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#### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

A growing sense of community... by Anthony Wolfe

Is it just me or does there seem to be a growing sense of community across the village? Certainly, it is



something that Reverend Frances Trickey has been keen to encourage and foster with a greater sense of unity amongst the various community bodies.

There is great cohesion around the planning for the Coronation weekend, with several community groups coming together to map out a plan. Although there is still much detail to be worked through, the outline for the weekend is as follows:

#### Coronation weekend, 6-8th May

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May** – the Coronation. St Andrews Church will be open. They will be showing the Coronation on a large screen in the church itself for those who might wish to enjoy the historic event with other members of the community.

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May** – a special service will be held in the morning to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Scouts will be there to add a bit of pomp and circumstance.

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May** – a morning of volunteering followed by a picnic lunch at the Village Centre in the field outside the doctors' surgery.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May, volunteering is the focus, with three initiatives spread across the village (10am – 12 noon):

Oxshott Heath – this will be led by Brian Murphy and the Scouts who will be taking advice from Elmbridge BC as to what can be helpfully done.

The recreation ground, off Waverley Road – the idea would be to clear up the area, but we need to find a local resident to act as coordinator for this initiative.

The wide verge along the A244 outside Old Farmhouse Drive – the idea will be to cut back the wide swathe of brambles. Permission will need to be obtained from Surrey CC as they have responsibility for the verge. Angus MacIver, Chair of Wrens Hill RA, has kindly agreed to act as co-ordinator for this initiative.

This culminates in a 'bring-your-own' picnic, planned to start at 12.30, with the community spreading out across the field on blankets to enjoy a picnic with friends and family. There will be a limited number of tables and chairs available.

If you want to help with one of the three volunteering initiatives, then please do get in touch with me at <a href="mailto:chair@fedora.org.uk">chair@fedora.org.uk</a> and I will pass your details on to the relevant co-ordinator.

#### Three more dates for your diary

Oxshott Net Zero Village Day: Saturday 22nd April, 11am - 5pm

Danes Hill School 75th Anniversary Fete: Saturday 24th June, 1pm -4pm

Royal Kent School Summer Fete: Saturday 1st July, 12 noon – 4pm

#### **Volunteering**

At the AGM I welcomed the fact that some 60 residents of Oxshott were involved in supporting FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC whether it be distributing the organisation's magazine, litter picking or making a difference to the paths, hedgerows, and verges about the village. These three teams are making a noticeable difference, not least to the environment in which we all live. And the numbers continue to swell, so thank you.

#### A new magazine editor

I am delighted that Nicole Birrell has put herself forward and agreed to become the new editor of the Magazine for FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC. She has a bunch of new ideas and will keep us all on our toes. If you have ideas for her or wish to write an article (or two!) then please contact her at <a href="magazine@fedora.org.uk">magazine@fedora.org.uk</a>.

#### **Oxshott Community Speed Watch**

FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott is keen to give its support to creating an Oxshott Community Speed Watch. This will be important in light of the imminent introduction of a 20-mph speed limit in the centre of the village, as well as the reduction in the speed limit to 30 mph in Sandy Lane and at the village-end of Fairoak Lane. I am delighted to announce that Stephane Alby has volunteered to serve as co-ordinator of this group.

## OXSHOTT COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking to build a team to address the speed of vehicles driving around and through the village.

If you would like to help, please contact Stephane Alby at OCSW@fedora.org.uk

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Volunteers will be required to go through a training programme organised by the Police, but this is not demanding.

In conclusion, all of us involved in FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC are very conscious that we have been asking you to participate in various consultations in the past few weeks with the Elmbridge Design Code, as well as the proposed speed reductions mentioned earlier, and no doubt there will be more to come! Thank you for responding to those calls for consultation. It does make a difference and, as Ian Dilks notes in his article, it is noticed by our local councillors and the officers at Surrey CC and Elmbridge BC!

This summer Oxshott will be busy.... and hopefully Ian Dilks (and you) will see some substantive progress with our roads that will reflect his diligent work on your behalf to make Oxshott a better place to live. A big thank you to all those who have and are stepping forward to help in the community.

Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with Reverend Frances Trickey as she recovers from her surgery.

**Anthony Wolfe** 





#### Local plan, Elmbridge Design Code

There was a terrific response locally to the EBC consultation on Design codes. About 60% of all responses within the borough came from the

Cobham & Oxshott area and nearly all the comments made within the area made clear the level of local dissatisfaction with the idea that Oxshott should be treated as a residential suburb of Cobham. Our councillors are on board, and we now need to see how EBC responds. It seems that it is still the intention of EBC to submit its draft local plan to a government appointed Inspector later this year.

#### Local planning applications

There are a few applications worthy of note:

#### **Fernhill**

An application to replace one detached house with two pairs of semi-detached houses was approved last month. This is highly regrettable and indicates the extent to which Oxshott is under threat from developers and the relative inability of EBC to resist given the shortfall in housing numbers.

#### High Street

There is an application in place to change the site containing the present village store and adjoining Cock a Doodle Dough premises. FEDORA is supportive of the principle of modernising

the High Street but recognises that the concerns of near neighbours need to be given careful consideration.

#### 46 Copsem Lane

An application was approved in 2022 for the building of 22 houses behind Greenways, next to the existing care home. A revised application has now been made seeking to build a second large care home with 68 beds on this site. This is an unwanted application that will have a detrimental effect on the demand for primary healthcare services and exacerbate existing traffic congestion.

If anyone needs any further information, please contact Mike on <u>planning@fedora.org.uk</u>.



#### **ROADS UPDATE**

by Ian Dilks

I referenced in my article last Autumn the complexities involved in getting anything done to improve our roads and pavements and some of the reasons progress can appear painfully



slow. Although at the time of writing nothing tangible or visible has happened we are inching closer on a number of projects. The current position on the major issues of concern is summarised below. We will update supporters on other projects when there is more progress to report.

20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

## 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village

Many thanks to all those who responded to the consultation on this proposal. The response level set new records for Surrey Highways (SH) which

has emphasised to them both the

strength of local feeling on this issue and the degree of local support for FEDORA more generally, which can only be helpful in future discussions. Although over 90% of responses were in support there were a few objections which had to be assessed individually and this caused some delay. We understand all process is now complete and objections dealt

with and have been told that the new speed limit should be

in place by the end of March, perhaps by the time you read this article.

## Night time HGV prohibition

We now have an outline map from SH showing how this is expected to operate and we understand that all the major objections that we have referred to previously have been overcome. The proposal is for a legally enforceable

prohibition on vehicles over 7.5 tonnes between the hours of 10pm and 6am. The intention is to implement this by way of a



temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), a simpler process to enable it to be put in place more quickly. We have been pressing for this to be accelerated given the problems created by the M25 J10/A3 interchange works. With the helpful support of the relevant Surrey councillors, we are told this TRO has been given priority. Some statutory process, including advertisement, is still required but we hope to have the prohibition in place by early summer.

#### M25 J10/A3 interchange

We have provided in our monthly emails, details of major aspects of this work and how to keep up to date using the National Highways dedicated website. Our meetings with representatives of Balfour Beatty (contractors to National Highways) and Surrey councillors at the beginning of the year identified that although the A244 was not a specified diversion route for these works little thought had been given to the risk of drivers choosing to use it instead of the signed diversion routes. Following those meetings additional signs were arranged to the north and south of Oxshott advising that this was not a suitable diversion route. This appeared to be working until recent weeks when. probably as a result of M25 night time closures, Oxshott has again been blighted by large numbers of HGVs travelling through the village at night. FEDORA has been in contact with both Balfour Beatty directly and our Surrey councillors who have asked SH to work with the contractors to put in place better signage. There is at least an acknowledgment of the problem but currently little sign of any urgency to deal with it. FEDORA will keep pushing for action but if you are personally impacted our February email contained

details of how to report a complaint to National Highways.



#### Steels Lane crossing

Working with (Surrey) Sugden we are seeking to organise an improved crossing at the junction with Holtwood and Oakshade Roads. Support and funding for a supervised crossing for children at the beginning and end of the school day has been offered by SH but their head of road safety has said this can't be done until improvements are made to the crossing site of the signage. We have requested SH to provide urgent costings for the work they deem necessary

and will be seeking ways to fund the work, including from Cllr Sugden's delegated allocation of the SH budget. In addition, discussions with SH are continuing to see if as a temporary measure some form of supervised crossing might be possible.

We are continuing to work with SH to encourage progress on other projects, in particular an improved footpath in the High Street

outside the Vic pub and, to the west of the A244, a continuous footpath into the centre of the village. The most complex part of the latter will be the section in front of Oxshott Lodge but the owners have made it clear they are supportive of a footpath and will work with SH to develop plans. An all parties meeting to consider options is planned.

## and finally, those potholes...

A common feature of many of local roads is increasing number of potholes, a problem shared with the rest of Surrey. The scale of the problem means that even though SH have deployed additional resources they are still stretched and are seeking to do both temporary repairs worst holes and on the schedule more substantial repairs where needed in the months ahead. FEDORA has reported the worst areas, in particular on the southern approach to the railway bridge. Often however SH are not aware of where potholes exist. Potholes should be reported to their on-line using SH reporting system. This is simple to do although they will for details, including photos if possible, so they can prioritise their work. There is a link to report potholes on the front page of the Surrey County Council website and further details are available on the FEDORA website.

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#### **GREEN SPACES**

#### by Lindy Wheeler

Our volunteers have been busy since we last updated you clearing areas around our village, and Surrey Highways have also been planting lots of trees in Oxshott.

#### **Tree Planting**

This winter the long verge by the A244 outside Danes Hill School has been planted up by Surrey Highways. This verge had been reduced to grass during works a few years ago to improve the turn into and out of the school. We now have a significant visual improvement.

There are 12 native varieties of trees and a long hedge of a mix of 13 different native hedging whips in front of the wooden fence. Danes Hill School has volunteered to keep everything watered; thank you.



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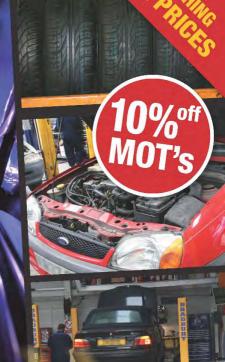








Registered Member



Danes Hill planted daffodils some time ago too. The trees have been planted in positions where the daffodils should not be disturbed and to enable a pavement to be added to this side of the A244. There are also wildflowers growing naturally and it is hoped these will be allowed to grow fully without being mown. FEDORA - The Voice for Oxshott provided the compost and spent time organising everything with the Highways Environmental Officer, Robbie Stewart.

#### **Station Triangle**

Elmbridge Green Spaces have again cleared this prior to Christmas so the bulbs planted two years ago by FEDORA could explode into colour. Thank you.

The Volunteer Green Team have been working on small projects, mainly along **Blundel Lane**. You may have seen us in our yellow Hi-Viz jackets:

• We have cleared all around the huge oak tree on the corner of the turn to the level crossing and old pavements reopened.





❖ A long hedge which was badly overgrowing onto the narrow path leading to the Premier Shop from Blundel Lane has been cut back with the help of a newly moved in householder and the pathway somewhat cleared. At last, no one is forced walk in the mud to avoid the hedge! More improvement will be done later in the year.



There is ongoing work to increase the width of this same pathway and that across the green area

- opposite Waverley Road/ Blundel Lane junction.
- ❖ A branch from the footpath that runs parallel to Steels Lane and leads to the Village car park, but hidden behind the trees, has been reopened. This enables easy crossing from where the pavement on one side stops to this footpath.



A big thank you must be given to Chris Walker, a gardener who lives in Oxshott. He gives freely of his and his assistant Sarah's time to help us with jobs requiring mechanised equipment that we are not allowed to use.

The Volunteers meet roughly every fortnight. Attendance is not compulsory! If anyone would like to join us or if

anyone has an idea for a project to be tackled, please get in touch. Thanks.

greenoxshott@fedora.org.uk



A team of 5 from the Green Spaces Team finished widening the path through the green area close to the Blundel Lane 'bend' this Thursday. Now buggies can use it and pedestrians walk abreast.







Lookout for the competition to design our logo

## Oxshott Net Zero

smaller footprint, brighter future

## Village Day

Join us for our launch event with stalls, information, talks and demonstrations to help reduce carbon

## Saturday, April 22

11 - 5, Oxshott Village Centre a day for everyone





#### **OXSHOTT NET ZERO VILLAGE DAY**

by Diana Thornton, Co-founder of Oxshott Net Zero

Reading the last edition of the Fedora magazine, several articles drew my attention: trees being planted; plans to improve the experience of pedestrians, including speed limits and safe crossings; new shops with a wider range of products within walking distance. At about the same time, the church magazine carried news of its refurbishment plans which will include solar panels and its reuse of current sound foundations.

It was something of a lightbulb moment when I realised that all of these things could be drawn together under a shared effort to reduce carbon in Oxshott. And so the idea for Oxshott Net Zero is, at least partially, down to this magazine.

The very fact that I was reading all of these things in one place is one of the inspirations for Oxshott Net Zero. We want that sense of shared effort to provide impetus. We want to provide a forum to celebrate what is

already taking place in the village and also to provide information and inspiration for people to make changes. Hopefully, we might reach a stage where it is normal to talk about carbon reduction at an AGM, a committee meeting or in the context of any initiative or development in the village as well as over coffee with friends. Hopefully, people will feel enabled to have ideas and make suggestions. Perhaps there is someone out there with the vision and the background to explore a

shared energy scheme or another ambitious plan.

Just a word about what we are not. We will not be campaigning or pressing for certain projects. We will not be telling people what to do (that never ends well!). We see our role as giving others the courage and

legitimacy
to run with
their
projects
because it is
something
which the
village
visibly takes

something
which the
village
visibly takes
seriously and is already
engaged with. Whilst we
recognise that there are a wide
range of views on the climate
crisis, we will not be using up

Engage with us if you want to. Ignore us if you prefer.

energy arguing the case for

carbon reduction which has

plenty of platforms elsewhere.

We plan to run events throughout the year to share

ideas and information. Our launch event is the Oxshott
Net Zero Village Day on 22
April, 11.00 – 17.00 in the
Village Centre. We are running a children's competition to design our logo and the prize will be awarded on the day.
We will have speakers on themes such as green

"Net Zero is coming whether we like it or not - the Government's target to be net zero is 2050, Elmbridge's target is 2030! Let's work together to help achieve this."

investments and greening your home; lots of stalls including Surrey Wildlife Trust and sustainable gardening; experts to talk to, including a

compost clinic and electric cars.

Bring along your bike for a quick MOT in the car park; seeds to swap at the gardening stall and your empty toiletries bottles to fill up at the refill stall.

We hope to see you on 22<sup>nd</sup> April but in the meantime, please do follow us on Facebook to get full details of the Village Day and future events. Use the QR code on our posters to link directly.



It is undoubtedly true that the biggest shifts to reduce carbon need to take place at a governmental and a corporate level. But that does not mean that we have no power to make a difference and it is certainly true that the more of us who engage in that effort, the more effective it will be.

\*Oxshott Net Zero has a pending registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.





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## COMMUNITY FÊTE



#### DANES HILL SCHOOL

#### 75th Anniversary

by Sasha Callis, DHS Marketing & Events Manager

This year, a Prep school in Oxshott, Surrey turns 75 years old, having first opened its doors in 1947 with just 16 pupils. To mark their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Danes Hill School will be throwing open their doors to the public and holding a Community Fete in June, to mark this momentous occasion.

Danes Hill transitioned from a private house to a private school in 1947. It began as a boarding and day preparatory school for boys aged 8-13, typical of a prep school of its day. In 1975 boarding had ceased and by 1980, Danes Hill School were taking boys from the age of 4. However, the most pivotal change came in 1982, when the former Bevendean School in Steel's Lane was purchased. At this point the school became fully co-educational. In 1984, Danes Hill School was acquired by the Davies Educational Trust. subsequently the Vernon

Educational Trust, which still own it today.

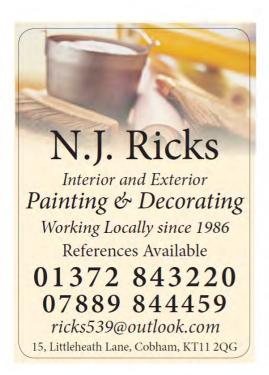
On Saturday 24 June, the school is inviting parents, pupils, staff, alumni and their extended families, and the local community to join them in their celebrations on the school grounds. The programme of events will include renditions from the Danes Hill Choir and Orchestra as well as guest performances from Theatretrain, a professional theatre training school for children, amongst others.

The fete will be a 1940s revival as a tribute to Danes Hill's

founding decade. Local businesses are invited to join us, running stalls, activities and participating in the performance programme. Those already confirmed include a classic car show, bake off competition and flower arranging stall.

Maxine Shaw, Head of Danes Hill School said, 'While it is our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this event is really about the people of Oxshott and wider local community. As a school, we are fortunate to be part of such a supportive community and this is our way of saying thank you for advocating our accomplishments over the last 75 years.'

Everyone is welcome to join the celebrations at Danes Hill School from 1pm until 4pm on Saturday 24 June. Those who would like to have a stall, perform, or run an activity, please contact the coordinating team via email at <a href="mailto:scallis@daneshill.surrey.sch.uk">scallis@daneshill.surrey.sch.uk</a>



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## OXSHOTT VILLAGE SPORTS CLUB

W Common of the common of the

By Fiona and Sarah, Office Managers

It's an exciting time for your local sports club.

Away from the courts, OVSC has been active throughout the winter months with some major projects to upgrade our wonderful clubhouse and grounds. The clubhouse exterior was treated to a lick of paint in the Autumn, the driveway has been widened and exterior lighting has been improved.

Meanwhile back on the courts, the newly formed Oxshott

Mens 1st Padel team have secured their place in the Ipadel finals by winning their group. Great news for our newest sporting section at OVSC! Celebrations were doubled when the grand opening of the brand new Padel pavilion followed their win with an afternoon of Padel, Prosecco and Play. Oncourt speed tests and a competition to measure the

speed of smashes provided the competitive element to the afternoon and great fun was had by all.

Back inside, beginner sessions for ladies Racketball have been running, thanks to OVSC's new squash and racketball coach, Paul Broadberry. A great alternative to padel or tennis when the weather hasn't been playing ball (!) for outside matches, we had record numbers attending who have now been able to take advantage of the special discounted offer of Squash and Racketball membership for £150 for the coming year. For further details, please contact Sarah or Fiona in the OVSC office at office@oxshottsports.com

For our junior members, Paul and his team have also been trialling Multi Rackets Camps to run alongside the successful junior tennis camps.

Mornings of padel, squash and racketball have been hugely successful and further camps will be running in the Easter Holidays. Again, contact the club office for further information.

The AGM for the club was held in February where we said goodbye and a very big thank you to John Chapman who stepped down as Club President after 6 years at the helm. Although retiring as President, John isn't going anywhere soon and now will hopefully have more time to play tennis and padel.

The coming summer looks bright and busy when the Maori-Oxshott cricketers return with numbers boosted by an off-season membership drive and the Bowls season

gets under way for another year. The annual summer tennis and padel tournaments are being planned, and with all 9 sections running throughout the summer months, OVSC really comes into its own when the days get longer, and the temperature gets higher (we hope!).

Social plans for the summer include a special Coronation Tea on Saturday 6 May, which coincides with the first league cricket match of the season. It promises to be a very special tea that day with a Bake-Off style competition which everyone is invited to come along to.

As ever we must thank our brilliant sponsors, Downs Solicitors and Curchods Estate Agents. Together with Signature Care Homes, they support OVSC with great commitment for which we are very grateful.

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#### LIVING WITH DANES HILL SCHOOL

Times have changed By Ian Dilks

We are delighted to report that the last year has seen major changes to the School's approach to working with the local community.

A new Head, Maxine Shaw, arrived in early 2022 together with a new Director of Finance and Operations, Elise Tonnard. Many readers will have met Maxine and Elise at the 2022 FEDORA AGM and heard them explain how they wish to work with the local community. In the last eighteen months, the School has appointed a new Chair of Governors and over half the Board are new to the School, A new Head of Estates, James Pope, has also been appointed.

As a result, experience of working with the School has changed significantly since we wrote about *Living with Danes Hill School* in the Autumn 2021 FEDORA magazine. There

have been useful meetings with many of the new leadership team and also with the Head of the Pre-Prep at Bevendean, which has resulted in a more constructive engagement on issues such as drainage and uprooted hedges.

The School has recently prepared, with input from representatives of local residents, a Community Charter. This sets out its commitments to working with the local community, together with some reasonable requests as to how it would like the local community to work with the School. FEDORA will be creating a dedicated Danes Hill School section on its website, which will contain this Charter and

communications from the School on topics such as key dates and events.

The School has reconfirmed the role of the Local Community Liaison Officer (LCLO) which is now held by Mrs Claire Kohler. Any routine queries or issues of concern regarding either of School's sites should be addressed to the LCLO using the email <a href="mailto:localcommunity@daneshill.surrey.sch.uk">localcommunity@daneshill.surrey.sch.uk</a>. The School has said that all communications

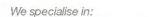
will be acknowledged and responded to as soon as possible.

We welcome these significant changes. Inevitably there will from time to time be issues to deal with, but we look forward to a close and cooperative relationship with Maxine Shaw and her team in the years ahead, to the benefit of both the School and the community in which it is based.



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### GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT



by Anja Davidson, Oxshott Group Scout Leader.

Oxshott Scouts and Guides are awarded Your Fund Surrey Grant to rebuild their dilapidated building.

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

relationship on both the Guides and Scouts side. It was time to give it another go.

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

Four and a half years on and there have been many ups, downs, and hurdles along the way, including Covid, the increase in building cost and the cost-of-living crisis.

Tragically, Lina passed away in 2021 and so is no longer with us to see her dream become reality.

In the summer of 2020, Covid
happened, and life changed in
ways we couldn't have
foreseen. We were struggling
to obtain grant funding with
many bodies directing their
funds towards Covid recovery.
We had obtained a grant from
Elmbridge through their
Community Infrastructure
Levy, and we were grateful to
be able to use it
to either rebuild
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or repair our building. We were reaching the conclusion that

we would have to repair, rather than rebuild, when Surrey County Council's Your Fund Surrey (YFS) project was announced with a fund of £100 million to fund community projects over 5 years.

We had yet another crisis meeting, and unanimously decided that as we had a project ready to go with full planning permission, we had to try to obtain funding from YFS. We registered our

interest in late 2020 and started the application process. We did have some setbacks along the way, such as having to totally re-tender the project as well as having to seek a new planning permission because the 3 year to-start period had expired.

And I am so overjoyed to say we have finally, after two and

a half years of hard graft, meeting after meeting, form after form, been awarded the

remaining full grant needed to be able to rebuild what will be known as the "Oxshott Community Hub", the home of Oxshott Scouts and Guides. We also look forward to a wide range of community groups using the wonderful new facility.

There are many people who have worked on this along the way that we would like to thank. I'd like to specifically thank our Surrey County

planning application

was approved on 10th

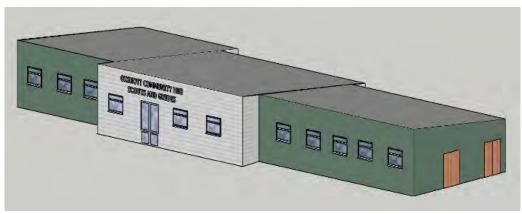
March!"

Councillor, Mark Sugden, who has supported us a great deal over the last 12 months and getting over this last hurdle would not have happened without his help. Thank you.

There are two people who have given so much of their time and energy, and likely grown a few grey hairs along the way. Words cannot describe how grateful I am to John Major, for all your professional knowledge, to get this project off the ground; your designs and meticulous eye for detail have kept this project in check. To Alison Shannon, Oxshott Rainbow

and Brownie Leader, who submitted every single grant application and never gave up, becoming the contact person working tirelessly with YFS. Truly, this project would not be where it is now without the two of you. Thank you.

To everyone else, whether commenting via "Have your Say", buying a Christmas tree or in any other way, we can't wait to share this building with you, and will share with you the progress along the way.



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#### **TOP TIPS FOR STUDENTS**

An interview with Sarah Dean, Director of Student Springboard

As a parent who has been through the process with a child of getting to the end of their time at school and having to think about what comes next, I know what a stressful time this can be.

Speaking to Sarah Dean, Director of Student Springboard, she had some wonderful pearls of wisdom which she shared with me.

At the beginning of our conversation, I asked Sarah what led her to start coaching and advising school leavers. She started Student Springboard about 6 years ago, having spent her career working for large corporates running their graduate and apprenticeship hiring programs. "I found I was regularly advising students on how to choose which job to

apply for; or giving them tips on how to get through interviews and assessments and I realised there was a gap in the market. My then 13year-old son was starting to think about his GCSE choices, so it seemed like a good time to get a coaching qualification and launch the business". Sarah has always loved working with students, "They have an amazing energy and curiosity about the world of further education and careers and helping them to discover who they are and where they might fit in the world is really satisfying".

When I asked Sarah what her top 5 tips would be for anyone about to start this chapter of their life journey, she said that these are the questions you should be thinking about:



#### How well do you know yourself?

Before you start specifically thinking about what you want to do after school spend some time getting to know yourself better: your interests, your strengths, your values. Make sure you have a really good idea about what is important to you.



#### Is studying further right for you?

Decide whether studying further is the right decision for you. There are many options out there nowadays which don't involve fulltime study. Going to university requires a lot of self-motivation – remember you will usually be studying one subject in great depth for 3 or 4 years!



#### What subject are you passionate about?

If fulltime study is what you want to do, is there a specific subject that you are really passionate about? Universities will want to see proper evidence of this passion in your application should you go down this route. "My number one tip is – do something you are genuinely interested in. I have coached students who have completely changed tack on their course once they've really given it some thought and realised it's completely unsuitable for them! Secondly, do your research – look at the course modules and how much 'contact time' you get as this varies enormously from one university to another".



#### What are your options?

Explore all your options, for example - Degree apprenticeships, Higher apprenticeships or taking a gap year. Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular and are now available in most professions; they provide a balance between working (earning) and studying for either a degree or professional/relevant qualifications. It is certainly not an easy option – places are highly sought after so the assessment processes are rigorous. "Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are a fantastic alternative to going to University and I see more and more choosing this route. Typically, apprentices will work most of the week (and get paid!) and then attend a college or University to study a relevant qualification. This might be a degree or a professional qualification such as the ACA".



#### Have you got the balance right?

Make sure you get the balance between earning and learning right for you. Everyone has different priorities at this stage in life.

Student Springboard offers careers/further education coaching, which is ideal for students who are confused or overwhelmed by their options beyond Sixth Form or University and need some external, professional help to find the right next steps. Sarah also provides skills

development, which typically involves supporting students to create effective CV's, LinkedIn profiles, and preparation and practice for interviews and assessments – so this is perfect for any student stepping into the world of work.

I asked Sarah what the most common concern was that students and parents came to her with. "So many students struggle to write their personal statements, and they are very important for university applications. The thought process that students go through with me as we plan their statement is where the real personal value comes in, as what they learn not only helps them write a great Personal Statement, but also provides a better insight into themselves that they will potentially use as a basis for future career decisions."

Sarah is currently working on developing an online (live) workshop for students to create and improve CV's and learn more about how to succeed in assessments and interviews. These will be perfect for any student who is entering work – so Sixth Formers applying to Apprenticeships/Degree

Apprenticeships as well as those at university.

As we were finishing off, I asked Sarah what she enjoys most about the work that she does, "It is so lovely when I hear from a student or parent what a difference I have made to their son/daughter's confidence - and of course it's always fantastic when I learn that someone has been offered their first choice University or secured a great job following my input".



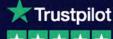


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#### **OXSHOTT MEDICAL PRACTICE**

An interview with Claire Broadhurst, Practice Manager By Nicole Birrell

Oxshott Medical Practice (OMP) is so much more than a provider of GP appointments. Did you know that now based at the Practice there is a Physiotherapist, a Pharmacist, a Paramedic, and a Phlebotomist?

These staff are shared with other Leatherhead practices to form the Leatherhead Primary Care Network (PCN). Appointments with any medical professionals can be booked through Reception. Here is when they are available:

#### First Contact Physiotherapist

**George:** Monday afternoon at Cobham and Wednesday at

Oxshott.





### Paramedic Ellie:

Wednesday and Friday: morning clinic at the practice and afternoon home visits for the housebound.



drug monitoring.

### Pharmacist Ami:

Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays – medication reviews, asthma, DOAC and

#### **Epsom Hospital Phlebotomist**

A phlebotomist is at the surgery on Tuesday mornings. Should you need a blood test on another week day appointments can be booked at Epsom hospital or Leatherhead hospital. Details of how to book at Epsom and Leatherhead are available from Reception.

## After hours and Saturday appointments

Additional GP or nurse appointments are available weekday evenings (18:30 – 21:30) and Saturdays (09:00 – 17:00) through GPHP at Leatherhead Hospital and Cobham Health Centre. You can pre-book these via the practice receptionists. Further details are available on the OMP website...

oxshottmedicalpractice.nhs.uk

#### Video appointments via Livi

OMP also offer NHS GP appointments by video with 'LIVI'. Available Mon-Fri 07:00 to 22:00 and Sat-Sun 08:00 to 16:00. Details of how to book with LIVI are available

via the OMP website. Livi provide medical advice, prescriptions and referrals on the same day, including weekends. The service is provided free on the NHS. You can download the Livi app to your mobile phone or tablet at the app store or Google Play or visit www.livi.co.uk for more information. Remember to load which GP practice you are registered with to avoid being charged.

#### Website

The OMP website is active Mon – Fri 08:00 to 18.30. Outside these times information on the GPHP Hubs and LIVI are available on the home page.

**Patient Participation Group** 

(PPG) This group consists of patients at the Surgery who give up their spare time to promote the surgery, work closely with the staff and welcome thoughts from fellow patients on how to improve the services Oxshott offers. The PPG welcome new recruits and for further information on how to join the PPG please go





Dr Rachel Woodriffe **BChD** 

**Dr Claire Morrice** 



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to the website and complete the form.

## Training and Health Campaigns

Oxshott is a training practice and regularly hosts Medical Students and Registrars as part of their training into Primary care. The Practice regularly runs health campaigns; the current campaign is on patient Health and Wellbeing. Patients can be referred to various Health and Wellbeing services in the local area and include bereavement, emotional, social, and financial support. Please speak to one of the Reception team or your GP for more information.

If you would like to make an appointment with a specific doctor, here is a reminder of the days that they are available at the practice.

Dr Richard Draper - Thursday/Friday

**Dr Mark Jenkins** - Monday/Tuesday morning/Wednesday and Friday

Dr Alice Palfreman - Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

**Dr Esmat Abbas - Monday morning / Thursday/Friday** 

Dr Hannah Coleman - Wednesday/Thursday

Dr Laura Peeke - Monday/Tuesday

**Dr Harriet Wright (Registrar) -** Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

**Nurse Rose** - Monday afternoon/ Tuesday/Thursday/Friday morning.

#### **OXSHOTT CARE**

By Margaret North, Oxshott Care committee member

Life can be so unpredictable, from unexpected changes in our health that undermine our independence, to equally unexpected changes in our personal circumstances. The fortunate ones have family members or good friends to turn to, but what happens to those who do not have such valuable back-up?

Oxshott Care is a voluntary organisation, coordinated by Shona McDuff which relies on the services of local volunteer drivers. It meets those unexpected needs that any one of us can experience at some stage in life, when we are ill or incapacitated, or when we are no longer able to drive. Hospital appointments can be particularly challenging, and we do not limit our service to this immediate area; trips have been made to Kingston, Guildford, Sutton, Chertsey, Carshalton and as far away as St Georges, Tooting. To rely on public transport is at best

challenging, and taxi use is costly. In addition, we believe that our clients also value the more personal experience we are able to provide.

We operate a weekly rota of duty officers, to receive requests for help. The phone line is open from 9am to 12 midday each weekday, with a recorded message facility registering messages outside those hours.

The group of drivers at Oxshott Care take our residents to all sorts of appointments, mostly medical and health related appointments, but are always open to different requests for help.

The Covid lockdown period caused a hiatus in our activity. However, we did not grind to a halt in that period.
Recognising the level of isolation felt by our clients, particularly those living alone, a number of our drivers became 'buddies' to clients, who welcomed having a phone call and chat, and in some cases help with shopping or collecting prescriptions.

There are no fixed charges for our services, we just ask for a voluntary contribution and we provide a guideline suggestion of a modest sum for the different destinations; our clients can pay as little or as much as they can afford. We have administrative expenses, along with insurance payments, which these contributions help to cover. Every few years when we find

we have a small surplus after all expenses have been covered, we use this money to benefit the community in a variety of ways. Some examples of past contributions are to the Guides for camping equipment, benches for the playground at the Royal Kent School, and contributing to the local Food Bank.

Oxshott Care could not exist without our wonderful team of

volunteer drivers, and we can never have too many. Our simple request is for one 'drive' each month, but only if

that works for them. We all have busy lives with many demands on our time - there will be plenty of other opportunities to help, so absolutely no problem if on a particular occasion the volunteer has to refuse. This is one of the main reasons we aim to retain a high number of volunteer drivers, so that the duty officer has plenty of other volunteers to call on.

You will find more information about Oxshott Care on our website oxshottcare.com. If you have any questions, please call us on 07950 478329 during the week. If it is after 12 noon or at the weekend, please leave a message and we promise to get back to you.

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## ARE YOU A FEDORA MEMBER?

by Nicole Birrell, FEDORA Magazine Editor

Twice a year the FEDORA – The Voice for Oxshott magazine has



dropped through my letter box. I really enjoy reading it but never gave much thought to what FEDORA stood for, or that even though I received the magazine I was not a member.

I have lived in Oxshott for 15 years and only recently became aware of the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by the FEDORA committee and a team of volunteers to help keep Oxshott the village that we all love to live in. So why did I decide to join the team and edit this magazine?

Almost two years ago, the residents of our road were faced with having to start a process of objecting to a development that seriously threatened the harmony and

local character of our neighbourhood. This was a turning point for me as it was the first time I needed to personally call on the expertise and advice of the committee members. To put faces to names I attended my first FEDORA meeting and was overwhelmed by the immediate support that was offered to me both by committee members and the Elmbridge councillors that were at the meeting.

I signed up as a member at that point and took more

notice of what was happening in Oxshott and the many more initiatives that committee members and volunteers were involved in. A year quickly rolled around and at the AGM in November last year I decided to put my hand up to edit the magazine.

I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to sign up as members. The more paid-up members FEDORA – The Voice for Oxshott CIC has, the more credibility we have in stating that FEDORA is indeed

the Voice for Oxshott. This is particularly important when representing Oxshott in discussions

with councillors, officers of Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC), Surrey County Council, our Member of Parliament and other community groups. Annual membership fees finance the administration of the organisation but more importantly, any surplus enables the organisation to consider making a contribution to any CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) bids that it is making.

Put simply, EBC levy a charge on new developments that goes towards funding local community projects. It is then up to local community organisations to bid for

those CIL funds
made available by
Elmbridge Borough
Council to fund
projects that will
benefit the local
community. When
considering these

bids councillors consider the merit of the project and look favourably on any contribution being made by the local community.

For me personally the main reason I choose to pay my £10

"Surprisingly,

FEDORA only has 260

members despite the

fact that the magazine

is delivered to around

2500 homes."

a year to be a member and volunteer to help out is the sense of satisfaction I get from doing something for the community that I love being a part of. If you feel like getting involved, please be in contact at <a href="mailto:info@fedora.org.uk">info@fedora.org.uk</a> for more information about volunteering opportunities or

follow us on Instagram or twitter **fedora oxshott.** 

Just in case you, like me for many years, don't know what FEDORA stands for, its

Federation of Oxshott

Residents Associations, but more importantly it's The

Voice for Oxshott.

Please help us strengthen The Voice for Oxshott and sign up today at <a href="https://www.fedora.org.uk/membership">www.fedora.org.uk/membership</a>



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CIC (th	ndersigned, hereby apply for membership of FEDORA – The Voice for Oxshott e "Company", registration number 13057190) and agree to be bound by the ons of the Company's Articles of Association.
I agree	to pay a Membership Fee of £10.00 for the 2023 calendar year which:
(2) (3)	has been set-up to be paid by annual standing order. (sort-code 20-90-56, account 80164445), or has been paid by internet banking (bank details as above), or is enclosed herewith and sent to the Membership Secretary, 35 Charlwood Drive, Oxshott, Surrey. KT22 OHB. elete as appropriate)
	ng online, please also email the information requested on this form to ership@fedora.org.uk so that your details can be recorded.
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Signed:	Date:
Printed	Name:

If this application is successful, I hereby authorise you to place my name on the

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