

OCCOLD RECREATION & AMENITIES COUNCIL
Registered Charity No. 295058
TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005. Legal and administrative information is set out at the conclusion of this report.

Objects of the charity

Occold Recreation & Amenities Council (O.R.A.C.) exists to promote the benefit of the community of Occold and its neighbourhood by associating with local authorities, voluntary organisations and the community in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the community. In aiming to meet these objectives, O.R.A.C. remains responsible for the maintenance and management of Occold Village Hall.

Organisation

During the year, O.R.A.C consisted of some 12 committee members being volunteers, many of who are affiliated to other community groups in Occold enabling each group to have a representative involved in the activities arranged for the community and the management of the village hall, which they utilise.

Investment Policy

With the planned future development or replacement of Occold village hall, cash reserves are currently being built up following fundraising efforts within the local community. The trustees currently favour these being retained as cash within a high interest building society account, due to the relatively small level involved. Any grant monies that are awarded for this or any other project will be treated similarly as they should be utilised shortly after receipt. During April 2005 following a review of the market £36,500.00 of funds on deposit have been transferred to a new Alliance & Leicester Community 30 Day Deposit Account.

Review of the activities and future developments

Throughout this year O.R.A.C. has organised several community events to support the existing village hall, to raise funds with the aim of refurbishing or replacing the existing village hall and maintained circulation of a quarterly village newsletter to encourage a good sense of community.

- **Support and provision of a village hall** Occold village hall is currently home to many community groups who use the facility as their regular meeting place. The local Pre School, Evangelical Church, Youth Club, Parish Council, Womens' Institute and School Sports Club all use the hall regularly and together with various private bookings ensure that the hall is used virtually every day of the week. The hire of the building and the successful annual village fete ensure the running costs of the hall are covered.
- **Fundraising events for future development of the village hall** During the year a number of community events were arranged both to provide opportunity for different members of the community to meet and also to raise funds towards the future development of the village hall. O.R.A.C. organised and hosted a quiz night, an Art Exhibition & Open Gardens Weekend, a Fireworks Night, a Cheese & Wine Evening and a community Christmas Dinner. Collectively, these events raised over £1,489 towards the project. By the end of the year, reserves allocated for the new hall stood at £36,598.
- **100 Club** A 100 Club has now been running for five years in Occold with the aim of raising funds to purchase various new equipment for use in the village hall or to repair the existing hall. This year has seen the purchase of new stackable chairs and lightweight folding tables. During the same period some £780 has been paid out to club members in prize money.
- **Village Newsletter** The quarterly newsletter is now distributed freely to some 215 homes around the village and invites articles from all sections of the community, providing the opportunity for all to promote activities taking place in the village.
- **Community services** O.R.A.C. also maintains a small recycling facility in the centre of the village providing a local collection point for glass and paper products.

In conclusion

The year to 31 March 2005 did not see as much progress on the New Village Hall project as O.R.A.C would have liked. However, we have now appointed a new architect to take us forward with the results from last year's Parish Plan and

hope to make headway during the next financial year. Nevertheless, we have maintained the existing village hall and outside play area for the benefit of the community and hosted several key events for the enjoyment of all.

O.R.A.C. would like to thank all those who have helped us in any way during the year and look forward to helping maintain community facilities and activities in Occold over the year to come.

Results and financial position

The fundraising events already mentioned have increased our reserves by almost £4,042 during this period, £2,300 of this being earmarked for the new village hall project. Our remaining activities have ensured that O.R.A.C. remains able to maintain a safe, if rather dilapidated village hall for the use of the village into the next year.

Mrs Lindsay Alexander
Chairman

May 2005

Custodial Trustees

Mr Brian Charles Hull
Mr Robert Charles Harold Richardson
Mr Stanley Kenneth Wattam

Management Trustees

Mrs Lindsay Alexander
Mrs Dee Stephenson
Mrs Dawn Crisp
Mr Brian Charles Hull
Mr Robert Charles Harold Richardson
Mrs Susan Hubner
Mr Andrew Crisp
Mr Nigel Woodhouse
Mrs Jayne Eglington
Mrs Moira Towler
Mr Mark Underwood (resigned August 2004)
Mrs Linda Jay (appointed May 2004)

Bankers

HSBC
Castle Street
Eye