

105 HISTORY OF YRS Community First Oxfordshire



1920s

Grace Hadow, Dr WGS Adam, and AH Griffiths form Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. They campaign for new village halls, advocate for public libraries and local education. A Rural Industries Group is established.

The first development worker is appointed. ORCC researches rural housing and develops initiatives to address rural unemployment. An allotments campaign starts alongside a Rural Industries Loan Fund to support local craftsmen.

1930-40s



ORCC supports a resident campaign to support those living in poor conditions in ex-RAF camps. The Best Kept Village competition launched and the Charities Review Programme begins- advising 'charities for the poor' to modernise.

1950-60s

The 1970/80s see the start of several support services, including Community Transport & Community Shops. Our placemaking services begin with Parish planning and a Rural Housing Initiative. ORCC continues to support villages, establishing a Rural Community Care Forum & Village Ventures competition.

1970-80s

ORCC starts rural networks including the Rural Inclusion Group (now Rural Oxfordshire Network), the Rural Stress Information Network (co-founded), and the Rural Volunteer Awards. They also branched out to the environment, launching Rural Action for the Environment.



1990s

ORCC continues work on placemaking, forming the Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership and retooling parish planning as Community-Led Planning.. They develop the Wired Up Villages Handbook and publish Breaking Down Barriers-report on social exclusion.

2000s



2010s

Recently, we started Stewardship services with Wild Oxfordshire to compliment our existing placemaking offers. We began work to support health and wellbeing, with a grant programme and undertaking research. We've continued our Voluntary Sector work, partnering with OCVA.

ORCC is renamed Community First Oxfordshire! We launch our Neighbourhood Planning consultancy. A few partnerships are started including the Low Carbon and Dementia Friendly Communities initiatives. OxOil bulk buying scheme is introduced.

2020



2025! Check out our website

www.communityfirstoxon.org/



Community First
Oxfordshire

We have branched out since 1920 - initially focusing on rural communities, our work now extends county-wide. Building community is always a work in progress, and we have continually adapted our services to best work with communities. However, placemaking and community development led by communities were early aspirations of the organisation and remain so today.