

# THE GATEHOUSE



SUMMER 2026  
NEWSLETTER

## COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATES

The Gatehouse community centre continues to be a busy and welcoming space, with guests accessing hot food and drinks, practical support and opportunities to connect with others. Last year saw over 700 guests in our café, and we continue to see consistently higher attendance, reflecting the ongoing pressures many people in our community are facing.

Alongside regular café sessions we run a range of activities including art, photography, and wellbeing sessions, and one-to-one support. These play an important role reducing isolation and improving confidence and wellbeing for many guests. You can find out more about the impact of our services in our Annual Reports, downloadable on the News page of our website.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our volunteers, staff,

trustees and supporters. Their time and generosity help make the Gatehouse the unique and supportive community it is.



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Looking for something worthwhile to do in your spare time? Why not join us as a regular volunteer and help run our daily café sessions?

To help us continue providing a safe, respectful and consistent service, we have recently introduced a new volunteer induction process, helping new volunteers feel confident and supported before starting their first session and enabling them to understand how sessions run day to day.

Email [admin@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:admin@oxfordgatehouse.org) to volunteer.

**Further details:**

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



## BIG GIVE: DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

You've got another chance to see your donation having twice as much impact by taking part in the 2026 Big Give Small Charity week campaign. In 2025 we successfully doubled our average monthly donations in a single week, enabling us to provide even more essential support for our guests, and we're aiming for a repeat this year.

The idea is simple. Big Give, together with their partner the Postcode Society Trust are offering matched funding that will double any donation you make via our campaign page on their website during the week 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29th June. Our Gatehouse community centre drop-in services' campaign page can be found by searching for '**Gatehouse Oxford**' at <https://donate.biggive.org/explore>

This campaign will feature strongly on the News page of our website and on our social media sites so you can look there for more details and direct links to our campaign page. Adding Gift Aid will make your donation go even further so remember to do this if you are a UK tax payer.

We rely strongly on the support of our local community and any donation, however big or small, will make somebody's life that little bit better. Spreading the news about this campaign will also help so please also share this information with your friends, family, colleagues and members of local organisations that you are involved with.



More information



Our campaign page

## ORGANISED SUPPORT DOWN TO A TEE

Actually, no golf related activities (yet), but we've received support from many local organisations over the past year, and we'd like to thank three of them here, namely the Oxfordshire Freemasons, Revvity and NKS Contracts (Central) Ltd.. If your organisation would like to support the Gatehouse please contact us via [fundraising@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:fundraising@oxfordgatehouse.org) to discuss ways you could help.

### NKS CONTRACTS

We are grateful to NKS Contracts volunteering their services, upgrading our rather worn-out kitchen into a shiny, new work area more fit for preparing food for guests in our café. The work was carried out in response to a project on Oxford City Council's Match My Project scheme. This scheme matches up needs with local companies who provide support through offering their skills, facilities or services free of charge.



Photo: new kitchen upgrades thanks to NKS!



Photo: Zoe and Mair with representatives from the Oxfordshire Freemasons

### OXFORDSHIRE FREEMASONS

Freemasons from across Oxfordshire have continued to support the Gatehouse through a wide variety of food and other non-monetary donations, funding for our clothes store and a range of other donations and grants from individual Lodges and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. We highly appreciate the close relationship that has developed between the two organisations over the past few years.

### REVVITY

A huge thank you to Revvity for their fantastic support during our partnership as their Charity of the Year. Their team has shown incredible enthusiasm through fundraising activities including a donut sale, furniture and greeting card sales, an Easter Egg Hunt and Prize Draw, and the Revvity Gives Back initiative.



Photo: Revvity's donation box in May

Together, they have already raised an amazing £1,302! We are so grateful for their generosity and continued support.

## IF YOU COULD GRANT ME A WISH...

... I'd wish for a grant. A significant proportion of the Gatehouse's income each year comes from grants, and we've now reached the end of our major multiple year grants from both Lloyd's Bank Foundation for England & Wales, and the National Lottery Fund RC London and South East Region, which have both played a major part in funding the expansion of our services over recent years. We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to them and to all organisations who have awarded us grants over the past year, including B&Q, the Hobson Charity, the Passionists UK, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire Homeless Movement, OxPAT, and St Aldate's Parochial Charity all of whom have provided significant funds to help ensure the long-term sustainability of our services.



Over the years we have developed a diverse income stream and ways to reduce costs that includes support from local businesses, community organisations and individuals, and methods as diverse as participating in sponsored events, leaving a Gift in your Will, or donating food or clothes. You can read more about how you can support the Gatehouse throughout this newsletter and on the Support Us pages of our website.

## BINGO! TWO HOUSEY-HOUSEY VISITS

Over the past year both Oxford MPs have ventured from the House of Commons to visit the Gatehouse. As well as seeing our facilities and mingling with guests we took the opportunity to talk with them about issues affecting homeless individuals.



First to visit was **Layla Moran**, in November 2025. Subsequently Layla has sponsored an Early Day Motion highlighting the work of the Gatehouse, and issues faced by our guests, particularly homeless women. **Annaliese Dodds** visited in May this year, and heard details about LEAF activities (see article on page 4), resulting in productive discussions, identifying areas where she could use her contacts and influence to support us.



# LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Gifts in Wills make up a significant, and growing proportion of donations to UK charities by individuals and we have been able to carry out major improvements to our services in recent years thanks to legacies. Our financial sustainability is likely to become even more dependent on this sector over the longer term, which is why we are encouraging people to explore this topic.

There are three good reasons why more and more people are leaving Gifts in their Wills. Unlike normal donations it won't impact on your current finances, you can choose as big or small a sum as you want, and it's a simple process. The Gifts in Wills page on our website includes a straightforward guide to this subject and links to a wealth of further useful information: [www.oxfordgatehouse.org/support-us/gifts-in-wills](http://www.oxfordgatehouse.org/support-us/gifts-in-wills)



Please note that with our change to a CIO the name and registered charity number to include in your will are now 'The Gatehouse' and '1216065' respectively. If you've already included us in your Will using the old details then the new CIO should be recognised as a direct replacement. If you're updating your Will it would make sense to change these details.

This year we'll be taking part in the national Remember a Charity Week again, which runs from 7th to 13th September. Keep an eye out for more on our website and social media sites. Your support can make a huge difference to us and our guests over the long term, so please consider leaving the Gatehouse a Gift in your Will.

## SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We'd like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to all of our supporters who have helped us out by volunteering, donating, or raising funds for us. Unfortunately we haven't got room to mention everyone, but here are just a few of the local organisations who have supported Oxford's homeless community through the Gatehouse over the past year. At the Gatehouse our expenditure continues to increase year on year as we widen our range of services and expand our capacity to meet growing demand. This year our costs are forecast to be over **£500,000**.



We rely heavily on local organisations and individuals for support and there are many ways that you can help including donations of money, clothes, food and other items, organising or taking part in fundraising events, and volunteering at our drop-in sessions or as part of a Food Group. We'd particularly like to hear from local businesses and community groups interested in discussing a wider support package.



For further information, please contact us via [fundraising@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:fundraising@oxfordgatehouse.org) or visit the Support Us page on our website using this **QR code**.

## LEAF CONTINUES TO BLOSSOM...

Our Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF) is a highly successful service that enables individuals with lived experience to have a voice in improving service delivery across Oxfordshire and nationally, whilst offering members new opportunities for personal growth. The last year has been a period of rebuilding and renewed purpose for LEAF, with a major relaunch last year introducing a new two tier membership model and a structured 'Experts by Experience' (EBE) training pathway. The first batch of EBE graduates were awarded certificates following completion of their Induction course, and went on to embark on other courses: Peer mentoring, Restorative Practice, and Return to Education. The next EBE Induction course begins this June.

LEAF members also delivered 38 pieces of work across health, equity, restorative justice, criminal justice, academic research, policy influence, training, and national lived experience development—demonstrating the strength, resilience, and expertise of its members. Alongside this, members participated in creative activities including visits to Blenheim Palace and Weston Super-Mare, and photography and art tours and workshops, with some of their works exhibited in Oxfordshire ArtWeeks.



LEAF Experts by Experience Awards 2025

## ALL CHANGE AT THE GATEHOUSE!

By the time you read this Newsletter the Gatehouse will hopefully have undergone a complete transformation! That sounds pretty radical, but what we're talking about here is a change in charity structure from a Charitable Trust (our status since 1991) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It's a common move by many charities of a similar size to the Gatehouse as a CIO status provides Trustees with a better framework for more effective governance of the charity.

### So what's changing?

Well, we've got a brand new registered charity number (1216065), and our official charity name has been shortened to simply 'the Gatehouse', which is what everybody already calls us anyway. That does affect some donations such as Gifts in Wills – see page 3 of this newsletter plus our website (Gifts in Wills and Donate Money pages) for details. Also, we took the opportunity to update our charitable aims, which are now “to relieve poverty and financial hardship among homeless people and other members of the community in need through the provision of a community hub and additional support services.”

### Is that it?

Well in practical terms, yes, those are the only changes you're likely to notice. Our staff and volunteers will be the same, our policies, systems, website and social media likewise, and we'll continue to provide the same range of services and activities in the same place and at the same times. So, all change, but in practice no change. Or as our CEO, Sasha East puts it “It's like having extensive remedial work done at the dentist – a long, painful process for us, but hopefully all you'll notice is our gleaming smile.”

## THE GATEHOUSE

Our social media sites now include a **new Bluesky account!**



@oxfordgatehouse



@thegatehouseoxford



www.oxfordgatehouse.org



@oxfordgatehouse.bsky.social

Follow us



Buy your lottery tickets for £1 each for a chance to win up to £25,000! [www.oxfordlottery.org](http://www.oxfordlottery.org)

You can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you shop via **easyfundraising** – at no extra cost to yourself!



Scan this QR code to visit our easyfundraising page.