians.

“Book club is one of the few places where I can actually be myself and it’s by far the highlight of each month for me”

Breakfast Book Clubs provide books for hungry children to read with their healthy breakfast. The primary schools we work with have a high proportion of pupils from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This year we have set up 7 new Breakfast Book Clubs all around the UK from Blackpool to Dorset.

“The Breakfast Book club has been going really well so far and is really making a difference to the children as many of the children do not have access to such amazing books at home.”

“A boy comes into school more focussed when he has been to breakfast book club, he has grown in confidence in class and most definitely in reading... It’s a lovely way for him to start his day.”

Teacher

Family Reading Projects

What Happens Next (WHN) began in spring 2019 at HMP Wandsworth and uses the power of storytelling and reading to connect prisoners and their families.

On a special family day, children and partners come into the prison and spend time reading and taking part in book games and activities. The project allows parents to build confidence in reading with their children.

By reading with their children, the families are spending quality time together and are reminded that even in prison they have not stopped being part of a family.

“It’s much better than a normal visit.”

“One day you’ve taken prison away from my family.”



“When I grow up I want to read all the books.”



Would you like to help?
Want to volunteer, fundraise
or have other skills to offer?
Contact
info@giveabook.org.uk

£5

gives a book to someone who really needs one.

£10

gives a book bag, containing notebook, pencil, crayons, bookmark and book to a child on a prison family day.

£150

gives a box of mini-dictionaries to prisoners for completing the Reading Ahead challenge.

£250

supplies GAB Book Bags for family visit days in prison.

£500

funds a new Prison Reading Group for a year.

£600

gives books for Breakfast Book Clubs in primary schools.

£2,000

helps stock a library in a primary school with books.

£10,000

creates a library in a primary school that doesn't have one.

Thank you...

Give a Book relies on the dedication and hard work of a fabulous team, great trustees and the generosity and belief of all our supporters, particularly The Rothschild Foundation, The Dulverton Trust, The Eranda Foundation, The Siobhan Dowd Trust, The Golden Bottle Trust, The Leigh Trust and The Marks Family Trust.

We are part of a great chain of being around reading: publishers, writers and other readers, who join us by coming to a reading group, a school, or choose a book of the month. Toppsta enable us to receive gorgeous new books regularly. Daunt Books has been our inimitable partner from the start. Our Patron, Antonia Fraser, has continued her imaginative and generous support.

This year PRG is 20 years old -- we have worked with them for the last 8 and are proud that they are now part of GAB. They have been a joy and an education to work with throughout. We congratulate them on being honoured with the 2019 Longford Prize for An Outstanding Contribution in the field of Prison Reform.

None of this would matter a jot if it weren't for the people we serve. Whether it's the children who didn't read at all who now read for breakfast, the incarcerated father who rekindles the joy of reading with his visiting child -- an activity lightly learnt that will last a lifetime -- or the prisoner who cites reading fiction as the key to his turning away from a life of violence -- it is all about them. Give a Book is pleased to play our part.

Victoria Gray, Executive Director



Patron

Lady Antonia Fraser, CH, DBE

Trustees

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