

## Welcome to the CAG Oxfordshire network



We're delighted to have you as a member of CAG Oxfordshire and hope you're proud to be part of the network too. Please share this document with your members so that everyone can make the most of the support and resources available to them.

### What is CAG Oxfordshire?

Community Action Groups (CAG) Oxfordshire consists of over 140 groups across Oxfordshire who are working to make Oxfordshire safer, fairer, and more sustainable place to live, work and visit.

Started in 2001, the network is the largest of its kind in the UK.

### About our Community Benefit Society

We are a Community Benefit Society, a type of non-profit set up to benefit the community. This means that any profits or benefits are reinvested into our community work.

We are owned and run by our network members: the Community Action Groups. Each member group holds one 'share' in our organisation which gives you a democratic say over how our organisation is run and what is prioritised.

We have a Board of Directors that set the strategic direction of our organisation. All members can stand in and vote in elections to the Board.

### What does it mean to be a member?

All member groups, their committees, volunteers and trustees have access to a variety of support and resources as members.

**Training:** Each year we run a series of training events which are generally free or discounted for members and cover areas as diverse as recruiting and engaging volunteers, running a healthy group, communicating climate change, working with your local council and practical matters such as health and safety. All our training events are publicised on our social media channels and in our newsletters.

**Collaborate groups:** The CAG team hosts regular meetings for Community Action Groups working on similar projects or across a common theme. These provide a space for getting to know each other, providing peer-to-peer support and finding opportunities for collaboration. Each group has a google group so that members can contact each other. [More information here](#).

**Support:** The team at CAG can help you set up a new group, come to meetings and help facilitate when things are tough or big decisions are being made, support with finding funding opportunities and applying for grants. We can also connect you to other CAG groups or signpost you to organisations or resources, or find mentors who may be able to help you and your organisation from their own experience. The sorts of things we can help with include:

- Governance
- Volunteer management and engagement
- Working through conflict
- Recruiting and managing staff
- Fundraising and financial management
- Developing trading activities
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Strategy development and review
- Legal structures and charitable status
- Health and safety
- Community engagement
- Digital communications and working with the press
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Creating inclusive spaces

If you'd like to book a quick initial chat with one of our network support coordinators to discuss how we can help your group, please email us on [info@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@cagoxfordshire.org.uk) and one of our Network Support Coordinators will get back to you.

**Insurance and health and safety:** We can assist with finding suitable insurance cover and offer financial support to cover insurance costs for low-income groups. Find out more information in our [Health and Safety Briefing](#).

**Resources:** We've collated lots of useful resources on everything from running a group to communicating your story plus all the templates you'll need to write your policies on health and safety, safeguarding and equal opportunities. More information [here](#).

**Special Project Grants:** As members you can apply for our Special Project Grants of up to £500 for projects, events or activities which you may not be able to fund otherwise. More information [here](#).

**Funding Database:** We also maintain a funding database with opportunities for groups, which we are constantly updating. You can find it [here](#).

See our [members' handbook](#) for more information about the network and the support available.

**How can I keep up to date with what's going on?**

Sign up to our two newsletters. **The Key** goes out fortnightly and contains a roundup of sustainability news, events, jobs and funding opportunities from across the county.

The **Network Update** goes out to member groups and their volunteers and contains news from the network plus information on training, resources, opportunities and workshops.

[Subscribe here](#)

## Want to feature in our newsletters?

We'd love to hear from you! We're always on the lookout for news from our members and try to feature as diverse a selection as possible, so please, tell us what's going on and we'll spread the word. Email your content to [comms@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:comms@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)

## Follow us on social media

If you've already got your own social media accounts just tag us so we'll see your posts and can share them. If you don't have social media accounts for your organisation, just drop us an email at [comms@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:comms@cagoxfordshire.org.uk) and we can send your information out on our channels for you.

## Contact us

- **Katherine Chesson: Director** ([katherine@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:katherine@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)) Katherine leads the CAG staff team, overseeing strategy, network facilitation, funding and offering development support to groups in the network.
- **Anaïs Bozetine: Network Support Coordinator** ([anaïs@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:anaïs@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)) Anaïs splits her time at CAG between coordinating support for network members and co-ordinating [Owned by Oxford](#), a partnership project working to shift wealth and power to local communities experiencing structural disadvantage.
- **Maryam Gohari: Network Support Coordinator** ([Maryam@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:Maryam@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)): Maryam works 2.5 days a week offering support to CAG network members.
- **Alice Williams: Communications Coordinator** ([alice@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:alice@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)) Alice works 2.5 days a week and looks after CAG's social media accounts, newsletters and general communications.
- **Joanne Milton: Replenish Project Coordinator** ([jo@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:jo@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)) Jo works 5 days per week and splits her time between coordinating food waste reduction project Replenish, and supporting member groups.
- **Jabu Nala-Hartley: Communities Advocate** ([jabu@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:jabu@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)) Jabu works 3 days per week engaging communities as part of CAG Oxfordshire's 'community wealth building' work.

General queries: [info@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)

Communications queries or to send us your news: [comms@cagoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:comms@cagoxfordshire.org.uk)

## Where to find CAG Oxfordshire online

**Website:** [www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk)

**Facebook page:** [@CAGoxfordshire](#)

Join our [Facebook group](#)

**Instagram:** [@cag\\_oxfordshire](#)

**YouTube:** [CAG Oxfordshire - YouTube](#)

**Linkedin:** [www.linkedin.com/company/cag-oxfordshire](http://www.linkedin.com/company/cag-oxfordshire)

**Bluesky:** <https://bsky.app/profile/cagoxfordshire.bsky.social>

**A short video about who we are:** [Community Action Groups Oxfordshire - YouTube](#)

*[CAG Oxfordshire](#) is an independent co-operative network with funding from [Oxfordshire County Council](#).*