



## Dear All

### Welcome to our Summer Update

#### Learners

A lot of activity recently on the learner front with lots of new referrals. A few have come from the Job Centre, others from the Forest Drop-In, the Forest Upcycling Project, the Independent Trust and three via friends. I have managed to match some of them already and the others are in the pipeline.

#### Training

- The recent Extension Training session at the Forest Community Church was very successful. Due to bugs going around we were missing a few people but 13 came along and the feedback was very positive – I've put some of these comments and photos on the website, [forestreadeasydeal.org.uk](http://forestreadeasydeal.org.uk) The church premises were excellent and Katrina was very helpful making tea and providing homemade cake!
- As we have quite a few prospective coaches on the waiting list, Kris and I will be running some new coach training on 25<sup>th</sup> July at Yorkley Community Centre. If you have expressed an interest but haven't emailed me yet, please let me know if you would like to attend this training - the more the merrier!
- We are also running some development training for existing coaches on 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Forest Community Church where we will be putting together the activity packs to accompany our 'talking books', as discussed and started at the last extension training. After this session at 3.15 there will be a tea party.....



#### Tea Party

We are inviting all of our coaches and prospective coaches to a tea party at Forest Community Church in Cinderford at 3.15pm as a thank you for supporting FRED. This will be an opportunity to chat informally with each other and enjoy lots of lovely homemade cake! If you haven't already emailed me about this, could you do so please so that we know how many cakes and sandwiches we need!

#### Talking Books Update

A couple of our reading coaches have been trialling a few of the audio books with their learners (more information and photos on the website).

Ryan who works with Fiona at the Upcycling Project has passed on some very helpful feedback (below). Our coaches have been brilliant in giving up their time to do the reading and have been very forgiving when things haven't always gone to plan! I shall be asking one or two more learners to help out with the trial, so if you think your learner would be interested please let me know.

#### Feedback from Ryan:

*Ryan enjoyed testing out the devices and says that he would be interested in using the scheme at home. He preferred the mini-cube and felt confident about using it, however, he didn't think that he would use earphones. He does have a computer at home but was very taken with the mini-cube and felt that its portability was a real benefit. He also pointed out that the display on the mini-cube made it easier to navigate around the different tracks than the 'Sovereign'.*

*Ryan was comfortable reading the Readwell Road, step 2 book and that the speed was fine. We also tried a step 3 and he was equally happy with that. He would be interested in trying out some more difficult books with this scheme. He also quite enjoyed completing the related activity sheets.*

*I asked Ryan about the voices and accents. He was comfortable with the voices we listened to, however, he agreed with my suggestion that it would be good to have some male readers too.*

We have just bought 2 new collections of reading books with accompanying activity sheets. We shall be carrying on with recording some of these in a few weeks' time so if anyone else would like to be involved in this (particularly men!) please let me know.

### Yorkley Community Centre

The FRED stall was set up recently for the official opening of the new Yorkley Community Centre and attracted a lot of interest with several people putting their names down for the next coach training. Many leaflets were given out which hopefully will encourage new learners to come forward. One of our 1:1 pairs is already using a room there for their sessions and we are hoping to run the new coach training there on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

### Contacts Team – Update from Megan

We have just had some basic flyers printed at a minimal cost, as although our glossy leaflets are useful for distributing to coaches and potential funders, it was suggested that we have something in a simpler format to attract new learners. If anyone would like a few of these to distribute in their local areas please let me know.

We have had a presence at several events this year and some have been more productive than others.

- The opening of the new Yorkley Community Centre was very well attended and elicited a good response with lots of interest particularly from potential coaches.
- The Forest Activities Festival at the Speech House was also an excellent event with several people interested in being coaches, all of whom took away several brochures to leave in their communities. There were good networking opportunities with other organisations.
- The Coleford Busking Festival was another worthwhile event enjoyed by Ann and Kris on the FRED stall. Lots of interest from would-be coaches and learners (nice photos on the website!).

As always, many thanks to those volunteers who have helped out at events this year, it has been great to have more support. It's encouraging that a learner came forward recently as a result of meeting a really encouraging FRED coach at the Speech House event. It took a lot of courage for that learner to make the phone call after years of feeling worthless and stupid but she did so as a direct consequence of speaking to our FRED volunteer. She will be starting with a coach shortly.

Don't forget to check out the News/Events page of the website from time to time which is updated regularly and please keep a look out for the FRED stall if you attend any of the events.

Megan would love to hear from you if you would be willing to help out at any future events [meganjenkins@btinternet.com](mailto:meganjenkins@btinternet.com)

**Thanks as always to everyone for their support and hope to see as many of you as possible at the Tea Party on 15<sup>th</sup> June!**

