

NEWSLETTER

Issue 6 January 2010

Welcome to 2010!

What a snowy start to the year, full of disruptions and school closures, we hope you have all managed to stay safe. We have lots planned for this term, the filming of our training DVD should be ready soon, company volunteering is now in its 2nd year and we plan to train 10 more DHL staff, our new volunteer numbers are rising with another training planned. Jane and Elaine will be spreading the word of ARCh—we have been asked to talk at The University of the Third Age in Oxford and Abingdon European Society in January and lots more!

December Meeting



In October Lucy and Jane attended a discussion on “Getting Children Reading – Literacy in the Early Years” with Reading Quest, hosted by Baroness Susan Greenfield, at the House of Lords.

The Baroness, an Oxford neuroscientist, has concerns over the effects that repeated exposure to computers has on children’s attention spans and communication skills.

This illustrates the importance of sharing reading and the one to one communication ARCh volunteers have with their children.

There were other interesting contributions:

Dr Jessie Ricketts spoke of her study into word recognition and language comprehension in young children. As we know, very often children master one of these skills without the other, but to become an effective reader they need to have both.

Liz Attenborough, from the National Literacy Trust, spoke on their work and of 3 requirements leading to literacy:

- The need to encourage positive attitudes towards reading amongst our children
- The need for a choice of materials and the space and time to enjoy them
- To be equipped with the relevant skills – decoding and understanding.

She said that in education there had been a huge emphasis on the latter in recent years but that there had not been a balance with the other two requirements.

We know that our volunteers are already achieving this balance so we are leading the way in this. Please keep up the good work!



Many of you attended the December Meeting where we heard from Kate Robinson and Anna Cotsell of the Children’s Library Service. We were told of the lovely new library buses that visit many schools in Oxfordshire, giving children who don’t get taken to the library the chance to choose library books during the school day. Listed below are the schools and days the bus visits, Kate suggested that an ARCh volunteer would be a great help on the bus to help children choosing reading material. Contact your school if you would be interested in visiting the bus with the children, if it comes to your school. Check their website for more details of the Library Service for children in Oxfordshire: <http://kidlib.oxfordshire.gov.uk>
We hope to build on the links we have made with the Library Service in the future.

Library bus visits

Watchfield, Queen’s Dyke, Langford Village, St Mary’s Bicester	Monday
William Morris, Christopher Rawlins, SS Mary & John	Tuesday
Rose Hill, Longcot & Fernham	Wednesday
Finmere, William Fletcher, Cutteslowe	Thursday
Glory Farm	Friday



Thank you to our ‘tea ladies’ at the meeting; Carole Hearn, Dee Brooks and Marion Barnard!





We have spent some time at the 3 DHL sites in Banbury interviewing and recruiting staff for year 2 of our company volunteering scheme. Two Banbury schools have benefited from the support of DHL volunteers in the last year and we hope to offer company volunteers to more schools this year.

Businesses realise the importance of literacy skills and forward thinking companies like DHL are doing their 'bit' towards developing a literate work force for the future.

The Confederation of British Industry recently identified 'serious failings' in school leavers' ability.

It also claimed that some companies have had to give teenagers remedial English and maths lessons because they have such a poor grasp of the three 'Rs'.

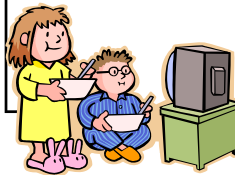
One CBI study found that 52% of employers are dissatisfied with the basic literacy of school leavers. A similar amount said some teenagers are 'unable to function in the workplace', claiming they cannot speak in an articulate manner or understand written instructions.

Fresh evidence has shown that the decline in parents reading aloud to their children has deepened over the past two years, with busy lives, dinner and TV all getting in the way of a story at bedtime.

A survey of more than 1,500 parents by books charity Booktrust found that only one in three parents are reading to their children daily, down from 43% two years ago. The average four to five-year-old spends twice as long watching TV every week as they do reading with their parents.



Children spend so much time in front of the TV and computer games, and so little time with adults that one child in six has difficulty learning to talk, according to an expert appointed by the government to improve young people's communication skills. Research published today by Jean Gross, the new "communication champion" for children, found that twice as many boys struggle as girls, and almost one in four of all children who have problems talking and understanding speech get no help. Evidence showed that, left unaided, they risked developing mental health problems or getting into trouble with the law later in life, she warned.



Quiz and Auction at Red Lion Yarnton

Just before Christmas Simon Goff organised a very successful and profitable quiz night and auction at Red Lion Yarnton with donations from:

- Harvester Kidlington**
- Alisons Animals Kidlington**
- Andrea & Achille Kidlington**
- Bartletts Butchers Kidlington**
- Bear & Ragged Staff Cumnor**
- Clovers Kidlington**
- Cotswold Wildlife Park**
- Everything Kidlington**
- GR Cycles Kidlington**
- Ovisher Kidlington**
- Oxford Philomusica**
- Really Useful Shop Kidlington**
- Studio 8 Kidlington (www.studio-8co.uk)**
- All staff & customers of Red Lion Yarnton**

A big thank you to all who attended and donated gifts. Also big thanks to Simon, the quiz master and orchestrator of the event.



It raised

£547 !

Volunteer Pam proves an inspiration to hundreds

That was what the Oxford Mail reported of our long standing volunteer Pam. The report reads... A woman who has taught hundreds of children to read has been named Volunteer of the Year. Pam



Andrews, from Sandford-on-Thames, has provided one-to-one reading help to pupils at Orchard Meadow Primary School in Blackbird Leys, Oxford, for more than 25 years. She picked up a glass trophy in honour of her contribution to learning and skills at a ceremony in Oxford Town Hall. The judges said of Mrs Andrews: "Pam has been an inspiration to so many children in Blackbird Leys, turning around negative attitudes to reading and school, improving the children's overall life chances. She always takes the time to talk with the children and listen to them without being judgmental." Mrs Andrews, who volunteers for Assisted Reading for

Children in Oxfordshire, said: "I'm overwhelmed with the award. It came as a complete surprise to me. I feel very privileged to be able to spend time at the school and I enjoy it so much. I accept this award on behalf of all the volunteers at ARCh." Orchard Meadow Assistant Headteacher Tanya Wiseman said: "Pam has made a significant difference to the reading skills of so many children. She is reliable, committed and the children all adore her."

Don't forget World

Book Day celebrated in

over 100 countries

around the globe!

4th March 2010

www.worldbookday.com



There will be no more Record and Review reports to do as Children's Fund has now ended



It was nice to see so many of you at the book exchanges last term. Both Bicester and Banbury groups met after for lunch. See 'Dates for Diary' on back page for details of this terms meetings



Volunteers enjoying the latest training session



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Trustees:

Christopher Quinton (Chair), Christine Williams,
Lynn Austin

Fundraising

We are delighted to report that we have recently received funding from the following:

Barnsbury Trust
Sybil Dawson
St Mary's Church Banbury
'Sing Faringdon'
Red Lion Yarnton
St Andrews Church, Sandford

 **Vale**
of White Horse

'Thank you to everyone who is making ARCh such a success!'