

Get involved...

- [Send your stories](#)
- [Send your videos](#)
- [Send your pics](#)
- [Join a forum](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [Wales News](#)
- [Cardiff News](#)
- [South Wales Valleys](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [UK News](#)
- [World News](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Education News](#)
- [Health News](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Letters](#)

The most popular jobs site in Wales

[RSS News for you](#) | [What's this?](#)

[HomeNewsWales News](#)

Growing craze for book crossing

[Mar 17 2008](#) by Sarah Miloudi, Western Mail

Read a book, then leave it for someone else to find and enjoy

A NEW phenomenon for swapping books with strangers has arrived in Wales, and it is turning the unlikeliest of public places into lending libraries.

Nearly 2,000 people here have now tried the trend and are part of a million-strong network worldwide exchanging novels with readers they have never met.

The craze, known as book crossing, started in 2001. It developed from travellers leaving guides and reading books in hotels at the end of their trips so others could use them.

Now the concept has been extended by American businessman, Ron Hornbaker. People are leaving books in dental surgeries, banks and harbours so they can be picked up or "crossed" with others who have also chosen to give away books to unknown readers.

Whenever a novel is picked up or found in a public place, book crossers register it online – giving its details and where it was found. Once it has been read, the book is left somewhere new with a note saying "I'm a free book" for someone else to pick up and read.

Journals detailing books' origins have revealed they have reached Wales via destinations such as Switzerland, and have gone on to reach readers in Australia.

ic Wales Classifieds

- [Jobs in Wales](#)
- [Cars in Wales](#)
- [Homes in Wales](#)
- [Find your dream date](#)
- [Shopping listings for Wales](#)
- [Book an ad](#)

[Homes](#)

Find your new home:

Minimum price £

Maximum price £

Located in

Hot jobs



including Loggerheads country park in Denbighshire, the Main Arts centre in Bangor, Conwy harbour and the Dental Surgery in Porthmadog.

Other venues in the process of setting up book crossing include the Nos Da hostel in Cardiff's Riverside.

Tim Prosser, chief executive of annual literary contest, the Dylan Thomas Prize, also said he will leave copies of the contest's shortlist nominees in venues across Wales for book crossers.

And Scott Sorochak, CEO of the Book Crossing firm said "Book crossing is aimed at turning all sorts of places like park benches into book shelves, and we have found all sorts of people want to get involved and strike up friendships as result."

He said that typically, book crossers are aged between 35 and 55, and would read an average of three books a month.

A full list of venues involved and books being swapped can be found at www.bookcrossing.com

What the authors think about crossing

Will book crossing put an end to book selling – the authors' perspective

Aled Islwyn, from Heath, Cardiff, prolific Welsh writer and author of English-language short story collection, Out With It.

"We all have books we treasure and book crossing cannot replace that feeling, but there must be an excitement attached to this of not knowing what you might get or surrounding who will be getting what book,"

Gee Williams, literary writer and author of Blood etc.

"I have got to say I think it's a good thing. Anything that raises the profile of books has got to be good.

"Lots of writers may have mixed feelings about it, but they won't say that in public. It makes them seem a bit like scrooges."

Jim Bowen, from Abercych, Pembrokeshire, author of About Kenya (released this May).

"For people on low incomes, buying books does not feature particularly highly on their list of priorities.

"It is a nice thing, to be able to pass your books on to others – I like to speak to people afterwards to find out what they think of the books I've given and whether or not they enjoyed them."

The titles you are most likely to find

A Passage to India, by EM Forster~
A story of young English woman's spiritual awakening in a different culture;

Mrs Biddlebox, by Linda Smith
A children's book popular with adults, which documents the late author's battle with cancer;

Little Jonny and the Naughty Boat People, by Christopher Milne
A children's series about the adventures of Jonny. Some have described it as political satire, while others say the series is designed for adults, but is disguised as a set of books for pre-teens;

Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Reason, by Nancy Pearl
A compilation of hundreds of books its author thinks everyone should read;

Angel Fire East, by Terry Brooks
The third and final book in the trilogy Word/Void by Brooks, which tells the story of a man's attempt to unlock a potentially world-altering form of magic;

Bill Bryson's African Diary, by Bill Bryson
Released in 2002 by the best-selling travel writer, it documents Bryson's trip to Kenya in the same year.

Keep up to date with the news. Receive our free [E-Newsletters](#)

Have your say on the latest news and sport in our [Forums](#)

[Support Officer](#)

WJEC, CF10, £21411 - £22845 per year [apply now!](#)

[Administration Officer](#)

OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES, CF31, - [apply now!](#)

[Dean of School](#)

Cardiff University, cardiff, - [apply now!](#)

[Sales Manager](#)

Pro-Office Business Furniture Ltd, Cardiff, - [apply now!](#)

[Membership & Marketing Co-ordinator](#)

Children inWales, CF10, - [apply now!](#)

[Development Officer \(Child Safety\)](#)

Children inWales, CF10, £29438 - £29438 per year [apply now!](#)

[Quantity Surveyor/Assistant Quantity Surveyor](#)

Dale Building Maintenance Ltd, cardiff, - [apply now!](#)

[Legal Claims Advisors](#)

Harris Fowler Solicitors, CF10, - [apply now!](#)

[Enhanced Services Manager](#)

Victim Support, CF10, £21900 - £21900 per year [apply now!](#)

- [Search for more jobs](#)

[E-Newsletters](#)



[FREE newsletters](#)

Discover the smarter way...



Share this article

- [del.icio.us](#)
- [Digg this](#)
- [Stumbleupon](#)
- [Newsvine](#)
- [\(What's this?\)](#)

[News from Wales](#)



[Ex-pat jailed for wife's murder](#)

A British expatriate who shot his wife before hiding her body in an oil drum has been sentenced to 21 years in jail. [Read](#)

[Abattoir inspectors took 'softly-softly' approach](#)

A SERIES of meat inspectors took a "softly-softly" approach towards long-standing hygiene and structural problems at the abattoir which supplied E.coli butcher William Tudor. [Read](#)

- [Man spied on neighbour as she undressed](#)
- [Dawn raid at Tesco cashpoint](#)
- [Wales will celebrate Grand Slam triumph](#)
- [More Welsh news](#)

Sponsored Links

[Ads by Google](#)

[Book reviews](#)

Discuss Books, Read Reviews & More. Shop Books & More at Target.
www.Target.com

[Detective Book NYT Review](#)

Read the Outrageous New Novel about America's First Female Spy!
www.PinkertonsSecret.com/Detectives

[& audiobook](#)

Receive the latest Welsh news, business and rugby direct to your inbox and download The Secrets of Body Language audiobook. All completely for free. [Read](#)

Site Tools

- [Print](#)
- [Email a friend](#)
- [RSS feed](#)

Rate this story

How do you rate this story?

- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [4](#)
- [5](#)

Average rating:

•

Related Tags

- [book crossing](#)

[\(What's this\)](#)

Sponsored Links

[Ads by Google](#)

[Book reviews](#)

Discuss Books, Read Reviews & More. Shop Books & More at Target.
www.Target.com

[Meet Lake Wales Singles](#)

Meet singles in Lake Wales. We are 100% free for everything!
www.datehookup.com

[Detective Book NYT Review](#)

Read the Outrageous New Novel about America's First Female Spy!
www.PinkertonsSecret.com/Detectives

[Borders Book Stores](#)

Get A Coupon For 20% Off the List Price of One Item. Find A Store!
www.VisitBorders.com

[Shipping USA to Wales](#)

Quote - Book - Ship! Get a Free Instant Quote Now
www.iQGlobal.com

[Read Book Reviews](#)

RT BOOKreviews Magazine 250 new books reviewed every month!
romantictimes.com


Quick Vote

Are you worried about your personal finances?

Yes, given the current global credit crisis

 **48.8%**

Yes, but only in the short-term

 **15.7%**

No, I've get my house in order

 **21.3%**

Most Popular

- [Top Rated](#)
 - [Emailed](#)
1. [Wales prove they're Grand masters](#)
 2. [Fantastic Wales send Cardiff into a frenzy](#)
 3. [Class of 2008 take game to a different level](#)
 4. [Music of the Spheres by Mike Oldfield](#)
 5. [Grand Slam win boosts the nation](#)

Your icWales

Get involved...

We want your local stories, videos & pics.


- [Send your stories](#)
- [Send your pics](#)
- [Send your videos](#)

Copyright and Trade Mark Notice © 2008 owned by or licensed to Media Wales Ltd. icWales™ is a trade mark of Media Wales Ltd. Please read our [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Privacy Statement](#) before using this site.

Site sections: [Wales News](#) [Business](#) [RugbyNation](#) [Fantasy Rugby](#) [FootballNation](#) [Cardiff News](#) [Blaenau Gwent News](#) [Cynon Valley News](#) [Merthyr News](#) [Neath News](#) [Pontypridd & Llantrisant News](#) [Port Talbot News](#) [Rhondda News](#) [Rhymney Valley News](#) [Bridgend & Maesteg News](#) [Blogs](#) [Forums](#) [Bingo](#) [Competitions](#) [Expats](#) [Buy & Sell](#) [Shopping](#) [E-editions](#) [Magazines](#) [Photosales](#) [Dating](#) [Popular tags](#) [Accessibility](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscriptions](#) [Site Map](#)

Our sites: [jobswales.co.uk](#) [homeswales.co.uk](#) [motorswales.co.uk](#) [publicjobswales.co.uk](#) [ic Wales Dating](#)

Looking for a new home?
Let us do the running around.



smart new homes.com

icWales, the best source for Welsh news, sport, business and entertainment. Powered by the Western Mail, South Wales Echo, Wales on Sunday and Celtic Weekly Newspapers. Produced by Media Wales Ltd.