

Welcome to our spring newsletter. We have recently changed our website to make it easier to view on mobile phones and easier to update. Do have a look: www.steinerwaldorf.org

Press Cuttings:

Many thanks to Jeremy Smith who has been compiling and sending the press cuttings since he worked for us in 2008-09. After he left to join Kings Langley as Education Manager he continued this in a voluntary role. He is leaving Kings Langley and is now, unfortunately, unable to continue this task. Priya Mahtani will take this task on; she is already updating our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Steiner-Waldorf-Schools-Fellowship/205679936204387>

We plan to send out cuttings every other week and welcome suggestions for what is useful to schools. Many thanks again Jeremy!

Jane Avison

Calling all Steiner Inspired Childminders

The *Birth to Three Working Group* (part of the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship's Early Years Group SWEYG), have been working with Steiner Inspired Childminders to give them help, information and support. A mailing list has been established. People on this mailing list will regularly receive information about meetings, events and further training opportunities. Vacancies and requests from parents looking for Steiner Inspired childcare are also sent out.

If you are you working from home, registered for childminding, and work along Steiner principles, this mailing list might be of interest to you. There are several ways to get in touch.

- ◆ There is a Facebook group you can be part of. Look on Facebook under "Steiner Inspired Childminders".
- ◆ Or you can email Nicole Wickenden, the network's representative, kolleke@hotmail.com to give her your email address and you can be added to the list.

You can also register with the SWSF (Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship) and appear on their website, receive exemptions from the EYFS, reduced conference fees, information and support.

Please contact admin@steinerwaldorf.org

Janni Nicol

LAUREL FARM KINDERGARTEN IS OUTSTANDING!

Laurel Farm Kindergarten -a Steiner led nursery in Carlingcott near Bath - has received an excellent report as a result of its OFSTED Inspection in January. The Kindergarten was awarded 'outstanding in all areas' with all children 'making excellent progress'. Laurel Farm Kindergarten is the only setting in Bath and North East Somerset area to have achieved outstanding in all areas since Ofsted raised the bar with EY inspections.

The teaching at the kindergarten is quoted as being 'exceptional and inspirational' with children thriving 'in a calm and nurturing environment'.

The kindergarten was noted for its incredibly well-resourced room and access to the farm.



Tony Williams, the Chair of Trustees said 'we are delighted with this glowing report from Ofsted. It is however nothing less than we would have expected given the extraordinary dedication and skill of our teaching staff. We are able to offer children a truly wonderful start to their educational learning.'

The Kindergarten is located in an old Buddhist Temple which has been converted into a classroom. It has its own secure garden as well as daily access to Laurel Farm, covering seven acres of beautiful countryside including animals, ponds, a natural spring and woodland, making it the ideal setting for the children. www.laurelfarmkindergarten.co.uk

Nereida Olives

Ringwood Upper School News:

Ringwood Waldorf School management announced on Thursday 27th February that our upper school is ready to extend its education provision to Class 11 in August 2014, and then Class 12 in September 2015. After a great deal of planning and preparation work by the upper school team. We will now be offering a full 12 year Waldorf Curriculum for the first time in the school's forty-year history.

We have been planning to offer Waldorf education up to Class 12 for some years, but have not been able to decide on a qualification that not only provides a robust pathway into further and higher education, but that is also able to fully address the developmental needs of adolescence. This year we have been piloting level one of the Steiner School Certificate and feel confident that we have now found an accreditation system that meets our criteria. We will be offering the SSC at levels one and two from this August, and plan to run level 3 (university entrance qualification) from the following year.

We are currently able to offer limited places in next year's Class 11 with accommodation or as day pupils, and will be offering a rich curriculum of Sciences and Humanities as well as a wide variety of craft activities in whole week and whole day blocks. Interested parents or students should contact the school office for more details. www.ringwoodwaldorfschool.org.uk



Tony Andrews,
Upper School Administrator and Humanities Teacher.

Becoming clearer about how best to run a school?

An understandable first response to that quasi-question might be to ask back, "Shouldn't that be clear enough already?" But the millions of pounds spent by the UK government on revising, reforming and reconstituting governance and leadership for schools in general, should serve as an alert to the knotty nature of the problem. And no-one seems to think they have discovered a perfect solution - yet!

The nature of running a Waldorf school poses particular challenges: the schools aim to be collegial and associative; they work with a high level of idealism and a powerful philosophy in an environment where everything that has to do with education is conflicted and drawn to the political. In spite of this, the natural tendency is to assume that if Steiner Waldorf schools did things in a more conventional way, everything would be simpler, more organised. Of course, it would be ridiculous to suggest that Steiner Waldorf schools cannot learn from other educational establishments. Education is about learning and that cannot be narrowly restricted to a pre-determined formula. Draw the curtains on the world and you cannot see out! But learning also depends on orientation, which clutching at the straws of conventional wisdom lacks.



Those who were able to join the recent "Vibrant Schools" workshop at King's Langley, were treated to wide vision of thought and experience relevant to steering our schools; it's a *cybernetic* problem (from the Greek for "steersman"). Angus Jenkinson was able to help steer our thoughts safely through an odyssey that took in a wealth of experience and a great deal that was practically useful. This workshop was a follow-on from last year's conference with Florian Oswald ("How do we run a Steiner school.") and complemented the work started then. Schools represented included new and old: Academies existing, pending or at the application stage; and independent school members with long or, as yet, very brief histories. Angus's skilled guidance meant that everyone was able to gain something from the weekend.

As for the short answer to the provocation with which we started - take notice! When a school is at its best, when things flow, identify that and from that model the organisation. Easy? No, only easy to summarise! But it is, after all, what we try to do when we work with children. Present the best they can be to them and help them to acquire the skills to steer properly. So, perhaps, how best to run a school might gather most from how best to teach and learn...many thanks to all who participated, to Kings Langley for hosting, and to Angus for his clarity and wisdom.

Kevin Avison



PARENT AND CHILD SEMINAR - 10th May 2014 at Greenwich Steiner School.

Parent and Child and Baby Group leaders are a parent's first experience of Steiner Waldorf education and care. The Seminar will address questions about what Steiner Waldorf Parent and Child work is today, what new approaches such as Pikler can offer, and what we need to support our work. There will be presentations in the morning, and discussion after lunch. OPEN TO PARENT AND CHILD LEADERS & KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS Booking forms are available on our website ([view booking form](#)) or email admin@steinerwaldorf.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER/EDUCATION

The London Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Studies

An accredited course leading to a Level 5 qualification, based at Rudolf Steiner House, London. This is a two year part time course, followed by a full year apprenticeship in a recognised Steiner Waldorf kindergarten. This is a well established training for kindergarten teaching. For information contact the coordinator, Lynne Oldfield, Email: lynneoldfield@lineone.net



NESWEC - North of England Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Studies Programme

An accredited course based primarily in York for good access from the North and Midlands. Two years part time for a level 4 early years qualification, followed by a third year full time work placement for a level 5 qualification. This is a forward pathway to Early Years Teacher Status or an Early Years Degree.

For further information contact the coordinator Jill Taplin:

Email: jill@neswec.org.uk www.neswec.org.uk

Introductory Weekend

'What is Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education' on 30th and 31st May in the West Midlands. This is suitable for those who just want to know more about the Steiner-inspired approach as well as those who are considering training on the NESWEC programme or the parallel London course. For further information contact the coordinator Jill Taplin: jill@neswec.org.uk

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES

A variety of initial teacher education pathways (ITT), Continuous Professional Development opportunities (CPD) and specialist trainings are currently available in the Steiner Waldorf movement in Britain and Ireland.

<http://www.steinerwaldorf.org/steiner-teachers/teacher-education/>



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