

**Dear All**



**Welcome to our Autumn update**

### **Learner Referrals**

We currently have 12 working pairs. I have had a little flurry of referrals over the past few weeks and have managed to match up most of them. The referrals have come from a range of places again: Lydney Gateway, Forest Upcycling Project (Cinderford), Turning Point Roads to Recovery (Cinderford). There has been quite a bit of coming and going recently on the coach/learner front for various reasons so the number of pairs has stayed about the same despite the new referrals.

### **Coaches**

We have 6 people on our waiting list at the moment who would like to do the next new coach training which is planned for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Town House in Coleford. We could do with a couple more people, so if you know anyone who might be interested please get in touch.

We also have an extension training session planned for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at Forest Road in Cinderford. As previously it will give experienced coaches and potential coaches an opportunity to get together and share ideas and experiences. There will also be some information about the Talking Books project.

### **Resources**

Mitcheldean Library has lent us some more readers and also 3 audio packs. One of the audio packs is a selection of short stories which may be useful for your learner to work through in between session. I also have a new set of flash cards – the first 100 high frequency words which one of our coaches has used successfully with her learner.

If you would like more information on any of these please ask me - I am always happy to meet up and bring the FRED mobile library with me!

### **Contacts Team – Update from Megan**

**Coleford Festival of Words** - did not provide the opportunity to promote FRED as we had intended but we were able to distribute leaflets in numerous outlets in the town.

**Newent Community Hub** - only a few members of the public turned up but a useful exercise to network with other organisations. There was a very good response from the police and community support workers who took leaflets for their workplaces.

**Ruardean Carnival** – there was no room for us here, tables have to be booked by April each year – note for 2015.

**Newent Onion Fayre** – 13<sup>th</sup> September

**Vintage Rally** at the Speech House 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Still waiting for confirmation from the organisers of the **Forest Food Showcase** to be held at the Speech House in October.

*Though we have volunteers to represent FRED at these events, many hands make light work so further offers of help are always welcome.*

I'll check out potential events between now and Christmas – Taurus Crafts have regular food/ craft events but let me know if you have other ideas.

### **Internet Radio Broadcast**

Despite the best efforts of the Internet Radio Team we agreed several dates for this but technical issues prevented any recordings. To be revisited during September.

### **Leaflet Distribution**

Littledean: Post Office, shop, hotel, chip shop

Cinderford: Library, Turning Point, Belle Vue Centre, Methodist Church, Co-Op, Health Centre, charity shops

Re-stocking various venues in the forest.

I am trying to arrange a meeting with someone from Wotton Lawn Hospital in Gloucester – one of the wards admits service users predominantly from the forest.

### **Finances**

At present we have a healthy balance and have just received a £500 community grant from Forest of Dean District Council. The Management Team will shortly be putting together a budget plan as we need to be aware when funds are dwindling so that we can investigate further funding opportunities.

### **Management Team changes**

Our Secretary Vicky has just resigned from the Management Team due to career development. She has been involved from the very beginning and has been a very conscientious and energetic member of the team. We are very grateful for all the work she has put in on behalf of FRED.

Jennifer will be stepping in as Secretary for the time being. As always though, we really could do with a couple more people on the committee so if you feel you could help please let me know. Most of our meetings are currently held in the evening but if daytime meetings would be more convenient then we would be happy to try this. You would be welcome to come along to one or two meetings just to see what you think – no commitment!

**Sheila Priest**

**Coach Co-ordinator**