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Homejay2020-10-06T13:27:42+00:00 Book-Cycle is a UK based volunteer run charity. We seek to empower children worldwide through the provision of free books and educational resources. We also help reforest England by offering trees and information on sustainability. Book-Cycle works in communities throughout the UK, establishing projects to encourage self-reliance through home food growing, community gardening and promoting wildlife through the planting of trees. We also provide seed banks and host a variety of workshops. All of this is achieved through your kind donations at our book shops and shelves located in community spaces where you can choose what to pay for up to 3 items per day. Explore our website to find out more! We are proud that Book-Cycle is run entirely on the efforts of individuals giving up their time just for the love of it! This means; Donations go that much further as no one is paid As a non-hierarchical organisation we see equal value in the time given by volunteers More transparency in the way your donations are spent We want your help! Get involved with one of our projects. Head over to our volunteer section for more information... This can be anywhere that is used by your community; a café, pub, coffee house or communal space as big or as small as the space can offer. Approach the manager / business owner and tell them about the free bookshelf facility. Fill the chosen space with as many books as you can find. The tastier the reading material, the better! If you have any surplus books, store as a top-up for the shelf. You will also need a box to collect any money people would like to give for the books they choose. This can be located at the till / desk of the business or put on the bookshelf (padlocked & chained for safety). SPREAD THE WORD! Tell your friends and get them to tell their friends. Print off a PDF poster, laminate and put up near the bookshelf. Invest in some jumbo chalk & promote on the pavements of your town - CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION WELL. Email us the location details of the shelf with some photos and we'll put it on our branches map for the whole country to see. Maintain the shelf. Every now and again pop by to see how it is ticking over. If the bookshelf is looking a little sparse, top-up with more tasty reading material. Remove any tatty books, these can either be donated to your nearest charity shop or paper recycling bank. Ask others to bring their unwanted good literature to the space to share with their community. The more people that use it the better! Donations for the books can be raised by having an honesty box at the premises or choosing to use our text to donate service, both of which are very simple methods for fundraising. At locations that use a donation box, either you or the business manager are the 'caretaker' for depositing the donations into our Co-op community bank account. Simply empty the contents f the box, tally up the amount and keep a record of the donations raised! Cash can be directly put into our account. Cheques can also be paid into our account or posted to us. Please contact us via email for further details. Other than a donation into the Book-Cycle account, you and your community might want to fundraise for a specific project e.g. tree planting or creating a community food garden. So long as it falls in line with our aims and objectives, it has the potential to be your Book-Cycle's focal point. A simple and direct way to get involved in our objectives; when the donation box has raised £40, choose a good selection of suitable educational books and post them to one of our partner charities. This is a beautiful way to have a profound and lasting positive impact in some of the world's poorest areas. Follow our simple guide to sending books >>> "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together." African Proverb Q: How does it work? Choose what to pay for up to 3 items per day! You do not have to bring them back, they are yours to keep. Proceeds are used to send educational books to schools and orphanages around the world and create tree planting projects with primary school children in the UK. Q: How much do people usually donate? We don't give an indication of what people pay, so YOU may choose to give what you feel is a fair price. Q: Do the staff get paid? Book-Cycle is a 100% volunteer run charity and always will be! Q: How do you pay your rent and bills? Donations raised through book sales and other activities we host are used to cover basic running costs of Book-Cycle shops. We try to keep all costs to a minimum; no wages, team outings or posh business lunches are taken out of our donations. Q: Where do the books come from? All our books are donated from: schools and colleges, libraries, businesses or the general public. Q: Do you want my old books? We're delighted to receive any books you no longer want and will endeavour to find them good homes. Head over to our branches page to find your closest Book-Cycle shop Q: Can you collect my books? Book collections can be done by prior arrangement for larger donations, at present we cannot make special journeys for small book donations. You can deliver straight to your closest Book-Cycle and we can give you help unloading from your vehicle. Q: Do you need more volunteers? Yes, the more the merrier! Check out our volunteer section to see how you can get involved Q: Do you have any books by "X"? We don't keep a database of books stocked. You can ask one of our volunteers, they may have seen it in the shop, or they can direct you to the right section. Alternatively, we can put your details in our request book and let you know if/when it comes in. Q: Can I send books directly to one of your partner charities? Yes, we would love it if you did. Take a look at our handy guide to sending a book parcel Q: Can I start a Book-Cycle? YES! Information about setting up a Book-Cycle can be found on our DIY page Our project for World Book Day is a fantastic way for schools and pupils to directly engage with communities worldwide by spreading the love of reading through the gift of books. We are inviting schools to join our 'Send a Book Pallet project, the aim of which is to improve literacy for thousands of children both in the UK and overseas. Pupils bring their unwanted books to school together with £1 which can be fund raised via a school event. Coupled with any surplus good-quality books from school departments or libraries, the books collected should easily fill the 30 or so boxes needed to build a pallet. Children are also invited to include a short note about their chosen book(s), allowing a dialogue to be opened between the school that sends and receives the book shipment. The completed pallet is collected from your school and sent on a wonderful adventure over the high seas to your chosen recipient.... THE REWARD: A 'GOLDEN TICKET' FOR EVERY BOY AND GIRL WHO TAKES PART IN THE PROJECT! "IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS YOU COULD NOT IMAGINE THE MARVELLOUS BOOKS THAT AWAIT YOU" Participating schools will receive the tickets to give to all the pupils who took part in the project. The ticket is redeemable for up to 3 books at your local Book-Cycle. Simply pop by and choose your books. * A map of our partner charities along with shipping prices are found here ** For handy tips to help build your book pallet, click here If you would like to involve your school in the project or have any questions, please contact: enquiries@book-cycle.org Fund Raising Ideas A great way to raise funds and gather books at the same time - host a book themed fancy dress or non-uniform day with a difference. Pupils can dress up as their favourite book character and donate £1 towards the 'Send a Book Pallet' project. The money raised will then be directly used to ship your books once you have finished collecting them. There are many other events your school can host to help raise the funds needed to ship the pallet. Take a look at our fund raising page for more ideas and inspiration! Grow a Book-Cycle branch at your school... A mini Book-Cycle all of your very own! Typically it will be a shelf or bookcase at reception, as small or large as you can accommodate. Parents and pupils can choose what to pay for up to 3 books per day. The books are theirs to keep, any good quality books no longer wanted at home can also be brought in to replenish the shelves. A donations box behind reception can be used to gather money for the postage of books to children overseas or to fund fruit tree planting within your school grounds. Donors can also use 'Just Text Giving' by texting book23 to 70070 along with their donation amount: eg: Book23 £3 to 70070 Children from St Sidwell's Primary School on World Book Day! Address: 241 Orrell Road, Orrell, United Kingdom, Orrell, Wigan, Lancashire, UK WN5 8LY Description: Former Orrell Library is now a vibrant Book-Cycle! follow them on Facebook to keep up to date on their activities. Tel: 01942 665 646 Opening times: Please tick type of plant: Main Branches Address: 7 West Street, Exeter, Devon EX1 1BB, United Kingdom, UK Description: Original branch of Book-Cycle and the official address of the charity Facebook Twitter E: enquiries@book-cycle.org T: 01392 420 021 Opening Times: Mon-Sat: 11:30-6:00 Sun: 12:30-5:30 Please tick type of plant: Main Branches Address: 22 Leazes Park Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4PG, United Kingdom, UK Please tick type of plant: Branches Address: Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom, UK Please tick type of plant: Branches Address: The Forum, Barnfield Rd, Exeter EX1 1QR, United Kingdom, UK Please tick type of plant: Branches Address: 120 Fore Street, Exeter, United Kingdom, UK EX4 3JQ Please tick type of plant: Branches Address: 84 Queens Road, Exeter, United Kingdom, UK EX4 3RP Please tick type of plant: Branches Address: Unit 20, Panmier Market, Callington PL17 7AD Please tick type of plant: Branches Address: Harbourne House, Old Road, Harbertonford, Totnes, Devon, UK UK TQ9 7TA Please tick type of plant: Branches Address: 32 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3SR, United Kingdom EX4 3SR Please tick type of plant: Branches Having once covered almost 90% of the UK's land area, woodlands were significantly reduced by the 11th Century to pockets of small woods covering around 15% of the country. During the last millennium these remnants of our original ancient forest have been subject to continual land use pressure; many being completely cleared and others converted from semi-natural woodlands into productive plantations. Woodland cover reached an all time low of 5% just after WW1. Sadly, nearly 50 per cent of the ancient woodland that survived until the 1930s has since been lost or damaged by agriculture, development or planting by non-native conifers. The UK's Biodiversity Action Plan reports that in the last 100 years, 46 broadleaf woodland species have become extinct in the UK. In addition, most of ancient woodland we have left is fragmented, 8 out of 10 ancient woods are less than 20 hectares (50 acres) in size and nearly 50 per cent of ancient woods are less than 5 hectares (13 acres). In addition, 85 per cent of the ancient woodland that remains has no legal designation. Our Part in a Greener Future Tree Planting Book-Cycle aims to assist with the reforestation of England and encourage natural habitat for wildlife through tree growing and planting projects. To date we have grown hundreds of oak saplings from seeds our volunteers have collected locally and reinstated traditional hedgerows in Devon. We also work with the general public and local garden centres / nurseries to collect their unwanted saplings and offer them for a donation at our bookshop. All unwanted saplings are gratefully received at our bookshops. A Seed Bank in a Bookshop A community seed bank is a network of seed saving and exchange that provides individuals with a resource for seed diversity and freedom in their locale. At our bookshops we have created seed banks to encourage home food growing and self-reliance. At these 'banks' you can choose to take packets of seeds for a donation (part of your 3 items a day). Customers are also able to deposit any seeds they have lingering at home or have saved from plants they have grown, for use by others in their community. We also seek to promote an ingenious yet intuitive way of gardening called Permaculture. "All life should be granted an equal opportunity for expression. Freedom; being our highest ideal is governed by the parameters of the environment and the liberty of others." The Advancement of Education for the Public Benefit To improve literacy and the love of learning, Book-Cycle is committed to providing free access to books and information both in Britain and abroad. The Reforestation of Britain To take responsibility for the books we read and give something back to our surrounding flora and fauna, Book-Cycle is committed to the planting of trees, the creation of permaculture and the extension of mutually beneficial habitats. The Dissemination of the Knowledge and Practices of Permaculture To give fairer access to the principles and practicalities of self-sustainability, Book-Cycle will endeavour to provide free information and examples of such practices in a local context. "One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others" - Lewis Carroll The provision of libraries and books has a profoundly positive impact on the surrounding communities. Such projects cater for the local thirst for knowledge, act as a conduit for sustainable development and help with the eradication of poverty. In December of 2009 we were approached by Thrive Africa UK, a small grass roots charity run as we are; entirely by volunteers. As their ethos and objectives are so close to ours, we decided to work together on school library projects for Ghana. In early 2010 we combined our resources to build 6 libraries in the Ashanti region of northern Ghana. The collection of books and educational resources from around Exeter and the building of shelves in rural schools can be seen in this gallery Each year we hope to send a container shipment full of wonderful books and educational resources to help build and furnish more libraries around northern Ghana. Why volunteer with Book-Cycle & Thrive Africa? By volunteering you are enabling us to carry out the work we do and helping us expand our projects. We are a not-for-profit organisation which is offering needed development assistance to rural communities across Africa. We do such great work and the reward of working with us and the people of Ghana will be one rarely experienced in everyday life. If you want to be involved with active projects, make a difference and see the result of your hard work then volunteer with Thrive Africa & Book-Cycle. "The rewarding feeling you get seeing the children happy when you've done a good job, or simply after playing with them (e.g football) for an hour or so is amazing. The tourist type trips we did of a weekend were unforgettable, for example, a canopy walk through a rainforest and sleeping in a tree house, these are some of the best things I've done in my entire life, let alone the trip." - Brad Wilkie.. Volunteer Placements Arriving in Accra you will travel to Kumasi, from there you will travel to Thrive Africa's project house just on the outskirts of Kumasi. You'll be staying in the project house with a team of up to 30 volunteers, several Thrive Africa representatives, caretaker and a cook. The house has electricity, running water and bathroom facilities. Each day you will travel from the project house to the individual projects. As a Book-Cycle volunteer you will be expected to fundraise the same amount as the Thrive Africa volunteers and will apply through them, but your remit will be focused more on the provision of libraries; from decorating classrooms to the construction of shelves and the sorting of books for each school library. Voluntary positions are also available all year round to teach; to teach you must demonstrate the ability to work with children of all ages and demographics. No set qualifications are needed and each candidate is assessed on their current skills and previous experience. Thrive Africa have 9 ongoing projects in the region, their scope being much wider; they accept volunteers to help with water and sanitation, health and sports. Projects include: Library Builds Orphanage Development Orphan Welfare Agenda Volunteer Criteria You will be asked to stay for a minimum of 1 month and preferably if teaching a full school term. This guarantees a more effective service of teaching and education to the children. We ask that volunteers work 5 days a week on their chosen projects, for around 6-9 hours each day. Project Fees Volunteers wishing partake in the placements will need to fundraise towards project fees. As a general outline your volunteering fee is split as below: 40% Towards Food & Accommodation, 10% Towards Travel, 40% Towards Projects, 10% Towards Thrive Africa's operating. What's included: Accommodation Food (3 Meals a day) All project materials Safe drinking water Met at Airport All placement travel Pre-departure training & support in country Thrive Africa representatives 24-hr emergency support What's not included: Flights (£450-£550 estimate) Insurance (£20-£40 estimate) Cost of visa (£30) Tourist Opportunities Ghana is a fantastic place to travel; full of national parks, castles and varied cultural attractions. Excursions during the placement include: Cultural Museum Kumasi Markets Mole National Park Kintampo Waterfalls Bosomtwe Lake Cape Coast Dates, Locations & Project fees can be found on the volunteer section of Thrive Africa's website