

# Oxshott

m a g a z i n e



June 2025

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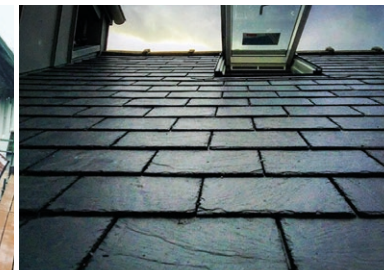
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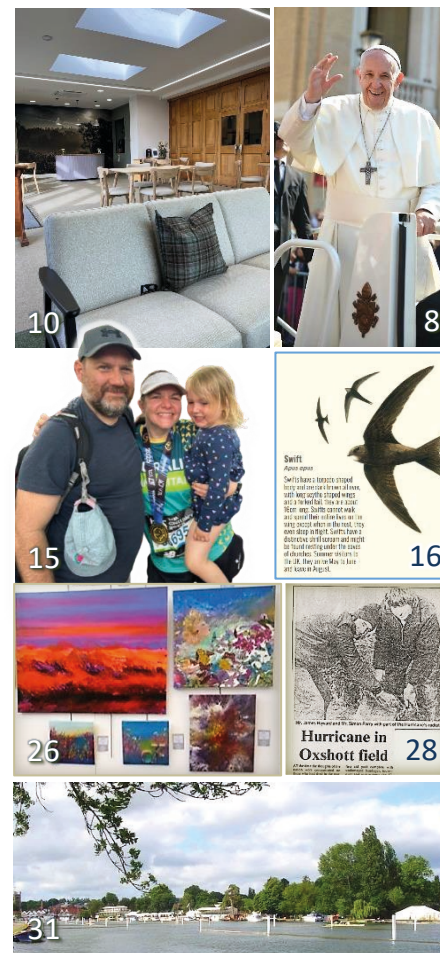
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## June 2025



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This month's cover picture, courtesy of Rowena Osman-Robertson, shows Steph Rustom offering you a warm welcome to our new bright coffee lounge.



## St Andrew's Church

Oakshade Road, Oxshott, Surrey KT22 0LE  
www.standrewsoxshott.org.uk

**Vicar:** 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:** Tuesday-Friday, 9am-1pm (01372 842071 or office@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

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



## Oxshott Magazine

email: magazine@standrewsoxshott.org.uk  
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# Oxshott

magazine



## N.J. Ricks

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Welcome

## Part of the community...

Dear Friends,

Exactly 1,700 years ago, from May until July in the year 325AD, Christian bishops from all around the world gathered in Nicea (in modern-day Turkey), called together by the Emperor Constantine, with the aim of addressing disagreements in the church about what was believed. This led to the forming of the 'Nicene Creed', an expression of Christian belief which starts with (and repeats) the uniting phrase 'We believe...' The Nicene Creed is, to this day, a statement of unity and inclusion across the Christian world.

Being 'We' – not only 'I' – is important as Christians, and, I believe, also for every human.

In the 17th Century, the poet John Donne wrote:

*"No man is an island,  
Entire of itself;  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main."*

(Where he writes 'man' – really, we understand him to mean 'human'.)

We are inter-dependent – everyone is important – everyone contributes to the 'whole'. So, we have a responsibility toward one another – and we all benefit from existing in the network of relationships which we call 'the community' – literally, something 'shared, or owned, by all'.

In our village we are fortunate to experience a good sense of 'community' – but I am aware that sometimes it is still easy to be lonely – to find yourself an 'I' amongst the 'we's. However, at the heart of our hope for the renewed St Andrew's is that it would become more and more a place of welcome and connection – that no one should have to feel alone, a place to be with connect with another, and with God.

So...why not drop in for coffee, cake and company in our new café space – which is now open Mondays 11am-2.30pm, and 8.30am-2.30pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (in school term time).

We also hope that you might also be able to join us on Sunday 8 June, any time from 12noon – 4pm, for a Community Open Day, to officially mark and celebrate the completion of our building's renewal – details are on page 14.

We hope to see you soon!

Patrick

Vicar





## Church Services in June

- Sun 1 **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
*Jesus says: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*  
 10am St Andrew's at 10 All Age Service
- Tue 3 9am Pray Together via zoom
- Wed 4 11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
- Sat 7 9am Saturday Prayers, in the Lady Chapel
- Sun 8 **Pentecost**  
*Pentecost Sunday*  
 10am St Andrew's at 10  
 4pm St Andrew's @4
- Tue 10 9am Pray Together via zoom
- Wed 11 Barnabas the Apostle  
 11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
- Sat 14 9am Saturday Prayers, in the Lady Chapel
- Sun 15 **Trinity Sunday**  
*Trinity*  
 10am St Andrew's at 10
- Tue 17 9am Pray Together, via zoom
- Wed 18 11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
- Sat 21 9am Saturday Prayers, in the Lady Chapel
- Sun 22 **The First Sunday after Trinity**  
*The God Story: The King*  
 10am St Andrew's at 10  
 7pm St Andrew's at 7
- Tue 24 9am Pray Together, via zoom
- Wed 25 11.30am Wednesdays at 11.30 (Holy Communion)
- Sat 28 9am Saturday Prayers, in the Lady Chapel
- Sun 29 **The Second Sunday after Trinity**  
*Peter and Paul, Apostles*  
*The God Story: The Passion*  
 10am St Andrew's at 10

### Welcome

You are very welcome  
 to join us for our  
 services and prayers.

Visit our website for  
 details of everything  
 we do at St Andrew's:

[www.standrewsoxshott.org.uk](http://www.standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

## News & Notes

### Let me know...

- James William Stafford
- Nancy Elizabeth Farmer
- Allan and Alison Trewin
- Geoffrey and Peggy Leader
- George, Winifred and W. Mary Frank
- Susan Pauline Hawkins

Do any of these names ring a bell?

We have several pieces of furniture around the church and grounds with dedications made in the not-so-distant past. I would love to know a little about the people behind the names, so, if you have any connection to or knowledge about any of these people, please could you kindly let me know at [patrick.davies@standrewsoxshott.org.uk](mailto:patrick.davies@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Thank you.

Patrick

### APCM update

It was great to see so many people gathered on 13 April for our APCM, our annual formal church meeting.



Jane Berridge and Jack Jeffery were elected as new PCC members.

We are pleased to report that Ros Ebbutt-Hadman, Steph Rustom and Jill Perrett remain our Deanery Synod members.

We are also delighted that Jill Perrett and Rebecca Mayhew remain as Churchwardens.

Carl Jackson presented the church accounts for 2024, and the budget for 2025. Both were endorsed by the meeting.

Many of the church family were very much thanked for their continued contribution and support to life throughout the parish.



HMLC.  
1975.

1998.C.B.

As we celebrate our refurbished buildings, our **kneeler of the month** portrays the original 'temporary' church in Oxshott of 1904 – later used as the Church Hall, until 1969.

The kneeler was dedicated to Henry Michael Lancaster Carpenter (HMLC), who lived and died in 1975. It was made by Gwen Bullen in 1998, and Michael and Susie Carpenter remain

most grateful to her for allowing this kneeler to be dedicated to their son.



## What Pope Francis meant to me

After the passing of Pope Francis, our Vicar, **Revd Patrick Davies**, reflects on the life and style of the man who was leader of the Catholic Church for 12 years...

Pope Francis' appearance in front of the gathered crowds at the Vatican on Easter Sunday, along with his public address, were a surprise and joy to many after his weeks of declining health and stays in hospital.

Yet, his final remarks now resonate with even more profound significance following his death, the very next day, on Easter Monday. With a certain prescience, Francis wrote:

*"[The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ] fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new (Rev. 21:5)! Happy Easter to everyone!"*

Even for many non-Catholics, Pope Francis was admired as an example of Christian faith and leadership – a Pope who tried to embody Christ's message with humility, offering peace, hope and love in his words and actions.

As the first Jesuit Pope, Francis brought a distinct style of leadership to the Vatican - seeking in particular to highlight and prioritise issues of social justice and the environment whenever and wherever possible.

It was at theological college that I read 'Laudato Si' – subtitled 'Care for Our Common Home' – an extended encyclical letter in which Francis set out his urgent and inspirational call to greater environmental stewardship, particularly advocating for the world's poorest people.

Francis held a progressive vision for the Church, where God's love and mercy were emphasised over doctrinal rigidity. He sought to align himself with the most



marginalised, chose to live simply, and communicated in a straightforward, down-to-earth way. He is quoted to have said: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security." He always wanted to be with the people, even at times at great risk to his own safety – and it was his choice that at his funeral his coffin would not be elevated, but at ground level.

At the smaller church in which he chose to be buried, above his simple tomb, illuminated by a single spotlight, the only decoration is a simple cross – the symbol of the self-sacrificial love of God shown to us in Jesus, which illuminated and shaped Francis' own life, ministry and papacy.

As I write, the doors of the Sistine Chapel have just been locked shut, sealing in perfect isolation the 133 cardinals who in the coming days have the daunting task to elect Francis' successor.

Patrick Davies

## From the Registers



### Confirmation

*We celebrate with those from St Andrew's who were recently confirmed: at Guildford Cathedral:*

19 April Gopal Subramaniam

*at St George's Church, Ashted:*

11 May Tom Clementson

11 May Eva Clementson

### Funerals

*We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:*

14 April Mary Elizabeth Hilborne (died 10 March 2025, aged 94)

2 May Lesley Ann Beeson (died 10 March 2025, aged 81)

*Celebration of Life service at the South Hills Bible Chapel, McMurray, Pennsylvania:*

26 April Meredith Susan Miller (died 23 January 2025, aged 42)

*Not recorded in our Registers, but included here as Meredith attended The Royal Kent School, and she, her parents Susan and Robert Miller and her sisters were prominent past members of the church family*

### Burial of Ashes

*We remember in our prayers:*

26 April Jacobus "Jack" Losee de Wet Steyn (died 15 July 2024, aged 92)



## Behind the design..!

You may have had the opportunity to explore the revamped St Andrew's Church buildings and wondered what the inspiration was for the new look and feel.

**Nicki Galazka** explains all...

**T**he inspiration for the look and feel of our revamped buildings started well over a year ago with a vision from our vicar, Patrick. He felt we live in a really beautiful part of the world, with miles of stunning heathland right on our doorstep, and wanted to use this as the starting theme – bringing the beauty of nature inside to connect us with God's creation...

As we embarked on the work, the lead design elements were the two huge decals on the walls of the entrance and in the hall. These were taken on the heath – many of you may spot the exact location – by talented photographer Mark Goodman ([accomplish.co.uk](http://accomplish.co.uk)) who lives locally. The stunning greens and purples of the trees and heathers became the linking point for the colour scheme throughout.



Cosy areas for relaxing and chatting/meeting were built-in throughout – this carpeted lounge area in the entrance, as well as two further meeting rooms.



Interior photos: Nicki Galazka, Rowena Osman Robertson



The fabulous portable coffee bar was made to measure by Jim Stewart of Cobham-based Shred and Butta ([www.shredandbutta.co.uk](http://www.shredandbutta.co.uk))

It forms a central point for gathering, and is where you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Steph, who leads this initiative, says, "It is wonderful to have a space that works so well for hospitality – do join us for coffee, cakes and more."

"We're currently open Mondays 11am-2.30pm, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8.30am-2.30pm."

*(continued overleaf)*



The hall is a restful and sunny space – ideal for multiple functions. Now available for regular or one-off hire, if you would like to book, please contact the office for more details.

Wherever possible, we have reused existing materials and here you will see our old chairs beautifully restored and recovered.



See for yourself!  
Join us on our  
**COMMUNITY DAY**  
on 8 June - details  
are over the page -  
and help us  
celebrate our  
refreshed  
premises.



The clean and fresh kitchen has been brought up to today's standards, and is now capable of servicing functions - and is both stylish and ergonomic.



Rowena and  
Claire are very  
happy with their  
new bright office  
with heather  
carpet and  
ergonomic  
desks!

As Patrick said, "St Andrew's Church has stood at the centre of Oxshott for more than a century. Whether you are here regularly or rarely, have faith or none - whether you visit for a service or an activity, or simply pop in for a coffee and a chat - it is our prayer that you will find the renewed St Andrew's a place of welcome, peace, hope and joy for the whole community, both now and (we hope!) for a century or more to come!"

*Nicki Galazka*





# TO CELEBRATE THE RENEWED ST ANDREW'S - COMMUNITY DAY - SUNDAY 8 JUNE 2025 12 - 4PM

BOUNCY CASTLES  
Finger Sandwiches & Cakes 12-2pm  
Scavenger Hunt  
garden games  
LEGO  
table tennis  
& more...  
Burying the Time Capsule! 2pm  
Official Opening 12noon

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
OAKSHADE ROAD  
OXSHOTT  
KT22 0LE  
EVERYONE  
WELCOME!

## How did I get here?

It's no mean feat to run the London Marathon, and even more so when it wasn't really on your agenda – Oxshottian **Coralie Adams** tells her story...

**O**n 27 April 2025 I stood on the start line for the 45th London Marathon. I never thought that would be me. I'd trained for 6 months, alongside a new job and my two littles – not things which go easily with marathon training. I'd been brilliantly supported by my husband, family, friends and the amazing community of Oxshott.

It was never supposed to be me, it was supposed to be my sister Frankie. The natural runner in the family, she always wanted to run the marathon but very sadly died from suicide in 2020 at the age of 29.

So when I stood on the start line, I did so in her memory and to support the amazing work Samaritans do – giving people somewhere to turn to when they really need it

### Brilliant support

It was a very hot day (4th hottest marathon on record!), so definitely a challenge and one I wasn't prepared for, having trained over winter. The on-the-day support was incredible - I was lucky to have my parents, husband and eldest daughter Georgia and my fellow Oxshott running friend Laura cheering me on.

I am so thrilled to share that I managed to raise £4,578 for the Samaritans, which will fund approximately 800 calls of support answered.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to sponsor me, offer up words of encouragement and prayers. It meant so much.

If you'd like to support Coralie, you still can!  
Use the QR code:



*Coralie Adams*



Afterwards, with top supporters husband Dylan and daughter Georgia!



## Connecting with the beauty of nature

Our mission partner, A Rocha, has over the past 40 years sought to protect and restore the environment for God, nature and all people, as **Mark Currie** reports...

**C**hurches throughout the land will be getting close to nature by taking part in a week-long nature count to monitor and celebrate the biodiversity in churchyards. This year the events take place from 7 June to 15 June.



In 2024, there were 6,354 records of nature spotted that were submitted by nearly 6,000 participants, representing a fantastic contribution to the understanding of the ecological value of the special places that the churches throughout this land tend to.



During the week you will find people from the St Andrew's community getting close to the earth, in the lovely church grounds, searching for evidence of the abundant and varied life that exists all around us. We will be



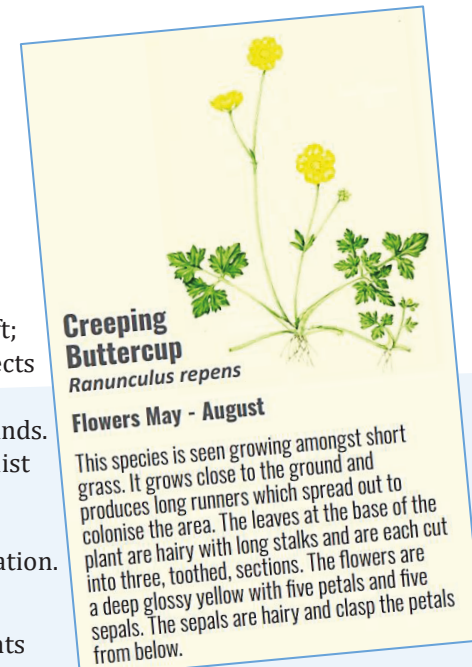
arranging a few one-hour sessions on various dates that week to do this. We will be:

- looking out for flowers growing wild in the garden such as the buttercup;
  - identifying the trees in our churchyard;
  - listening and looking out for the birds that frequent Oxshott in the hope of spotting a swift;
  - getting down to the ground to identify the insects that frequent the undergrowth, and
  - trying to identify the lichen growing in the grounds.
- We aim to record what we find on the iNaturalist app which will help us identify the plants and creatures living with us in the church gardens while generating data for science and conservation.

### Would you like to count?!

If you are interested in joining in one of our counts during that week, please contact Mark Currie at [mark.currie@standrewsoxshott.org.uk](mailto:mark.currie@standrewsoxshott.org.uk) or let the Church Office know and they will pass your details on so you can find out the dates and times you can join in.

If you want to know more about A Rocha, we recommend you watch the video *Introduction to A Rocha UK* (simply search for it on YouTube), and if you would like to donate to support their work, please make a donation to the church account (*see panel*) and we will pass the money on.



Donations to support A Rocha to:

**Barclays Bank:** 20-90-56  
**Account:** St Andrews Church Oxshott (no apostrophe!)

**Account number:** 80374598  
**Reference:** A ROCHA

Mark Currie

### Visit Cobham Mill...

This local, early 19th century mill, in delightful surroundings on the banks of the River Mole, is Grade II listed - and the only surviving fully working watermill in Surrey. It was originally part of a much larger mill complex.

The mill is open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month from April to October, 2pm-5pm, so the next date is **8 June** - and Admission is FREE!

The milling of corn is carried out during these openings, and a short video presentation about the mill and its restoration is shown at intervals.







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📍 Whitley Manor Farm Palmers Cross, Guildford GU5 0LL, Surrey UK



## Growing outside!

New Headteacher **Vanessa Cooper** shares how The Royal Kent School delivers opportunities for pupils to learn and experience new things outside of the traditional classroom setting...



**A**t The Royal Kent School, we place great emphasis on providing our children with real-world opportunities that expand their learning, foster social development and grow their confidence.

Our location, in the heart of Oxshott village, gives us unrivalled access to spectacular destinations like Hampton Court Palace, RHS Wisley, Painshill Park, Brooklands Museum and of course the Surrey Hills.

### Educational trips

Through an extensive programme of educational trips, we deliver first-hand experiences that embed classroom learning, making subjects even more engaging and memorable.

Our children discover more about Tudor life and the infamous Henry VIII at the magnificent Hampton Court Palace.

As young archaeologists they unearth treasures and explore reconstructed ancient buildings from the Stone, Iron and Bronze Ages at Butser Ancient Farm. We wonder at the Benin Bronzes showcased at the British Museum in London and marvel at a 2,500-year-old mummy, part of the Ancient Egyptian exhibition at Haslemere Museum.

Throughout the academic year our enrichment activities encompass



Photo: Rachel Bingham



Photo: Joanna Kossak

immersive and interactive experiences, including inflatable domes that transport the children to alternative worlds such as Space or Oceans. Themed days allow them to experience a day in the life of Victorian children or the Roman Empire.



Opportunities to stretch themselves and develop teamwork skills are extended during geography field trips to the River Mole or through water sports at Queen Mary's Reservoir. We are also extremely fortunate to embellish our spiritual learning and foster our respect for all religions through visits to local mosques and synagogues.

### Ingrained in nature

Our residential are ingrained in nature.

During stays at Juniper Hall in the Surrey Hills in Year 4, and Hindleap Warren in East Sussex in Year 6, children have the chance to interact with peers and teachers in a different setting.

By engaging in workshops and outdoor activities, they explore nature, learning about ecosystems and wildlife.

Being away from home and family establishes strong relationships where together they navigate unfamiliar situations, develop problem solving and decision-making skills and learn to put theoretical learning into practice.

Undoubtedly these trips boost independence, confidence and self-esteem, setting them up for success in their secondary school journeys.

By adding these extra-curricular activities to the established academic agenda, we create rounded and capable young children.

*Vanessa Cooper*



## Say it with flowers!

**O**xshott Flower Arrangement Society (OFAS) always welcomes visitors. Do come along for a fee of £5 to one of the monthly meetings – see below – and enjoy trying your hand at flower arranging, and be inspired by a professional demonstrator at work...

*'Spring Beauty' (right) – skilfully crafted by OFAS demonstrator Vivien Withers*



## What's On in Oxshott

### June

- Tue 3 10am **Ladies Friendship Group:** Coffee, chat and biscuits, in the Small Hall, Oxshott Village Centre
- Sun 8 12 noon-4pm **St Andrew's Church:** *Community Day*, with refreshments and entertainment, at St Andrew's Church (see page 14)
- Tue 10 7.30pm-9.30pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** Members' Contributions, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 11 2.15pm **The Arts Society Claremont & Oxshott:** Music Recital, then 2.30pm *The Mistress of Menace and Master of Intrigue*, with John Francis, at Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernnon
- Tue 17 2pm **Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society:** *In the Library*, with Kathryn Austin, at Oxshott Village Centre  
8pm **Oxshott Village Women's Institute:** *Animals and Their Famous Owners*, with Susan Howe, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 18 7.30pm **Cercle Français d'Esher:** *Ernest Hébert, entre romantisme et symbolisme*, with Thierry Viennois, at West End Village Hall, Esher or on zoom for members
- Sat 21 10am-12.30pm **Oxshott Net Zero Repair Café:** at the Oxshott Community Hub, between 64-66 Waverley Road, Oxshott  
7.30pm **Vaughan Williams Singers:** *Spinning Through Infinity*, concert at St Andrew's Church (see page 23 opposite)

*If you would like to have details of your event listed here, let us know at [oxshottmagazine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxshottmagazine@yahoo.co.uk)*



**Vaughan  
Williams  
Singers**

**Vaughan Williams Singers**  
directed by Ian Assersohn

# Spinning Through Infinity

Celestial music for choir and strings

Includes **Ionian Mass** by **Ian Assersohn**  
(new orchestration, first performance)

Plus music by  
Morten Lauridsen, Cecilia McDowall and more

7:30 pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025

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**[vwsingers.org/futureevents](http://vwsingers.org/futureevents)**



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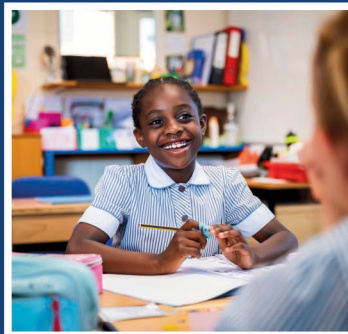
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## Spring shows 2025!

Oxshott Art & Crafts Society (OACS) has had some wonderful displays of art and crafts recently, including at the Spring Exhibition in Oxshott, says **Miranda Fuller...**

**O**ACS has had a particularly lively and creative Spring. Several of our members exhibited, first, at the Molesey Art Society's Spring show, then at our own Oxshott exhibition and, soon after, at the Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington; so it was a full and colourful month for the Society.

Our Oxshott exhibition, for those who missed it, displayed a huge variety of artwork and crafts, including woodturning, pyrography, sculpture, jewellery, textile work, soft toys, decorated glass and insects made from discarded old light bulbs, showing a wealth of imagination and creativity. Shown here are just a few of the displays: Dorothy Clayton's paintings, Avril O'Brien's soft toys and Hilary Jones's demonstration of her painting, all of which proved very popular with our visitors.

For our May demonstration we welcomed back Chris Forsey, to give us a harbour scene in mixed media, details of which will be given in the next issue. On 10 June, we have presentations by our own members and on 8 July Brendan Smith will return, to demonstrate a coastal scene in watercolour.

Our demonstrations are friendly and informal and take place at the Oxshott Village Centre on the second Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 9.30 – details on our website [oxshottartandcrafts.org](http://oxshottartandcrafts.org) Non-members are welcome to attend, regardless of experience or expertise, for a fee of £5.

*Miranda Fuller*



*Dorothy Clayton's vibrant artwork, on display at the Spring Exhibition in Oxshott*



*Irresistible cuddlies, made by Avril O'Brien*



*Artwork in progress with Hilary Jones*

**OXSHOTT  
ART & CRAFTS  
SOCIETY**

from 7.30 to 9.30 – details on our website [oxshottartandcrafts.org](http://oxshottartandcrafts.org) Non-members are welcome to attend, regardless of experience or expertise, for a fee of £5.

## Round & About

### Do you like cricket?!

Maori Oxshott CC are seeking a scorer for the 2025 season, for our 1<sup>st</sup> XI, playing in Division 2 of the Surrey Cricket Championship.

We are offering a fee of £50 per match, and providing a match tea and refreshments throughout the day.

If this is something that interests you, then please reach out to George Depree ([georgedepree@hotmail.com](mailto:georgedepree@hotmail.com)).



### Do you have craft or DIY skills?

And enjoy helping others? **Princess Alice Hospice** in Esher is looking for more volunteers to join its support community...

**T**he purpose-built Man Shed (workshop) in the Hospice grounds is part of a support network for family carers, those suffering from life-limiting illnesses and the recently bereaved. It allows 'Shedders' (men and women) to spend time with others in similar situations, learning new skills and enjoying friendship and support along the way.

If you enjoy helping and teaching other users, are comfortable supervising the safe use of equipment, and can offer a listening ear to the attendees, contact the Volunteering Team (01372 461856 or [volunteering@pah.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@pah.org.uk)). Thank you.



### A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2025 Calendar

#### JUNE

#### Join in with a nature and climate initiative

One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. Joining in with wider initiatives also reminds us of the power and encouragement of being part of communities and taking action together.

Churches Count on Nature, 30 Days Wild and The Great Big Green Week all take place across June. Join an awareness-raising event or nature count as an individual, with your household or church (see page 16). And find out more at:

- [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)
- [www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild), and
- [www.greatbiggreenweek.com](http://www.greatbiggreenweek.com)



**Princess Alice  
Hospice**



## Remembering the Hurricane that crashed...

As we marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day in early May, **Teresa Newman** called to mind the newspaper cuttings that her father had kept here in Oxshott – and some events of 1940...



Mr. James Howard and Mr. Simon Parry with part of the Hurricane's radiator.

## Hurricane in Oxshott field

AT the time the thoughts of the nation were concentrated on those who had died in the war, James Howard and his friends were busily digging up a tangible reminder of those wartime days.

On September 27th, 1940, a Hurricane fighter aircraft, on its way back from a patrol, crashed in a field in Oxshott.

Mr. James Howard, a civilian pilot, who is interested in wartime planes, recently located the exact site where the plane crashed. Last Saturday he and other members of the Air Historical Group, hired a mechanical digger and raised the wreck.

Its pilot, P.O. Zak, a Polish airman, who is believed to be still living in this country, bailed out, and his plane crashed, nose first at 400 miles per hour, burying itself some 20 or more feet below the surface.

### Pieces

Mr. Howard said he was grateful to local people who helped him find the site, and he was delighted with the pieces they had recovered: The directional indicator set at 355 degrees – which showed the plane was travelling north; the clock which stopped at 9.25; the

first aid pack complete with undamaged bandages, tourniquet and instructions; the 12-cylinder engine; radiator and tail; and fabric of the plane, with serial number and R.A.F. roundel.

The maintenance sheet signed by the pilot and the maintenance engineer was also being carefully dried out by the excavators – who now have a great deal of cleaning up to do.

The pungent smell of oil and petrol, was most evident as the Hurricane was uncovered for the first time, after 37 years.

### Fascinated

Mr. Howard said he was fascinated by wartime planes, and would be grateful to hear from anyone who could help him with his other project – the addition to his bits and pieces of a Hawker Typhoon. Hundreds were built at Kingston during the war; now only

one in the world remained intact – at the R.A.F. museum.

Mr. Howard has parts of another which he is assembling.

Ring Kingston 0841 if you can help. Information about Pilot Officer Zak would also be welcome – Mr. Howard and his friends would very much like to meet him.

## Plane crash drama revealed

WITHIN hours of the story of the recent excavation of a Hurricane fighter plane in Oxshott appearing in the *News and Mail*, last week, a reader put me in touch with the widow of Valerian Zak, the Polish airman who piloted the plane on the fateful night in September 1940, when it crashed into an Oxshott cornfield.

With the help of local people and the Royal Air Forces Association I have now pieced together both the heroic and personal story of Pilot Officer Zak, which reads like a romantic novel.

"If it had not been for the wonderful courage of my husband many people could have been killed or hurt in Oxshott," Mrs. Jeanne Zak told me from her home in Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

P.O. Zak's plane, badly

damaged by enemy guns, was on fire as it passed over Oxshott – although shot in the leg, he would not bale out until the plane was clear of the village – by which time he was badly burned.

Here begins the romantic

### By Joan Jones

angle – Mrs. Zak, who lived in Oxshott, saw the whole incident and the parachute falling from the sky, jumped into her car and rushed to find the airman. The injured P.O. Zak was taken to Leatherhead hospital, where he remained for many months until his wounds were healed – visited every day by Jeanne. "It

was during this time we fell in love," she explained.

P.O. Zak returned to operational duty rising to the rank of Wing Commander of 303 Squadron, and then in command of Heston Aerodrome.

### Honours

He received the highest honours that the Royal Air Force and the Polish Air Force



P.O. Zak in his Hurricane in the early part of the last war.

could bestow on any man, the *Virtuti Militaire* which is the equivalent to our Victoria Cross also our own D.F.C. with two or three bars and the D.S.O.

In 1946 he married Jeanne and went to live in Surbiton: "We were blissfully happy" recalls Mrs. Zak.

Sadly Wing-Cdr. Zak did not live to see his Hurricane raised – he died of cancer in Epsom Hospital in 1969 – and was buried in the Polish Airmen's cemetery at Northolt.

Mrs. Zak will soon be coming to London to accept from Mr. James Howard, who excavated the plane, a piece of her husband's Hurricane, as a memento of the night 37 years ago when she met her husband in such dramatic circumstances.

Mr. Howard, of Kingston, who was delighted that the Hurricane had caused such interest, said that this part of Surrey was rich in aeronautical history. He would like to create an aircraft museum somewhere in the area, and would welcome any offers of accommodation for the rare aeroplanes he and his companions are rebuilding – a barn or hall would be ideal. Telephone Kingston 0841 if you can help.

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## Of river and rowing...

This month, The Arts Society visits Henley to take a look back in time at the diverse history of boats on the river, as narrated by **Nicky Orlebar**...

An Arts Society coach arrived in Henley-on-Thames, and followed signposts to the River & Rowing Museum in Mill Meadows. Opened in 1998, the wood-clad building quickly proved popular for its *Wind in the Willows* experience together with displays and minutiae about the River Thames and history of Rowing.

Upstairs in the River Gallery was a map showing some of the 180 islands in the Thames, next to paintings of famous landmarks along its banks.

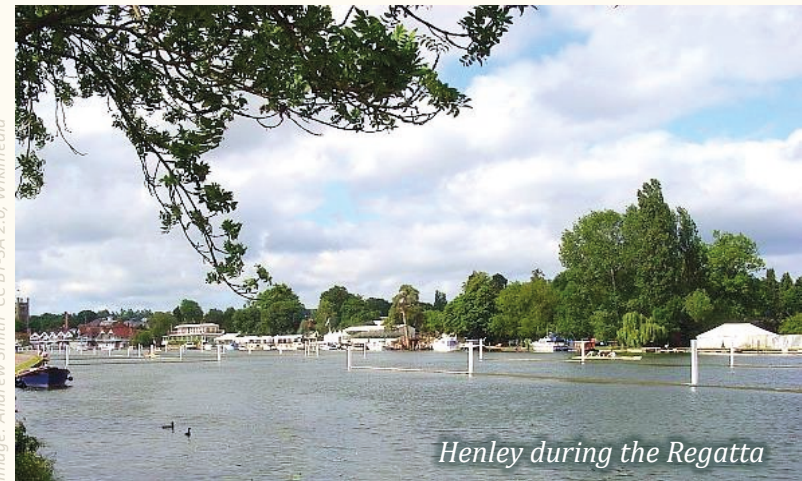
In the History of Rowing room, displays began with a wooden

Greek trireme known for its power, speed and agility. Other exhibits, some hanging from the ceiling, include an Arctic whaleboat and double sailing skiff popularised by Jerome K Jerome in *Three Men in a Boat*.

There was much film footage of the Oxford v Cambridge Boat Races. The Varsity race was first rowed in 1829, starting from Temple Island to Henley Bridge, a straight distance of one mile 550 yards. In 1839, the Boat Race moved downstream to London between Putney and Mortlake, increasing the meandering course distance to four miles 374 yards. Race statistic charts proved irresistible for some.

Photographs of Henley Royal Regatta ('royal' following Prince Albert's attendance in 1851), held each July, showed spectators watching from either the Buckinghamshire or Berkshire banks. Long considered part of the Social Season, pictures showed a distinct dress code in the Stewards' Enclosure with men in club blazers and ladies in dresses.

Too soon it was time to leave the museum, but not before a visit to the shop and café. Several members returned to the *Wind in the Willows* exhibition to delight in Ratty's rowing boat and charming mock-ups showing Pooh, Piglet, Kanga, Mole, Badger, Tigger and Eeyore. A perfect end to a delightful day.



*Henley during the Regatta*

Image: Andrew Smith CC BY-SA 2.0, Wikimedia

Nicky Orlebar



## Sudoku

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

Last month's solution

Answers  
next month

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

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## Think about it...

Somone recommended that I read a book called 'How to solve half your problems'.  
So I bought two.

What do you get from a pampered cow?  
Spoiled milk.

I gave my handyman a to-do list, but he only did jobs 1, 3, and 5.  
Apparently he only does odd jobs.

## Pics...

Ready for  
summer!



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Contacts at St Andrew's (continued from page 4)

## 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. See also **St Andrew's @4** (below). For weekday events, see **ABC** (above). Contact: the Church Office (01372 842071)
- Church Hall:** Currently being refurbished; for future bookings, contact the Church Office (01372 842071)
- Church Office:** Church Administrator: Claire Costard; Assistant: Rowena Osman-Robertson. Tuesday-Friday, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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: Claire Costard (electoral.roll@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)
- Lay Assistants:** Barbara Begley, 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, and generally appeals to people who are 60 plus. Leaders: Sheila and Phillip Herbert (01372 842301)
- Mission Partners:** Contact: Liz Mulhall (mission.partnering@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)
- Music:** Director of Music: Valerie Beynon (01932 863296). Organist: Nicky Orlebar
- Parish Funding:** Parish Funding Administrator: Marjorie Cox (07730 560752)
- Parochial Church Council:** PCC Secretary: *Vacant* PCC Members: Jane Berridge, Ruth Burns, Harry Conlan, Mark Currie, Revd Patrick Davies (*Vicar*), Ros Ebbutt-Hadman (*Deanery Synod*), Jack Jeffery, Rebecca Mayhew, Kirsten Penner, Jill Perrett (*Deanery Synod*), Steph Rustom (*Deanery Synod*), Freda Stephenson and Adele Wright
- Pastoral Assistants:** Barbara Begley, Jane Berridge, Michael Flaxman, Marianne Francis, 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:** We are fully committed to Safeguarding and have two Safeguarding Officers. Contact: via their dedicated Safeguarding phone number (01372 230370), or email safeguarding@standrewsoxshott.org.uk
- Treasurer:** Carl Jackson (01372 843990 or treasurer@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)
- Website Editor:** Contact: web@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

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## 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](http://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)

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**Centre for Sight:** Vision correction, laser eye surgery, lens implants and cataract surgery, at 48 High Street, Oxshott. Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm (0808 189 3966 or enquiries@centreforsight.com)

**Cobham Area Foodbank:** Serves Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, the Horsleys and Effingham (01932 450282 or [manager@cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk))  
Website: [cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk](http://cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk)

### Councillors – Elmbridge Borough Council

#### Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon Ward:

Andrew Burley (07503 830954 or [aburley@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:aburley@elmbridge.gov.uk))

Corinne Sterry (07976 575662 or [csterry@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:csterry@elmbridge.gov.uk))

Alan Parker (07917 521069 or [alanparker.oxshott@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mark.sugden@surreycc.gov.uk))

## 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](mailto:info@oxshottdental.com) or visit [www.oxshottdental.com](http://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](http://www.eshercab.org.uk))

**FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC:** Chair: Anthony Wolfe ([chairman@fedora.org.uk](mailto:chairman@fedora.org.uk)) or visit [www.fedora.org.uk](http://www.fedora.org.uk)

**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](mailto:commservices@elmbridge.gov.uk))

**Osteopath:** Anja Davidson MOfst, Wellmead Osteopathy, Steels Lane (01372 897497 or [info@wellmeadosteopathy.co.uk](mailto:info@wellmeadosteopathy.co.uk))

**Oxshott Care:** Local Voluntary Help providing transport to medical, dental and hospital appointments. Call 07950 478329 Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Leave message at other times.

**Oxshott Village Centre:** Bookings Secretary: Debbie Chitty (01372 841892 or [ovcbookings@aol.com](mailto:ovcbookings@aol.com) or visit [www.oxshottvillagecentre.co.uk](http://www.oxshottvillagecentre.co.uk))

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

**Police: Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon & Oxshott:** Police Sergeant Nick Reynolds and 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](mailto:elmbridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk))

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

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

**Royal Kent School**, Oakshade Road, Oxshott, Surrey KT22 0LE Church of England Primary School, ages 4 to 11. Ladybird Nursery preschool, ages 2-4. For admission details, please contact the School Office. **Headteacher:** Vanessa Cooper. **Deputy Headteacher:** Joe Blaney. **Chair of Governors:** David Young. **Contact:** School Office (01372 842495 or [office@royal-kent.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@royal-kent.surrey.sch.uk))

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

**Victim Support:** Free confidential support after crime. Contact: Supportline (08 08 16 89 111) or visit [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://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 5.30-6.45pm), Cubs (Mondays 6-7.30pm), Scouts (Mondays 7-8.30pm), Explorers (Mondays 7.45-9.15pm) (oxshottscoutgroup@gmail.com) [www.oxshott-scouts.org](http://www.oxshott-scouts.org)
- Girlguiding Oxshott:** Meetings: Rainbows (girls aged 4-7: Tuesdays 4.15-5.30pm), Brownies (7-10: Tuesdays 5.45-7.15pm, Wednesdays 5.30-7pm), Guides (10-14: Tuesdays 7.30-9pm), Rangers (14-18: Wednesdays 7.30-9pm). Contact: 1stoxshottbrownies@gmail.com
- Ladies Friendship Group:** Meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:brigitte@ptiller.com)) [www.cerclefrancais-esher.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:geoffdot@ntlworld.com)) or Ashok Patel (07977 103436 or [ashokdivya@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.oxshottchoral.org.uk)
- Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society:** Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month at Oxshott Village Centre (except July and August). Chair: Andy Owler (01372 844152 or [andyowler@aol.com](mailto:andyowler@aol.com)) Secretary: Anita Lee (07979 804668 or [leea8971@gmail.com](mailto:leea8971@gmail.com))
- Oxshott Net Zero:** Oxshott residents working to reduce our carbon emissions. Full details and contact via the website ([www.oxshottnetzero.org.uk](http://www.oxshottnetzero.org.uk))
- 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](mailto:office@oxshottsports.com))
- Political Parties: Cobham, Oxshott & Stoke d'Abernon Conservatives:** Chair: Katerina Lusk (07934 296302 or [k.lusk2605@gmail.com](mailto:k.lusk2605@gmail.com))
- Cobham, Downside, Oxshott and Stoke Labour Party:** Secretary: Dan Parks (07860 677898 or [codslabourbranch@gmail.com](mailto:codslabourbranch@gmail.com))
- The Arts Society Claremont and Oxshott:** Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:anne@wallis.eu.com))
- The Oxshott Club,** Oakshade Road: Lounge bar, snooker, pool, quiz nights; music and entertainment evenings and BBQs held regularly. BT Sports. Open every evening, Saturday & Sunday from midday. Contact: Club Secretary or Stewardess (01372 842232)
- Women's Institute - Oxshott Village WI:** Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month at 8pm, in Oxshott Village Centre. Contact: Maggie Day (01932 988501)

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