

Oxshott

m a g a z i n e

December 2023/January 2024 75p

**Looking forward
to Christmas!**

**What's On
in Oxshott**
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Village events!*

**Christmas
Services**
at St Andrew's

Repair Café
*Launch planned
for January 2024*

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www.standrewsoxshott.org.uk



Vicar: Revd Frances Trickey
Associate Minister: Revd Jolyon Trickey
(both Frances and Jolyon are on long term leave of absence)

Associate Minister: Revd Patrick Davies (07780 125127 or patrick.davies@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)
(not Saturdays)

Licensed Lay Minister: Phillip Herbert (07710 019534 or phillip.herbert@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Church Office: Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm (01372 842071 or office@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

More contacts at St Andrew's are shown on page 37

Oxshott Magazine

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This month's cover shows a shop window ready for Christmas

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Welcome

At the gate of the year

Dear Friends,

There is a wonderful poem, with which you may be familiar, which begins:

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".*

And he replied:

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".*

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.



Most people know this poem as 'The Gate of the Year' - but the title given it by its author, Minnie Louise Haskins, is actually 'God Knows'.

As we stand at the turning of the year, it is good to remember that truth - we do not know what 2024 will hold for us, and for our families and communities, but God does!

The poem suggests the 'light' which God gives us each as we walk into the unknown of the coming year is not an object, but a person; a hand, rather than a torch, to hold!

Jesus calls himself 'The Light of the World' and says: 'I am The Way, The Truth and The Life.' He promises not tools or equipment for us to face the journey on our own, but to be our close companion guide for every step; Jesus is God's promise to be 'God with us' - Emmanuel.

There will be many opportunities at St Andrew's this Christmas to encounter the story of Jesus' birth, and explore its meaning for us each today - I hope you will be able to join us at one (or more!) of our services this year, details of which can be found in the centre pages of this magazine.

For those wishing to explore faith, life and meaning further, I would commend the Cobham Churches Together 'Alpha' Course, which begins at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 January at Sacred Heart Church, Cobham - details of how to sign up are on page 6.

Patrick

Associate Minister

We commend the Post Office for this year's choice of Christmas stamps... five are on sale, with images inspired by the themes of Christmas carols and featuring a lyric from the carols O Holy Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night, Away in a Manger and We Three Kings. (Some of the past Christmas issues have not always been much related to Christmas!)



The designs, by illustrator Tom Duxbury, are the first Christmas issue to feature the silhouette of the King.

Our Christmas collections this year will support a charity working with local families in need.

ALPHA in Cobham

Starting Weds 10th Jan 2024
for 10 weeks - 7:30pm



Hosted at the Sacred Heart Church Hall

- Sign up at sac.church/alpha
- Scan the QR code for details
- Ask at your local church
- See alpha.org.uk

Curious about Christianity?

Explore faith in an open, friendly environment.



You're invited to Alpha.



Family Carol Service

Join us here at St Andrew's at 10am on Sunday 17 December

Everybody welcome!



BYC: the buildings we await...

As we go to press, we are poised to select a contractor from our shortlist of responses to our invitations to tender for the building work...



The series of complex hurdles that simply have to be addressed have led to the constant pauses – but it is as well to reflect that this time last year we had no agreed plans, no planning permission and not enough money!

As we've said before, once things start to happen, they will be very obvious, and we thank everyone in advance for the hard work and flexibility that will undoubtedly be needed!



Antique Valuation Day: results to date



After the successful Valuation Day on 8 July, most of the items that were donated to St Andrew's have now been sold at various auctions, held in August and September. The total amount raised to date for the BYC Project is £2,327.60p – and there are still four items unsold, which will be re-entered for sale.

As you know, this amount could only have been achieved by all those who donated their items.

Thank you for your generosity!

Adele Wright

We held our annual Memorial Service on 29 October, when people were invited to have the name of a loved one read out and a candle lit in their memory.

Led by Patrick Davies, in the service we sang some thoughtful hymns and, after the candles had been lit, said prayers, led by Jenny Mathieson.

This was once again a very reflective service, accompanied by choir and organ – Jacob Costard being our organist for the occasion; the picture shows the church interior at the conclusion of the service.



Photo: Richard Bath

From the Registers



Funerals

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

- 31 October Rita Elisabeth Karoline Clarke (died 5 October 2023, aged 84)
- 10 November Phyllis May Fisher (died 21 September 2023, aged 102)

Church Services in December

Sat	2	9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel
Sun	3	Advent Sunday <i>Get Ready for the Coming King</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10
Tue	5	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	6	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	7	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	9	9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel
Sun	10	The Second Sunday of Advent <i>Prepare the Way of the Lord!</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10
Tue	12	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	13	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	14	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	16	9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel
Sun	17	The Third Sunday of Advent 8am Service of said Holy Communion 10am All-age Carol Service: <i>Follow the Star – Join the song</i> 6pm Candlelit Carol Service: <i>Come and Behold Him</i>
Tue	19	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	20	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	21	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	23	9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel
Sun	24	Christmas Eve 4pm Christingle 11pm Midnight Holy Communion
Mon	25	Christmas Day 10am St Andrew's at 10 (immediately followed by a short service of Holy Communion)
<i>(Note: There will be no services or prayer events 26-30 December)</i>		
Sun	31	The first Sunday of Christmas <i>Rejoice!</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10

Church Services in January

(Note: There will be no Pray Together via zoom on 2 January)

Wed	3	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	4	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	6	The Epiphany 9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel

Sun	7	The Baptism of Christ <i>Recognising God</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10
Tue	9	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	10	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	11	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	13	9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel
Sun	14	The Second Sunday of Epiphany <i>Recognising God's voice</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10 4pm St Andrew's @4
Tue	16	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	17	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	18	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	20	9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel
Sun	21	The Third Sunday of Epiphany <i>Recognising God's works</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10
Tue	23	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	24	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
Thu	25	The conversion of Paul 9am Pray Together, via zoom
Sat	27	9am Saturday Prayers in the Lady Chapel
Sun	28	The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany <i>Recognising God's purposes</i> 10am St Andrew's at 10 7pm St Andrew's at 7
Tue	30	9am Pray Together, via zoom
Wed	31	11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)

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



What is Christingle?

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

The celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the service - Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top.

Come and join us on Christmas Eve to find out the full meaning!

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Opening the Book

On any Thursday morning at around 8.30am, you could spot an Ark, a camel, a Pharaoh, or even a giant, making its way along Oakshade Road, as each week a group of trained volunteers from St Andrew's Church visits the Royal Kent School to tell dramatised, interactive Bible stories to the whole school during their 'Open the Book' assembly.



With costumes, props, and creative storytelling, children hear the stories of the Bible, presented in an accessible and exciting format - and are invited to consider how the themes might impact their life - e.g. in the story of Moses, Pharaoh's daughter showed compassion and kindness to the baby in the basket - how can we show kindness to others today?

A tangible excitement!

Open the Book is a three-year rolling programme of stories created by the Bible Society, with the aim of giving every primary school aged child an experience and understanding of the story of the Bible during their time at school. Across 90 carefully selected Bible Stories, children come to a better knowledge of the narrative of the whole Bible, and how the many of the more popular and well-known stories (which are often told in isolation) fit within the Bible as a whole.

Children really look forward to their Open the Book assemblies each week, and as characters' stories, plots and themes develop week by week, there often is a tangible excitement as children enter the hall for the next instalment.

To find out more about Open the Book, please visit www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/



Tanka and Rita Subedi in Nepal

Revd Jolyon Trickey, Chair of Mission Partnering, asks Tanka Subedi about the different aspects of his work in Nepal and how it has developed over the years...

Jolyon: *A major part of what you do is leading ITEEN. What is involved, and how did it all start?*

Tanka: When Rita and I married 27 years ago we started a church in our own home. We had come across a simple but powerful model of biblical learning. We were the first to use this, with one small group. Today, the ITEEN team supports over 6,000 students across Nepal. We train group leaders and translate materials for different levels of study. And we are now working with Nepalese migrant workers.

Jolyon: *Can you give us some examples?*

Tanka: There are perhaps 800,000 Nepali migrant workers in Malaysia; in recent years I have visited to train and encourage the use of TEE courses; we hope 300 will attend our annual conference in 2024. And we are spearheading similar new work in Sri Lanka, Bhutan, NE India & Afghanistan.

Jolyon: *And you also lead a Church?*

Tanka: Yes, we call it Family of God. It is small, but growing, despite the fact that preaching is technically illegal in this Hindu majority country. In September this year ten people chose to be baptised as new Christians (*see picture above*).

Jolyon: *What has happened to the Church in Nepal over the 27 years of your ministry?*

Tanka: Official government figures suggest that Christians made up 1% of the population in the late nineties and are now 2%. My own assessment is that we were 2% of the population then, and are now 8%. This increase has caused concern within the Hindu majority government. Our freedom is increasingly constrained by legislation and persecution is on the rise.

Jolyon: *Finally, Tanka, I know that social action and practical help for those in need is key to the growth of the Church in Nepal...*

Tanka: Yes, there are many projects, including going as a family to villages at Christmas each year, with gifts, food, clothes, etc. Another is a Christian orphanage that we have visited for 20 years, in a remote mountain village; Rita and I do what we can to provide for the basic needs of the 50 children there.

Jolyon: *What does the support of St Andrew's Oxshott mean to you and Rita?*

Tanka: This is invaluable: knowing that we are prayed for regularly and being supported financially. Everything in Nepal has become so much more expensive, and St Andrew's commitment to us helps so much with this. Thank you.



ITEEN - the Institute for Theological Education by Extension - provides tools for discipleship and leadership development in the local church.



Oxshott Choral Society

presents

Joy to the World

Gloria by Bob Chilcott

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St John's School Chapel

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20 years of e'Pap!

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT), Penny Fleming's vibrant legacy, continues its impressive work; **Ruth Burns**, Chair of GRCT's Trustees, tells of her recent visit, with husband Andrew, as a celebration is held in Knysna...

I was overjoyed to return to South Africa in October to visit some of the GRCT's beneficiaries. Our first stop was to represent the trustees in Knysna, where 80 people gathered in St George's Anglican Church Hall to celebrate 20 years since the start of the e'Pap Feeding Project.

This project was started by Shelley Godsell with just a few small schools and a hunch that feeding children e'Pap each morning would make a difference.



Ruth and Andrew with Shelley Godsell, the founder of the e'Pap Feeding Project



Decorations for the hall were made by schools – this is one of ten posters, and the clever bunting was made of empty e'Pap packets...

It was Penny Fleming's desire to help her friend that inspired the foundation of the Garden Route Children's Trust in 2006. Here we are in 2023, and the e'Pap Feeding Project calculates that it has served a whopping 11 million bowls of e'Pap since its foundation and the GRCT is supporting the feeding of over 8,000 children each school morning.

The amazing Jackie

A week later, on our last stop, Andrew and I visited one of our newer beneficiaries in Despatch, a small town in the Eastern Cape. Jackie feeds e'Pap from her house

because sadly there are no schools in the township.

This is a lady who has a huge heart and uses her few resources to do massive amounts for others, including providing about 300 children with e'Pap twice a week.

Ruth Burns



Ruth (left) with the amazing Jackie, and Arrie, the local Dutch Reformed minister, who ensures that the money we send is used to buy e'Pap to help Jackie feed children

Just £20 feeds a child e'Pap every school morning for a whole year...
If you'd like to know more, or can help by donating, praying or hosting a 'Breakfast for Breakfasts' next year, go to www.grct.org.uk or email Ruth on ruth@oxshott.co.uk



We were greeted by energetic dancing when we arrived at Jackie's house!

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Round & About

Remember to recycle your Christmas tree!

When the time comes, there are plenty of ways you can recycle your Christmas tree!



- If you bought a potted tree, put it outside in its pot with your other container plants.
Water and feed it for the rest of the year, and you'll be able to bring it inside again next Christmas. Or you could plant it out, and let it grow into a tree.
- If you have your own garden shredder, cut the branches off and shred them to use as a thick layer of mulch around acid-loving trees and shrubs. Then chop up the trunk and pile the logs up to create a wildlife shelter in your garden. All sorts of useful worms and insects will be happy to take up residence!
- If you are an Elmbridge garden waste customer, cut up your tree and put it in your garden waste (brown) collection bin (make sure the lid closes), or take your tree to a community recycling centre.
- Take your tree for recycling to Garsons in West End, Esher on Saturday 6 January 2024; follow the signs to the drop off point in their main car park.

FEDORA AGM update

FEDORA – The Voice for Oxshott CIC held its Annual General Meeting on 9 November at the Royal Kent School.

In the formal business, Chair Anthony Wolfe was able to report a successful year in speaking up for Oxshott, especially as regards the complex planning and roads/traffic issues. FEDORA had also supported various other activities, including 'green' initiatives.



Anthony and the other directors, Ian Dilks and Mike Wheeler, were re-elected for a further year. Anthony said: "There is still lots to do in the year ahead, and we would encourage people to join FEDORA. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to help in preserving the unique character of the Oxshott area. And a larger membership especially helps us in our dealings with external bodies."

In seeking volunteers for various roles, Anthony thanked David Cooke, who is stepping down, for his sterling services to FEDORA over many years. He then paid tribute to Rita Clarke, who had recently passed away, who, with her husband Graham, had been instrumental in establishing FEDORA as an effective enterprise.

Annual subscriptions are normally paid on the 1st January – to join up, do complete the Membership form on the website:

www.fedora.org.uk

Free survey!

Oxshott Net Zero are excited to be running free domestic energy surveys over the winter months. We have a trained volunteer who can come and assess your house using an infra-red camera to locate any areas of heat loss.

This survey then generates an automatic report and our volunteer can advise on ways to mitigate any areas of heat loss. There are even a few giveaways for early-takers, such as letter-box covers and window draught-excluders.

For your free survey, contact andrew@oxshottnetzero.org.uk
This scheme is funded by Surrey County Council and is a collaboration with Zero Carbon Guildford.

Diana Thornton



You are invited

Residents are invited to the next stage of the **Elmbridge Design Code engagement**
Tuesday 24 January 2023
5.30pm-7pm
Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, KT10 9SD
Please register to attend via designcode@elmbridge.gov.uk



Volunteer Drivers Wanted

Would you like to help local people in Oxshott by becoming a volunteer car driver?

Can you spare 1 or 2 hours per month?

Our volunteers primarily drive residents to medical appointments

For more information contact Oxshott Care on 07950 478329 or visit www.oxshottcare.com



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Christmas in Oxshott 2023

 **St Andrew's**
your church

Christmas Services
at St Andrew's, Oxshott

Sunday 17 December

8am Said service of Holy Communion

10am All-age Carol Service

An informal service for all the family, with your favourite carols

6pm Candlelit Carol Service

A traditional service of choral pieces and carols, interwoven
with readings and a reflection (*this service will be livestreamed*)

Join us for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards

Sunday 24 December - Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service

A joyful celebration, bringing families and communities together
to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope

11pm Midnight Holy Communion

A traditional Christmas service, with organ and choir

Monday 25 December - Christmas Day

10am St Andrew's at 10: A Christmas Celebration

A celebration for the whole family in church, with carols,
readings and a short talk (*the service will be livestreamed*)

This will be immediately followed by a short service of
Holy Communion for those in church

For a full schedule of our services over December and January, see pages 8 & 9

Launch of the Repair Café!

Oxshott Net Zero has some exciting projects to share with you over the coming months - and a brand-new website - as **Diana Thornton** explains...

On 20 January Danes Hill School will be hosting Oxshott's first ever repair café - see the full details opposite. Repair cafés are an international movement, working to save items from landfill and to give them a second lease of life.

We are getting together a growing team of volunteer repairers and welcomers, but if you would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you. Perhaps you are a dab hand with a needle and thread; you have a brilliantly steady hand for gluing things; you have specialist skills like bike repair, electronics or woodwork or perhaps you've just always loved tinkering about fixing things.

If so, we need you! The plan is to start by meeting 6 times a year, although as a volunteer you would not need to commit to every session.

Bigger and better...

If you are wondering what happens at a repair café, then read on. Normally, you can grab a cup of coffee and a slice of cake before getting your item fixed. But we are planning that this repair café will be bigger and better!

A collaboration between Danes Hill School and Oxshott Net Zero, we will have a proper pop-up café running, courtesy of the school caterers, Holroyd Howe. So even if you don't have anything to repair, you can still come up to the school and enjoy a lunch. The food will be the kind that you can pick up and eat so we're looking forward to seeing what's on offer (think street food rather than buffet!).



Second, we will be running a skill-share – and this provides another option for volunteering with the project. We want people who can teach knitting, crochet, even how to put up a shelf. And the younger generation will be sharing how to use your mobile phone and other bamboozling tech!

And finally, we will be making a collection of goods for redistribution at each repair café. For this first event, we will be collecting laptops (but only at this event). They should be under 8 years old, will be securely wiped of any data and given to school children who do not have access to online learning. The scheme, called Keep Kids Connected, is run by Dons Local Action group in Merton.

So, come and join us for our grand launch event on 20 January. We are hoping that the Repair Café will become a regular fixture at Danes Hill, and will provide a great community focus for school and village to get together and have some fun, while taking practical steps to reduce our carbon footprint. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with me (diana@oxshottnetzero.org.uk).

Diana Thornton

Check out the new website:
www.oxshottnetzero.org.uk



DANES HILL SCHOOL



JOIN US AT THE LAUNCH EVENT
OF THE OXSHOTT REPAIR CAFÉ!

10.30AM - 1.30PM

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2024

DANES HILL SCHOOL, OXSHOTT, SURREY



The Repair Cafe is a collaboration between Oxshott Net Zero and Danes Hill School. The aim of the Repair Café is to reduce the volume of items going to landfill and to help people learn more about repairing household items.

- Come and enjoy a coffee or stay for lunch. Holroyd Howe will be hosting street food stalls, including delicious fish and chips to burritos.
- Skill-share between generations, exchange craft, repair and tech skills with one-another.
- Bring something from home in need of repair.
- Volunteer now as a repairer or a welcomer and join the team!



Locally litter-free...

You may have seen people picking up litter locally; **Cristina Addison** invites you to join in...

The Oxshott Volunteer Litter Pickers group was created to do something about the amount of rubbish littering streets and verges around the village.

Volunteers collect rubbish when they see fit in their area of interest, and we also meet quarterly at Munch & Wiggles, in the High Street, after having collected litter.

The team has been kindly sponsored by Savills for the provision of the litter picking tools. The council provides the plastic bags.

If you feel like supporting your community and meeting people with a common interest in keeping the village litter free, join the group by contacting us through FEDORA by email: chair@fedora.org.uk

Cristina Addison

Oxshott
-keeping it green-



Some of the Oxshott Litter Pickers enjoying a coffee together after a morning's work

Le Cercle: 2024 programme goes hybrid!

Good news from Le Cercle Français d'Esher – as **Peter Prowse** explains, the monthly talks can now be joined online or in person...

After a successful trial of the technology in October 2023, all Esher French Circle's monthly talks are now hybrid - available online (via zoom), or in person, by going along to West End Village Hall.

As well as setting up the necessary technology, local resident Annie Kean also gave the first hybrid talk on *Le Chevalier d'Éon* - a French diplomat, spy and soldier. D'Éon fought in the Seven Years' War and spied for France while in Russia and England. An interesting character, who claimed to be a woman and was officially recognized as such by King Louis XVI, he died in poverty in London in 1810.

November's talk, as we go to press, is by Isabelle Schloesing, about another French spy, *Catherine Dior*. After her arrest by the Gestapo and a spell in a concentration camp, Catherine Dior moved to Provence after the war to run a rose farm. From there, she supplied rose essence to her better-known brother, Christian Dior. It is claimed that the world-famous fragrance, Miss Dior, was named after Catherine.



Le Chevalier d'Éon wearing the Order of St Louis, the highest military honour of the Kingdom of France.

National Portrait Gallery, London

A musical evening

Peter Prowse (*left*) finishes off the year on 13 December with a musical evening about Paris and its songs. With all the words up on the screen, the audience will be singing along to such well-known favourites as Pigalle, Aux Champs Élysées and Sous les Ponts de Paris. And there will be prizes to be won!

Esher French Circle offers monthly talks - in French - by native or fluent French speakers, for anybody interested in keeping up or improving their French, in a relaxed and convivial setting. The meetings are on the third Wednesday of most months and the doors open at 7pm. There is ample opportunity to mingle and chat before the main talk starts at 7.30pm.

Esher French Circle's 2024 programme covers a wide range of topics - simply go to the website: www.cerclefrançais-esher.uk

Peter Prowse



MERRY
Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW
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Memberships for 2024 available. Just contact the office
01372 843652 or email office@oxshott.sports.com

What's On in Oxshott



December

- Sun 3 10.30am-4.00pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** *Christmas Craft & Art Fair*, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Tue 5 12 noon **Ladies Friendship Group:** Christmas Lunch at the Drift Golf Club.
12 noon **Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society:** Christmas Lunch, followed by: 2pm Demonstration: *Christmas*, by Vivien Withers, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 6 2.15pm **The Arts Society Claremont & Oxshott:** Music Recital, followed by 2.30pm: *A Dickens of a Christmas*, with Bertie Pearce, at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon
- Sat 9 7.30pm **Oxshott Choral Society:** Christmas Concert: *Joy to the World*, at St John's School Chapel, Leatherhead (*see page 13 for details and tickets*)
- Mon 11 12.30 for 1.00pm **Oxshott Village Women's Institute:** Christmas Lunch at The Star, Chessington
- Tue 12 7.30pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** Short AGM, followed by Christmas Social & Film, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 13 8pm **Cercle Français d'Esher:** *Paris et ses Chansons*, with Peter Prowse, at West End Village Hall, Esher, and on zoom
- Mon 25 10am **St Andrew's Church:** *A Christmas Celebration* for the whole family (*see page 21 for details of Christmas services*)

January

- Tue 2 10am **Ladies Friendship Group:** Coffee and Chat: *Seasonal Memories*, in the Small Hall, Oxshott Village Centre.
- Tue 9 7.30pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** Members' Presentations, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 10 2.15pm **Arts Society of Claremont & Oxshott:** Music 435 Recital, followed at 2.30pm: *The Divine Sarah*, with Anne Anderson, at Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon
- Tue 16 2.00pm **Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society:** Workshop with Cynthia Bromwich, at Oxshott Village Centre
8pm **Oxshott Village Women's Institute:** *From Blank Page to Novel*, with Carol Sacha, in Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 17 7.30pm **Cercle Français d'Esher:** *Les Épouses Françaises des Rois d'Angleterre*, with Odile Hughson, at West End Village Hall, Esher, and on zoom
- Sat 20 10.30am-1.30pm **Oxshott Repair Café** with Oxshott Net Zero, at Danes Hill School (*see page 22 for details*)

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

Rita Elisabeth Karoline Clarke 1939-2023

Well-known in Oxshott, with involvement in many areas of village life, and much missed by family and friends, Rita Clarke died peacefully on 5 October

Rita Clarke, adored wife, mother and grandmother, enjoyed village life in Oxshott with her husband Graham, children Tessa and Douglas and grandchildren Artyom, Oliver and Oscar.

A resident of Oxshott since 1971, Rita began life as Rita Becker in 1939 in Berlin, Germany, born to Ella and Oskar Becker. With older brother Rudolf they moved during the war from Berlin to the small beautiful medieval town of Büdingen, near Frankfurt, surrounded by forests, where she grew up as a young girl.

Oxshott reminded her of home. Rita loved walking for hours in Oxshott woods with family, friends and the family terrier dogs Waldi and King. As she said, "If you have any troubles, just go for a walk in the woods."

She was a member of the Oxshott Tennis Club for decades. As one Tennis Club friend said, "Rita was always very keen to play..... whatever the weather." She loved being out and about. Rain, what rain?!

As an active member of FEDORA, the Subscriptions and Advertising manager, Rita enjoyed chatting to numerous neighbours distributing the FEDORA magazine.

For several years in the 1980's, Rita was the German teacher at Danes Hill School, where her son and grandson also went in later years. Her children also attended the Royal Kent School, with Rita attending all the sports days.

She kept in touch with many neighbours and friends over the years, even when they had moved out of Oxshott.

"When Rita was present, the sun was always shining," wrote the daughter of Rita's German school friend. "She was always happy," said another school friend. "Rita always put difficulties to one side, and kept her good nature."

Rita's family home in Oxshott was her pride and joy, always full of people of all ages, different cultures and nationalities. As one of her former neighbours said, her home was "a little bit of heaven."

Rita, Mum and Grandmother Oma will be very much missed.

Her spirit, love of family and community, and zest for life lives on.

Family Clarke

If you would like to leave a tribute and/or donation to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity in memory of Rita, as per her wishes, please go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rita-Clarke



Sunday 3rd December

Christmas Fair 2023



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11am - 4.30pm

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Autumn art!

A busy season of demonstrations, exhibitions and fairs, as **Miranda Fuller** reports...

Oxshott Art & Crafts Society (OACS) enjoyed a good Autumn. Immediately following our workshop by Christine Hopkins, we welcomed back popular artist Max Hale (*below*), who produced a strong, ‘open’, still life demonstration in water mixable oils, using large brushes, where possible, and straight- armed strokes, to avoid any fiddling.

We continued preparing busily for our Autumn exhibition, which took place 6-12 November at Denbies



Wine Estate, which went well and produced steady sales, despite some mixed weather. Wendy Hale and daughter Amy’s colourful craft table is pictured (*above left*).



On 14 November we were pleased to have back artist, Frank Walters, who gave us another excellent landscape demo in watercolour. Coming up on Sunday 3 December (*see opposite*) is our Christmas Craft and Art Fair, at the Village Centre, which promises to be lively and colourful. We hope we may see some of our readers there. Our final event of the year will be our AGM, Christmas social and film show, on 12 December, and we will begin the New Year with presentations by OACS members on Tuesday 9 January.

In the meantime, we wish readers good health and happiness for Christmas and 2024.

Miranda Fuller

Creativity, diversity and colour

As **Anita Lee** tells us, Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society has been busy...

Moving with the times, and although our October demonstration was entitled Sisters, OFAS were delighted to welcome a second man into our group – upholding the view that flower arranging is not just for the so-called fairer sex!

With Christmas in mind, our November meeting saw us creating seasonal door decorations. We could choose to use fresh flowers or, alternatively, dried or silk

(continued on next page)

ones and, under the skilful tuition of well-known teacher, Alison Gillot, it was lovely to see the colourful, festive creations that emerged.

Our Christmas lunch, the next function on the agenda, is on 5 December at 12noon at Oxshott Village Centre. Our demonstrator this time will be Vivien Withers, showing us how to produce Christmas arrangements to adorn our homes this festive season. Tickets for this event are £25 and include a raffle to win the prize of one of Vivien's arrangements.

Then into the new year, our first meeting includes an interesting workshop about arranging flowers in numerous ways but without using the usual oasis foam.

The 2024 AGM is on 24 February and we are always pleased to welcome new members to join our friendly, sociable and creative group - if you are interested please contact Anita Lee on 07979 804668 or leea8971@gmail.com



Anita Lee

Come and join us!

Oxshott Village WI has a group for you, says Liz McGibbon...

We are a group of ladies who normally meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 8pm in Oxshott Village Centre. Our first meeting of the 2024 on 16 January, will be a talk entitled *From Blank Page to Novel*, by Carol Sacha, a local writer.

Our membership has enjoyed an interesting year of talks, walks and socialising with each other. We have a walking group, a book club, a craft group, a bridge group, an art group, and a once-a-month lunch at a local pub. All these groups are well attended and gives members time to get to know each other.

The craft group have done four post box toppers, the latest a Father Christmas and chimney pots on the post box at Browns Corner. The Crown outside the Post Office was fun to do and includes a grandson's football! Thanks, are also due to Vi Baker for her help. And the art group, which normally meets monthly in Sue Smith's studio, met on a lovely sunny day in Jenny Beebe's beautiful garden.

It was of great sadness that Liz Owler died this year. Liz joined our WI in 1989 and held various positions in our group, being especially remembered by providing beautiful flower arrangements at our meetings.

As an organisation, the Women's Institute campaigns nationally and locally on a wide range of issues, and provides lifelong learning and self-development opportunities.

We will celebrate the end of the year with a Christmas lunch at The Star at Chessington and look forward to an enjoyable 2024.

Liz McGibbon

Say 'No' to plastic grass & plants

With the biodiversity of our planet under threat, **Rachel Bailey**, of the Society of Garden Designers, looks at one problem that can be tackled...

Over the last 50 years, wildlife populations have plunged by more than two thirds (69%), with numbers of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and insects plummeting in countries across the globe. Of these, the UK ranks as one of the most nature-depleted countries in Europe.

Loss of natural habitats and the huge growth in the use of plastic grass and plants has exacerbated this; households in the UK have replaced their garden's natural lawn with artificial grass, with devastating effects on both the environment and biodiversity. Not only do these products contribute to habitat loss, they also cause plastic pollution, destroy living soil, leak microplastics into waterways, contribute to urban heat islands and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions in their production.

The Society of Garden Designers (SGD) is encouraging both the landscape industry and the public to say 'no' to using it, with the support of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and the Landscape Institute.

In 2022, the RHS banned their use from its shows and events.

The SGD has produced a leaflet, with suggestions for 'green' alternatives to help you consider different options - download the leaflet at www.sgd.org.uk/news/say-no-to-plastic-grass-plants

Rachel Bailey MSGD



Say 'No'...to plastics

They are not biodegradable

Artificial grass and plants are made from a mix of plastics, including polypropylene, polyurethane and polyethylene. None of these are biodegradable.

They can't be recycled

Even for those products that claim to be recyclable in principle, there are currently no suitable recycling facilities in the UK.

They don't last forever

Plastic grass has a lifespan of about 15 years, after which it will be diverted to landfill, where it will continue to pollute the environment.

They are not maintenance-free

Over time plastic grass will accumulate a build-up of excrement and urine from animals and birds, including mice and foxes, as well as organic detritus.

This means regular cleaning with disinfectant and other chemicals.

Please Support the SGD

SAY 'NO' TO PLASTIC GRASS & PLANTS CAMPAIGN



An up-and-coming artist of the 16th century

This month, **Nicky Orlebar** recalls a specific Arts Society lecture on the creation of a well-known Renaissance masterpiece...

An ASCO Special Interest Day was held in Oxshott when Andrew Graham-Dixon, the well-known art historian and television presenter, talked to over 70 members about Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel.

Andrew began by describing the building of the Chapel between 1473-1481 for Pope Sixtus IV (after whom the Chapel is named). Four Popes later, Pope Julius II, a rich art patron of the della Rovere family, visualised a grandiose tomb for himself of some forty sculptures to be carved by the young and promising sculptor Michelangelo (1475-1564).

However, by 1506 Pope Julius's thoughts had turned to the Sistine Chapel's blue, rather lacklustre, ceiling above the already painted walls. The Pope, knowing of Michelangelo's other reputation as an exceptional artist, now persuaded the reluctant 32-year-old to undertake the ceiling's redecoration. By 1508, after having built a wooden platform under the barrel roof,

Michelangelo began his momentous fresco starting furthest away from the altar. Four years later the task was completed.

The Sistine ceiling shows the ancestors of Christ, interspersed with prophets in the lunettes and sibyls (mystics) in the triangular spandrels.

The central spine depicts the story of Genesis, with God in the middle creating Adam.

Proposing that the ceiling is *the* masterpiece of the Renaissance, Andrew's PowerPoint presentation showed close-up details, with much being made of the muscular nudes. Some 23 years later, in 1535, Michelangelo returned to the east wall of the Sistine Chapel to paint the *Last Judgement*.



Photo: Wikimedia/Phigiraud

A section of the Sistine Chapel ceiling

Nicky Orlebar

Sudoku

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

Last month's solution

Answers next month

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

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Think about it...

People say I have no will power; but I've quit smoking loads of times.

What did the drummer call his twin daughters?
Anna one. Anna two!

The urge to sing 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' is never more than a whim away.

Spotted...

... in Northern Ireland



Glad you pointed that out...

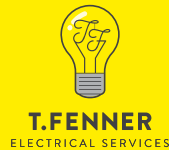
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Contacts at St Andrew's (continued from page 2)

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 (07768 852805), Rebecca Mayhew (07818 426482)
- Coffee Comfort:** meets every 4th Thursday of the month, 10.15-11.45am in the church. Contact: Jenny Mathieson (07712 032008)
- Deanery Synod:** Representatives: Jill Perrett, Ros Ebbutt-Hadman and Steph Rustom
- Electoral Roll:** Electoral Roll Officer: Emily Godfrey (electoral.roll@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)
- Lay Assistants:** Barbara Begley, Anita Harper, Phillip Herbert, Jenny Mathieson, Rebecca Mayhew, 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: Polly Zabari. PCC Members: Revd Patrick Davies (Associate Minister), Ros Ebbutt-Hadman (Deanery Synod), Patrick Fleming, Anna Jarrett, Charlene Lamb, Rebecca Mayhew, Kirsten Penner, Jill Perrett (Deanery Synod), Steph Rustom (Deanery Synod), Freda Stephenson, Norman Steven, Revd Frances Trickey (Vicar), Revd Jolyon Trickey (Associate Minister) and Adele Wright
- Pastoral Assistants:** Barbara Begley, Michael Flaxman, Anita Harper, Rebecca Mayhew, Helen Shand, Jackie Stewart, Ron Stewart and Trish Torr. Contact: 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: contact via the Church Office, at safeguarding@standrewsoxshott.org.uk
- Treasurer:** Carl Jackson (01372 843990 or treasurer@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)
- Website Editor:** Contact: web@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

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**
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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),
Corinne Sterry (07976 575662 or csterry@elmbridge.gov.uk),
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:

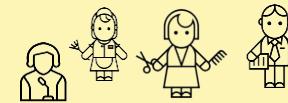
(includes Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott, east of the railway line)

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 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: Debbie Chitty (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@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)

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

Girlguiding 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, usually on 3rd Wednesday of each month, from October to June at 7.30pm, in West End Village Hall and online. Contact: Brigitte Tiller (01372 842095 or brigitte@ptiller.com) www.cerclefrancais-esher.uk

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: Christopher Goodchild (07503 184876 or cobhamandoxshottconservatives@gmail.com)

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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