

Cotteslowe Community Association

cultivating caring community

Annual Report 2024



Cotteslowe and District Community Association
Cotteslowe Community Centre,
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Aims:

1. To encourage and support local people to come together in order to enhance their social interaction and caring networks.
2. To maintain and develop partnerships with local people, voluntary and statutory agencies and funding bodies to work together to tackle local concerns and needs.
3. To maintain a safe, secure and inclusive community centre and professional standard of service for staff, volunteers, local residents and all visitors to the centre.
4. To raise the profile of Cutteslowe, in order to encourage participation and to attract more activities, services and resources to the local area.

Cutteslowe Community Association (CCA) was founded in 1954 and covers Cutteslowe and Templar Road Estates and surrounding area in North Oxford. We work in close partnership with Cutteslowe Primary School as well as other local schools, charities and community groups

We continue to support and subsidise volunteer and charity groups whose work at the Centre supports the most vulnerable within our community.



Centre Highlights of 2024

- Installation of audio-visual system allowing us to deliver regular community cinema screenings
- New volunteer-delivered free weekly Maths revision classes for GCSE and A Level
- Record numbers attending Sunnymead Minnows groups for children under 5 and their families
- New website launched
- New awning added to the Centre in collaboration with Cutteslowe Community Larder
- Record number of children receiving gifts through the Cutteslowe Wishing Tree project
- Community coach trips to Brighton, Bournemouth and Cotswold Wildlife Park with more planned for 2025!
- We were sorry to lose Tenika Blake as a Trustee. Many of you will know Tenika was our Centre Administrator before transitioning into the Trustee role in 2020. We would like to thank Tenika for all of her time and energy and wish her all the luck in the future.

Fundraising

You may not be aware that we receive no direct funding and are entirely dependent on donations, grants and income from Centre hire. We continue to be blown away by the generosity of our community with our 2024 Winter Fuel Grant fundraiser receiving £15,000. Together with our regular donors and the Gift Aid we receive from the Government; the local community contributes over 25% of our annual income. We are even more grateful for this generosity as fundraising through other streams becomes ever more challenging with grant availability reducing and competition for grants increasing.

Chair's Report

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Annual report. As always I want to celebrate the hard work and commitment of the trustees, our staff, volunteers, local councillors and our City Council Localities Officer.

In particular I would like to extend a massive thanks to Steph Jankovic and Mariana Bujons for their amazing commitment, energy, imagination and creativity to keep the centre at the heart of the community. To Steph for her management of the Centre and for her incredible fundraising efforts, significant in keeping us afloat, and for her organisation of so many trips events, social activities and classes. Truly impressive. To Mariana for her role in managing the Centre bookings. The centre is very busy and being used constantly because of Mariana's incredible organisation, people-facing skills and sheer hard work so that now the rental income we receive is incredibly significant in supporting our finances in these challenging times.

The Community Association also has many other people to thank. Firstly, Leanne McClements, our Minnows manager, for her amazing work in keeping Sunnymead Minnows thriving. With the closure of the Children's Centre in 2017 Leanne, and all the volunteers who work on Minnows, have kept this incredibly important support going for the very youngest members in the community and their families. Second, to Sylvia Barker, our Seniors co-ordinator, for her ongoing support and running of our longstanding and much valued Seniors group. Third, to Helen Edwards, our Art Club leader who has run the Art club for over 18 years. The creativity and vibrance of the work she does with children and families is so important to enhance children's creative abilities. Fourth, thank you to our Oxford City Localities Officer, Phil Jones, who provides invaluable support in many aspects of our work particularly in supporting our wider thinking about strategy and future planning. Fifth, to Fiona Greenwood who is at the heart of co-ordinating and running our summer programme a really key part of provision to children of all ages during the summer break. Sixth, to all our volunteers who support Minnows, Art Club and the Cutteslowe Wishing Tree. Finally, to Tom Murray of Cutteslowe Connected Church and all the volunteers who run the magnificent weekly community larder. As trustees we were privileged to attend a session recently and we saw the scope and community feeling that has been built up and what the larder represents. These are incredibly impressive and a real tribute to Tom's vision and all the volunteers and members of the larder who take part.

Thank you to our committed local councillor Laurence Fouweather who keeps us in touch with issues we need to know about at City Council level, and to his ongoing support for the Community Association. We also welcome the close links we have developed with Gillian McDermott, the headteacher of Cutteslowe Primary School, and her staff particularly in relation to Sunnymead Minnows but on many other fronts too.

However, none of this would have been possible without the continued support of the trustees and I want to thank them wholeheartedly and they are Don Anderson (Honorary Treasurer), Shirley McCready, Sarah Scheele, Sue Buckley, Hetty Baker, Tenika Blake and Judy Davis.

Last but not least I want to thank all the donors, individuals and organisations who have funded the CCA and on which we depend for everything we do. This report captures, I hope, all the incredible work we are able to do as a result of this support. Now read on!



From the Centre Manager

2024 was a challenging year in many ways! For the majority of the year our funding was looking very uncertain with very few grants becoming available that we could apply for and competition for those grants being incredibly high. Happily, we were successful with a number of large (for us!) grants in October-December that will enable us to continue our work at least for the coming year!

We have seen uptake in numbers to nearly all of our groups and projects with continued growth this year. We continue to work to engage with our local community partners, organisations, charities, schools and individuals to extend the provision within Cutteslowe with the aim of improving the lives of those living locally. Specifically our flagship Sunnymead Minnows provision for children under 5 and their families has seen substantial increase in uptake with fortnightly Baby Clinics with a Health Visitor available. Leanne teamed up with local mum, School Governor and Early Year Specialist Jude Eyre to look in more detail with Cutteslowe Community Partnership about the effects and implications of the Children's Centre's closure in 2016 and the pivotal role that Minnows plays for children and families in Cutteslowe.

This year the conversation about older adults living locally has become louder and more focused. With nearly 17% of households in Cutteslowe being made up of people over the age of 65 living alone it is a conversation that needs to be had. During 2024 Oxford University's Department of Aging Population carried out a project mapping the provision for older adults in Cutteslowe and three other areas in the County. We alongside local partner organisations and churches are looking forward to working with the University further in 2025. Together we hope to extend and improve Cutteslowe's provision for older adults with the aim of reducing loneliness and isolation and enabling people to age better.

As we go into 2025 it feels like there are exciting things to come to benefit our gorgeous community!



From the Treasurer

I am pleased to be able to report that the financial position of the Association remains strong. In the year which ended in March 2024, despite a period of high inflation, our income and expenditure were almost identical at about £96,000 and since the end of the financial year we have been able to carry on balancing the books.

The progressive refurbishment of almost all rooms and the installation of an AV system in the hall have led to a very gratifying increase in usage, most notably by local families for parties and other events, giving a useful boost to our income. This in turn has helped to allow us to offer free usage to some organisations and groups with little or no income who support Cutteslowe residents. It goes without saying that we would be a much diminished Community Centre were it not for the substantial help from donations made by many of our neighbours which, together with a generous grant from the Tolkien Trust, now make up over 40% of our income. To all of you who contribute to keeping us going, very many thanks.



The Breathing of Life Project

The Breathing of Life was a community arts and ecology project led by artist Helen Edwards in partnership with Freshwater Habitats Trust and supported by Cutteslowe Community Association. Funded by The Art Society Oxford, it ran from April 2023 to August 2024 and invited people to creatively explore Oxford's rare freshwater habitats, particularly around Cutteslowe.

Monthly workshops at Cutteslowe Water Meadows, the Community Centre, and the Greenhouse Project engaged over 250 participants of all ages, using art to foster connection with nature and one another.

The project culminated in an exhibition at The North Wall Arts Centre (3rd July–10th August 2024), showcasing community work alongside Helen's portraits and underwater photography, reimagining our relationship with local wetland plants.

The show included art from the Family Art Club and gallery workshops welcoming 18–20 participants each. The project raised funds for the Centre and celebrated creativity's role in local resilience.



Art and Ecologies Project

Cutteslowe Ecologies was a summer artist residency at Cutteslowe Community Centre, part of Modern Art Oxford's Situated Ecologies project. Led by artist Helen Edwards and Modern Art Oxford (MAO) curator Mills Brown, the residency featured free art-making sessions from June to August, engaging over 100 participants across all ages.

Helen drew on her 18 years of experience in Cutteslowe and her passion for intercultural and ecological themes. Sessions involved groups including Minnows early years, Family Art Club, Cutteslowe Larder, Summer Camp, and the Seniors group, alongside open community workshops.



Participants explored local ecology, identity, and memory using techniques such as cyanotypes, printing, shadow play, puppet-making, dreamcatchers, and weaving with natural materials. The work will contribute to a new co-created sign on the front of the building celebrating 70 years of Cutteslowe Community Centre, with a public consultation in January 2025.

A digital artwork, Cutteslowe Dreams, was created by Helen, weaving community voices into a poetic short film—available on the MAO and CCA websites.

Family Art Club

The Art Club has had a fantastic year with weekly creative sessions, exploring various art media inspired by global artists. Families from all backgrounds joined in, developing skills in concentration and observation while expressing their creativity. The children were excited to be involved in both of the projects mentioned above and were thrilled to see their landscape collages, dream catchers, and clay models exhibited at the North Wall Arts Centre. Volunteers, including Tom Ayres and students from St Edward's School, help support the sessions. New families and volunteers are always welcome to this free, open access provision.

Sunnymead Minnows, under 5s provision

2024 was a successful year for Sunnymead Minnows, with a notable rise in the number of families attending our sessions. The 'Baby Hub' saw the biggest growth, following the introduction of a fortnightly Well Child Clinic in January, led by a Community Nursery Nurse from the Health Visiting Service. As NHS clinics moved out of Summertown and closed in Kidlington, our Baby Hub became a vital local resource, combining health checks with social and learning opportunities for new parents and babies.

In October, Leanne completed 'This Mum Moves' Ambassador training through the Institute of Health Visiting, funded by Active Oxfordshire. This allows her to better support new and expectant mums with safe, accessible physical activity. Leanne was also due to receive training in parent-infant attachment with OXPIP, funded by OCVA and promoted by the Early Years Network. This training has been postponed to spring 2025.

We ran engaging holiday sessions over Easter and summer, including 'Baby Hub', 'Makers and Shakers', and 'Mini Movers'. 'Baby Hub' continued to support the Well Child Clinic fortnightly. 'Makers and Shakers' featured eco-themed crafts, games, and stories, while 'Mini Movers' brought active play to Sunnymead playground with motor skill activities and parachute games.

'Messy Play' Fridays in the Pavilion introduced monthly themes like space, wildlife, and the seaside. 'Rhyme Time' moved to the community centre in September, enabling more interactive sessions with props, instruments, shadow puppets, and cultural themes. With no repeated sessions and a rotating song list, families are exposed to a wide range of learning experiences. These sessions regularly attract 10+ families.

'Stay & Play' numbers grew steadily, with our weekly hot lunch remaining a major draw for families. Forest School moved to Mondays due to changes at Cutteslowe Primary School and may expand to a local allotment and orchard in the future. 'Tiny Town' Fridays remained highly popular, offering ride-on toys and themed role play activities, often attracting 25+ families.

Across all offerings - from 'Baby Hub' and 'Rhyme Time' to Forest School and Tiny Town - we've continued to deliver a rich, inclusive programme. Our sessions support the Early Year Foundation Stage framework, encourage strong parent-child bonds, and prepare children for school and lifelong learning.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our hugely dedicated team of Minnows volunteers who give up their time each week. Without your dedication Minnows would not

Sunnymead Minnows continues to offer a bright start for local families!



Cotteslowe Seniors Group

The Cotteslowe Seniors, a lively and supportive group, meet twice monthly. On the second Friday we meet in the Centre at 11am and have a talk on a topic of interest or occasionally a social activity, followed by lunch. On the fourth Friday we meet at the Centre, usually at 10.30am and enjoy an outing and lunch in a pub or restaurant.

Our monthly talks remained central to our programme and we hosted eleven engaging and varied sessions in 2024. We began the year with a spirited folk singing session followed by our much-loved lunch of soup and rolls, served with help from St Edward's School pupils - fostering valuable intergenerational interaction. We hope to resume similar sessions with Cotteslowe Primary School to share memories of life in the 1950s and 60s. Since then, we have done cyanotype printing with artist Helen Edwards, had a talk from Dr Virginia Bainbridge about Women Patrons of Oxford University c.1300–1600 and learnt how to avoid online scamming with AGE UK to name but a few.

Despite transport limitations, we enjoyed a full calendar of local outings, made possible with help from Honey Bee Travel. Highlights included a tour and afternoon tea at Pembroke College, Rousham House Rose Gardens, Christmas shopping at Yarnton Garden Centre and a joint trip with Jericho's Senior Group 'Alive and Kicking' to Bournemouth.

Although member interest remains high, our trip numbers are limited by transport. Only 14 people can travel, due to a lack of subsidised options. We have written to Annelise Dodds advocating for better transport support to combat isolation and promote mental well-being among seniors. Members already contribute toward trip and meal costs, but reliable, affordable transport remains essential.

We extend sincere thanks to Don Anderson and the Trustees for their continued support as well as Steph and Mariana for their tireless help throughout the year

We always welcome new members, so anyone over 60 is more than welcome to call the Centre for further details. Alternatively call Sylvia Barker on:
Mobile 07538361853
or e-mail barkersylvia191@gmail.com



Special Educational Needs Support Group

Parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are warmly invited to join us at the Community Centre on the first and third Friday of each term-time month, from 2–3pm. The group was founded by Becki Huth - a local mum and Forest School teacher at Cotteslowe Primary School - with support from the Community Centre, to create a safe, confidential, and non-judgemental space where families can share and support one another. As a parent of four children with SEN, Becki knows how hard it can be to find places where you can speak openly and honestly. That's exactly what we offer - along with great chats, plenty of tea and biscuits, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.



Summer Programme 2024

Once again this summer, despite rising costs and very limited funding, we were able to provide an activity program for children of primary age in the area. We work hard to fundraise to ensure the provision is affordable to lower income families who find alternative provision financially inaccessible. Our summer camp ran for three weeks from 29th July to 16th August. We chose to run our provision in two sessions, morning and afternoon, for 6/7 year olds and 8+ year olds respectively. This allowed us to tailor our activities in accordance with age. Older children were able to attend in the mornings also, alongside the little ones, which allowed them to support the younger ones in crafts and games.

Following on from previous positive feedback about our craft activities, and building on the expertise of our staff, we gave arts and craft activities a stronger focus this year. We maintained smaller group sizes so that we could give lots of individual attention to our children. This was particularly effective in our popular sewing tasks, where the children learnt basic stitches, and then began to create their own sewn items to take home. These included small felt creatures and customised and upcycled tee shirts. We also made jewellery and decorations using wire and beads, which was a very popular activity. We tried weaving, and made small baskets from recycled materials. Clay modelling was once again very popular and produced some great outcomes. Along side all of this, we offered paper crafts, drawing and colouring activities every day. In order to keep costs down, and fulfil our commitment to sustainability, we used mainly recycled materials, natural forms and found objects as a spring board for our craft activities.



We often took the group out into the woods and green areas around the Centre to collect natural materials to use in our craft activities. This was also a great opportunity to get outside, get some fresh air, and let off some steam. The weather was largely favourable. Again this year, we benefited from the donation of packed lunches for our participants from St Edward's school, and an integral and enjoyable part of our day was our picnic mealtimes in the local playground.

A very popular aspect of the summer programme this year was card and board games. We set up the lounge to provide space for this, and the children played in groups and with staff members. These interactive activities allowed a contrast from the quieter, more focussed craft activities, and led to lots of positive interactions.

As in previous years, new friendships were made and old friendships were renewed. Summer camp gives young people in the area the opportunity to interact with other children outside their usual friendships groups, and of different ages and cultural backgrounds, thus broadening horizons and engendering a sense of community in the young individuals who attend.

Cutteslowe Wishing Tree

Cutteslowe Wishing Tree is a project designed and delivered by Community Centre Manager, Steph Jankovic. Started in 2020, the project works to create a bridge between the two ends of the financial spectrum locally by providing the opportunity for the more financially able within the community to provide gifts for a specific child/children from a low-income family.

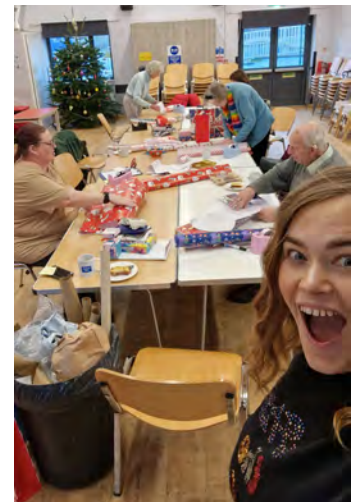
Parents specify their child's age, gender and interests anonymously, these details are then passed over to a volunteer donor who buys gifts for their individually numbered child and submits them to the Centre to be wrapped and distributed to families.



We were absolutely overwhelmed by the uptake and generosity of our amazing community for 2024's Cutteslowe Wishing Tree. Uptake of the project by local families increased by 136% with 125 children being signed up to receive gifts and clothing.

We had nearly 15 local residents giving up their time to wrap all of the gifts over a two week period including a wrapping afternoon with AGE UK where older adults came to wrap gifts while listening to carols with tea and mince pies.

We would like to say a special thank you to Beyond Dental Summertown who donated all of the wrapping paper, gift bags and sellotape to wrap all of the presents!



Community Coach Trips

This year we ran two community coach trips to Brighton and Bournemouth in July and August for local residents. The coaches were a good mix of approximately 60:40 families and older adults respectively. For most taking part in the coach trips travel is made difficult due to limitations like; finances, mobility and confidence, with a number of families remarking that the day trips to the beach were their family's summer holiday for 2024.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to local residents Edward and Annie Bernard whose generous donation enabled us to subsidise the coach trips to ensure that they were affordable for those attending (£10/seat rather than £17). With Edward and Annie's help we are planning more trips to Cotswold Wildlife Park, Weymouth, Barry Island and more for 2025!



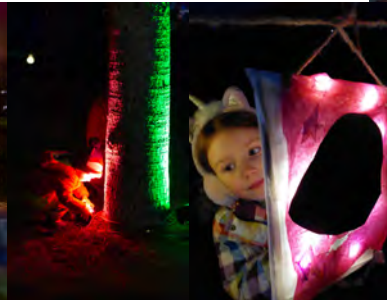
Cotteslowe Light Trail

This year's light trail was a year of firsts! We were unsuccessful in receiving funding from Oxford City Council for the Light Festival but happily Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum saved the day and we as a community are now proud owners of lots of lights which will enable us to build upon our successes this year to make next year even better!

Following our publicity going viral locally we were overwhelmed with popularity, with, we estimate, more than 4,000 people attending the event from all over the County; a marked increase over our usual 1,000 local residents!

For the second year the Cotteslowe Miniature Railway took part in the event; this year for the first time they not only lit up their miniature engines but also provided lit railway journeys for families to enjoy.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Abie Walton from our Light Fest partners the North Wall Arts Centre as well as all our community volunteers and all of the children at Cotteslowe Primary and our Art Club who created art work to light up the park, helping make the event such a huge success in 2024!



New Audio Visual System



This year, again with funding from Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum we were able to install a new audio visual system in the Centre with a ceiling-mounted projector, retractable projector screen and Bluetooth surround sound.

Since its installation the AV system has been used for monthly family cinema screenings, multiple presentations and AGMs by local groups and to screen the England vs. Spain Euro Cup Final for children and families. The sound system has been incredibly popular for functions ranging from 18th birthday parties to wakes!

We would like to extend another huge thankyou to Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum for continuing to support our work and make such improvements possible!

Cotteslowe Community Larder

Each Wednesday, Cotteslowe Connected Church, in partnership with Cotteslowe Community Centre, runs a Community Larder. The food is supplied through the charity SOFEA and the generosity of the local community.

The Cotteslowe Community Larder was set up during the first COVID-19 lockdown. Since that time, the Community Larder has evolved from simply providing food to the community into a community hub with a number of aims:

- *combatting food poverty*
- *reducing food waste*
- *helping build the Cotteslowe Community*

We have a growing team of over 50 volunteers who help lead, run, volunteer and deliver the community larder week by week. We are always on the lookout for volunteers who would like to come and join the team, serving our community.



Tom Murray, vicar at Cotteslowe Connected Church and Larder Leader meeting the King and Queen at SOFEA warehouse in Didcot

This year we have really seen our fresh-cooked lunch provision and now serve a two course meal to around 40 Larder members each week as well as 100 Cotteslowe Primary Children at the end of the school day.

Financial support has enabled us to host Citizens Advice staff and volunteers each week during the Larder, to give support and advice to people on a range of issues.

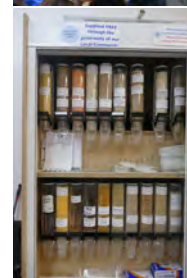
We have also been able to purchase a new retractable awning for the community café to create a weatherproof outside space at the Larder each week.

For more information about the Larder email: cotteslowe@standrewsoxford.org
or visit the website:
www.cottesloweconnected.org/larder



In 2024, we were able to install a wholefood dispenser in the Centre to ensure users can access calorifically valuable, nourishing staple foods as part of their weekly Larder shop. We are also now able to provide both chilled and frozen foods.

Cotteslowe Community Larder, in partnership with Cotteslowe Allotment Association, have been working together to tend our own allotment. We grow fresh fruit and veg to supplement the Larder, teach gardening skills and improve mental health.



Baking Success

This year we have again worked with volunteers from the local Church Partnership who organise charity Bake Sales to fundraise for different charities every Saturday during the summer month at what was the United Reformed Church (URC).

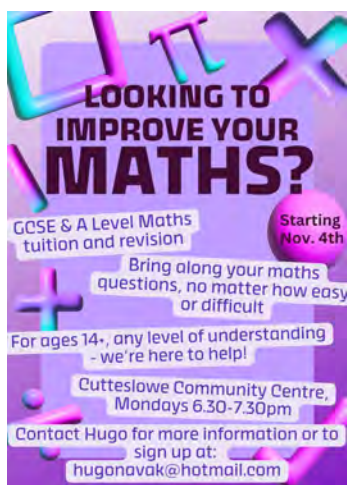
We took part in four Saturday bake sales during the summer as well as the Charity Craft Fair in November. We were absolutely blown away by the support from both our local bakers and buyers raising around £500 per summer bake sale.

As well as this the profits from the Fairtrade Coffee Café that is delivered by volunteers every Saturday and during the November craft fair were donated to CCA with over £900 raised for the Centre.

We would like to say a hugely heartfelt thank you to all the people who baked, bought, volunteered at the coffee café and most importantly Juliet Field who organises the charity fundraising events at the former URC (now Summertown Arts Centre) every year.



Maths Booster Classes



We were pleased to be joined by mathematician, volunteer and local resident Hugo Navak this year. Hugo and his co-volunteer maths teacher Penny joined us to deliver maths tuition and revision class every Monday night.

Participants and parents have spoken incredibly highly of the classes commenting that they have been looking for maths tuition for GCSE and A Level for a long time but have found class prices have made them inaccessible.

For more information and to find out about taking part in the class please email hugonovak@hotmail.com.

Winter Craft Fair



This year, we combined our Christmas Craft activity and annual Fair into one festive Winter Craft Fair. Families joined us for a fun-filled afternoon of making gifts and decorations, trying their luck on the tombola, enjoying delicious cakes - and, of course, meeting Santa!

We would like to thank Mandy Brain and Azra Khan who usually work with us during our Summer Camp but this year volunteered their time to the Winter Fair. Special thanks to Russ Spivey who joined us as Santa for not only the Winter Fair but also for the two Minnows Christmas Parties...he is a firm favourite who brings so much joy every year!

Evergreens Group for Older Adults

The Evergreens Group would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful team at Cutteslowe Community Centre for so warmly welcoming them and making the Centre feel like a true home-from-home following the closure of their previous hosts Cutteslowe Garden Project. Their care and kindness have made all the difference, giving us a cosy, inclusive space to come together, laugh, connect, and feel part of something special.

Throughout the year, we've enjoyed a lively mix of activities—from games mornings and quizzes to fascinating sessions with the outreach team from the Museum of Oxford. One highlight was a particularly joyful Movers and Shakers session that had everyone smiling and joining in.

Of course, no gathering is complete without a good meal, and we're incredibly grateful to St. Edward's School for the delicious soup and rolls, thoughtfully served by the ever-cheerful Steph and Mariana.

Our outings have brought even more cheer, whether we were sipping tea at Annie's Tea Rooms in Thrupp, browsing festive displays at Yarnton Garden Centre, enjoying a hearty meal at the King's Arms, or learning about nature on a unique foraging walk around Wolvercote Lakes.

A huge thank you once again to Steph, Mariana, and the trustees of the Centre for their ongoing support and generosity. Your efforts have helped make this year not only enjoyable, but truly memorable.



Cutteslowe Primary School Art Show

10 minutes after these photos were taken, the room was filled with children, their parents and friends from Cutteslowe Primary School. 360 children from this amazing culturally diverse school took part in a project called 'My Neighbour, My Friend', looking at animals, food, and music in their lives. The last workshop was a response with pastels to music from each continent and concrete music, the room was alive.. you could almost hear the the music in their brilliant work!

The exhibition was opened by the Lord Mayor of Oxford, Mike Rowley, a huge thank you for coming to see the exhibition and saying such kind words! He is seen here talking to Steph Jankovic, Community Centre Manager; Project Artist Miranda Creswell and the brilliant former assistant head Erin Kennedy who organised for Miranda to join the school for this project.

Thank you to the head of Cutteslowe Primary School, Gillian McDermott, for the welcome and for the passionate speech on the importance of Diversity. Lastly and not least thank you so much to Lyla Jankovic, Tom Murray and Arthur, the two Johns and Tim, Cutteslowe Connected Church and Cutteslowe Larder for helping with drinks and biscuits, laying out the pictures and moving a lot of furniture !



Community Centre Celebration in Oxford Town Hall

In February 2024 our Centre Manager Steph Jankovic was unanimously elected as Chair of the Federation of Oxford Community Associations. The Federation is a body representing all 16 Oxford City Council (OCC) owned Community Associations across the City. In the past it has campaigned to protect community centres and their important work within the City. Following her election as Chair Steph worked closely with OCC to organise an event in September celebrating our community centres. Lord Mayor Mike Rowley spoke very movingly about the value of our community centres stating that without them and the communities they serve Oxford would be more like a very large museum as did Cabinet Member Linda Smith who leads on Housing and Communities. Steph, with the help of her daughter Lyla spoke on behalf of the 16 community centres about their success, achievements and challenges.



North Wall Drama Club

This marks the second year of a weekly drama group for 8 -11 (NW Inventors) and 12-17 (Youth Lab) year olds at Cutteslowe Community Centre. The NW Inventors group spent the Autumn term developing skills in drama and performance. During the Spring term both groups devised and wrote a play. In the Summer term, they rehearsed and performed their play: NW Inventors: 'The Wicked Witch and the Whispering Wood' and Youth Lab 'Death Stroke'. Both groups performed their plays at The North Wall Arts Centre Theatre to a paying audience with full lighting and tech support.

"The shows were amazing!"

"She has loved it! Definitely be back next year."

"Thank you for teaching me new skills and the kindness you have given me."

"Your class lights up Eugene's world. He is much happier now."



Citizens Advice

Since returning to the Community Centre in 2023 our Citizens Advice Clinic has continued to experience high demand. Due to the high numbers, we are now also using a room at Cutteslowe Primary to enable us to see everyone; we thank the school for this support. Primary concerns for users are around debt; benefits; immigration and asylum; domestic abuse; housing; divorce; inheritance and accessing SEN diagnosis for children.

Citizens Advice Oxford



Drop in sessions at:

Cutteslowe Community Centre

**Wednesdays
from 1pm to 3pm**

Free, independent and confidential advice about benefits, debts, housing, problems at work and consumer issues

Please come as early as possible and be prepared to wait

You can also get advice by:

• Visiting www.citizensadvice.org.uk
• Calling 0800 27 87 309 from far telephone advice from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm
• Emailing us for advice by scanning the code or going to <https://bit.ly/EmailCAO>



**citizens
advice** Oxford

Rainbows

The Cutteslowe unit started in September 2023 and in 2024 had a small group enjoying weekly meetings. We had fun doing all sorts of fun things and one of our girls got their Bronze Award. Well done Kitty! In May we had a Rainbow Riot - a bouncy castle party with other rainbows across North Oxford and Marston.

We also joined with guides, rangers, and brownies for a big campfire at Jubilee House at Stanton St John. This was a sunny evening of singing together, toasting marshmallows and playing games.

Rainbows are part of Girlguiding UK, for 4 to 7 year old girls. We have space for 15 girls and currently have room for more!



Brownies

Another year full of firsts at 7th North Oxford Brownies saw our group complete our First Aid, Innovate and Network badges. The Festival at Brownies was a highlight for the group with the warm evenings in summer allowing the unit to spend time outside in nature. November saw us take part in Parliament Week, with the Brownies enjoying Brownie Leader Questions. We made our own mini golf courses, had a winter-themed evening in December, making snow globes and snowball cake pops.

Brownies welcomes all girls from 7 to 10 years old for non-stop fun, learning and adventure. We have places to join our unit from September 2025. Register now using the Girlguiding Website.



ESOL Classes

FELLOW offers free English lessons to those who otherwise could not afford lessons. These have been spread across Oxford with Cutteslowe community centre opening its doors for the local community. We have run a lesson from 10.30-12pm every Thursday during term time. This has helped us to reach 260 individuals for the year of 2024 helping FELLOW to deliver 1600 hours of teaching. This class is imperative to the growth of FELLOW and in reaching as many people in need as possible.



AGE UK Coffee Afternoons

Age UK Oxfordshire seniors group was very busy in 2024 with our regular monthly gathering at the centre. With the support of Witney and Abingdon College the group participated in various activities such as quizzes and bingo, watercolour paintings, seated exercise, scams awareness, wreath making and wrapping up presents. Always with a hot drink, sweet cake and fantastic company. We look forward to continuing to work with the Community Centre in 2025!



Cotteslowe Community Association, 2024



Stephanie Jankovic
Centre Manager



Mariana Bujons
Administrator



Leanne McClements
Early Years Leader



Sylvia Barker
Seniors Coordinator



Fiona Greenwood
Summer Coordinator



Helen Edwards
Art Club Leader

Trustees:

Ann Childs - Chair
Don Anderson - Treasurer
Sarah Scheele
Shirley McCready
Hetty Baker
Sue Buckley
Tenika Blake
Judy Davis
Noel Tuckwell

In Attendance:

Phil Jones - Oxford City Council
Neighbourhood Locality Officer
Laurence Fouweather - City Councillor
Andrew Gant - County and City Councillor

Partnerships and Funders

Did you know we receive no direct funding? This makes us entirely dependent on rental income as well as the kind generosity of local residents and funding gained through grants.

Cotteslowe Community Association works with local organisations including, in 2024: Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Cotteslowe Primary School, AgeUK, St Andrew's Church, St Michael and All Angels' Church, St Edward's School, Citizens Advice, The North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford Food Hub, Oxfordshire Adult Learning, Abingdon and Witney College, Oxford University's Institute of Aging Population, Modern Art Oxford and North Oxford Association

We would also like to acknowledge and extend huge gratification to those that have funded us in the last year, specifically: Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Councillors Andrew Gant and Laurence Fouweather, Summertown St Margaret's Neighbourhood Forum, Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum, St Andrew's PCC, The Tolkien Trust, Summertown Wolvercote and Wytham Church Partnership, St Edward's School, The Arts Society Oxford, Edward and Annie Bernard, The Mactaggart Third Fund, The Brad Foundation and all those from our Community who generously donated!