

Infosheet

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2011



Over a decade of service to the children of Nottinghamshire

January 2011

Hello Everyone

As I write to you all the ground is covered by snow and it is very dangerous underfoot; snow makes everything look so beautiful, even some of the less scenic areas of our County, but it makes it very difficult to get around. It is very heartening to know that underneath it all the crocuses, daffodils and tulips are growing ready for their beautiful spring display.

I hope that you and yours enjoyed a special and delightful Christmas period and on behalf of all at Literacy Volunteers may I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Our special wishes are sent to Margaret Moss a Volunteer at Oak Tree Lane Primary School who, unfortunately, had a fall in school in November and broke her wrist but we understand is now on the road to recovery.

On 6th November we celebrated Floss Abbott's 20 years of service at Dunkirk Primary School and what a memorable event that turned out to be, please see below.

Since September the Staff Team has, with the support of Enable's Community Grants Programme (funded by the European Social Fund and the Skills Funding Agency), run a series of 10 Workshops in City and County to help Mums, Dads and Carers develop and gain confidence in their ability to help their children to read at home. Due to the dedication of our Team and the assistance of School and Children's Centre Staff, the Workshops were

very successful and reached many participants who would not normally attend events such as these.

Unfortunately, coupled with this and the bad weather, it may be that you have not received your normal visit from your Area Co-ordinator, if this is the case and you need a visit **urgently** please contact them direct on the numbers given on the enclosed Volunteers Satisfaction Survey, otherwise you will be contacted in the usual course of events.

We are now fully operational in our new Office in the Denewood Centre and may I request that you note our new address and contact points as per the enclosed flyer as the Sandfield Centre is now closed and if items are sent to that address they could go astray.

Literacy Volunteers, along with many other Charities, faces much uncertainty regarding funding from the County Council and an application has been made to them for Grant Aid for the coming financial year. In addition to this there is great concern as to how Schools will be funded in the future and what monies they will have to spend on vital services such as ours.

Richard keeps reminding me that we face yet another challenging time ahead and that we should "keep the faith". He is sure, like me, that with the strong ties that link us all, Volunteers, Committee and Staff, and the imperative need for our Mission to continue we shall prevail (his words, but I do agree!).

Anne Sanderson, Chairman

A Unique Event!



The above photograph was taken at the celebration of 20 years of service given by Floss Abbott to the children of Dunkirk Primary School and shows, left to right, the Lord Mayor of Nottingham Cllr. Brian Grocock, Miss Floss Abbott and Mrs Judith Swan, Deputy Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire, surrounded by children from the school. (photo courtesy of Mrs J. Alford, Headteacher and Board of Governors)

Competition time!

Our competition is now an annual event and the current topic is for the children to **draw a picture on A4 paper of a magical creature and write a few words about it.**

Everyone who enters will receive a pen 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. Occasionally we are unable to read the details so unfortunately these entries are not able to be judged.

Entries can be submitted at **any time** up to **14th June, 2011.**



The Queen's Award for
Voluntary Service 2006

Dates for your diary

Term Dates 2011

Winter/Spring

5th January to 15th April with half term week beginning 21st February.

Summer

3rd May to 22nd July with half term week beginning 30th May

All dates are inclusive. These are the term dates generally for both City and County schools but some make different arrangements. Please check with your school. Also ask about any INSET (In-service Training) days/outings planned for the year when the school will be closed or your children not available.

It's a good idea to sort out your start dates before the end of each term.

Volunteer Network Meetings

Newark Area - on Friday, 28th January from 10.00 to 12 noon at Newark NCVS, 67 Northgate, Newark NG24 1HD

Arnold Area - on Friday, 4th February from 10.00 to 12 noon at Arnold Library, Front Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7EE

Beeston Area - Friday 3rd March from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon at The Pearson Centre for Young People, 2 Nuart Rd, Beeston NG9 2NH

Retford Area - Friday, 11th March from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon at Carr Hill Primary School, Tiln Lane, Retford DN22 6SW

Nottingham Area - Wednesday 30th March from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon in "Sycamore" at the Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent, Bilborough NG8 3DH

Worksop Area - on Thursday, 31st March from 10.30 to 12 noon at BCVS, Dukeries Centre, Park Street, Worksop S80 1HH

Sutton/Kirkby Area - Wednesday 13th April from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon at Community Centrepoint, Trinity Methodist Church, Diamond Avenue, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts NG17 7GN

Hucknall/Eastwood Area - Friday, 8th April from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon at John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall, Notts NG15 7FQ

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 1st April, 2010 and 31st March 2011. **These should reach the office by 26th March, 2011 latest, claims received after that date may not be paid.**

Health & Safety procedures in schools

Please ensure you know what the procedure would be at your school in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Contact us:

Literacy Volunteers

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Tel: 0115 915 1119 Email: contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk

www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk

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CA & Trainee Area Co-ordinator: Emma Trowbridge

Editorial Team: Richard Wray and Karen Ballinger **Design:** Emma Collis

Registered Charity No. 1055942
Literacy Volunteers in Nottinghamshire Schools

What We Can Offer

You will find enclosed with this Infosheet a summary of the various courses and workshops that Literacy Volunteers are now able to offer, these are delivered by our own Staff Team to interested parties. We feel that these additional training opportunities enable us to further develop our Mission and diversify our income streams. Please use this leaflet to spread the word and if you require more information do not hesitate to contact the office.

Volunteers' Satisfaction Survey

As is usual at this time of year, a questionnaire regarding the service provided to Volunteers by Literacy Volunteers is enclosed with this Infosheet and we look forward to receiving your replies and any suggestions/ideas you may have regarding the way you are supported and the way the Charity is conducted.

The feedback that we receive from you is invaluable and enables us to target resources and attention to any specific points you raise. Thanks for your time.

Infosheet via Email

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 and we will do the rest.

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.