



Annual Report

2014 – 2015

Annual General Meeting

19th November 2015

King's College
Waterloo Bridge Wing
London SE1 9NH



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British Association of Literacy in Development

Annual Report

1 Sept. 2014 – 31 Aug. 2015

Report from the President

The main issue that arises for those of us working on the BALID executive committee is the numbers involved. A small team works hard all year on the various projects we are involved in but feel we would like more support and a larger base. The people currently involved, who have been working on the BALID committee for a number of years now are: Katy Newell-Jones as Chair; Ian Cheffy as Treasurer; Juliet McCaffery as Secretary; Mary Anderson helping to update the website; and myself as President.

The main activity again has been the *Informal Literacy Discussions* (ILDs) (see separate report) in which we liaise with a number of people from different organisations, working across the fields of literacy and development. The Introduction to a proposed book on ILD reports states: *Informal Literacy Discussions (ILDs)* provide accounts of work in different parts of the world concerned with issues of literacy and development. Those presenting are both literacy practitioners and academics engaged with a range of current 'hot topics' in the literacy field. The accounts are addressed to those new to the field of literacy as well as to those with academic and field experience and the aim of this publication is to share such experience and insights more widely, making this work and experience available to a wider audience. We are discussing both an electronic and a print version. This may also bring other people into the BALID network, although we are aware that 1) the numbers are not large in this field, and 2) those who are involved often prefer to stay within their own small network, of which there are a number. We have in the last few years attempted to link these groups together by forming a Literacy Working Group, actively organised by Jan Eldred, but the group has not really expanded and does not go much farther than each sub group, including BALID, already does.

BALID In the Literacy Working Group, BALID in liaison with ActionAid, Feed the Minds, NIACE and UEA recently published a statement headed 'Adult Literacy is 'a Right'; stating 'we call upon international development organisations and agencies to offer financial and technical support to develop policies which improve access to adult literacy learning'. For BALID, then, as for our colleagues in these collaborative organisations, the issue of Literacy in Development is a broad policy principle and both our members and those who participate, for instance in our public meetings, ILDs and the AGM, gain an opportunity to spread the word.

The main external link and work this year has been our participation in the BAICE project '*Bridging the Gap: Women's literacy: Enhancing the Dialogue between NGOs, Practitioners and Researchers*', mainly organised from UEA and involving a mix of public meetings and on-line networks. This is still going on and BALID is supporting BAICE by organising the next event in London on 26th November 2015, in which a number of colleagues working in the field will discuss 'the relationship between research and practice' as they affect 'women's literacy', however defined. Katy Newell-Jones deserves particular credit for the enormous amount of effort she has put into organising this event.

The combination of ILDs and such public events may be sufficient for a small organisation like BALID, although we are also discussing other ways of building on the members' experience, one of which could be for us to hold public meetings in the countries where members are working, in liaison with local practitioners and NGOs, in order to extend the international debate in the field. Again these meetings could lead to publications helping to broaden the accessibility of work in this field.

One way of reading the present situation, then, might be to recognise the work that is being done and to give credit for that, at the same time as continuing to look for ways of pushing the boundaries. We are all very aware of the importance of the field of Literacy in Development and that the public representation of it and much international policy tends to take a rather narrow and culturally limited view, so there is an important role for organisations like BALID.

I would like to thank the BALID officers for their work throughout the year and I anticipate continuing positive development in 2016. I particularly look forward to continuing discussions and forward planning and, perhaps, to some expansion as others hear of the work of BALID.

Brian Street, President.

Report from the Chair

2015 has seen the continuation of the **Informal Literacy Discussions (ILD)** with stimulating and inspiring events this year (see [website](#) for all summaries).

The participants at the ILDs include academics, NGOs and practitioners. The presentations have been well-grounded and also challenging; leading to robust and stimulating discussion. BALID is grateful to the organisations who have hosted the ILDs this year specifically, King's College, SIL UK and Feed the Minds.

BALID's social media presence has increased steadily through the year, thanks to the sterling work of Mary Anderson. The [website](#) provides a static repository for information and reports from ILDs, whereas BALID's [Facebook](#) page provides an update on relevant reports, seminars, workshops, news articles and materials.

BALID has been an active partner in a series of events entitled **Bridging the Gap**, devised by the Literacy Working Group and funded by the British Association for International and Comparative Education ([BAICE](#)). The focus of the series is to bridge the gap between research, policy and practice in women's literacy. The events are being led by the Literacy and Development Group ([LDG](#)) of the University of East Anglia. The series started with a Quick Fire session at the UKFIET conference in Oxford in September 2015, which included contributions from members of the BALID Committee. This is to be followed by a forum at the University of East Anglia in October and an e-forum in early November. The final event in the series will be a forum on November 26th entitled **Women's literacy: enhancing the dialogue between NGOs and researchers** led by BALID. The final report will be available on the BALID website and shared through Facebook.

The BALID committee has continued to meet regularly throughout 2015 and is currently engaged in the process of reflection and review of the aims and activities of the organisation. The committee feels that BALID still has a valuable role to in stimulating dialogue around issues relating to adult literacy, however, as a relatively small voluntary organisation we need to review our relationships with other groups with a literacy focus and target our limited resources carefully.

Katy Newell-Jones: Chair

Report from the Secretary

Officers and committee members for the Triennium 2013-2016

President	Brian Street
Chair	Katy Newell-Jones
Secretary	Juliet McCaffery
Treasurer	Ian Cheffy
Committee member	Mary Anderson

We have vacancies for both individual committee members and organisational members.

Committee meetings were held on:

29 Oct.2014	Skype meeting
4 March 2015	Kings College, London
22 July 2015	Friends Centre, London

There were fewer committee meetings this year due in part to the amount of travel undertaken by committee members and thus we have started to Skype.

As secretary I have been responsible for organising the ILDs. These, as mentioned by the President and the Chair, have been an important activity this year. They are popular as they provide an opportunity for feedback and discussion in an informal atmosphere and we are very grateful to those who have come and given a short presentation to stimulate discussion. The ILDs are free to members, but we ask for £10 for non-members and £5 for students and unwaged people.

ILD 17	3 Dec. 2014	From Orthography to Literacy Practice.	Margaret Beckett, SIL
ILD 18	9 Jan. 2015	Is Education for All?	Juliet McCaffery
ILD 19	4 March 2015	Linking skills development with literacy learning: thoughts from Afghanistan.	Alan Rogers
ILD 20	12 May 2015	Adult literacy in policies and structures.	Prof. Lalage Bown

We are very grateful to Mary Anderson for developing our web presence, which is now essential for any organisation. It has enabled BALID to reach an international audience through the website and Facebook. Both contain interesting and valuable information accessible to a wide audience in the UK and overseas.

Juliet McCaffery: Secretary

Report from the Treasurer

Once again, I am very grateful to Ray Douglas for serving BALID in his role as independent examiner of the BALID accounts and I am happy to recommend that he be appointed for the same role for the next financial year. His report can be found on the following page.

At one level, this year has been one of financial stability in that the balance of our reserves at the end of the year shows very little difference from their level at the start of the year. This is not to say that no financial activity occurred, but only that our expenditure quite closely aligned with our income.

Our income this year consisted almost entirely of the membership fees which are paid by individuals and organisations towards the running costs of BALID. No financial contributions were received this year from occasional visitors to the Informal Literacy Discussions. Our expenditure consisted of expenses for the room hire for the last AGM held in January 2015 and for the reimbursement of speaker's expenses on the two occasions when this was considered appropriate.

The BALID accounts continue to include the funds of the Literacy Working Group and I continue to manage the financial transactions of the LWG in cooperation with Jan Eldred, the convenor. Since the LWG received a large grant of £5,000 during this year from the British Association for Comparative and International Education (BAICE) for the "Bridging the Gap" seminar series, the balance in the BALID accounts is considerably greater than it would otherwise be.

At another level, my role as treasurer has involved some considerable activity brought about by the decision of the Executive Committee in July 2014 to transfer the BALID accounts from the Co-operative Bank to the CAFBank. This decision was taken in light of the uncertainties surrounding the financial viability of the Co-operative Bank and the higher rate of interest offered on account balances by the CAFBank. The CAFBank also offers provision for transfers to be authorised online by two account signatories. The transfer of accounts involved some complexity but was completed satisfactorily, with the new account being opened at the CAFBank on 26th March this year. Since that time, the new arrangement has operated smoothly. Overall, the BALID finances are in good shape. I would, of course, be happy for the Treasurer's role to be more onerous if this reflected greater activity and wider membership as a whole.

Ian Cheffy: Treasurer

BALID
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 August 2015

	2015 BALID £	2015 LWG £	2014 BALID £	2014 LWG £
Income				
ILD Contributions	-	-	60	-
Memberships	260	-	300	-
Interest	6	-	2	-
Administration fee from LWG	5	-	-	-
Income banked for LWG	-	5,000	-	-
Total Income	271	5,000	362	-
Expenditure				
AGM Expenses	169	-	17	-
Membership Fees	-	-	-	-
Other Meeting Expenses	123	-	-	-
Administration fee to BALID	-	5	-	-
Expenditure paid out for LWG	-	350	-	193
Total Expenditure	292	355	17	193
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	-21	4,645	345	-193
Balances brought forward	1,488	753	1,143	946
Balances carried forward	1,467	5,398	1,488	753

Balance Sheet at 31 August 2015

	£	2014 £
Current Assets		
Balance at CAF Bank	6,865	2,241
Less: Current Liabilities		
Balance owed to LWG	5,398	753
Net Current and Total Assets	1,467	1,488
Reserves carried forward	1,467	1,488

Hon Treasurer
I P Cheffy

Date 12/11/2015

Report of the Independent Examiner

I have carried out an informal examination of the simplified accounts set out above, which are in agreement with the books and records according to the explanations given to me. The Association continued to receive and pay out money through its bank account on behalf of the Literacy Working Group (LWG) and held funds in its bank account belonging to LWG at 31 August 2015, as set out above. These transactions do not relate to the activities of the Association.

Hon Independent Examiner
R L S Douglas

Date 12/11/15

Summary of the Informal Literacy discussions held 2014 – 2015

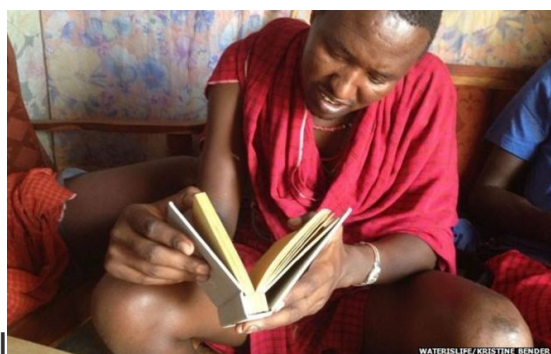
ILD 17: From Orthography to Literacy Practice was led by Margaret Beckett of SIL. This was a lively seminar that gave us a glimpse of the community transformation that literacy can bring: a sense of pride in local language and culture, plus empowerment and connection to a wider world (including Facebook!). Such steps forward are tempered by a range of problems, from the traditional dominance of rote learning to issues of orthography and the medium of education in schools. (December 2014)

ILD 18: Is Education for All? was led by Juliet McCaffery, Independent consultant and Associate Researcher, Sussex University. Her presentation focused on the tension between many indigenous and nomadic people's lack of interest in literacy and formal education, and the education provided by governments in both the developed and developing world. She gave us insights into Gypsy and Traveller culture and attitudes toward literacy in the UK and the hostility they face from the settled community (January 2015).

ILD 19: Literacy in Afghanistan was led by Professor Alan Rogers (University of East Anglia). It provided the basis for a stimulating discussion of issues arising from his work with USAID and UNESCO. (March 2015)

ILD 20: Adult Literacy: Policies and Structures was led by Professor Lalage Bown OBE, Emeritus Professor of Adult and Continuing Education at Glasgow University. This stirring discussion, kindly hosted by SIL at Redcliffe College in Gloucester, UK, challenged us to consider how literacy practitioners and academics need to be politically literate in order to protect and promote the literacy agenda amongst governments and aid agencies. (May 2015)

Thank you to everyone who presented, attended and provided a venue.



Book that kills bugs (BBC report)



Literacy class, Cambodia

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