

Infosheet

for Schools and Volunteers
Literacy Volunteers 1996-2019



Over two decades of service to children

January 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE - hope you all had a nice Christmas break. We have lots to look forward to this year at Literacy Volunteers and I am very much looking forward to sharing some new projects and ideas with you all. Meanwhile a big thank you for choosing to volunteer - I know the work we do with children is so worthwhile and much appreciated. I really enjoy my weekly visits to two schools in the Newark area.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to begin my new role as Chair of Literacy Volunteers. I hope to meet you at Volunteer Network Meetings and/or events during the Spring and Summer terms. Your ideas/suggestions (especially for new fundraising initiatives) will be very welcome.

JULIA GUNN, CHAIR

Dear Schools and Volunteers Welcome back to 2019

Before we start a new school year let us just take a moment to reflect and say **"Thank you"** for last year's successes:-

- Our Sponsored Walk raised a fab total of **£1094!**
- Being out and about in the Summer meant we were able to recruit volunteers and spread the message about Reading for Pleasure at Lowdham Book Festival, Newark Book Festival, Nottingham City Play Day and The Green Festival
- Thanks to great support from County Councillors, we were awarded a new three year Local Improvement Scheme grant from Nottinghamshire County Council which means we are continuing to provide our service and can even start to expand
- We have made our first promotional video which can soon be seen on our website
- Volunteers in Schools - We currently have 162 of you in 112 schools across the County - many thanks to you all and to the staff who support you.
- We have recruited some wonderful new Trustees
- With two new Early Years Staff dedicated to early literacy initiatives and funding from Small Steps Big Changes, we delivered 24 very successful Story Songs and Rhymes sessions in four wards of The City
- We supported The Nottingham City of Literature team to get The Lost Words into schools and being used by pupils and our volunteers (let us know if you still haven't got a copy for your resources box)

DAWN CLAYPOLE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW

David Ridsdale



Being a Literacy Volunteer at Chaucer Infant School has given me an opportunity to become involved in a school and support individual children with their reading. However it's also much more than this, I feel the children I work with also benefit

enormously from the experience of sitting with, and talking to, a friendly adult who is supporting them exclusively. Social skills and communication skills are naturally developed - and we have fun!

From a personal perspective I have enjoyed feeling appreciated and welcomed into the community where I work, I certainly feel that I am supporting the whole school and the class teacher as well as individual children. I'm recently retired and the environment and young people are helping me keep on my toes!

The actual 'work' is not difficult (there are no fractions involved!), it's all about positive relationships with the children and staff. The training I received before starting gave me plenty of strategies and ideas, and my role and 'duties' were made very clear.

As a volunteer I have certainly been supported and felt valued and valuable, I would recommend others to definitely give it a go!

SCHOOL'S FEEDBACK *"We have been so very impressed with the dedication of our Volunteer that we feel adding 3 additional Volunteers to work with some Pupil Premium children will be extremely beneficial and make a significant contribution to our school. The experience has been really positive and the pupils were always eager to work with their Volunteer and looked forward to their weekly sessions."* Deputy Head Teacher, Chaucer Infant School.



The Queen's Award for
Voluntary Service 2006

'BG is a less confident child who visibly lights up when Mrs C arrives; he speaks with a greater confidence than we have ever seen in school before.'

Literacy Volunteers AGM

We held our Annual General Meeting at The John Godber Centre in Hucknall on Wednesday 30th October.



It was well attended and we had some very interesting presentations from Matt

Turpin from Nottingham Unesco City of Literature team, about the content of their bid and the remit of the team, and also Emily Landsborough from Nottingham's Literacy Hub about the three priorities for literacy in Nottingham.

We were also able to give each volunteer at the AGM a copy of the beautiful "The Lost Words" by Robert McFarlane which was crowdfunded by Unesco.

It was a great opportunity to learn and network with other volunteers (and of course enjoy the delicious cakes!).

Read On Nottingham will start the new year by working with young people to identify a list of the city's 100 most popular children's books as part of celebrations for Nottingham City Council's focus on literacy in spring 2019.

Subscription Charge News for Our Wonderful Schools!

You will be pleased to know that despite it costing us upwards of £516 per year per volunteer to recruit, train and support individuals in schools, the trustees have decided to **raise subscriptions by only £10** in the coming year.

Any schools renewing after April 1st 2019 will be charged the new subscription rate of **£360 per annum**.

We will keep working hard to support our schools and keep this figure as low as possible.

EVALUATIONS! The 2017-18 school year evaluations show that **84% of schools rate the dedication and commitment of Volunteers as excellent.**

96% of schools, who answered the question, would **recommend our service** to other schools.

97% of children improved in their reading level

97% had an increase in their love of reading

98% had an improvement in their confidence.

Fantastic, well done everyone and a big thank you.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

If you are claiming travel expenses please ensure you send them to the office by 31 March 2019 which is the end of Literacy Volunteer's financial year otherwise we may not be able to reimburse you.

More on next page

HEADS BRIEFINGS

Following a Pupil Premium Network meeting in June 2018 we recruited **19 more funded schools** as part of our expansion project. In addition, following presentations to four County Heads Briefings in September we have also recruited a further **23 new schools. WOW!**

Thank you to The East Midlands School Support Service for inviting us to your Heads Briefings.

Heads and Schools can get invaluable support from this team at www.em-edsupport.org.uk – we highly recommend them to you!

'RHJ has absolutely loved the 1-1 attention this reading time has afforded him. He loves working with Mrs S.'

VOLUNTEER NETWORK MEETINGS

The meetings were held last term in Beeston, Selston, Worksop and Arnold and in total were attended by 50 Volunteers! Volunteers learnt about:

- **How to help early readers by sharing a book and developing a child's language**
- **Effective and specific praise which tells a child what they have done well and encourages them to repeat this reading behaviour**
- **Why understanding and comprehension is an important part of reading**

The Volunteers took part in an activity in groups to show how a good book introduction can have a huge positive impact on a child's motivation and ability to read the book. There was great interaction amongst the Volunteers and it got everyone talking.

Volunteers were also able to change their resources, pick up useful LV forms and chat with other Volunteers – this is a valuable part of our Network Meetings and Volunteers really enjoy swapping ideas and tips. If you can, please come along to our Volunteer Network Meetings this term!

Literacy Volunteers Sponsored Walk 23rd September 2018

Go Literacy Volunteers!

What a great turnout for our second annual walk guided by the wonderful Bill Bottomley around Linby and Newstead Abbey. Bill's Literacy Trail

is dedicated to us as a charity and we were proud to walk the route for the second year running with almost double the number of Volunteers from last year. Despite the predications of bad weather, we battled on and had fun, **raising £1094!**

Thanks to Newstead Abbey for the talk about the history the building and grounds and thanks to: Carol Williams, Alan Merrett, Karen Bennett, Julia Gunn, Martin and Mercy Aylott, Helen Barnett, Deborah Millar, Sue Taylor, Ben Jefferson, Johanna Faith, Caroline Threadingham, Vivienne Bowman, Elaine Hobson, V Ford, Bridget Riches, Catherine Foley, Gaynor Preston, Tracey Terry-Smith, Maureen McGrath, Irene Sinclair, David Keeling, Nikki, Val Lockwood, Melanie Holden and her friend and all the dogs and staff who made it a great event.



FUNDRAISING NEWS!

We have a brand new fundraising group who met for the first time in November to boost our fundraising efforts. They have great plans which include:-

Let May be a Month of Cake and Coffee: if anyone would be happy to hold a coffee morning in May to raise funds on our behalf, we will provide you with a start-up pack of invites, posters, recipes, and raffle prizes to get your event off to a flying start. You could do this at home, in a community venue as part of a Volunteer Network Meeting or in conjunction with your school. Please let us know if you would like to run an event on our behalf.

A "Swishing Event" on Thursday 25th April 2019 in Lowdham – for those of you who don't know what this is, it's a chance to swap your unwanted clothing items for someone else's! Everyone has something we have never or hardly worn and say we have 5 such items we pay £5 and can leave with 5 new items from someone else's pile.

A Summer Craft Fair – watch this space for more details but if you would like to help out with this one email dawn.claypole@literacyvolunteers.org.uk.

Finally, this Year's **Annual Walk** will take place on **Sunday September 22nd 2019**.

Thank you to our funders and supporters

Especially Gonalston Farm Shop; The Jessie Spencer Trust; Small Steps Big Changes; Nottingham's Literacy Hub; The East Midlands School Support Service; The Association of Business Leaders in Education; HSBC Bank; Santander; St Peters and St Pauls Scramblers Club; The Rothera Charitable Trust; The Rotary Club of Trent Bridge; The Charles Littlewood Hill Trust; The John Eastwood Foundation; The Park Lives Community Fund and All Our Subscribing Primary Schools throughout The City and County.

Also Annette Waterfield, Michelle Reader and Lauren Kinnersley – Artists and Story Tellers.

It is National Story Telling Week from 26 January to 2 February 2019

– We are working with Lauren Kinnersley from "Into The Wild Wood" to tell stories in some of the schools we work in. What will you be doing to raise awareness of the power of storytelling? Why not post pictures of your story telling events on our webpage to inspire us all. New Storytelling Sessions will run from Wed 16th January in Aspley Library every Wednesday morning for a whole term.

Society for
Storytelling



'OC has really enjoyed these sessions. She scored much higher in comprehension assessments.'

Literacy Volunteers swap walking boots for football boots and BOOKS!

We have three Literacy Volunteers who are working with Nottingham's Literacy Hub to support Notts County Football Club with their home match day children's book swaps. So far, nearly 50 children have taken out books on match days! We will be back there on Saturday January 12th – come and say 'Hi' if you are a County Fan!

Thank you to Lia Khan, Sue Fenton and Theresa East for your time with this project.



News from our Nottingham City Literacy Hub:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/nottingham/>

use this link to see what the hub is up to in The City and find out what, where and how we are supporting this great push to improve children's literacy.

Finding Your Reading Super Power!

A Very Special Volunteer Network Training Event.



Would you like to harness the powers of honey badgers, spider monkeys, the bat-eared fox and others to help you with specific issues your children are experiencing when reading with you. We have a very special training morning planned for Thursday February 28th 2019 10-12.30pm, venue TBC. Working with Literacy expert Katie Murray who runs her own, very successful Children's Literacy Workshops.

If any of the children you are supporting struggle with punctuation, comprehension, expression, tricky words, silent letters, fluency and or decoding this session is for you.

Book your place and send us a brief description of your children's reading issue by emailing contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk.

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW Carol Baker

Volunteering with Literacy Volunteers has meant that even though retired I still feel as if I have a place to make a difference with children's love of reading, just by giving up a few hours a week.

The child I most remember came to me at first very shyly, but after a few weeks of chatting and playing games, she soon began to look forward to our sessions. Being from a large family meant that having someone read to her did not happen very often, so each week I would read part of a book she chose, and eventually as it was her choice she started to recognise new words and her teacher informed me of her continued progress in her reading and writing.

At the end of that summer term, I encouraged all the children I worked with to enrol in the local library Reading Challenge. When I returned in the autumn term, the child came up to me and couldn't wait to tell me she had won the challenge by reading a selection of books, and was now a regular borrower of books.

I don't mean to take all the credit for the fantastic improvement in her reading, but feel that by trying to enthuse her about reading I played some small part in her achievement. What better feeling can you have?

Carol Baker - St John's C of E Primary, Stapleford

Children's Literacy campaign - 28 Jan - 18 March 2019

From 28 January to the 18 March 2019 Nottingham City Council will be teaming up with partners to run a citywide campaign to promote children's literacy.

The campaign will promote the following messages:

- **"Ambitious for every child"** to set the tone of raising aspirations.
- **"Read today, succeed tomorrow" and "Today's readers, tomorrow's leaders"** to raise awareness of the link between children's reading and better outcomes in later life.

- **"Together we can unlock children's potential"** to attract people to take action to support children's literacy. Key actions will include library visits, volunteering and fundraising.

The campaign will measure impact through:

- An increase in the number of children's library memberships and level of book borrowing.
- Working with us at Literacy Volunteers to increase the number of people volunteering to help children to read!

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.

SPRING 2019

City Schools	Term begins 7th January 2019, Term ends 5th April 2019 Half Term 18th to 22nd February 2019 inclusive
County Schools	Term begins 7th January 2019, Term ends 5th April 2019 Half Term 18th to 22nd February 2019 inclusive
Derbyshire Schools	Term begins 7th January 2019 to 12th April 2019 Half Term 18th to 22nd February 2019 inclusive

SUMMER 2019

City Schools	Term begins 23rd April 2019, Term ends 26th July 2019 Half term 27th May to 31st May 2019 inclusive+
County Schools	Term begins 23rd April 2019, Term ends 24th July 2019 Half term 27th May to 31st May 2019 inclusive
Derbyshire Schools	Term begins 29 April 2019, Term ends 22nd July 2019 Half Term 27th May 2019 to 31st May 2019 inclusive

VOLUNTEER NETWORK MEETINGS 2019 - 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	Thurs 28 Feb	10.00am - 12.00pm	TBC Katie Murray All AC's	Venue will be City based. Theme: Finding your Reading Super Power!
2	Fri 1 March	10.30am - 12.00pm	Quaker Friends Meeting House Sue Marriott	Rosemary St, Mansfield, NG19 6AB
3	Mon 11 March	10.30am - 12.00pm	Millgate Community Centre Emma Collis	Pelham St, Newark, NG24 4XD
4	Tues 2nd April	10.30am - 12.00pm	Vernon Park Sports Pavilion Emma Trowbridge	Vernon Rd, Basford NG6 0AR
5	Thurs 4 April	10.30am - 12.00pm	Carr Hill Primary Sue Marriott	Carr Hill Primary School, Tiln Lane. Retford, DN22 6SW

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