

Community Newsletter

Summer 2022



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



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Penningtons
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Upcycling work starts!

We're delighted that our brand-new workshop is now open, thanks to a major donor, the Rank Foundation and Penningtons Manches Cooper. Our partnership with local upcycler Emma Whyte is well underway and she is visiting us weekly to work with companions Shane, Karl and Tom to teach them skills in furniture repair and restoration. In future, we hope to provide the same opportunity to more companions.

Shane, Karl and Tom bring their own set of skills to the workshop team as well. Shane is already highly skilled in furniture making after completing multiple courses during his time at Emmaus, so he is also helping with the management of the workshop. Tom has a media background and is helping with photography, blogging and social media, and Karl is an excel pro handling all the workshop admin. The team have a few projects lined up. To keep up to date, follow Emmaus Oxford on Facebook.

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Partnership celebration

In November 2019, law firm Penningtons Manches Cooper selected Emmaus Oxford as its charity partner and we wanted to recognise the incredible support, commitment and hard work the Oxford team has given us.

In just under two years, the team have offered pro bono legal advice, volunteered in our store, helped us around our community, donated Christmas presents for companions, organised fundraising events including their Office Olympics in 2021, and donated £3,215 to our work, including a donation of £2,000 to our Covid response appeal.

Separate to our partnership, employee Hannah did her own set of fundraising challenges for our charity and has completed several marathons for us, most recently doing three in the space of three months!

Thank you to everyone at the Oxford Penningtons Manches Cooper office, your support has been invaluable.



Making a difference

Commenting on our partnership, Mary-Clare from Penningtons said:

"Penningtons have been delighted and privileged to partner with and support a charity like Emmaus over the past few years. With Emmaus' fantastic furniture shop and main Oxford base just round the corner from us, working to improve lives in our very local community, supporting Emmaus was an obvious choice. As a firm, we have loved being able to be involved in supporting Emmaus in a number of different ways: giving financial support to help fit out new accommodation, compiling and decorating boxes of Christmas gift essentials for the companions, providing pro bono legal support on the purchase of new accommodation and getting stuck in with some practical support by unloading furniture deliveries and even rolling up our sleeves to build a trench for electric cables to supply a new workshop! With all the challenges the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis are causing, Emmaus' work is more vital than ever and we hugely look forward to continuing to support Emmaus over the year ahead."

Partner with us

Interested in becoming one of Emmaus Oxford's corporate partners? Please email fundraising@emmausoxford.org



Shane's story

For me, Emmaus is about developing skills and putting yourself in a better position than when you first walked through the door. That's what I've been trying to do the whole time I've been at Emmaus Oxford.

I joined Emmaus Oxford in 2017 after two years of sofa-surfing and sleeping in a tent. I had to learn quickly during this time. The cold weather was hard, but I used layers to keep myself as warm as possible and I taught myself how to make a fire and keep it going. Being offered a place at Emmaus Oxford was a turning point for me. I suddenly had a home and a chance to transform my life. When I first arrived, I wanted time to let my feet hit the ground. It felt like that hadn't happened in a while between me bouncing from place to place. I spent the first year or so settling in and was made very welcome by companions and staff alike.

After a while at Emmaus, I started a carpentry course at Crisis. It wasn't that structured, but it was good in terms of taking the first step. When I was on the course, I met a lass who was training at Rycotewood, which is part of Oxford City College, and I looked into joining too. The rest is history really; I've now done my BTEC Level 1, 2 and 3 in Furniture Making. After that, I was hoping to be in the position to have a space where I could utilise the skills I had learnt and maybe learn a few new ones. Since the new workshop at Emmaus Oxford has been up and running, I've had the opportunity to do both of those things.

Emmaus Oxford has supported me very well over the years, to sum it up in a couple of words. I feel like I was well supported all throughout my time at college, and people took the time to ask me how it was going. That support is always ongoing, and I appreciate any help that I'm given. Communal living definitely does come with its own set of unique challenges, because obviously you've got so many different personalities living under the same roof. At the same time though, having people around you is quite nice, especially when you make friends with the other companions. I've got a few close friends at Emmaus now which is good because it adds to your support network.

I definitely see the workshop at Emmaus as an opportunity to refine my skills for future employment. After 31 years, I think I've finally found my little niche, the thing I want to do with my life. It's a good feeling.

Help us change lives

If you would like to help us continue our work supporting formerly homeless people like Shane turn their lives around, you can donate at www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford/support-us/donate





Gary visited Uruguay to represent Emmaus Oxford

Companion Gary headed to Uruguay earlier this summer to represent our community at the Emmaus World Assembly, which takes place every four years.

This year, 384 delegates from 34 countries came together to discuss, debate and connect to decide on the 2021-2025 guidelines to strengthen the Emmaus movement. There was a packed schedule with workshops, discussions and cultural events and Gary even submitted one of our newsletters to the Emmaüs Heritage Archive, which is made up of items from Emmaus groups all over the world. We're proud to have contributed so in future people can see what Emmaus Oxford was like in 2022.

This was one of the last things Gary did as a companion at Emmaus Oxford and we're thrilled to say that Gary is now employed as a van driver at our charity!

Support Emmaus Oxford

Donate to us

Your donated items help us to generate the funds needed to run our community home and support people out of homelessness. If you have items to donate, please call our store on 01865 763 698 before visiting to check we have enough storage space. If you have larger items to donate, you can book a free collection by visiting our website and clicking on 'book a collection'.

Shop with us

By shopping with us, you're not only picking up a bargain, you're also helping people who have been homeless. Please visit our store at 242 Barns Road, Cowley, OX4 3RQ. We're open Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 5pm and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. We also sell our special and quirky items on eBay and Depop, so please check those out!

Become a friend

Making a regular donation of any size really helps us to plan and maintain our services. Like the rest of the country, the cost of living crisis has affected our charity, which supports 28 people. We appreciate donations of any size, and if you can give £10 or more we'll invite you to become a Friend of Emmaus Oxford. To donate, visit www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford and click on our 'donate' button.

Get in touch

Call 01865 763698 or visit us at
emmaus.org.uk/oxford

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Emmaus Oxford is a registered charity number 1066618

