



## Summer 2018



**Dear All**  
**Welcome to our latest update**

### Learners

We have 14 pairs working at the moment in various venues across the Forest. Referrals have been a bit quiet over the past few months but things have picked up recently and I have interviewed 7 potential learners. One of the self-referrals came via the recent Co-op display in Lydney and this person has since started with a reading coach so well done to the volunteer who spoke to him that morning! He is 78 but still remembers the really bad experience he had at school as if it happened yesterday. It took a lot of courage for him to approach us but I know FRED will be a much more pleasant experience for him! Two other self-referrals came from people who had picked up a leaflet in their local library, so it's encouraging to see that the hard work of the Contacts Team is paying off!

### Tommy's Trip to Buckingham Palace

One of our learners Tommy has been concentrating on his reading for a while and is now also working on writing skills. He wrote the following piece about his recent visit to a garden party at the Palace:

#### 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.*

If anyone else has a learner who would like to write something for the next newsletter please let me know and I will be happy to include it.

### Coaches

Kris recently ran an additional training session to introduce the new Turning Pages reading scheme and to demonstrate how it differs from Yes We Can Read. The coaches were able to explore the manuals and reading books and to try a few sections of the first manual. The handouts for this session and previous training sessions are all on the website on the resources page. It's always a problem finding a day/time which most people can make. Kris has suggested that a twilight session might be worth a try next time.

I have managed to catch up with most of our reading pairs recently and the feedback has been very positive about the new reading scheme. Some of the TP manuals and the accompanying reading books are in the top drawer of the FRED filing cabinet at Forest Road Centre - just make a note on the sheet saying which books you've taken. Also a reminder to new coaches that most of our resources are kept at Forest Road but there are folders of additional literacy resources at Coleford, Lydney and Newent libraries. As always, please contact me if I can help in any way - I'm always happy to advise or to deliver resources.

### Digital recordings

The Management Team has been looking at ways of reaching potential learners and encouraging them to come forward for help. Overcoming stigma, anxiety and loss of confidence created by past negative learning experiences are huge challenges and often we have to rely on third parties, such as agencies and

families to encourage learner participation. The MT has recently had a coaching session on marketing and is looking at the hooks they can use through social and other media to help get our message across. As part of that programme we are commissioning three digital clips featuring Kris and a coach and learner talking for two minutes about FRED. We are currently working with Impact Media from Coleford and the clips and other attention grabbing digital material will go on line soon. We'll keep you posted on further developments.

### Contacts Team – update from Malcom

Our display boards have recently been at the Council Offices in Coleford, at Lydney Library and the Co-op in Lydney. We hope to be putting up the display at various events around the district and I will be contacting previous volunteers but if anyone else would like to be part of this please let me know, any help is always gratefully received – [vine895@btinternet.com](mailto:vine895@btinternet.com)

Sheila and I attended team meetings recently at Cinderford and Coleford Job Centres where we had the opportunity to talk about FRED and to answer any questions. Cinderford Job Centre is happy for us to set up our display for a morning so that job seekers might be encouraged to come and talk to us.

Lastly, a big thank you to Chris, Jenni and Sue for turning out on a wet, grey morning at Lydney Co-op to help attract new readers and volunteers. Although it was difficult to engage people as they mainly just wanted to finish their shopping and get home to the warm and dry we did manage to get two people interested in volunteering and one reader who is now working with a coach.

### Funding Update

FRED has been very fortunate to be chosen as the Forest Of Dean District Council's Charity of the Year. Not only has this given FRED some local publicity, but a £700 donation was received with more to come! The outgoing Chair of the Council organised a big raffle with over 20 fantastic prizes. Janet Williams, FRED's treasurer, went along one morning when some of these tickets were being sold and was amazed at the generosity of the FODDC employees. The draw took place on May 24th but, as yet, there has been no news of the winner. It certainly wasn't the representative from FRED!!

### Data Protection

A few weeks ago I sent out an email about the new Data Protection legislation which came into force in May. Although I have heard from most of our reading coaches who wish to opt in and stay on the mailing list, there are still a few who haven't responded.



**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY EMAILED ME ABOUT OPTING IN, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU WANT TO STAY ON THE MAILING LIST. I WILL BE UPDATING THE DATABASE SHORTLY SO LAST CHANCE TO BE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH FRED NEWS AND EVENTS!**

**ENJOY THE REST OF THE SUMMER AND  
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!  
BEST WISHES FROM THE FRED TEAM**