

## Shop Profiles

### Oxfam - a Charity Shop with Flair!

The Oxfam shop in New Ash Green is probably one of the best charity shops in the area. It is managed by Frances Ralton, a resident of the village, and a team of volunteers who bring a variety of experiences and interests to their work in the shop.

The shop stocks a wide range of second-hand goods, clothing, toys, house wares, books and compact discs. As well as these items there is a range of Fair Trade foods, gifts and greetings cards.



Goods in the shop are attractively displayed; there is no element of the jumble sale rummage. Frances explains that local people are very generous to the shop and she is able to choose top quality items for sale. Excess goods are collected and distributed to other local Oxfam shops who do not receive so many donations. Items are competitively priced and so the stock is generally sold quickly and therefore constantly changing, so if you are in the village centre it is always worth a visit to see what is available.



The window displays are always eye-catching and are often linked to a national event, such as Wimbledon, or a particular time or season of the year. The staff are helpful and will try to find specific items if asked or keep a look out for anything requested by a customer. The shop is also able to arrange the sending of Oxfam Unwrapped gifts and gift cards. Catalogues for this scheme are also available.



Frances is happy to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to help in the shop, so if you have some time to spare Oxfam could use your help.