



some of the books collected for the READ book project. Back with the team with some of the books collected. PHOTOS: ADRIAN HARRIS

Book project receives backing from schools across the region

Thousands of books have been collected for a project to help underprivileged communities in Africa.

Three environmental science students at the University of East Anglia are collecting surplus textbooks from schools in the region to send to a deprived area of Tanzania.

The project, which is called the READ Book Project Norwich and is part of an international scheme, involves collecting 40,000 textbooks destined for landfill and shipping the ones that meet the criteria to the east African country in 2009.

In a bid to reach their target of 5,000 books, the organisers have held book collections around schools in the region this week.

Each day, about 1,000 books have been collected.

They plan to hold another book collection week in the New Year and now hope to double this week's figure.



Thompson and Sophie Cowie, said: "It's gone really well. It was pretty stressful getting all the schools together as we had schools coming on board right until the Friday before, but the volunteers and the schools have been great and really flexible.

many cardboard boxes full of books that it has taken a good few hours to unload the van. It's gone really, really well."

The van, which Anglian Will Hire hired out to them for free, made trips right across East Anglia, to as far as Peterborough

brought back to Norwich where they are being stored at Big Yell Storage, which has also offered service for free.

As part of the project, the trio also hope to raise £7,500 to provide transportation for the books, £3 of which needs to be raised before Christmas.

To help raise these funds, they will be holding a hairdressing fundraiser at Max Giannello's Norwich this Sunday.

People will be able to get their hair cut by professional stylists at a fraction of the ordinary cost and all the proceeds will go to READ.

It is hoped the event will raise £2,000.

→ People can call the salon direct 01603 761185 for an appointment.
→ If you can help READ Book Project Norwich or want more information, contact them on 07986 207716 or norwich@readbookproject.org.uk

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