

Newsletter

For Schools and Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2023



May 2023

Literacy Volunteers

Supporting children with literacy and communication in primary schools and communities

Hello Everyone

Hello to all the Volunteers, schools, friends and other stakeholders in Literacy Volunteers.

It's a pleasure to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the Charity following a recent reshuffle of the board of trustees. By way of introduction, I have a background in business improvement and transformation working with institutional investors that specialize in backing high growth small and medium sized companies in the UK.

I am pleased to introduce **Amita Rehal** as the new Treasurer. Amita is a Chartered Accountant and has had senior financial management roles in businesses such as the Co-operative Society. As well as our current trustees **Paul Hughes** and **Patricia Harman**, I am also delighted to welcome four new trustees who are all Literacy Volunteers and bring extra skills and experience to the Board. They are **Mary Steiner, Mel Cope, Graham**

Stamper and Mike Hoy. On behalf of all the staff and trustees, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation of the contribution and efforts of those former trustees that have stepped down from the board over recent months.

We are planning to introduce a few positive changes in the Charity over the next few months, including a refreshed corporate identity or logo and a new website which will help to promote the important work done by Literacy Volunteers.

I can confirm that the Charity continues to have a strong and stable financial base. However, income levels did fall during the years affected by Covid which has placed constraints on the Charity's objectives to grow and develop its services. To address this, we will be launching new initiatives to secure the support of corporate sponsors and provide assistance to our Volunteers and stakeholders to help

raise new sources of income from sponsored events and other activities.

Literacy Volunteers remains open to recruiting new trustees who feel they are able to make a positive contribution to its objectives. We are particularly interested in anyone who has experience in or wants to get involved in supporting our all-important fundraising activities. Please contact either Sue Marriott or Lorna Jaggard on **contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk** if this is something you would like to get involved with.

The board is very excited about the future of the Charity and we look forward to working with you all to build upon the fantastic work you all do within our schools and communities.

Mike Collis
Chair of Board of Trustees



BOOKMARKS!

A huge thank you goes out to publishers Nosy Crow, Barrington Stoke and Penguin Books. They kindly donated bookmarks from their children's books ranges to distribute out to

our Volunteers to give to their children in schools. Our Area Co-ordinators have been handing them out on visits. They are also available to collect from the office and will be available at future Network Meetings. Pictured are some very happy pupils from

Carrington and Scotholme Primary with their Volunteers **Lynda Shaw and Cath Gould**.



Marcus Rashford Books

We had some fantastic partnership working with the National Literacy Trust and one of our schools. Copies of Marcus Rashford's new book "You Can Do It" were gifted to all pupils at Westbury Academy!

Thank you to **Lynne at the National Literacy Trust, Adam at Westbury Academy** and our Literacy Volunteer, **Paul Marriott**, for making this possible!



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2006

Schools News

The team are now as busy as ever recruiting and training Volunteers. Volunteer enquiries continue to come in and there was a record number of enquiries in the early part of this year. We will run 2 training courses by the end of the Summer Term and will be looking to run another over the Summer to fill gaps and also to place new Volunteers in new schools. We are always wanting new Volunteers and schools, so if anyone is happy to make a suggestion where we can advertise or who can help promote our service please contact us on contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk



We are hoping to run at least three Volunteer Network Meetings in June/ July for that all-important catch up with other Volunteers and Area Co-ordinators. It is a great opportunity for new Volunteers to meet fellow

Volunteers who always pass on helpful advice and tips. We will let you have details about the meetings as soon as we have confirmed the venues.



UK Parliament

Lorna, our Early Years Project Lead, was invited to the Houses of Parliament to an event organised by The National Literacy Trust entitled 'Literacy leaders levelling up for local leaders and constituency MPs to discuss the importance of literacy for levelling up our communities.'

Lorna met with Nottingham MPs Nadia Whittome (top right) and Lilian Greenwood



(pic left) and had really good discussions with them around the work that Literacy Volunteers do to support children through our Early Years programme, and in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire schools every week. Lorna also heard about the work being done by the Literacy Trust hubs and network, working in a place-based way with local communities at the heart.

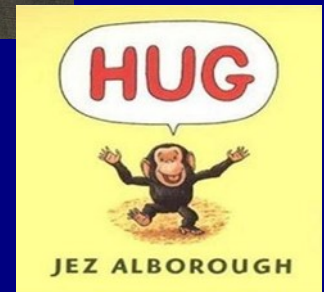
Early Years News

This term 'Learning to Love books' teamed up with Read On Nottingham and Framework Family Mentors to deliver a pre-world book day event for our families in both Hyson Green and St Ann's libraries. The attendance at these sessions was excellent and families were able to choose dressing up items for their children to wear on World Book Day.



Kate Scott, a retired Early Years practitioner, has continued to support us as a special guest story teller using her beautiful monkey puppet to tell stories about Bo Bo the monkey.

As part of our Eid celebrations we had Mehnaz, from Read On



Nottingham, as a guest storyteller in our Hyson Green storytelling session. Mehnaz read two lovely stories with themes around Eid.

EVENTS

The Literacy Volunteers Team has been proactive over the past few months and will be in the coming months attending events, fairs and seminars in order to enhance, improve and promote the Charity's service. As well as the Parliament visit these include:

- **The Volunteer 2023 National Volunteer Management Summit** where we learnt about newest volunteering innovations and research
- **Newark and Sherwood CVS Volunteer Fair** to recruit Volunteers and meet other volunteer organisations
- **Leaders of Volunteers Network Meeting** run by NCVS to hear about social prescribing and corporate volunteering
- **Volunteers' Week Celebration** - we have a stand at the Information and Promotion event taking place on Saturday 3 June 2023 at Nottingham's Arboretum
- **We will be attending a Rushcliffe Council meeting in June** to brief Councillors about the Charity and the work we do
- **We will be having a promotion stall at the Vegan Market Sherwood** with the local Co-op. This is to raise awareness about the Membership Bonus scheme alongside promoting Literacy Volunteers who are one of the Co-op's local causes

FUNDRAISING



CAN YOU HELP WITH FUNDRAISING PLEASE?

We would like to encourage as many Volunteers as we can to help with our fundraising efforts this year.

To help us raise money, could you:

- Organise a fundraiser, e.g. hold a cake sale, clothes swap, quiz night, plant sale?
- Take part in a sponsored event, e.g. bike ride, walk, swim?
- Join our Literacy Volunteers fundraising group?
- Make a monthly or one-off donation to Literacy Volunteers?

We are working with **Give as you Live** to collect your donations and also raise money through shopping online which is no cost to you. More information will follow shortly.



Give as you Live?
Donate

[https://
donate.giveasyoulive.com/
charity/literacyvolunteers](https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/literacyvolunteers)



Give as you Live?
Online

[https://
www.giveasyoulive.com/
charity/literacyvolunteers](https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/literacyvolunteers)



We would like to say a big **THANK YOU!** to all the fantastic companies, organisations and individuals who have kindly supported us over the last year:

Nottinghamshire County Council
Nottingham City Council
Small Steps Big Changes
Gonalston Open Gardens
Sherwood Funeralcare
Sir John Eastwood Foundation
Winifred Eileen Kemp Trust
GT Littlefair Trust
Forman Hardy Charitable Trust
St James Place Charitable Foundation
Jones 1986 Charitable Trust
The Bookcase at Lowdham
Councillor Kate Foale
Councillor Gordon Wheeler
Councillor Mike Quigley
The Renewal Trust
Brian O'Neill
Alison Fowler
The Cumberland Trust
Charles Littlewood Trust
National Literacy Trust
Penguin Books
Nosy Crow
Barrington Stoke

VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISING

Literacy Volunteer **Ian Kilby** ran the Worksop Halloween Half Marathon on October 20 2022 to raise funds for Literacy Volunteers. Through sponsors he managed to raise £330. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Ian for his efforts.

BLACK LIVES MATTER BOOKS

We received a kind donation from Sherwood Funeralcare and we have used the money to purchase a new selection of books celebrating Black Lives Matter. If you are working with children who you think would benefit from reading one of these books, please contact your Area Co-ordinator and they will reserve it for you – please note this will be on

a first come, first served basis.

We have also been gifted copies of Lenny Henry's 'The Boy with Wings – Attack of the Rampaging Robot' by The Bookcase in Lowdham, which features characters of different ethnicities. We have a good supply of these, so please let us know if you would like one.

Big thanks Sherwood Funeralcare and The Bookcase!

Sue Marriott: Lead Schools Team/Area Co-ordinator (City North, Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield)

Emma Collis: Trainer/Area Co-ordinator (City East, Gedling, Rushcliffe)

Emma Trowbridge: Area Coordinator (City West, Broxtowe, Derbyshire)

Lorna Jaggard: Lead Early Years Team

Marie Ainsworth: Early Years Co-ordinator

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