

The St Michael  
Steiner School



Newsletter  
May 2024

## Dates for your diaries

Mon 20 May — School Whitsun Festival

Tue 21 May — Class 8 Project Presentations (eve)

Fri 24-Sat 25 May — Parents' Conference

Sat 22 June — Summer Fair (11am-4pm)

Thu 27, Fri 28 & Sat 29 June — High School Summer Play

Fri 12 July — Last Day of Term

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Deep in the forests and jungles of the Thames Basin, an intrepid explorer or curious anthropologist may happen upon the encampments of the local inhabitants. Several rough but sturdy structures have been built in the thickets, serving as shelters, meeting places and shops selling coloured powders, fragments of highly prized ceramic, clay sculptures and nourishing snacks of three-cornered leek - a local delicacy.

These builders and merchants, usually to be spotted between the hours of 10.30 - 11am, and later between 1.30pm and 2pm, are generally a peaceable and friendly people, dressed in varied clothing, depending on their clan. Occasionally, territorial disputes break out between different groups and they have been known to go on raiding parties to steal each others' building materials. Most of the time, though, they are hard at work collecting and creating the wares for their stalls - they grind the powders, shape the clay and collect the three-cornered leek which they offer to passers-by.

Here are some photographs, taken during the winter months by a passing photographer whilst the dwellings were unoccupied.





# Class 3 Building





**Class 5&6 went on a trip to Hadrian's wall in Northumberland in mid April. This year the children have been learning about the Romans, who—among other things—were good engineers, building roads, aqueducts and walls all over their vast Empire. The children walked more than 10 miles daily along the wall, visited Roman sites and had a wonderful time overall!**





## Class 8 Chemistry

In this final year in lower school class 8 students studied the 7 ancient metals, organic chemistry and biochemistry – covering 3 main areas of ‘alchemy’. They carried out food tests identifying those which contain sugar, proteins and starch; in these photos students can be seen using iodine to test for starch. They investigated the ‘science of cooking’ by making fudge, bread, butter, cheese, hollandaise sauce and meringue! Soap was made with a full morning of stirring. After a day or two of waiting students decorated their soap and took it home for Easter gifts, each containing their personal choice of essential oils.

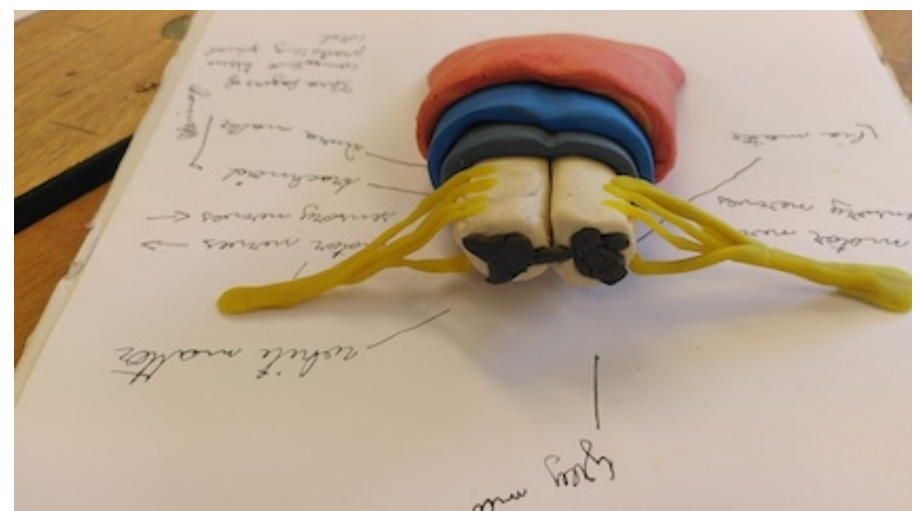
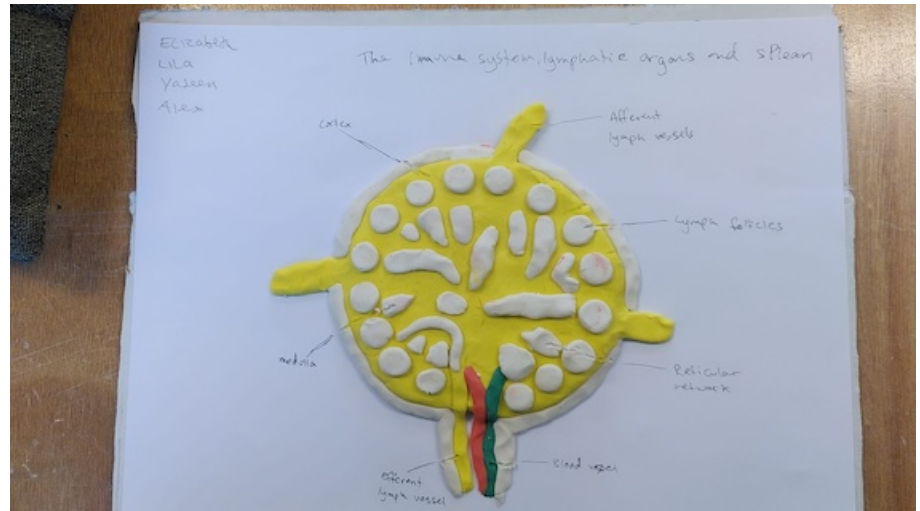
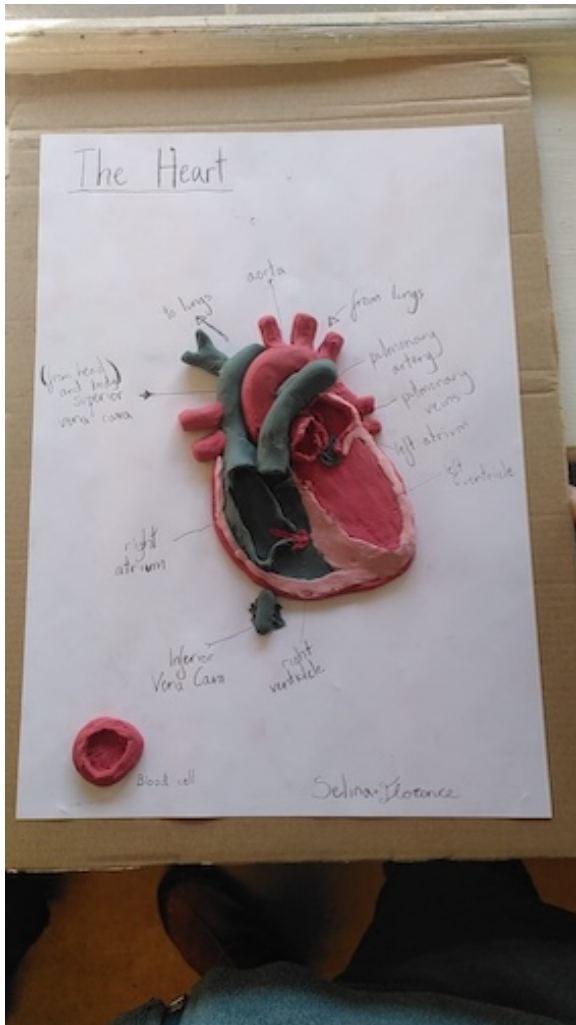
Sarah Houghton



## Class 10 Human Body Systems

As part of this main lesson students consider the dynamic wholeness of the human organism linking ‘thinking’ – sense/nervous system, ‘feeling’ – circulatory & respiratory systems and ‘willing’ - digestive & lymphatic system together as well as looking at the endocrine and male and female reproductive systems. They discover that all such ‘systems’ are intrinsically linked and that we find out more about them when we study diseases which affect them. Students went on to study diseases such as stroke, leprosy, dementia and endometriosis. This study of our inner systems links to the discussions which pop up in class related to relationships and the world around us. Here are some of their initial coloured clay-work of these ‘systems’.

Sarah Houghton





A close-up photograph of a hand touching a tree trunk. The hand is positioned at the top right, with fingers spread. A shadow of the hand is cast onto the bark below it. The bark is dark and textured. In the background, there are green leaves and more of the tree trunk. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

The St Michael  
Steiner School

**...by the  
pricking  
of my  
thumbs...**

**27, 28, 29 June**

## Class 11 Embryology



Embryology follows on nicely from work done on human body systems in class 10. Students study oogenesis and spermatogenesis, the fertilisation of an ovum by a spermatozoa and the subsequent metamorphosis of the embryo into a foetus. Students had an opportunity to visit da Vinci's embryological drawings at Windsor and we had a mother and baby come into class to visit us. With this birth stories are shared and students get to openly discuss pregnancy, birth and parenthood. This rich block involves work in clay, drawing, writing, debating, microscope slide work and relating their understanding to the world with each student taking on independent research work looking at subjects such as the embryological development of the

eye, home v. hospital birth, da Vinci's work and relating human birth to that of the cow, thalidomide, genetic versus physiological diseases in the womb, Dolly the Sheep and CRISP-R. Here are class 11's drawings.

Sarah Houghton

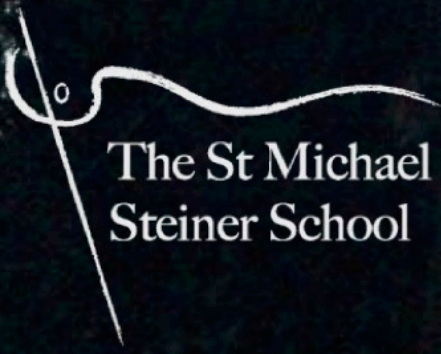
## Feltham Mosaic Project

Students were able to contribute to a global community mosaic project which will be erected at Feltham train station. Those who have a relationship with the train station or who live locally were invited to join in. Over 100 tiles from the local community made it into the mosaic along with others created by people from around the world. The theme for this first such community project in the UK was the five elements with water being chosen for Feltham, England. [The mosaic will be installed soon to create togetherness in our global community.](#)

Sarah Houghton







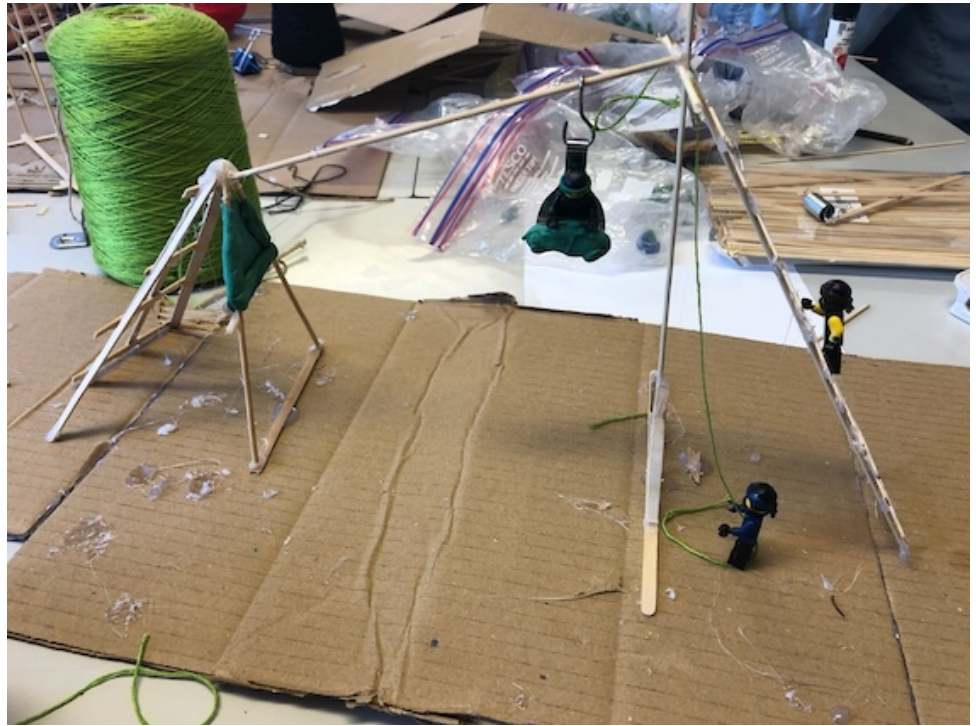
The St Michael  
Steiner School

**...something  
wicked  
this way  
comes...**

**27, 28, 29 June**



# High School Playground Design Intensive





## Seismology at Schools in Nepal

They say 'without earthquakes there are no mountains.'



At Easter I was invited to Nepal to present at the 4th International Workshop on Educational Seismology organised by Dr. Shiba Subedi and his colleagues at 'Seismology at Schools in Nepal'(SASIN). The workshop was aimed to train teachers from various districts of Nepal, equipping them with the necessary instruments, skills, and knowledge to educate pupils about earthquakes and their preparedness. A total of 60 participants attended, including teachers and students from more than 40 schools. In 2023 I presented via zoom to their 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop an 'Earthquake evacuation procedure guide' for schools related to my past research work and my experience as a teacher and fire officer here at our school. In 2024, I re-presented this work in person with active earthquake evacuation practices at a local secondary school and at the workshop venue and I was asked to speak about 'Earthquake education in the UK'. You can [find out more see here](#). One of the aims of this project is to support earthquake education and provide schools with a 'Raspberry Pi' seismometer, [if you are interested in supporting this important work go here](#).

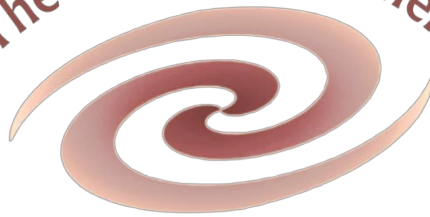
I was also invited to visit the 'Maitreya Pathshala – Pokhara Waldorf School'. Here I was able to meet with staff, and share a meal cooked by Bishnu, one of the school founders. It was the most delicious 'dhal baat' made with biodynamic produce gathered from their school garden with a glass of fresh cow's milk from their own cows. I got a full tour of their school and gardens and we shared stories about our schools. They will be having their first class 10 next year. [They'd love to be able to purchase a 'Raspberry Pi' for their school](#); which would not only support their earthquake preparedness but they could also use in the classroom. I'd like to present a bit more on my visit and ideas for the future in our next school newsletter and a fundraising evening at some point (if anyone would like to help organise this!) but until then I leave you with a couple of photos from this trip.

Sarah Houghton





The Modern Teacher



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IS THE  
TIME!**

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## TIME TO CONNECT:

Our courses in Waldorf Education are for current and future teachers, for parents, alumni, trustees, support staff, indeed all who long for education to become profoundly different. In the supportive company of others, we offer artistic, social and academic experiences that can be truly transformative.

## TIME TO GROW:

We are inspired by anthroposophy as a tool for discovering, deepening and developing the understanding of ourselves, our profession and the children we teach. We also take inspiration from current best practice and contemporary research in the UK and beyond.

## TIME TO BE INSPIRED:

*I have been a teacher in both secondary and primary mainstream education for around 9 years and have never felt as content and empowered as a teacher as I do now in Waldorf education. Having recently begun a new career as a class teacher, my school offered me the opportunity to attend this programme. I can safely say this is the best course I have ever been part of! It is well-structured with highly informative sessions and a great social opportunity to meet like - minded people and share meaningful discussions and experiences.*

*I look forward to each weekend with eagerness and impatience! The course tutors are highly knowledgeable and supportive, and the course content stimulating, enjoyable and challenging.*

LW, Waldorf Class Teacher, UK

## TIME TO FIND OUT MORE:



[info@waldorfmodern.uk](mailto:info@waldorfmodern.uk)

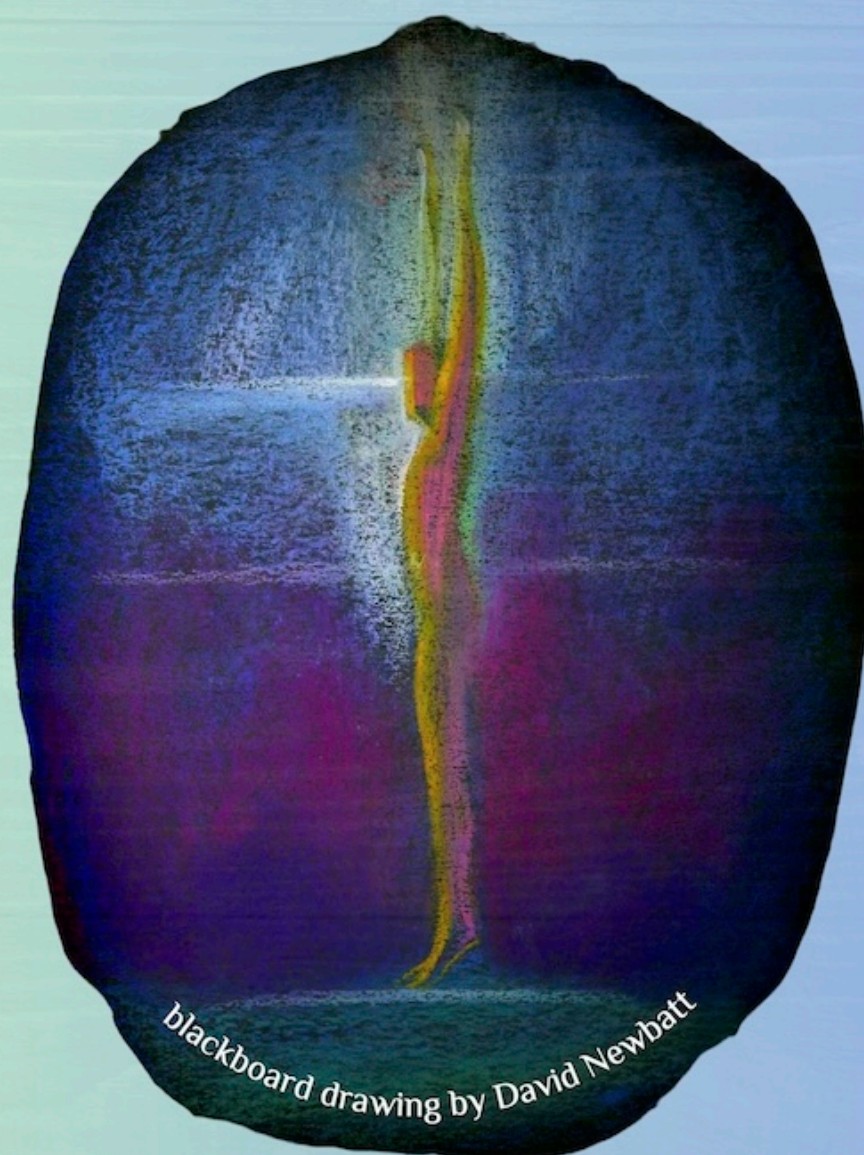




# Bothmer Movement Workshop With Martin Baker

Sport, Games, Gymnastics and Play in the Waldorf Curriculum,  
Therapy and Adult Education

Ringwood Waldorf School, Saturday 18th May, 9:30am - 5:30pm, £30



blackboard drawing by David Newbatt

Martin Baker trained as a PE teacher in the English state system and taught for ten years before retraining in Bothmer Movement and teaching in a Waldorf School for thirty years. He is a founding director of Bothmer Movement International and leads courses and workshops around the world.

Email [janettetams@gmail.com](mailto:janettetams@gmail.com) for further info. Reserve a place by paying £30 to:  
[www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/A5MZ9JLPX6J5W](http://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/A5MZ9JLPX6J5W)



# GROWING UP HEALTHY IN THE DIGITAL MEDIA WORLD

A task for parents, experts and  
the children and young people  
concerned

**Dr. Michaela Glöckler**

**Thursday 16th May at 7 pm**

Politics and business have also been actively promoting the digitalisation of the living environment of children and young people. As problematic media usage behaviour has now reached epidemic proportions, it is important to remember the basic conditions for healthy development in childhood and adolescence.



Dr. Michaela Glöckler, pediatrician and Waldorf school doctor. She is Co-founder of the Alliance for Childhood and the European Alliance of Initiatives for applied Anthroposophy/ELIANT.



**Ringwood Waldorf School**

Ringwood Waldorf School | Folly Farm Lane | Ringwood | Hampshire | BH24 2NN | 01425 472664  
A centre for Steiner education | A non-profit making limited company | Registered charity (1158673)



# COMMUNITY PAGES

Please note that the school does not endorse or recommend, either in general or in particular, anything offered in the community pages and parents are advised to check the qualifications of practitioners or people offering services here.

I, Matthew Ratcliffe, eurythmy pianist at school, am also Organist and Choirmaster at St. George's church, on the other side of Hanworth Air Park. We are looking for new members and I would love to hear from anyone in our wider community who would like to join us. We practise on Friday evenings at 7:30pm and sing for the weekly Mass on Sunday mornings at 10am and festival and feast days. I would be particularly interested to hear from confident music-readers who can support other choir members. We take ourselves seriously but can also be known to have a jolly good laugh and are a very friendly bunch. Do get in touch by email at [matthewratcliffemusic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:matthewratcliffemusic@yahoo.co.uk) or by phone, text or WhatsApp on 07504 687235. I very much look forward to hearing from you!



## Chess Lessons for Beginners

Quinton Daniels, an advanced chess player, age 15, is willing to teach beginner chess lessons.

£25 in-person (1 hour lesson)  
£20 online (1 hour lesson)

Available after school and weekends.

Email:  
[QuintonChessLessons@gmail.com](mailto:QuintonChessLessons@gmail.com)



## 1st Feltham Rainbows

*Come and Join us on Wednesdays at 17:30*

*For Girls aged 4-7*

*All Saints Church Hall, Woodlawn Drive*

*We encourage all girls to have fun while learning new skills and making friends!*

## 1st Feltham Brownies

*Come and Join us on Wednesdays at 18:30*

*For Girls aged 7-10*

*All Saints Church Hall, Woodlawn Drive*

*We encourage all girls to have fun while learning new skills and making friends!*

[Firstfelthamguides@hotmail.com](mailto:Firstfelthamguides@hotmail.com)



Games

Life skills

Camps Trips

Badges

Craft



Girlguiding  
1st Feltham  
Rainbows, Brownies & Guides





# Volunteering in Parks

## Hanworth Air Park



Lampton's Services Countryside Rangers are delighted to announce our new 'Volunteering in Parks' programme. Community volunteering initiatives are a fantastic way to help improve your local green spaces and immerse yourself in nature, whilst also learning new skills, meeting new people, and improving general health and wellbeing.

**Every Sunday 2pm-4pm.**

**Meeting point will be next to the Rugby Club and car park off Park Lane**  
(what3words location ///star.logo.stand)

### Work Programmes

#### 1. Initial Weeks

- Litter Picking
- Visitor Surveys/ Monitoring
- Wildlife Surveys

#### 2. Long Term

- Pond Creation
- Glade Creation
- Scything of Wildlife Meadows
- Bat and Bird Installations
- Balsam bashing
- Woodland Thinning and Coppicing



For more information, please contact Lampton's Countryside Rangers at [Countryside@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:Countryside@hounslow.gov.uk) or contact the conservation team by phone on 07929 755557





Pyrites Craft Camp -  
Sun 28th July > Sat 3rd Aug 2024  
Ashen Plains - Dursley - Glos

CC Application Form: [www.pyrites.org](http://www.pyrites.org)



Prices 2024:  
Babies : Free  
Child 4yrs > 11yrs: £350  
12yrs > Adults: £450  
Prices for all meals Camping & Craft  
activities etc  
Crèche for 2>5yrs £250  
Dogs welcome - on leads allowed

A family Craft Camp where we eat & work together with evenings  
full of song & Story telling