

# Emmaus Oxford

Working with the homeless



Hassan's Story Pages 2-4



emmaus

The newsletter of Emmaus Oxford

**BUMPER EDITION**

Issue 2/ 2013

## Planning Application Approved!

The Planning Review Committee of Oxford City Council voted unanimously on 26th June 2013 to grant planning permission (with conditions) for Emmaus Oxford's new-build Secondhand Superstore in Barns Road. This is a hugely important step forward in a process of hard work, discussions and negotiations over a four year period.

The building is now expected to begin in about two months' time with the building hopefully completed by the end of 2014.

The new build, which will become Oxfordshire's



Emmaus will occupy most of the ground floor



The back of the building with the loading yard

largest charity shop, will have better designed retail space than our existing superstore and significantly more space for the processing of donated furniture behind the scenes. This will provide new opportunities for Companions to gain useful new skills. Some Companions may also be able to be involved in the building construction as apprentices.

We are all very excited by this news. It means that we will have a brand new Superstore in a much better retail area and can continue with our plans to become financially self-sufficient.



Logo made by Companion

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## “At last I am safe” Hassan

Hassan joined Emmaus Oxford in June 2010. At that time he was destitute, homeless, and terrified of being returned to Uganda where he feared he would be killed. He has agreed to us telling his extraordinary story here in the hope that it might help other asylum seekers who, like him, have difficulties being accepted into the UK.



### Background

Hassan was brought up in western Uganda. His family were well off because his father was a politician in the the ruling party there. The family had five children—Hassan was the middle of two brothers and had two younger sisters. Although he had a happy early childhood things began to go terribly wrong when Hassan’s father began to disagree with president Museveni’s policies and changed his allegiance to the opposition party.

### His father was shot dead

Not long after changing his allegiance Hassan’s father was shot dead in the street by a military vehicle. For the same reason Hassan’s elder brother was also killed.

Hassan got a job as a mechanic to try and support his family and took over looking after his sisters and niece. Courageously he also joined the same party that his father had joined and began campaigning for their youth wing—speaking at rallies and trying to recruit new supporters.

Following one of these meetings Hassan was arrested and taken to a military prison where he was beaten up and kept in

solitary confinement for about a year. The guards tried to make him ‘confess’ that he had been helping to plan a coup and threatened him that if he didn’t cooperate and tell them who he had been working with they would take him to another place where he would be treated even worse. But Hassan knew nothing about any coup. He had simply been campaigning on behalf of his party—something that is meant to be legal in Uganda though in fact everything is done to intimidate and harass opposition.

### He was beaten and tortured

After about a year at the military barracks Hassan was taken to a so-called ‘safe house’. This was one of many such places in Uganda where the authorities keep people incarcerated semi-officially and in terrible conditions. Hassan was kept in total darkness and in solitary confinement for just under two years. Periodically he was taken out beaten and tortured. He was given electric shocks, mock executions, had chillies placed in his eyes, his genitals were hurt and he was made to drink urine and also something that tasted like acid and hurt his insides. Many times he was hurt in different ways until he became unconscious or was left cowering in the corner. He cannot remember everything that was done to him but he became very ill with wounds all over his body and a serious lung and gastric condition.

### Escapes to his complete surprise.

Then one day, in November 2008, to his complete surprise, a guard opened his prison cell, shone a torch in his face and led him out of the safe house to a waiting car. The car drove him to another location where his photo was taken and his appearance cleaned up. He thought he was being prepared for execution.

But instead he was taken to the airport, where he was introduced to an English woman who accompanied him on an aircraft—first to Kenya—then on to London Heathrow. The woman had travel documents for him and did all the talking at customs, keeping the documents to herself. She told him not to speak and that she was there to help him. At Heathrow she put him in a taxi to the Home Office and disappeared.

### He arrived at the Home Office covered in wounds, coughing and vomiting

He could not speak very good English and felt extremely ill. Despite repeatedly telling the authorities he was ill he was given no medical help for six days. He hadn’t been aware he was being taken to the UK and he did not understand the system here or what claiming asylum involved. He wasn’t offered legal help or advice.

In his first two weeks in the UK he was interviewed twice by the authorities. He could not explain to the officials how he had managed to escape from Uganda since he did not understand this himself and in December 2008 his application was refused. He was sent to Wakefield then moved on again to Stockton-on-Tees and later Middlesborough. An appeal

# Hassan's Extraordinary Story

against the Home Office decision in January 2009 was turned down. Hassan thus became a “failed asylum seeker”, expected to return to Uganda. But he refused to do this voluntarily as he feared he would be killed or imprisoned again if he returned. Because of his refusal to return Hassan became homeless in March 2009, without rights to benefits, or work. He spent 3 months living on the streets before he was taken into custody with a view to deporting him. He was moved between various immigration detention centres including Campsfield House near Oxford. There he was befriended by Asylum Welcome, a charity working with asylum seekers in Oxford. Several people helped him, in particular a man called Richard who has supported him in many ways ever since and without whom Hassan probably wouldn't be alive today.



Richard who has consistently believed in and helped Hassan

## Attempts were made to deport him

During this time two attempts were made to deport Hassan back to Uganda. The first did not succeed because of his serious ill health at the airport. The second on account of legal representations following an examination by a doctor at Campsfield (who found substantive physical evidence that he had indeed been tortured—something he had been saying all along). Hassan used this medical report to make a fresh claim for asylum in July 2009. But the appeal was eventually turned down again in the High Court in June 2010—just before he came to Emmaus Oxford.



Hassan on an Emmaus trip to see Arsenal—the team he supports. He never thought he would ever do this in his wildest dreams

When Hassan arrived at Emmaus he was once again homeless and destitute. Knowing that his case had come to an end he thought that probably his life had come to an end too. As a failed asylum seeker he could not claim housing benefit which meant he could not even stay at O'Hanlon House (the Night shelter which provides emergency accommodation in Oxford). He was frightened of coming to Emmaus because it was opposite the police station and he no longer knew who to trust...

## Emmaus Oxford was able to take him

At Emmaus Oxford however he met one of the refugee residents, who was able to reassure him that the place was OK, and Emmaus was able to take him using one of its two solidarity places (reserved for failed asylum seekers who still appear to have a good case).

As luck would have it Wyon Stansfeld, one of the staff at Emmaus Oxford had made prior arrangements to have a family holiday in Uganda that summer and he asked Hassan if he would like him to do anything for him in Uganda. Hassan asked Wyon to take a mobile phone to his mother as she wasn't on the phone and he had had no contact with her since escaping to the UK.

Wyon travelled to western Uganda and with the help of a friend of Hassan's whom he had put him in touch with. He found Hassan's mother living in terrible poverty, without electricity or running water in a slum at the edge of a banana plantation.

Wyon gave Hassan's mother a mobile phone with Hassan's number on it and some pictures of Hassan at Emmaus:



Wyon, Hassan and Andy —one of the pictures given to Hassan's mother.

Hassan's mother was overwhelmed at this saying that she had thought that her son was dead, and also requesting that he not be returned to Uganda as he would be killed if he was. Wyon returned to the UK with pictures of Hassan's mother. As he gave these to Hassan he also asked Hassan if he had always

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Hassan's story continued

lived in such poverty. Hassan replied that they used to live in a nice house but that he had discovered that his mother had sold the house to pay a bribe in order to get him out of prison and to forge documents to get him to the UK and pay for a chaperone. This new information then provided a basis for re-



Wyon, Hassan's mother (middle) and a friend—one of the pictures brought back for Hassan

opening Hassan's case by asking for a judicial review. Hassan's mother also told him that following his escape from prison his younger brother had disappeared—and has never returned. So they believe that he too has been killed by the regime.



Over the next two years a great deal of further evidence was amassed to help Hassan with his appeal. A wanted notice for Hassan in one of Uganda's two largest national newspapers was brought out of Uganda, together with a warrant for his arrest, and a letter from the opposition party confirming his membership and political activities in Uganda. He was wanted not because he had done anything wrong but just because of his involvement in

politics. Also during this time he had to have medical attention to his eyes (on account of the torture) and emergency surgery, as well as treatment for tinnitus (that had arisen on account of the electric shocks to his head). Reports on these treatments and letters from his GPs and specialist doctors further confirmed that his injuries were consistent with the torture and a specialist diagnosed him as having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

### But he still didn't get permission to stay

Despite all this extra evidence the judicial review which took all day and was attended by two judges and a number of barristers failed to give Hassan asylum—arguing that they could not even consider the extra evidence, no matter how convincing, because the review was only of previous evidence up until the point that he was last refused. This meant that he



Kelly

continued to wait in terror—something he needed considerable support with from our wonderful counsellor Kelly who has counselled him once a week over several years.

Following his defeat in court Emmaus supported Hassan to make another fresh claim for asylum using all the extra evidence that had been amassed. This was finally accepted by the Home Office and in January of this year he was given refugee status—which meant he can now remain in the UK.

### Hassan was euphoric

When this news came through Hassan was euphoric—jumping up and down for several hours and hugging everyone! At last the nightmare period in which he'd been waiting in fear for his life had come to an end.



Hassan the day he got the news

But although this was a wonderful development Hassan has subsequently received very bad news. On several occasions since his escape his mother has been arrested and tortured by police trying to find out his whereabouts. As a result she became increasingly weak and last week she died of malaria. Hassan is of course very upset. In many ways his mother has acted like a saint. Had she not used all her money to help him she would have been able to afford medicines to treat herself. Her death now means that his younger sisters and niece, who are in their early teens, now have no adult left to look after them and are in considerable danger as a result. We are therefore working with Hassan to try and get legal permission for them to be flown over so that he can care for them—something he was doing before he was imprisoned.

So this is now Hassan's main motivation—to find a job so that



Hassan enjoying the snow

he can support what remains of his family in Uganda and if possible help them come over. Fortunately whilst he has been in Emmaus he has had plenty of work experience—serving customers in the Superstore and operating the till there. And Emmaus will give him a good reference. Whilst at Emmaus he has also

received training in English and Maths, has passed his driving test and has taken courses in caring for disabled adults—the employment he now seeks. We know he will get a worthwhile job and we always knew he would make a good citizen!

It currently costs Emmaus Oxford around £8000 to house a failed asylum seeker for one year—because they cannot claim housing benefit. This means we can only afford two at present. We call them our solidarity places. If you feel moved by this story and would like to contribute towards us having more solidarity places please do contact us. (Ends)

## Asylum myth busting

As you will have seen from Hassan's story asylum seekers can have a rough ride in the UK—sometimes having difficulty securing justice and, if they are refused asylum (rightly or wrongly), having to cope with destitution and homelessness until they are deported. Over the past few years Emmaus Oxford has led a number of workshops for Companions, trustees and staff in other Emmaus Communities around the country explaining some of the facts around why people claim asylum and how they are processed. These workshops have been well received and many participants have expressed surprise and dismay at learning the facts. Here are some of the myths about asylum seekers that are commonly believed, and some of the facts.

Myth	Myth buster
Asylum seekers are the same as immigrants or constitute a huge proportion of total immigrants	Asylum seekers (people who say they are fleeing persecution) are a tiny sub-category of all immigrants—less than 4%
Huge numbers of asylum seekers come to the UK. 44% of Britons believe it is 100,000 per year or more.	In 2012 only 21,785 asylum seekers came to the UK and only 6,065 were granted either refugee status or other leave to remain.
Numbers of asylum seekers coming to the UK increase year by year.	Not true, they were up slightly in 2012 on the year before but have fallen dramatically over the years since a peak in 2002.
The UK takes more than its fair share of refugees. In a 2002 survey 82% in the UK thought that we had more than our fair share of asylum applications and a MORI poll found that on average the public believes that the UK hosts nearly a quarter of the world's refugees and asylum seekers	The vast majority of the world's refugees remain outside Europe—less than 2% come to the UK. Comparing the UK with Europe shows we are average in terms of numbers per member of our population and below average if you take numbers per GDP.
The UK is too lenient in its processing of asylum seekers and attracts them as a result. In a MORI poll in 2000 80% of respondents agreed with the statement that asylum seekers come to the UK because they believe it to be a soft touch.	Not true. The UK currently only grants around one in three asylum seekers leave to remain and most experts agree that we operate a very tough system.

### Survival, a Poem, by Nils (Nelly) Nielsen

We need peace in the world to enhance all our lives,  
 We need the shooting to cease so nobody dies,  
 We need the children all fed so they grow big and strong,  
 We need the famine to stop – there's food to go round,  
 We need religion to be a way to unite  
 Not a reason to arm and justify the fight  
 We need to stamp out all crime because it's not just and fair  
 To create victims and people full of hurt and despair,  
 We need to rid the world of drugs as they destroy hearts and souls  
 Devastate society, affect young and old.  
 We need global warning to stop because from what we are told  
 If it does carry on our grandkids won't grow old.  
 We need to stop killing the forests by felling the trees  
 Or destroying the climate – it's up 3 degrees.  
 We need to restock the seas and replenish the lands  
 To stop them from dying and become barren lands  
 We need all of this for the world to survive  
 Another millennium. Let's keep it alive!

### New Trustee



Mark Hallam is our newest trustee. Mark has 30 years' experience in the Marketing and Media Research Industry, mostly with The Nielsen Company. He's held various senior international leadership positions in Marketing, Sales, Client Service, New Business Development and General Management.

Mark brings a wealth of expertise in commercial strategy, contract negotiations, client relationship development, team building, and individual coaching and mentoring. He is currently working as an Independent Consultant. Mark and his wife Jill live in Watlington and have two daughters, Olivia and Claudia.

### What should you do if you see a homeless person on the streets?

Should you walk on or give money, or food? Opinions vary. Some worry that giving might be patronising, or that money might be misused to feed a habit. Others argue that any helping gesture might be the lynch pin that finally reaches through and helps. One possibility is to tell the person about Emmaus Oxford. We have some cards that do just that. These can be kept in your wallet for just this situation. If you would like us to send you some just phone Wyon on 01865 402073 (option 5). Or you could just encourage the person to phone the same number themselves, or drop in (171 Oxford Road OX42ES) to ask for help. They will need to come and meet us so we can check they fit our criteria, which include being prepared to work, but we try to make this easy and they could find their lives turning around in quite a short space of time.

# Tribute to Rob



Who carried the light

# He was a godsend!

In the last newsletter we told you that Rob Harris, a long time Companion at Emmaus Oxford, had died unexpectedly in bed on 15th February of bronchial pneumonia. We all still miss him terribly. To help us remember him here are some extracts from the eulogy given to him by Community Leader: Steve James.

“What have we learnt from Rob in his time here with us? Well, I believe Rob showed us some of the best qualities to have in life and some I wish a lot more people in the world would have themselves. He was:

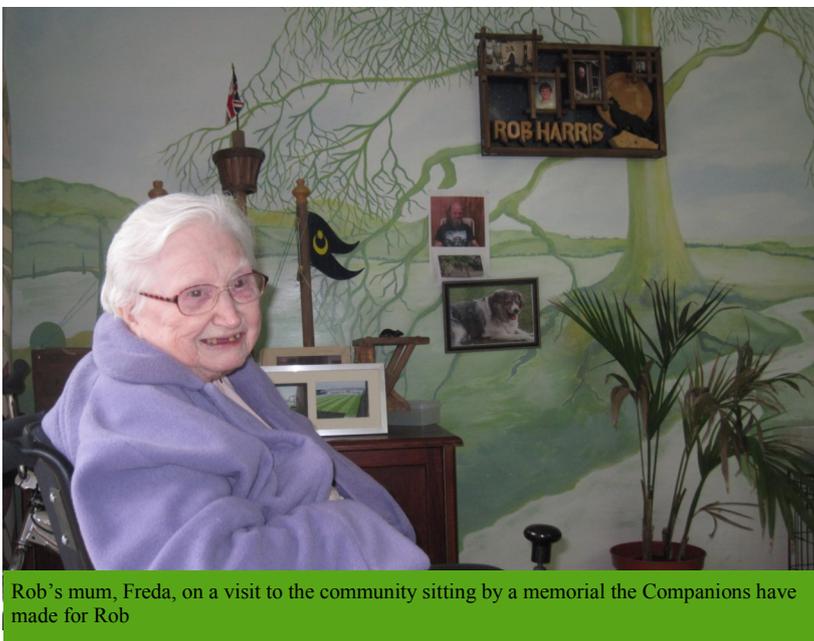
- Kind hearted:** I remember him taking on Ben the dog and looking after him and how much he adored that dog! When there were times I had to decide if someone who had done wrong was to be allowed to return to the community Rob would be one of those urging me to give them another chance.
- Reliable:** Rob hardly ever missed a day’s work at the community. He visited his mother regularly, and if you asked him to help or do anything, you could be sure it would be done.
- Trustworthy:** Rob was trusted with keys, alarm codes, money and asked to cover at times when staff were not available at the store. I know people confided in Rob because they knew they could entrust their secrets or problems to him without it spreading round.
- Friendly:** Rob was well thought of by everybody. There are often people who will clash with others, that’s part of life, but Rob was someone that no one seemed to dislike, and he even got along with some of the more difficult characters we’ve had.
- Thoughtful:** There are numerous examples of Rob being thoughtful. Jess has a pile of books in the office where Rob had been thoughtful and brought them back to show her because he thought she might like them. He was really good at seeing something and thinking of someone who might like that.
- Patient:** I never recall seeing Rob lose his head with anyone. It can be a difficult job working at Emmaus sometimes but I never encountered Rob using his stress as a stick to beat others with.
- Robust:** Rob may not of been the most physically strong. But if things were tough his attitude was to get on and get through it, not stand around moaning and looking to blame—he just got on with trying to sort it out.
- Humble:** Rob was never good at accepting praise or thanks, even when it was really deserved!

I’m sure there are other points about Rob we could say were good, but these are some of the things people will think about when they remember Rob. Not everyone will be remembered as kindly as Rob but if we learnt from his example perhaps we will also be remembered as a good man/woman when our own time is done. The fact that Companions have spent so much effort helping remember Rob also speaks for how well thought of and respected he was.

I think I will notice his absence particularly when there is a crisis or some internal strife occurring within the community. Rob really showed his value in these situations by remaining calm, thinking of solutions, helping and usually giving me a big grin and saying “We’ve seen it all before, Steve, and got through it”. Rob had been with us 4 years, nearly the life span of the Community. His Companionship to staff and Companions has been one of the factors in where we are today, he was a godsend. His calm influence, his willingness to look for good in others, to just get on with things when things were tough. No matter what was going on in the community, bickering, little groups of splitting, childish arguments, Rob would be sat at the dinner table every meal time with the willingness to share his space with any member of the community. Rob understood the value in accepting everyone in the

community, he knew he had his own flaws in and therefore understood everyone within the community needed to be given a break and to be accepted as they were and that was why the community was here. He believed in what we do and knew his reasons for being with us. Emmaus Oxford will not seem right without Rob, it will feel strange to not have him sat around the dinner table joking or talking through how to solve rota problems for the next day at the store. I know his loss is going to be felt enormously by his mother Freda. She has lost a good son who cared deeply about her. Rob’s Father died when Rob was 13 and Rob has been there for his mother since then. They were very close and Rob visited his mother weekly and spoke about her often.”

Since Rob died many Companions and staff have visited his mother, now 85, who lives in a nearby care home. We cannot take her pain away but we can share our grief together with her. We have also taken her on a trip to the cemetery and brought her back to the Community for supper. Like Rob she is excellent company.



Rob’s mum, Freda, on a visit to the community sitting by a memorial the Companions have made for Rob

# Amazing walk from Lands End to John o’Groats.

David Sansom and Robbie Brough set out on May 1st this year intent on walking from Lands End to John o’Groats for Emmaus Oxford. Private opinions in the office varied as to whether they would actually make it—they certainly seemed keen and determined—and their hearts were clearly in the right place—but they were also very young (both in their teens) and saying that they weren't



David and Robbie before leaving

going to spend a night on a bed throughout the walk “in order to identify with the homeless people we are raising money for.” Perhaps they were underestimating the task in hand—the walk they were proposing was 1300 miles long and they were hoping to do it in 3 months...

They set out at a cracking pace however, walking 100 miles in the first week, which included wading through the river Gannel in Cornwall. At this point however they began reporting blisters and an achilles tendon injury and some of us doubted that they could possibly keep up the pace. But by day 11 they had emerged from Cornwall and days later had broken 200 miles and were averaging 18 miles per day. They also said they had developed some interesting ground rules to help them along the way:



**No alcohol. No complaining. No forward lifts.**

Rules we could all perhaps learn from. After that, far from faltering, and despite relentlessly awful weather their pace quickened. By mid-May they reached Bristol (where they visited Emmaus Bristol) and were soon in Wales and the Brecon Beacons, reaching Shrewsbury by the 26th May. By the end of May they had emerged from Wales and were walking on the flat before starting the Pennine Way. At this point however the weather really took a turn for the worse (if that was possible) with the lads reporting: “The rain was relentless and really took its toll on our spirits. We lost the foot path and had to do real SAS work by crossing fields. We must have jumped 3 streams and 20 barbed wire fences and 2 railways... Feet soaked. Tent soaked. Roll mats soaked.” The area was also so unpopulated that they were having difficulty finding food supplies. Back at the office some of us wondered if this might be the final test of their forbearance. We were not to be disappointed however and a few days later the lads reported having reached Huddersfield *and the half way point*. Large numbers of people were starting to follow the blog and donations were starting to roll in...



Following a little break in Huddersfield with Robbie’s grandmother and her wonderful cooking (mysteriously served on a plate of dominos), they pressed on through Yorkshire and into

Northumberland. By June 21st having passed through very beautiful scenery they reached Scotland where they were ‘piped’ over the border by Robbie’s grandfather: Bob. Round about this time they were also joined for several days by a stray dog, whom they named Ajax (and whom they later ensured was placed in good hands). From there onwards they raced on to Edinburgh for a planned rest. At this point cynics in the office thought that the rest might get extended. They must be exhausted after all. A few days later however we were learnt they were now only 170 miles from John o’Groats and aiming for a sprint finish to arrive by Thursday 4th July. They were proposing to walk 25 miles a day for two days, then 28 a day for 3 days and then a mega 45 miles on the last day, right through the night, to arrive at John o’Groats in time to see the dawn over an eastern sea. Needless to say the office sceptics thought this was wildly ambitious. But in fact they even shaved a day off that proposal—arriving at John o’Groats a day earlier and a month inside their initial forecast.



A cross on David’s back proves the strain of carrying a heavy load.



David with Ajax

Robbie at John o’Groats



Altogether, including gift aid and matched funding from an anonymous donor, the walk raised a whopping £12,420 for Emmaus Oxford. All of this went straight to us because they also paid all the own expenses for the entire trip out of their own pockets. But it wasn't all about money. You have to hand it to these guys—they confounded even the most hardened cynics amongst us with their guts, optimism and sheer determination. They’ve been an inspiration to us all as to just what can be achieved when you set your heart to it.

We were delighted also on their return to hold a small ceremony with them, attended, by Companions, staff and trustees in which Terry Waite, CBE, President of Emmaus UK was able to formally thank them as they proudly handed over the cheque.



Left to Right, Robbie, Terry, David and Eddie (General Manager)

## Solidarity

One of the things we like to do in Emmaus is to help others. We call it solidarity. Since the last newsletter we have

- ✿ Cleaned up a garden that had become unmanageable for some elderly neighbours.
- ✿ Had a solidarity sales day at the superstore with the money going to Emmaus International's charitable work around the world.
- ✿ Done a regular on-going stint at an old people's lunch club where we help to serve out dinners.
- ✿ Contributed to Medicine Chernobyl to enable an 11 year old boy to come over for treatment for illness associated with the Chernobyl disaster.
- ✿ Supported another charity: Jacob's footsteps, so that a local lad could go to America for specialised medical treatment not available in this country.
- ✿ Helped to renovate and decorate a basement for Refresh—a local social enterprise.
- ✿ Helped a 91 year old ex-serviceman, at the request of the Council to get his bungalow into order.



Sorting out a neighbour's garden

We don't do all this so that we can blow our own trumpet of course, it's because it helps us all to feel good – the best way to build up your own self-esteem is to help someone.



New reception mural with artist James Lorraine-Smith—depicting the journey from homelessness

## Markets near and far.

Since the spring, Emmaus Oxford have been running a stall at the Gloucester Green market on Thursdays. Here Richard, one of the Companion', writes about it,

*“Gloucester Green Market enjoys a steady stream of visitors between 7am and 4pm. Students, tourists, antique dealers and locals browse the many colourful, jam-packed-with-goodies stalls. Our stall sells just about everything: clothes, books, musical instruments, silver, art, pottery and china, glassware, toys and bric a brac. We have fun all day telling jokes and stories, conducting mock auctions, playing bongos and informing folk of what Emmaus is and does. We also trade with other stalls and donate items to other charity stands.*

*Emmaus receives many donations on a daily basis. We are amazed and grateful for everything. It's an aladins cave of treasure back at the store and we love to delve through all the boxes containing cameras, old jewelry, cuddly toys, Royal Dolton figurines and much more. Already we have regular customers who wait to pounce and grab a bargain as soon as we arrive. It's a scrum at 7 am. As we unpack the van women swoop, pushing and shoving to secure that item they desire. We've tried pleading for calm—asking for half an hour to set up. No chance! Now we just marshal the crazed shoppers, smile and take their cash. It's hilarious at times. Last time we took £80 in five minutes.”* Richard H

Why not come along, pick up the market vibe, buy a few goodies and at the same time say hello to Richard, Jose and Jim who are usually there.

In June, Emmaus Oxford also had a stall at the prestigious 14<sup>th</sup> Paris Salon, a huge Emmaus solidarity sale in Paris. Two Companions (Russell and another) and driver Gerrie successfully sold their complete van load of stock, mind you there were more than 25,000 visitors at sale, which raises funds for Emmaus International.

## Wanted!

Most people don't know that as well as furniture and working electrical goods, books and bric a brac we also take the following:

- Clothes, material, fabric (even rags).
- Handbags, belts and leather
- Mobile Phones—dead or alive
- Scrap metal, pots and pans.

Don't worry about what condition they are in - if we can't sell them we will recycle for you. Just bring them along to either of our shops (addresses and details on back page).



## Events

### Previous

#### Open Gardens in Pullen's Lane



Richard, Eddie, Jon and Graham

Four gardens in Pullen's Lane, Headington were opened on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June to raise money for Emmaus Oxford. This was the initiative of Graham Upton, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire this year, and his wife Bebe Speed who is a Trustee of Emmaus Oxford. The High Sheriff's theme this year is diversity, so helping Emmaus was spot on. Bebe got together with her neighbours Eryl and Tony Besse, Sally Lowe and Sister Christine from the Convent of the Assumption late last year to plan the event. Much hard work then ensued to show off the gardens at their best.

These gardens are not normally open to the public so it was a great opportunity to see some more of this hidden-away and tranquil part of Oxford. The four gardens represent a range of styles, plantings and features with three of them being gardens which have evolved over the years with their owners and the fourth having been more recently beautifully designed and planted mainly by Nicholson's Garden Design.

Aside from a stall selling plants, there was also a painted furniture and bricabrac stall manned by Emmaus staff Eddie and Jon and a

Companion, Richard. Besides being a selling opportunity, this was also an occasion when Emmaus was visible to a wider audience which hopefully will result in further support and furniture donations. A raffle made extra money and the tea and cake stall did a roaring trade especially when the sun came out and visitors could sit and enjoy the gardens. Overall, £3,500 was raised and will be matchfunded so a tremendous effort by all concerned.

#### 'What's it worth' with Jonty Hearnden.

On Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, we welcomed Jonty Hearnden, the celebrity auctioneer and valuer, and around 100 guests and their collectibles to the Mortimer Hall in Old Marsden. Jonty commented that he could record a complete 'Antiques Roadshow' TV programme with the treasures which had been brought along! In the end, he chose a selection of items including an ivory card case, an Art Deco dressing table set, an embroidered Royal leather document case and a Renoir print to discuss with their owners, explain their history and to challenge us all to guess 'What's it worth?' It was a fun and fascinating afternoon, topped off with delicious tea and cake!

We are really grateful to Jonty for his time and expertise, and for staying long after the event had concluded to discuss and give valuations to those who had brought along items. We also thank Mike and Imogen North of The Nut Tree at Murcott who gave us a free '7 course tasting menu for 2' as a prize for the Grand Draw.



Jonty

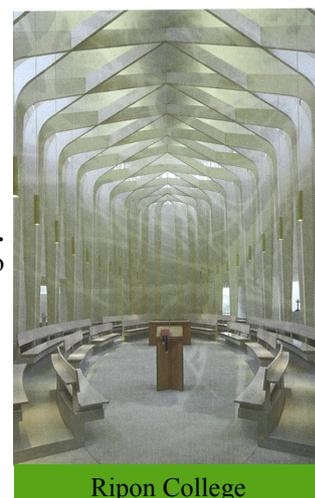
And a big thank you to all those who support our events by buying tickets, those who help organise and cook for them and the staff that attend and help with the admin! With all your help we are able to raise both awareness of Emmaus Oxford and funds to continue the work.

### And Upcoming...

#### A Carol Service with Terry Waite

on 17<sup>th</sup> December in the amazing 'Award Winning' new Chapel at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Please put this date in your diary and look out for details nearer the time. Tickets will be limited to 90, so please be ready to book early.

To go on our Events mailing list email  
[JeanneWhite@emmausoxford.org](mailto:JeanneWhite@emmausoxford.org)



Ripon College

# Volunteering

## New volunteers:

Gabriella Putnam, the Volunteer Co-ordinator is delighted with the success of the newly launched campaign to recruit more Volunteers. Recent appointments include:

Pauline Maclean	Solidarity Co-ordinator
Diane Wilkinson	Careers Mentor
Thea Perry	Event Co-ordinator - Carnival
Jan Laker	Art Therapist
Barberine Mallett	Prints and paintings specialist
Clare Morgan	Literacy tutor

## Example volunteer:



Pauline Maclean has been appointed as Solidarity Co-ordinator. This involves the planning and overseeing of a programme of Solidarity initiatives. The concept of Solidarity is central to the ethos of Emmaus Communities whereby residents work to support others in need. For example, supporting the elderly at

lunch clubs, gardening for those less able or providing help to decorate another Charity's premises. Commenting on her new role, Pauline said, "It has been delightful and great fun to work with a small group of Companions who are committed to helping others in both small and large projects". Solidarity is summed up in Abbe Pierre's own words, "serve those who suffer most".

## Still Needed

We still need Volunteer help. If you are over 18 and can spare some time each week, we would love to hear from you to discuss various volunteering options.

There are many different roles available at the Second-hand Superstore or the Community including:

- Supporting Companions personal development
- Secretarial support to the trustees
- Web site design
- Social Work placements
- Computer Technology, software expertise.
- Public relations
- Driving (experience necessary)
- Therapeutic activities
- Fund raising, especially corporate
- Administrative roles

This is not an exhaustive list so do ask if you would like to help us.

## Interested in volunteering?

Please contact our Volunteer co-ordinator: Gabriella Putnam [GabriellaPutnam@emmausoxford.org](mailto:GabriellaPutnam@emmausoxford.org). To offer driving please contact Kevin Gardner [KevinGardner@emmausoxford.org](mailto:KevinGardner@emmausoxford.org)

# Other News

## Cowley Road Carnival

Emmaus Oxford joined in with the Cowley Road Carnival for the first time this year. Paul, Wyon, and Jon joined the procession with banners explaining what we do and a travelling diabolo juggling act. Volunteer Thea Perry helped to organise things as part of her degree course in event management at Sheffield Hallam university



Thea Perry



Paul, Wyon and Jon

## Gloucester Bike Ride

Once again we were involved in the Gloucester bike ride. This year it was to collect money for Gloucester Emergency Accommodation Resource (GEAR), an organisation founded in response to the Gloucester night shelter closing down. Participants cycled 32 miles and despite numerous punctures made it in good time and made some friends along the way. Terry Waite (president of Emmaus UK) was there to congratulate them at the end.



Terry Waite with Terry (left) and Jon (right)

# Many thanks to all our supporters!

Emmaus Oxford would not exist without the incredibly generous on-going support received from many individuals and grant making bodies over about 15 years. So a big thank you to all of you who have helped in this way. For those of you who wish to contribute or continue supporting us here are:

## 7 ways you can help us

### 1. Donate furniture and other household goods

Tel: 01865 763698

to arrange a **free collection** or email [furniture@emmausoxford.org](mailto:furniture@emmausoxford.org). Items can also be brought direct to our shops during working hours.

### 2. Buy from our two shops:

**Secondhand Superstore**  
Westlands Drive  
Northway Estate  
Oxford OX3 9QY

Mon-Fri 9.30-5.00  
Sat 10.00-4.00  
No 13 bus

**31 Upper Barr**  
Templars Square  
Cowley  
Oxford OX4 3UX

Mon-Fri 9.30-5.00  
Sat 10.00-4.00  
Bus 1 (Stagecoach)  
Bus 5 (Bus Co)

Or come to Gloucester Green market on a Thursday.

### 3. Volunteer

See page 11 for more information on openings for volunteers and our current drive to recruit more volunteers.

If you would like to talk about volunteering possibilities please contact our volunteer coordinator Gabriella Putnam:  
[gabriellaputnam@emmausoxford.org](mailto:gabriellaputnam@emmausoxford.org)

If you feel that you could help us on the driving side or in the administration of deliveries and collections please email Kevin Gardner:  
[KevinGardner@emmausoxford.org](mailto:KevinGardner@emmausoxford.org)

### 4. Come to our events

To join the mailing list for our fund-raising events or for information about events just email [JeanneWhite@emmausoxford.org](mailto:JeanneWhite@emmausoxford.org). See also page 10.

### 5. Make a financial donation

Visit: [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com), select 'donation' then type in 'Emmaus Oxford'. You can indicate gift aid eligibility too.

**To donate by cheque, CAF voucher or standing order visit our website:** [www.emmausoxford.org](http://www.emmausoxford.org)

**Donate with a legacy** You may also wish to consider remembering us in your will. Please contact [wyonstansfeld@emmausoxford.org](mailto:wyonstansfeld@emmausoxford.org) to discuss the matter in confidence.

### 6. Become a friend

Friends are supporters willing to help us through regular monthly donations towards the costs of helping ex-homeless people turn their lives around. Friends will receive regular updates giving cameos and highlights of our community and work together, important news as it happens and advance notice and priority booking for some events plus an invitation to occasional Friends open afternoons at the Community. Please email us for a copy of our Friends of Emmaus Oxford leaflet:  
[admin@emmausoxford.org](mailto:admin@emmausoxford.org)

### 7. Tell your friends

If you like what we do—tell your friends about us! We are also very happy to come to churches, schools and other social gatherings to give talks and explain more about what we do.