

Infosheet

for Schools and Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2020



Over two decades of service to children

January 2020

HELLO EVERYONE - As we start the New Year we are keen to engage some new schools and community groups/partners and volunteers in our work at Literacy Volunteers. If you know, or think of anyone who might like to get involved please contact us and we will explore any

potential opportunities. I hope to meet many of you at Volunteer Network Meetings or events throughout the year. Meanwhile may I say 'thank you' for choosing to volunteer with us and wish everyone happy 2020!

JULIA GUNN, CHAIR

Dear Schools and Volunteers

A very warm welcome back into schools from us all at Literacy Volunteers. Can you believe it's 2020!

I certainly can't - and moreover it's the start of my fifth year with this incredible Charity. Before I look forward to what we want to achieve next year, I must say that my highlight of the year last year, was our AGM! It was really good to see as many volunteers as we did and to top it all we had a visit from Nicholas Lee - The Director of Education Services from Nottingham City Council who congratulated us on our inspiring work!

As usual we carried out an Annual Evaluation of our services and it's great to know the following:-

Satisfaction with our network meetings rose from 54% to a whopping 70%! - Well done to the Area Coordinators!

94% of children improved in their reading levels having worked with one of our Volunteers, 92% of children felt happier about reading with support from one of our

Volunteers and 99% of Schools rated our Volunteers' dedication as excellent or good - Thanks to all our Volunteers! 100% of schools we work with would recommend our service to others - Thank you to our Schools!

And so to 2020! This year, thanks to support from Small Steps Big Changes, we have plans to expand our Learning to Love Books sessions in libraries in Nottingham City.

It's also on our list to revamp our website.

And

On a more serious note we want to improve our training especially in terms of safeguarding and keeping safe in schools.

Finally my thanks go to Karen Ballinger who will leave us this January after so many years - "I've shared so many ups and downs with you in such a short space of time, I'll really miss your professional approach and the love and care you have for this Charity has been inspiring - Thank you Karen."

DAWN CLAYPOLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Wednesday 9th October was the date we held our Annual General Meeting for 2019.

We were pleased to see such a great turnout of Volunteers, invited guests, Committee and Staff.



Following the usual formal AGM procedures, Volunteers and guests enjoyed a talk given by guest speaker, Katie Murray, who delivered a workshop called "A Heart Carrying a Book" - a child-led study of the experience of learning to read.

There were also some very young attendees at the meeting this year, from Greenfields Children's Centre. The staff and children kindly came to the AGM and presented a donation of children's books to Literacy Volunteers as part of their 30th birthday year celebrations. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.

We also had the official launch of our new Story Sharers Scheme. This Community Funded project enables us to expand our pool of existing volunteers to create a team of "Story Sharers" who will go into schools and early years' settings to read stories and promote the love of books and reading. This supports Volunteers who can only attend settings for a small amount of time, or term at a time

The meeting also gave Volunteers the opportunity to vote, meet all the team, Committee and importantly, other Volunteers.

There was a book and games swap for Volunteers and a chance to hear about current Charity news and of course enjoy some light refreshments.

All in all a successful day and a chance to celebrate a good year for Literacy Volunteers.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2006

Sponsored Walk

We would like to say a huge 'Thank you' for the support you gave to us for this year's Literacy Volunteer's annual sponsored walk held in September 2019.

Altogether, we raised £550!

This amount will support a volunteer in school for a whole year - supporting over 10 children with their reading and communication skills. We can't thank you enough for your help.

The board and team have had a huge think about how we can go forward with our walk and we have decided that next year we will bring the walk forward to July - mainly in hope there will be better weather! We will also be featuring a local poet who will keep us entertained while we break half way for coffee and cake. Keep an eye out for the date in the next Infosheet.



Volunteer Achievement!



Anne Hardy celebrated her 15 year anniversary of volunteering at Robert Shaw Primary School last term. Dawn and Emma Trowbridge visited Anne to say a huge thank you!

Anne said "What is the best gift one can give a child? I think it's the gift of time. For a class teacher (of 30 children) to spend just 10 minutes in hearing each child read, would take longer than one school day. As a Literacy Volunteer I can give a child 30 valuable

minutes to reassure, boost confidence, suggest books, help with following the story line and reinforce the delights of reading. I have really loved being a Literacy Volunteer at Robert Shaw Primary School for the last 15 years. It has been a real privilege!" Nicole Amoabil, KS1 Lead, said "The time and care the Volunteers give to our most needy children is just lovely."

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW - Maggie Reeves

I have always taken great pleasure in reading myself, and then reading with my children and now grandchildren. Therefore, when I retired, it was only natural for me to choose Literacy Volunteers as an opportunity to share my enthusiasm for reading and encourage those having difficulties to enjoy it too.

Children's literature is of particular interest to me and I am constantly on the search for books with good female characters and ones that represent our multi-cultural society. To find any was very difficult in the past but still not as easy today, especially finding ones at a suitable level for the children I read with. Motivating boys - and it is mostly boys I help - to read books with girls as central characters can be tricky. We



just need more and at a simpler level.

I joined Literacy Volunteers around 5 years ago and have found the organisation excellent in providing materials, personal support, and regular meetings for sharing books, games and experiences. I enjoy every minute with the children. I am very happy helping at Blidworth Oaks. The school has a good ethos, the children are unfailingly polite and the staff are friendly and helpful. It is rewarding to help the children in Years 5 and 6, who are all interesting in their own unique ways and I learn from them too.

I have learned things about dinosaurs and motorbikes that I would never have known otherwise! I particularly like it when the name of a place crops up and, if the child doesn't know where the country or town is, we then look at the atlas together to find it. The games are always popular and even the poorest reader will soon learn to recognize the words in 'Swap' games. Word-searches and crosswords remain

A Fond FAREWELL



Literacy Volunteers has sadly said 'Goodbye' to one of the Charity's Founders and key member of the staff team, whom many of you will have liaised with at some point.

Karen Ballinger, (pictured right) our Office Administrator, had a presentation at the AGM in October and then finally retired this January 2020. Karen wrote, 'It's been a long, winding, but happy road as Administrator from 1996 using a mechanical typewriter to the frustrations of IT in 2019!

What a privilege to have been at the start of our Charity (and before that with VRH/Beanstalk) helping Julie O'Neill with the setting up of LV and see it grow into the vibrant, forward thinking and happy organisation we have today.

I think the key to it's ongoing success has been the wonderful staff team, whom I count as friends, and the Volunteers whose work and commitment has been inspirational. Sadly, the need for our organisation goes on as there are still thousands of children yet to enjoy the magic held within the covers of a book, the fun to be had with a simple board game and the friendship given by an interested adult.

I will miss everyone, the triumphs and challenges of everyday life with LV, and will think of you all often but look forward to spending my retirement with family, friends and interests.'

perennially popular and the handouts are useful for these.

I feel sad when the children move up to secondary school, knowing I am unlikely to see them again but I like to believe that they've benefitted from the 1-1 encouragement and conversations we've had, - and then there's always next year's characters to look forward to meeting.

LEARNING TO LOVE BOOKS

In September we started up 2 new Thursday groups of storytelling for parents and their under 5s in Nottingham libraries, using funding from Small Steps Big Changes; St Ann's 10.00 – 11.30am and Hyson Green 1.30 – 3.00pm. They include our usual mix of stories, songs, rhymes, pointers for parents, crafts and parachute games. We help 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. Annette Waterfield has continued as our main storyteller, with Michelle Hubbard leading a

couple of sessions about creating stories at home. It's been great to have Marie Ainsworth, our new Lit Vol staff member, helping to run the sessions. She comes to us from a background of advice and training in the Careers service and made a great Bookstart Bear (see picture) when he came to encourage children to join the library!

We are thrilled that we have received confirmation of more funding from SSBC to continue these groups for at least 2 more terms in 2020.



New 0-5 Story Telling in Sneinton



Thanks to donations from the Co-op in Sneinton Dale and the Thomas Farr charity, a new storytelling session will be running at the Dales Centre Library in Sneinton, starting in January



and carrying on through to July 2020. Annette, our Storyteller and Marie, an Early Years Support Worker will be delivering the session. We are hoping to recruit a Volunteer to assist, hopefully from the pool of highly talented Volunteers we have currently within our organisation.

The sessions will take place on a Monday afternoon 1.30 – 3.00pm and will be very much in line with our current story telling sessions we have running in St Anne's and Hyson Green.

The Co-op staff and members at Sneinton Dale are very much looking forward to seeing how their donations will benefit the local community and it is hoped that the Dales Centre Story Telling sessions will be a success and will continue to be financially supported in the future.

Committee NEWS

With 10 members now on our Literacy Volunteers Board of Trustees - with a wide range of experience to share around the table, the Charity is in capable hands.

We are pleased to announce that even though Committee Member Jonathan Cunliffe, Head Teacher at Carnarvon Primary has retired from his Headship in December 2019, he will still be staying with us as a valuable member of the Board.

New to the Committee, we are very happy to welcome, Elisabeth Duffell, Head Teacher at St Peters' Cross Keys Church of England Academy. The school and Elisabeth have been a great supporter of Literacy Volunteers. We currently have 2 Volunteers there and we look forward to her contribution as a Committee member.

Thank you Board Members for all your hard work !

Story Sharers update

We have now run two training sessions for Story Sharers and have 15 eager and enthusiastic Volunteers ready to start in January 2020.

We also have 10 City schools recruited as our pilot schools for the first term of Story Sharing.

The resources are ready with 50 story sacks waiting for Story Sharers to take out with them.

We're all very excited by the project and looking forward to it continuing to grow in 2020.



'Into The Wild Wood'



In partnership with Literacy Volunteers, Lauren Kinnersley from 'Into the Wild Wood' took her educational storytelling project "Talking Trees" into 5 of our City schools last term – Huntingdon Academy, Bentinck Primary, St Augustine's Primary, Rosslyn Park Primary and Mellers Primary. Altogether, Lauren delivered 12 storytelling sessions in 5 schools to over 500 children.

The children enjoyed two stories: a folk tale from Estonia - an interactive story which enabled the children to explore the many gifts of the trees and wider nature – and an inspirational story from India - based on the true story of how a community came together to protect the trees and the natural environment. The children thoroughly enjoyed the stories, and took part enthusiastically in the song and the interactive parts!

VOLUNTEER NETWORK MEETINGS NEWS

Last term we ran four Network Meetings for Volunteers. They were all very well attended and we had some great feedback from Volunteers about the meetings. We ran a workshop with the theme of 'Alternative Reading Material' and were able to handout some reading material for Volunteers to take away with them

to use with their children.

New dates for this term's meetings are given below. **Please remember to book your place, by letting your AC know which one you are attending.** You can attend any which is convenient to you. We look forward to seeing you.

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 2020

City Schools

Term begins 6th Jan 2020, Term ends 3rd April 2020

Half Term 17 Feb 2020 to 21st Feb 2020 inclusive

County Schools

Term begins 6th Jan 2020, Term ends 3rd April 2020

Half Term 17 Feb 2020 to 21st Feb 2020 inclusive

Derbyshire Schools

Term begins 6th Jan 2020, Term ends 3rd April 2020

Half Term 17 Feb 2020 to 21st Feb 2020 inclusive

SUMMER 2020

City Schools

Term begins 20 April 2020, Term ends 24 July 2020

Early May Bank Holiday Fri 8 May 2020

Half Term 25 May 2020 to 29 May 2020 inclusive

County Schools

Term begins 20 April 2020, Term ends 24 July 2020

Early May Bank Holiday Fri 8 May 2020

Half Term 25 May 2020 to 29 May 2020 inclusive

Derbyshire Schools

Term begins 20 April 2020, Term ends 21 July 2020

Early May Bank Holiday Fri 8 May 2020

Half Term 25 May 2020 to 29 May 2020 inclusive

VOLUNTEER NETWORK MEETINGS 2020 - 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. **Please remember to book your place, by letting your AC know which one you are attending.**

No.	Date	Time	Venue & AC	Address
1	Tues 11th Feb	10.30am - 12pm	Basford Emma Collis	Vernon Park Sports Pavilion Vernon Avenue, Nottingham NG6 0AP
2	Fri 20th March	10.30am - 12pm	Mansfield Sue Marriott	Quaker Friends Meeting House 119 Rosemary St, Mansfield NG19 6AB (Limited car parking, pay and display car park next door to Civic Centre)
3	Mon 23 March	10.30am - 12pm	Retford Sue Marriott	Carr Hill Primary School, Tiln Lane, Retford, DN226SW (Use School Car Park)
4	Wed 25th March	10.30am - 12pm	Wollaton Vale Emma Trowbridge	Wollaton Vale Community Centre Rosedale Drive, Wollaton Vale, NG8 2JA

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. Senior Area Co-ordinator (City North, Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield): Sue Marriott. Area Co-ordinator (City East, Gedling, Rushcliffe),/Trainer: Emma Collis.

Area Co-ordinator (City West, Broxtowe, Derbyshire): Emma Trowbridge. Area Co-ordinator (Newark)/Story Sharers Co-ordinator: Lorna Jaggard. Early Years Literacy Volunteer Co-ordinators: Karen Burrows & Marie Ainsworth.