

Infosheet

For Schools and Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2022



Literacy Volunteers

Over two decades of service to children

January 2022

Welcome back to everyone.

Hello all, after what has been a challenging 2021 for everyone we are happy to welcome you all back to the new year of 2022!

We would like to thank all our Volunteers and Schools for bearing with us over this last year and a huge thanks to many Volunteers who have continued to go into schools, especially with all the measures that we

had to introduce. We are continuing to place many current Volunteers back into school and recruitment, training and placing new Volunteers has carried on throughout the pandemic which is very encouraging.

As a Charity we are looking forwards this year and remaining positive and hopeful that 2022 will be a better one.

Can you help us spread the word?

Do you know of any special interest groups where we could interest more Literacy Volunteers?

If you belong, or know of any special interest groups such as Rotary, Women's Institutes, and U3A who could be a potential source of new Volunteers please give details to your Area Co-ordinator.

As Chair of Trustees I welcome the opportunity to share information about the Charity and would always consider going along to meetings/events as a speaker. Just get in touch with contact details of the organisation please.

Also, if you have any expertise with QuickBooks we would love to hear from you. Please contact us via email on contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk

Julia Gunn, Chair of Trustees



Chief Executive News

Dawn Claypole, Chief Executive of Literacy Volunteers, sadly will be leaving us at the end of January 2022.

Thank you Dawn for all your creativity and hard work during the last five years. Your energy and commitment is much appreciated and we send our best wishes to you for the future.

Local Communities Fund Application



Literacy Volunteers have recently submitted a funding application to Nottinghamshire County Council Local Communities Fund.

The request is for important funding for the Charity to support Literacy Volunteers to recruit more Volunteers, to deliver sessions in schools and therefore maximise income from subscriptions.

Hopefully we will hear a positive outcome in March 2022.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2006

Hello to all fellow Volunteers.

Since retirement I have been a Volunteer with Literacy Volunteers and never has my time been so well spent than my involvement with our worthwhile Charity, for all the reasons with which you are familiar.

BUT we need more of you! So this is a big ask for your help in introducing more folks like yourselves, who could hold our ethos which is "make reading fun" to heart and continue to help us in the amazing work we do.

We have priority areas where we need to recruit. Please check with your Area Co-ordinator where there is need, but any conversations with friends, colleagues, groups that you belong to would be really helpful. Placing advertisements in libraries, parish magazines or any regular local papers, leaflets that are available for this, would be hugely appreciated. We can supply you with the publicity for this.

You are the frontline of Literacy Volunteers and if all of you were able to recommend or recruit a new Volunteer each, it would be a job well done!

Many thanks in advance for giving some thought to this request.

Gaynor Preston, Volunteer and Trustee

Farewell

We also have to say farewell and thank you to Linda Patterson our Office Manager who left us at the end of last term.

In her short time with us over immense odds (as Linda started just before Covid hit) she has done a great job for us.

We thank her for her experience and input during her time with us and we wish her very well in her new role.

REMINDER—Volunteer Network Meeting on Wed 2 Feb 10-11am. Check your emails for details or contact your Area Co-ordinator for info and zoom link.

Covid Measures Update

As we started the New Year and a new term, we had the new variant to cope with. Thankfully many of the Volunteers who had been in last term have been happy to go back into school. A few Volunteers who are clinically vulnerable are delaying their return but are hoping to be back in school very soon.

In school, Volunteers are carrying out lateral flow tests before going to school. They are wearing face coverings in school and schools have kept up the cleaning and hygiene procedures. All the procedures are agreed with the Volunteer and the school before a Volunteer starts or returns. Volunteers are happy to be back and the children are loving their sessions.

If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with your Area Co-ordinator who will get back to you as soon as they can to help and support you.

The latest information regarding isolating after a positive test in England (17/09/2022 <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>) is as follows: You can stop self-isolating at the start of day 6 if you get 2 negative rapid lateral flow test results on days 5 and 6 and do not have a temperature. Tests must be at least 24 hours apart. If either test is positive, wait 24 hours before testing again.

Volunteer Profile—Barry Parker

Firstly, just a little about me, for no other reason than it has a bearing on my motivation to become a Literacy Volunteer.

After eight years in the Armed Forces (Royal Marines) I spent most of the rest of my working life with BT, where I was lucky enough to complete, an OU BSc. based primarily in Psychology. When I was in my early teens, although I was a competent reader I did not read regularly, and it was only the encouragement of an older sister that converted me to becoming a lifelong reading advocate. I firmly believe that the gift of reading is the key to self-fulfilment, not just the acquisition of knowledge, but

also its ability to free you from the here and now.

So, after retiring some years ago and casting around worthwhile projects I finally picked up some information about Literacy Volunteers and after training at a very difficult time through Covid I attended my first session at Mansfield Primary Academy, and to say it was inspirational is an understatement.

The school were clear that the children should not use Volunteers first names, so I asked to be called Mister Barry, in an attempt make it more friendly. After an introduction by the teacher to the class, to hear

the whole of year one shout hello Mr Barry was heart-warming in the extreme. I have, more recently, reached agreement with each child that I see, to not say "I can't read that" but to say, "I can't read that **yet**", which always seems to see me rewarded with a smile. They all appear to enjoy our sessions together and I have seen indications of improvement especially with "blending" and general confidence.

I do realise that I need to constantly consider better ways to reach these children, especially those who perhaps, do not get the support from home. For example, I'm considering asking them to tell me "why is it a good thing to be able to read well".



Our **Learning to Love Books** project moved from Zoom back to face to face sessions in October. It was wonderful to see the families in person finally and meet some new ones too. There are two sessions

running weekly in Hyson Green and St Ann's and we are sharing stories, ideas for parents/carers to help support their child's early literacy and reading development and craft, songs and fun.

We ran an outdoor storytelling session in St Ann's Community Orchard which was great fun and had really good feedback from the families. We're hoping to do another one in the Spring.



Early Years Sessions Update

Call out for Volunteers

We're looking for Volunteers in supporting our Early Years sessions in St Ann's and Hyson Green libraries on Thursday mornings and afternoons for 2 hours per session.

If you're interested please contact Lorna or Marie to be given more detail about the role.

lorna.jaggard@literacyvolunteers.org.uk
marie.ainsworth@literacyvolunteers.org.uk

We also need Volunteers to help in the office with support roles like photocopying and packing story boxes.

If you haven't already contacted us and would be interested in helping for a few hours a week, please let your Area Co-ordinator know or contact via email on contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk. Thank you.