

Nielsen BookData

Press Release

Guinness World Records 2023 scores UK and Ireland Christmas #1 double whammy, Nielsen BookData reveals

The latest edition of annual fact compendium **Guinness World Records** has become the official Christmas Number One bestseller in both the UK and Ireland, Nielsen BookData can reveal.



LONDON, 20 December 2022—The £22 hardback, published in September, sold 45,748 copies in the UK in the week ending 17 December 2022, and tops the Christmas chart for the first time since 2014. Meanwhile, in Ireland, the book has scored back-to-back Christmas Number Ones, and tops the chart this year with a sale of 5,072 copies.

TV star and novelist Richard Osman narrowly missed out on scoring his second Christmas Number One in the UK. His third Thursday Murder Club novel, **The Bullet That Missed**, was the second most popular purchase with book buyers last week, selling 45,011 copies. TV chef Jamie Oliver, who has topped the bestseller lists on Christmas Day five time since official sales records began in the late 1990s, takes third place in the UK chart, with his latest cookbook, **One**.

Since hitting shelves in September, **Guinness World Records 2023** has sold 273,000 copies in the UK, taking £2.7m through bookshop tills. Since the turn of the century, more than £100m has been spent on Guinness World Records publications in the UK, which have racked up sales of more than 11m copies.

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UK Top 10 bestsellers: week ending 17 December 2022

1. *Guinness World Records 2023* (Guinness World Records) 45,748 copies
2. *The Bullet That Missed* (Richard Osman) 45,011
3. *One* (Jamie Oliver) 32,897
4. *Pinch of Nom: Enjoy* (Kay and Kate Allinson) 32,769
5. *The Satsuma Complex* (Bob Mortimer) 29,643
6. *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse: The Animated Story* (Charlie Mackesy) 29,223
7. *Interesting Facts for Curious Minds* (Jordan Moore) 22,662
8. *Private Eye Annual 2022* (Ian Hislop) 22,258
9. *Diddly Squat: 'Til the Cows Come Home* (Jeremy Clarkson) 21,466
10. *Elizabeth: An Intimate Portrait* (Gyles Brandreth) 21,272

Recent UK Christmas number ones

- 2012: *Jamie's 15-Minute Meals* (Jamie Oliver)
2013: *My Autobiography* (Alex Ferguson)
2014: *Guinness World Records*
2015: *How it Works: The Husband* (Jason Hazeley and Joel Morris)
2016: *The Midnight Gang* (David Walliams)
2017: *Bad Dad* (David Walliams)
2018: *Becoming* (Michelle Obama)
2019: *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* (David Walliams)
2020: *The Thursday Murder Club* (Richard Osman)
2021: *Pinch of Nom: Comfort Food* (Kate and Kay Allinson)

Hazel Kenyon, director of book research at Nielsen BookData, said: “Congratulations to Guinness World Records on topping the Christmas bestseller charts for the second time. We’re delighted to celebrate all the authors, publishers and booksellers and the hard work they put in at this important book buying time of year.”

A grand total of £78.7m was spent on printed books in the UK last week—a rate of £468,000 spent every hour. Spending was down 8.7% versus the comparative week last year, but up 8.6% versus the same week in 2019.

Nielsen BookScan point-of-sales information reveals that 1,154 different books sold more than 1,000 copies at UK bookshops last week. Former Christmas chart-topper David Walliams’ latest novel, **Spaceboy**, was one of 40 books to sell more than 10,000 copies, and was the bestselling children’s book of the week.

Printed book sales in 2022 to date stand at £1.7bn in value terms, up 10.8% versus the comparative pre-pandemic period in 2019, with volume sales totalling 197m, up 11.4% versus 2019.

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For the first time since 2017, when David Walliams' **Bad Dad** scored a double whammy, we celebrate the same Christmas Number One in both the UK and Ireland. **Guinness World Records 2023** sold 5,072 copies in Ireland last week, taking top spot in the Irish bestseller chart ahead of Jeff Kinney's latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid adventure, **Diper Överlöde**, and U2 front man Bono's autobiography, **Surrender**.

Ireland Top 10 bestsellers: week ending 17 December 2022

1. *Guinness World Records 2023* (Guinness World Records) 5,072 copies
2. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Diper Överlöde* (Jeff Kinney) 3,982
3. *Surrender* (Bono) 3,934
4. *An Irish Folklore Treasury* (John Creedon) 3,933
5. *Forever Home* (Graham Norton) 3,627
6. *Time and Tidy* (Charlie Bird and Ray Burke) 3,067
7. *It Ends With Us* (Colleen Hoover) 3,035
8. *It Starts With Us* (Colleen Hoover) 2,951
9. *Quinn* (Trevor Birney) 2,748
10. *Listen to the Sand Speak* (Manchán Magan) 2,632

Recent Ireland Christmas Number Ones:

2012: *A Week in Winter* (Maeve Binchy)
2013: *My Autobiography* (Alex Ferguson)
2014: *The Test* (Brian O'Driscoll)
2015: *Grandma's Great Escape* (David Walliams)
2016: *The Battle* (Paul O'Connell)
2017: *Bad Dad* (David Walliams)
2018: *The Ice Monster* (David Walliams)
2019: *Ordinary Joe* (Joe Schmidt)
2020: *Old Ireland in Colour* (John Breslin & Sarah-Anne Buckley)
2021: *Guinness World Records 2022*

Printed book sales in Ireland last week totalled €8.8m—down 11% versus the comparative week last year. Year-to-date sales in Ireland total €155m—up 1% versus 2021 and up 18% versus 2019.

Notes for editors

Nielsen BookData 2021 blog: **[Osman, Obama, Oliver and Others: Christmas Number Ones](#)**

Data should be sourced to Nielsen BookData. Printed book sales data comes from the Nielsen BookScan UK Total Consumer Market panel of more than 7,000 book retail outlets in the UK, and the equivalent Irish Consumer Market panel.

Please contact mediabookresearch@nielseniq.com with any queries.

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