



December 2018



Learners

We have 14 pairs working at the moment and most people are now using the new Turning Pages scheme which is proving very popular. We have had a few referrals recently from a range of agencies including Families First in Cinderford and the Barnwood Trust which hopefully will bear fruit in the New Year.

Additional Training Session

Kris held another training session for coaches on 24th September at the Forest Community Church which concentrated on making effective use of reading books. As always the feedback was very positive and coaches appreciated the opportunity to explore a range of reading materials and to interact with other coaches. The Turning Pages overview handout was particularly useful and this is on the Resources page of the website – if you have any problems finding it or printing it out, just let me know.

Contacts Team

Malcom and I visited Berry Hill Primary School in August to talk to the Head teacher about how we could engage parents of new pupils. We have also been in contact with a school at Walmore Hill near Minsterworth who work with travelling families. One parent has recently started working with a coach and we hope to liaise with the school to encourage more parents from the travelling community to come forward.

We also went to Radio Gloucestershire in September to speak on Dom Cotter's morning show. We were given plenty of time to talk about FRED and Dom had a good understanding of the problems caused by poor literacy skills and asked some pertinent questions. There was some good feedback from this and there may be scope for more work with BBC and local radio. As a result of appearing on the programme, we were invited to be part of Radio Gloucestershire's 30th birthday celebrations and Roger and Malcom joined Dom for a ride on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway which was celebrating volunteers. The estimate for FRED volunteer hours was 1,600 contributing to 60,000 total for the county, so well done everyone for your contribution to this total!

More locally, last month Kris and Roger went to the Forest Community Church for a dinner with various other Forest community organisations such as Forest Food bank and GreenSquare to acknowledge FRED's contribution to the local community. The hosts, Tim and Katrina Cracknell have been great supporters and Katrina is a trained FRED coach.

Roger was also pleased to be present when the Duchess of Cornwall met Dr Mary Rontree, chair of the Bream Community Library to present the Vaisey Prize. This award recognises the terrific voluntary effort that maintains this excellent library that works closely with Bream school and really embeds reading opportunities in young people and provides a community resource for all ages.



Some really good news that our application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme has been successful and that you will be able to vote for FRED from 1st January to 28th February. Similar to the Waitrose scheme, you get one blue token per transaction and to vote, you only need to make a purchase within store of any value.

The project with the highest number of votes will receive up to £4,000, the second placed project up to £2,000, and the third placed project £1,000. You will be able to vote at the Coleford Tesco Express and the superstore in Lydney.

There is more information on their website:

<https://sustainability.tescopl.com/sustainability/communities/topics/community-grants/bags-of-help/>

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO TAKE PART AND
MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES TO SHOP AS MANY TIMES AS YOU CAN
DURING THE VOTING PERIOD!**



Two Rivers Housing in collaboration with the Community Learning Partnership have set up two "Don't be blue, try something new" events in January at the Community Centre, Lydney on Sat. 26th from 10-2.00 and Weds. 30th from 1-3.

Malcom would really like some help handing out leaflets and talking to potential readers/coaches etc. This is well -timed for raising the Fred profile for the Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme. If we can get the agreement of Tesco manager and some volunteers we might be able to arrange a couple of mornings at the store as well during Jan/Feb. Can you let me or Malcom know please if you are able to help out for an hour or two and which days/dates in Jan/Feb. you can make? Malcom's email: vine895@btinternet.com

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy
New Year from the FRED Team!**