

INSIDE
Lots to do
in 2023!

Oxshott

m a g a z i n e



Sports Club carries on regardless...
OVSC in the winter

A busy Christmas
People were getting together again...

Buildings update
St Andrew's: progress revealed

A trip to Gaza
Not an everyday visit

Brrrrrr!!

Winter stories for Oxshott

All the local news, views and information from across the Village

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Mr Robinson

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Oxshott Magazine:
 75p - Annual subscription £7 (£15 incl. p&p)
 email: magazine@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

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- Please send copy by the 9th of the previous month
- Magazines are available for distribution by the 24th of the previous month

Published by the PCC of St Andrew's Church, Oxshott. Registered Charity Number 1128379
 Whilst items are published in good faith, the PCC and the editorial team do not accept responsibility for the views and opinions expressed, or advice offered, therein; advertisements are accepted on the basis that no warranty is made on the quality of goods or services. Icons by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

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This month's cover picture, courtesy of the Editor, shows Littleheath Lane with a scattering of snow in December 2022



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Meaningful connections

Dear Friends,

It is Children's Mental Health Week at the beginning of this month (February 6-12), the aim of which is to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. The team behind it, Place2Be, raises awareness of the issue, and campaigns for all children to have access to mental health support.



According to their website*, the focus of this year's campaign is to enable and help equip children, young people (and their parents) to make meaningful connections with others. The hope is that these might prevent the worst of child and adolescent mental health issues and enable our young people to flourish. Isn't that a great aim?

From reading the Bible, we know that God intended society to provide a network of good relationships in which every child or young person could flourish - in the society of ancient Israel, which largely ignored children until they were either of marriageable age (girls) or old enough to earn a wage (boys), Jesus notably valued and engaged with children and young people.

At St Andrew's Oxshott we also welcome children and young people. We are also committed to walking alongside and supporting those who care for them in Oxshott. In the autumn of 2022, we began a support group for those who were silently coping with children and teenagers with mental health issues. This group is now called 'Mind the Gap' and is aimed at parents (both Mums and Dads), grandparents or carers. There are no 'experts'; we simply offer the chance to share what is going on at home/school in a confidential, supportive environment. For some who come, it offers the chance to share a part of what is going on behind the closed doors of the family home for the first time.

The next meeting of this group is in the church hall on Monday 6 February at 7.30pm. You are welcome to come and have a coffee and some goodies to eat as well as finding that it is possible to 'make meaningful connections with others', and no longer to feel alone.

Blessings,

Frances

Vicar

*www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/

Please contact me on frances.trickey@standrewsoxshott.org.uk if you would like to chat in confidence

Church Services in February



- Wed 1 11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
- Thu 2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
9am Pray Together, via zoom
- Sat 4 9am Saturday Prayers
- Sun 5 **The third Sunday before Lent**
Christ's call to his Church: called to sincerity
10am St Andrew's at 10
- Tue 7 9am Pray Together, via zoom
- Wed 8 11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
- Sat 11 9am Saturday Prayers
- Sun 12 **The second Sunday before Lent**
Christ's call to his Church: called to mission
10am St Andrew's at 10
4pm St Andrew's @4
- Tue 14 9am Pray Together, via zoom
- Wed 15 11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
- Thu 16 9am Pray Together, via zoom
- Sat 18 9am Saturday Prayers
- Sun 19 **The Sunday next before Lent**
Christ's call to his Church: called to wholeheartedness
10am St Andrew's at 10
- Tue 21 9am Pray Together, via zoom

- Wed 22 **Ash Wednesday**
11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion with Ashing)
- Thu 23 9am Pray Together, via zoom
- Fri 24 St Matthias, Apostle and Martyr
- Sat 25 9am Saturday Prayers
- Sun 26 **The first Sunday of Lent**
Our Lent series begins
10am St Andrew's at 10
- Tue 28 9am Pray Together, via zoom



You are very welcome to join us for our services and prayers, in person or online:

- 10am Sunday services in church are also live streamed, via the church website
- Saturday Prayers take place weekly in church
- Pray Together sessions during the week are on zoom, via the church website

Update on our building plans

There has been continued good progress on the building project here at St Andrew's, which we believe will benefit the whole village:

Ron Stewart, Chair of our Steering Group, brings us up to date...

More progress! In the last magazine, we reported that we had agreement in principle from the necessary Church authorities, and good feedback from Elmbridge BC as regards Planning matters. We are now able to report to you that the necessary Tree, Bat and Flood Reports were successfully completed to support our planning application, which, by the time you read this, will have been formally submitted to Elmbridge.

This drawing by the architect (right) only shows one aspect of our plans – fuller details, including other views and the internal plans, are on display in the church vestibule, so do feel free to take some time looking at all the various elements!



The proposed Southwest elevation

What about the money?

On the funding front, we are delighted by the initial response! In the weeks since the appeal was announced, for a total of £780,000, we have to date raised over £200,000 of new pledges to add to the £200,000 generously donated over the last few years. In addition, we have received a promise of £250,000 from a generous anonymous donor, provided this is matched by the new money raised.

This is such a great encouragement! Although we still need to raise about £130,000 to be able to deliver the new plan in full, we feel that we are well on our way. So a big Thank You to those who have responded so far.

We continue to value your interest and prayers.

Ron Stewart

Christmas: Crib Service at St Andrew's

It was truly wonderful to gather together on Christmas Eve at 4pm for our first 'in-person' Crib Service since before the pandemic, as **Revd Patrick Davies** reports...

There really was no room at the St Andrew's 'inn' as more than 300 people - young and old and in between - packed the church to remember and celebrate the story of Jesus' birth using technology, drama, songs and Bible readings - and even a real, live Shetland pony joining to play his own part, as the donkey! (with our grateful thanks to The Shetland Pony Club in Stoke D'Abernon.) After the two 'online' years, it really was a



St Andrew's Crib Service 2022

Cast list:

Narrators: Patrick and Steph

Readers: Caelyn, Eva, Tom and Ruby

Shepherds: Ailsa and Angus

Inn Keepers: Elijah, Matthew and Genevieve

Mary and Joseph: Maddie and Theo

Donkey: Dinky the Shetland Pony, helped by Rosemary, Libby and Maddie

Costumes: Ros

Musicians: Callum, Ashley, Angus, Ailsa, Anna and Nicky

Technical Support: Mike, Nicki, Peter, Brooke and Richard

Thanks also to: Andrew and Frances

joy to feel the buzz of excitement filling the building again this Christmas.

To be together, shoulder-to-shoulder as a community in our church really helps us to remember that in Jesus, God came to be 'God with us', amongst us, shoulder-to-shoulder. In Jesus, God draws close to us, meeting us in the reality of our sometimes messy

and complicated lives, sharing our humanity, and transforming us by renewing our friendship with God.

For me, one of the wonders of the Christmas story is that it can be heard, understood and retold by even small children, yet it is profoundly relevant and speaks to people of all ages - the simplicity of the truth of 'God with us' in Jesus needn't be written off as a

childish story - it is a story we can all step into together, and find ourselves within. For everyone, from the richest kings to the poorest shepherds, the birth of Jesus changed everything. On hearing the news, the Shepherds and the Kings left behind what they knew, and went to see Jesus for themselves. When they found him, they knew



they had found what they were searching for.

If you heard something this Christmas which sparked with you, don't let that spark go out. Like those Kings and Shepherds, we can each make the journey to see for ourselves if the good news about Jesus is really true. A good starting place on a journey toward Jesus might be a chat with a Christian you know; I'd be very happy to grab a coffee with anyone who would like to chat - just drop me an email: patrick.davies@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

Patrick Davies

I can recommend these books as companions to begin a journey of faith: *Dear England* by Stephen Cottrell, *Jesus is _____* by Judah Smith and *Simply Good News* by Tom Wright, all of which are also available as audiobooks



for the whole family together

Open to all, and especially for families with primary-school aged and younger children.

Connect with one another and with God. Discover and explore the Christian faith through stories, songs, crafts, and other activities to do together - with food to share too!

You don't need to know, or bring, or wear anything special to join in - come as you are!

4pm - 5pm at St Andrew's Church
Sundays: 12 Feb, 12 Mar, 14 May

Our theme this month is:

'what is love?'

www.standrewsoxshott.org.uk

Parish News & Notes

We have been delighted to send funds to our mission partners Dean & Paula Finnie - Paula wrote in thanks for a recent transfer of £1,750: "To see your awesome gift was just wonderful!"

Before Christmas we also raised over £3,000 for their much-appreciated Christmas soup kitchens! Do please continue to pray for the Finnies' ongoing work in Firgrove, near Cape Town.



Our Christmas collections this year went to the Foodbank...



And we received this letter of thanks:

On behalf of our many clients, we would like to thank you for your generosity in dedicating your Christmas collections to Cobham Area Foodbank.

The amazing total of £2,456.49 will be of immense help as we expect demand to continue to increase in the first quarter of 2023, when donations tend to be the lowest.

The funds will help us maintain the full range of products each week for our clients.

Best wishes and hope to all for 2023!

Cobham Area Foodbank

You will have seen that we have sadly had to remove some mature trees from the church gardens...

The work arose as a result of the tree survey required in planning for the new buildings (*see page 6*), which revealed that the trees in question were rotten inside.

We are committed to a full review of the church landscaping, and are keen to follow through on the best planting, including trees, that will enhance the church grounds for us and for our neighbours.

From the Registers



Baptisms

We welcome into God's family:

20 November Matilda Faith Roberts

Funerals

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

12 December Robert Brooks (died 8 November 2022, aged 99)

22 December Robert "Bob" Campbell (died 21 November 2022, aged 85)

A little trip to Gaza

We wanted to convey how our mission partner Embrace the Middle East can function against all odds... so we invited **Revd Su McClelland**, who visited us last March, to tell us about her recent fascinating trip to Gaza...

It's a beautiful balmy October evening. The sun has gone down but it's still warm. There's laughter, and the sounds of young men playing basketball and young women playing football float on the air. Younger children squeal in delight as they whizz down the slide or go higher and higher on the swings. This could be any outdoor play area in the Mediterranean. Only it's not. This play area is in Gaza City and it's part of the Gaza YMCA.

There are clues to this playground's location. The young people are not dressed in the latest fancy sports gear. The floodlights over the sports pitches are powered by solar panels on the roof. There's a sign by the AstroTurf football pitch acknowledging the generous support of overseas donors, including Embrace the Middle East. There's a gap in the street where a building once stood, until it was destroyed last year in a missile blast.

Gaza is not an easy place to visit. Permission must be sought from both Israel and the Hamas government within Gaza, with forms to fill in that ask for your grandparent's names, your level of education and your 'position in society'. The physical process of crossing into the Strip takes time and there's seemingly endless bureaucracy to go through. Passports are scrutinized, more questions are asked and the experience of sitting in a transit hall minus your passport is unnerving.

Aspiration and deprivation

This is not a place you can visit as an independent traveller, and each time I go I am always relieved to see an Embrace partner waiting to meet me. The drive from the border crossing to the centre of Gaza City is not easy to describe. Aspiration and deprivation sit side by side. Cars share the roads with donkey pulled carts. Palm trees grow between dilapidated buildings and street sellers try to scratch a meagre living by selling coffee and tissues to people who are as poor as they are.

On a good day the population gets 4 hours of electricity. Those that can afford it have installed solar panels, those that can't go without. At night it's strange to stare at apartment blocks where so few of the windows are lit.



Su leads the Church Engagement Team at Embrace the Middle East

78% of piped water is undrinkable and whilst a new sewage treatment plant opened last year, much of Gaza's untreated sewage goes straight into the sea.

The population of Gaza is now 2.17 million in a piece of land the same size as the Isle of Wight. 62% of people require food assistance. Unemployment is running at 47% with that figure rising to 62.5% in the under 29s. Child malnutrition is rife, not helped by the prevalence of worms and parents feel the desperation of not being able to feed their children properly.

Living and working in the midst of this blockaded territory are 1050 Christians. They are an extraordinary community who between them run the Al Ahli General Hospital, the YMCA, vocational workshops for both young men and women, mobile health clinics and several schools. Embrace the Middle East currently supports work at Al Ahli, the YMCA, Caritas and the Near East Council of Churches. These projects make a tangible positive difference to the lives of thousands of people, and it is testament to the Christian community's tenacity that they keep going in such challenging circumstances.

Understanding

The reasons for the blockade have been well rehearsed elsewhere, but what is often left unsaid is its impact on the ordinary civilian population. These are people like you and me.

They want to live in peace, raise their families and die of old age peacefully in their beds. The Christian population of Gaza are as imprisoned as those they serve and yet they strive to show the love and compassion of Jesus to all in need. They understand their role as one of reconcilers and peace makers and yet without the love and material support of the Church outside Gaza they have nothing to offer but their love, compassion, and skill.

As the world's attention has moved to focus on Ukraine, the Christians in Gaza are seeing a marked reduction in donations from international partners. This has meant that they have had to reduce the services they offer. Watching the director of the Al Ahli hospital turn away a desperate mother with her malnourished child, broke my heart, but there's been no choice but to close the child nutrition programme because there isn't



Su with her colleague Rowena and friends from the YMCA in Gaza City.

Dear Oxshott community



I am Olga Usenko, a professional photographer from Ukraine. I recently arrived in the U.K with my two children whilst my husband is back in Kyiv supporting our country. I am blessed to be living in your beautiful community and would greatly appreciate support of my photographic venture. I specialise in maternity, families, love stories and people photo shoots. For your convenience I will come to your home.

Please contact me on
074060 42377 | usenkolga@gmail.com | www.mamostudio.com.ua

Olga Usenko  PHOTOGRAPHY



enough money to keep it going. That said, thanks to the continuing generosity of Embrace's supporters, the hospital has been able to continue running its breast clinics and its osteoporosis prevention programme. These schemes keep people healthier for longer and save lives.

Prevention is better than cure and so the sports pitches and the youth programmes run by the Gaza YMCA help to keep vulnerable families healthy. Thanks to overseas funding, girls can now play football in Gaza. This contributes to their wellbeing, keeps them fit and gives them a break from the unrelenting challenges of growing up in Gaza.

The Christian community of Gaza refuse to be victims. They strive to love God and neighbour and they are shining examples of the compassion of Christ. They are our sisters and brothers, living in the land that is the cradle of our faith. We with them are part of the household of God (Ephesians 2.19). They need us to stand with them.

Thank you all for your concern for the Christian community in Israel and Palestine. As we move into 2023, please do continue to pray for them and advocate on their behalf. They are living examples of the goodness of God.

Su McClelland

Last year, St Andrew's donated £2,000 to Embrace the Middle East; to find out more about their work, visit www.embraceme.org



The DEXA bone scanning machine at Al Ahli Hospital, paid for by Embrace supporters



Hospital or GP appointments?

How to get there when you no longer drive?

Public transport very limited?

OXSHOTT CARE



Oxshott Care can help. We are a group of local residents who volunteer to drive fellow residents to these appointments. Our phone is manned from 9am to 12 noon each weekday (messages can be left outside these hours). To seek our help, please call 07950 478329

To become a volunteer, for further information, please call Oxshott Care on 07950 478329 or visit our website: www.oxshottcare.com

Bishop Jo moves on...

'Our' Bishop Jo, well-known to us here as Bishop of Dorking, has been selected to take on a newly created role across the whole Anglican Communion, to build on a successful Lambeth Conference...



The Right Revd Dr Jo Bailey Wells, until recently the Bishop of Dorking here in the Diocese of Guildford, began her new role in January in a newly created post of "Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion" to build on the success of this year's Lambeth Conference.

So, what is the Lambeth Conference?

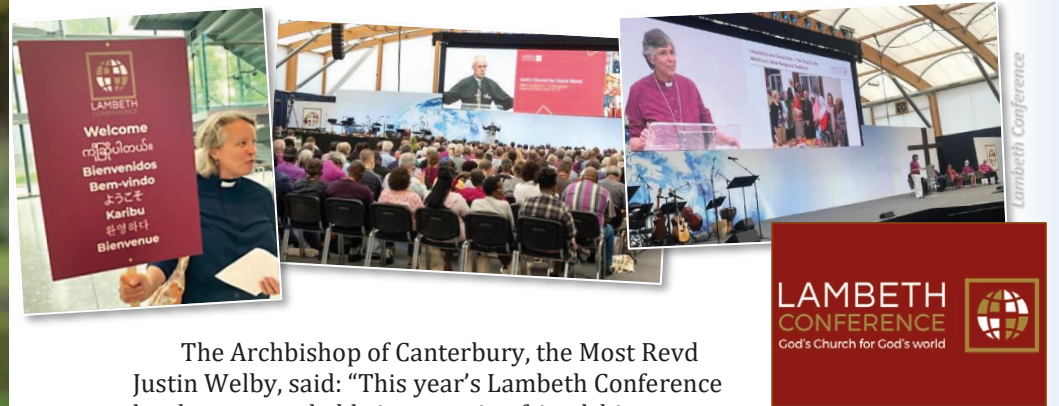
This is a once-a-decade gathering to which all bishops in the Anglican Communion are invited. Around 650 bishops from around the world took part in worship, prayer and Bible studies, and discussions on a range of issues facing the church and the world.

Rejuvenated

Lambeth Conference participants and organisers say that relationships across the Anglican Communion have been rejuvenated as a result of the gathering. One unplanned outcome of the Lambeth Conference is a boost to the Anglican Communion's Companion Link programme – partnerships between individual dioceses with other dioceses in different parts of the world. More than 200 bishops at the conference expressed the desire to create new formal Companion Links as part of their commitment to "Walk Together".

The new post, Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican

Communion, is designed to "foster a collaborative, engaged, enriched fellowship among the bishops of the Anglican Communion, inspiring ever greater companionship, learning and interchange between provinces," the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Right Revd Anthony Poggio, said. "This will build on the outcomes of Lambeth 2022."



The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said: "This year's Lambeth Conference has been remarkable in renewing friendships, relationships and connections across the Anglican Communion.

"The appointment of Bishop Jo Bailey Wells to this new post will take advantage of the renewed determination of bishops to unite in living out our call – in our many cultures – to be God's Church for God's World."

Bishop Jo Bailey Wells said: "Having first encountered the diversity and dynamism of the Anglican Communion as my vocation emerged in the Church of Uganda in the 1980s, I am awed by the sense of God's invitation to this newly created role. I am full of joy to be working with Secretary General Bishop Anthony, having first met one another in South Sudan many years ago. I greatly look forward to journeying with bishop colleagues across the Communion as we work out how we witness together through the Calls, enhancing the friendships and fellowship forged at the recent Lambeth Conference."

Bishop Jo - missed in Guildford Diocese!

Bishop Jo, who visited us here in St Andrew's Oxshott on several occasions, has left Guildford Diocese to take up this new role.

The Bishop of Guildford, the Right Revd Andrew Watson, said: "Bishop Jo has been an outstanding Bishop of Dorking, bringing a freshness and energy to the role, not least from her extensive experience of the worldwide Church. Her teaching and preaching gifts have brought real joy to the diocese, as have her wisdom and discernment and her passion for our church schools. She's been a delightful colleague, and will be very much missed as she takes on this exciting new role. The Anglican Communion is blessed indeed!"



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Village News

Rain and snow don't stop play at OVSC!

Oxshott Village Sports Club isn't stopped by a bit of bad weather, as Sarah Murphy reports...

Despite looking out on what seems to be a permanently wet, soggy ground - play continues in all sections at OVSC and hopefully by the time this goes to print the weather will be turning brighter and sunnier!

OVSC is fortunate to have both indoor and outdoor facilities, so when two of Oxshott's padel stalwarts (Ken Cockle and Lilly Nicholson) recently had to cancel their padel session due to bad weather, they switched racquets and ventured onto the squash courts to try their skills at playing racketball instead. Unlike padel, which becomes a totally



Ken Cockle & Lily Nicholson



Pétanque players: braving the snow

different game with different skills when the glass walls are wet, dedicated OVSC tennis players can simply don waterproofs and look forward to a hot shower after games of tennis, and matches generally continue unless it's really pelting down.

Toughest of all are the pétanque players (left) who regard the snowy conditions as just slightly more challenging!

As we look forward to 2023, we will very soon be welcoming back the cricketers and bowls members. Many have already started their indoor training in anticipation of the new season. The Club has been running both senior and junior winter cricket nets at Reeds School and will start training at the Club again at the end of April.

More improvements...

Meanwhile, the winter programme of improvements at the Club continues, albeit slowly thanks to the rain. New outdoor lighting to improve safety for members playing at the Club after dark has been installed, and a splendid

new padel pavilion next to the padel courts to provide shelter from the rain in winter, and shelter from the sun in summer is nearing completion. With plans also underway to improve the visibility for drivers entering and leaving the Club, OVSC is looking in grand shape for spring when it finally arrives.

Internally the food and drink offering to members is also being upgraded. The long-awaited new coffee machine is finally promised for delivery by the end of January, and Bar Manager Jeff is expanding the snack offering to include a variety of new nibbles for those post-match munchies.

Memberships are still available for all sections (apart from padel, which is running a waiting list). Please visit the website for further information at www.ovsc.co.uk



Sarah Murphy

Danes Hill runs for The Children's Trust

This December, The Children's Trust charity invited schools to take part in a sponsored Elf Run. Children up and down the country sported their very best festive dress and completed a cross-country run gathering sponsorship from family and friends in support of the charity's vital work.

The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury. They deliver rehabilitation, education and community services through skilled teams who work with children and young people, and their families. Each year, the charity needs to raise over £8 million to run these vital services.

On 15 December, seventy Danes Hill Year 5 pupils completed an Elf Run, helping to raise vital funds, and raised an incredible £505 for the Trust with more donations still coming in. Many of the pupils donated their pocket money to the charity in order to reach their target of £500.

Maxine Shaw, Head at Danes Hill School, commented, "A sight to behold as elves appeared around the school on Thursday afternoon during the Elf Run. I am utterly inspired by our Year 5 pupils' efforts to raise sponsorship for The Children's Trust, they went above and beyond to gather donations and support each other out on the cross-country course."



Successful Christmas Concert!

OCS rose to the occasion for their annual concert, an early start to Christmas 2022 on 3 December, as **Mike Newman** is pleased to report...

Undaunted by the cold weather, and the rival attractions of the World Cup, our audience of over 150 at Oxshott Choral Society's annual Christmas concert enjoyed an evening of music to lift the spirits.

The first half of the concert was devoted to Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* - one of his early works. The choir, under the spirited direction of Val Beynon and splendidly accompanied by David Harvey on a baby grand piano, rose to the challenges of this glorious work, with valuable contributions from our two soloists John Upperton (*tenor*) and Geoffrey Horton (*baritone*).

For the first time since our 2019 concert, the choir and audience were able to enjoy refreshments in the interval! It was good to be able to socialize again.

The second half featured carols for the choir and the audience,

accompanied by Stuart Whatton on the organ, as well as the Pearl Fishers duet beautifully sung by John and Geoffrey. The carols, with their soaring descants, truly resounded round the church.

Two John Rutter carols were sung beautifully by the choir, the warmth of the music and words shining through, and the concert ended on a tender, quiet note with "A Christmas Blessing" by Philip Stopford - a very special way to finish. Our thanks go to Val Beynon for once again putting together a lovely concert, greatly enjoyed by performers and audience alike.

The charity chosen by the choir this year was the Cobham Area Foodbank. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the retiring collection, which raised the excellent total of £750.

Michael Newman



Choir and audience in full voice...



A CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS
AND GIRLS AGED 3 TO 13.

PLEASE CONTACT CAROLYN WARD, SCHOOL REGISTRAR
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Friendship and fun – the Oxshott WI

After a successful 2022, the WI is looking forward to a full programme for 2023, as **Liz McGibbon** outlines...

The ladies of Oxshott Village WI enjoyed all their meetings during 2022 and their various 'out of hours' gatherings - pub lunches once a month, book club, art group, walking group, craft group and bridge - and we now look forward to 2023. We meet at 8pm on the third Tuesday of the month in Oxshott Village Centre.

At our February meeting, Ann Harper will tell us about her *Interesting Life*, and in March there will be a talk by Gill Harris entitled *Surviving on Wartime Rations*.

New members are very welcome to our friendly group. We usually start the meeting with our speaker followed by a break for refreshments and catch up with friends. This is followed by a short business meeting where we learn about issues relating to our WI and information from the National Federation of WIs, with the meeting finishing before 10pm.

Full information is available from me (lizmcgibbon@btinternet.com) or Maggie Day (grannymaggie47@yahoo.com). Please come and join us!

Liz McGibbon

What's On in Oxshott



February

- Tue 7 10.00am **Ladies Friendship Group**: Coffee and Chat: *Desert Island*, in the Small Hall, Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 8 2.15pm **The Arts Society, Claremont & Oxshott**: Music Recital, followed at 2.30pm: *Artemesia Gentileschi – Daughter of Rome, Painter of Europe*, with Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe, at the Menhuin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon
- Tue 14 7.30pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society**: *Still Life in Acrylics*, with Hildegard Reid, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 15 7.30pm **Cercle Français d'Esher**: *Emile Zola en Exil en Angleterre*, with Odile Hughson, on Zoom
- Tues 21 12.30pm **Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society**: Mini Lunch followed at 2.15pm: AGM at Oxshott Village Centre
8pm **Oxshott Village Women's Institute**: *My Interesting Life*, with Ann Harper, at Oxshott Village Centre

If you would like to have details of your event listed here, let us know at oxshottmagazine@yahoo.co.uk



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Quilts and blankets for charity

Oxshott Art & Crafts Society has fabrics and more, as reported by **Miranda Fuller...**

OACS rounded its year off with an AGM and Christmas social on 13 December. Our Chairman and Treasurer, Roger Marsden, reported that, despite the long Covid-19 close-down of activities during our 2019/20 and 2020/21 years, the Society made just a small loss, more or less corrected by a small profit for 2021/22. The current 2022/23 season is looking more promising after successful shows at both Denbies Estate and Oxshott Village Centre. With Christmas drinks and snacks in hand, members went on to enjoy an informative and amusing documentary film about famous English painter Ken Howard RA, who died last year.

OACS's first meeting of 2023 was our Members' Presentations on 10 January. This was an illustrated talk by four members of GladRags, an innovative textile group based at West Horsley Place. They explained the origins of GladRags and how the

lockdown quilt evolved, and told us how the group has gone on to help local charities and raise money for West Horsley Place. The picture (*top*) shows the quilt that started it all (with member, Sarah Rawlins, on the right) and a blanket knitted for a local charity, Blankets Without Borders.

Also pictured here (*left*), present at the Private View on 5 January, are three of our members, Wendy Hale, me and Sarah Rawlins, whose work, together with Janet Argent's, was exhibited in the Elmbridge Moving Art Exhibition, mentioned in the November issue and which continued through January in Esher, at the Civic Centre and nearby Killik's.



The GladRags quilt and knitted blanket



On 14 February, popular local artist Hildegard Reid returns, to give us our first demonstration of the year – a still life in acrylic – and on 14 March we welcome back Chris Forsey, who will demonstrate for us a coastal scene in mixed media. Details of further events will be given in the next issue.

**OXSHOTT
ART & CRAFTS
SOCIETY**

Our meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month at the Oxshott Village Centre, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. They are informal and friendly, and non-members are always welcome, as guests, regardless of expertise or experience, for a £5 fee.

You can also explore our updated website and new Facebook page.

Miranda Fuller

Round & About

The Trustees of the Oxshott Village Centre decided to plant a tree for the Queen's Green Canopy. This was suggested to us by committee member Lindy Wheeler, and was originally intended to mark the Jubilee, but events overtook us; it has become a memorial to our late Queen for her service over the past 70 years and to welcome our new monarch, King Charles III, although there may be further trees planted for these occasions.

Lindy suggested a choice of four beautiful trees, any of which would have sat very comfortably within the green area around the village hall and medical practice in the centre of Oxshott. It will be seen daily by patients and the children of Bevendean school. The committee chose a golden Indian bean tree, *catappa bignonioides 'Aurea'*. It is deciduous, with limey-yellow leaves and when mature, clusters of white flowers which produce long bean pods. At the moment it is 3m high and we hope, will grow and thrive in its chosen spot.

To celebrate its planting, the committee asked local children to either draw a tree or a representation of royalty. We had some delightful entries from both Bevendean and Royal Kent pupils. There was a first and two joint seconds in the prose section, and a first and second with 3 highly commended entries in the art section. We would like to thank both our Vicar, Revd Frances Trickey, for judging the prose and Sue Smith, Honorary Secretary of the Oxshott Art and Crafts Society, for judging the beautiful art works.

So, please, on your travels around Oxshott, either on the school run, dog walking or visiting the Doctors, call by our tree and say hello. As our new King says, plants thrive when you talk to them.

Jackie Topp



Where Carnarvon, Egypt and Downton meet

This month, **Nicky Orlebar** tells of a distinctly glamorous Arts Society visit...

They meet, of course, at Highclere Castle, the family seat of the Earls of Carnarvon. In 1842 it was largely rebuilt by Sir Charles Barry for the third Earl, following a design with a Victorian gothic exterior.



Onwards to 1922, and Egypt's Valley of the Kings. During excavations carried out by archaeologist Howard Carter, funded by the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, Carter came across Tutankhamun's tomb. Then forward to 2010, when the Castle became known to many television viewers as *Downton Abbey*. Audiences watched weekly as the fortunes and tribulations of Lord Grantham, the Crawley family and their servants unfolded.

Just south of Newbury, Berkshire, our Arts Society coach entered the Highclere gate. The drive through the park swept us to the front door, where we were briefed on the layout of the Castle, the food marquee and gift shop, the Egyptian exhibition in the cellars and the layout of the gardens. There was certainly plenty to see during our six-hour visit.

The Castle interior is still very much a family home of elegant furniture, paintings, photographs and huge potted palms. From viewing *Downton*, we recognised the entrance saloon with its comfortable fireside chairs and first floor gallery. Through some Gothic arches was the carved wooden staircase down which Crawley brides descended. In the dining room, the elegant table was overlooked by a huge van Dyke portrait of Charles I on horseback. Nearby, with its handsome bookshelves, was the Carnarvon family's library, also used when Lord Grantham sat at his desk.

In the cellars we looked around a well-presented Egyptian display containing maps, photographs and copies of historic artifacts from Tutankhamun's tomb. For sixteen years Carter and Carnarvon, sensing there was 'something' to be found in the Egyptian desert, had directed operations until one day Carter, on removing yet more sandy rubble, found the entrance to an undisturbed tomb.

In the grounds, the herbaceous borders were in full bloom. A mown path curved through a wild garden, apricots were ripening in the glasshouse, while a circular rose bed and yew hedges appeared pruned to perfection. Lawns with mature trees gave way to fields stretching to woods on the distant hills. Highclere Castle would deserve a return visit.

Nicky Orlebar

Sudoku

1	5	7	3	2	4	8	6	9
2	3	4	9	6	8	1	7	5
6	8	9	1	5	7	4	3	2
5	1	8	4	7	6	9	2	3
7	4	6	2	3	9	5	8	1
3	9	2	5	8	1	7	4	6
9	7	1	6	4	3	2	5	8
8	2	3	7	1	5	6	9	4
4	6	5	8	9	2	3	1	7

Answers
next
month

						7	2	
				9	5		3	
6	7			3	2	9		
9			1					
4	1	6				7	9	5
				6			1	
		3	1	8			4	6
2		7	4					
8	4							

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Last month's solution

Think about it...

A German walks into a bar and asks for a martini. The bartender asks, "Dry?"
The German replies, "Nein, just one."

Spotted...



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February 2023

Oxshott Directory

Contacts at St Andrew's (continued from page 2)

Who's Who at St Andrew's



ABC: Adults, Babies and young Children - group for babies, young children, and their parents or carers. Contact: Patrick & Belinda Davies (abc@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Bible Reading Fellowship: Hon Sec: Claire King (01932 867522)

Build your Church Project: Contact: Ruth Burns (01372 844377)

Children and Young People: Younger children meet separately for their own activities during part of our Sunday service at 10am in term time. For weekday events, see **ABC (above)**. Special services in church are also planned for children and families; contact the Church Office (01372 842071)

Church Hall: For bookings, contact the Church Office (01372 842071)

Church Office: Church Administrator: Claire Costard; Assistant: Rowena Osman-Robertson. Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm (01372 842071 or office@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Churches Together: Suzanna Knott (01932 866951)

Churchwardens: Jill Perrett (077688 52805), Rebecca Mayhew (07818 426482)

Coffee Comfort: meets every 4th Thursday of the month, 10.15-11.45am in the church vestibule. Contact: Jenny Mathieson (01372 842760)

Deanery Synod: Representatives: Rebecca Mayhew and Jill Perrett

Electoral Roll: Electoral Roll Officer: Emily Godfrey (electoral.roll@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Lay Assistants: Barbara Begley, Peter Burt, Marianne Francis, Anita Harper, Phillip Herbert, Claire King, Rebecca Mayhew, Jill Mengham, Helen Shand & Jackie Stewart

Life Groups: A number of Life Groups meet for study, fellowship and prayer on a regular basis throughout the parish. Co-ordinator: Patrick Fleming (life.groups@standrewsoxshott.org.uk or through the Church Office 01372 842071)

Lunch Club: meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, and generally appeals to people who are 60 plus. Leaders: Sheila and Phillip Herbert (01372 842301)

Mothers' Union: Branch Leader: Jane Edean (07762 212607 or mothers.union@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Music: Director of Music: Valerie Beynon (01932 863296). Organist: Nicky Orlebar.

Parish Funding: Parish Funding Administrator: Marjorie Cox (07730 560752)

Parochial Church Council: PCC Secretary: Steph Rustom. PCC Members: Ruth Burns, Revd Patrick Davies (*Curate*), Ros Ebbutt-Hadman, Patrick Fleming, Carl Jackson (*Treasurer*), Anna Jarrett, Charlene Lamb, Rebecca Mayhew (*Deanery Synod*), Jill Perrett (*Deanery Synod*), Steph Rustom, Norman Steven, Revd Frances Trickey (*Vicar*), Revd Jolyon Trickey (*Associate Minister*) and Adele Wright

Pastoral Assistants: Barbara Begley, Peter Burt, Marianne Francis, Rebecca Mayhew, Gavin Harper, Helen Shand, Jackie Stewart, Ron Stewart and Trish Torr. For contact, please call the Church Office (01372 842071)

Safeguarding: Parish Safeguarding Officer: Anna Jarrett (safeguarding@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

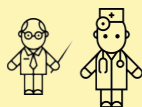
Treasurer: Carl Jackson (01372 843990)

Website Editor: web@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

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Contact information for local services – *please advise any changes*

Community and Local Services



Oxshott Medical Practice: Holtwood Road, Oxshott KT22 0QJ

Telephone: 01372 844000 - Monday to Friday, 8am to 6.30pm

Website: www.oxshottmedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Doctors:

Dr Mark Jenkins MB BS DRCOG DFFP MRCGP (available Monday-Wednesday, Friday)

Dr Richard Draper MB ChB MSc DA DRCOG DCH FRCGP (available Thursday, Friday)

Dr Alice Palfreman MBChB (Hons) MRCGP (available Monday-Wednesday)

Dr Laura Peeke MBBS BSc MRCP DRCOG MRCGP PGcert (available Monday, Tuesday)

Dr Hannah Coleman MBBS MRCGP DRCOG (available Wednesday, Thursday)

Dr Esmat Abbas MBBS BSc MRCGP DRCOG DFSRH (available Thursday, Friday)

Nurse: Rosemary Tyler (available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Surgery hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6.30pm

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Outside surgery hours:

- in non-Emergency cases: telephone **111**

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Central Surrey Voluntary Action: No.1, The Quintet, Charities House, Churchfield Road, Walton on Thames, KT12 2TZ - incorporating Elmbridge Volunteer Centre, and an Esher venue (01372 463587 or visit www.centralsurreyvoluntaryaction.co.uk)

Centre for Sight: Vision correction, laser eye surgery, lens implants and cataract surgery, at 48 High Street, Oxshott. Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm (0800 011 2882)

Cobham Area Foodbank: Serves Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, the Horsleys and Effingham (01932 450282 or manager@cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk)

Councillors – Elmbridge Borough Council

Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon Ward:

Andrew Burley (07503 830954 or aburley@elmbridge.gov.uk),

David Lewis (07771 505567 or djlewis43@btinternet.com),

Alan Parker (07917 521069 or alanparker.oxshott@gmail.com)

Councillors – Surrey County Council

Cobham Division:

(includes Cobham, Downside, part of Stoke D'Abernon and Oxshott, west of the railway line)

David Lewis (01932 590338 or 07771 505567 or david.lewis1@surreycc.gov.uk)

Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott Division:

(includes Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott, east of the railway line)

Mark Sugden (01372 463085 or 07548 244422 or mark.sugden@surreycc.gov.uk)

Counsellor: Fay Preston MBACP BACP-registered counsellor (01372 450742 or 07855 098995 or visit www.counselling-directory.org.uk/counsellors/fay-preston)

Contact information for local services

Services *(continued)*



Dentist: Dr Brian Cullen BDS (Shef), Oxshott Dental Practice, Winkfield, Steels Lane, Oxshott. Mon-Thur 8am-5pm; Fri 8am-4.30pm (01372 843552 or info@oxshottdental.com or visit www.oxshottdental.com)

Esher and District Citizens Advice Bureau: Harry Fletcher House, Civic Centre Complex, High Street, Esher (No service currently in person; by phone 01372 464770 Mon-Tue, Thur-Fri 10.30am-3.30pm; Wed 1pm-3.30pm, or via www.eshercab.org.uk)

FEDORA: Federation of Oxshott Residents and Associations. Co-Chairs: Anthony Wolfe, Carmen Robinson (chairman@fedora.org.uk)

Friends of Oxshott Heath: Contact: Jan Fuller (janmfuller@yahoo.co.uk), Elizabeth Chovil (e.chovil@ntlworld.com)

Health Visitor and Cobham Health Centre: (01932 867231)

Hospital Accident and Emergency Department (A&E): Epsom General Hospital, Dorking Road, Epsom KT18 7EG

Meals on Wheels: Contact: The Community Support Services Team at Elmbridge Council (01372 474552 or commservices@elmbridge.gov.uk)

Osteopath: Anja Davidson MOst, Wellmead Osteopathy, Steels Lane (01372 897497 or info@wellmeadosteopathy.co.uk)

Oxshott Care: Local voluntary Help Scheme (07950 478329). Phone attendance Mon-Fri 9am-12 noon, answer machine at other times

Oxshott Village Centre: Bookings Secretary: Alexandra Horne (01372 841892 or ovcbookings@aol.com or visit www.oxshottvillagecentre.co.uk)

Physiotherapist: Leigh R. Hopper MCSP SRP, Oxshott Physiotherapy Practice, Sunridge, Fair Oak Lane, Oxshott (01372 844449 or oxshottphysio@btopenworld.com)

Police: Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon & Oxshott: Police Sergeant Rob Thomas & Police Officer Andy Lawrence. Elmbridge Borough Commander: Inspector Bert Dean

Police Station: Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 9SD (elmbridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

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In a genuine emergency, requiring urgent police attendance, call 999

Patient Participation Group (PPG): Patients, carers and GP practice staff who meet to discuss local practice issues. Contact: Oxshott Medical Practice (01372 844000)

Royal Kent School, Oakshade Road, Oxshott, Surrey KT22 0LE (01372 842495) Church of England Primary School, ages 4 to 11. For details of admissions, please contact the School Office. **Headteacher:** Katie Hancock **Governors:** David Young (Chair), Katie Hancock (Headteacher), Joe Blaney, Revd Patrick Davies, Louise Emmett, Stuart Heeks, Helen Howell, Steve Jones, Laurie-Ann Lamb, Tonia Lovell, Revd Frances Trickey, Robbert Zoet

SSAFA: Leading national charity helping members and ex-members of the Armed Forces and their families (01372 462796 or surrey@ssafa.org.uk)

Victim Support: Free confidential support after crime. Contact: Supportline (08 08 16 89 111) or visit www.victimsupport.org.uk

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Local Clubs & Societies



- 1st Oxshott Scouts:** Meetings: Beavers (Mondays 6-7.15pm), Cubs (Thursdays 6.30-8pm), Scouts (Wednesdays 6.30-8pm), Explorers (Mondays 7.30-9pm). (oxshottscoutgroup@gmail.com) www.oxshott-scouts.org
- Girllguiding Oxshott:** Meetings: Rainbows (girls aged 5-7: Tuesdays 4.15-5.30pm), Brownies (7-10: Tuesdays 5.45-7.15pm), Guides (10-14: Tuesdays 7.30-9pm), Rangers (14-18: Wednesdays 7.30-9pm). Contact: 1stoxshottbrownies@gmail.com
- Ladies Friendship Group:** Meets 1st Tuesday in month at 10am, in small hall in Oxshott Village Centre. Contact: Angela Horne (01372 843113)
- Le Cercle Français d'Esher:** Evening talks in French on 3rd Wednesday of each month from October to June in West End Village Hall. Contact: Brigitte Tiller (01932 860842 or brigitte@ptiller.com)
- Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** This friendly group of artists and craftsmen meet for a demonstration at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of most months. Guests are welcome. Full details on our website (www.oxshottartandcrafts.org)
- Oxshott Badminton Club:** If you play badminton why not join us on Tuesday evenings (September to May). Contact: Geoff Moyle (01372 843844 or geoffdot@ntlworld.com) or Ashok Patel (07977 103436 or ashokdivya@aol.com)
- Oxshott Bridge Club:** Duplicate bridge on Wednesday evenings at Oxshott Village Centre. Enquiries to Secretary: Janet Kefford (01932 863541)
- Oxshott Choral Society:** Meets Wednesday evenings in Stoke D'Abernon Church Hall. Contact: Sue Rees (01372 842300) www.oxshottchoral.org.uk
- Oxshott, Esher and the Dittons NWR (National Women's Register):** meets fortnightly on Tuesday evenings (some Tuesday afternoons during winter) in each other's homes. Contact: Cathy Davies (01372 842085)
- Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society:** Meets 3rd Tuesday in the month at Oxshott Village Centre, except August. Secretary: Anita Lee (07979 804668 or leea8971@gmail.com)
- Oxshott Village Sports Club:** Bowls, Bridge, Cricket, Cycling, Football, Netball, Padel, Pétanque, Squash, Stoolball, Tennis. All enquiries to the OVSC office: Fiona Stephen or Sarah Murphy (01372 843652 or office@oxshottsports.com)
- Political Parties: Cobham, Oxshott & Stoke d'Abernon Conservatives:** Chair: Cathy Davies (01372 842085 or cdavies_waldegrave@yahoo.co.uk)
- Cobham, Downside, Oxshott and Stoke Labour Party:** Secretary: Dan Parks (07860 677898 or codslabourbranch@gmail.com)
- The Arts Society Claremont and Oxshott** (formerly ASCO, before that CODFAS): Meets 2nd Wednesday in month (except July & August) in the Yehudi Menuhin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon. Coach visits also organised. Contact: Anne Wallis (anne@wallis.eu.com)
- The Oxshott Club:** Centre of village social life; Oakshade Road. Lounge bar, snooker, pool, quiz nights; music and entertainment evenings and BBQs held regularly. BT Sports channel. Open every evening; Saturday & Sunday from midday. See us on Facebook or contact Club Secretary or Stewardess (01372 842232)
- Women's Institute - Oxshott Village WI:** Meets 3rd Tuesday in month at 8pm, in Oxshott Village Centre. Contact: Maggie Day (01932 988501)



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