

Infosheet

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2017



Over two decades of service to children

September 2017

Our Volunteers keep getting it right in schools!

"We have 3 Volunteers in school. They are dedicated and committed. We value them as part of the school team and the pupils respond very well to that 1-1 time with them. A brilliant service."

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

"Children have taken on a great likeness for being part of small sessions for reading 1-1. The pupils who often do not read at home due to lack of support have made outstanding progress. They have enjoyed the activities run by the Volunteer and are willing to talk about it."

Sparken Hill Academy



A Very Warm Welcome Back to All Our Volunteers, Schools and Colleagues

Here we go again everyone; a new term is upon us! However, just in case you think we have been hiding here is a glimpse of what we have been up to over the summer!

Many thanks to Santander who awarded us over £4000! This meant that we were able to get out into the City recruiting new volunteers and letting people know who we are and what we do. On Nottingham's Play Day at the Arboretum- hosted by the wonderful Playworks, we signed up 8 new Nottingham City volunteers and with training starting on 14 September we will soon have them in school and having fun.



Thanks to Karen Bennett, Alan Merrett, Gaynor Preston, Carol Smith, Mike Hoy, Sobia Rana, Chris Wroe and Bridget Riches for the help you gave to Sue and myself at this event. We could not have done it without you.....and of course Thanks to our Lovely Lord Mayor Cllr Edwards for popping by to say 'hi'! We will also be making our story stones and story cubes at The Green Festival, to be held at The Arboretum from 12pm on 17th September. Please come down and see us, we can promise you poetry and our very own Literacy Volunteers song!



Dawn Claypole, Chief Executive

Storytelling Stay and Play

Last term, together with Nottingham Homestart (and with funding from Lloyds TSB and Inspire Adult and Community Learning) we ran two Early Years Story Telling Stay and Play courses at Arnold Library and The Pearson Centre. We had a fabulously creative time working with local storytellers, Annette Waterfield and Michelle Hubbard and we will be repeating these courses for the City in SSBC areas over the next three terms.



Each course starts with a party followed by 5 sessions. Whilst being a fun stay and play session, each one looks at an aspect of early literacy development so that you can support your baby or toddler at home and give them the very best start in literacy and early education. Starting in Aspley Library on 10th November, let us know if you would like details or to book for the sessions. They fill up very quickly once word gets out.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2006

Volunteer Info

Bookcase Network Meetings and more

In May Jane Streeter, the owner of the Bookcase in Lowdham, kindly hosted two volunteer network meetings in her shop. We were all made very welcome and Jane provided light refreshments and a goody bag for all attending. She made a welcoming speech saying how thrilled she was to be working with us and also spoke about Bill Bottomley who wrote The Literary Trail and will host the planned sponsored walk. Jane and her colleague Louise, who is a children's literature expert, offered advice about different authors' book series and books for reluctant readers or for children who struggle to read. A list of the books that volunteers thought would be useful was drawn up and these are now available. Also, we managed to fit in books/games swaps from the boots of our cars, with passers-by wondering what was going on.

FUTURE EVENTS AT THE BOOKCASE, LOWDHAM:-

Colouring Events: these events are open to potential and existing Volunteers on the following dates/times. Come along to hear more about what we do at Literacy Volunteers but also to relax with some gentle colouring in activities!

Thursday 14th and Thursday 21st September from 6-7pm, coinciding with the launch of new colouring books by Millie Marotta but already FULL, I'm afraid!

Wednesdays 8th and 15th November from 6-7pm – our "Calm before Christmas Colouring happenings". Please book by contacting julia.gunn@btinternet.com. Refreshments are provided but we ask for donations for Literacy Volunteers.

Bookshop Day on Saturday 7th October – Pop in during open hours to support this wonderful Independent Bookshop as championed by The Guardian and in our very own County.

4th November: Launch of all the new and exciting Christmas Books and Giftware.

Meet The Author: A Children's author event being planned for late November at the WI in Lowdham for an insight into their work. Tickets will include cake and wine and are £5 but discounted to £2.00 for all our wonderful volunteers! Please book by contacting julia.gunn@btinternet.com.

Hello to you all

I do hope that you have enjoyed a pleasant summer and are continuing to do so. We have had a busy summer at Literacy Volunteers with our three coordinators Sue and the two Emmas working very hard to get to know their newly defined areas and meet as many of you as possible. Grateful thanks for the work they do over and beyond.

I attended a storytelling training and VNM in July at Playworks, where we were given a fascinating insight into making reading a book to children come alive using some old and loved books that were our inspiring trainer's own. Thanks to those who were able to attend.

I also spent some time at Lowdham Book Festival for the first time in July with Julia Gunn, one of our trustees. We had a table and display material which promoted a fair amount of interest and possibly some new volunteers! We talked to many like-minded people and hope to attend Newark Book Festival next year.

Do try to go to the VNM's if possible to share experiences. Your solution to a problem may be the answer to someone else's and to keep up with all that we are doing. A new school year and more lovely children to get to know, I am sure that they will enjoy working with you all. Many thanks for your continued volunteering and support, without you there would be no Literacy Volunteers. **Gaynor Preston, Chair of Trustees**

Evaluation Feedback Suggestion to Volunteers

On evaluating our Volunteer Feedback Forms, some of you feel that you do not receive feedback from your school about your success as a Volunteer. Can we suggest that you make an appointment to see your Class Teacher/Literacy contact at the end of each term (either before or after your session), to check in with them and discuss the progress of the children you help? Your Area Co-ordinator will also give you school feedback if any has been received on their visits to you these come via the School Feedback Form or verbal comments.

Fantastic Children's Improvement Results!

During the 2016-17 school year, feedback from schools has stated that input from Volunteers has meant that:

99% of children improved in their reading level

98% of children improved in their confidence

98% of children improved in their conversation skills

Well done all and thank you!

Agatha Christie Fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers!

Fancy an evening at the theatre? Here is a chance to see the wonderful "And Then There Were None!" Our thanks must go to Encore! Performing Arts for their wonderful offer to fundraise for us when they perform Agatha Christie's 'And then there were none!' - in October. The play is a fantastic murder mystery spectacular and the World's bestselling mystery ever!

Performances are scheduled for 7.30pm Monday 16th to Saturday 21st October, with a matinee on Saturday 21st October. The venue is the fabulous new theatre at Nottingham Girls High School. Please let us support them and help raise funds for Literacy Volunteers! Call the box office 0333 666 3366 or online www.ticketsource.co.uk/encoreperformingarts



Literacy Volunteers AGM 12th Oct 2017 – Future Development!

All our Volunteers and member schools are invited to our AGM which will take place on 12th October at The New Art Exchange on Radford Boulevard, Hyson Green, Nottingham, starting with Tea and Cake (of course) at 1.00pm, we will be sharing with you some exciting new plans for our future. Please come along to have your say in how we move forward.

In addition, as many of you have asked for more information about Autism and how to support children who may be on the Autism Spectrum, we will also be hearing from Nottingham's "Insight Autism Awareness". Not to be missed!

Sponsored Walk 24th September!

The date is reset for our **Literary Trail sponsored walk! Please come and take part and raise funds for our Charity! Sunday 24th September 2017.** We will be walking

a short section of the walk through Linby, Newstead and Papplewick, led by the lovely Bill Bottomley who wrote The Literary Trail. Water en route will be provided and we would like to all meet up and do this together so once again, ring in and book your place. A sponsor form was emailed but we can post one if you can't open it or don't have access to our website. We will be doing about 5 miles in total. We will **meet at 10.30am at The Horse & Groom pub at Linby.**



Competition Results of the Summer Reading Challenge "Animal Agent"

For this competition we asked that the children aged 4-8 yrs create an Animal Detective and draw a picture of it with a few words. For children aged 9 - 11 we asked for a short description or story about their Animal Detective to go with the picture.

We had just under 100 entries which were all wonderful and winners were selected for each of the categories below. Each winner was sent a book token before we broke up for the summer.

Picture and words - 4 to 8 year olds

County - Lucy Stevenson of Heathlands Primary

City - Natalie Cooper of Bentinck Primary

Picture and description/story - 9 to 11 year olds

County - Louise Markham - Carnarvon Primary

City - Chanay Tia Davies - St. Anne's Well Academy

The Julie O'Neill Memorial Prize - "Tried the Hardest"

County 4 to 8 year olds - Kobbi Scott-Dickman - St. John the Baptist, Colwick

City 4 to 8 year olds - Jamar Adofo - Bentinck Primary

County 9 to 11 year olds - Ashden West - St. Andrew's CofE Primary

City 9 to 11 year olds - Patrick Tomlc - Southwold Primary

The Heather Brooksbank Memorial Prize - "Neatest Handwriting"

County 4 to 8 year olds - Max Holmes - Winthorpe Primary

City 4 to 8 year olds - Emma Wilson - Bentinck Primary

County 9 to 11 year olds - Tyyanna Noon - St. John the Baptist, Colwick

City 9 to 11 year olds - Ciaran Damon Lee Atkins - Bentinck Primary

We would like to say thank you to all the children and their Volunteer for all their hard work and vivid imaginations!



Lucy Stevenson of Heathlands Primary

Thanks to Ladies of the Inner Wheel

We'd like to thank the Inner Wheel of Retford Ladies Group. Sue Marriott and Julia Gunn attended a meeting where they were made very welcome and after a lovely meal Mrs Joce McGarvey, President, presented a cheque for £701 to Literacy Volunteers as their charity of the year. A lovely box of books was also donated. Julia and Sue then gave a talk to the group about Literacy Volunteers and the difference our Volunteers make. They also appealed for help with recruiting volunteers especially in the Retford area.

School Info

Our Challenges

We struggled with the loss of some schools at the end of last term and we realise many schools simply don't have the budget to continue.

However, we do all we can to raise funds to keep our Volunteers in school so if you are a school thinking of leaving us please get in touch first to see what we can do.

Great School Feedback

Many thanks to all the Schools who returned our Feedback forms - we have received a good number back this year, some fantastic comments from you all and very valuable information to give to potential funders. **100% of you would recommend our service to other schools!**

Plea to Schools

Please remember to feedback to your Literacy Volunteers about any progress the children are making as a result of their help! They would really love to know. An update meeting with your Volunteers at the end of each term would be most appreciated. Many thanks.

Dates for your diary

Generally, the term dates are as below but there will be variations so please check with your school and it's a good idea to arrange your start dates before the end of each term.

AUTUMN 2017

City Schools

Term begins 30th August, Term ends 22nd December
Half Term 23rd October to 3rd November, inclusive

County Schools

Term begins 6th September, Term ends 22nd December
Half Term 23rd to 27th October inclusive

Derbyshire Schools

Term begins 4th September to 19 December, inclusive
Half Term 23rd October to 27th October inclusive

City Schools

Term begins 8th January 2018, Term ends 29th March 2018
Half Term 19th to 23rd February 2018 inclusive

County Schools

Term begins 8th January 2018, Term ends 29th March 2018
Half Term 19th to 23rd February 2018 inclusive

Derbyshire Schools

Term begins 2nd January 2018 to 23rd March 2018
Half Term 19th to 23rd February 2018 inclusive

VOLUNTEER NETWORK MEETINGS 2017 - You are all invited to attend any of the meetings you can get to - they don't have to be in your area or with your Area Co-ordinator!

No.	Date	Time	Venue & AC	Address
1	Fri 13th Oct	10.30am - 12.00pm	Quaker Friends Sue Marriott	Quaker Friends Meeting House Rosemary St, Mansfield NG19 6AB Theme: Childrens Books
2	Thurs 9th Nov	10.30am - 12.00pm	Carr Hill Primary Sue Marriott	Tiln Lane, Retford, DN22 6SW Theme: Childrens Books
3	Tues 14th Nov	10.30am - 12.00pm	Pearson Centre Emma Trowbridge	Pearson Centre for Young People 2 Nuart Road, Beeston NG9 2NH Theme: Childrens Books
4	Thurs 23rd Nov	10.30am - 12.00pm	Newark Library Emma Collis	Balderton Gate, Newark NG24 1UW Theme: Childrens Books

Date	Time	Event	Details
24th Sept	10.30-12.30pmish	Sponsored Walk	The Literary Trail out and about Linby, Newstead, Papplewick. Meet outside The Horse and Groom pub Linby. Please note we haven't arranged to park there so you will need to find alternative arrangements. Please book by contacting Karen on 0115 8765474 or karen@literacyvolunteers.org.uk
12th Oct	1.00 pm	AGM	The New Art Exchange, 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE
16th - 21st Oct	7.30pm all dates Extra time on 21 Oct 2.30pm	Encore Performing Agatha Christie 'And Then There Was None'	Book tickets online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/encoreperformingarts or call the box office on 0333 666 3366. Venue Nottingham Girls High School 'The space' Arboretum Street, Nottingham NG1 4JB
8th & 15th Nov	6.00-7.00 pm	Calm before Christmas	Colouring event and find about more about what Literacy Volunteers do. Book by contacting julia.gunn@btinternet.com
TBC	6.00-7.00pm	Meet The Author	Venue: The Bookcase, Lowdham Celebrated Children's author event. Tickets include cake, wine and are £5. Discounted to £2 for volunteers! The WI in Lowdham. Please book by contacting julia.gunn@btinternet.com.

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