

# Infosheet

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2010



Over a decade of service to the children of Nottinghamshire

April 2010

## Hello Everyone

Just before we broke up I began to see the signs of the spring arriving in my garden; hasn't it been a long and awful winter? I hope, like you, that the lazy hazy days of summer will soon be upon us!

Since I last wrote much has been going on "behind the scenes". Our "fightback" campaign against the possible withdrawing of accommodation and grant aid facilities has been continuing, with many people in all walks of life coming to the aid of Literacy Volunteers and singing the praises of the help you, our Volunteers, give across the City and County. The invoices for the new subscriptions for the financial year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 (please see letter enclosed with the Infosheet sent in January) have already been posted out to member schools. The majority of which, we hope, will be able to pay the increased amount as we understand that central government funding has been devolved to individual schools.

As part of our efforts to obtain further sustainable income streams I am delighted to advise you that we have been successful in our application to the European Social Fund. The funds will be utilized to run ten Family Reading at Home Courses in the City and County and these will commence at the beginning of this term (please see enclosed sheet detailing what Literacy Volunteers can now offer, perhaps you may care to show this to your school contact).

As far as our accommodation is concerned, we know our situation is on the agenda of the City Council and as soon as I have any further information I will let you know. At the moment it looks like we will remain at the Sandfield Centre until further notice.

I do realize that everything may seem in a state of flux and admit that this is not what we would wish but circumstances are, as I am sure you will appreciate, out of our control. As always we thank you for your continued support and understanding.

**Ann Sanderson, Chairman**

## Dates for your diary

**Our AGM will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 1.45 p.m.**

Please see the enclosed sheet, Speaker to be announced.

### Term Dates 2010

#### Summer

12<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> July

With half term week beginning 31<sup>st</sup> May

#### Autumn

7<sup>th</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> December

With half term week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> October

### Volunteer Network Meetings

**Arnold Area** - Friday 21 May at 10.00 am

Arnold Library, Front Street, Arnold, Notts, NG5 7EE

**Worksop Area** - Monday 28 June at 10.30 am

BCVS, Dukeries Centre, Park Street, Worksop, Notts, S80 1HH

**Retford District** - Friday 2 July at 10.30 am

Carr Hill Primary, Tiln Lane, Retford, Notts DN22 6SW

**Hucknall Area** - Monday 5 July at 10.30 am

The John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall, Notts NG15 7FQ

**Mansfield Area** - Tuesday 6 July at 10.30 am

Mansfield Quaker Friends Meeting House, Rosemary Street, Mansfield, Notts NG19 6AB  
(Note - next to the Civic Centre)

## Milestones

Once again, we are delighted to recognize Volunteers who have provided dedicated and committed service for 10 years.

Regrettably space does not allow us to provide each with a separate citation but we list their names and schools below and, on behalf of the many children they have helped, thank them for their sterling service:

**Jean Baugh – Intake Farm Primary**

**Helen Jowett – Barnby Road Primary**

**Janet Kemp – Highbank Primary**

## Competition time!

Just to remind you that our competition is now an annual event. This year's topic is for a picture on A4 paper and a few words about a **favourite day out**, this may be a day out your "children" have had or one they would like to go on.

Everyone who enters will receive a bookmark and the four best entries will receive book tokens.

**Each entry must have the child's name, age and school clearly printed on the back and the envelope addressed to Literacy Volunteers.**

Closing date  
**14<sup>th</sup> June, 2010**



The Queen's Award for  
Voluntary Service 2006

## Results of the Volunteers' Satisfaction Survey

We have had an excellent number of responses to the above mentioned questionnaire, slightly down on previous years, possibly due to increased postal costs. Your views do count and are very important to us.

Your Area Co-ordinators have been given copies and will be in contact with you in due course if there is a point to follow up; should you slip through the net, please let Richard know.

Volunteers will find a summary of the results enclosed.

## Schools Questionnaire

As "old hands" will know this is the time of year that we write out to all Member Schools asking them what they think of the service Literacy Volunteers provide. Because of the way you carry out the help you give the responses are a joy to read. It is very important that we receive as many replies as possible because we can then prove to interested bodies the need for our service and what we do is valued. Please check that your School has received the Questionnaire and "encourage" them to return the form.

It would really be a **great help** to us if Headteachers could spare the time to complete and return the Questionnaire.

## Paddy Tipping MP visits Hillside Primary School



On 15th January 2010 Paddy Tipping MP visited Hillside Primary School to present a 10 year long service Certificate to Sheila Wright. Her service has been highly appreciated by staff and children alike. Head Teacher, Mrs Dorothy Stenson, said " It is a fantastic moment for Hillside Primary and Nursery School to celebrate with Sheila, her ten year achievement as a Literacy Volunteer. Sheila has supported over one hundred

children to learn to read first at Whyburn Primary and now at Hillside. There is no more special gift for a child, than learning to read with a kind and encouraging grown up, who cares enough about them to always turn up, without fail, to have fun with special books."

"Hillside Primary and Nursery is proud to say thank you to this kind and patient lady, who clearly loves reading and playing games with the children as an important part of her life. All the children are looking forward to the years ahead and her reliable company, continuing to teach children to read at Hillside. Thank you Sheila!"

## Infosheet via Email

Once again the postal charges are increasing and so we would like to send future issues of the Infosheet to as many of you as possible via the internet. If you are agreeable to this, please email your permission to [contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk) and we will do the rest. For those of you we do correspond with by email, please also let us know of any email address changes.

Email addresses will not be divulged to any other persons/organizations without your written permission and should you not have an email facility please do not worry as the Infosheet will continue to be posted to you.

## Travel Expense Claims

Expenses can be claimed for travelling from home to school (and return), any other Literacy Volunteers meetings and to a resource base to change books and games.

The rates are **36p** per mile for car journeys, **12p** per mile by bike and actual bus fares supported by tickets. Claims must be on our travel expenses form and can be sent in half-termly or termly within the financial year. A new form is sent automatically with your cheque but should you require another form, contact the office.

Please remember that travel claims can **only** be paid for the current financial year between 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

## No Politics

You may have noticed over the past months we have been able to publish photographs of local MPs participating in presentations and school visits. The fact that they have all been Labour Party MPs is purely a reflection of the sitting MP in the locality. As you are aware Literacy Volunteers has no political affiliation whatsoever and, in fact, when the situation arises Patrick Mercer the Conservative MP for Newark has performed like functions for Literacy Volunteers and is willing to do so again. We are grateful to all MPs for their continuing support.

We are also delighted to acknowledge the support, financially and otherwise, given by City and County Councillors of all political hues.

### Contact us:

#### Literacy Volunteers

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Tel: 0115 915 0820

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Literacy Volunteers in Nottinghamshire Schools