

Oxfam celebrates 25 years

Oxford residents are being invited to help create a celebration to mark 25 years and three million pounds since the Oxfam shop in Summertown moved into its current premises at 223 Banbury Road.

On 12 June 2010 the shop will celebrate its silver jubilee year with a display of local photos showing Summertown as it was in the year when the miners' strike ended, Live Aid raised millions for the Ethiopian famine and Margaret Thatcher was refused an honorary degree by Oxford University. There will be Fairtrade food, eighties fashion, children's activities and music in and around the Banbury Road shop. Local people are being asked to bring photos of the shop in the 1980s.

'We hope lots of people will look through old photo albums and bring in their snapshots showing Banbury Road and Summertown in the 1980s,' says shop manager Janet Willis. 'It would be great to see local people and the streets and shops as they were in those days – especially if the Oxfam shop is in the picture. If you're passing the shop, do drop in with your photos or send them to us by email at oxfamshopf3718@oxfam.org.uk.'

Formerly a dairy, the shop is still owned by the Burton family and has been home to this branch of the Oxford-based charity's retail operation since 7 June 1985, when the shop moved there from round the corner at what is now Christopher and Angela Legge's oriental carpet shop on Oakthorpe Road. Princess Diana visited the shop in 1990 and the Queen in 1992 - and accounts of both visits will be on display at the celebration on 12 June. The shop took £1,600 on its first day of trading and since then has raised £3 million for Oxfam's work fighting poverty and suffering around the world.

Summertown has had an Oxfam shop since 1971, nearly thirty years after the charity was founded in 1942 as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief by the university Vicar Canon Milford to help Greek civilian victims of war. Although most similar groups closed down after World War II, Oxfam kept going. The Oxfam shop network led the way with Fair Trade 40 years ago so that Fair Trade products are now commonly found on the high street. There are now around 750 shops throughout the UK. The online volunteers - ranging from students to silver surfers - are among the 22,000 volunteers working in the shops.

For more information, contact:

Janet Willis, Oxfam Summertown shop manager (oxfamshopf3718@oxfam.org.uk, tel 01865 511058)

Rebecca Nestor, shop volunteer (rebecca.nestor@btinternet.com)

Sara Griffiths, Marketing and Communications Team (segriffiths@oxfam.org.uk)