

Emmaus Oxford



The newsletter of Emmaus Oxford – Spring 2008



Above: Work has now started on site at Emmaus Oxford

The Great Leap Year for Emmaus Oxford!

The construction of our Emmaus Oxford Community Building is at last under way and as a result 2008 will be a leap year for Emmaus Oxford in more ways than one! The bulldozers had already moved in by the end of February and the long awaited building for 24 ex-homeless people ('companions') is now being built.

The final lynch pin in making this happen has been a partnership with Dominion Housing Group which has enabled us to attract major government funding from the Housing Corporation and CLG (Communities and Local Government). As soon as the building is completed, around May 2009, companions will begin to move in and a new Emmaus community will be born.

We look forward to welcoming Terry Waite on 25th March to sit on a bulldozer for the local media and officially celebrate the start of construction. Keep checking our website www.emmausoxford.org for news and photos of developments. The next year and a bit will be such an exciting time for us all, especially staff and supporters who will be watching the building grow on a daily basis!

A Big Thank You to Our Supporters

Emmaus Oxford has been in existence for several years now, experiencing disappointments and setbacks as well as great excitements and successes. The present 'team' have built on achievements that resulted from years of hard work by dedicated trustees, staff and volunteers: thanks and congratulations to you all.

But none of this would have come about without the support of hundreds more of you out there who have helped in one way or another – attending our events, making donations, getting your friends and colleagues involved – to bring us to this point.

From us at Emmaus Oxford, and on behalf of all the homeless people who will be able to turn their lives around through living and working here, an enormous and heartfelt thank you!

But We Are Not Quite There Yet!

It is wonderful that the capital costs of the residential building have now been met. However, we still need to raise an estimated £500,000 to equip the home, take over and equip a furniture store where the companions will work, and run the whole project for the first 4-5 years until it becomes financially independent. Any help that you can give us with this will be greatly appreciated!

New Faces

Since the publication of our last newsletter, the Trustees of Emmaus Oxford have welcomed two new members onto the Board. Julian Hubbard became a Trustee last summer, Dianne Bayfield early this year.

Julian

Julian Hubbard has a long-standing interest in homelessness, having worked as a volunteer with the Cyrenians in the Medway towns.

Arriving back in Oxford recently (where he both studied and taught for a while some years ago) reminded him of the plight of the many homeless in Oxford, especially as he lives right in the middle of the city where they are to be seen on the streets, especially by night. So it was an easy thing to decide when the Trustees of Emmaus Oxford asked if he would join them.... and all the easier when it became apparent that this was a great time to come on board with the new house just about to be built and the new community established.

As Archdeacon of Oxford he has plenty of opportunities for reminding churches about Emmaus and its Christian roots, and encouraging them to get involved.



Above: Emmaus Oxford Trustee Julian Hubbard

Dianne

Dianne Bayfield has been a long-term supporter of the Emmaus Oxford project, along with her husband Richard and through her church St Andrew's, North Oxford. She has enjoyed being a member of the events committee for the last year and now looks forward to



Above: Emmaus Oxford Trustee Dianne Bayfield

both chairing this committee and being a Trustee. She hopes to bring her background in marketing and her skills as a part time fundraiser to the organisation.

For Dianne, the Emmaus strap line 'giving people a bed ... and a reason to get out of it' encapsulates all that is unique to Emmaus. She has been especially moved by hearing Companions from Emmaus houses around the country speak of what it means to have not only a place to live but to be part of a community where they are valued and can contribute for the first time in many years. She is thrilled that at last the Oxford Emmaus Community is more than a dream.

New Furniture Store for Emmaus Oxford

Now that our community building is under way we are looking forward to running a furniture store, where our companions will start work as soon as they move in. We hope to bring you a

report in the next issue. Meantime, if you have furniture to offer, please contact the OCVA furniture store, using the details under 'contact us' on the back page.



New Lives

Emmaus really does change lives. Companion Mike Poole, who spoke at our fundraising lunch in September (see opposite) told us,

'I'm really glad Emmaus is coming to Oxford. Emmaus in Bristol has turned my life around and I can't sing its praises enough.'

To read how Emmaus has helped other companions turn their lives around, visit the Emmaus UK website at www.emmaus.org.uk where you will find a number of their stories.

Left: Chairs for sale in the corner of an Emmaus furniture store



Above: Martin Bell speaking at the Emmaus Oxford lunch

A Celebration Concert

This will be our next fundraising event and will be the first public opportunity to celebrate the start of building.

Sir Philip Ledger CBE – former Director of Music at King's College Cambridge – and two professional musician friends, Penelope Howard and Robin Morrish, have generously offered to perform a concert in aid of Emmaus Oxford. 'Chamber Music for a Summer's Evening' will include works by Mozart, John Ireland and Max Bruch.

It will take place on Friday 6th June at 8pm in Christ Church Cathedral, with interval refreshments in the Cathedral Garden. We look forward to a wonderful evening. More information and a booking form are available on a separate flier: if you would like one, please get in touch (contact details on back page).



Above: Christ Church cathedral

September Lunch

Last September more than a hundred lucky ladies attended a 'Late Summer' Lunch, held in a beautiful marquee in the idyllic setting of the Master's Garden, Christ Church.

The event provided a good opportunity to catch up with friends after the summer over some great shopping and a delicious lunch. Chatter ceased as Martin Bell's thought-provoking and entertaining reflections from his career in journalism and politics held our guests spellbound. We were immensely grateful to Martin, a patron of Emmaus UK, for coming as guest speaker at

very short notice and generously waiving all fees and expenses as well.

We wanted our guests to hear at first hand why their donations to Emmaus Oxford are so important. Thanks to the eloquence of two speakers from Emmaus Bristol, Community Leader Dave Perry and Companion Mike Poole, they were left in no doubt as to the need for an Emmaus Community here. The fantastic sum of £6,500 was raised. Our thanks go to the Darlington family who enabled this event to happen by generously donating the marquee and exquisite flowers.



November Lecture

We were very pleased to welcome Andrew Mitchell, Founder and Director of the Global Canopy Programme, to speak in our occasional series of guest lectures at the Saïd Business School.

Andrew enthralled the audience with his illustrated talk, entitled 'A Rumble in the Jungle', on the beauty and diversity of the rainforest canopy and its crucial role in the fight against climate change.

We are grateful too for his kind waiver of fee and for Prof Colin Mayer's generous hosting of the event, which raised the sum of £2,500.

Looking Ahead

Our Events Committee has a number of ideas up its communal sleeve. These will be publicised on our website, in newsletters or separate mailings as they come to fruition.

An ongoing fundraising event which we plan to launch soon could be termed a 'rolling' or 'snowball' lunch. It will work something like this. One of our ladies will invite five friends to lunch. Each will make a donation to Emmaus Oxford and agree to host a similar meal, those guests agreeing to do likewise. And so it goes on...

In the next newsletter we will report on how big the snowball has grown!

Welcome

Welcome to this issue of the Emmaus Oxford newsletter, which brings the fantastic news of our build! You may have received it because:

- you have kindly supported us in the past, through donations, attendance at our events or other means – thank you
- you have previously expressed interest in our work
- a friend or associate has suggested you might be interested in what

Emmaus Oxford wants to do
• you have contacted us about donating or buying furniture

We'd love to continue sending you updates on our progress and information about our fundraising events. However, if you would prefer *not* to receive our mailings now or in the future, or if your envelope was incorrectly addressed, then do please contact us using the details on this page.

Do follow our news and progress by visiting our website: www.emmausoxford.org



Artist's impression of Emmaus Oxford: we'll soon see the reality

Contact Us

To Donate or Buy Furniture:

Tel: **01865 763698** (answer machine outside store opening hours)

Email: furniture@ocva.org.uk

Store opening hours:

Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30

Store address:

The Old Community Centre,
Westlands Drive, Northway Estate,
Oxford OX3 9QY

For General Enquiries

Tel: **01865 402073**

Email: admin@emmausoxford.org

Web: www.emmausoxford.org

Office address:

169 Oxford Road,
Oxford OX4 2ES

Administrator: Margaret Brown

To Contact the Director

Director: Wyon Stansfeld

Email: wyonstansfeld@emmausoxford.org

Tel and postal address as general enquiries above

Emmaus UK

We belong to the Emmaus UK

Federation: for general Emmaus news and info visit www.emmaus.org.uk

Support Emmaus Oxford

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