



December 2013 update

Dear All

Welcome to our end of year update.

Extension Training

A successful training session was held on 20th November which was attended by 10 coaches. There was some useful sharing of practice and ideas as well as discussion on ways to resolve challenges with learners. Ann talked about her 82 year old learner who is a 'real Forest gent' and quite an inspiration! The front of the Yes We Can Read needs to be changed as it currently states an upper age of 80! There was also an opportunity to look at our current stock of resources - see below for more information.

We talked about short poems, riddles and stories with words from Yes We Can Read, and below are a couple Roger came up with on the spot.

Story (36 word version):

**It was dark. The cat. The cat was dark. The day was not. The sun was hot.
The hole was dark, but the cat saw it. I saw the cat, but I fell in the hole.**

Poem

**I do so want to learn to read
And so a coach is what I need.**

**I saw an ad that filled my head
About a group whose name is FRED.**

**I got a coach whose name is Jill
She gave me help and helps me still.**

**I now read words and every letter
It's thanks to Jill that things are better**

**Thanks too to FRED which showed me how
For I can read this poem now!**

New Coach Training

This training was held on 7th December and 6 potential coaches attended. We currently have 16 learners working with a coach and there are a couple more learners to be placed after Christmas so it's great to have a few new coaches on the books! The session was well received and everyone seemed keen to get involved.

Contacts Team Report from Megan

A busy time for the Contacts Team as we have been using recent weeks to remind existing contacts of our new telephone number. It has proved to be a useful opportunity to remind organisations, businesses etc. that FRED is out there, providing such a valuable service to the community.

We have made two useful, and hopefully fruitful contacts this month. I visited the Salvation Army at Broadwell near Coleford to drop off some leaflets and speak to the organiser there. What a fantastic place! They have a shop selling second- hand goods, a cafe and a games room and activities like pottery and music. It is a hub for the whole community with people coming and going throughout the day and evening. Lots of people use the centre and it should significantly raise the profile of FRED in the area.

Exciting news - FRED is going to be featured in the Citizen and Echo later this month. My contact there, Tom Gibbon, said that FRED is 'crying out to have a feature done on it' - a great testament to the support that is out there, we just need to harness it to bring what we do to the wider public in our area.

Is there anything you can do to raise FRED's profile in your area? It doesn't have to be anything formal, just dropping off a few leaflets in local shops or businesses. Leaflets are available from anyone in the management team. Even mentioning FRED to family and friends may help a non-reader get the coaching they need - the person you speak to may know someone who knows someone who would benefit from FRED's expertise.

So another year nearly over - very best wishes to you all over the holiday season and for the coming year.

Treasurers Report from Frank

The finances are looking healthy at the moment with income exceeding expenditure by some measure. This was of course because of the income received from the Blues Night, we also had a welcome refund from BT as we now do not have a landline.

I am pleased to tell you that we are now licensed to run a Raffle etc, and have also just been accepted for Gift Aid so I will be looking for an online collections agency, such as Just Giving, and will register FRED with them.

Blues Night Review from Vicky

FRED's October blues night in Ruardean was a fantastic night for FRED. The audience was a really broad mix of people so it provided a great opportunity to make a lot more people aware of what we do. Both Laurence Jones Band and No Parkin' Blues Band took time during their sets to plug FRED by considering life for a non reader. Compère Trevor Howard from Severn FM Community Radio' Blues Hour, kept things light and humorous, and our Contacts Team coordinator Megan Jenkins gave an inspiring and informative talk in the changeover.

Of course, the event was as much about the music as spreading the word. We were there to have fun and enjoy music and, by getting the mix just right, everyone, including the performers, certainly did that! Laurence Jones' definitely lived up to expectations, and in the days following the event I overheard comments around Ruardean such as, "It was amazing" and, "Didn't expect music of that calibre in Ruardean!" Together with the interest shown by those who'd not heard of FRED, this shows that live music with a broad audience, is a good platform for getting people to carry the word about FRED to those who want it.

FRED's first blues night raised £440, and our profile in the Forest. It also established other promotion opportunities, as No Parkin' said we'd be very welcome to step up to their mic to talk about FRED whenever they're playing locally! So, together with having made new friends and contacts, and topping up the coffers, a success all round!

Resources

We have recently bought more resources and below is a list of our latest acquisitions. The Spirals series are proving very popular - the topics are very varied and include fiction and non-fiction. They are a good bridge between our more basic reading books and the Quick Reads. I tend to keep most of our resources at Forest Road in Cinderford but I am happy to bring books over to you at any time, just let me know. Some of the books are photocopiable so I will be putting copies into another resource folder to keep at Lydney and Coleford Libraries and at Forest Road. The Brown and Brown books are on the Gatehouse Books website if you want more information:

<http://www.gatehousebooks.co.uk/catalogsearch/result/?q=brown+and+brown>

Brown and Brown	
A cloze thing	Short reading passages with words omitted to encourage use of context to fill the gaps.
Everyday cloze	Gap fill exercises using short pieces of everyday reading.
Everyday reading	Short pieces of text with accompanying exercises.
Basic comprehension	Short pieces of fairly basic text with exercises.
Everyday worksheets Book 1	Practice in comprehension, spelling, writing and vocabulary skills.
Everyday worksheets Book 2	Practice in comprehension, spelling, writing and vocabulary skills.
Crosswords Book 2	Common spelling patterns with straightforward clues

Reading Books	
The Rescue plus exercises	Basic reader - a boating accident as told by 5 of the people involved.
The Lift plus exercises	Basic reader – story told in 5 chapters by five people trapped in a lift.
The Fire plus exercises	Basic reader – short story in 4 chapters about a house fire, told by four of the people involved.
The Telegram plus exercises	Intermediate – story about a man who finds a wartime telegram amongst his parents’ papers.
Spirals	
Spots	Science fiction – deadly spots are catching and soon the whole world will be in danger.
Trapped Under Ground	Non-fiction – Can the trapped miners get out alive?
Soulmates	Fiction - Why has Debbie got such a strong bond with her invisible friend
Voices in the Dark	Fiction - Something bad is going on among a group of musicians.....
Raiders of the Dome Diamond	Non-fiction – robbers try to steal diamonds from the Millennium Dome
Last Trip to Oron	Science fiction – a last trip to the gold mines of planet Oron puts Captain McKenna and crew in danger.
Beware of the Morris Minor	Fiction - Can an ordinary car be cursed and take over your life?
The Hawkstone	Fiction – Phillip must destroy the evil invader to save his father.
The Power of the Hawkstone	Fiction – Belinda needs to be rescued from Dragon Cave.
Lost in Alaska	Non-fiction – a 3-day journey takes 2 months.

Coach Expenses

Just a reminder about claiming for travel, photocopying etc.

We encourage volunteers to claim expenses, as we don't want people to be out of pocket. However if a volunteer chooses to donate their expenses to FRED, we still ask that an expenses form is submitted and marked 'Donation'. This enables FRED to keep a realistic view of running costs which is necessary for budgeting and making funding bids.

Expenses should be submitted at the end of each month. Please specify what the expense is for.

Please note:

- All expense claims are authorised by the Treasurer
- All receipts must be attached to the claim form
- Expenses payments are made by cheque, although cash payments can be made by prior arrangement
- Cheques are countersigned at monthly Management Team meetings (normally first week of each month) and posted 2nd class
- Travel expenses will be met either by reimbursement of public transport fares, or by a mileage allowance payable at a rate of 40p per mile



Australia

The picture may be a bit of a clue, but I am off to Australia at the end of December for 5 weeks to visit my son and family who emigrated in July. Kris is going to hold the fort while I'm away so if you have any queries can you email her please on kris@kvfetc.co.uk or phone: 07746 371353.

Sheila (coach co-ordinator)

**Thank you for your commitment to FRED.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!**