



The Oxford Food Bank has experienced the most exciting and challenging period of change over the past year with more people than ever benefiting from its work in providing food for the needy in the Oxford area - and saving tonnes of good produce from going to waste. The number of volunteers has doubled to more than 100.

Deliveries are made to 41 charities, an increase of 50 per cent and the number of supermarkets and food suppliers supporting us has risen.

Our two vans are now on the road throughout each day, collecting and delivering 150 tonnes a year of food which otherwise would have been sent to land fill.

In recognition of its growth the Food Bank is now recognised

as a medium-sized charity by the Charity Commissioners and will be slightly altering its structure to reflect this. An Annual General Meeting will be held in January where Trustees will be elected and the constitution will be voted on.

All volunteers working with the Food Bank as well as representatives of both suppliers and the charities we support are eligible to be members and to attend the meeting.

This newsletter outlines the work which has been done over the past 12 months and highlights the achievements as well as the challenges which we face going into a new and exciting era.

David Cairns

Robin Aitkin

co-founders, Oxford Food Bank

Making the Move

Until this year the Food Bank had been fortunate in being given its base for free - firstly in the old printing works in Lemarsh Road and more recently in the former Habitat store at Seacourt Tower.

However, at short notice, we had to vacate due to redevelopment and find other suitable premises.

The Trustees were able to conclude an agreement - in record time - to rent a unit nearby. Our new home is Unit 12, Curtis Yard Industrial Estate, Botley (pictured left).

Although it wasn't a huge distance, every piece of equipment and every scrap of food had to be moved, without interfering with our schedules of collections and deliveries.

As usual our volunteers rose to the challenge and within less than 24 hours from receiving the keys everything had been moved. Although the new base is ideal for our operations it does bring with it some substantial rental fees which will add to our costs.

WARM WELCOME FOR A SECOND FRIDGE

In 2012 the Food Bank received a £10,000 grant from the Gannett Foundation, the parent company of the Oxford Mail newspaper, to buy a walk-in chiller unit. This enabled us to increase sharply the amount of fresh produce - like fruit and vegetables - we were able to store.

This year the Mid-Countries Co-op funded a second chiller at our new premises at Curtis Yard, Botley, enabling us to expand significantly the amount of food we could handle while complying with strict environmental standards for food handling and hygiene.

This means that the food delivered to charities is carefully rotated according to normal "use by" and "best before" standards, as with produce bought in any supermarket, and the amount of food wasted has been reduced.

Another welcome development has been the decision of a locally-based technology company, Nominet, to select the Food Bank as their charity for fund-raising for the next two years. The company's charity action group will be holding



various events internally and also involving the general public to raise money for us.

A growing number of local organisations are supporting us, either through providing services free of charge, or making us their preferred charity. Rotary Clubs throughout Oxfordshire are giving us grants for specific purposes such as the purchase of our two vans. We also rely heavily on individual donations. These are our only sources of income. We do not receive any Government funding.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Food Bank is now four years old. We originally started with 3 volunteers using their own vehicles, without a base, picking up from one supermarket and delivering to five charities.

The Food Bank is now a full time business, involving over 100 volunteers, two vans, and a permanent base. Approximately half our monthly expenditure is met by donations from individuals who support us through bank standing orders and we have a very active fund-raising arm. Our volunteers are drawn from across the entire community of Oxford, from students to the retired.

We have a board of eleven Trustees that meet every month to oversee the running of the charity.

The Food Bank has now become a vital support organisation for the wonderful charities across Oxfordshire doing essential work within the community. Without the efforts of the Food Bank, it is fair to say that many of these charities would struggle to stay above water.

We are now a medium-sized charity, as defined by the Charity Commission, and as such we need to alter our organisation slightly with the formation of the

Food Bank Membership. This represents everyone with an interest in the Food Bank - volunteers, food suppliers and the charities we support.

To do this an Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday January 9th at 8pm at the West Oxford Community Association on Botley Road, Oxford opposite the turn to Osney Island.

This meeting will discuss the way forward for the Food Bank and we would very much like as many people as possible who are associated with the Food Bank to contribute ideas.

This is an opportunity for everyone to have their say!



FOOD BANK FACTS AND FIGURES

For every £ donated £25 of food is distributed free to more than 40 local charities
 Everyone is a volunteer - nobody gets paid. We depend on donations to keep going
 Each year we deliver £700,000 worth of food which otherwise would be wasted

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE OXFORD FOOD BANK

What we do is simple; we collect food, sort it and deliver to charities but the logistics are quite complicated. This is a typical day:

7.30 Collect bakery from supermarket

9.0 Driver/ volunteer team load the Nissan van for 10 deliveries to charities in Oxford and one supermarket collection

10.0 Second driver/ volunteer team load up the Ford van to deliver to 5 charities and collect from 4 food suppliers around Oxford

10.30 Volunteers arrive to clean and organise our base

11.30 Nissan van returns and is loaded with packaging and any food waste for disposal

13.00 Third volunteer team drives to Bicester for food collection and also to an Oxford supermarket

14.00 Fourth volunteer team drives to Didcot for food collection and delivers to charities in the town and in Abingdon.

14.00 Van returns from Bicester and volunteers sort and crate food for tomorrow's deliveries

3.30 The new food is stored according to produce type either in our chillers or in designated areas of our base.

3.30 Dicot van returns and food sorted.

4.30 Final check on vehicles and base.

Our 100 volunteers collectively work about 300 hours a week - the equivalent to 8 full-time jobs - Saturdays and Sundays included!



SUMMER IN THE CITY IS FUND-RAISING TIME



As well as spending a lot of time collecting and delivering food, we go out into the local community to explain the work of the Food Bank and hopefully

gain new supporters and raise money.

This summer we have been kept busy attending fetes and festivals in and around Oxford, handing out leaflets and shaking tins!

These have included the Oxford Green Fair, Cowley Road Carnival, Elder Stubbs Festival, Oxford University Rag event, Jericho and North Parade Markets.

In addition we have held a number of collections at local supermarkets throughout the year and into the run-up to Christmas. This year the need to raise funds has been more crucial

than ever because our running costs have doubled with the need to pay rent on our new base.

Wherever we have set up our stall people have been very interested in the Food Bank and many have come forward as volunteers and donors which is greatly appreciated.

Our objectives are twofold: to play our part in reducing the extraordinary amount of food wasted in the UK and locally to divert this food - virtually all of it fresh fruit and vegetables - to people in need within Oxfordshire, by supplying charities who in turn provide meals for the disadvantaged.

FOOD BANK FACTS AND FIGURES

Locally we are preventing 150 tonnes a year of good food from going to waste
Our deliveries provide up to 7,000 meals a week to people in food poverty
We collect and deliver 7 days a week, covering 30,000 miles a year





OUR CHARITIES

We provide food for the following Oxfordshire charities:

ACKHI
 Ark T Broome
 Asylum Welcome
 Barton Cafe
 Beehive
 BK Luwo
 Chabad of Oxford
 Community Soup Kitchen
 Donnington Doorstep
 East Oxford Children Centre
 Elder Stubbs
 Elms Road Children Centre
 Emmaus
 The Gatehouse
 Julian Housing
 Lucy Faithfull
 The Mill
 Mind, Cowley
 Mind Housing
 Mind, Abingdon
 Northway Children Centre
 One Foot Forward
 O'Hanlon House
 Open Door
 Pegasus School
 Refugee Resource
 Refresh Cafe
 Restore
 Rose Hill Community Centre
 Simon House
 South Abingdon C.C
 Stephen Freeman C.C
 Steppin' Stones
 Survivors
 Trax
 VoWH Foyer
 Windmill House
 Wood Farm C.C.
 Yellow Submarine Cafe

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are supported by the following organisations:

A.C.Nielsen
 Botley Baptist Church
 Botley Methodist Church
 Gannet Trust
 Goring Band
 John Wiley and Sons
 Midcounties Cooperative
 Nominet
 Oxfam
 Oxfizz
 St Aldates
 St Michaels and All Saints
 Six Oxfordshire Rotary Clubs
 Steria Employee Trust
 Tackley P.C.C.
 The Funding Network
 The Sandford Trust
 The Southall Trust
 Vertex
 All Soul's College
 Balliol College
 Brasenose College
 Christ Church
 Jesus College
 Linacre College
 Mansfield College
 Merton College
 New College
 Oriel College
 Somerville College
 St Hugh's College
 St John's College
 The Queen's College
 University College
 Wadham College
 Wolfson College

We apologise for any omissions from our list of donors which may have occurred.

Contact us:

For more information about the Oxford Food Bank please contact:

**Robin Tel: 07813 961841 or
 David Tel: 07884 318576**

or visit our website:

www.oxfordfoodbank.co.uk

We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers, as drivers or helpers.

You can help as frequently or as infrequently as you wish - we are very flexible! Why not come and see what we do?

If you would like to support us financially our website has details of how to donate by cheque, bank standing order or through Paypal.

We rely totally on our suppliers for food donations and our supporters to meet our running costs.

OUR SUPPLIERS

We are indebted to the following supermarkets and food wholesalers who freely donate food to us.

Alatoni	Bicester
Aldi	Botley
Bookers	Oxford
Chef Direct	Didcot
Fresh Direct	Bicester
Roots	Oxford
Sainsburys	Kidlington
Sainsburys	Littlemore
Tesco	Cowley
Waitrose	Headington

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