



1<sup>st</sup> of September 2019

Dear members of the IOB,

The summer still stay at the North part of the globe. Several of the Book towns have had a lot of activities during the summer – with many exciting and enticing events and activities. I hope you all feel joy and inspiration after all your work.

We have now worked within the new board for a year. We have come a bit further and can present a whole new Book town wanting to become a part of the family.

The village Izvor in Bulgaria has become a Book town that for now you can “visit” on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/izvorchelopek/> both to get an idea of their work and to get in contact with them. They are very eager to become members of the IOB and all members are encouraged to get back to us with your opinion if we should welcome them to our communion. There are some more villages who are on their way. I will let you know when we have more to say.

We have done some work with trying to get the payments of the members’ fees in order. Johan has done a tremendous work with that. After the latest update we are now 21 paying members. We will attach a list so you can see who we are. Our webpage will soon be updated and the ones not paid, or the ones we not have been able to reach despite great efforts, will be removed. Only the Book town that have answered and paid their members’ fee will remain. It would be great if we could grow and become more Book towns! If you know anyone that would suit our concept, please contact and invite them to apply for membership with us. A simple search on Google shows that there are many Book towns in the world – they should join the IOB, right?

Our next big get-together will take place in Borrby, Sweden in May 2020. The last preparations are soon ready so the complete agenda can be sent out as an official invitation directly from Borrby. For now we can reveal some parts.

The arrival day is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2020 with a welcoming party in the evening. Friday and Saturday will contain seminars, author meetings and visits to some bookshops and interesting sights. We have heard rumours of visiting the well-known studio in which the Bridge and Wallander were filmed. We will wrap up the weekend on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

According to IOB customs, two delegates from each Book town may attend without cost, including accommodation with a local family and meals. Other guests can be offered help with finding accommodation and meals for reasonable prices. It is quite easy traveling to Copenhagen or Malmö and then to Ystad from where we can pick you up. Borrby will shortly send you more detailed information.

I hope we all will meet in Borrby and develop our organisation and collaboration!

When the webpage is updated we will also investigate if we can remake it so it will be easier to update it with advertisements and show all the exciting activities our members are doing. It will be really amazing to gather all of this on the webpage of IOB.

And so from the board of the IOB, we wish you all some wonderful months until we will be in touch again – then hopefully with letters about our new members and a renewed webpage. Take care all of you!

On behalf of the board  
Gunnel Ottersten – President of the IOB

#### **List of Book Town and Individual members**

Booktown Sysmä Kirjakyla (Finland)
Booktown St Pierre-de-Clages (Switzerland)
Book Town Wigtown (Scotland)
Miep van Duin (Belgium)
Booktown Bredevoort (Netherlands)
Kjell Arve Staumsväg (Norway)
Booktown Norske Bokbye Fjaerland (Norway)
Booktown Mulazzo/Montereaggio (Italy)
Booktown Wunsdorf (Germany)
Booktown Tvedestrand (Norway)
Old Bank Bookshop (Scotland)
Booktown Sedbergh (England)
Booktown Village Foundation (Malaysia)
Booktown Grad Pazin (Croatia)
Booktown Borrby Bokby (Sweden)
Booktown Clunes (Australia)
Webooks Jim Vogler (Scotland)
Ingjerd Skogseid (Norway)
Helge Berg Baadseth Locus (Norway)
Booktown Featherston (New Zealand)
Booktown Redu (Belgium)