

# Infosheet

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2018



Over two decades of service to children

April 2018

## Schools love our Literacy Volunteers!

***"All our Volunteers are excellent, dedicated and approachable and the children love working with them. Many thanks." – Broomhill Junior***

***Our Volunteer has been absolutely wonderful – working with a smile on her face and real concern and interest for the children. The children thoroughly enjoy working with her and have been much more interested in reading." – Dunkirk Primary***

***"Thank you for all your support with the extra reading, it has been lovely to see the children's confidence grow and they have made progress." – Laurence View Primary***

***"The dedication of our Volunteers is amazing. They absolutely go the extra mile." – Bentinck Primary***

***"Both our Volunteers have become part of the school community and as always we are appreciative of their commitment and professionalism." – St John's Primary (Stapleford)***

### Dear Literacy Supporters

Welcome to the summer term, I cannot believe where the time goes. It is a really exciting time for literacy at the moment and the great news is that Nottingham has become a "Literacy Hub"!

Nottingham City Council, The National Literacy Trust and Small Steps Big Changes are collaborating on this initiative and don't worry we will be up there contributing and championing our work!

The Nottingham Hub will encompass a range of programmes and initiatives, with a particular focus on:

- Working with families in the early years to ensure children are ready to start school
- Improving transition from primary to secondary school
- Equipping students with skills for employment

You can see we already fit well with some of their key priorities and we were mentioned twice at the launch event at The Lakeside on Friday 20th April, thanks to Cllr Webster and Cllr Mellen.

### Hello everyone

I think it's finally here, Spring that is, and here's hoping for the sunshine and warmth that we have all been missing for so long.

Some of you may not have been aware that Dawn has been unwell during the last few weeks but now we wholeheartedly welcome her back!

Events, of course, move on although the Easter holidays gave everyone a short break to recharge. We are awaiting imminent news regarding, if we get it, a potentially substantial County grant which will make a big difference to our finances and future development. Watch this space.

My grateful thanks go to Gonalston Farm Shop near Lowdham for giving us their support this year and to Julia, our vice chair, for liaising and encouraging them.

I also just wanted to say a few quick "thankyous"

Obviously all our volunteers are fabulous but did you know that:-

- In 2017 our very own Kamlesh Passi was nominated and won The Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service "Community Stars" Best in Nottingham Award winner for "Volunteering with Children"

- Every single child supported by Smita Patel who volunteers at Sparken Hill Academy achieves a score of 4! - showing outstanding improvement in their reading attainment. Wow !

- Thank you to Cllr Cutts, Cllr Wheeler, Cllr Peck and Cllr Foale for agreeing to endorse our Local Improvement scheme bid, we are just waiting to hear whether we have been successful.

On behalf of all the children and schools we can't thank you enough for the difference you make!

**Dawn Claypole, Chief Executive**

They are offering a varied tasting event on June 16th to which all are welcome. More details later.

We are again promoting another fund raising walk in September as last year's was so successful. All families, relatives, friends and not forgetting dogs are invited to join us on a not too strenuous walk so make a date in your diary and we will be giving you access to sponsorship forms and further details in due course.

My thanks go to Karen and the team for "getting on with things" in Dawn's absence and enabling us keep up with everything that has to be done for the charity.

Many thanks to all you volunteers, enjoy the next few months working with your children and if you are able to attend any of our events, you will be most welcome.

**Gaynor Preston, Chair of Trustees**



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2006

## Volunteer Info

### Successful Volunteer Network Meetings

A Volunteer Network Meeting last term was held at Hyson Green Community Centre, where we talked about the different kinds of books and reading materials that are available to share with the children you help. One Volunteer said "Good to have a selection of books to choose from" and another said "Finding out what is available in books is great".

Another highly attended VNM held at Arnold Library was an informative talk by Lousie and Eve from The Bookcase, Lowdham. Volunteers were shown the latest children's books and briefed on popular authors. They talked about books that could help with reluctant readers, dyslexic readers, good non fiction books and the latest puzzle books.

Ten volunteers attended the Network Meeting in Selston with the Theme Children's books. This was a mix of new and established volunteers, Volunteers shared books that they found worked really well and explained why.

### New LV Team Members

We have two new team members at Literacy Volunteers!

Hi, I'm **Karen Burrows**. Since January I have been employed as the new Early Years Literacy Volunteer Co-ordinator and Project Worker. The idea is to develop a new strand to the work of Literacy Volunteers by supporting Volunteers going into Pre-schools and nurseries, since very young children need to 'catch the bug' of enjoying books from as early as possible. If you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering to work in nurseries, do ask them to phone the office.



Another part of my role is to help run the Stay and Play sessions which we've completed in Bulwell Library and will be putting on in St Anns Library from 20<sup>th</sup> April, then the Mary Potter Centre, Hyson Green from 15<sup>th</sup> June. The aim of these, as well as lots of fun, is to promote 'Word Rich Homes' so children can develop language and a love of books which will help children towards the skills they need for reading.

I used to be a Key Stage 1 teacher, then went into nursery education. Originally from Gloucestershire I have lived in Hyson Green for 8 years and before that was near Chesterfield.



Hello, I'm **Lorna Jaggard** and I'm working alongside Karen Burrows as Early Years Literacy Co-ordinator and Project Worker. The other part of my role is supporting the Area Co-ordinators with recruitment and Volunteer visits in Primary schools.

I have been a Literacy Volunteer myself for the past 18 months in Carrington Primary school. I absolutely love the time I spend with the pupils there, getting to know them and seeing them develop a love of reading.

It's been wonderful to be involved in the Early Years Stay and Play library sessions, with the aim of helping the children grow a lifetime love of books, and the parents / carers to develop an understanding of the importance of early literacy. The feedback we have received so far from the attendees has been overwhelmingly positive; they have all found the sessions to be informative, interactive and fun.

I have lived in Nottingham for 20 years and have 2 young children. My eldest is autistic and struggled with reading for a long time, so I know what a difference having dedicated 1:1 reading input can make. My professional background was in advertising and marketing.

**More articles on next page**

Volunteers said that they had really enjoyed hearing about other volunteers experiences and ideas on ways to interact with the children, they found the discussion about children's books and ways to use them really useful.

We also asked what Volunteers want from their Network Meeting, and it became clear that Volunteers find it very valuable to be able to talk with other Volunteers, sharing tips and ideas and discussing what has worked well with the children, what hasn't and why, what they have done in specific circumstances, etc.

As a result, our VNMs this term will be about "Sharing Experiences". We want to invite as many Volunteers as possible along to talk about their experiences. Please come along, share your knowledge and skills - it is so useful for you to pool and swap your ideas and thoughts! In fact, a "What do I do if ....." feature would be a real help, particularly to new Volunteers!

We look forward to seeing you at this term's meetings - don't forget you can attend any, it doesn't have to be your AC's. Please contact your AC to say you are

### Stay and Play sessions at Bulwell Riverside Library

For six Friday mornings from Jan-March, we ran Stay and Play sessions for under 5's and their parents/carers with Annette Waterfield, storyteller extraordinaire! We had singing, rhymes, stories with great props, crafts for parents and children and lots of chat about how to create 'Word-Rich Homes'. We helped parents to see the value of lots of talking, singing and listening with their little ones, as well as joining the library and enjoying books together from birth onwards. The children loved the variety of stories, they enjoyed lots of activities linked to the stories including pegging all kinds of pants to a washing line, going on a Bear Hunt together and decorating a big cardboard box to keep books in at home.



We are running the same programme at St Anns Library on 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am, then in the Mary Potter Centre Library, Hyson Green starting on 15<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am. If you have little ones, please join us!

### Volunteer's Book Bus Adventure

I had heard about the Book Bus and having recently retired decided now was the time to get up and go. The Book Bus works in Zambia, Malawi and Ecuador, using converted buses, decorated with Roald Dahl characters, to take books and volunteers to schools. The aim is "to improve child literacy rates in by providing children with books and the inspiration to read them", and volunteers, working alongside the local staff, are part of making this happen. I felt my skills from years as a school librarian and similar skills to the work I do in a school as a Literacy Volunteer would be a good fit.

A typical day we would visit a school in the morning and run two sessions with groups of children. 72 languages are spoken in Zambia, but English is the key to getting on, so we used mostly picture books in English, with one of our Zambian team to translate. Afternoons were for preparation, but we visited local libraries two afternoons a week offering 1-1 reading sessions. At Zwelopili, a small school in a deprived area of town, this involved queues of 100 or more excited children waiting their turn. This school has no water or electricity, and just one classroom, plus a library which the Book Bus helped build and set up. My lasting impressions from the trip are all to do with the people. Inspirational adults who run schools in deprived areas and enthusiastic children keen to learn. As a Literacy Volunteer, you have just the skills needed, so if you think you are interested to find out more visit [www.thebookbus.org](http://www.thebookbus.org). **Article by LV Carole Williams**

## Volunteer Feedback

With your Infosheet you will have received your yearly Volunteer Feedback Form. We encourage all of you to please have your say and return the form to us by **11th May 2018**. You can email the form to [contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk) or post to the office or give to your AC. We really need your feedback and encourage you all to fill it in.

Many thanks in advance.

## Gonalston Farm shop Fundraising Partner!

We are delighted to be working with Gonalston Farm Shop as one of our funding partners. They have chosen us as their Charity of the year for 2018 and have already begun by placing collection boxes in their fabulous Farm Shop. If you haven't been it's really worth a trip and on Saturday June 16th 10-1pm we will be having a Food tasting and Tombola event to raise further funds for our fab cause.

Please put the date in your diary. Our thanks go out to Gonalston Farm Shop and Julia Gunn.

## Lowdham Book Festival begins!

The Lowdham Book Festival starts on 19th June and continues until 30th June.

The programme will be launched at the beginning of May. We will be making an appearance so watch this space.

If any volunteers would like to be included on The Bookcase mailing list for regular events etc please contact [janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk](mailto:janestreeter@thebookcase.co.uk)

Again our thanks go to The Bookcase at Lowdham.

## Sponsored Walk

It's official the date is set for Sunday 23rd September meeting outside the Horse and Groom Pub in Linby. Once again, the fabulous Bill Bottomley will walk us to Newstead Abbey and back, a round walk of about 7 miles with a midpoint stop for tea and cake at the Abbey. And a few literary surprises are planned along the way! We raised over £1000 last year let's see what more we can do.

## General Data Protection Regulation

Change of Practice for Volunteers in schools! Due to the implementation of the above regulation, we are reviewing all the data we hold/collect. As such, we are making the following changes to forms that you may be using and kindly request that you comply to these changes:

| Type of Form            | Changes   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Children's Details Form | We will no longer be using this form. If you have any of these forms in your possession, can you destroy them or hand them to your class teacher. |
| Class teacher sheets    | A new Teacher sheet will be distributed and put onto the website for you to keep in case your class teacher changes                               |
| Record of Sessions      | We are issuing new forms, which will ask you to use a child's initials. These should be kept at school as per the arrangements made at your       |

## Dear Volunteer - we need your help!

Our target for fundraising in 2018 is £30,000.

Please get involved and do whatever you can, as well as Food tasting and Tombola at Gonalston on June 16th and our Sponsored Walk celebrating Nottingham's rich literary heritage on September 23rd we are asking you to come up with an idea at your network meetings – maybe you could organise a coffee morning or table top sale on our behalf? Your area coordinator will be talking to you about this at your next volunteer network meeting. Please be sure to attend.

The Summer Holidays

Once again, we will be out over the summer, having fun, recruiting new volunteers and raising our profile so if you have any time to spare to help us out at these events:

Newark Book Festival Sunday July 15th

Nottingham Play Day Wednesday August 1st

Lowdham Book Festival Gala day Saturday June 30th

Please email me

[dawn.claypole@literacyvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:dawn.claypole@literacyvolunteers.org.uk)

Finally, if you tweet about your experience as a Literacy Volunteer be sure to use @literacyvols so we can retweet.

If you use Facebook please like our Literacy Volunteers Facebook page and share our activities widely. Thanks to those of you who do!

## Competition Changes

It has been agreed that this year we will not be running the children's competition. The Charity is looking at changes to what we do regarding this. We will keep you informed.

We have attached our sponsor form so get collecting and spruce up your walking boots. Please call Karen on 8765474 and let us know if you are coming so we can plan ahead.

All welcome: volunteers, friends, families and anyone who wants to support us to improve literacy and generate a love of books and reading in Nottingham.

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Your Own Notebooks      | introduction (or taken home.) Remember that sheets go to the Class teacher at the end of every half term<br>If you choose to make notes in your own books etc YOU MUST ENSURE THAT CHILDREN'S NAMES ARE NOT USED so that if they are lost children cannot be identified. Please destroy any old notes you may have and anonymise any current notes you are keeping i.e. use child's initials only. |
| Pupil Feedback Sheets   | Are being changed to have initials only on them for both child and teacher   |
| Impact Monitoring forms | Are being changed to have initials only on them for both teacher and volunteer   |

## 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.

### SUMMER 2018

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>City Schools</b>       | Term begins 16th April 2018, Term ends 26th July 2018<br>Half Term 28th May to 1st June, 2018 inclusive  |
| <b>County Schools</b>     | Term begins 16th April 2018, Term ends 25th July, 2018<br>Half Term 28th May to 1st June, 2018 inclusive |
| <b>Derbyshire Schools</b> | Term begins 9th April 2018, Term ends 20th July 2018<br>Half Term 28th May to 1st June 2018 inclusive    |

### AUTUMN 2018

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>City Schools</b>       | Term begins 3rd September 2018, Term ends 21st December 2018<br>Half term 22nd October to 2nd November 2018 inclusive      |
| <b>County Schools</b>     | Term begins 5th September 2018, Term ends 21st December 2018<br>Half term 29th October to 2nd November 2018 inclusive.     |
| <b>Derbyshire Schools</b> | Term begins 3rd September 2018, Term ends 21st December 2018<br>Half Term 29th October 2018 to 2nd November 2018 inclusive |

**VOLUNTEER NETWORK MEETINGS 2018** - 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   | <b>Wed 9th May</b>   | 10.30am - 12.00pm | Carr Hill Primary<br><b>Sue Marriot</b>             | Tiln Lane, Retford DN22 6SW<br><b>Theme: Childrens Books</b><br><b>Mrs Angela Meads from 'Bookwork',</b><br><b>The Retford Book shop</b> |
| 2   | <b>Wed 9th May</b>   | 10.30am - 12.00pm | The Vale Community Centre<br><b>Emma Trowbridge</b> | Rosedale Drive, Wollaton Vale, NG8 2JA<br><b>Theme: Sharing Experiences</b>  |
| 3   | <b>Mon 11 June</b>   | 10.30am - 12.00pm | West Bridgford Library<br><b>Emma Collis</b>        | Bridgford Road, West Bridgford, NG2 6AT<br><b>Theme: Sharing Experiences</b>   |
| 4   | <b>Fri 22nd June</b> | 10.30am - 12.00pm | Quaker Friends Meeting House<br><b>Sue Marriot</b>  | (next to Civic Centre) Rosemary St Mansfield NG19 6AB<br><b>Theme: Sharing Experiences</b>   |

**Please let us know if you are coming to the above events so we can sort out refreshments and handouts. Phone Karen on 0115 8765474 or email at [karen@literacyvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:karen@literacyvolunteers.org.uk) or let your Area Co-ordinator know.**

**Contact us: Literacy Volunteers, Woodthorpe Grange, Woodthorpe Drive, Nottingham NG5 4HA  
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Chief Executive: Dawn Claypole Tel: 0115 876 5993, Administrator: Karen Ballinger Tel: 0115 876 5474, Area Co-ordinator (City/North Notts): Sue Marriot, Area Co-ordinator (City E/South Notts/Newark and Gedling): Emma Collis, Area Co-ordinator (City W/West Notts/Derbyshire): Emma Trowbridge, Early Years Literacy Volunteer Co-ordinator: Karen Burrows & Lorna Jaggard