

MyVoice Roadshow coming to Church Street Westminster

Local young people invited to lead new arts project

Church Street Library is delighted to have been selected as one of five libraries across the UK to take part in the MyVoice Roadshow, a groundbreaking reading and writing festival led by young people.

The MyVoice Roadshow is the first of its kind in England. On 27 July 2011 Church Street Library will host a programme of fun, creative events, workshops, exhibitions and performances focused around reading and writing which will have been programmed and promoted by local young people.

Delivered by Westminster Libraries in collaboration with local partners and with the support of publishers, writers and creative professionals, this one-off event aims to entice and enthuse the young people of Church Street by giving them the opportunity to meet writers and artists, explore their own creative expression and potentially unearth new local talent in the process.

The MyVoice Roadshow demonstrates the vital role of libraries in promoting reading and writing in local communities. See 'Notes to editors'. It is being run nationally by The Reading Agency, the independent charity working to inspire more people to read more, and is supported by Arts Council England.

Church Street Library is on the look-out for young people aged 11 to 19 years old who want to get involved in promoting and programming the Church Street MyVoice Roadshow. Young people are being invited to become part of the youth planning group who will meet regularly to help design, develop and run the roadshow. Training will be provided and there is the potential for accreditation through volunteering.

For more information, including enquiries from local schools, youth and arts organisations wishing to get involved in the Church Street MyVoice Roadshow, please contact Alison Clarke, Learning Support Librarian on 020 7641 5490 or email churchstreetlibrary@westminster.gov.uk. Or young people can find out more at a special open afternoon to be held at the library on Wednesday 4 May, 9.30am – 5.00pm.

For Church Street MyVoice Roadshow press passes and local information:
Alison Clarke, Learning Support Librarian on 020 7641 5490 or email
churchstreetlibrary@westminster.gov.uk

For general information about MyVoice and The Reading Agency:
Debbie Hyde, Oasis Media:
debbie.hyde@oasismedia.co.uk
07956 320 486

Notes to editors:

- The MyVoice Roadshow will take place over one week (23 - 30 July 2011). It comprises five day-long events with workshops, exhibitions and performances focused around reading and writing. These events will be at:
 - Weymouth Library, Dorset
 - St Helens Central Library, St Helens
 - Church Street Library, Westminster
 - Great Yarmouth Community Library, Norfolk
 - Sunderland City Library and Arts Centre, Sunderland
- The MyVoice Roadshow is part of a larger MyVoice platform, working with 20 library services over the next three years across England, led by young people and funded by The Big Lottery. MyVoice will open up creative reading and writing opportunities to 30,000 disadvantaged young people aged 11 to 19 in England who would not usually use their library. MyVoice will get them involved in their local branches and youth spaces by choosing books for their peers, managing a budget, interviewing staff and developing ideas online. Contact Laurie Jarman: laurie.jarman@readingagency.org.uk or visit: www.readingagency.org.uk/young/myvoice
- The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more. It is funded by the Arts Council and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. (www.readingagency.org.uk)