

The Gatehouse Newsletter

Oxford's Free Drop-in Cafe

Summer 2018



The Gatehouse wins Lifetime Achievement Award

At the OCVA 2018 Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards ceremony in June the Gatehouse scooped the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in the face of some very stiff competition. The other three shortlisted charities in this category were Asylum Welcome, Home-Start Oxford, and Restore, any of which would have made worthy winners.

Katrina Horne, the Gatehouse project director, said, "this is a huge honour for The Gatehouse, and a massive pat on the back for all Gatehouse volunteers past and present. OCVA Awards are all about recognising the dedication and tireless efforts of volunteers. Without them we wouldn't have been able to provide essential support for the homeless and vulnerably housed in Oxford for the past 30 years."

More details can be found on the OCVA website:

www.ocva.org.uk.



Left to right: Award Sponsors CLARK HOWES with Dee and David.

Join the Gatehouse Crew!

The Gatehouse 1988 – 2018 30th Anniversary Celebration!

The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, 10th October 2018, 5-8pm

On World Homeless Day this year

Guests, Volunteers, Staff, and Supporters of the Gatehouse are welcome!

Oxford North Rotary Club: A Year of Fundraising

Oxford North Rotary Club have supported the Gatehouse over a number of years. Over the past twelve months the Gatehouse has been their charity of the year. This has benefitted the charity by way of several fundraising activities. These range from their annual 'Rowathon', and a hearty 'Beaujolais Breakfast', to a concert of piano music for the left hand given by pianist Stefan Warzycki. In addition to their enthusiasm for the causes they support, one has to admire the Rotary Club's ability to devise novel, and successful ways of raising funds for charities. Rotary Club President David Bloch has announced that overall, the Club has raised approximately £10,000 for the Gatehouse.

To find out more about the Oxford North Rotary Club, visit their website: www.oxfordnorthrotary.org.uk



David Bloch with Katrina and David in June, 2018.



Beaujolais Breakfast



Hit the Road Jack...

Throughout the summer, Gatehouse staff and volunteers will be out and about at events near you, helping to spread the word about our activities. After our appearance at the Oxford Eid Extravaganza, we'll be at the Elder Stubbs Festival on 18th August.

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Meet the Team: Volunteer Profiles

Nikul Patel: Literary Group

With a background working in publishing, when I started coming to the Gatehouse in October 2015 I naturally became heavily involved in the Literary Group, headed by Tes. From the start I found the entire experience amazingly rich, I've met so many wonderful people (both guests and volunteers).



Ever since I've had many interesting and engaging discussions with guests on all manner of subjects. Our writing and reading groups have been especially fertile ground for sparking lively discussions and it has been continually awe inspiring to see guests create such vivid, imaginative and delicate works of writing over the course my time at the Gatehouse. In our reading groups both guests and volunteers take turns reading passages from novels, short stories or plays, giving everyone a chance to improve upon their reading and public speaking skills in a supportive way. We also have structured writing sessions, where as a group we use prompts to encourage creative writing, often taking the form of poems, short fiction and essays. I have personally enjoyed talking to some of the guests about larger writing projects they are working on and helping them develop their ideas.

The Gatehouse offers a very special space where people can feel safe, social and creative, which is so important for some of the most vulnerable people in our society. I am very glad I have the opportunity, through the Literary Group and The Gatehouse, to meet such wonderful people.

If you would like to join the literary group, please contact Tes: tes@oxfordgatehouse.org.

St Matthew's Sandwich Group

Sandwich Groups help The Gatehouse by removing the expense of buying ingredients, and by saving other volunteers the time it takes to make eight loaves of sandwiches while they are setting up the venue for a session.

The St Matthew's Grandpont Sandwich Group originally consisted of a group of young mothers on maternity leave. Eventually they all went back to work, and no new members arrived. Following a gap of a couple of years a group of older ladies decided to resurrect it.

We make and deliver sandwiches on the second Tuesday of every month – one brown and one white loaf of ham, cheese, egg and tuna. We make the sandwiches in the church hall kitchen, which has a five star EH rating, to comply with environmental health regulations. We pack the sandwiches back into the bread bags, attach a label listing any allergens (eggs, dairy, fish, etc.) and deliver them to The Gatehouse in an insulated cool bag to keep them chilled during transit.

The group are all members of the St Matthew's congregation. Ann Poulter has been a Gatehouse volunteer for many years, and currently coordinates sessions on alternate Tuesdays. Pat Smith is married to former Gatehouse Director Andrew Smith and has a similar long relationship with the project. Sand Beedell, Margaret Macmillan, Sue Box and Joy Wilson are all long term supporters and welcome the chance to contribute to the support Gatehouse provides to vulnerable members of the local community.



Fundraising & Volunteering

Oxford Half Marathon – 7th October 2018: Email Katrina@oxfordgatehouse.org to register (we pay the fee!) More info on <https://uk.virginsport.com/oxford-half-marathon>.

Other initiatives: We gratefully accept donations in food, clothes, money and anything you can spare! Please email admin@oxfordgatehouse.org for more information.

To volunteer: If you would like to volunteer at the Gatehouse, visit our website at www.oxfordgatehouse.org/volunteer, or email us at admin@oxfordgatehouse.org.