

**Wychwood, 4 Wychwood Lane, Headington, Oxford, OX3 8HG
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INTRODUCTION TO THE WYCHWOOD FOUNDATION 22.9.16

The aim of the Wychwood Foundation is to look after people who are vulnerable, and to give them a sense of happy and supportive community.

Two Oxfordshire studies highlight the seriously debilitating effect of loneliness on the quality of people's lives, and the Foundation very much wishes to address such issues. Please see links at the end of this introduction.

The Wychwood Foundation is to be a Trust that supports people living in a caring environment with an exceptionally beautiful garden and woodland spreading up the north side of Shotover Hill. The architecture of this proposed development will offer a variety of apartments, ranging from 1, 2, to 3-bedroomed apartments.

The Trust is to have a focus towards the arts, with a hobbies room for painting, clay sculpture and pottery, a common room where recitals of poetry and classical music can be given, and an adjoining kitchen for the provision of meals.

The Wychwood Foundation is to be registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) under the Charity Commission. The Wychwood Foundation will build nine apartments, and will make most of these available for purchase by those who wish to become resident at the Foundation. The apartments will be offered for sale to a variety of people from all age groups, who could perhaps include some who in later life have become lonely and some who still may be quite young but have a debilitating illness. Others may be perfectly able-bodied, but have joined the Foundation with a desire to contribute by supporting and encouraging those who need help. We would hope that there would also be at least one family with young children.

There are to be four carers/staff living on site, occupying two apartments. These carers/staff will be available to help residents in various ways, for example with dressing, bathing, shopping, preparing meals, cleaning. Those living at the Foundation who are able-bodied, would also be able to contribute to the welfare and encouragement of those who are less able.

The emphasis each day will be on artistic activities, music, literature and poetry. These activities will take place in the common room and hobbies room which will be central to the building. The kitchen and common room area will provide meals for those who require them.

Each week, the Wychwood Foundation will invite young people involved in music, literature and the fine arts to give performances, workshops, recitals, demonstrations, and support a range of activities taking place at the Foundation. Distinguished guest artists will also be invited from time to time.

In clement weather, gardening will be possible for those who are keen, and besides extensive flower beds, there will also be considerable space for growing vegetables, and the tending of a small natural pond, which lends itself to ecological studies. The sizeable garden and woodland offer opportunity for rambling walks, and it is hoped that the garden will be much used in the warm dry summer days for socialising and enjoying a sense of community.

The Foundation will receive funding from the sale of its properties and from donations.

Jonathan and Sarah Beecher

STUDIES ON LONELINESS

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/brandpartnerglobal/oxfordshirevpp/documents/loneliness%20the%20state%20we%20are%20in%20-%20report%202013.pdf>

[Evaluation of Tackling Isolation Pilot Project in Oxford](#)