

December 2019

Coaches and Learners update

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have 14 reading pairs still meeting regularly but attracting new referrals remains our biggest challenge. Anne Holt hosted the first Coaches Group meeting last month at the Bream Coffee Shop where they discussed various ways of contacting new learners. Several people had ideas about different places to make contacts and took leaflets to distribute. It was a really productive meeting and another one is planned for **10th January at the 16 Café in Coleford at 10.30.**

We are pleased to welcome Anne on to the committee and if you have any queries about the Coaches Group, her email address is: anne_holt@hotmail.co.uk

Personal Stories

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that we needed to liven up the website and display boards so I've started collecting pieces of writing from some of our learners and the pieces I've had so far are at the end of this newsletter. I could do with some more please so that I can put them together in a booklet with some related literacy activities. If you're able to encourage your learners to talk about an experience they have had or something they're interested in, I'd love to hear about it. Either the learner could write it down themselves (with help) or you could do it for them.

Website

I've been doing some tweaking on the website (www.forestreadeasydeal.org.uk) so please take a look sometime – any feedback gratefully received. I've added some comments from our coaches saying how they feel about FRED and also some comments from our learners which I've noted down when I've visited to see how they're getting on. Such positive feedback is always very encouraging! I've also added a Turning Pages tab which lists all the TP reading books – these are all in the top drawer of the filing cabinet at the Forest Road Centre in Cinderford.

Facebook

Alan and Malcom are planning to get together after Christmas to make a start on the FRED Facebook page. More information to follow.

Some personal stories

Garden Party

I have worked for Lydney Town Council for forty years. This year I was chosen to go to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. We went to Ross-on-Wye to catch a coach to London.



At Buckingham Palace they gave us sandwiches, tea and cake and later ice cream. We saw the Queen and one of her sons. Later we went for a walk around the park and saw the different sights. The next day we caught the coach back to Ross.

A Kick in the Teeth!

Just after the foot and mouth I was working on a farm with sheep and cattle. The cattle were very wild and jumpy because they'd been shut up for quarantine.



We were getting some ready for the slaughterhouse and putting them in a loading pen. The lorry came and we loaded them in. I went back to the pen and undid the gate for the other cattle to come through and they came rushing through like wild animals and one kicked out with his back leg and kicked me in the side of my face and the next thing I knew I was on the floor. I thought they would trample me.

I got up and out of the pen then I noticed I had five teeth knocked out and a sore jaw. I went home and then to hospital but I spent the next three weeks getting over it.

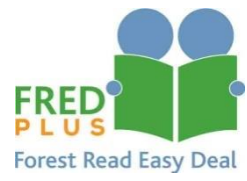


Since then my sounds don't sound what I want them to make - ch, qu, sh, th, and th.

My Story

After I left school I didn't have a job for a long time, my mum and dad supported me so that I wouldn't get upset about not being able to read. I went on a training scheme, they would find you a job, that helped a lot. I got work with Remploy and worked for 28 years. That was ok because everyone had some problems, they were understanding.

When I finished there I started some cleaning jobs on my own. My husband said I should start my own business but people used to leave notes for me about what they wanted me to do, I couldn't understand and used to get upset. I didn't tell anyone because I was ashamed. I told someone whose husband had help with FRED and she gave me the number for FRED. I was a bit nervous about ringing but my husband encouraged me to ring so I did.



I feel better in myself, I'm more confident. I can write things down and fill forms on my own and ask my reading coach for help to check things. I want to learn to drive and my reading coach is helping me with my theory test. I like reading the books (Turning Pages) and I try reading at home more on my own.

.....and finally from the FRED team

A big thank you to all of you for your hard work and the time you have given to supporting FRED in its mission to change lives through improving literacy levels in the Forest of Dean. We really appreciate your commitment and look forward to working with you in 2020.

**Happy Christmas
and
very best wishes for the
coming year!**