

Oxshott

m a g a z i n e



INSIDE
Some
Oxshott
history!

Oxshott station: looking back

How did it look 70 years ago?

**Scouts and
Guides**

Grant success!

**Mothering
Sunday**

*What's that
all about?*

**Combat
Stress**

Visit them!

**Hope in
South Africa**

News from Paula

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

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

Editor: Brian Cox
 Assistant Editor: Linda Dilks
 Distribution: Jo Eccleshall
 Advertising: Anthony Rees

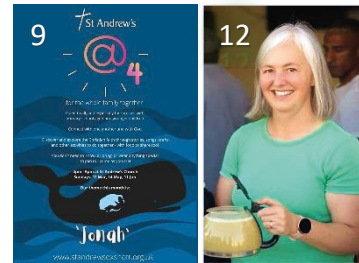
- Please send copy by the 9th of the previous month
- Magazines are available for distribution by the 24th of the previous month

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 a current view of Oxshott Station



Flexible care for complete peace of mind

When it comes to care, many people start off by relying on friends and family or bringing in professionals to support them in their own homes - a gardener, a cleaner, someone to make sure the bills are paid or the weekly shopping is done. But managing this support can be a job in itself, taking up precious time.

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The image above shows a therapy pet. Speak to your Client Liaison Manager for more details.

Be prepared...

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
(1 Peter 3.15)



Dear Friends,

During my time at university, I was asked to lead the student Christian Union as President. At the time, I was living in a student house about ten minutes bus ride from where my regular lectures took place. One morning, having travelled to lectures together most days, at the start of our bus journey a friend asked: "So, what is being a Christian all about then?"

The perfect opportunity: ten minutes to share about my faith in Jesus in response to a genuine, unprompted question! But, sadly, I found I couldn't do it! I just wasn't sure where to start, how to explain what Christian faith meant, what I believed, and how it all impacted my life. I tried to give something of an answer, but, in reality, I am not sure it was very helpful or clear!

For most of us, the confidence to share faith with others about is not something that just happens automatically. Most often we have to work on it, prepare, and think it through. Living and speaking for Jesus is not always easy - but by preparing we can become ready to respond when opportunities come our way.

During Lent, at St Andrew's we will be doing some of this preparation together. Over 40 days, using LICC's 'Confidence' resources*, we will think about the reason for the hope we have as Christians, and grow in our confidence and readiness to live and speak for Jesus.

If you are curious to find out more about the Christian hope, Lent and Easter are great opportunities to explore this. Perhaps start by talking to a Christian you know... a friend, a neighbour, or me!

After Easter we plan to run a short, 3-week course called 'Hope Explored' which looks at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through Luke's gospel. If you would like to find out more about this course, do please be in touch.

Patrick
Curate

You can contact Patrick at patrick.davies@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

* www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/confidence-devotional-journey/touch

Parish News & Notes

Celebrating mothering

Join us here at St Andrew's as we celebrate Mothering Sunday this month; but did you know why we do so?...

On 19 March most churches, like St Andrew's, will celebrate their 'mothers'. Millions will be spent on Mother's Day gifts and cards, and children will give flowers to women in church. It's a joy to honour mothers for their love and caring, but our blessings are lessened when we forget the Day's original purpose.

The Mother's Day we know today began on 12 May 1907, in America, when a woman called Anna Jarvis held a service in her late mother's church to honour her work of organising women's groups to promote friendship and health. The idea spread, and in 1914 Mother's Day was declared an official celebration.



But the European Mothering Sunday goes back to the 16th century, and was altogether more faith-based. On the fourth Sunday of Lent people went 'a-mothering', going to their 'mother' church, the main church in the region, for a special service.

In those days domestic servants rarely had free days, but they were given a day off during Lent, so they could go along with their mothers and families. Times changed, and by the 1900s Mothering Sunday had largely changed into Mother's Day – a celebration of mothers more than mother churches.

The value of Nurturing

Many Scriptures describe the mothering qualities of God, for example Isaiah 66.13 – 'As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.'

We also see it in women without children. I remember a spinster head teacher in a poor district in Wales mothering and bringing the best out of 'her' children.

We see it in our housing and care homes, in older women who have never been mothers as well as those who have, as they comfort a carer who has had a miscarriage, or who needs encouragement. We see it in pastors, and in men who nurture others.

Let's thank God for His gift of 'mothering', wherever we find it.

Louise Morse, via Parish Pump

We are very pleased that - for the first time since before the pandemic - we are planning to run an interactive **Easter Workshop** here in the church at St Andrew's, to which we are inviting all the children at the Royal Kent School...



The Workshop will held on Thursday 23 March and



Friday 24 March – and we are looking forward to welcoming the RKS children into the church again!

We have started our annual revision of the **electoral roll**.

If you are over 16 and a member of St Andrew's, you can join by filling in a form and returning it to the Church Office or putting it in the box provided in the vestibule **by 5 March**; simply download a form from the website, or pick one up in the vestibule.



If you are already on the roll, you do NOT need to reapply! (To check whether you are on the roll, log into My Church Suite and look in the Menu.) For any information, simply contact the Church Office...



Our Lent study course **Confidence on the frontline** has some key topics!

Based on six true stories, these themes will form the basis of our talks in church and our studies in Life Groups:

- Sunday 26 February:*
Confidence through being convinced
- Sunday 5 March:*
Confidence through community
- Sunday 12 March:*
Confidence through compassion
- Sunday 19 March:*
Confidence through consistent spiritual practices
- Sunday 26 March:*
Confidence through competence
- Sunday 2 April:*
Confidence through courage

You can also sign up to receive daily reflections and prayers...

We look forward to being on this journey together – you can see full details on the church website.

Church Services in March



Wed	1	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	2	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	4	9am Saturday Prayers
Sun	5	The second Sunday of Lent <i>Confidence on the Frontline: Building Confidence: through community</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10
Tue	7	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	8	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	9	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	11	9am Saturday Prayers
Sun	12	The third Sunday of Lent <i>Confidence on the Frontline: Building Confidence: through compassion</i> 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 fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday <i>Confidence on the Frontline: Building Confidence: consistent spiritual practices</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10
Tue	21	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	22	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	23	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	25	The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary 9am Saturday Prayers
Sun	26	The fifth Sunday of Lent <i>Confidence on the Frontline: Building Confidence: through competence</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10 7pm St Andrew's at 7
Tue	28	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	29	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	30	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

St Andrew's



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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 Mar, 14 May, 11 Jun

Our theme this month is:



'Jonah'

www.standrewsoxshott.org.uk

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March 2023

Church News

The BBC at Guildford Cathedral

Guildford Cathedral is very much looking forward to the BBC coming to the Cathedral on Tuesday 7 March and Wednesday 8 March for two special services...

On Tuesday 7 March, the BBC will be recording a service from the Cathedral at 5.30pm that will be broadcast on Mothering Sunday. The service will last an hour and we would welcome people to come along to be part of the congregation.

Please arrive at 5pm to be seated by 5.15pm.

Then on the following day, Wednesday 8 March, the BBC will broadcast

Evensong live from the Cathedral on BBC Radio 3 at 4pm.

This service will also last an hour, and once again we are looking for people to come along to be part of the congregation.

You will need to arrive at 3.30pm and be seated by 3.45pm.

We very much hope, you would like to attend.

BBC RECORDING and broadcast
TUESDAY 7 MARCH, 5.30pm
The BBC will be recording a service here that will be broadcast on Mothering Sunday. The service will last an hour and you are cordially invited to attend as a member of the congregation.
ARRIVE AT 5pm
BE SEATED BY 5.15pm
www.guildford-cathedral.org



BBC recordings and broadcasts from the Cathedral - all are welcome to join us

BBC RECORDING and broadcast
WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH, 4pm
The BBC will be broadcasting Evensong live on Radio 3 from here. The service will last an hour and you are cordially invited to attend as a member of the congregation.
ARRIVE AT 3.30pm
BE SEATED BY 3.45pm
www.guildford-cathedral.org

Shining the light in South Africa

Our Mission Partners in Cape Town, Dean and Paula Finnie, are optimistic – despite the trials they and their congregation have living in the face of multiple pressures. **Paula Finnie** explains why...

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it
(John 1:5)

Like everywhere else in the world, life is very tough for South Africans right now. We truly live in a dark world and we are so grateful to God for our mandate as Christians to go and make disciples, telling them about Jesus, the Light of the World, the only One who can bring about the transformation in lives that we all so desperately need.

The Gathering continues to see the full impact of years of Government corruption, the Covid-19 pandemic, loss of livelihoods, inability to pay school fees, clothe and feed children, look after the elderly, meet medical needs, the destructive influence of drugs and alcohol, domestic abuse, unemployment figures through the roof and loss of hope.

All of this would be more than enough to cope with, but our nation continues to battle with daily electricity 'loadshedding', the power being cut off for 2 or 4 hour stretches twice or three times a day. The power cuts are scheduled in advance, but can quite often increase with just a few minutes' notice. You can imagine the havoc this causes to family life, businesses, students, people on the roads travelling with no traffic lights, electrical appliances giving up as they are switched on and off regularly, etc.

Just one national power company supplies the grid, there is no competition and an awful lot of corruption. And the company have just confirmed that the current situation will continue daily for the next 2 years!

So, our outreach as a church continues to grow and morph with the general decline all around us. The numbers of people coming to

our weekly soup kitchen have increased dramatically, and we are also seeing more and more people previously seen

community
The Gathering
church

The Gathering Community Church in Firgrove, started by the Finnies in 2014, has links with Christians Abroad and Churches Together.

As well as church, they do soup kitchens, homework club and Christmas meals, to name just a few of their projects.

as 'better off' attending alongside those who are really struggling.

We were thrilled, therefore, to be able to provide three very special soup kitchens over Christmas with donations from St Andrew's, where we made 140 litres of ham and pea soup (a real treat!), together with bread, noodles, peanut pastes and beautiful handmade cookies to take away, telling people of God's love for them, and assuring them that there is always a place they can call home at The Gathering.

More space to do more?

To try to help alleviate the above needs in our small way, we have found ourselves more often sourcing large quantities of food for the soup kitchen. The church is full to the brim with oats, pasta, noodles, peanut pastes, herbs and spices, as well as toiletries, sanitary pads for girls in the community so that they don't miss school, stationery and clothing!

We can barely move and therefore we long to acquire the whole row of buildings where The Gathering currently meet. We have made a very good



The soup kitchen in action...

offer to the landlord and were hoping to sign an Offer to Purchase on 31 January. God has miraculously supplied all the money for us to make this offer and we believe that the buildings are ours. However, our landlord is now stalling, so it is currently a huge lesson in trust and faith for us all.

We cannot wait to move into all that we know God has spoken to us about. Some of our plans are to use the buildings to expand our Maths Homework Club, to start a literacy club, to set up a food and clothing bank, to offer debt relief services, to maybe house a clinic once a week and to have more opportunity to chat and pray with people, to start to meet regularly for women's and men's Bible study, to set up a Friday evening Youth and to use the small apartment at the back of the buildings as a women's refuge.

All of this as well as to have a much bigger meeting space on a Sunday, and for our weekly prayer meetings!

Paula Finnie

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



Traidcraft goes into administration

Sad news for all of us who have supported Traidcraft in the past...

Traidcraft PLC – a Christian group that spent years campaigning for fair trade – has gone into administration. The stands were familiar to many churchgoers, with almost 3,000 churches in the country selling Traidcraft products at some point in their 40-year history.



The brand cited the coronavirus pandemic, the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices as the reasons behind the severe financial difficulties.

Hospital or GP appointments?

How to get there when you no longer drive?

Public transport very limited?

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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

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Village News

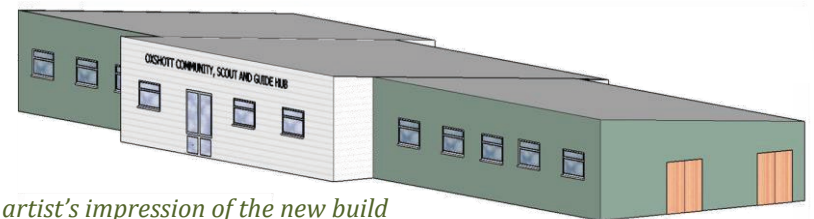
Good things come to those who wait!

Oxshott Scouts and Guides has been awarded a Your Fund Surrey Grant to rebuild their dilapidated building, as an overjoyed **Anja Davidson**, Oxshott Group Scout Leader, reports...

It was back in spring of 2018, when I went to the then Guide Leader, Lina Heather, and said, "Isn't in a time we try and get this project off the ground once again?" I had recently taken over as Group Scout Leader. Our Scout and Guide buildings were falling down. We had had some roof leaks, finger-wide cracks were appearing and we had recently been successful on a subsidence claim. There had been work before to try to get the project started, but it didn't get very far. This time around, with my son in Scouts and my daughter in Guides, I felt we had a good leadership relationship on both the Guide and Scout side.



It was time to try to start again.



An artist's impression of the new build

Lina and I got together a small group with the experience and commitment to take this project forward to the next level.

This is now 4½ years ago and there have been many ups and downs and hurdles along the way, including Covid, the increase in building costs and the cost-of-living crisis. Tragically, Lina passed away in 2021 and so is no longer with us to see her dream turn into reality.

In the summer of 2020 Covid happened and life changed in ways we couldn't have foreseen. We were struggling to obtain grant funding, with many bodies directing their funds towards Covid recovery. We had obtained a grant from Elmbridge through their Community Infrastructure Levy and we were grateful to be able to use it to either rebuild or repair our building. We were reaching the conclusion that we would have to repair, rather than rebuild, when Surrey County Council's Your Fund Surrey (YFS) project was announced, with a fund of £100 million to fund community projects over 5 years.

(continued overleaf)

We had yet another crisis meeting, and unanimously decided that as we had a project ready to go with full planning permission, we had to try to obtain funding from YFS. We registered our interest in late 2020 and started the application process. We did have some setbacks along the way, such as having to totally re-tender the project, as well as having to seek a new planning permission because the 3-year start period had expired...

And I am so overjoyed to be able to say we have finally, after 2½ years of hard graft, meeting after meeting, form after form, been awarded the remaining full grant needed to be able to rebuild what will be known as the “Oxshott Community Hub”, the home of Oxshott Scouts and Guides. We also look forward to a wide range of community groups using the wonderful new facility.

As I am writing this the planning application is going through its due process, with a decision hopefully by the end of February 2023.

Thanks to those involved!

There are many people who have worked on this along the way that we would like to thank, but there are a few I would like to thank here. Our Surrey County Councillor, Mark Sugden, has supported us a great deal over the last 12 months and getting over this last hurdle would not have happened without your help. Thank you.

However, there are two people who have given so much of their time and energy and likely growing a few grey hairs in the last four years. Words cannot even describe how grateful I am for all the time you have given:

- John Major, for all his professional knowledge, to get this project going and off the ground, his designs, his meticulous eye for detail to keep this project in check.
- Alison Shannon, Oxshott Rainbow and Brownie Leader, who has submitted every single grant application and never given up. She became the contact person to work tirelessly with YFS.

Truly, this project would not be anywhere where it is now without the two of you. Thank you.

To all the rest of you, those who commented on ‘Have your Say’ or supported us by buying a Christmas tree or in any other way, we can’t wait to be able to share this building with you all and we look forward to sharing the progress along the way.



Anja Davidson

Have a look behind the gate...

We have a leading veterans’ mental health charity on our doorstep, as **Kate Alexander** of Combat Stress explains – and you can visit them on 30 March...



Combat Stress provides specialist treatment and support to former servicemen and women from every service and conflict at Tyrwhitt House (right), their Head Office and treatment centre on Oaklawn Road.

Today they provide specialist treatment and support for about 14,000 veterans every year, focusing on those with complex mental health issues related to their military service. The work they do is life-changing and often life-saving.



They employ a wide range of specialist staff: psychiatrists, psychologists, art therapists and nurses. The team are delivering

“Combat Stress was brilliant, and without a doubt made my life so much better”

Brian, navy veteran

in-person and online treatment from hubs strategically placed throughout the UK.

In Leatherhead they run a cutting-edge, evidence-based intensive residential course as part of a year-long treatment programme.



Brian as he is today (above).

Sadly, many everyday activities can act as a trigger for veterans with PTSD.

In Brian’s case, the smell of a barbeque takes him back to the Falklands conflict when he was rescuing men from a burning ship...

Invisible injuries can be just as hard to cope with as physical ones – for veterans and for their families. Sadly, those with the most complex mental health problems often suffer for years before they reach out for help, with devastating impacts on all areas of their lives.

No one else provides the all-round support that Combat Stress is able to give to help them get well and stay well.

Kate Alexander

WANT TO SEE BEHIND THE GATE?

Why not attend the **Open Day on 30 March?**

To learn more, or to register interest in attending the Open Day, visit www.combatstress.org.uk or call 01372 587153

Local Art & Crafts refreshed!

Oxshott Art & Crafts Society (OACS) are now refreshed and invigorated for 2023, as **Miranda Fuller** discloses...

OACS are now well into 2023, with our new Facebook page and fresh, updated website and quite a number of new members, whom we very much welcome.

The creative activities continue; our Chairman, Roger Marsden, enjoyed a two-week exhibition in January at the Fountain Gallery in Hampton Court, with two other local artists. His beautiful woodturned artefacts, pictured here (*right*), along with Cornish landscape paintings and small,



Crafted by Roger Marsden



Lavender Field at Banstead by Sue Smith

bronze style figurative sculptures, created an exciting mix and good visitor numbers and sales. Meanwhile, our Secretary, Sue Smith, exhibited at Denbies Gallery that month, with the Surrey Hills Plein Air Painters, a group who meet to paint

outdoors at Surrey locations, once a week, throughout the year, rain or shine! The exhibition, which included Sue's eye-catching painting (*above*) was an excellent one and attracted lots of visitors.

Also shown (*opposite*) is Sue's lovely ink drawing, which will be in an online exhibition with Bobcat Gallery from 1-31 March; she also has work exhibited at South Street Gallery in Dorking.

**OXSHOTT
ART & CRAFTS
SOCIETY**



Our first demonstration of the year – a *Still Life in Acrylic*, by local artist Hildegarde Reid, on 14 February (details in next issue) will be followed on 14 March by a *Coastal Scene* in mixed media by well-known artist Chris Forsey.

Because of the dates of Easter, there is no demonstration in April, but we look forward to welcoming back Marie Antoniou on 9 May, for a demonstration of *Wildlife in Acrylics*. Our Spring Show will be later this year, details of which will follow in the next issue.

Our meetings are held on second Tuesdays of the month, 7.30 to 9.30pm. Non-members are always welcome as guests, regardless of expertise or experience, for a £5 fee.

Miranda Fuller



London Landscape from South Bank, by Sue Smith

What's On in Oxshott



March

- Tue 7 10.00am **Ladies Friendship Group:** *Somewhere you would like to go you have never been to before – and why?*, in the Small Hall, Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 8 2.15pm **The Arts Society, Claremont & Oxshott:** Music Recital, followed at 2.30pm: *The Frick, the Wallace and their connection to Knole*, with Hillary Williams, at Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke D'Abernon
- Tue 14 7.30pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** *Coastal Scene* in mixed media, demonstration with Chris Forsey, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 15 7.30pm **Cercle Français d'Esher:** *Le Roi Danse: Les Comédies-Ballets de Molière et Lully*, with Émilie Capulet, at West End Village Hall, West End Lane, Esher
- Tue 21 2pm **Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society:** *Wish You Were Here*, with Carol Ferris, at Oxshott Village Centre
8pm **Oxshott Village Women's Institute:** *Surviving on Wartime Rations*, with Gill Harris, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Thu 23 **Combat Stress:** *Open Day*, at Tyrwhitt House, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead KT22 0BX; to register interest in attending, visit the website www.combatstress.org.uk or call 01372 587153

If you would like to have details of your event listed here, let us know at magazine@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

Eco-friendly flower arrangements

Even in winter, the Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society keeps busy, and as **Jackie Topp** reports, members been learning how to protect the environment...

The first 2023 meeting of the Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society took place in January. We had a good turnout of members, considering the very wintry weather.

Our demonstrator was Angela Merryfield, who told us that the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) are trying to use less of the green flower arranging foam as it is not good for the environment and it takes a very long time to biodegrade in landfill.

Unfortunately, the manufacturers have not yet been able to come up with a viable alternative. Demonstrators are therefore showing us how to use alternatives. These consisted of the good old-fashioned chicken wire and a new form of coated wire that is available in various colours. These can be reused and look more attractive.

Angela also arranged flowers in various containers she had made herself and as she said, 'plonked some flowers artfully in vases'. Her arrangements were accompanied by some beautiful pieces of music expertly organised by her husband.

Our next demonstration will be by Carol Ferris on 21 March, entitled *Wish You Were Here*.



Jackie Topp



Active start to 2023 for Oxshott WI

Oxshott Village WI was off to a vibrant start for the New Year, as **Liz McGibbon** discloses...

The first meeting of 2023 was most enjoyable as, in spite of being a cold evening, we had a very healthy attendance. The speaker for the evening was Tanya Marchetti, who is a representative of Neal's Yard, a well-known skin care company. We sat round tables in groups of four, and once the chatter had stopped Tanya told us all about the hand care potions she had brought for us to try.

Tanya told us of the various herbs used to make the balm, but some members were not too keen on the smell!!

The majority of those present, however, felt their hands had benefitted from the application of her products.

We have an interesting programme for the rest of the year and would welcome new members and visitors. Our Art Group, under the leadership of Sue Smith, continues in her studio, and Jenny Beebe organises interesting walks once a month.



Tanya Marchetti, of Neal's Yard



Helen Pattison: Treasurer on wheels

We have Craft Group that meets monthly where we knit, sew and enjoy the company of fellow members.

Our book club is also thriving, and one of the most popular gatherings is our pub lunch on the first Wednesday of the month.

As you can see from the photograph of our very busy Treasurer, Helen Pattison (left), we are a happy group - but you don't need to cycle to our meetings!!!

Liz McGibbon

Looking back at Oxshott Station

Here's a view you may not have seen, of Oxshott Station in the 1950s. And here we contrast it with the current scene. **Brian Cox** explains the background and some key features...



The picture above is taken from a film made sometime in the early 1950s, and even a casual look reveals several changes that have taken place since then. The most obvious are:

- The **signal box** on the right-hand side has long since gone, taken down soon after the film was recorded.
- There is a **goods siding** (that ends about where the bike storage now stands), and points allowing trains to cross from the main track to the siding. This third track actually extended all the way to the brickworks that were sited where Somerville Road now stands. You can still see evidence of this, in that the pedestrian bridge at Sheath Lane is over-wide (to cover the three tracks), and the level crossing from Blundel Lane to Littleheath Lane has signs of an extra gate on the north side.
- The **platforms** were much shorter than they are now – these were both extended on the 'down' side of the station, towards Cobham, in 2012.

A number of features are unchanged, of course: the general layout of the

SOUTHERN REGION

Not everything has changed...

Looking at the view below, we now have more lamp-posts!



But the platform canopy and its posts are unchanged, as are the small building, now used by a car hire firm, and the adjacent railings...

Brian Cox

The visual treasures of Strawberry Hill

For this month's Arts Society trip, **Nicky Orlebar** explores a 'gothick castle' very near to home...

In 1748, 30-year-old Horace Walpole (son of the first British Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole), unconvinced he wanted to enter Parliament, bought a rundown farmhouse near fashionable Twickenham. Not only was it a short two-hour coach ride from London, but it was beside the Thames, surrounded by countryside and when converted he envisaged a perfect summer retreat which he was to call Strawberry Hill.

Walpole set about making plans for 'a little gothick castle'. Having been on a Grand Tour, he decided he was not interested in anything as stylish as classicism or Palladianism. He rather fancied the Gothic style of pointed arches, quatrefoil windows often with coloured glass, and rib vaults as found in castles and cathedrals. To this end he gathered his friends and convened a Committee of Taste.

More theatrics...

Continuing the theatrics, the entrance to Strawberry Hill was via the 'gloomth' of a grey hall; but moving through the house, gradually each room grew brighter (such as the pink Round Drawing room and blue Tribune), eventually leading to the Gallery (right). Here the fan-vaulted white and gold ceiling (as copied from Westminster Abbey) set against deep red walls completely surprised his visitors, both friends and those paying to be shown around by the housekeeper.



The original farmhouse was extended over the years in all directions and now included two towers, turrets, battlements, rows of chimneys and a cloister. From the garden, the white lime-washed exterior walls (above) were likened to a wedding cake. His summer haven was now complete.



Just where does the name Strawberry Hill come from? When Walpole first found the site, people were calling the farmhouse Chopp'd Straw Hall because chopped straw was fed to the horses; only when checking earlier leases did Horace Walpole find the name Strawberry Hill mentioned.

Nicky Orlebar

Sudoku

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

Last month's solution

Answers
next
month

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

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Think about it...

- "God, how long is a million years?"
- "To me, it's about a minute."
- "God, how much is a million pounds?"
- "To me, it's a penny."
- "God, may I have a penny?"
- "Yes. Wait a minute..."

Spotted...



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March 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)

Building Your Church project: Chair: Ron Stewart (byc@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Children and Young People: Younger children meet separately for their own activities during part of our Sunday service at 10am in term time. Special services are also held monthly for children and families, see **St Andrew's @4** (below). For weekday events, see **ABC** (above). 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, Rebecca Mayhew, Jill Mengham, Helen Shand and 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)

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, Anita Harper, Gavin Harper, Rebecca Mayhew, Helen Shand, Jackie Stewart, Ron Stewart and Trish Torr. For contact, please call the Church Office (01372 842071)

St Andrew's @4: A monthly afternoon service in church, for everyone and especially those with primary-school aged and younger children. Contact: Revd Patrick Davies (patrick.davies@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

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

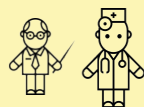
Treasurer: Carl Jackson (01372 843990)

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

Pre-bookable early morning and late-night appointments also available

Outside surgery hours:

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

- in an **Emergency**, such as chest pain or shortness of breath (or any other emergency), telephone **999**

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 - the Voice for Oxshott CIC: Chair: Anthony Wolfe (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 MSt, 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, Fairoak Lane, Oxshott (01372 844449 or oxshottphysio@btoopenworld.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)

To report a crime or incident, call 101, the number for all non-urgent calls
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), Sue Bailey, Joe Blaney, Revd Patrick Davies, Louise Emmett, Stuart Heeks, Helen Howell, Laurie-Ann Lamb, Tonia Lovell, Revd Frances Trickey, Ria Woodhouse

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

All the details you need to join in

Local Clubs & Societies



1st Oxshott Scouts: Meetings: Squirrels (Fridays 4.30-5.30pm), Beavers (Mondays 6-7.15pm), Cubs (Tuesdays 6.30-8pm), Scouts (Wednesdays 6.30-8.30pm), 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 (01372 842095 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 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: 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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