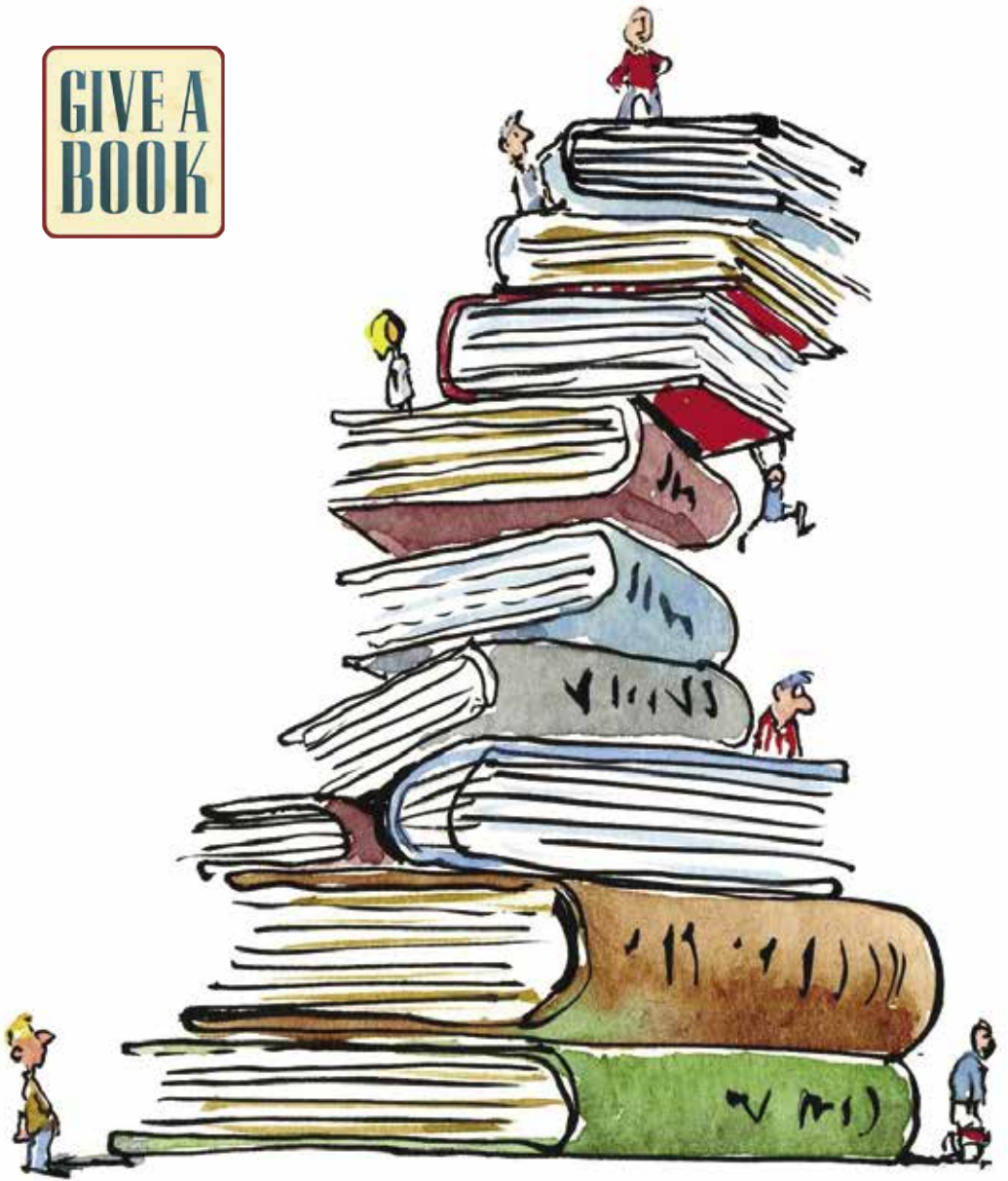


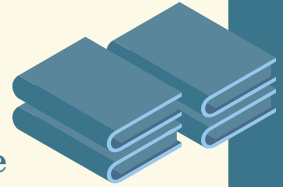
**GIVE A
BOOK**



Annual Review 2022

Registered charity number 1149664

Who we are



Give a Book is a charity dedicated to promoting books and the pleasure of reading in the hardest places.

Simply, we give books to those who need them most. Where the need for books is great or the access limited, our projects provide comfort, community, and connection.

To pass on a good read – to give a book – is a transaction of lasting worth.

'Ministry of Justice figures show that 57% of prisoners had literacy levels below those expected of an 11 year old.'

*Review of Reading in Prison
– Ofsted March 2022*

'Young people report their reasons for reading for pleasure are to relax (55.4%); to learn about new things (53.5%); to feel happy (41%).'

NLT Annual Literacy Survey 2022

'I believe that charities such as yours are fundamental, the positive impact perhaps not obvious to the majority and subtle in its nature. The progress is however immeasurable.'

Prisoner

After operating remotely for the last two years, our projects are back in person and here is what we've done...

10+

projects across prisons, schools and with disadvantaged children

300+

books for Pupil Referral Units

2000+

all school projects

3000+

books provided for Family Days in 35 prisons

4000+

Books for First Nighters in 36 prisons

Page to Picture

Our latest project for schools and children combines reading for pleasure, a creative activity and a blank book cover.

Think of it as a blind date with a book. The project sparks the imagination and encourages the children to be creative by designing their very own book cover, without having seen the original design. This generates excitement around books and reading in a fun way. We piloted the project in 2021 with Larkspur Primary and have since rolled it out in more schools and adapted it for Children Heard and Seen.

'[My favourite part of the project was] using my imagination for the front cover.'



'We are blown away with how excited the children have been. Covering the book definitely made a difference.'

Teacher, Abbey Catholic



Books for First Nighters

Books for First Nighters (BFFN) provides books for those on their first night in custody. Taken directly from court to a cell, the transition to prison life can be traumatic and isolating. Giving detainees a book of their own to read and keep is a small act of kindness offering company and comfort when they need it most. BFFN currently runs in 36 prisons across the UK. In October, we launched a successful Crowdfunder. With the generous match funding from Julia and Hans Rausing, we are able to set up BFFN in 12 more prisons.

We are very grateful to our donors and to everyone who shared our campaign to help us reach our target.

'The first nice thing that's happened to me since leaving court.'

Prisoner



'I think it was the most scared and disoriented I've ever been in my entire life... The importance of a book on that first night is immeasurable.'

ex-Prisoner

'Besides my faith, besides just believing that one day I will be free, books is what got me through.'

Anthony Ray Hinton, spent 30 years on Death Row for a crime he didn't commit

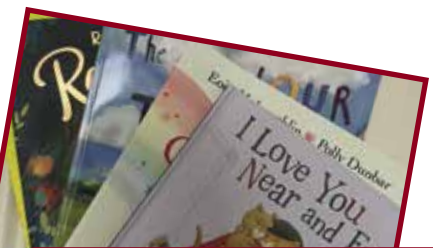


Children's Projects

We have worked with Children Heard and Seen since 2021, a charity that supports families impacted by parental imprisonment. Over the last year, our various projects together include workshops centred around family reading and bespoke book bundles for children who have witnessed a parent's arrest. On the charity's away weekend we led a teddy bears' picnic, reading the classic *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. We also ran a version of Making it Up where children created their own storybooks. The silence as they all concentrated was striking and moving.

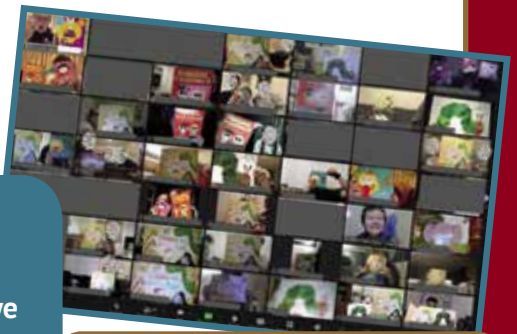
**'The books were great!
They were all so colourful
and bright, the boys really
enjoyed looking through
them. I also love how most
of them help them with
understanding some of the
feelings they may be feeling...'**

**'Thank you for *The Invisible String*
book to whoever is thinking of us.
...feeling grateful to have received
this book and worksheets, helping
children to navigate grief, loss,
separation and change.'**





To celebrate our Patron, Lady Antonia Fraser's 90th Birthday we created **Project 90: Deaf Children Reading**. Working in collaboration with the National Deaf Children's Society, and supported by Penguin Random House, Project 90 provided almost 600 books for 90 families, enabling the NDCS to run a 6-week Family Sign Language course. Each child was sent a special bundle of books so that they could continue to share their love of reading with their families through sign language, building communication and connection. Most deaf children are born to hearing parents. We are thrilled that Project 90 has helped the NDCS reach more families.



'We have never been able to keep up with demand, until now... By developing this new online course, we no longer have to turn families away who want to develop theirs and their deaf child's communication skills.'

Family Course Development Manager, NDCS

'It was fabulous... by the end of the session they were finger spelling everything and really excited that they had got it. Just amazing!! And the books we received in the post was the most precious surprise we will love and cherish them.'

Parent, Project 90

Reading in Prison Day

In June, Prison Reading Groups (PRG) hosted their Reading in Prison event at the University of Roehampton – in person for the first time in three years. The day brings together like-minded individuals to celebrate reading in prison. There was a short introduction from activist, speaker and author, Anthony Ray Hinton, followed by a moving keynote speech from Ali Smith. The day was filled with workshops, panels, discussions and spoken word performances. We concluded with the PRG awards, recognising some of the wonderful work that goes on in prison.



'I left the day as I always do after a PRG get together, feeling very much inspired!'

*Sally Thomas,
Writer in Residence HMP Parc*

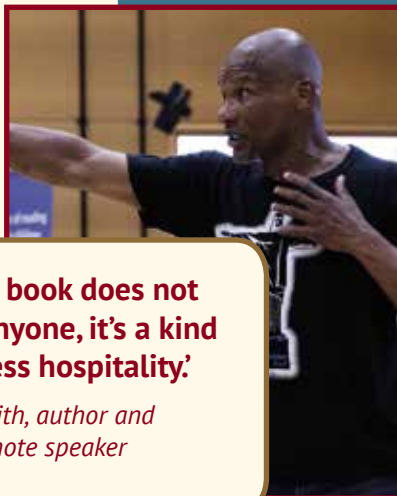


Prison Reading Groups



'Anthony Ray Hinton, extraordinary man with extraordinary experience.'

Catherine Randall, author and volunteer




'An open book does not exclude anyone, it's a kind of endless hospitality.'

Ali Smith, author and keynote speaker

PRG Family Days

Family Days help prisoner parents connect with their children. PRG and Give a Book support these days by sending in books for every child and, where possible, a volunteer to help children choose and encourage families to read together. After visits had been paused for so long during the pandemic, Family Days this year were extra special. Family Days have a more relaxed approach than normal visits, but can still be unsettling for the children, so sharing a book injects normality, neutrality and fun for the whole family. This year we supported over 40 Family Days in 35 prisons with 3000+ books.




'It was great reading with my daughters – thank you.'

Parent, HMP Frankland

What did you like best about the book?

'Daddy read to us.'



'Today has been really relaxing, we have been able to sit together and feel like a normal family. Listening to my child read has not happened in a long time.'

Family, HMP Liverpool

'I think it's an excellent scheme it is something that a child and her dad can do together and encourages interaction when sometimes the whole experience can be traumatic.'

Prison staff, HMP Frankland



Volunteering with Give a Book

There are various ways to volunteer with us and we are delighted that we are now back in person – just get in touch with alison@giveabook.org.uk to have a chat.

Prison Reading Groups

PRG currently supports 48 groups in 43 prisons. These are run (usually) monthly in person. They are voluntary and informal led by volunteers or prison librarians and a great place to come together for book talk. Emphasis is always on the pleasure of reading.

Remote opportunities

Develop content for Book Stuff and Book Talk which are resources for prisoners and reading groups to help choose their next book and stimulate book chat.

Family Days

We provide books for families to enjoy together and for children to take home as a gift from their prisoner parent. Volunteers go in to create an inviting display of books, help children choose and encourage families to read together.

Store Days

These happen monthly at our storage facility in Brentford, where we sort and pack books for all our projects. It's a chance to meet the team and find out more about Give a Book. Flapjacks and sandwiches are provided.



'The GAB team are amazing, all aspects of the logistics on the day and the benefits for the prisoners are fantastic. Books are carefully selected and each child leaves a Family Day visit with a book chosen by the child with the prisoner parent (gifted to them by the prisoner). I am so pleased I have joined the volunteering team.'

Sophia, Volunteer



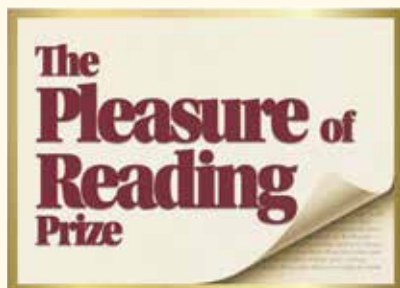
Fundraising for Give a Book

Would you like to run a 10K for Give a Book?
Or host a coffee morning? - Get in touch with Ali.

Sign up for Easyfundraising or nominate Give a Book as your Amazon Smile charity.

Buy books through bookshop.org or check out our Daunts book bundles – use the QR code.

Pleasure of Reading Prize



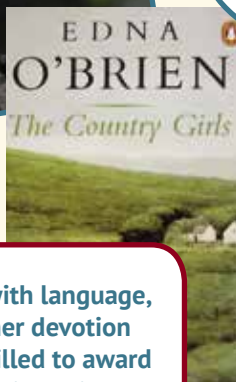
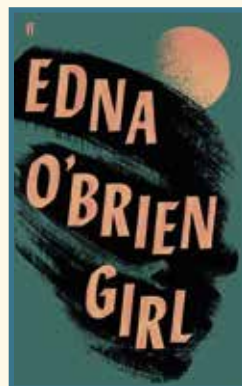
In 2022 this was awarded to the incomparable Edna O'Brien. The prize recognises an author, writing in English, who gives pleasure through their work. The judges included Louise Kennedy, Benjamin Myers and last year's winner, Ali Smith. The prize is sponsored by Bloomsbury Publishing and generously supported by the Blavatnik Family Foundation.



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'Language is what confirms the miracle of a book and the certainty of its survival. It has a newness and at the same time, the breath of an ancient flame.'

from Edna O'Brien's winner's speech, which you can read in full on our website.



'For her glorious way with language, her persistence and her devotion to the truth, we are thrilled to award the Pleasure of Reading Prize to Edna O'Brien.'

Louise Kennedy

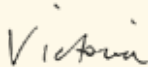
'... Edna O'Brien has carved a singular niche through modern literature. Her work, like her life, is bold, brave and sometimes visionary. She didn't so much open doors as kick them down, and in doing so repositioned the novel in Irish writing, inspiring successive generations of key writers who followed.'

Benjamin Myers

A message from our Executive Director

In a dark time Give a Book can always find much to celebrate. Most of our projects take place in person again: reading groups are coming back to life, projects with children take place on the ground, in wood, barn or field, we visited the school library we helped create, and heard again that special silence when fathers who think they can't draw or write create treasured storybooks for their children. Other highlights include our Patron's Project 90, the new read-around Hub Club group for former prisoners, the Pleasure of Reading Prize, and increased connections with the children and families of prisoners inside and out.

The trusty GAB team worked hard to make our partner PRG's Day so special and to exceed all expectations in our Crowdfunder for BFFN. We are always admirably supported by our fabulous Trustees and Advisory Board. For a small team, anything over the norm feels like a stretch—but Team GAB always does it with grace, perseverance and creativity. And, thank goodness, good humour.

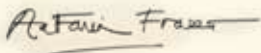


Victoria Gray

A final word from our Patron

When I was coming up to the celebration of my 90th birthday at the end of August, I realised that the present which would give me most pleasure would be passing on the pleasure of reading to other people. That means books. Give a Book has done that magnificently since its foundation- given a book as its name indicates to the underprivileged of all sorts who can't get them. But you have to be able to read the books in the first place.

I was actually reading a book (as I have done virtually every day since I learnt to read at the age of three) when the thought occurred to me: How do deaf children learn to read? Teaching a deaf child to read would be the best birthday present anyone could give me. The result was Project 90, founded by Give a Book in honour of my birthday, on the advice of the National Deaf Children's Society. Ninety families with deaf children will benefit and as a result enjoy a pleasure which lasts a lifetime. PS It's also quite useful in daily life too!



Lady Antonia Fraser



Patron

Lady Antonia Fraser, CH, DBE

Trustees

Joanne Barnett

Eleni Meleagrou

Sarah Moorehead (Chair)

Sarah Turvey

Caroline Waldegrave, OBE

Selina Walker

Give a Book Team

Victoria Gray, Hon. FRSL

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