

▲ Charity exhibits art created by the city's homeless



Artwork created by the homeless on display at the Gatehouse's 'Wherever I Lay My Hat' exhibition

AN EXHIBITION of art created by Oxford's homeless community took place in the city last week.

The exhibition, entitled 'Wherever I Lay My Hat' included a wide selection of works produced by members of charity the Gatehouse's art and literary groups.

A highlight of the week was a fundraising concert held at The North Wall Arts Centre on Friday.

After a lively performance including an eclectic mix of songs from musicals, pop, folk, gospel and much more, Emily Marshall, the Street Choir's leader explained about the thinking behind starting the group.

She said: "The Street Choir was formed last September, and our members include guests, volunteers and staff from the Gatehouse who join in for the joy of singing together.

"It is a community choir in the truest sense,

meeting weekly for a relaxed rehearsal with plenty of banter and laughter. This was a fantastic chance for us to help the Gatehouse to raise funds, and to have a fun evening.

"The audience certainly seemed to enjoy themselves, especially whenever they were given a chance to sing along with the choir."

The Gatehouse has been supporting Oxford's homeless and vulnerably housed community for more than 30 years.

Missing medallion or duck donation?

ORGANISERS behind a fundraiser involving a giant duck are concerned that one donor has accidentally given them a medallion.

Ros Fernley, who is helping Tim Dodd-Wilson's month-long journey with inflatable duck Lily, spotted the St Christopher piece in coins they had collected for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.



She said: "We counted the money from Oxford (£500, very pleased) but are worried someone might have given it by accident."

Bat man in court

A DRUNK who smashed every window of an Oxford pub is due back in court tomorrow.

Mark Cordell, of Canal Street, Oxford, will return to Oxford Crown Court after being given four months to pay for the damage at Jericho's Old Bookbinders and tackle his alcoholism – or face a jail sentence.

The 55-year-old took a baseball bat to the Victor Street pub's ground-floor windows at about 1.30am on Boxing Day.

Sentencing in February, Recorder Rhona Campbell ordered that Cordell must find £5,900 for compensation and undertake 'practical reflection' to curb his alcohol issue.

Heat on homeless

OXFORD City Council is set to provide additional services for rough sleepers, with temperatures set to rocket.

Homeless people can access the Porch Day Centre, Gatehouse and Homeless Oxfordshire for food, shade and showers.

The public are asked to report concerns about rough sleepers to OxSpot.