



Oxford Poverty Action Trust Annual Report 2021

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1 Chair's Report 2021

The Problem

The level of homelessness in Oxford is significantly higher than in neighbouring local authority areas. In 2019 the estimated number of homeless people in Oxford was 237.¹ The number of rough sleepers is high for a city of Oxford size, and estimated to vary between 40 and 60 at any one time in the year. The DLUHC publication Ending Rough Sleeping For Good presented in September 2022 estimates that the number of people sleeping rough in England excluding London on one Autumn night has gone from 420 in 2010 to 740 in 2014 to 1280 in 2018 and down to 640 in 2021.² Everyone In, RSAP and Protect initiatives launched in 2020 will of course have assisted in this reduction. The problem of homelessness in the city continues. Many of the reasons are as before, well known – the cost of housing in Oxford, the austerity imposed by central government on local government for the last ten years, and the associated cuts to expenditure on housing, mental health and drug services. It is worth noting that there are over 750 AirBnB properties in Oxford at the present time.

The OxPAT Response

Despite the problems, the charities engaged in supporting single homeless people in Oxford continue to do excellent work, and the Oxford Poverty Action Trust (OxPAT) continues to provide a mechanism for concerned citizens to donate to these local charities. Active since 1996 the Oxford Poverty Action Trust (OxPAT) has distributed around £700,000 to support homeless people in Oxford, including £70152.79 in 2021. We have done that by soliciting donations which we then pass to other local charities who we perceive to be doing good work to help the homeless. OxPAT has no staff or premises and very few costs. In 2021, excluding the cost of buying Christmas cards, which we sell for a profit, we had no costs. It is very difficult when you see a homeless person on the street to know how best to help. Surveys show that over 70 % of money donated directly to the homeless will be spent on drink or drugs. Giving money to OxPAT means that your donation will be channelled through professional charities with the resources to understand the problems a homeless person is suffering with, and to help develop a plan to help the person address those problems. The OxPAT money will be spent by the charity involved on items or activities which will directly benefit an individual or individuals. It will typically be spent on shelter, food, clothing, advice, medical care, and training to help people get a job, or manage their finances better.

Activities in 2021

Fund raising 2021

In total £59861.42 was donated by the public, resulting in a total raised of £71,815.34

Christmas cards

Our 2021 Christmas Card was another beautiful card entitled *Christmas shopping in Turl Street* a lovely Oxford street scene by local artist John Somerscales. We sold the cards directly to members of the public, via the "Cards for Good Causes" shop at Oxford Town Hall, and via the Hayfield Deli in Hayfield Rd.

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Contactless collecting pilot Greater Change (www.greaterchange.co.uk) helped us to run a pilot of contactless giving in Oxford. They supplied us with contactless terminals which we placed in the Co-op on Walton St and in Alden's Fish Market in Osney. The terminals raised over £1,000 during 2021 and gave us experience of contactless terminals as a means of raising money. We wish to thank Greater Change, the Co-op and Aldens for supporting us with this.

Events

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that events such as Collection day at Eights week on Christchurch Meadow Christchurch College, the OxPAT street collection and Carol singing at the railway station did not take place.

However, Carol singing by children of St Barnabas School at the Westgate Centre did go ahead just before Christmas and was well received.

¹ This is England: A picture of homelessness in 2019 – Shelter, ² DLUHC publication Ending Rough Sleeping For Good presented in September 2022

Distribution

Due to the impact of COVID-19 it was considered inappropriate to impact further on our core partners. OxPAT partnered with the charities listed in section 5 Partners below. We are convinced that these agencies are amongst the most effective in Oxford and we thank them for working with us this year. Between them these charities provide a full range of support services for homeless people from helping those sleeping on the streets, to providing shelter in day centres and hostels, mental care, rehabilitation, and training and skills development to help them find employment.

2 Legal Details

Trust

The object of the Trust is “for the relief of the effects of poverty, sickness, disablement and old-age” in accordance with a Trust Deed made on 28th June 1998. The Trust has been granted registration as a charity by the Charity Commissioners. The Charity Number is 1070645. The Inland Revenue has accepted the Trust as a charity within the definition of section 506 (1) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998, as a result of which the Trust’s income and gains are not taxable to the extent that they are applicable and applied to charitable purposes.

The registered address is 25 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HA.

During the calendar and accounting year 2021 the following persons acted as Trustees of the Oxford Poverty Action Trust (known as OxPAT) for some or all of the time:

Paul Armstrong

Deborah Ceadel

Mary Gurr

Ralph Hall

Meg Movshon

Patrick Mulvihill

Ben Chataway

Officers during the year 2021 were:

Chair: Patrick Mulvihill

Secretary: Suzi Coyne

Treasurer: Paul Armstrong

The Patrons of the Trust are: Rt Revd. William Kenney CP Mrs. Felicity Dick, Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

The Charity’s Bankers are: The Co-operative Bank, King’s Valley, Yew Street, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 2JU

The charity owns no functional property and there are no connected companies.

Special thanks to Jonathan Clark for website support.

Pat Mulvihill, Chair, October 2022

3 Finance

OxPAT Financial Report for 2021

OxPAT Accounts (figures in £)	2020	2021
Expenditure:		
Admin and Special Purposes Sub-Accounts	-	-
Grants to Charities	72,600.00	69,245.00
Grants to Individuals ²	1,962.49	907.79
Christmas cards	1,818.00	2,010.00
Bank error	- 98.00	-
Total Expenditure	76,282.49	72,162.79
Income:		
Boxes	508.56	477.83
Fund Raising	1,306.77	150.00
Organisations	4,834.00	6,100.00
Places of Worship	2,150.00	1,750.00
Private Donations (Gift Aid)	13,537.00	18,904.50
2019 Christmas cards	1,604.00	-
2020 Christmas cards	847.27	1,443.36
2021 Christmas cards	-	1,180.56
Donations via platforms (online & offline) ³	21,847.42	21,999.05
Other Private Donations (Non-Gift Aid)	8,525.52	18,330.04
Gift Aid payments from HMRC	8,757.97	-
Special events	20.00	-
Other	738.20	1,480.00
Total Income	64,676.71	71,815.34

² of the total £907.79 distributed to individuals, £200 was returned from the recipient as these funds were no longer required. this return is included as income in the 'other' income line.

³Includes online donations made via CAF, CAF cheques, JustGiving, Stewardship, The Big Give or Charitable Giving; donations plus any gift aid collected on behalf of OxPAT are included in this row.

Reconciliation with bank	2020	2021
Opening balance	15,968.03	4362.25
Income	64,676.71	71,815.34
Expenditure	76,282.49	72,162.79
Closing balance	4,362.25	4,014.80

Income

2021 has been a strong year for OxPAT. Total income in 2021 increased from £64,676.71 in 2020 to £71,815.34 – an increase of over 10%. In the 20+ years OxPAT has been operating, we have collected around £700,000 from our donors.

Our income is spread across various categories of donors and donation channels.

Box income remained similar to last year, though lower than years prior, reflecting lower use of cash and foot traffic near our collection boxes. Similarly, fundraising income also decreased, with 2021 fundraising income coming from a single event. Income from organisations increased by around 25% from 2020 to £6,100 reflecting a number of donations from companies and educational institutions. Income from places of worship decreased from 2020, reflecting decreased collections this year from places of worship which regularly support OxPAT. Gift Aid eligible donations have seen a sizeable increase – nearly 40% - rising to £18,904.50 in 2021, reflecting both an increase in regular Gift Aid standing orders and one-off donations.

The 2021 Christmas card saw revenues of £1,180.56 in 2021. In line with previous years, a sizeable proportion of revenue from the Christmas card sales come in during the first few months of the next calendar year. Hence, much of the revenue from the 2021 Christmas card is expected to be collected in 2022. Overall, 2020 Christmas card sales brought in income of £2,290.63 across 2020 and 2021, leading to a profit of £472.63 for 2020 Christmas card sales.

Donations made via fundraising platforms such as Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) or Just Giving, have remained broadly similar between 2020 and 2021, reflecting a sustained increase in the level of online donations in recent years. Platform revenue reflects a number of regular donations made via CAF, as well as additional one-off donations. Revenue via fundraising platforms includes any Gift Aid collected by a given platform on our behalf.

Non-Gift Aid donations more than doubled from 2020 to 2021, reflecting both some new regular donations, as well as a number of one-off donations which we do not expect to be repeated. Gift Aid for direct donations to OxPAT in 2021 will be claimed in 2022.

No special events income was recorded in 2021. Other income reflects donations made directly to our bank account which are not attributable to a specific individual/organisation – this nearly doubled from £738.20 2020 to £1,280 in 2021.

Expenditure

The total grants made by OxPAT in 2021 amounted to £72,162.79, the vast majority of which was donated as regular distributions to our core agencies, totalling £69,245. Grants to individuals (paid via various charities) decreased to around one third, from £1,962.49 in 2020 to £907.79 in 2021.

Our costs for Christmas card printing were £2,010 in 2021, covering Christmas cards printed in that year. This reflects an increase in the costs of printing. No administrative or special purposes expenses were made in 2021.

Special purposes accounts

Within the totals above we keep track a of special purposes sub-account, which currently contains funds from a donation from the Oxford Round Table. This was originally given for box replacement and refurbishment but the Round Table has now agreed that it may be spent on anything we consider appropriate.

Special purposes account	2020	2021
Opening balance	740.69	740.69
Income	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
Closing balance	740.69	740.69

The special purposes account currently contains funds from a donation from the Oxford Round Table. This was originally given for box replacement and refurbishment but the Round Table has now agreed that it may be spent on anything we consider appropriate. We had previously tracked a separate administration account with donations made by organisations that are happy for their money to be spent on our limited administration expenses. However, as these last of these funds was spent in 2019, and no new funds for this purpose were provided, this sub-account is defunct.

We would like to thank all our donors, large and small, for their generosity towards us. In particular we would like to thank our regular donors, both organisations and individuals, who have supported us over the years including W Lucy & Co, St Leonard's Church Eynsham, Osler Diagnostics, and All Souls College. We are also very grateful to Howard Cox for carrying out our independent examination.

We would also like to thank the charities to whom we give the money. We have no doubt that the money we pass to them is used efficiently and effectively in support of people in Oxford who are homeless, or in danger of homelessness.

Paul Armstrong, OxPAT Treasurer, September 2022

4 Grants Policy Core Principles

1. OxPAT funds are to be used to provide direct help to homeless or vulnerably housed adults.
2. OxPAT funds can be used to fulfil basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. They can also be used to help people address the issues that have led to them becoming homeless, by building confidence and self-esteem, improving skills, and addressing dependency issues.
3. OxPAT funds are not to be used to fund administration nor on-going costs, or to discharge statutory duties.
4. OxPAT funds will only be distributed to or through recognised charitable agencies; and must be spent by or under the supervision of such an agency. Distribution The monies received by OxPAT are distributed through agency welfare funds to be spent on welfare services, rehabilitation, accommodation and training and education to help people to get off the streets and move forward.

Core Agencies

OxPAT will aim to distribute most of its funds to a core group of agencies via regular monthly donations to their welfare funds. It is each agency's responsibility to ensure this money is spent in accordance with OxPAT's core principles and to report back at the end of the calendar year or more frequently as appropriate as to how it has been spent.

Specific applications

Some of OxPAT's funds will be used to fund specific applications which are not from the core agencies. Examples of successful applications include requests for clothing, bedding, work tools, and transport costs to enable a person in need to travel to a job. To apply for a grant for a homeless, or vulnerable, person, please download the OxPAT Grant Application Form from the OxPAT website (www.oxpat.org/), and follow the instructions on it.

5 Partners

Core agencies during 2021 were:

Aspire Oxfordshire
The Gatehouse
Connection Support
Crisis Skylight Oxford
Elmore Community Services
Homeless Oxfordshire
St Mungo's/Outreach
SMART/CJS (Howard House)
Edge Housing
The Porch

6 Box Officer's Report

Box Locations

Collection boxes at:

St. Michael at the North Gate Shop
Oxford Town Hall
Wellcome Trust Centre (Old Road Campus)
Hayfield Deli
Blackwells (Broad Street and Westgate SC)
Magdalen College Bar

Oxford Railway Station

LMC International

Iffley Turn Practice

Daunts Books (Summertown)

Catherine King, Box Officer, September 2022





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Homeless Oxfordshire
St Mungo's/Outreach
SMART/CJS (Howard House)
Edge Housing
The Porch

6 Box Officer's Report

Box Locations

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Hayfield Deli
Blackwells (Broad Street and Westgate SC)
Magdalen College Bar

Oxford Railway Station

LMC International

Iffley Turn Practice

Daunts Books (Summertown)

Catherine King, Box Officer, September 2022



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Oxford Poverty Action Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1070645

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2021**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

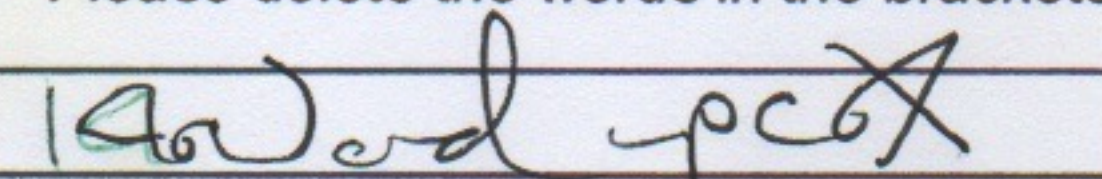
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:



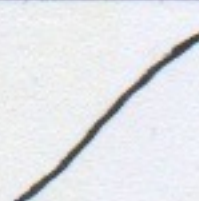
Date:

15th October 2022

Name:

Howard Cox

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**



Address:

47 Bainton Road

Oxford

OX2 7AG

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None.