



Farewell and huge thanks to Nominet

Over the past two years the Charity Action Group at internet registration company Nominet has raised funds for OFB through an amazing variety of activities involving many of their staff.

Incredibly they managed to donate **over £25,000** to us during that time, which is equivalent to our total running costs for around six months!

We can't thank them enough for their tireless efforts in support of OFB, and can't overemphasize the impact their donations have made in enabling us to continue growing our operations.

Nominet we salute you and all of your wonderful staff!

Our newest van ...

One of the major items that we have bought with those funds raised by Nominet is this much needed, wonderful little van to join the three larger vehicles in our fleet.

It has given us even more flexibility in operations and is already getting plenty of use picking up and delivering food.



David Cairns and Robin Aitken of OFB with some of the many Nominet fundraisers



OFB volunteers with our new van

Our newest supplier: Waitrose, Botley Road

We are very pleased to announce that the new branch of Waitrose on Botley Road has already started supplying OFB with a wide range of produce.

Although the store only opened in October we already had arrangements in place from day one to pick up their products assigned for disposal.

We look forward to a long and fruitful(!) relationship.



Waitrose staff and some of their produce in our van

Meet the team—volunteer profiles

With over 100 volunteers at any one time we can't introduce them all personally in one go, but here are four of our enthusiastic helpers and the stories behind what they do for OFB:

After 30 years of working in the museum and art gallery world, in Spring 2014, I took a step out and set up my own company. My new life sees me continuing to curate exhibitions (eg Anselm Kiefer retrospective at the Royal Academy of Arts), writing on art, working on projects with organisations such as the Saatchi Gallery and Somerset House, strategic consultancy, mentoring and developing artists, helping people build private art collections and a bit of telly with SkyArts. All the fun bits of my previous jobs at the National Portrait Gallery (Director of Exhibitions & Collections for 18 years), Compton Verney (Director for 4 years), and the RA (Director of Exhibitions for 5 years). Like many of our volunteers, I also do a fair bit of governance work (Churches Conservation Trust, Grand Palais, Paris) but wanted to do something more meaningful and with a relevance to my Oxford community. Enter the Oxford Foodbank.

Following a visit to the glamorous Foodbank unit off the Botley Road and a meaningful encounter with Cathy and David Cairns, I realized that neither of them were quite sane and that it could all be rather fun. So I signed up and aim to help once a week, trying not to damage the van as we career around various parts of Oxford that I have never previously encountered.

Being a volunteer is a great endorphin release for me in that, coming from a Spanish background with a restaurateur father, I like nothing more than the social interaction and feeding of our customers, 'selling' from my pitch at the back of the van, and ensuring that our colleagues are left with delicious, often exotic food. That, and all the volunteers who open my mind to incredibly different and exciting worlds every time, leading me to know that behind every volunteer there is another great story ...

Kathleen



Kathleen delivering food to O'Hanlon House night shelter

Caroline



Caroline at the Oxford Food Bank base

I began volunteering at the Foodbank just over 18 months ago, after hearing a disturbing radio broadcast about the level of food poverty alongside an extraordinary level of food waste in this country. I was horrified! A friend of mine runs one of the charities we deliver to (PEEP) and she told me about the Oxford Foodbank.

I quickly settled into a pattern of helping out with deliveries twice a week and it's never boring! I enjoy meeting other volunteers. They are a fun bunch of people – you tend to get to know their life histories while travelling in the van, and the conversations can get very interesting!

Volunteers can do as much or as little as suits them, but by doing regular shifts I have got to know some of the volunteers at the various charities and understand their food needs and their preferences. Some have cooking facilities, while others don't, and there are some very creative people out there who can get quite excited by some of the more unusual foodstuffs we offer. They are more than happy to experiment with quinoa flakes or liquid egg... seeing large amounts of food get used and appreciated rather than wasted, is hugely satisfying. It makes sense!

Inevitably, some food doesn't get taken, but it's good to know that any waste can now be "digested" at Agrivert and used for other purposes.

I have found volunteering at the Oxford Foodbank to be a highly rewarding, fun experience and I am proud to be involved.

Lloyd

I was introduced to the Oxford Food Bank through the charity Headway Oxfordshire as I sustained a brain injury in 2013 after a fit and fall resulting in permanent damage to parts of my brain that help with cognitive and short term memory. After being told I may never be able to work again I struggled to cope as I have always been employed and am a fully qualified carpenter.

Joining the Foodbank has given me a purpose and a reason to get up in the morning. Not only am I giving something back but also being a volunteer has helped with my own confidence and on-going recovery.

I volunteer for 3 shifts a week for around 9 hours and to me it can feel like a 40 hour week as I tire easily. On those days I help collect food from the suppliers that support the Foodbank as well as deliver to some of the 60 plus charities that OFB helps. I also attend all of OFB's fundraising events to help raise support.

Volunteering to me is worth every minute as I feel like my old self. A big part of my personality is humour, something I didn't lose through my injury, and this together with interaction with other OFB volunteers helps get me through the day.



Lloyd sitting outside the OFB base on a bench he made from a reclaimed pallet

A final word from James, who is Lloyd's full time carer:

I have had the pleasure of seeing and owning some of the creative things that Lloyd made out of reclaimed pallet wood! With fantastic support and on-going encouragement from Cathy Gibb, an OFB volunteer and a friend of Lloyd's, he is putting his talents to good use.

Cathy didn't give up on Lloyd, proving to him that he can still create fantastic things out of wood. With pallets from local businesses around the OFB HQ and the use of Cathy's garden and shed, the first bench was made. To keep his creative skills alive Lloyd now plans to make and sell more benches, insect houses, bird tables and bird boxes.

Interested in knowing more? Please e-mail info@oxfordfoodbank.org

OxFizz Summer Schools raising money for OFB

Emma

One of the ways that Oxford Food Bank has raised money over the last couple of years is through volunteers teaching at the Oxford and Cambridge Summer School. The teaching is coordinated by OxFizz, a non-profit making organization that provides summer school tutors in return for donations to a charity of the volunteer's choice. Every summer, OxFizz are looking for Oxbridge postgraduates to give seminars and tutorials to 16 – 18 year olds on a range of subjects from Politics and Economics to History and Law.

I gave a series of Film Studies seminars about how stories are represented in film, including the representation of Britain and ideas about masculinity. For example, we talked about all the clichés and stereotypes about Britain that we see in films, then we watched some film extracts and considered how these stereotypes distort audience perception of British culture. One of the joys of teaching film is that it tends to attract enthusiasts – no one does Film Studies because their mum said it's a prestigious subject. The students were sharp, witty and engaged, full of ideas and opinions, including some polemical views about the attractiveness of various male actors.

I raised £510.64 for Oxford Food Bank (the hourly rate varies depending on the Summer School's profits, but this worked out at over £60 an hour!) For any Oxbridge postgraduates who are free in July or August and would like some extra teaching experience, this is a highly enjoyable way to put fuel in the Food Bank vans.

For more information, see www.oxfizz.org



OFB has received over £3,000 in total this year from OxFizz



Emma at the OFB stand at Elder Stubbs Festival, August 2015

For more details about becoming an Oxford Food Bank volunteer see www.oxfordfoodbank.org/support-us/volunteer or e-mail us via operations@oxfordfoodbank.org

OFB Supplier Profile:

Roots & Fresh Direct



In 2010 when we'd been going for about 18 months we got a call from someone at a company we'd never heard of – Fresh Direct in Bicester. It shows how little we knew at the time about the food industry because FD is a big player – a £250 million business built up from nothing by local Bicester man John Harris. The bloke on the line introduced himself as Mike Hiron and said he had some bread we might like to collect. We asked how much and he said about 1,000 loaves! That was a lot more than we could handle, but we went to Bicester and picked up some of it – and that was the start of a fruitful relationship.

Mike Hiron at the time was in charge of the Bicester site and when we had a proper meeting with him about what we wanted to do, he instantly grasped the concept and agreed to help us out. Immediately we started making daily collections to take away whatever the FD quality control people had decided was just not quite perfect enough to be sold to their exacting customers (who include many high-end restaurants and hotels). Our volunteers were constantly amazed and delighted by the quality of the produce we were picking up. Asparagus, mangoes, avocados – you name it, we picked it up.

Mike moved out of the FD Bicester operation in 2012 to begin a new, and highly successful, venture called Roots (which is part of the FD Group) situated on the Osney Mead estate. The collections from the Bicester site continue but Mike was keen that OFB should take surplus from the new operation too. Roots is now one of our best suppliers and we make a collection from them on a daily basis too.

So, how did it all start? It was Mike's initiative that set the ball rolling. A 'fruit and veg' man for more than 20 years he first contacted OFB because he had heard about us in the local media but his decision to help us out came from a very straightforward conviction that giving surplus food to charity is the right thing to do. And he has been as good as his word, making sure that instead of throwing food away OFB is able to continue giving it to people in need.

Our Suppliers

We are indebted to the supermarkets, food wholesalers and manufacturers who generously donate food to us:

Abundance	Oxford
Alatoni	Bicester
Aldi	Bicester
Aldi	Botley
Aldi	Didcot
Bookers	Oxford
Chef Direct	Didcot
Farmability	Wytham
Fresh Direct	Bicester
Nettlebed Creamery	
Roots	Oxford
Sainsburys	Bicester
Sainsburys	Kidlington
Rowse	Wallingford
Waitrose	Botley Road
Waitrose	Headington

Contact us:

The Oxford Food Bank is a charity with dual aims of reducing food waste and helping disadvantaged members of the local community. These aims are achieved through the daily redistribution of fresh food that would otherwise be thrown away by supermarkets and food wholesalers.

We are totally reliant on donations and volunteers to enable our operations to continue.

To find out more about volunteering see:

www.oxfordfoodbank.org/support-us/volunteer

For details on how you can send donations to us see:

www.oxfordfoodbank.org/support-us/make-a-donation

Keep up to date with the latest OFB news at:

www.oxfordfoodbank.org/about-us/news

General enquiries can be sent to us via e-mail or post at:

info@oxfordfoodbank.org

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