



Registered Charity No. 1165256

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Not the year any of us could ever have expected or hoped for due to the worldwide Pandemic. Having thought it would all “blow-over” at the start we resisted zoom meetings for a couple of months but then conceded that it was the only way forward.... Our face-to-face garden meeting in April 2021 was so exciting we opened bubbly to celebrate!

The nature of our activities meant that many of the community events that would normally draw in crowds had to be cancelled, along with it went our opportunities for income generation. We were however able to run, organised in place of the Village Show, a front garden stalls event which proved very popular and was an opportunity for people to shop around the village in a socially distanced way, the same is to be repeated this year.

Fireworks was clearly not an option, so to provide some fun and a village wide activity we ran a Mr Nice Guy competition and trail around the village. The event allowed residents to get creative and visit the exhibits in front gardens all over the village.

We have worked more collaboratively this year with other community groups, led by the church to provide and communicate opportunities in the Christmas and Easter holidays. We were thankful to the Oakley Infant School who ran a Christmas float and kindly donated a share of their proceeds to OCA. A new Easter Egg Hunt around the village was also run and was well received with prizes kindly donated by the Co-Op.

Tiffany continues to manage our social media and our weekly newsletter which has proven a real life line to some people during this Pandemic. Our thanks go to Tiffany for all her dedication to making this informative, interesting and uplifting.

Chris and Barbara have been busy helping with the village wide Greening Campaign aiming to support the climate crisis and reduce Oakley’s carbon footprint.

We made a deficit for the year of £5,816.40 due to the payment of the two donations, plus running costs and an instalment against 2020 fireworks which has been held over against our next display. As we had previously made provision for the donations we still have total reserves of £8,937.55, of which £3,251.95 is held for the Village Show.

We are seeking more people to join our volunteer team who help organise events - practical or admin skills; and also anyone interested in becoming a trustee is welcome to observe one of our future committee meetings.

My thanks as always to the OCA team, many of us have been working together for 10 years now, since the idea was formed back in 2011 and became a reality in 2012. We are all very much looking forward to being able to bring the community together again!