



# South Oxford Community Association

Lake Street · Oxford · OX1 4RP

Telephone 01865 242666

E-mail [enquiries@southoxford.org](mailto:enquiries@southoxford.org)

Web [www.southoxford.org](http://www.southoxford.org)

2 April 2022

Dear Members, Friends and Hirers of the Community Centre,  
Recently you will have received from Debby, our Administrator, a new membership form. I would like to explain two changes relating to membership of the South Oxford Community Association (SOCA). SOCA governs the Community Centre, through a Management Committee of Trustees who are made up from members of the Association.

## 1. Membership fee increase from £2.00 to £5.00 for individual members:

At the AGM in 2021 the current membership voted to increase the fee for individuals to £5.00 per annum. The group rate remains at £15.00. We hope that residents of South Oxford: Cold Harbor, New Hinksey and Grandpont (our area of benefit as defined under the Constitution) will continue to be members and support the Community Centre in a number of ways, including:

- financially support the work of the Centre
- volunteer their time, e.g. invigilating or helping with sales during Artweeks, helping with the Community Café so we can open more often to the public, working with us to identify funding opportunities and submit successful bids, gardening or other assistance to keep up the facilities so we are a welcoming place.
- Providing SOCA with a source of feedback and consultation around development and financial as well as environmental sustainability
- Assisting with the governance of the Centre by becoming a Trustee. Trustees are voted in at an AGM and serve for one year, then standing down or putting themselves forward to be nominated for re-election.

## 2. Discontinuation of discounts on room hire for members:

Historically, there have been a series of discounts for members when hiring spaces at the Centre. There are two main reasons that the Trustees have now decided to remove these discounts and to introduce new single rates for each space at the Centre.

These are: financial sustainability and the creation of a simple, transparent system of room rates that is reasonable and fair for all. We will continue to have a discounted room hire policy which gives members the opportunity to apply for a discount in particular circumstances.

The Trustees very much hope that you will support us in making these important changes at the Community Centre so that we can continue to develop and expand services as we work with various partners across the community to transform the Centre into a Community Hub. If you have any questions, or feedback, please contact me on [chairsoca@gmail.com](mailto:chairsoca@gmail.com)

We will be announcing the new room rates this month and we will be contacting all our regular hirers individually to discuss arrangements as we head into the new fiscal year and undertake this transition which is crucial for the continued viability and success of the Centre.

Yours Sincerely,  
Catherine

Catherine Morey, Chairperson, South Oxford Community Association.

Appendix: What the SOCA Constitution says about membership:



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Under the Constitution, Section 4, Membership is open to:

*(i) all individuals aged eighteen years or over:*

*(a) who live within the area of benefit, who shall be known as Individual Members;*

*(b) who live outside the area of benefit, who shall be known as Associate Members, and who may attend as observer but who shall not have the right to vote at General Meetings of the Association.*

*(ii) Any associations and organisations, whether corporate or unincorporated, (and including branches of national or international organisations) which operate solely or in part within the area of benefit, are voluntary or non-profit-distributing, and which wish to support the objects of the Association, which shall be known as Affiliated Groups;*

*(iii) the Statutory Authorities in whose administrative area the area of benefit lies.*

*(b) Each member organisation as set out in Clause 4 (a) (ii) and (iii) above and each Section established in accordance with Clause 6 below shall nominate one individual person being a member thereof to vote on its behalf at General Meetings of the Association; and may nominate an alternate being a member thereof to replace him/her at such meetings if the nominee is unable to attend. In the event of such individual person resigning or leaving the member organisation he or she shall immediately cease to be the nominee thereof. The member organisation concerned shall have the right to nominate a replacement, by informing the Secretary in writing.*

*(c) individual members admitted under Clause 4(a) (i) (a) or nominated under Clause (a) (i) (b), and Clause 4 (b) shall hereinafter be referred to as 'members with power to vote'*

*(d) The Committee shall keep a register of all its members and a record of any subscriptions paid. Only those members recorded in the register twenty-one days prior to the Annual General Meeting shall have the power to vote.*