



# Annual Report

## 2015-16



**BALID**  
British Association for  
Literacy in Development

**British Association for Literacy in Development**  
c/o Feed the Minds, The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR, UK  
[www.balid.org.uk](http://www.balid.org.uk)



## Report from the President



*Professor Brian Street*

This year the 3-year triennium 2013-2016 comes to an end. These three years have seen BALID continue its mission to raise awareness of literacy in development. A key to this has been the continued development of the Informal Literacy Discussions (ILDs). These were started in December 2011, and have continued to provide a meeting ground for academics, literacy consultants and NGO staff to share their varied experiences of working in literacy. In 2013-14 we had five ILDs, in 2014-15 we had four. This year, though three were planned, only two were held as the third had to be postponed as a national election was scheduled for the same day. In total we have had 21 ILDs. I have to thank

Juliet McCaffery, our secretary for organising them until this year when Mary Anderson agreed to take on the task. The presentations and discussions have been of an exceptionally high standard and we therefore decided they were worth publishing. More information on this is provided below.

Our activities this year are described in the officers' reports. I would like to thank Katy Newell-Jones who, in addition to her work on health, particularly FGM and adult literacy, has found the time to work extremely hard on taking BALID forward. She led the work with other organisations such as the Literacy Working Group and the Literacy Development Group at UEA on the 'Bridging the Gap' series of seminars funded by BAICE and most recently with the UCL institute of Education on the 'Weaving Literacy through Lifelong Learning' seminar.

Ian Cheffy has continued his excellent work of looking after our finances and also managing the finances of the LWG. We often take Ian's work for granted, but times are difficult for voluntary organisations so it is very important that a close watch is kept on expenditure. As a result, our finances are in good order.

We were very pleased that Alan Rogers, known to many of us through his practical literacy and academic work, agreed to join the committee. We are equally pleased that a new member, Tara Furlong, has joined the committee. She is very knowledgeable on the use of IT which will be a great asset.

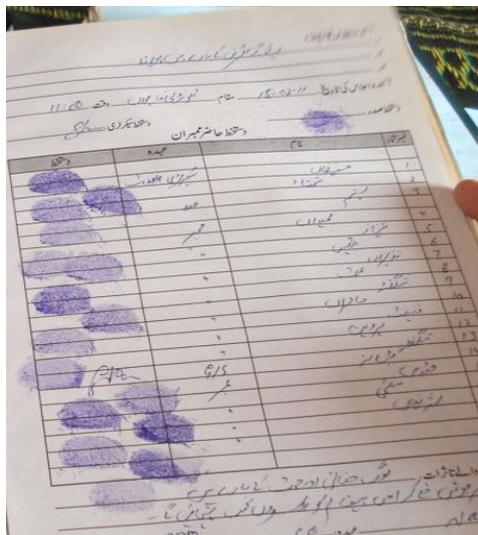
A new venture this Triennium has been the development of social networking sites by building a website and a Facebook page. The number of 'hits' shows that we are now communicating to a world wide audience.

While I commend the committee for all their hard work, an organisation always needs to have new people who have new ideas so it can continue to grow and develop.

*Brian Street  
President*

## Report from the Chair

The year 2015-16 has been active and productive for BALID with a range of seminars and Informal Literacy Discussions (ILDs), the publication of a book, increased interest in BALID through our social media presence and closer relationships with literacy networks and agencies.



*Having to use a thumb-print (instead of a signature) can be a source of shame*

Last November BALID hosted the final ‘Bridging the Gap’ event, a series of linked seminars and forums developed by the Literacy Working Group (LWG) and led by the Literacy Development Group (LDG) based at the University of East Anglia. The BALID forum, Women’s literacy: enhancing the dialogue between NGOs and researchers, was well-attended and participative, drawing together practitioners and researchers engaged in literacy. The forum began with participants introducing themselves by placing themselves on a researcher-practitioner continuum, which emphasised the interdependence between research and practice.

BALID’s involvement in Bridging the Gap has informed other BALID initiatives throughout the year and strengthened our relationships with other networks, including the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL), Feed the Minds, and the British Association for International and Comparative Education (BAICE).

The ILDs continue to form the backbone of BALID’s programme. Special thanks are due to Juliet McCaffery, Brian Street and Alan Rogers who have successfully produced a book of twelve of the most engaging of the ILDs: *Theory and Practice in Literacy and Development* (Uppingham Press, ISBN 978-0-9542114-6-2). The book represents a considerable achievement and a milestone for BALID.

Special thanks are also due to Mary Anderson who continues to develop BALID’s social media presence through our website and Facebook pages. Mary manages to keep us all up to date with reports and articles on literacy as well as promoting BALID’s own events and reaching out to those overseas interested in literacy but unable to participate in our UK-based events.

As the year draws to its end, BALID is looking forward to a high profile event, Weaving Literacy through Lifelong Learning, on November 18<sup>th</sup>. We are delighted to welcome Dr Ulrike Hanemann from UIL, UNESCO, as the keynote speaker and Prof Alan Tuckett, who will chair the event. Through presentations and interactive sessions, we will explore the role that literacy can play in enriching and enhancing lifelong learning projects, linking to the Education 2030 Framework for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Two members of the BALID committee are leading on a UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning consultancy to produce a resource pack on Intergenerational Approaches to Literacy Teaching and Learning, with the support of the rest of the BALID committee. The resource pack will be available on the UIL website with links from the BALID website in 2017.

Throughout the year the BALID committee has continued to meet regularly and work collaboratively. The committee has been strengthened by the arrival of Tara Furlong, who will be leading the ILD following this year's AGM on 'Literacies in Professional Services'. We are also delighted that Alan Rogers has joined the committee.

We would welcome new faces to join the BALID committee. As a relatively small voluntary organisation we feel we have used our limited resources effectively in 2016 and we look forward to another active year ahead.

*Katy Newell-Jones*  
*Chair*

## **Report from the Secretary**

President: Professor Brian Street  
Chair: Dr Katy Newell Jones  
Secretary: Dr Juliet McCaffery  
Treasurer: Dr Ian Cheffy

Individual Committee members:

Dr Mary Anderson  
Tara Furlong  
Professor Alan Rogers  
Charlotte Martin

Organisational Members:

Vacant.

Unfortunately, Charlotte Martin had to resign during the year due to other pressures. We thank her for her work on the committee and are sorry to lose her, but she has assured us that she will continue to be involved. At the moment we have no organisational members on the committee.

We held more committee meetings this year than the previous year and committee members gave up their time to travel to London at their own expense for four meetings. Two additional meetings were held through Skype, but although very useful, we did not find them as satisfactory as meeting face to face. We are grateful to Feed the Minds for allowing us to hold a meeting at their offices.

Committee meetings were held on:

8 Sept 2015 Friends House, Euston, London  
19 Nov 2015 (AGM) King's College, Waterloo Bridge Wing, London  
4 Feb 2016 Friends House, Euston Road, London  
22 Mar 2016 Skype meeting  
25 April 2016 British Library, Euston Road, London  
24 May 2016 Feed the Minds, The Foundry, Oval Way, Vauxhall  
11 July 2016 Skype meeting

Officers of BALID are elected for three years. The triennium 2013 – 2016 ended on 31 August 2016. Elections will be held for officers and committee members at the AGM on 30 November 2016. There are four places for individuals and four for members representing organisations.

Social media has become such an important way of communicating, and thanks to Mary Anderson, we now have both a website and a Facebook presence. It has therefore been suggested we elect an officer to be responsible for our communications on social media.

*Juliet McCaffery*  
Secretary

## Report from the Treasurer

I am pleased to report that during the last financial year, which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> August, the BALID finances remained on a stable footing. Financial activity was limited so it would be a mistake to identify any trends, but income was somewhat higher than in the previous financial year and expenditure was significantly lower, with the result that the total funds rose by £341 to £1,808.



*A woman in Somaliland practises her literacy skills*

Of our total income of £391, almost 75% (£290) came from the annual fees of the ten individual members and two organisational members. The remaining income consisted of contributions from non-members attending the Informal Literacy Discussions, an unexpected gift from a member who inadvertently paid the organisational rate rather than the individual rate (but who graciously allowed us to keep the difference), bank interest and administration fees charged to the Literacy Working Group whose funds have been kept in the BALID bank account. The comparatively high level of the LWG funds due to a BAICE grant for the Bridging the Gap seminars accounted for the increased bank interest received in this financial year relative to the previous year.

Expenditure during the year was minimal, amounting only to the photocopying for the last AGM and ILD, and a transaction fee of £6 relating to an overseas registration for the Weaving Literacy through Lifelong Learning seminar. (Some registrations for this seminar were received in the financial year covered by this report but will be included in next year's report so that all transactions relating to the seminar can be treated together. They are listed as liabilities on the current Income and Expenditure Account but will be listed as income in the FY16-17 report.)

I am once again grateful to Mr R.L.S.Douglas for his willingness to carry out an independent examination of the BALID accounts and I am happy to propose that he be reappointed for the coming financial year.

*Ian Cheffy*  
Treasurer

**BALID**  
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 August 2016

	2016		2015	
	BALID	LWG	BALID	LWG
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
ILD Contributions	25	-	-	-
Memberships	290	-	260	-
Gift	30	-	-	-
Interest	11	-	6	-
Administration fee from LWG	35	-	5	-
Income banked for LWG	-	-	-	5,000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
AGM / Seminar Expenses	27	-	169	-
Bank charges	6	-	-	-
Other Meeting Expenses	17	-	123	-
Administration fee to BALID	-	35	-	5
Expenditure paid out for LWG	-	4,298	-	350
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4,331</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>-4,331</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>4,645</b>
Balances brought forward	1,467	5,398	1,488	753
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>5,398</b>

**Balance Sheet at 31 August 2016**

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Balance at CAF Bank	3,044	6,865
<b>Less: Current Liabilities</b>		
Seminar bookings in advance	169	-
Balance owed to LWG	1,067	5,398
	1,236	5,398
<b>Net Current and Total Assets</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>1,467</b>
<b>Reserves carried forward</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>1,467</b>

Hon Treasurer .....   
I P Cheffy

Date ..... 5/4/2016

**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 2016, as set out above. These transactions do not relate to the activities of the Association.

Hon Independent Examiner .....   
R L S Douglas

Date ..... 5/10/16

## Informal Literacy Discussions (ILDs)

As the Chair has reported, we were very pleased to continue the ILD. Three were planned but in the event one fell on the day of the EU Referendum and it was therefore decided to postpone it, so it follows the AGM on 30 November. The two held were:

**ILD 22: Literacy and female infanticide** on 19 November 2015, led by Dr Priti Chopra of the University of Greenwich, UK.

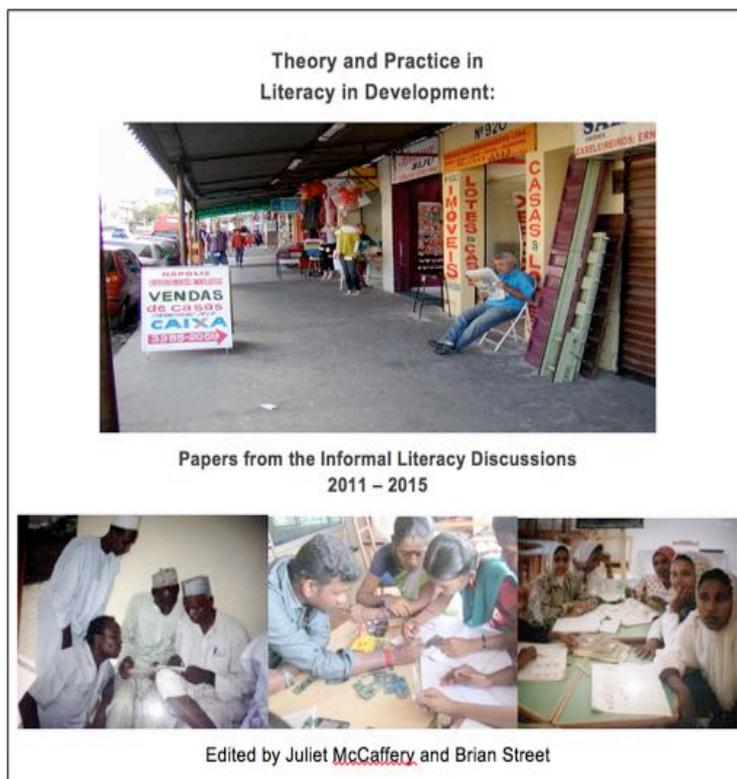
This was an interesting and moving seminar about how literacy may empower communities and challenge attitudes to female infanticide in Bihar, northern India.

**ILD 23: Understanding Literacy: what theoretical approaches can help make literacy teaching and learning more effective** on 24 May 2016, led by Dr Ian Cheffy of SIL International. The presentation included a very helpful spidergram that showed the linkages between adult literacy and theories of adult learning.

## BALID publication

**Theory and Practice of Literacy in Development:**

**Papers from the Informal Literacy Discussions 2011 – 2015**



*The front cover of our new BALID book, ISBN 978-0-9542114-62*

The 23 ILDs held since 2011, which were led by NGO practitioners, academics and post-graduate students, have produced excellent and insightful discussions. The meeting always starts with the leader presenting information and ideas as the basis for the discussion which follows. These have been so informative that we felt it would be good to make them available to a wider audience. So we asked presenters if they would convert their presentations into a publishable format and many very kindly agreed to do so. The result is a fascinating collection of ideas in the *Theory and Practice in Literacy and Development* edited by Juliet McCaffery and Brian Street. It is available for £15 from Ian

Cheffy ([ian\\_cheffy@sil.org](mailto:ian_cheffy@sil.org)). The front cover and the contents are reproduced here. The committee is grateful to Professor Alan Rogers for arranging the publishing at Uppingham Press.

## Theory and Practice of Literacy in Development: Contents

### ***Policy***

#### **Introduction**

1. David Archer: International Advocacy of International Development Challenges
2. Lalage Bown: Adult Literacy: Policies and Structures
3. Alan Rogers: Skills Development and Literacy for Adults: a Failed Experiment
4. Juliet McCaffery: Education for All – Does it Include Minorities?

### ***Practice***

#### **Introduction**

5. Ian Cheffy: Transferable Literacies: to what extent do literacy practices taught as social practices result in transferable literacy skills?
6. Estêvão Cabral and Marilyn Martin-Jones: East-Timor in 1974/5: Decolonisation, a nation-in-waiting and a Freire-inspired adult literacy campaign.
7. Maria Lucia Castanheira and Brian Street: Literacy in and out of school in a Brazilian barrio; Implications for policy.
8. Priti Chopra: Using literacy for empowering traditional midwives (*dais*) in Bihar, northern India: Is there a literacy-participant disconnect?

### ***Community/ Language***

#### **Introduction**

9. Barbara Graham: Parental involvement in the provision of mother-tongue materials: Two exploratory interventions
10. Catherine Young: Community Involvement in Planning and Implementing Local Education Programmes
11. Mary Anderson: Literacy publishing for Northern Nigeria
12. Margaret Beckett: The Development of a Community of Literacy Practice in Tanzania: from Orthography to Literacy.

*Juliet McCaffery*

## **BALID Facebook page and website**

The BALID website (<http://balid.org.uk>) was set up some years ago with the help of David Colbourne, a friend of Katy Newell-Jones. It is hosted on the WordPress platform, and is relatively easy to maintain. Its purpose is to be the public, international face of BALID.

Our website provides news about forthcoming events, summaries of our ILDs and past

conferences, links to other organisations including LETTER, and information about how to join BALID.



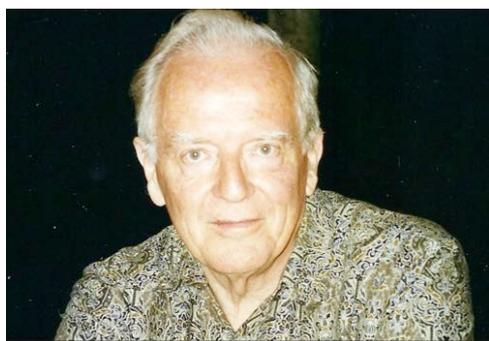
*Digital media are used in a surprising number of contexts in the developing world*

Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BALID.org.uk/>) is easier to manage, and usually has topical news about our own events as well as news from other related organisations, gleaned through 'friending' them on Facebook and sharing their news stories. I regularly post links from NGOs such as BAAL (British Association for Applied Linguistics), Feed the Minds, ActionAid and many others. We seem to have quite a wide page 'reach' but I am disappointed that there are not more 'likes'. I am also concerned that my particular interest means that there is an overemphasis on African issues. We have only intermittent stories from Asia, and very little input about Latin America.

The potential for a BALID blog, and for a broader Facebook presence is huge. Such development would probably need engagement from more BALID supporters, with their particular interests, experience, and skills.

*Mary Anderson*

### **Professor Paul Fordham**



*A kind and inspiring teacher*

Sadly, I have to report that Professor Paul Fordham, a former BALID President and a long-standing and influential committee member in the 1990s, died in July 2016, aged 90. I remember him as a very friendly kind person, always encouraging and willing to help. Professor Fordham was a distinguished academic. He first taught at the University of Nottingham, then went to East Africa, working first as Director of the Kikuyu College of Social Studies, Kenya, and then at the University of Nairobi. On

his return to the UK, he became the Director of Southampton University's Adult Education Department. After retiring in 1987, he founded the International Centre for Education in Development at the University of Warwick. During the 1980s Paul chaired the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). He will be much missed by colleagues here and in Africa. A full obituary written by Professor Lalage Bown can be found in the Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/oct/25/paul-fordham-obituary>.

*Juliet McCaffery*



**BALID** is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) promoting adult and family literacy and numeracy as a basic human right, in the context of development. As a UK charity, BALID brings together organisations and individuals who believe that sharing experience about learning and literacy can help enrich workers and citizens in both the industrial and the developing world.

BALID's aims are to:

- promote literacy and numeracy for adults and families as an integral part of human development;
- increase awareness of the relationship between literacy, numeracy, economic development and social change, in partnership with other appropriate organisations;
- inform and advise governments, NGOs and the private sector on adult literacy and numeracy within the context of development;
- contribute to programmes for adult literacy and numeracy;
- facilitate interactions and exchanges between those working in adult literacy and numeracy programmes;
- exchange experiences and research findings in order to inform future practice.



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