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Press Release

WINNERS OF THE NAG PUBLIC LIBRARY PROJECT OF THE YEAR GRANT 2022

18th April 2022

NAG Public Library Project of the Year Grant 2022

“Buckinghamshire Library Memory Bags” has won the NAG Public Library Project Grant for 2022. Their project to reach out and connect with people living with dementia and other conditions will receive £5000 to enable them to create 45 bespoke bags covering a range of topics to loan out across Buckinghamshire.



Examples of Buckinghamshire's memory bags

The project impressed the NAG Executive Committee due to its value for money, sustainability and innovation. A high number of people could potentially benefit from the initiative and a small pilot with just five bags had already been successfully carried out.

Mark Bateman, Reading Services Officer from Buckinghamshire Libraries said:

“Buckinghamshire Libraries are committed to providing resources to support the carers and families of people living with dementia. These memory bags encourage conversation and evoke fond memories for people living with this condition. This grant will allow us to create more sets, develop our ideas further, and help our library services promote inclusivity.”

Our previous Chair, Alison Millar explains the motivation behind providing this fund:

“I am keen that NAG gives opportunities for public libraries to learn from each other and because of that I am so pleased that NAG are offering this award. While we welcome innovative new projects we are also excited to fund the “what if?” type of project. Have you had something that you have wanted to give a go for a while? Do you have a problem that you would like to try out solutions for? Then this NAG grant is for you. If you are awarded the fund all we need afterwards is for you to share your experiences with other library colleagues.”

The project will be presented to other NAG members at an event in 2023 and will be featured in our Members’ journal *Taking Stock* to enable sharing and discussion.

Notes to editors:

About this Grant:

The NAG Public Library Project of the Year Grant was designed to enable public libraries to take forward an innovative project, which may have already had a pilot phase, and develop it further. All applicants must be NAG Members. The grant offers one £5,000 award. Applications usually open in December of the previous year with a deadline in March.

The previous winners are Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure (2019), Wandsworth Libraries and Derbyshire Libraries (2021).

For further information contact:

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About NAG:

NAG is a voice for everyone from all sectors associated with library and information resources, Chief Officers, librarians, publishers and service suppliers – providing leadership and a source of shared expertise for its membership in the public, academic and private sectors.

NAG produces industry standards and impartial good practice guidelines relating to its core purpose. It offers opportunities for education and training, knowledge sharing and networking through its series of regional seminars and workshops.

About our winners:

Buckinghamshire Libraries are a public library authority in the south east of England, supporting a diverse population across its 29 libraries in an inclusive and welcoming environment to access a wide range of literature and information.