



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 10 Summer 2011

**Welcome to a new term!** We hope that you all had a good Easter and enjoyed the lovely sunny weather. Hopefully it bodes well for the summer! Last term was a busy and very productive one for ARCh...

*Our volunteer meeting in March was well attended. We were pleased to welcome Cheryl Taylor, ARCh Trustee and Special Educational Needs Coordinator at Faringdon Infants School, who gave an interesting and informative talk on the role of the SENCo. A copy of the powerpoint presentation is available from the office upon request.*



We are always very happy to talk to groups about our work. Last term we visited Wantage Rotarians, The Visually Impaired Group in North Oxford and Brackley Women's Institute.



## More Volunteers needed!

We are especially eager to recruit volunteers in the areas of Banbury, Bicester, Abingdon, Didcot and in Cowley/Headington/Marston in Oxford. Please do help us spread the word about ARCh. And if you know of a local publication where we could advertise for free please do tell us about it!

## New Patron for ARCh

We are delighted to welcome John Foster, children's poet, as our newest patron. Poetry is particularly useful in ARCh sessions. Children enjoy the rhyme and rhythm, and the fact that they can complete reading a poem within a session. We have a number of John's books within the ARCh library. John will be entertaining us at our summer meeting on Thursday 7th July, 1pm, a longer meeting this time to incorporate our Annual General Meeting and afternoon tea. Please make a note of this important date in your diary now. Individual invitations will be sent nearer the time.



This is John's winning poem:



In March we asked you to compose a short poem on the ARCh mission for submission to the CTK Foundation in the USA, which was offering grants to charities judged to have the best poems. Over 1,500 nonprofits organisations from around the world submitted poems.

A number of excellent poems were submitted by ARCh volunteers and patrons and we were very excited to receive a phone call from the States to inform us that ARCh has been awarded second prize for John Foster's contribution, a prize of \$5,000!

You can see our acceptance speech which was broadcast at their Grant Award Gala event in Austin Texas and read the other winning poems on their website: <http://www.communitytech.net/foundation>

*Raise the shutters  
Raise the shutters, let shimmering  
sunlight  
Clear the dark clouds in the mind,  
Which make lines of shapes and  
symbols  
Too great a puzzle to unwind.  
Guide each prisoner through the  
labyrinth.  
Unleash the chains which keep  
them blind.  
Let loose the power and the wisdom  
Which it is their right to find*

### John Betjeman Competition for Children

Now it is the children's turn!

The John Betjeman Poetry Competition is open to 10-13 year-olds living in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The competition is free to enter.

The prize of £1,000 (£500 to the winner and £500 to the English department of his or her school, or local library or church) is donated by John Murray (Publishers) Ltd. The winner, runner-up and second runner-up will each win four standard class tickets from St Pancras International to Paris, Brussels or Lille donated by Eurostar. The top six entrants will win prizes of £50 book tokens donated by Foyles Bookshop. The winners will be notified by September. The prize-giving event will take place in early October at St Pancras International station.

If you are working with a child of 10 - 11 years you may like to look at the website: [www.betjemanpoetrycompetition.com](http://www.betjemanpoetrycompetition.com)

### Raising achievement in Oxfordshire with Local Government

At the end of last term Elaine and Jane met with Nicola Blackwood, Conservative MP for Oxford West & Abingdon, and 2 members of Oxfordshire County Council - Michael Waine, Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement and Creighton Muirhead, Joint Interim Head of Raising Achievement. They were very interested in the excellent results our work produces and are writing to Heads of all primary schools recommending our service. The County Council is targeting certain schools within Oxfordshire and we want to ensure that there is an ARCh presence within these schools.



### BOOK THE DATE - SUNDAY 26TH JUNE ARCh SUMMER FUNDRAISING EVENT

After a very successful launch last year, The Clare Foundation has joined with The Chiltern Society again to organise **The Red Kite Ramble** - two sponsored walks through the Chilterns (one 5 miles, the other 10 miles in distance) starting and finishing at the Foundation's Saunderton site near High Wycombe.



Walkers set off between 10am -12 noon.

As last year, The Foundation are hosting and administering the event. There will be no entry charges for walkers so all money we raise will go to ARCh. Last year Elaine and her husband completed the walk and raised £200 so with a team of ARCh volunteers and staff we could raise even more! What a lovely social event this could be.

If you are interested in walking or sponsoring please contact the ARCh office for more information.

## Fundraising

Thank you to the following funders for their recent support:

Awards for All  
 Blackbird Leys Parish Council  
 Oxford City Council  
 Charter Plus  
 St Michaels and All Saints  
 Leonard Chadwick  
 Wantage Rotary  
 Thame Lions  
 St Andrews Church  
 Doris Field Trust  
 John Ackroyd Charitable Trust  
 Dragon Christmas Sale  
 Richard Paul Menswear



*The Government has confirmed that children will sit a reading test at the age of 6, designed to identify those pupils falling behind after a year in full-time education.*



*The test has been piloted in 16 primary schools already and a further 300 schools will take part this summer, with a view to a national roll-out in 2012.*

*Nick Gibb, the Schools Minister, said "Learning to read is a fundamental part of a child's education. The new check will ensure that children who need extra help are given the support they need to enable them to enjoy a lifetime's love of reading."*

### ARCh DVD

We have a number of copies of our DVD now, thanks to the help of one of our former volunteers, Kay Renfrew. The company she works for, Juice, [www.itsjuice.com](http://www.itsjuice.com) were kind enough to make additional copies, for which we are very



### Localgiving.com

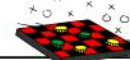
ARCh was one of a number of local charities invited by Oxfordshire Community Foundation to join localgiving.com, a new fundraising initiative set up by Marcelle Speller, one of the philanthropists who appeared on the Channel 4 programme, The Secret Millionaire. You can see how we feature by visiting [www.localgiving.com/arch](http://www.localgiving.com/arch)

Recommended website:

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) has lots of information on how to support children's reading

### Spare parts for games

A volunteer has told us that if you find a game you are using is missing a piece you can call the company and ask for it to be sent, free of charge.



### Cuts to the library service

We all know how vital this service is and do hope that closures can be avoided. Research published by the National Literacy Trust has confirmed the link between children and young people using libraries and good reading skills. The study of 17,089 pupils aged 8 to 16 found that those who used their public library are nearly twice as likely to be above average readers than those who do not (18% compared with 9.5%). The most common reasons children cited for not going to the library were that their family does not go (52%) and that their friends do not go (40%). Jonathan Douglas, Director the National Literacy Trust said: "Our research shows just how important a role libraries play in supporting literacy. In the UK today one in six people struggles to read, write and communicate, which can affect their health, confidence and employability."

Elaine Adams	01869 320380 <a href="mailto:elaine@archoxfordshire.org.uk">elaine@archoxfordshire.org.uk</a>	Development Manager Bicester Support worker
Jane Rendle	01865 426953 <a href="mailto:jane@archoxfordshire.org.uk">jane@archoxfordshire.org.uk</a>	Development Manager Oxford/Didcot/Wallingford/ Berinsfield Support worker
Lucy Liddicot	01869 320380 <a href="mailto:lucy@archoxfordshire.org.uk">lucy@archoxfordshire.org.uk</a>	Volunteer Services Manager Bicester Support worker
Vikki Evans	01295 722227 <a href="mailto:vikki@archoxfordshire.org.uk">vikki@archoxfordshire.org.uk</a>	Banbury Support worker
Julia McLaven	01865 301654 <a href="mailto:julia@archoxfordshire.org.uk">julia@archoxfordshire.org.uk</a>	W. Oxon/Faringdon/Abingdon/ Sutton Courtenay Support worker

### Small Charity Week 20-24 June

Oxfordshire Community Foundation is planning a street party for charities and their supporters at their offices in Woodins Way, Oxford on Tuesday 21st June between 11am – 6pm. There will be an ARCh stall between 11am and 1pm and we would like volunteers to join us. Please contact the office if you can come. Visit OCF website to find out more: [www.oxfordshire.org](http://www.oxfordshire.org)



## Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thurs 19th May	10-12	<b>Witney Book Exchange</b>	Witney Masonic Hall, Church Green, Witney OX28 4AW
Fri 20th May	10-12	<b>Abingdon Book Exchange</b>	Sutton Courtenay Primary School, Bradstocks Way OX14 4DA
Mon 23rd May	10-12	<b>Oxford Book Exchange</b>	Kidlington Baptist Church, High Street, OX5 2DS
Thurs 26th May	10-12	<b>Bicester Book Exchange</b> If anyone is interested in lunch afterwards please call the office to book your place	ARCh Office, Gobles Court, Bicester OX26 6AA
Fri 27th May	10-12	<b>Banbury Book Exchange</b> If anyone would like to join us for lunch at the Catering College, please call Vikki on 01295 722227 to book your place	Queensway Primary School, Brantwood Rise, Queensway, Ban- bury OX16 9NH (Please ring Vikki if you need directions)
Sunday 26th June		<b>Red Kite Ramble</b>	The Clare Foundation, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Bucks HP14 4BF
Thurs 7th July	1-4pm	<b>Volunteer Meeting</b> Invitations will be sent nearer the time	Kidlington Baptist Church, High Street, OX5 2DS

## Term Dates for 2011

From	To
<b>Term 5</b> Tuesday 26th April	Friday 27th May 2011 (Friday 29th April & Mon 2nd May are Bank Holidays)
<b>Term 6</b> Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2011
<b>Term 1</b> Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2011
<b>Term 2</b> Monday 31st October 2011	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2011
<b>Term 3</b> Tuesday 3rd January 2012	Friday 10th February 2012
<b>Term 4</b> Monday 20th February 2012	Friday 30th March 2012

Please remember to check these dates with your school, as holidays vary from school to school

