

# The Gatehouse Newsletter

Oxford's Free Drop-in Cafe

Summer 2019



## Celebrating homeless art at the North Wall

From 18th to 22nd June a wide selection of works produced by members of the art and literary groups at the Gatehouse will feature in an exhibition at the North Wall Arts Centre in North Parade entitled 'Wherever I lay my hat'. Our thanks to both the North Wall and St Edwards School for making this exciting venture possible

A highlight of the week will be a free fundraising concert featuring the St Giles Street Choir taking place from 6.30pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. No booking or tickets needed, just come along and enjoy the evening.

See [www.oxfordgatehouse.org](http://www.oxfordgatehouse.org) and [www.thenorthwall.com](http://www.thenorthwall.com) for more details.



## Pull on your running shoes!

Raise money for the Gatehouse by running in the Oxford Half Marathon, 13th October 2019. Minimum age 17, wheelchair entrants welcomed.

E-mail [fundraising@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:fundraising@oxfordgatehouse.org) to register (we pay)

For more information see

<https://uk.virginisport.com/event/oxford-half-2019/oxford-half>



## Dates for your diary ...

Our publicity stand will be popping up at various events over the summer to help publicise our charity.

Drop in for a chat at:

*Oxford Eid Festival, Cheney School, 9th June*



*Cowley Road Carnival  
7th July*

*Elder Stubbs Festival  
Rymers Lane  
17th Aug*

## Gold star performance!

Over the past year we've received a massive amount of support from many schools in Oxford and beyond. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the pupils and staff involved.

- ◆ Wychwood School produced gift cards and had a sponsored sleep out (in February!) which resulted in over £1,000 worth of sleeping bags for us to hand out to guests.

- ◆ Hanborough Manor Primary School sold Christmas play programmes and ran a charity week to raise nearly £1,000.

- ◆ Several groups at St Edward's School carried out a number of activities including an Iron Man event, raising in total a massive £5,000.

Also huge thanks to other donors who have provided food, clothes, money and more. They include many individuals, faith groups, our local Universities and commercial organisations, who will be highlighted in future newsletters.



## Oxford Round Table and Mayfield Press

We are pleased to announce the support of two local organisations which will be funding all of our printing costs for 2019. Local printers Mayfield Press, who are based in Cowley will be printing everything from specialist requirements connected to our exhibition at The North Wall through to standard documents such as our leaflets, posters, and this publication.

This has all been made possible with the support of Oxford Round Table. Our thanks to both organisations and we look forward to developing a close and fruitful relationship over the coming months.



# The Gatehouse Newsletter

## Meet the team: - Volunteer Profile David Gee

When I moved to Oxford 18 months ago, I was shocked to see the number of homeless people living here. I had reservations about giving money on the street, but just walking past bothered me more. I asked around for a local project that takes volunteers and everyone said, 'try the Gatehouse.'

Within a week I'd been shown around and I was making tea and serving up sandwiches. When I was encouraged from the first session to remember the one thing we are there for – to welcome our guests – I knew that the Gatehouse had a philosophy I could believe in.

In general I'm sceptical about organisations that try to 'help' other people – it so often feels like taking pity, or trying to rescue people without knowing anything about them or what they might want. I'm pretty sure that kind of thing doesn't help anyone. The Gatehouse hasn't been like that at all. It offers a bit of hospitality, that's all: a reliable, safe place out of the cold to eat and talk (or sit quietly) and a bit of extra support if it's asked for.

Along with my weird love of washing up, I most enjoy sitting and eating with the guests. Sometimes I'll get to hear about a guest's past, which always feels like I'm being trusted with something personal and private. Sometimes I'll be told something about the future – the art course a guest has just finished, or how another guest is working on the paperwork for a new home.

But most of the time we're just making tea and serving sandwiches. It's not much, but for two hours a day I know it's worthwhile.



## Looking for something worthwhile to do in your spare time?

Why not join us as a regular volunteer helping to run our evening drop in sessions throughout the year (5 to 7pm Mon-Fri, 4 to 6pm Sun), or as a 'seasonal volunteer' providing back up around Easter, Christmas and the summer holidays when many of our regular volunteers are unavailable.

E-mail [admin@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:admin@oxfordgatehouse.org) to volunteer today | For more details see: [www.oxfordgatehouse.org/volunteer](http://www.oxfordgatehouse.org/volunteer)

## Other Fundraising Initiatives

### The Oxford Lottery

Buy your lottery tickets for £1 each, the Gatehouse receives 50p and you have a chance of winning £25,000!

[www.oxfordlottery.org/  
support/the-gatehouse](http://www.oxfordlottery.org/support/the-gatehouse)



### Donating money, clothes and more...

See our website for details:

[www.oxfordgatehouse.org/support-us](http://www.oxfordgatehouse.org/support-us)

You can support the Gatehouse by raising funds, and also by donating other items such as food, clothes, toiletries and sleeping bags that help us to reduce our costs. We rely on the generosity of local individuals and organisations to provide most of our funds.

### Amazon Smile

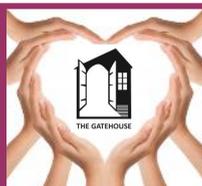
Simply set up an Amazon Smile account, choose the Gatehouse as your charity, and we'll receive a donation every time you buy products. Go on, make us smile!

[www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk)



## The Gatehouse

Supporting Oxford's homeless and vulnerably housed community since 1988



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

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