

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 9 January 2011

**Welcome to 2011 and to the new term! We hope that you all had an enjoyable holiday season. Let's hope for good things in 2011, including no more snow and ice!**



**ARCh Meeting 15 December 2010** It was good to see so many of you at our meeting at Kidlington Baptist Church in December when we welcomed Patience Thomson, co-founder of Barrington Stoke publishers, as our guest speaker.

A retired teacher, Patience set up the company which produces books for reluctant readers, in 1996. Children are used as editorial consultants, to ensure the use of child friendly, plain English in the stories. The books look different in that the paper used is cream coloured and the typeface designed by language specialists to help those with dyslexic tendencies.

Many well established authors write for the company, including Michael Morpurgo and Terry Deary.

Within ARCh we have a stock Barrington Stoke books so if you are interested do pick one up at the next book exchange. Patience also left us some of the company's catalogues; do contact the office if you would like one.

We were delighted to be able to premiere the new ARCh film at the meeting. The DVD features 2 of our wonderful volunteers (Elaine Steane and Mike Buckmaster) and the children they work with and Rachel Crouch, Head Teacher of St Nicholas Primary in Marston. A lot of hard work went into the production of the film and we are extremely grateful to Oxford Video Society, in particular Bob Wheeler.

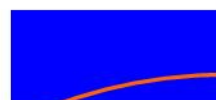
Bev would like to thank all who donated to her leaving gift.



## "SATs results in Oxford City Primary schools the worst in the country!"

This was a story which featured in the Oxford Mail for some time during November and December, after 2010 results revealed that fewer children in the city achieved the expected levels in reading, writing and maths than anywhere else in England!

As a result of this we are to meet with Michael Waine, County Council Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement, and Nicola Blackwood, MP for Oxford West & Abingdon to discuss how ARCh can help to increase attainment levels.



### Adopt a School Scheme

We are inviting businesses to help their local primary by funding its ARCh service. The children we work with are the employees of the future and it therefore makes sense for firms to help further our work so that we can improve reading standards in children from an early age. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a school please contact us.



## The rewards of volunteering OCVA Award

In November one of our long standing volunteers, Lawrence Wyatt, received a Volunteers Make a Difference award from Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action Group at a ceremony at County Hall in Oxford.



**Congratulations Lawrence!**

### Celebrating Volunteering

Elaine and Jane attended a civic service at Christ Church Cathedral in November which celebrated volunteering in our county. One in 3 people in Oxfordshire volunteer in some capacity. What a wonderful region we live in!

We welcomed Vikki Evans, Banbury Field Worker, to her first ARCh meeting and also announced that Julia McLaven will be



extending her patch to cover Abingdon and Sutton Courtenay from January. Jane Rendle will continue to cover Didcot, Wallingford and Berinsfield areas for the time being.



### The things children say...

On returning to school in September one of our volunteers met the new children she was to work with. When she asked one little boy how old he was he replied, "I was six a very long time ago." His birthday was in July!



### Schools' contributions

We are all aware that these are difficult times and schools' budgets continue to be stretched. We are therefore pleased to be able to keep the contribution we ask schools to make to £375 for the 4th year running.

### Refresher Trainings

We run regular refresher courses and volunteers who have attended have found these beneficial. After attending the last Child Protection refresher a volunteer commented. "it was a very useful reminder of how carefully we need to consider our actions and attitudes. It is also invaluable to have time to listen and learn from other volunteers' experiences."

### Get together with other ARCh volunteers in your local area

Within our ARCh volunteer base we have vast expertise and we always want to share good practice. We do encourage everyone to come along to our termly meetings, to our book exchanges and to our refresher training sessions to share ideas and experiences with others. Some of our volunteers have expressed an interest in organising a coffee morning in their local areas (one in North Oxford and one in Grove area). If you would like to take part please do let us know and we will pass your contact details onto the organisers who will advise you of the venue and date.

### Supporting ARCh

Those who have Co-operative Membership cards can now elect to donate their points to ARCh. If you have a card all you need to do is telephone the Co-operative membership helpline **0845 090 1456** and quote the **ARCh reference number which is 217**. You can choose to donate all of your points or a percentage. If you are not a Co-op member and would like to be you can apply by calling the same number.

#### Raise Money As You Search!

Are you one of the 6.4m people that use a search engine every day? Did you know you can raise money for **ARCh** while you search?

<http://archassistedreadingforchildreninoxfordshire.easysearch.org.uk> combines the results of several search engines such as Yahoo!, Bing and Ask to ensure you can always find what you're looking for.

But the fantastic thing is that **EVERY TIME** you search, half a penny is raised for **ARCh**. Search just 15 times a day and you can raise around £25 a year for us.

Don't forget ARCh also receives a donation each time someone shops online using the following website.

[www.easysearch.org.uk/causes/archassistedreadingforchildreninoxfordshire](http://www.easysearch.org.uk/causes/archassistedreadingforchildreninoxfordshire). There is no charge to the shopper or to the charity.

ARCh is also now registered to receive donations via the [theBigGive.org.uk](http://theBigGive.org.uk)

## Pupil Survey

We received excellent feedback from the pupil survey we sent to schools during the summer. Details now appear on our website.

[www.archoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.archoxfordshire.org.uk)

The responses indicated that **99% of the children improved in reading performance and confidence in reading and 98% improved in attitude to reading and self confidence/self-esteem.** We would like to express our thanks to all our dedicated volunteers for these wonderful results.

## National News: OFSTED inspectors say literacy standards "fall short"

- Too many children leave primary school unable to read or write well enough, England's chief schools inspector said.
- Head of OFSTED Christine Gilbert said standards of reading and writing among 11-year-olds fell "stubbornly short" of achievable levels.
- One in five is not at the level expected for English at age 11.
- OFSTED has published a report which looked at how 12 top-rated schools teach children to read and write. The schools represented a wide range of communities but shared key similarities – they all had high expectations of all children and taught pupils to read using phonics.
- The Government wants children to be taught to read by phonics and plans to introduce a "simple reading test" for six-year-olds to help identify those who need extra help. The test will be piloted for a year from June. However teachers say that although phonics is a good way of teaching it is not a magic formula and a number of strategies should be used.
- Russell Hobby, general secretary of the National Association of Head teachers said. "Literacy is a fundamental skill and right. The overwhelming majority of children reach good standards but we want every child to get there. **More than that, we want every child to enjoy reading and writing.**"

## Fundraising

We are pleased to have received financial support from

Austin & Hope Pilkington Trust  
Wantage & Grove Lions  
Grove Parish Council  
Sibford Gower Parish Council  
Bloxham Parish Council  
St Michaels and All Saints Charities  
Abingdon Town Council  
Bicester Town Council  
Witney Rotary Club



### Talks

*"We are always happy to talk to groups about our work and are speaking to Wantage Rotary Club later this month"*

Traveller,

I'm a dyslexic child,  
Not much but I am,  
I'm a traveller,  
I'm carrying a package,  
It's small but it weighs me  
down.

I'm a traveller,  
I'm carrying a mission,  
To stop my package mattering,  
To get to the end of the road,  
I hope you will be there  
When I do.

by Sasha age 10

## ARCH team



## Games



We always seem to be short of good games although we have refreshed our stock a number of times recently. We ask volunteers to keep 3 boxed games in their book box and to return surplus to their field worker or at the next book exchange so that we can keep our stock rotating. Don't forget the value of pen and paper games too. We have a long list of suggestions for such games, available from the office upon request. There will be new boxed games on offer at the book exchanges so do come along to swap your games!



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 Manger 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



## Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thurs 3rd Feb	10-12	<b>Oxford Book Exchange</b>	Kidlington Baptist Church, High Street,OX5 2DS
Fri 4th Feb	10-12	<b>Abingdon Book Exchange</b>	Sutton Courtenay Primary School, Bradstocks Way OX14 4DA
Fri 4th Feb	10-12	<b>Banbury Book Exchange - NEW VENUE</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, Banbury OX16 9NH (Please ring Vikki if you need directions)
Mon 7th Feb	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
Thurs 10th Feb	10-12	<b>Witney Book Exchange</b>	Witney Masonic Hall, Church Green, Witney OX28 4AW
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> March	2-4pm	<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 3</b> Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
<b>Term 4</b> Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
<b>Term 5</b> Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2011 (Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April & Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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> Monday 5 <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

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

