



# OXFAM

Oxfam's First Shop  
Oxfam Broad Street, Oxford  
1948 – 2016

## This is Oxfam



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History timeline

**1942 - The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief** is set up - one of a number of groups in the UK aiming to high-light the problems created by the Nazi occupation of Greece, and requesting that relief be sent to those in most urgent need.

**1947** - Office acquired in **Broad Street, Oxford**, used as a collection point for donations..

**1948** - A gift shop opens in February 1948. The first permanent charity shop, it is still open today

**1951** - Famine in Bihar, India. £3,500 is raised for the Committee's first response to a natural disaster in what would later be known as a 'developing country'.

**1961** - Oxfam's first Field Director is appointed, in Southern Africa, and close co-operation begins with local project partners to carry out development work.

**1964** - Oxfam begins marketing handicrafts from the South, giving small-scale producers fair prices, training, advice, and funding. This "Bridge programme" later became the Oxfam Fair Trade Company.

**1965** - Providing village water supplies is established as a main plank of aid to India. Water and sanitation facilities are to become Oxfam's great specialist technical strengths.

**1974** - Oxfam establishes the 'Wastesaver Centre' in Huddersfield, with pioneering facilities for recycling. Today, Wastesaver processes around 80 tonnes of used clothing every week.

**1991** - Oxfam Campaigning Network is formed. Oxfam Trading collaborates with UK alternative trading organisations Traidcraft, Equal Exchange, and Twin Trading to develop and launch Cafédirect, a fairly traded coffee.

**1992** - Oxfam nominated for 1992 Nobel Peace Prize. Fairtrade Foundation is set up by Oxfam, CAFOD, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Traidcraft Exchange, and the WDM, to tackle exploitation of workers in the Third World.

**1996** - Oxfam goes on-line at [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk).

Clothes Code Campaign launched to persuade clothes retailers to adopt and monitor codes of conduct in the clothing industry. Oxfam starts an anti-poverty programme in the UK, with a £500,000 award from lottery funds.

**2002** -. Oxfam's Make Trade Fair campaign launched to capture the growing mood of public indignation at trade injustice, and to give people an opportunity to do something constructive about it.

**2004** - The magnitude of the disaster that engulfed coastal regions bordering the Indian Ocean following the tsunami on 26 December 2004 demanded a response of a scale and complexity of staggering proportions; a response made possible by the extraordinary generosity of supporters and the general public, who donated US\$278 million to Oxfam's global Tsunami Fund. Since the disaster, Oxfam has helped 1.8 million people in seven countries rebuild their lives.

**2005** - Oxfam played a key part in Make Poverty History, a massive push to tackle world poverty. Tens of millions of people around the world demanded that their leaders act to deliver trade justice, more and better aid and to drop the debt.

**2006** - Joe Mitty, the grandfather of British charity, was the pioneer of Oxfam. No high street is complete without a charity shop. But such a phenomenon could never have been achieved had it not been for the enterprise of one man. He won the PRIDE OF BRITAIN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2006

**2008** – Our shops 60<sup>th</sup> birthday

**2011** – Oxfam is chosen as the Charity of the Year for the Virgin London Marathon. More than 350 runners join our team and raise thousands of pounds for Oxfam projects around the globe.

**2012** – Oxfam Turns 70

## Where your money goes

For every £1 donated to Oxfam...



On average for every £1 received by Oxfam, we invest 84p on our humanitarian, development and campaigning work. We invest 8p to raise further funds, and we invest 8p on support and running costs such as paying the salaries of staff who work all year round to deliver our work and who ensure we are effective and accountable. (These figures are taken from [Oxfam GB's 2014/15 Annual Report.](#))



## **Joe Mitty MBE     1919 - 2007**

### ***'The Grandfather of Charity Shops'***

**Joe started work for Oxfam here, at 17 Broad Street in November 1949. Under his direction the shop flourished, prompting the opening of further shops. By the time he retired from Oxfam in 1982, Joe had overseen the growth of Oxfam Shops into a nationwide phenomenon, raising £millions each year. Joe was a true entrepreneur, with a tireless energy for making money - not for himself or any shareholders, but to help those living in poverty around the world.**

**Upon receiving a lifetime achievement award in 2006, Joe used his speech to dedicate all of his achievements to anyone who has ever bought anything from, donated anything to, or volunteered in an Oxfam Shop.**