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All of the IOB members join me in expressing immense sadness at the tremendous loss to our Honorary President Richard Booth, an initiator and a long-time friend of all book towns around the world.

As the key initiator and main driver of the first Book Town, set up in Hay-on-Wye in Wales, Richard was a leading figure in motivating the set-up of book towns all over the world. As an ally for the value and recycling of second hand books, Richard promoted the concept of book towns in at least 4 continents.

Richard might have been a bit eccentric, crowing himself as the 'King' of the book town Hay-on-Wye, but this gesture merely reflected his ultimate passion about books.

Those who have known Richard, know that he never backed off from a good discussion and always had a recommendation ready for Book Towns, to develop, to flourish, to innovate. He believed in the power of ideas, and in the power of sharing those ideas.

From all members of the IOB, we sent strength and comfort in these difficult times to his family and loved ones. The King is gone, but is not forgotten !

The Board