

Newsletter

07746 371353
Forest **R**ead **E**asy **D**eal



March 2025

Welcome to the latest FRED newsletter. Just a short one, as I have sent a couple of email updates since Christmas.

If you have any queries or concerns, or would like a visit or any information, please email me at kris.ventrisfield@gmail.com

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General FRED update from Malcom our Team Leader

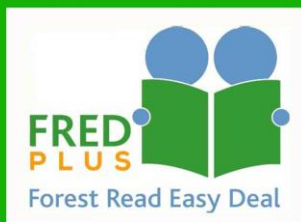


We have had a slower start for reader recruitment than last year. This continues to be our main challenge. We have a good number of experienced coaches and enthusiastic volunteers awaiting pairing with new readers or for training. We have tried and tested ways of contacting and engaging new readers but we are open to any new ideas that the team may have.

Alan and I have recently visited several venues leaving leaflets and posters around Newent as we felt that that town had been somewhat left off our regular route in recent years. We don't usually expect instant responses but if someone picks up a FRED leaflet and then comes across a friend, colleague or relative who would benefit from what we offer months or years later the leaflet has done its job.

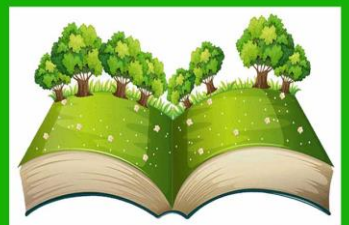
We will again set up the FRED gazebo at various events over the summer. I would like to thank the small team who regularly turn out for these. They are good fun despite the "summer" weather on occasion. If you have any ideas about new venues or would like to help out please let us know. We do need to refresh our presentation and if you are willing to be part of this with a photo of yourself and your reader or you think your reader's story would be encouraging to others we can arrange to make this part of the display.

Chris Warren our Treasurer has had to stand aside from this role due to another commitment but I am pleased to say that Roger Coe, a very experienced retired accountant has agreed to step into the breach. Chris will continue to cover the fund-raising that he has done now for several years, and support with updates to Data Protection Policy. My thanks go to both of them for these essential roles.



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AGM and Coach meeting 10th April 2025

We will be holding our next AGM at 3.30 at Yorkley Health Centre. The meeting is likely to last no more than an hour and refreshments will be served.

The Coach Meeting will begin at 2pm. We will be giving an update on Safeguarding and will explore Learner successes. There will be opportunities for all Coaches to share ideas and look at resources.

We have a Learner who has agreed to be an Ambassador for FRED – I'm hoping we can introduce her to you all.

PLEASE can you bring back any resources you are no longer using, especially Turning Pages Manuals and reading books. Shannon Trust no longer publish the books, so our stocks are getting a little low, and we want our existing Learners to have the same opportunities to read them as yours have had.



Volunteers Week takes place 2nd – 8th June this year. It's a chance to recognise the fantastic contribution volunteers make to our communities and say thank you.

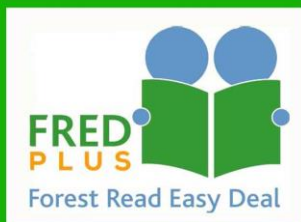
Volunteers' Week is supported and celebrated by small grassroots organisations as well as larger, household-name charities, who together run hundreds of activities across the UK. These activities showcase and celebrate volunteers and the contribution volunteering makes in our communities.

Volunteers' Week 2024 gave us the opportunity to showcase the work of our volunteers by joining up with FVAF at three of their roadshow events.

Please send your thoughts on what we could do to celebrate this year. Please visit the website for ideas and come back to Malcom with your thoughts so we can plan. Or bring ideas to AGM/Coach meeting. Perhaps you could focus on ideas at your next Coffee and Chat meeting.

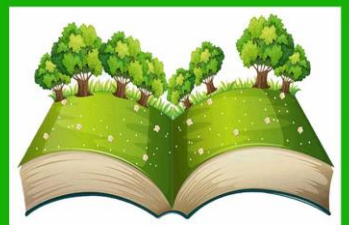
Website: <https://volunteersweek.org/>

Malcom's email: vine895@btinternet.com



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Fundraising

Please can you all have a think about any good fundraising ideas, or if you know of any pots of money we can bid for. Send me an email with any thoughts. We will also raise this at the AGM.

Coach Coffee and Chat meetings

Two of our volunteers – Marian Ivens and Anne Holt – have been organising Coffee and Chat meetings for all Coaches. There have been two so far in Bream. The next will be at The Main Building at Vantage Point, Business Village in Mitcheldean GL17 0DD at 10.30 am, on March 26th. It's on 2nd floor of the main building and there is a lift. Free parking in Visitor Car Park.

Do try to come along to chat and share experiences with other Coaches. They will try to hold them in different venues and at different times to suit, but you can let us know what would be most suitable for you.

If you use Facebook, you can help FRED by sharing our Facebook posts and encouraging people to talk about the help that FRED can offer to local people. www.facebook.co/forestreadeasydeal/

Contact Info

Email: info@forestreadeasydeal.org.uk

Website: www.forestreadeasydeal.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/forestreadeasydeal

Telephone: 07746 371353