

**REGIONAL
COMMUNITIES
HIGHLIGHTS
OXFORDSHIRE
2015 - 2017**



REGIONAL COMMUNITIES



- 1 Kidlington/North West Oxford
- 2 Swindon
- 3 Walsall
- 4 Cannock Chase
- 5 Wyre Forest
- 6 Wolverhampton
- 7 Stroud

- 8 Cheltenham and Gloucester
- 9 Cotswolds
- 10 Leamington & Warwick
- 11 Shrewsbury
- 12 Sedgley & Dudley
- 13 Forest Of Dean
- 14 Bicester

- 15 White Horse
- 16 Banbury
- 17 High Wycombe & Thame
- 18 Central Oxford
- 19 Aylesbury
- 20 South Staffs Villages



REGIONAL COMMUNITIES: OXFORDSHIRE HIGHLIGHTS



There are **1,010** colleagues and **52,580** members located in the Oxfordshire Regional Community areas, with the following trading sites; Food **33** sites, Travel **3** sites, Healthcare **3** sites, Funeral **10** homes, Post Office **6** sites, Childcare **5** nurseries. Our Regional Community areas in Oxfordshire include Central Oxford, Kidlington and North West Oxford, Bicester, Banbury, and Cotswolds.

The Society established its Regional Community programme in 2015, enabling members and colleagues to work together to support the local community and demonstrate our co-operative difference. This includes supporting local charities and volunteering together to help build strong local communities.

20 Regional Communities are now fully established across our trading area, each with a local Steering Group in place made up of local colleagues, Board members, Executive members and active local members overseen by Regional Ambassadors.

Key highlights in Oxfordshire since 2015

- Our colleagues across our Oxfordshire Regional Communities have completed 7,700 volunteer hours in the local community
- Colleagues and members have donated over 34,000 items to local foodbanks, providing meals to over 850 families in need
- We have distributed £150,000 through community grants and carrier bag monies to 175 local good causes
- Over 4,670 young people have been engaged in the local area working with a range of educational establishments to support the development of young people

If you are interested in becoming an 'active member' for your local Regional Community Group, please contact our Community Team on **01902 492235** or via email: **communityteam@midcounties.coop** to find out more





OXFORDSHIRE CASE STUDY

Building strong local communities in Oxfordshire

Central Oxford colleagues and members have forged successful links with The Gatehouse, a drop in café for people aged over 25 in Oxford. The Gatehouse is a charity which works with the homeless and those in poor housing. Colleagues have supported the charity by fundraising, volunteering and providing business advice.

We have also forged links with Aspire, a charity that helps vulnerable members of the community become self-sufficient. Working with Aspire our retail sites in Central Oxford have developed a work experience programme to help suitable candidates gain experience in a retail environment. Aspire staff completed the programme first to make sure it met their client's needs.

The first person on the programme had three sessions and left with a certificate of competence from the store manager. Encouragingly they gained full time employment shortly after completing the course. We now intend to replicate this model across the Regional Community and explore with Aspire working with single mothers, helping them back into work and supporting their children using our local Childcare businesses.

Aspire Project

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with Midcounties Co-operative. Aspire works tirelessly to support Oxfordshire's most disadvantaged people into and towards employment; this partnership will be crucial in giving our clients the work experience placements they need to build their skills and confidence." - Paul Roberts, Chief Executive at Aspire Oxford.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CASE STUDY



We have launched our 'Sustainable Communities' programme to help members save energy in their households and alleviate fuel poverty in the community. Our Regional Community programme, established in 2015, provides a strong foundation to mobilise existing community and school partnerships to deliver our 'Sustainable Communities' concept.

We achieved the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development in 2015 and are supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development goals along with other co-ops. With this background in sustainability, and strong links established through our 20 Regional Communities, we will deliver this programme through member and colleague education, engagement and involvement.

Highlights:

Central Oxford:

- Formed a community relationship with Low Carbon Hub, in Oxford, one of the leading community energy organisations in the UK
- Signed a community partnership agreement with Botley school and local colleagues delivered a sustainable education session to their students around energy saving in line with the global 'Earth Hour' campaign

Cotswolds:

- Carried out an energy assessment at Chipping Norton Scouts hut, our local charity partner, and provided energy saving advice

"As a co-operative, we're committed to working with the communities that we operate in, to create a lasting impact on the things that matter to them. It's encouraging to see young people and adults alike showing an interest in community energy and the environment"
Pete Lockey, Regional Ambassador at The Midcounties Co-operative in Central Oxford



OVERALL REGIONAL COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTS



Since establishing our Regional Community programme in 2015 we have achieved the following examples across our 20 areas.

- Delivered over **51,000** colleague volunteer hours
- **10,000** members involved in selecting local opportunities across all **20** Regional Community areas
- Raised **£372,000** for our local charity partners
- **£500,000** distributed across **770** local community groups and good causes through grants and carrier bag monies across our Regional Communities
- Members, colleagues and customers donated **166,000** products to foodbanks, providing enough meals for over **4,000** families in need
- Engaged with over **19,000** young people through a range of initiatives, working with **50** schools across our trading area
- Secured **165** press releases with a potential audience reach of **23** million

Visit our webpage to learn more about our community programme (including our Keeping It Local programme for our trading sites that are located outside of our Regional Community areas) and how to get involved. To find out more visit; www.midcounties.coop/community/regional/

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OVERALL SOCIETY COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



The Society has achieved 5 stars in Business in the Community's Corporate Responsibility (CR) Index with a score of 100%



We received the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development in 2015



£11 million

Over 11 million given back to the community in the last 10 years



We have been re-accredited with the Fair Tax Mark, awarded to organisations that display a high degree of transparency in their tax affairs



234,000

Over the last decade we have delivered 234,000 volunteer hours to support local communities





The Midcounties Co-operative

REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Building Strong Local Communities