



Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action

## NEWS RELEASE

**\*\*Photo opportunity\*\***

**For immediate release**

**27 June 2011**

### **New Patron joins charity's outing to sensory farm**

The Archway Foundation is having a sensory outing to Broughton Grounds Farm on Saturday 2 July, to raise awareness of the distress caused by loneliness.

Friends and staff will be visiting the farm near Banbury, to take part in the 'Let nature feed your senses' project. This exciting opportunity is run by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) and the Sensory Trust to provide hands-on and sensory-rich experiences for people who cannot access the countryside because of age, ability or social situation.

Tony Baldry MP, North Oxfordshire, will be joining the outing in his first event as new Patron of The Archway Foundation. He said:

"It is with great delight that I will be joining the outing at a farm I know well, and I look forward to meeting the staff and Friends. Archway meets outside my constituency but there is a plan to develop its work into the rural communities in Oxfordshire, and I am pleased to be asked to help promote that."

Social activities, such as the outing to Broughton Grounds Farm, are an essential part of Archway's work. Loneliness can affect anyone at any time during their lives and can be sparked by ill health, bereavement, relationship break up, redundancy and retirement, and sometimes for no obvious reason.

Revd Canon Glyn Evans, Chair Archway Board of Trustees, commented: "In the current economic climate, trips are sadly less frequent, but this outing has been made possible and affordable for us thanks to the wonderful support of the 'Let nature feed your senses' project'."

The Archway Foundation works primarily in Oxford city, along with Abingdon and the Vale of the White Horse district, but is keen to widen its work into rural areas across the county.

More follows/



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Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) offers support to groups like The Archway Foundation, including help to find funding or volunteers and to give advice about running a charity or community group.

**END**

### **Notes to editors**

Tony Baldry MP will be joining the outing to the farm at midday. Please let the press office know if you are planning to attend or if you would like photographs post event.

### **For further information contact:**

Sarah Beer, Communications and Promotions Officer  
01865 258 915 or 07540 703366 (10am-2pm)  
sarah.beer@ocva.org.uk

### **About Archway**

The Archway Foundation (known simply as Archway) was established in Oxford in 1982 to help serve those hurt by loneliness. Archway helps relieve some of the distress caused by loneliness. It does this through a variety of supportive activities and by recruiting an essential team of volunteers.

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

### **About 'Let nature feed your senses'**

This is a Big Lottery funded project run in partnership between LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) and the Sensory Trust to engage people with nature, food and farming on a network of farms and nature reserves across England. The project works with people that currently cannot or do not access the countryside because of age, ability or social situation, including people who have a disability; people who live in an area of high social deprivation; people aged 65 or over; school children who either have a disability, or live in an area of high social deprivation or attend a school that has been unable to previously access farm visits.

[www.letnaturefeedyoursenses.org](http://www.letnaturefeedyoursenses.org)

### **About Tony Baldry MP**

Tony has been serving North Oxfordshire for 27 years. He works closely with local organisations and residents groups. Tony has made over 413 speeches since the start of the 2005 Parliament, according to the House of Commons Library. He is ranked 20<sup>th</sup> out of all backbench MPs to have made a speech on the floor of the House of Commons or Westminster Hall in the 2008/09 session [www.tonybaldry.co.uk/about-tony](http://www.tonybaldry.co.uk/about-tony)

### **About OCVA**

OCVA is the main umbrella body for the Oxfordshire voluntary and community sector. We provide advice, information and training, act as advocates and representatives, and build partnerships.



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