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Application for Membership of FEDORA – The Voice for Oxshott CIC

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Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

by Sandra Elmes

Wow, 70 years of service! We bet not many of you reading this were born before the Queen's reign. Although this unique British milestone was reached on 6th February 1952, on the death of the Queen's father, the coronation took place on 2nd June 1953. Therefore, the celebrations have been scheduled for the first weekend in June, when our normal Spring Bank Holiday will be moved to later in the week to join an additional day's holiday, specifically to mark the occasion. This makes for a wonderful four-day weekend of celebrations.

Nationally, there will be a host of big events, including a special Trooping of the Colour on Thursday, 2nd June. Have a look on the official websites www.platinumjubilee. gov.uk and www.royal.uk/platinumjubilee to see what national and local events are planned.

Locally, across the country, communities will be gathering to celebrate with various events, including the traditional "street party"...and Oxshott will be joining in too. Our wonderful High Street community are planning Oxshott's very own street party on Sunday 5th June between midday and 4pm. Details will appear on @visitoroxshott on Instagram, and Fedora will use its social media outlets to spread the word too.

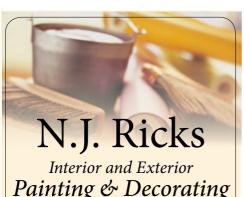
There are also plans to replace the tree by the High Street/Steels Lane junction that Storm Eunice despatched, which will be dedicated to Her Majesty as part of her green canopy initiative www.royal. uk/queens-green-canopy.



Are you organising a gathering to celebrate? Let us know what you're planning (but no specific addresses please) on our Twitter/Facebook/Instagram feeds: @fedora_oxshott (Twitter and Instagram) and www.facebook.com/FedoraOxshottSurrey.

Even if you're not planning to attend any public celebrations, we can all show our love and appreciation for someone who has dedicated her life in the service of our country by putting out the bunting.





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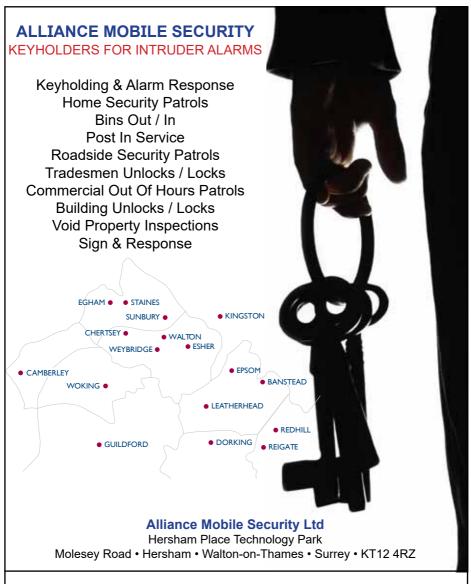
by Anthony Wolfe

As I write this we really do live in troubled times. No sooner than we start to emerge from the shadows of COVID, than Putin sets out to invade Ukraine.

It is difficult to take any positives from the horrors of this war but the response of decent people in other countries is at least encouraging. And there are some positives to draw from this locally. Whilst over recent years it could be said that that there has been a declining sense of community, recent events in Ukraine have shown Oxshott and our neighbours in Stoke D'Abernon and Cobham in a more positive light. Whether it be well organised local appeals and collection points being set up in Stoke D'Abernon and Cobham or individuals such as Jo and Ed dropping everything to go to Poland and then driving to the border of Ukraine with a host of much needed supplies, it has been a great response by our local communities. Wonderfull



It is likely that the people of Ukraine will need our support over the long term. At FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC we will look to keep you in touch with local initiatives that you can support through our MailChimp emails and social media which can be found at @fedora oxshott on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.



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Chairman's Comments

by Anthony Wolfe

As we emerge into Spring all the hard work done around the village in the last couple of years is starting to pop out and come into flower. Examples include the clearing up and planting of the triangle at the top of station approach, at the entrance to Wrens Hill as well as planting opposite the entrance to DHS and around the village sign. Thanks to all of you who have got your hands dirty and ensured we all know that Spring has arrived.

And yes, I know at the time of writing the cherry tree is still lying on its side in the village centre but plans are afoot to clean up the area, regrind the old roots and plant a new cherry tree.

However, before I go any further it is time to say a fond farewell to the Robinsons who have now left the village and have moved into their new house in Ashtead. Apart from their contribution to the hard work done in clearing and planting areas around the village in the past two years they have been involved for some 20 odd years in the community.

They have lived a peripatetic life so, although they bought a house in September 1991 in Clarendon Park, they were actually living in Norway and their children were at boarding school in the UK. They moved to Sandy Lane in 1999.

Perhaps they will be best remembered for the Christmas Fair and the Village Day. A lot of us will remember the Christmas Fair that Carmen was involved with from 2002 until 2006, not least for the collection of and then

sale at the fair of all those prize possessions we had not used for years but found difficult to let go of.

The Village Day at the Oxshott Sports Club then became Carmen's passion which ran from 2007 until 2018.

If that was not enough to keep them occupied, they bought a house in Knott Park in 2013 which they then proceeded to demolish and rebuild, finally moving into

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their new house in 2017. Alec also took on the role of Chairman of the Knott Park Residents Association.

Their involvement with FEDORA started back in 2001 when they took over the magazine and Alec built the organisation's first website. With Alec then working in Vancouver and Kenya, Carmen took over the running of the magazine and David Cooke took on responsibilities for the website. Phew!

May they now enjoy a happy and restful life in Ashtead, with our thanks ringing in their ears.

Reflection

Looking back over the past 24 months or so of course our memories will be of the impact that COVID has had on all our lives, but it would be nice to reflect on some real progress in our mission to be the voice for Oxshott.

As much as anything the past year or so has been sticking to our mantra of the three Ps: PRORITISE - PATIENCE- PERSISTENCE. And in doing so building strong relationships with the executives of Surrey County Council and Elmbridge Borough Council as well as our elected representatives. In this regard I would particularly like to thank Ian Dilks and Mike Wheeler who have done an outstanding and effective job in ensuring the voice of Oxshott is heard. You can read their updates with regard to the roads and planning on pages.

We also had a good party at Christmas in the centre of the village. Well done to James Davis for taking the lead on this – and may we have many more



Looking forward

You will have noted that one of the 3 Ps is Patience. As much as we all might matters to move along at a quicker pace the realities of life often get in the way - as we know only too well with the impact of COVID.

For our two main strategic objectives this is only too true: addressing the issues of traffic on the A244 and the Local Plan.

Whilst Ian has made good progress in establishing a clear set of priorities that have been acknowledged by Surrey Highways the organisation itself is now going through a re-organisation that could delay progress and require relations to be built with new faces.

As for planning, the Local Plan has been delayed and at the time of writing has still to be released. However, you may be interested to look at the Mole Valley Local Plan and what they have in mind for Leatherhead. The two key points of the total report are a target number of houses that is 77% of the central government number and the release of only 0.7% of Green Belt. As for Leatherhead you may be interested to go to the following link and look at pages 179-193. https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/Draft%20Local%20Plan%20%28Proposed%20Submission%20 Version%20-%20Regulation%2019%29%20%28MVDC%2C%202021%29.pdf

I may be an optimist but it would be good if their approach found expression in the plans for Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon and Cobham.

We also look forward to September when the new headmistress, Mrs. Maxine Shaw, arrives at Danes Hill School. We look forward to meeting her and the opportunity to create closer relationships between the school and its immediate neighbours. We have invited Mrs Shaw to introduce herself by contributing an article to the autumn edition of FEDORA magazine.

Finally, plans have already started for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June - so make a note in your diary. It should be fun!

COMPANY SECRETARY

FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC is seeking to appoint a company secretary. The role is not demanding with an emphasis on the on-line annual filings at Companies House and any changes in directors.

If interested please contact Anthony Wolfe at chair@fedora.org.uk



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Planning Update

by Mike Wheeler

Elmbridge Local Plan

Several years later than originally intended and after considerable vacillation, Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) released its draft Local Plan (LP) on Wednesday 9 March. Does the end document justify the delay? The answer is a qualified yes. The old LP was approved more than ten years ago and called for an annual housing target of 225 new homes, a level that EBC met for five years. But in 2016, central government began a process of lifting that target, initially to 475 new homes per annum and then to over 600 in 2018. With a substantial deficit in the number of new homes actually built each year, EBC became obliged to develop a new LP.

Over the last five years, EBC has explored a range of options. With such a significant increase in the annual housing target, the key issue has been whether to release Green Belt for development. If not, the consequence would have to be significant increases in housing densities right across the borough with consequent erosion of local character. Political gridlock ensued creating delay with the LP. But that delay has proved helpful. With obvious signs of rebellion on government backbenches about over-development in the south-east, central government seems to have relented on the rigid adoption of its housing strategy by local authorities.

EBC has taken advantage of this change and released a draft LP that is much better than expected a year ago. There are three areas that are particularly welcome:

- 1. **An average annual housing target of 465.** This is 27% lower than the housing need of 640 derived from central government methodology. This is a welcome reduction on what was being previously contemplated. However, it is a target that is very much higher than the number of new homes delivered by EBC in recent years.
- No scheduled release of Green Belt. After proposing several options for releasing Green Belt during earlier consultations, EBC has clearly listened to the overwhelming public view that Green Belt should continue to be protected.
- Focus on brownfield and town centres. This is sensible and reflects the need to focus housing around retail and commercial sites and existing public transport links.

For residents of Oxshott, this is welcome news. There are only a few sites in Oxshott identified by EBC as representing potentially available supply of land. But there will be a continuation of the present policy of higher density housing whether through blocks of flats or small estates of 2/3 bedroom houses. Inevitably, opportunistic infill schemes will continue but hopefully on a better controlled basis.

The major problem is that the draft LP contains very few identified sites for development and is hugely reliant on windfall sites. In addition, while the draft LP shows an ostensible ability to meet housing need for the first five years of the plan,

there is a glaring shortage of land to meet need over the subsequent ten years of the plan.

Inevitably that means that as the LP proceeds it will be met with substantial challenge and local owners of Green Belt (such as the Crown Estate) are likely to push hard to have their sites brought forward for inclusion with the LP. Even if the LP were to be approved in its current form, it is difficult to see how EBC will be able to deliver its housing targets over the next 15 years without needing to sacrifice some Green Belt. During public consultations on the LP, EBC identified the area between Oxshott, Stoke d'Abernon and Woodlands as representing an opportunity to build around 3,000 new homes. This would be as large as the existing population of Oxshott. The present threat may have abated but the long-term threat to this land undoubtedly remains.

It is also relevant to note that the draft LP is written in a way that is hugely politically correct with significant reference to the "climate emergency". In contrast, there is disappointingly little reference to the reality of the need for real improvements in the provision of infrastructure to support housing growth.

If the full council approves the draft LP, the next stage will be to publish the plan for public representation. After that, the plan will be submitted for examination by a government appointed Planning Inspector, who will determine whether the plan is sound. This process may take up to a year.

While the draft LP addresses the issue of housing numbers and the spatial strategy, there remains a lot of work to be done to produce sensible design codes. With a need for increased densification across Elmbridge, the challenge is to make sure that this is done on a basis that respects local character and does not lead to a plethora of inappropriate and ugly developments.

FEDORA will continue to monitor progress and advise residents on matters of relevance to the local community.





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Roads Update

by Ian Dilks

An update on progress on roads and traffic is becoming a perennial feature of FEDORA magazine but to the extent there is progress to report, albeit slow, we hope you view that as a good thing!

The A244

We explained in the Autumn 2021 magazine the key projects we were pursuing. As a reminder that is: further speed restrictions in the centre of the village; the deployment of average speed cameras; a night time HGV ban; and continuous pavements from the south of the village to the centre. Late in 2021 Surrey Highways (SH) shared the results of the speed monitoring they had carried out over the summer at ten locations. SH has clear policies on what can and can't be done in specific situations, informed by facts such as measured traffic speeds and the views of the Police. FEDORA therefore hosted a meeting with SH and some local residents to make an initial assessment of options.

Many readers will have seen a summary of those options in an email from FEDORA last November. We are very grateful for the significant number of swift responses which overwhelmingly supported the initial proposals. In addition, many respondents provided helpful comments and suggestions which have been passed to SH for their consideration.

Since that time a reorganisation within SH and a change of personnel has unfortunately slowed progress but Surrey leader councillor Tim Oliver and local Surrey councillor Mark Sugden have continued to provide their active support to try and rebuild momentum. This is important because bids for the necessary funding for any work to be carried out in the next year have to be made in the coming weeks and the process for agreeing funding is also about to change.

In summary:

- There is general agreement for a new 20mph zone on the A244 in the centre of the village. The precise siting of the limits of the zone is still under consideration. We hope this will be implemented together with new signage by late 2022.
- Design work is under way for the deployment of average speed cameras to the south of the village. Again, the precise location for siting the camera to the south of the village is under discussion but to the north we expect the camera controlled zone to run to the edge of the new 20 mph zone. These cameras are expensive and funding is not yet in place but we expect that it will be forthcoming and hope cameras can be installed in financial year 2022/23.
- As reported previously residents of Cobham and Mole Valley have expressed concern about the risk of a night-time HGV ban in Oxshott displacing traffic onto their roads. We do not believe this is likely but further discussion is necessary. SH officers have been asked to draw up a proposal to implement a temporary ban using a Traffic Regulation Order in order to speed up progress.

 Progress on creating continuous footpaths from the south of the village still requires support from landowners and is being considered section by section. We have emphasised that creating a continuous footpath on one side of the road is a priority to reduce the amount of pedestrian crossing that is currently required. Improvements are likely to be delivered piecemeal in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Is Air Pollution a problem in Oxshott?

At the instigation of our local councillors Elmbridge now monitors NO2 levels at two sites on the A244 in the centre of the village. Oxshott is not in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) but this was a first attempt to assess if it should be. The first full year of monitoring was 2020 which coincided with the first Covid-19 lockdown restrictions when traffic levels were much reduced so were not typical of "normal" traffic. The recorded levels over the year were half what would be required to trigger an AQMA and lower than the majority of sites in Elmbridge where measuring took place. The full 2021 levels have not yet been published although we are told that they continue to be below AQMA trigger levels. Monitoring will continue in 2022 and we will continue to review the results with Elmbridge and our local councillors.

Steels Lane

In addition to the A244 there are concerns about traffic speed in Steels Lane and the need for a proper crossing at the complex junction by the Church and Village Centre which is used by pupils from two schools. We are in discussions with SH to design measures to deal with both, for which there is considerable local support from residents who are particularly concerned about child safety. Speed control measures and crossings are expensive and there is no current budget but we are exploring options and have requested the support of all our local councillors.

What is happening about M25 J10?

A decision on proposals for remodelling the A3/M25 junction 10 was due last summer. However, the then Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, intervened to make a personal decision which was due on 12 November 2021. Following the change of Secretary of State, Michael Gove asked for further information on a range of primarily environmental issues and a decision is now due on 12 May 2022. National Highways, the body responsible for any redevelopment, has recently published its response to Michael Gove's requests.

The final decision is relevant not only to Oxshott and Cobham residents but also to plans for the redevelopment of RHS Wisley and for new building development on the site of Wisley Airfield. We have no insights on the likely decision but in addition to the environmental considerations Michael Gove will need to assess whether investment of this scale in Surrey would be consistent with the levelling-up agenda for which he is also now responsible.

Where is Community Speedwatch?

The new Oxshott Community Speedwatch can't commence until training by Police

has been completed and this has been continually delayed by Covid-19. However, Mark Cooke hopes to have this completed so that speed monitoring can commence in the next few months.

Did you notice the Highway Code changes?

In case you missed it.....In recent weeks the Highway Code has been changed to introduce a new preferred way of opening a car door from the inside (the so-called Dutch Reach) and a new hierarchy of road users, giving priority to those considered most at risk of injury. In simple terms this gives priority to pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motor cyclists over cars and heavier vehicles. For example, the speed at which horses may be passed has been reduced and cyclists must now be given more clearance by passing drivers. Given the number of cyclists and horse-riders who use roads in and around Oxshott you should be aware of the changes which can be found at www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk.

If you have any questions or comments please contact us at roads@fedora.org.uk

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An Unmissable Experience: Years 7 & 8 at a Prep School

by James Harvey, Head of Upper School and Senior School Transfer

Danes Hill School in Surrey is widely recognised as one of the leading co-educational day preparatory schools in the country. Situated in 55 acres of landscaped ground in the village of Oxshott, Danes Hill provides boys and girls aged 3 to 13 with a broad and balanced curriculum. In recent years, Danes Hill has become one of the last remaining 13+ co-educational prep schools in Surrey. This unique educational environment gives boys and girls a chance to develop academically and socially before embarking on their Senior School journey. We spoke to James Harvey, Head of Upper school at Danes Hill School to understand the benefits of choosing a prep school for Year 7 rather than joining a senior school.

So, put simply, why is this an important option for parents to consider?

I strongly believe in the need to allow children time to grow up and develop before they are faced with the challenges of a Senior School environment.

Can two years in a new school really make a difference?

Time is the greatest gift we can provide our children. By allowing children two more years to develop socially and academically before joining their Senior School, our pupils will have had the chance to try new interests and develop lifelong skills in the relative safety and comfort of a prep school. Giving pupils the confidence to take risks and not be afraid to make mistakes, in a nurturing environment, will ensure they have developed and practised the social skills they require for Senior School and the world beyond.

What can a prep school offer in Years 7 and 8 that a senior school can't?

A prep school offers children a unique opportunity to become leaders at such a young age. Pupils are taught leadership skills and are then given the opportunity to practise these skills as they are rewarded with Positions of Responsibility that enable them to act as role models to younger pupils. To watch the positive impact our Year 7 and 8s have on our younger pupils is visible proof of the benefits of a 13+ education.

An exciting and rigorous prep school curriculum through Academic Scholarships or Common Entrance also allows the pupils to develop their revision and exam technique to achieve results that boost confidence whilst preparing for the future challenges they will face at GCSE and A Level.

In recent years you have had up to 15 new children join Danes Hill in Year 7, you must be doing something right?

Our pastoral system is one of the school's greatest strengths. The school is broken down into small sections (Lower, Middle and Upper School) allowing focus on individual pupils and their needs. Within the Upper School, we are split into year groups (Year 6, 7 and 8) which are overseen by sensational Heads of Year, then within each year group the children are divided again into tutor groups of approximately 10 children. Each tutor group is led by one of a team of outstanding Tutors who specialise in pastoral care and the PSHEE curriculum. Children spend at least 20 minutes a day with their Tutor and tutees. Pupils are all encouraged to communicate their needs, worries and emotions to any member of staff they feel comfortable

with. Our pastoral team and system are exceptionally well supported by our DSL and Academic Head (Pastoral).

I guess the proof is in the results – you have had over 260 senior school scholarships and exhibitions awarded to your pupils in the last five years.

Yes, one moment that always sticks in my mind is the Year 8 results day. Whether it be celebrating the results from Academic Scholarships, Common Entrance or any other curriculum followed by our Senior Pupils, the sense of pride, comradery, relief and gratitude creates a magical atmosphere where pupils and teachers come together to celebrate the progress made by children that have matured into young men and women ready for the challenges of their Senior School. In my opinion, no other moment better showcases the result of a Danes Hill education. Effort, excellence, emotion and empowerment all in one place!

You have a lot to celebrate, James. Could you possibly pick one proudest moment? I am fortunate that my proudest moment comes about every year - I visit our past pupils at their Senior Schools each year. Seeing first-hand how well they have settled into their new environment gives me huge pride in the work we do to prepare our pupils and support them in gaining a place at the right senior school for them.

Thank you for your time, Mr Harvey. To find out more about Danes Hill School visit daneshillschool.co.uk or to find out more about admissions into Year 7 email Claire Walsh at registrar@daneshill.surrey.sch.uk.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Registration closing soon!

Danes Hill School is widely recognised as one of the leading co-educational day Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep schools in the country. Situated in 55 acres of landscaped ground in the village of Oxshott, Danes Hill School provides boys and girls aged 3 to 13 with a broad and balanced curriculum.

Danes Hill School has an outstanding record in gaining entry for every pupil to one of their chosen senior schools. Pupils move on to a wide range of senior schools, including local co-educational and single sex, day and boarding independent schools, as well as top independent schools further afield.

"We have been very impressed with every aspect of Danes Hill School and in particular the focus of the teachers on each individual in their class. They have been absoluttely outstanding."





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A Splendid Summer planned for OVSC - both on and off the field

by Sarah Murphy

Along with the snowdrops and bluebells which seem to be cautiously sticking their heads out from underground hoping for a taste of Spring in the air, Oxshott Village Sports Club is definitely starting to feel that Spring might be springing sometime soon. Or at least it was for the few days of blue sky and above average temperatures before Dudley and Eunice decided to show up! Thoughts of planting up hanging baskets swiftly turned to thoughts of how to chop up fallen trees and mend storm damage at the time of writing, but after what's been thrown at us over the last couple of years in the form of the pandemic, these latest developments are proving relatively easy to fix!

Summer programmes across all sports sections are being perfected and finalised as we enter the summer planning phase with a record number of new members, mainly courtesy of our new Padel Tennis Section. To steal from Kevin Costner's Field of Dreams — "Build it and they will come" — certainly runs true as we continue to sign up new members interested in the UK's fastest growing new sport. With a team of 3 coaches and a full programme of coaching and social padel for everyone from Beginners, through Intermediate level players and up to those who play at an Advanced level we have sessions for everyone and we are genuinely delighted to welcome so many brand new and enthusiastic members to the Club. It truly is a breath of fresh air to see so many new faces.

Membership is also booming on the tennis front, and we welcomed 2 new coaches to the coaching team in the form of Katie Jonas and Liam Vacher who have swung into action and allowed us to increase the number of weekly junior sessions we offer. It has also helped us to bring the 7 – 12U Performance Programme more in line with the LTA pathway recommendations to ensure plenty of opportunities to advance having achieved a solid foundation in the game. Indeed 2021/22 saw 9 of our committed juniors selected to be part of the Surrey Tennis County Training Programme. Elsewhere in the National League Junior Team Trophy, the 9 and Unders, 10 and Unders and 14 and Under Girls will be looking to improve on their semi-finals' positioning last season and we are very excited to see what they might achieve this year.

An equally entertaining summer is also planned away from the tennis and padel courts on the Bowls Green and Petanque Terrains. The popular 'Beer, Burger and Bowls' taster sessions will start on 11 April with 2 further dates planned for 18th and 26th April. The Bowls Club is also starting its inaugural Community Summer

League on 4th May and welcome all enquiries from local organisations who may be looking to rebuild and regroup socially when the weather gets better. On the external front, the Bowls section are hoping to repeat or better last year's results in the Area/County/National competitions – most notably being the OVSC mixed pair who reached the 2021 National Finals.

The annual Petanque Business League also kicks off again in June with teams of 6 people from local businesses competing against each other in weekly evening matches. With an Open Day planned for Saturday 28 May why not pop along for pizza and drinks on us as you try Petanque? Families of all ages are welcome and we promise we'll have you playing and having fun in no time at all.

If willow and leather are more your style than racquets and boules, then we also offer opportunities to all age groups in our cricket section. At a junior level we run teams from U8 to U19 as well as 2 dedicated girls teams. Cricket camps are running in the Easter Holidays and are open to members and non-members alike – just get in touch. Our senior teams have started winter nets in readiness for their summer campaigns in the AJ Sports Surrey Championship and the Sunday team is looking forward to being bolstered by our older teenagers who are just starting to transition to senior cricket.

With a grand summer Platinum Jubilee Party also planned to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, OVSC promises to be a great place to be for the summer of '22. For further details on membership or if you have any queries, please contact Sarah or Fiona at office@oxshottsports.com or visit our website at www.ovsc.co.uk.



Oxshott Scouts and Guides

by Alison Shannon Brownie Leader 1stoxshottbrownies@gmail.com

Oxshott Scouts & Guides are excited to continue working with Surrey County Council's Your Fund Surrey (YFS) with the aim of securing funding for a replacement building on our land in Waverley Road.

As you will have read in our various appeals, not only will the building replace the existing dilapidated hut which is no longer fit for purpose for Scouting and Guiding, but it will be used, and available for hire, by a wide range of other groups in the community. We are in discussion with several groups who have expressed a desire to use our wonderful new venue. The new building will consist of 2 halls, which are fully accessible, with a central kitchen and upstairs there will be additional space and meeting rooms.

For a number of years the executive of the Scout and Guide groups have been working with various funding sources and have secured planning permission for the new building. As well as our own fundraising efforts, we have a firm commitment for some funding from Elmbridge Borough Council via their Community Infrastructure Levy. As one might expect, the costs far exceed these funds which is where Surrey County Council's YFS comes in.

The YFS Scheme was announced in late 2020 as a 5-year scheme offering £100 million for community led infrastructure projects. To date they funded grants of just under £1 million.

We applied to the scheme as soon as it opened, and the process has been long and arduous. There is no doubt that the YFS team are undertaking thorough due diligence at each stage, but we still do not have any guarantee that we will eventually receive funding. Whilst we are edging our way through the red tape, we must remain confident of a positive outcome.

We have just been asked to go out to tender again as the YFS team did not like the way we had previously run the procedure as it did not comply with Surrey County Council's tendering ethos. We had found, and been working with, a community minded Oxshott developer/contractor who had managed to considerably reduce the overall cost of the project. After explaining that going out to tender again is likely to result in increased costs, our positive perception of YFS's commitment is supported by their encouragement for the group to spend further limited funds to follow their process.

Once we have complied with all the YFS team's requests, of which we hope we are nearly at the end, our application will then go before a board of Surrey County Councillors for a decision on whether we will be granted funding to bring the project to fruition. At this stage we have no idea of the timescale.

Whilst we have had some setbacks and frustrations along the way, once Oxshott has a wonderful new community venue it will all have been worth it.



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The Oxshott Trust Fund

by Geoff Moyle (Chair of the Oxshott Trust Fund)

Many of you will be familiar with the Oxshott Village Centre. You may have participated in one of the many activities held at the Centre, or you may have passed it on way to the adjacent Oxshott Medical Practice or when dropping off a child at Danes Hill Junior School. It is likely that you may not be so familiar with the Oxshott Trust Fund that is responsible for the management of the Centre.

At a meeting in 1944 a resolution was passed to establish a Trust Fund for charitable purposes "for the benefit of the inhabitants of Oxshott and its immediate vicinity". That resolution was passed in response to a wish by the community to express their gratitude to those who were serving in the Second World War.

The Trust Fund was finally created by a deed made in April 1959. That deed established a management committee consisting of elected members, representatives of local organisations and the three trustees of the Trust Fund to run the Centre for the promotion of social, recreational and cultural activities. The Centre continues to be run on a voluntary basis by a management committee.

In 1962 a 97-year lease was granted by the Crown Estate on the two acre site on the corner of Holtwood Road and Steels Lane. The Centre was finally opened in that year, construction having been delayed due to building restrictions and a lack of funds in the aftermath of the War.

In 1985 an extension was built by the Trust with the help of the local community to provide a Medical Centre for the Oxshott Medical Practice. The Practice has subsequently occupied the premises under a sub-lease granted by the Trust, which also provided a licence for parking spaces for the doctors and the patients.

To relieve congestion in the surrounding roads the Trust has, in more recent years, also granted a parking licence to Danes Hill Junior School. That licence allows pupils to be dropped off and picked up within the Centre's car park and allocates a number of parking spaces for the use of school staff.

The school has also entered into an agreement for the use of the grassed area for recreational purposes. The grassed area is additionally available for users of the Centre.

Over a 2-year period to 2019 the Trust carried out a major refurbishment programme. These improvements have met with a very positive response from users and have ensured that regular usage has quickly picked up following the pandemic enforced closure.

The management committee has for some time been concerned that the Medical Centre is showing its age. In response to those concerns, ongoing negotiations with the Crown Estate to secure a new long-term lease that would allow for the construction of a new Medical Centre adjacent to the current building were stepped up.

The Trust has very recently agreed Heads of Terms with the Crown Estate to allow

for the development of a new Medical Centre. Under the Heads of Terms the Crown Estate will grant a new 99-year lease for the whole two-acre site. The Trust will be considering how best to use the existing building.

The Trust is anxious to support the NHS in establishing a new Medical Centre for the community. While the development programme is at an early stage the Trust is very optimistic that a successful outcome will be achieved.

The Trust holds an AGM each November, the date and venue of which are advertised nearer to the time. Local residents are warmly invited to attend the AGM which offers an opportunity for them to learn more about the Trust and make their view known.

If you are interested in booking one or both halls then please contact the Booking Secretary – www.oxshottvillagecentre.co.uk - email: OVCbookings@aol.com - tel: 01372 841892

Further information on the Trust is available on the Charity Commission's website https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/305089



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A reflection on the sporting opportunities at RKS

Oxshott, Surrey, March 2022 – Joe Blaney, Deputy Headteacher at The Royal Kent School (RKS), Oxshott tells us a little about the sporting opportunities at the school.

In recent years, RKS has strived to develop sporting opportunities for children both inside our school grounds and within the local community.

Our school sports curriculum, and extended day clubs have been enhanced since the redevelopment of our playground and construction of our Multi-Use Games Arena (MUGA) in 2017, followed by the refurbishment of our school hall and indoor equipment in 2019. We are extremely grateful to the Elmbridge Community Infrastructure Levy funding, in additional to significant PTA funding at our school, which enabled these improvements to take place.

Beyond the school gates, we have enjoyed making use of the wider community's facilities. A class of KS2 pupils visit the Oxshott Village Sports Club weekly for tennis lessons, and the children have also thrived whilst using the substantial grounds at OVSC for competitive sports fixtures (for example, football, cricket, netball and cross-country) with other local schools. At the time of writing, our annual Esher District Cross Country event is fast approaching and RKS hope to retain this title for a sixth year in a row. Our PTA work with Parkside School to provide great value and high quality swimming lessons after school each week, and for a small school our results in local swimming galas over recent times have been phenomenal. In February we were the winners of a competition against a number of other local schools.

At RKS we strongly believe in giving children an outstanding foundation in sporting opportunities to promote positive well-being. From their time in our new Ladybird Nursery, our pupils understand the importance of applying our three school rules of being Ready, Kind and Safe to all aspects of school life. Just like all other classes in the school, our Nursery children receive a weekly lesson from a professional sports coach.

For some of our children, their school day starts at 7:20am as they attend our 'Early Risers' activity pre-school club hosted by the Chelsea FC Foundation. After the

school day, there are a variety of after school sporting clubs on offer that include football, judo, multi sports and dodge ball.

A recent development in our PE curriculum is our work with Surbiton Hockey Club, who are now delivering a 6 week introductory program of lessons to all of our children in KS2 and supporting staff confidence with teaching this sport. In May 2022, with the support of Pachesham Golf Centre, we will be holding golf taster sessions at the school to encourage children to play golf in our local community. If you are a local sporting provider, and feel you could offer further opportunities to enhance our curious and sporting school community, then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

The Royal Kent Church of England School is a happy and high achieving one form entry school in the heart of Oxshott, Surrey; the school has had a presence in the village, albeit in a different building, since 1820. We are an inclusive Christian school for local children, and we welcome families of different faiths and cultures. All children benefit from our strong links with our parish church St Andrew's. Staff, pupils, and parents are very proud of our school, its heritage and values. Our school motto is 'Learning for Life' and we aim to equip our pupils with the skills and attitude to continue learning throughout life and develop them, in partnership with parents and the community, into independent, caring and creative adults.



Litter Picking

by Cristina Addison

The Oxshott Litter Picking Group was created over three years ago in response to the yearly increase of litter along Oxshott roads, verges and streets.

We are a group of volunteers with a common goal of keeping Oxshott tidy, who get together at least 4 times a year on set dates, picking up litter for about an hour.

Each member picks litter in an area close to his or her house. At the end of the litter picking activity, we enjoy a coffee and a chat at the local cafe. Sometimes we compare our pickings to see who has collected the most cans or gin bottles.

This year the plan is to keep track of the number of bags we collect. If you would like to join us, all you need is your own litter picker, and Fedora provides a Hi Viz safety vest, while the Council provides the plastic bags.

The coming litter picking dates are June 8th, September 14th, and December 7th. In between these dates some of us do some extra picking when we see that it is needed.

Please contact FEDORA at litter@fedora.org.uk which will direct you to the group coordinator. Last and by no means least, many thanks to all the group members and residents who help keep our village free of litter.





BEVENDEAN PRE-PREP Open House

Friday 17 June • 10am - 12pm

This morning is for families looking to join Danes Hill School in Nursery, Reception or Year 1. You will have the opportunity to hear from the Bevendean Headteacher, Mrs Ruth Samson, see the school in action and go on a tour of all the wonderful facilities Bevendean has to offer.

Our Open Houses are intimate events and we keep the numbers small so we can offer a personalised morning to the prospective families attending.

Book your place at daneshillschool.co.uk/news/bevendean-open-house





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Cobham Area Foodbank

by Caroline Robins

Today, even in the area of Cobham, there are families struggling to put food on the table. For people on low incomes a sudden crisis - redundancy, benefit delays, or an unexpected bill - can mean going hungry. Every day parents skip meals to feed their children, and people are forced to choose between paying the rent, the heating and eating. More than ever the Pandemic and the changed governmental financial policies that followed have put many families in distress and in urgent need.

In the last 12 months, Cobham Area Foodbank provided emergency food for more than 2,000 adults and children in Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon, Downside, Oxshott, East & West Horsley and Effingham. The numbers are increasing rapidly this year.

Our Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust national network of foodbanks.

The Distribution Centre operates from the Cobham United Church (CUC), 38 Stoke Road; Cobham KT11 3BD. Clients with vouchers are welcome Tuesdays from 12 noon to latest 13.15, closing at 13.30. Voucher providers can be found on our website.

You can help all local people in crisis by:

- Buying non-perishable food items and giving them to the Foodbank's collection/drop off points in and around Cobham. Fortnightly a new list of needed items to stock up the warehouse is published on our media platforms: Facebook @CobhamAreaFoodbank or Twitter @FoodbankCobham, https://cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/ and at all collection/drop off points.
- Making a 'one off' financial donation or set up a direct debit: visit our website and click on the red donate button – it's very easy to do thanks to "Wonderful". If you can, please complete the Gift Aid form too.
- Are you interested in volunteering: write to our Volunteer Coordinator:Christina@cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk and please include a telephone number so we can call you back.

Collection points: Waitrose, Sainsbury's (High St); The Bakery in Effingham or in Hollyhedge Road, Cobham, Cobham Rugby Club, or at any of the churches in Cobham, Oxshott, Downside, Stoke D'Abernon and East Horsley, and at Effingham and West Horsley.

No fresh or 'out of date' food please!

Any queries: T 01932 450282 E manager@cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk W www.cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk

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Centre for Sight

by Kinjal Basu

Internationally renowned Eye Centre with a branch on Oxshott High Street celebrates 25 Years!

Centre for Sight recently celebrated 25 years in business, providing medical and surgical eye care for patients nationally and internationally. Founded in 1996 by Oxshott resident Medical Director Sheraz Daya and his wife Marcela Espinosa-Lagana, Centre for Sight has become an established brand with three branches and more to come.

The Centre is recognized as one that is innovative and generated considerable number of developments – no wonder it is a reference site for the several ophthalmic manufacturers. Sheraz Daya himself has been listed as amongst the world's 100 most influential ophthalmologists and in 2019 listed amongst the top 50! He has also been listed in the Daily Mail's list of best cataract surgeons in the UK.

With small beginnings, the Centre initially rented out a few rooms at the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead and within a few years grew considerably with the need to develop larger premises. The flagship centre at East Grinstead was purpose-built 12 years ago as an energy-efficient and sustainable eye hospital and was recipient of an architectural award and also featured in Domus magazine – an architect's dream!

The ethos of the Centre has always been to exceed patients' expectations at every level. The best way to accomplish this was to establish a free-standing self-contained eye hospital able to provide diagnostics and surgery all under one roof.



The vision for Centre for Sight was to be an exemplary provider of medical and surgical care in the UK.

As Oxshott residents, Sheraz Daya and Marcela Espinosa-Lagana wanted to offer care to the local community and developed the current facility on the High Street. Although it appears quite small on the outside, the building is much larger and extends behind "Cock a Doodle Dough". Cataract surgery, Laser eye surgery, Lens implants, Corneal transplants and also Retinal Detachment surgery is performed at this location with identical technology as the East Grinstead facility.





Centre for Sight also has a location in the Harley Street enclave in London. Patients are seen in consultation along with a full battery of investigations and if they require surgery are treated in either Oxshott or East Grinstead.

As both Sheraz and Marcela will tell you, they get an absolute thrill both restoring and correcting vision and in particular exceeding patients' expectations.

A well-kept secret with over 25 years of eye excellence, focused on patient experience, outstanding outcomes and close industry collaboration, Centre for Sight truly is a World Class surgical eye care provider and recognised by the ophthalmic industry as a centre of excellence and point of reference and continues its pioneering work in Laser Eye Surgery, Cataract surgery and Laser lens replacement.

The centre has achieved its exemplary status, through good clinical governance, excellent outcomes all delivered through phenomenal teamwork. This is externally substantiated by achieving Silver certification with "Investors in People". The clinic has also been rated good overall and outstanding for leadership by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). It is also one of very few hospitals with ISO9001, ISO14001, and ISO27001 certification.





Speaking to Medical Director, Sheraz Daya -

Q: What are you most proud of looking back over the last 25 years?

Mr Daya: "Looking back, it has been an incredible journey and wonderful to realise our intention which was to provide a means for us as ophthalmologists and clinicians to provide patients with the highest standard of eye care available worldwide. Never being one for mediocrity, the only way we felt we could accomplish this level of excellence was to establish ourselves as centre of excellence with the freedom of space, technology and people. I am pleased we have accomplished this goal!"

Q: What do you feel is CFS's biggest achievement within the industry?

Mr Daya: "Integrating innovation, research, and technology with patient care. As an organization we have been able to audit and constantly improve outcomes and set standards. The other great achievement has been working closely with the ophthalmic industry and to be able to innovate and influence development of lasers and new technology. "

Q: How was the journey to reach this point? Were there any big challenges that CFS overcame?

Mr Daya: "Looking back, I was perhaps a bit naive and did not realise what embarking on this project would involve. Besides providing clinical care, there are so many other aspects involved in developing an organization and like so many business owners, it has been sheer hard work with a fair share of sleepless nights. One of our biggest challenges was the financial crisis in 2008, which occurred while we were in the process of building both Oxshott and East Grinstead locations. We thankfully managed to complete both and keep our heads above water! Despite the challenges, it is wonderful to now revel in our accomplishments."

Q: Aspirations for long term?

Mr Daya: "We believe we have a great model of care which continues to evolve. It will be wonderful to extend our principles and ethos to include patients under the NHS. It is our intention to grow through both acquisition of other centres nationwide and through development of further sites in collaboration with like-minded consultant ophthalmologists.

I must acknowledge and thank the old management and staff at the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Trust where we had our early beginnings. The people at the hospital and the Corneoplastic Unit enabled us to commence as a Centre for Laser Eye Surgery and supported us through our years of growth.

Success can only be achieved by having a team of people working together with the same goals and of course an element of luck. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have excellent administrative and clinical staff who have understood the Centre for Sight difference. I am pleased to say this continues with incredible staff, one or two who have passed the 10- and 15-year mark. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to all staff past and present over the last 25 years

We are fortunate to have ophthalmic consultant colleagues at Centre for Sight who are amongst UK's best and support the ethos of providing exemplary eye care. Most of all I am thankful to my ophthalmologist partner and wife Marcela who has been steady in her support and encouragement over all these years. Also, not to forget thanks to my children Olivia and Fernando who probably saw less of their dad than they perhaps should have!

Finally, I am very thankful to all the patients who have entrusted us with their care and continue to do so with many returning to see us after again two decades following Laser Eye Surgery! We feel very privileged and fortunate."



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