

Stephanie Jankovic

Cotteslowe Community Centre Manager

Cotteslowe Community Centre (Registered Charity)

After University studying Geography at Liverpool Steph worked with her family for a year in Herefordshire before moving back to Oxford where she grew up to work at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology as Learning and Development Coordinator. After the birth of her first child in 2015 Steph took on the roll of Parent Liaison on the committee for the North Oxford Children's Centre (unsuccessfully!) campaigning to save it following government cuts.

Following the birth of her second child in 2018 Steph decided to take a career break starting as Manager of Cotteslowe Community Centre at the start of the 3rd lockdown in January 2021. Living in Cotteslowe already with a child at the neighbouring school to the Community Centre this felt like the logistical dream! Cotteslowe faces a lot of challenges. Being based in 'Leafy North Oxford' there is a perception of universal wealth which is just not the case. Cotteslowe is the 3rd most expensive place to buy a house in the 2nd most expensive City in the country but over 20% of our children are growing up under the poverty line. Steph works incredibly hard to provide provision specifically for children, families and the elderly who are struggling with hardship and isolation. Steph manages fundraising for the Centre; 20-25% of the Centre's annual £100,000 turnover is generated from Centre Hire with the remaining £75-80,000 needing to be fundraised from donations or grant funding; something that is particularly challenging in the current financial climate!

Steph works to promote the Centre and create long-lasting relationships and partnerships with other local schools, businesses and charities to ensure that the provision for residents of Cotteslowe is interesting, varied and of real value for the whole community.

