



Hello all. Here is our latest newsletter – a bumper edition as quite a lot has happened since the last one which was, I’m ashamed to say, last December!

October 2019

Reading Pairs

I’m pleased to say that our numbers have stayed steady over the past few months and we currently have 14 pairs meeting across the Forest. It would obviously be good to get more referrals and the Management Team is always discussing ways of doing this. We had some good ideas at our recent training session which we will be considering but if anyone else has any thoughts about this then please let me know. We would particularly like to widen our offer to the Sedbury area, so any suggestions welcome.

Training and AGM

Since the beginning of the year Kris has run 3 training sessions. The first one was for trained coaches in March at the Forest Community Church. This concentrated on the Turning Pages scheme, discussing the things coaches have found useful and any challenges they have encountered along the way. As always the coaches appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues amongst themselves and to look more closely at some of our resources.

In May, there was an initial training course for new coaches, held at the Town House in Coleford. Ten potential volunteers attended and one of our reading coaches, Anne Holt, came along to talk about her FRED experience which I think everyone found very useful.

The latest additional training session was in September when we combined it with our AGM. Andrew Taylor, a well-known local author, was invited along for a Q&A session about what reading has meant to him. It was a trip down memory lane for some of us as he talked about his early reading of 'Janet and John' and the Noddy books! A lovely spread was provided by committee members Jennifer and Janet.

Ian Storrar, President of Royal Forest of Dean Rotary and his colleague John Freeman attended and were thanked by Roger for their kind donation of £500.



Janet, our treasurer, gave her report and itemised several donations we have received over the last financial year for which we are very grateful.

Donations to 1st September 2019	
FODCC Charity of the year and Raffle	1361.89
Lions	300.00
W.I. Vale of Castiard, Pillowell	117.00
Churches Together	110.00
Total	1868.00

We also received £1000 from the Tesco blue token scheme (thank you everyone who contributed their tokens!) and £500 from Rotary.

Our closing balance as of 1st September 2019 was £1783.99 and there are a few other sources of income which the team will be chasing up. Our main outgoings are travel expenses for coaches, books/resources and publicity materials. If you would like a copy of Janet's full report, please let me know.

The training session followed the AGM and there were small group discussions on challenges and achievements as well as how to use the learners' own experiences to create resources (please see boxed text on page 4). The feedback on the session was very positive and there were some good sound bites which we can use for publicity purposes!



A couple of people did mention feeling a bit isolated at times which led to some discussion about coaches setting up an email group and perhaps a forum. I think this is a great idea so we need a couple of volunteers to take this forward please.....??

Calling all Tweeters!



FRED now has its own **Twitter account @ReadDeal**, so if you tweet or know a tweeter, please give it a 'follow'.

Our Facebook page is also in development so if anyone would like to help out with dipping our toe into the world of social media, please let me know – you would be very welcome and would have plenty of support from the team.



Resources from previous Training Sessions

On the website (www.forestreadeasydeal.org.uk), there are copies of many of the handouts which have been given out at various training sessions, please see list below. If you would like more information or paper copies of any of them, just let me know.

- Language Experience Instructions
- Language Experience - more ideas
- Directed Activities Related to Texts - DARTs
- Writing checklist
- Turning Pages Overview
- Turning Pages - Key Information
- Examples of Multisensory Activities
- Using Reading Books and Everyday Texts
- Alphabet cards
- Alphabet strips
- Domino cards for Manual 1 p.101
- Domino Template for onset and rime
- Initial Blends Pack
- Short End Chunks for Manual 1 set 1
- Short End Chunks for Manual 1 set 2
- Template for Alphabet Cards



Coach Expenses

Just a reminder to everyone that we encourage our volunteers to claim any expenses incurred whilst meeting with their learner – refreshments, travel, car parking etc. However if you would like to donate your expenses, please put in a monthly claim as usual but write DONATION at the top. This helps us when we are bidding for funding as we need to know the true cost of coach expenses.

Contacts Team Update

As always, Malcom has been really busy attending various community events, partnership meetings and courses organised by FVAF (Forest Voluntary Action Forum). He has finally managed to make contact with someone at the probation service who seems open to FRED so that could be useful. We have just had an A5 version of the poster printed so these will be distributed wherever possible. Malcom will also be re-circulating FRED's advert to the Parish magazines. Many thanks to everyone who helps out with these important activities – it's greatly appreciated. More help is always welcome so if anyone would like to get involved (especially if you are waiting for a learner) please contact **Malcom** : vine895@btinternet.com

Display Boards and Website



I've mentioned this to some of you already but just a reminder. Our display board and website badly need some new pieces of learner writing so you might want to try some language experience with your learner if you feel it's appropriate. Below is a handout from the training session which may help to get you going. I'm happy to type up any pieces and perhaps put them together in a booklet with some accompanying literacy activities. Somebody mentioned the other day that her learner had had his teeth knocked out by a cow – not sure if I could find a suitable picture to go with that but I'll certainly try!

Language Experience Instructions

- Language experience is a brilliant way of using the reader's own language to create the reading material.
 - It is useful to have a tape/phone recorder, but not essential.
 - Discuss permission and data protection with your reader.
 - Language Experience works particularly well for supporting reading that is used for practical activities, e.g. maintenance of reading for work or everyday tasks
1. Ask reader about something they are interested in - a hobby, their typical day, a family event, a TV programme, a film they like. Ask why/what they enjoy about the topic. Alternatively, ask about what happened in the programme or film OR ask about their job or an activity (e.g. cooking a meal, driving a fork lift truck) – the skills involved or the steps in a process
 2. Record their words or note down word for word a few sentences
 3. Read the sentences and check they are a true reflection of what reader said
 4. Ask the reader to read what they can and support them
 5. Make two copies and keep a master copy
 6. Cut one copy into separate sentences and ask reader to match to the original. Then muddle the sentences and ask them to put back in correct sequence
 7. Cut the 2nd copy into words and do a similar activity of matching and sequencing
 8. Demonstrate how the words can be used to make different sentences

These activities can be used over several sessions at reader's pace and to help consolidate the words

Keep the words and sentences together in an envelope and bring out every now and again as a refresher for consolidation

Thank you for your continuing support.