



Dear All

Welcome to our latest update

### Coaches and Learners

We currently have 13 pairs working across the Forest. One of our learners has just been presented with a certificate for completing the Yes We Can Read book. When they started working together Sue was very sensitive about her reading problems but recently in the local shop, she wasn't at all self-conscious about reading the notices and headlines on magazines.

Another learner has also made excellent progress and has been trialling the audio books, which she now uses at home between sessions. (See below).

A resource which one of our coaches has used very successfully with her learner is the TRUGS card game which he really enjoys. If anyone would like to try out the games please let me know. There is more information on the TRUGS website: <http://www.readsuccessfully.com/>

### Development Training

The Development Training session held on 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Forest Community Church was very successful and 10 reading coaches worked in small groups to create some activities to go alongside our audio books. There were some very positive comments from the participants:

- *Lots of good ideas for resources to use with learners.*
- *I learn a great deal from the training sessions and enjoy working with the different reading coaches.*
- *Some interesting activities were discussed and this gives me ideas for my coaching sessions.*
- *It was a productive session and will hopefully provide additional resources to the books that I read with my learner.*

Steph Richards, who until recently was running the basic skills groups at college, has offered to help out with the activity sheets which will be a big help.

### Tea Party

After the above training session, afternoon tea was served to thank our coaches for their support. We were lucky with the weather and everyone enjoyed the sunshine and the delicious home-made cakes. There are a couple of photos on the website.

### News from the College

Steph was running 3 groups last year which have now been reduced to one daytime group at Five Acres. This is very disappointing as, in the past, several of our FRED learners have progressed on to college courses. It will however, provide further opportunities for FRED to expand its proposed FRED Plus programme, which can offer FRED learners the opportunity to develop wider literacy skills.

FRED Plus will take time to develop, as we will need to put together resources and training, but it is hoped we can get something in place by Spring 2016 – so watch this space.

## Training date for new coaches

After a few false starts, we have a session planned for prospective coaches on 7<sup>th</sup> November at the new Yorkley Community Centre.

## Training date for current coaches

We aim to have another training and development session before Christmas.

## Talking Books Update

We are currently in the process of setting up some more recording dates for our audio books.

Katrina recently trialed the new audio books with her learner and the feedback was very positive:

- *We both liked the mini cube player - it's so neat and easy to transport and having it all in a little plastic box gives it protection and keeps everything together.*
- *My learner was very enthusiastic about the audio books and was really keen to take a player home to use between sessions.*
- *I think the audio books project provides an exciting new opportunity for the learners to help them feel more independent and in control of their whole learning experience.*

## Contacts Team – Update from Megan

*Summer is nearly over and this is the chance to look back on the many successful events where FRED coaches have promoted the valuable work that we all do.*

*Firstly, a big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped out on the FRED stall this summer, and to those who have attended events and popped along to wish us well! Thank you, we appreciate your efforts.*

*Throughout the summer, dedicated volunteers have braved the wind, rain and blistering heat to tell people about FRED at many events throughout the Forest of Dean. This is so worthwhile - it generates lots of interest and raises FRED's profile in the community and it is an effective way of recruiting new coaches and potential learners. We have two events coming up, both at the Speech House, Coleford:*

*On Sunday 13th Sept Forest Vintage and Steam Fair*

*On Sunday 4th October Forest Showcase Food & Drink Festival*

*Come along and say 'hello!' - we'd love to see you. Why not consider helping out at an event next year even for an hour or two?*

*Recently we revised the wording on our leaflets so that they now read 'Do you know anyone....' Ask any member of the Management Team if you would like leaflets to promote FRED in your community. As we now have the new leaflets it has been an opportunity to re-stock existing venues and to promote FRED in new ones; this includes leaving FRED leaflets at over twenty new locations in Lydney (with many more organisations and businesses to visit!), and making contact with the Education and Welfare Service at Beachley Barracks, who are going to promote FRED on their blog and have accepted leaflets to leave in their education block.*

*Look out for this autumn's edition of the Forest Bee - out now - it includes a short article about FRED. Megan Jenkins [meganjenkins@btinternet.com](mailto:meganjenkins@btinternet.com)*

**If any of you have ideas for our newsletters or would like to include a short piece in future issues – please email Sheila at: [sheila@sheilapriest.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:sheila@sheilapriest.wanadoo.co.uk)**

**Thanks as always for your support – we couldn't do it without you!**