



NEWSLETTER

Issue 46 September 2024

Welcome to the Autumn term! We hope everyone enjoyed the summer with its variety of weather!

Welcome Caroline

A warm welcome to our newest staff member Caroline Carpenter who, in June, joined us as Field Worker for the Bicester and Thame area.



Message from new Field Worker Caroline: "In my role as a primary school teacher in the local area, I have seen the work of ARCh in practice and understand how important the visits of the dedicated volunteers are to the children they support. After over 20 years in the classroom, I decided to change my career path but continue to fulfil my passion for imbuing children with a love of learning, and the confidence to try new things, hence my involvement with ARCh!

My two children, both recent graduates, currently live with me and our beloved cat in Bicester. I have rekindled a love of sewing and painting since stepping away from the classroom and find being creative both relaxing and challenging! I too am a volunteer, supporting the education workshops at the museum of Banbury as an extra pair of hands during school sessions and creating resources to enhance the children's experience, such as illustrations and costumes."

Caroline was pleased to meet many of her volunteers last term, either in school or at one of our events, such as our end of term volunteer meeting in July.

Summer Volunteer Meeting



At the Summer meeting we shared hard copies of our annual report 2023 – now also on our website <https://archoxfordshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ARCh-Annual-Report-2023-COMPLETE.pdf>

If you collected a hard copy at the meeting and do not want to keep it please return it to the ARCh office or to your Field Worker.

Our Recruitment Officer Emma provided an interesting update on her work recruiting more volunteers from the community and local businesses.

We explained updates to the ARCh website – including a Volunteer Resources page where volunteers can access useful documents. **A reminder of how to log in (including password) is in the covering email.**

We welcomed guest speaker Caroline Derby from Oxford University Press (pictured below with Elaine and Jane) who told us about the Raise a Reader project which, in conjunction with the National Literacy Trust (NLT), has installed libraries into schools in deprived areas.

2023 schools

St Christopher's Church of England School, Cowley
John Henry Newman Academy
Bayards Hill School
St Frideswide Church of England Primary School
Rose Hill Primary School
Orchard Meadow Primary School
Wood Farm Primary School
Dashwood Banbury Academy
Cherry Fields Primary School
Hill View Primary School

2024 schools

Harriers Banbury Academy
St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Banbury
Orchard Fields Community School, Banbury
William Morris, Banbury
Queen Emma's Primary School, Witney
St Kenelm's Church CE (VE) School, Witney
Tower Hill Community Primary School, Witney
Pegasus School, Oxford
St Francis Church of England Primary School, Oxford
East Oxford Primary School



At the end of the afternoon we all enjoyed tea in the hall with much lively conversation and game playing!

Film link <https://youtu.be/JhK1mCImocs>

This film was spoken about by Caroline and shows the important work the NLT and OUP are doing building school libraries.

We were honoured to have Deputy Lieutenant for Oxfordshire, Robert Buckeldee, at our meeting giving us an explanation of the Lieutenancy role in the County and some interesting statistics about Oxfordshire – for instance there are around 4000 charities and 80,000 people volunteering in our county. We know we have the cream of volunteers within ARCh though! Robert thanked all ARCh volunteers for the valuable contribution they make across the county and presented long service awards.



Some award winners who attended the summer meeting pictured above

Photos of some of the award winners who attended

15 years

Ann Heath
Victor Puddick



Ann



Victor

10 years

Rory Carson
Mike Cahill
Wendy Milner
Julie Goldsby-West
Maggie Lloyd



Rory



Mike



Maggie

5 years

Keith Blois
Carol Carter
Steven Daggitt
Tessa Davidson
Jill Dyer
Kathryn Grant
Heather Haussauer
Vicki Lloyd
Jeanette Mason
Sarah Phibbs
Catherine Roffe
Kathryn Sidpra
Wendy Williams



Steven



Kathryn G



Vicki



Catherine



Kathryn S

Valerie Webster and Janet Turner had both completed **20 years** and their schools sent in some lovely messages of appreciation:

"Val, your invaluable support and passion for helping our pupils succeed in reading at St Mary's have truly made a lasting impact on our school community.

The positive relationships you have built with our students have not only improved their literacy outcomes but have also boosted their confidence and self-esteem. Your presence and genuine care for the well-being of our pupils have been greatly appreciated by both staff and families alike."

Mr D O'Connor Headteacher St Mary's CP Bicester



Val pictured with Elaine, Robert and Jane

"Janet is an absolute asset to Dr South's . I have had the pleasure of working with her for 10 years since my arrival at Dr South's and every child that has been fortunate enough to work with Janet has flowered and blossomed as she quietly builds their confidence and brings to them a love of books and the knowledge that books can bring.

No matter how reluctant the reader, they cannot help but fall under Janet's spell as she shares stories and facts and care and praise."

Helen Watson Co-Headteacher Dr South's CE Primary School

(Janet will be receiving her 20 year certificate at the December meeting)

Volunteer survey results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to offer suggestions and comments to our survey last term. We will be altering the format of future volunteer meetings in response to this. Please continue to share with us any ideas and suggestions to enhance the ARCh experience

Easyfundraising

If you shop online, were you aware that Easyfundraising partners with over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice, such as ARCh?

It won't cost you any extra as the cost is covered by the brand. You can sign up here:

[ARCh \(Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire\) Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)

So each time you want to buy something online, head to the Easyfundraising page, search for your retailer, click on the link and shop as normal and ARCh will receive a donation at no extra charge to you! It's as simple as that!



Special thanks to former ARCh volunteer Rose Somerset who captured the afternoon and the award winners on camera

Christopher Quinton Award

Inga Martin (left) was awarded the prestigious Christopher Quinton Award for her dedicated service to both Larkrise and Botley schools over many years.

Awards season!



Last term we celebrated our own award – ARCh was Highly Commended in OCVA's Volunteer Organisation of the Year category.

You can read all about the awards here

<https://ocva.org.uk/volunteering/ocva-volunteer-celebration-awards-2024-winners/>

Emma pictured (centre) with the award at the celebration

Cherwell Business Awards finalists!!



We were excited to be chosen as one of the three finalists in the Charity and Community award. Jane, Elaine and ARCh trustees Derek Thornhill and Curtis Leung attended the Gala Dinner last week, we didn't win but proud to be a finalist.



It is a testament to the dedicated work of all our volunteers and staff, an excellent endorsement of the charity of which we are extremely proud.

Funding Thanks to

Councillors Trish Elphinstone, Judy Roberts and Donna Ford who are supporting ARCh via their Councillor Priority Funds

Stanton Ballard
Localgiving
Wheatley Parish Council
Bicester Town Council
University of Oxford
Well Together Fund
Stonegarth Trust

We have an ongoing need for more volunteers across Oxfordshire, in order to fulfil funding requirements in **Didcot, Berinsfield and the Blackbird Leys area of Oxford**. Please help us recruit by spreading the word or signposting us to venues or publications where we may be able to advertise.

Bicester Good Citizen Award

ARCh reader Mary Sewell received this award at Bicester's Mayor Making Ceremony.



An award thanking Mary for commitment and support she has given to Southwold School in Bicester over the years. Mary said "I would like to say a big thank you to you and everyone at ARCh for taking me on and giving me such a wonderful opportunity, I love and treasure my time spent with the children at school and would never want to stop helping them, they make me smile and it is a pleasure to spend time at school."

Oxford's Older People's Day 2024

IN OXFORD TOWN HALL

Tuesday 1st October 10am – 3pm

Various different organisations will be available throughout the day to share information and advice.

ARCh will have a stall at the event to recruit more volunteers. We would love to see anyone who wishes to pop in and say hello.

ARCh Great Book Giveaway

Clare, our Oxford Field Worker, is organising a book giveaway at

St Mary's Church Hall, Iffley
Saturday 19th October from 1.30 to 3.30pm

We hope to get lots of lovely donations to ARCh from the people who come along.

Volunteer Voice

You have to laugh!
Don's funny story...

Just a note to tell you about a truly shocking turn of conversation today at school. I have a very reluctant reader with whom I have a generally playful relationship. As an indication of his reluctance to read with me, when he comes against a word such as, say, 'alteration', what mumbles out of his mouth sounds like "allermumbleun". I say, "Let's have a look at that word. Four syllables. That last bit always says 'ayshun' so the rest is easy. What does the word say?"

He replies, "Allerumshun." I try again, "Come on, I'm onto your little game. You can do it as easily as I can...it's alter... go ahead.. alter..."

"Four syllables?" he offers. "That's blah blah blah blah". At this point I know for certain that he's playing me up and not going to cooperate. But I've made my point about parsing words into syllables. Lately he's taken to varying his game by mispronouncing a simple word, like 'fast' instead of 'first' and then telling me I didn't notice.

Today he did this twice.
On the second occasion, he informed me, "You don't read very well. I think you need help with reading."



We wanted to share a poem written by one of our Banbury reading helpers, Rob with his ARCh children...

Rob's poem

Well every day we come to school
And we always think it's very cool

Our class teacher is called Miss Brooks
She likes us **quiet** and reading books

We're in Year three which mean we're
eight
Apart from some who were born a bit late

Every day we learn something new
(but we also forget some things too)

We love our school and we love our friends
And we'll miss them when the school year
ends

But always, always just remember
We'll be back together in September.



Tribute to Marion Dorrington

Marion was a valued ARCh volunteer at Bayards Hill and Windmill Primary Schools in Oxford. Her daughter Sarah shared with us...

Marion was a twin, a dedicated GP in Donnington Health Centre for 35 years, a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She loved her work with the ARCh. She will be remembered for many things, including her poems, her kindness, generosity and observant humour. She inspired us with the way she lived with a rapidly progressive motor neurone disease in the last 2 years of her life, always prioritising friends, family and trips in to the garden. She will be greatly missed by many. Please share any thoughts, tributes or donations to MNDA here:

<https://mariondorrington.muchloved.com>

