

Literature Lifelines



There is nothing to do but learn and wait, return to work on what remains. Seed will sprout in the scar. Though death is in the healing, it will heal.

From 'The Slip' by Wendell Berry

The Reader is a charity that brings people together to enjoy and experience the life-enriching power of great literature.

Here's a snapshot of our work during 2020 - 2021:

Worked with
256

partners to reach people
without internet access

Launch of 'The Reader at Home'
7 new ways to keep adults reading together online during Covid-19

200

Life Lines reading activity packs sent out every week to care homes & charities

18,000

people took part in
online and in-person activities



Online reading materials accessed more than
10,700 times

16 programmes with **National Prisons Radio broadcast** in 120 UK prisons

KEEPING PEOPLE CONNECTED THROUGH SHARED READING

New podcast brought connection of Shared Reading to new audiences



New Shared Reading over the phone service to benefit homeless people in London and isolated people near Calderstones

94%

of people said it **'made them feel better'**

70

people received a **weekly call from a volunteer**

89%

'felt' more connected to other people



4,275

people took part in **meaningful activities**

95%

of people said activities **'improved their wellbeing'**



Reaching those most in need through partnerships with Crisis Merseyside, The Whitechapel Centre, Granby and Toxteth Trust and South Liverpool Food Bank

Over
54,639

different participant experiences



Using the Mansion House to **welcome marginalized communities** such as vulnerable asylum seeker & refugee families

SERVING THE COMMUNITY AT CALDERSTONES



Over **5,000**

soups and hot meals delivered to the local community with information about our Coronavirus support line, Shared Reading & a piece of literature offering a message of unity, hope, and love



85%

of young people showed significant improvement in their **confidence and self-esteem**

80%

of teachers said Shared Reading **'encourages pupils to share thoughts and ideas'**

Approx.

90

children from vulnerable homes matched with **volunteers for one-to-one Shared Reading**



More than **900** families visited the **outdoor Santa Post Trail**



6

new digital products to keep children and families reading through Covid-19

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Reaching children and families in need thanks to 17 new partnerships including Kinship Carers, Autism Adventures, The Greenhouse Project

Brought Shared Reading to **446 Primary Schools** and **114 Secondary Schools**

50%

of volunteers remained **active and engaged** during Covid, moving their roles online

x3

Volunteer support sessions **tripled**

93%

reported **'an improved sense of achievement'**

90%

of volunteers at Calderstones said volunteering **'improves their wellbeing'**



90%

felt **'more connected to others'**



More than

70

new volunteers recruited

VOLUNTEERS AT OUR HEART

Launched new volunteer website with

2,000

reading resources

During lockdown, I was virtually housebound for five months. The Reader has been a lifeline and I'm very grateful to have been able to participate in Shared Reading and other activities.

Reader Volunteer, Calderstones