



Floreat Etona

July 2016

Issue 10

Eton Matters

***Abu Antar
and Friends***

***125 years
Gilding & Framing***

No. 92

***Whistle,
I'll Come to You***



The Queen's 90th Birthday
Street Party

An Eton Community Association Publication

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Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz
ECA Chair



Aren't we lucky to live so close to Windsor castle, a location that Her Majesty the Queen so clearly cherishes? The proximity of everything Royal makes our Town so special. Celebrating through many events has been really good fun for the community since our last Eton Matters. The Street Party was attended by over 600 people on seats and very many others who walked around, enjoying the atmosphere. See page 27 for more of the stories and pictures! The Clean for the Queen event was a great success. Those who took part included The Mayor, our Borough Councillor, The Provost and his wife and some Eton College boys, alongside many of our other regular local community contributors. leva's shop, just over the bridge, at the entrance to Eton is such fun. By the time of issue, this little gem will be closed, as the rent-free pop up opportunity was only available for a short while.

We have found that our social events are increasingly popular, whether it is the wonderful talk by David Lewis or the photographic exhibition at Eton College...or our big events such as the Christmas lights switch on or the Street Party. There currently seems to be less appetite to help in areas such as tending the greenery, however we continue to make progress in trying to enhance our town in many ways, see page 26 for details.

I would like to thank the regular and guest contributors and the sponsors of this issue of Eton Matters which without their generosity we would be unable to produce this mini-mag. The sponsors: *Kavanah's Budgens, New & Lingwood, Thaxter & Stovell, London College of Style, Warren Property, Premier Basements, Wags, Spring Palms, J Manley Gallery, Rhubarb and Custard, Vario Press, Bryaar House Clinic, Beechwood Interiors, Eton Stationers, My Handyman and Eton Cycles. Peter Eaton, Editor.*

Forthcoming Eton Community Association Meetings

All at 6.30pm at Eton Town Council Offices

Everyone welcome

Tuesday 26 July, Wednesday 14 September

Eton Community Association and Eton Matters Information

ECA Chair – Ros Rivaz – chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk

ECA Secretary – Katie Broady – secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

ECA Treasurer – Malcolm Leach – treasurer@etoncommunity.co.uk

EM Editor – Peter Eaton – editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

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Town & Gown – Simon Henderson

Head Master – Eton College



Eton is a town very close to my heart. I began my teaching career in the late 1990s at The Windsor Boys' School and lived at that time in Emyln Buildings, overlooking the Brocas. As a total newcomer to the area I was immediately made welcome and the warmth of the community helped me considerably.

In 2001 I moved to teach History at Eton College and lived up, down and just off various parts of the High Street until I left Eton in 2009. In that time I got married to Ali and we got a dog and had our first child. Ali and I could not have wished for a better place to start our married life together.

When Charlie was born our neighbours were so supportive and hospitable, despite the regular night-time screaming. It was a great wrench to move to pastures new as by then we had acquired many friends in the various businesses and shops along the High Street (and in a few of the pubs!), as well as at the College.

So we were completely thrilled to be able to return to Eton in 2015, now with four children (and the same dog). Of course we were both delighted to be returning to the College and to be taking on an exciting and challenging role, but we were also excited to be returning to the Eton community - and we have returned to a community that seems as vibrant as ever. New shops, restaurants and businesses have enhanced the High Street and there seems to be a spirit of togetherness and optimism in the town, which is wonderful to be a part of. Eton remains as friendly as we remember it, or perhaps it has got even friendlier.

All of us at the College really value the positive and supportive relationship that we have with the Town. We understand that 1300 teenage boys can sometimes have their moments (believe me – they can!) and we are very mindful of our responsibilities to be good neighbours. There is no doubt that the College thrives partly because of the strength of the community that it sits within and we want to continue to play our part to really contribute to that community.

It is very good to be back!

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Abu Antar and Friends

Sitting on our riverside terrace on those long summer evenings watching the world go by is one of the pleasures that my wife and I most enjoy after spending busy working lives in the Middle East. The nervous antics of rental boat captains frantically trying to find overnight mooring places before it gets dark, tired passengers arriving at Riverside station after their daily commutes to London, the increased air traffic approaching Heathrow from all parts of the world and, most interestingly, the river birds preparing for their overnight sojourns.



There is one particular old cob swan, recognisable by his raised wings and the exaggerated curve of his neck together with a jerky swimming motion and a very arrogant demeanour that cannot be missed. We have named him 'Abu Antar' after a Syrian TV comedy villain. He has a lecherous character and is forever chasing the young lady pens with limited success as it seems that he is well known and they usually try to give him a wide berth. After exhausting himself in this futile pursuit he usually just drifts with the current until he gets his breath back and then repeats his overtures to any young lady swan that he thinks may be in range.

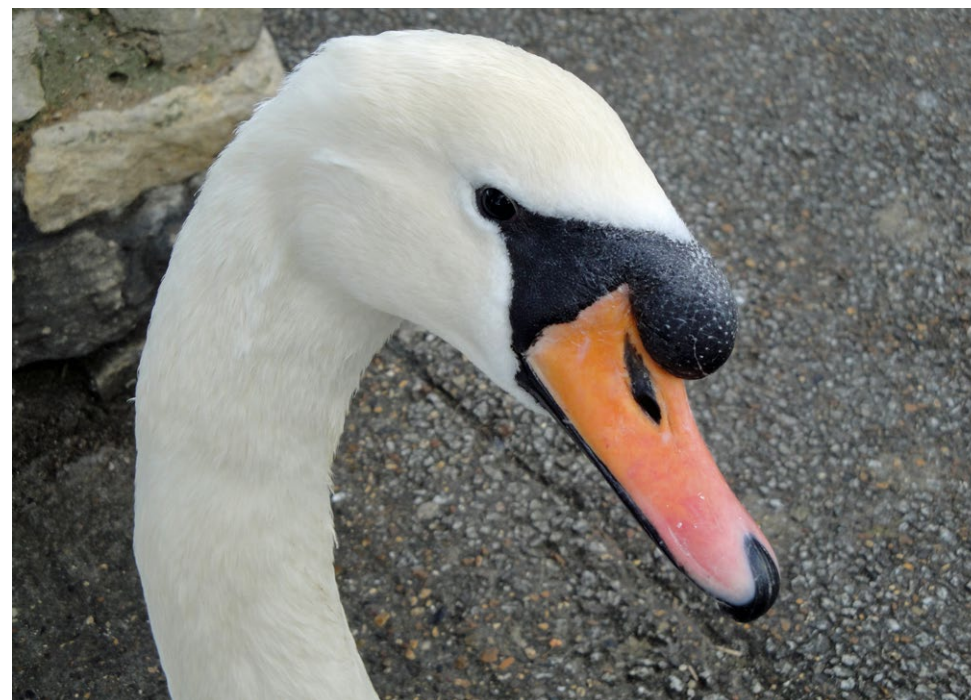
It is difficult to distinguish between the goose sexes but the male Mallard ducks are somewhat clown like with

green orange and yellow highlights while their lifelong wives are a dowdy brown. In true Oriental fashion the female ducks follow their husbands at a respectable distance. Trying to guess where a diving cormorant or grebe will surface after a dive to try for a fish meal is usually futile, they have a surprising ability to remain under water for a long time and to swim for a considerable distance. We have only once seen a cormorant surface with a fish. Their usual home is on top of the red warning sign before the Romney weir.

Derek Ledger – Eton Resident

The late evening procession of the three main species of large, medium and smaller aquatics heading to their dormitory on Romney Island is interesting as each totally ignores the other and strenuous efforts are made to avoid any fraternisation. The same applies to the morning return upstream above the bridge. There is often a lone Goldeneye duck that attempt to integrate itself into the Mallard fleet but he too is treated with disdain and is forced to live a life on the periphery, picking up the crumbs left by the river life that considers itself superior.

The increasingly frequent swarms of gulls cause much unease to the regular river life as they are noisy with raucous cries and shrieks, they are also daring in their pursuit of any food that is being offered to the other species and they do not shy away from any confrontation that they think may be to their advantage. Fortunately for everyone these flocks of Gulls only appear infrequently and remain for only a couple of days.



Abu Antar, a keen eye for the ladies!

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'Whistle, and I'll Come to You'

Recollections of M R James by Philip A R James

Ghost story writer and Provost of Eton College 1918-36, M R James or Uncle Monty as he was always referred to was my great great uncle. He died in 1936 and I was born in 1953 so we never met! My father Nick James didn't arrive in this country from Southern Rhodesia until 1949 so they didn't meet either. Monty never married and almost certainly never had any children, but my father is his oldest great James nephew and became his literary heir.

We have several suitcases of James family memorabilia and letters from Monty to his family. All my life I have come across fans of his ghost stories and my father has always granted access to anything we have to various academics and writers and although copyright has long since passed we still get many requests. In particular there is an independent small press magazine called "Ghosts and Scholars" devoted to James and writers in his tradition who recently, amongst others, gave funds to repair his grave at Eton Cemetery.

Monty won a scholarship to Eton as did his father and grandfather (being clergymen, this was rather a prerequisite). I also attended Eton as a boy from 1966-71 and I was neither KS or OS, but more UO -utterly ordinary! However I had a wonderful undistinguished time and was very happy. It was peculiar being taught in James Schools. Unfortunately not a single beak ever knew or took any notice that I was the descendant of one of the cleverest men in Britain and sadly none of his genius came my way. I would never have passed the somewhat more taxing entrance criteria of today, but I did pass a few A levels

and go to university after a somewhat lengthy five year interval after leaving school. Subsequent generations have continued the tradition of going to Eton and as an extended family we are currently on the seventh.



The photograph shows Monty (centre back) with his father Rev Herbert James (seated right). Monty's brother, Sydney (back left) and his wife, Linda, (seated left) with their children, Peter, Marjorie and Zoe. My grandfather Philip had not been born. Marjorie was the grandmother of my second cousin Caroline who is married to the current Provost, William Waldegrave, which is rather a nice coincidence.

(Article title from M R James' ghost story "Oh, Whistle, And I'll Come to You, My Lad")

Kids' Play - Royal Day

Laura Walsh - Eton Resident

With the Queen celebrating her 90th Birthday in Windsor, we thought we would make the most of living in Wonderful Windsor. There are so many Royal things to do within walking distance of Eton, all with a fantastic view of one of the Queen's favourite residences, Windsor Castle. We spent a weekend doing the following:



For a very close up view of Windsor Castle, we took our advantage cards and had a quick visit of the Castle. We didn't manage to do the audio tour, but very much enjoyed the State Apartments and the amazing Dolls' House.

We also spent some time watching the Changing of the Guard from outside the Castle at 10.45am. This was fantastic entertainment for children (and adults!) as everyone got a really close view of the soldiers marching past and playing instruments.

We took a walk along the river next to the Queen's very own swans. They seem rather possessive of Windsor, so we kept our distance!

For a more panoramic view of the castle, we headed to Windsor Great Park along the Long Walk. We have been known to spot a Royal driving by on previous occasions!

For some respite from all of the walking, we took a boat along the river for lovely views of the castle. If you are more brave than us, you could drive a boat yourself but we were happy just being passengers as we cruised to Romney Lock and back.

We didn't manage to fit this into our 'Royal day' but we fully intend to take the sightseeing bus around Windsor, Eton and Datchet to have more of a 'bird's eye' view of wonderful Windsor.

Public Space Protection Orders have been applied to the Brocas and Footpath 51 (FP51) to enable the police to deal with alcohol related anti-social behaviour and came into force at the end of March. Telephone the Police on 101 or 999 to report an incident.

An order to allow the partial overnight gating of FP51 extending the length of the entrance archway was also agreed but the gates will be subject to planning approval.

The Brocas has been the subject of alcohol related anti-social behaviour for many years and more recently FP51 to the detriment of local residents and visitors alike.

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Gilding and Framing for 125 Years

Malcolm Leach - Proprietor, Manley Gallery



On 23rd March 1891, John Manley acquired a Framing and Gilding business from Messrs Ellis Hills, who had been previously trading as Hair Dressers and Picture Frame Makers, for an unknown number of years, at Peascod Street in Windsor.

Mr. Manley's skills as an art restorer and maker of the highest quality picture frames were quickly recognized by King Edward VII who awarded the firm its first Royal warrant. Further warrants were awarded by King George V and Princess Christian when the Gallery moved premises to 27 High Street (currently the 'Barbour Shop'), Windsor. Mr. Manley Snr died in 1921 and his wife Maud carried on the business, gathering further Royal warrants from Queen Mary and George VI. The business moved once again to larger premises at 24 Thames Street, Windsor which is now occupied by Zizzi Restaurant.

Mrs. Manley transferred the business to their son Patrick in 1949 who was awarded the last Royal warrant by Her Majesty the Queen in 1956. The final move was in 1964 to the present location at 27 High Street, Eton and the business has been in the hands of myself for the last 30 years.

The original fine art restoration and framing skills of the business still remain today in the hands of the Gallery's own staff who continue to frame and restore for the Royal family together with a great many private collectors, Galleries and institutions throughout the UK.

The Gallery treasures its custom from the community and aims to be a part of Eton for many more years to come.



Taking Council

Bob Austen, Town Clerk, Eton Town Council



I promised in the last issue of Eton Matters to report on the Clean for the Queen initiative which took place on Saturday 5th March. Ros Rivaz, the enthusiastic Chair of Eton Community Association and Derek Bishop, The Mayor were on hand to welcome volunteers in the Council Chamber and by the time 12.00 noon came round the pile of bin bags was huge. We are grateful to the 40 volunteers who turned up and played their part in this campaign.

Of course, spring cleaning the streets and pathways once a year, laudable though it is, hardly addresses the underlying problem of litter dropping for the rest of the year. To this end, until society treats this form of antisocial behaviour with realistic deterrents, we must be vigilant. The Council has a stock of litter pickers which residents can borrow to pick up litter whenever they are taking a walk. Just contact Bob Austen in the Council Offices. We live in a beautiful town and it is up to each and every one to see that it remains that way.

We hope to make Clean for the Queen an annual event here in Eton.

Car Park Completed

Peter Eaton and Linda Oatway - Coordinators, Brocas Residents' Group

After over 4 years of lobbying by the Brocas Residents' Group (BRG) and latterly with much help from Eton College and their agreement to lease the land, support from the Town Council, Eton Traders and Eton Community Association, the extension to the Meadow Lane car park was completed in April. As a result of the lobbying and the petition early last year the RBWM Conservatives included its construction in their May 2015 election manifesto and have honoured that commitment. Our thanks to all.

Setting out, on the suggestion of former BRG coordinator Anthony Allison, we didn't really expect to be successful especially after previous attempts over 30 years most notably remembered by Anthony Cove who in a letter of appreciation to us and others involved explained, humorously, how the then Bursar of Eton College eventually refused to speak to him because of his consistent badgering on the subject.

The main concern of the BRG at the time was the loss of resident parking spaces with the redevelopment of Rafts Boathouses adding to the already dire situation Eton residents faced to find places to park. Unexpectedly our lobbying gained a £45000 contribution specifically for the extension during the planning application for Rafts from the developer which thankfully kick-started the project and energised us to continue.

On completion within the 57 parking spaces increase we secured an extra 15 resident parking spaces which have shared use with Pay and Display weekdays only.

In His Presence

La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



When this goes to print we will just have had a very bubbly time in the Parish church which serves both Eton and Eton Wick. The Bishop will have celebrated with us 150 years since the foundation stone was laid of St John the Baptist, the daughter-church to Eton. Celebrations aren't complete without bubbles are they? Were there bubbles at the Ascension and at Pentecost? Tongues of fire were mentioned and a strong wind, but not bubbles methinks. There was joy though, so bubbles could be considered a suitable image: the bubbles of the Holy Spirit! May they burst forth in you too as you enjoy the summer sun.

We'll be opening Eton Church on Saturdays during August again. If you would like to 'Church-sit' do get in touch with Mark at Eton Antiques (mark@etonantiques.com). All those who visit the church appreciate being able to enjoy the East Window at such close proximity and welcome the peace in the midst of the High Street bustle. Through the



Merry Church

Sun 18th Sept, 16th Oct, 20th Nov

3.30 pm

Join us for crafts, worship and tea

All Welcome

St John the Evangelist, Eton

(upstairs above the doctor's surgery)

Contact: Revd La Stacey, 01753 852268
revlastacey@gmail.com

summer peace will reign in the church with the quiet service of Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings (see dates below) and a Healing Eucharist on the evening of the first Sunday in July. But with the start of the autumn term we will get Merry again in Merry Church on the third Sundays of the month and will be starting to sing on the evenings of the 4th Sunday of the month at Evening Praise. There will be space here for you to choose your own music. Watch out too for more times when the church will be open which will be advertised as they come along. And for the Thespians among you, there are always opportunities to join the team which takes Bible stories into Eton Porny School. Get in touch with me if you might be interested.

Happy Summer wishes. La

Churches (regular services)

St. John the Evangelist (C of E) Services

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 10.00 - Communion (said)

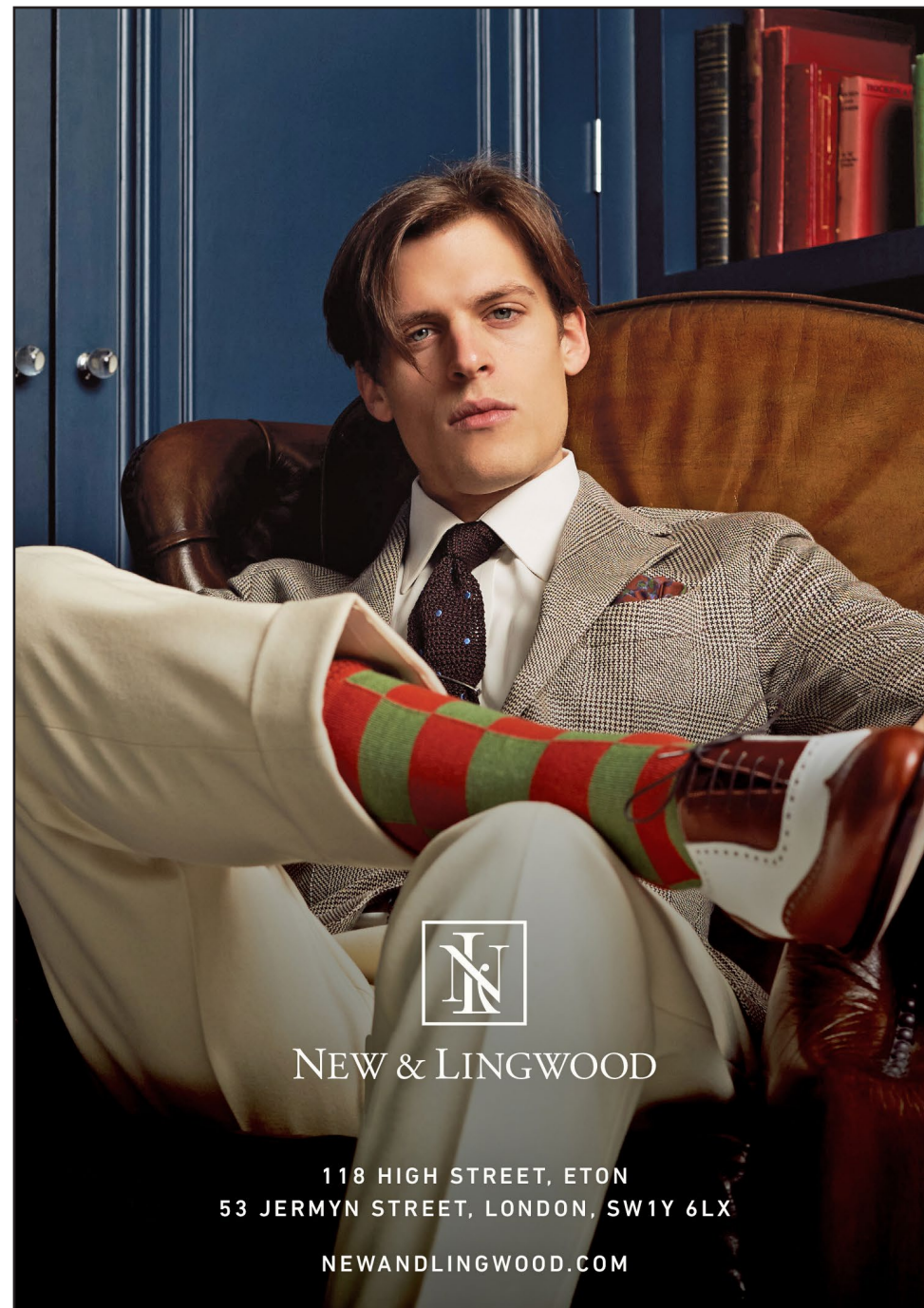
Sundays - 11.00 - St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Our Lady of Sorrows (Catholic) - Service - Sundays - 09.30

Apostolic Fellowship of Christ - Baldwin Institute

Sunday School - Every Sunday - 15.00;

Bible Lectures - 2nd & 4th Sundays - 18.30



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Diary

July

26th 18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices

September

14th 18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices

18th 15.30 – Messy Church – St. John the Evangelist Church, Eton

October

16th 15.30 – Messy Church – St. John the Evangelist Church, Eton

Regular Events

Every Monday 14.00 – Knit and Natter Group – Eton Library

Wednesdays (term time) 10.00-11.30 – Little Fishes Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick (Eton residents welcome)

Every Sunday 14.30-17.00 – Eton College Natural History Museum – Free entry

First Thursday of Month 19.30 – Eton Town Council Meeting – Eton Council Offices

Churches (regular services)

St. John the Evangelist (C of E) Services

1st & 3rd Wednesdays 10.00 – Communion (said)

Sundays 11.00 – St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Our Lady of Sorrows (Catholic) Service – Sundays – 09.30

Apostolic Fellowship of Christ – Baldwin Institute

Sunday School – Every Sunday – 15.00; Bible Lectures – 2nd & 4th Sundays – 18.30

Library Mon – 14.00-17.00; Tues – 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00;

Fri – 14.00-19.00; Sat – 10.00-13.00 *Library Diary see page 19*

Council Office – Eton Tues-Fri – 08.00-12.00

Charteris House Day Centre – 59 Eton Square, Eton

Calling out to all our retired locals; did you know there is a lovely place to pop in for a cup of tea or indeed an inexpensive lunch just off Eton High Street. The Charteris Centre opened 24 years ago to provide a social centre for retired residents of Eton & Eton Wick and is a real asset to our community. New Members are very much welcomed to ensure this centre continues to be here for you. We are open Monday, Wednesday & Thursday from 10am to 3pm and Tuesday from 10am to 2pm. Membership is £10 per year and daily hot meals, prepared at Bekynton are less than £5. However the heart of Charteris is the convivial atmosphere that the club enjoys. We are not a large group but enjoy each other's company; quiz coffee mornings, day trips and festive meals. Services include a hairdresser and chiropodist. We play bingo and are always willing to listen to new ideas for activities that folk may enjoy. Tai Chi anyone? **Call Carol or Jackie on 01753 833371**

Can you write an article for Eton Matters?

Do you have an interest, some history of your family, house, street, or the town? Then you can! We are continually wanting new articles for this mini-mag. Email me at editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

Useful Numbers

Churches St John the Evangelist (Vicar) 01753 852268
Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton Court 01753 542862

Community Warden Carol Lewin 01628 685636

Council Offices, Eton 01753 860377

Councillor (RBWM) Malcolm Alexander 01753 850389

Emergency Fire/Ambulance/Police 999

Eton College 01753 370100

Eton Community Association Chair 07734 073117

Secretary 01753 863377

Treasurer 01753 865647

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Wexham Park A& E 01753 634017

Upton Hospital, Slough – Walk-in unit 01753 821441

Heatherwood & St. Marks Minor Injuries units 01753 877805

Heatherwood Hospital 01344 623333

St. Marks Outpatients 01628 632012

Natural History Museum Eton (curator) 01753 671288

Police Crime in Progress 999

Non-Emergency 101

River Authority Environment Agency (gen.enquiries) 03708 506 506

Floodline 0345 988 1188

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Bookworm

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Karen Usher and Vicki Wilson (right)
Eton Library Supervisors



The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge is The Big Friendly Read. The challenge brings 750,000 children into libraries across the country, encouraging their skills and confidence by reading six books during the holidays. Each finished book brings its own reward, concluding with a certificate and medal.

Roald Dahl's favourite book was The BFG which he dedicated to his daughter Olivia, who sadly died as a child. Its wonderfully playful language tells the story of Sophie, an orphan girl who befriends the Big Friendly Giant and discovers a magical world of dreams, snozzcumbers, whizzpoppers and man-eating giants.

The 1980's TV series "Tales of the Unexpected" were based on Dahl's early short stories for adults. With a slightly macabre edge, they have themes of a sadistic and often erotic nature with an unexpected twist at the end. The atmosphere in his short stories echoes the dark comedy of his children's books, as both are frequently populated with unlikeable characters who often meet with a sticky end like The Twits.

If you want to find out more about Dahl, try Storyteller: the life of Roald Dahl by Donald Sturrock. It reveals much about his fascinating life as a fighter pilot, writer and adventurer. He was a difficult man who endured much and moved in glamorous social circles.

The books we've reviewed can be found across many Borough Libraries and the Summer Reading Challenge begins 16 July.

Eton Library: Tel: 01753 860506/857933

Open: Mon – 14.00-17.00; Tues – 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00; Fri – 14.00-19.00;
Sat – 10.00-13.00

Knit and Natters: 2.30 every Monday

Under 5s Storytime: 2.30-4.00pm Fridays 15 July, 5 August and 12 August

Eton Book Group: 6.00-7.00pm Fridays every 4 weeks.

Check with library for exact dates

IT volunteer, Alex, Tuesday mornings for help using your computer. Book in advance.



The Waterman's bench design that was show cased in the last issue of Eton Matters has gained planning permission. The next stage is completing the detailed design, so that potential suppliers/contractors can quote to do the work. Our hope that the new bench would be in place by the summer has been dashed, as a result of illness of our helpful architect, but getting the right bench will happen for the community soon!

Eton within the Borough

Malcolm Alexander
RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle



If ever there was a good time to be a councillor for RBWM then it must have been on Thursday 21 April, at the Corn Exchange, Windsor. To be able to wish Her Majesty a personal 'Happy Birthday' was a great honour indeed.

The Duke also stopped in front of us, and had a joke. As usual, it was on us, but with a twinkle in his eye....

Back to business, and The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), along with the application to control access to Footpath 51 (FP51) went to the Alley Gating Panel; both were granted with conditions. A planning application will now be required for the gates, in the location as agreed by the panel.

Congratulations to Ieva Poriete, whose Pop-Up Exhibition project "How I Met the Queen" has become a reality. Ieva has worked very hard to achieve what I'm sure will be an appealing and engaging venture. Credit and thanks also for all the help given by Sarova Hotels, who run the Sir Christopher Wren Hotel. A real example of the community working together.

I am amazed how quickly the past year has gone. One of my first duties after being elected in May 2015 was to gather together the paperwork in order to judge the Gardens in Bloom competition. Due to the newness of my role the tour started late last year, but this year we are in good time so the judges will be out with their paper and pens, touring the area and looking at the floral delights of your front gardens. If you would like to nominate yourself or anyone else for a special look, then please feel free to get in touch with me at the contact address below.

Changes have come with the start of this Civic year, with a new Leader (Cllr Simon Dudley) and a new Mayor (Sayonara Luxton), as well as fresh faces on the Cabinet. We wish them all every success.

Finally, we looking forward to attending what I'm sure will be a most excellent Street Party in Eton, on 12 June.

May the sun shine on you and all your events this summer.

Contact by email: cllr.alexander@rbwm.gov.uk or phone 01753 850389

Our new RBWM Community Warden for Eton and Eton Wick is Phil Griffiths. Community Wardens try to solve problems in the community as quickly and efficiently as possible by working closely with departments within the borough and other agencies. Contact Phil on 01628 685636 or 07851 855638; email philgriffiths@rbwm.gov.uk He alternates working Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday one week and Tuesday and Wednesday the next.

Eton Pre-School Sue Clifford - Manager



As a pre-school we are incredibly lucky to be supported by our community in all sorts of ways from recycled jars from Karen in 'Tastes Delicatessen' to tiny cut out hearts and ribbons from Heather in the 'Eton Fudge shop'. We are also supported by local trusts to whom we apply for funding for additional resources for the Pre-School charity in order to support the children. We have recently been awarded two such grants which have allowed us to purchase some large outdoor wooden blocks. These allow the children to explore 'without limits' to create and construct in whichever way they chose using their mathematical thinking skills. They have been having a great time exploring these new items, thinking and making in 3D to their own design.

We would like to thank all of you in the community who help whether it is large or small, all of your contributions make a huge difference to the Children in our area. If you would like to know more about us please look us up on etonpreschool.org.



Porny School Karen Waller Acting Head Teacher

As I write this, we have only one half term left of this academic year.

In late January, we were awarded some Section 106 money from the Royal Borough to help improve our teaching spaces in school. We have already seen the impact of the first of a number of projects which concluded in the Easter holidays. Anyone who has been into our school will know that the children used to have to walk through the toilets to get in and out of the building. However, due to some reconfiguration of space, the children now have a suitable entrance and exit. We are looking forward to the next few projects, which will make our school even better for the children.

We really want to show you, the community, your local First School. In our constant drive for improvement, the children regularly tell us that they "love learning", and we would love for you to come and see our school 'in action'! Please do call the school to make an appointment to come and see us. The children would absolutely love to show you around.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the whole staff team who continue to go above and beyond to provide the best outcomes for our children. With very best wishes for a wonderful Summer

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Number 92

Karen Phillips

I looked at many shops before deciding to open my delicatessen at 92 High Street, Eton. Despite the huge amount of work needed to renovate the dilapidated building, there was something about it which felt just right. One of the details I remember admiring on my first visit was the ornate façade. Yet, very little was known about its origin. The tourist guides stop and point, but all relay the assumption that the shop front is cast iron. Having glued pieces back on, I know that most definitely it's wooden!

Over the years I have dipped in and out of researching the building's history, looking at directories, census returns, newspapers and talking to long term residents. With the tenacity of Colombo, I believe I have worked out the origin of the beautiful carved shop front. Old paintings suggest the shop front changed after the 1870s. From that time, until the 1900s the occupants were Arthur and (Al) Fred Halliday. The Hallidays were carvers,



cabinet makers, art dealers and upholsterers with a presence in Eton until the 1930s. They were one of the larger employers on Eton High Street. Fred held a Royal Warrant as carver for Queen Victoria, and as a carver and art furniture maker for King Edward VII. He also taught many of the Royal Family to carve. The brothers occupied two shops: Fred and his family lived at 92, and Arthur and his family lived opposite in what is now Age Concern. What is striking about both buildings is the

carved wooden shop fronts, which none of the other shops on the street have! Surely these impressive pieces must have been made by the Hallidays to demonstrate their impressive skills.

For more details about the Hallidays, their predecessors (basket maker/saddler/butcher), and successors (upholsterers/furniture dealers/funeral furnisher/antique dealers/gift shop) visit www.tastesdeli.co.uk/history.html

Eton Town Residents Car Parking (RBWM Eton L Permits): As well as the new resident spaces in Meadow Lane car park and roadside resident spaces RBWM Resident (Eton L) Permit holders can also use any spaces in both car parks and High Street pay & display overnight between 5.00pm and 9.00am. Visitors permits may only be used in resident roadside spaces where indicated on signs.

Children's Hospice Well Underway

Jane Smart - ECA Committee Representative

Construction started in September 2015 and the charity recently arranged site tours to show representative fundraising supporters what they are helping to achieve - the first hospice in Berkshire dedicated to providing specialist children's palliative and respite care, to complement the care already being provided by the charity's team of community nurses.

Approaching the building south of White Waltham you see what appears to be a large two-storey residence going up in open countryside. And homely is what the design is aiming for – a meticulous collaboration between the architect and Fiona Devine to meet the needs of the children and their families.

There will be six en-suite rooms for children and two self-contained apartments for families in addition to treatment and therapy facilities (including a pool), lounge and dining areas, and plenty of scope for relaxation. Every detail has been carefully considered to create a non-institutional environment – from curving corridors and play areas, to quiet corners and calming views, even a welcoming fireplace in the hall.

Thanks to Julia Philipson and Susie Knowles from Alexander Devine and to Beard Construction's site manager, the tour and commentary gave a very clear picture of how the facility will look and operate. It was difficult not to be touched by the inspiration behind the design.

Building completion is planned for year end with opening sometime in Spring 2017. For floor plans and more information, go to <http://www.alexanderdevine.org>.

Nearly £5 million has been raised in two years but annual running costs of £2.5 million will be an ongoing need, something to bear in mind for those coffee mornings and fetes. Or why not support the Alexander Devine fun Undie Run on Saturday 2nd July at Berkshire College of Agriculture (see website for details).

Representatives from Reading Roadrunners, Cox Green Townswomen's Guild, Wokingham Lions and the ECA on their tour of the Hospice building.



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Eton Community Association

What are we up to!

This has been a busy period with the preparations for the Street Party taking up a lot of our time. However, we have continued to make progress on many other items and issues around the town.

As I said in my Chair's Chat at on page 3 there currently seems to be less appetite for people to help in areas such as tending the greenery, but a huge thank you to those who have continued to work on the triangular bed, so we are working with Eton Town Council, Baldwin's Bridge Trust and Eton College to find a way of ensuring all of our Eton greenery looks good all of the time.

A vibrant High Street is as important as our residents being able to live happily and peacefully in our wonderful Town. We have secured money from RBWM and Eton Town Council for a footfall counter, which will enable us to understand what events impact the footfall in Eton and which days and times have most visitors. With this information, retail outlets can work out how to convert this into business.

The Meadow Lane car park extension is game changing for Eton. Well done indeed to the following people for their contribution, from 20+ years ago until now: Anthony Cove, Peter Eaton, Linda Oatway and Anthony Allison. As I write this, there are still issues to resolve around signage, so do let us know if you experience problems.

Cycle parking is an opportunity that we are pursuing. We are acutely aware that the beautiful Bollards on the Bridge (see P9 of Eton Matters, issue 9) are blighted by the many cyclists who chain their bikes either on the rails at Windsor Bridge Court or at the two parking hoops nearby. RBWM are working with us

to address this. The two hoops will be removed once the alternatives are in place nearby and the fence will have a "no cycles to be chained here" sign, which will be enforced. We are all pleased to see more and more people cycling, so we need to provide for parking in the right way.

The entire community felt that they had honoured the Queen with their own brand of Street Party. Singers, magicians, balloon tricks and guitar players



Ros Rivaz

Chair



were all part of the entertainment on the day. The stars, however, were our wonderful community of residents, businesses, friends and family from Eton and Eton Wick. Hundreds of people brought their own special celebratory picnic and by looking at the overflowing recycle bins, kindly provided by

RBWM at no cost; thanks to our councillor's intervention, much champagne, wine, fizzy drinks and water were all the order of the day!

The street looked fabulous: with the flags erected on the Queen's actual birthday, thanks to Malcolm Leach, Paul Oatway, Mike Turner and Heather Shelley, and the addition of copious amounts of bunting on the awnings that protected party goers from the weather, the street looked great. The balloons that topped and tailed the tables and the red, white and blue table cloths looked fab and the result of the crayons on tables along with puzzles and colouring sheets kept children and adults busy!!

There are so many people to thank including those already mentioned and Philip, Lynne and Kate Highy, Jane Reed, Paul Roach, our 8 ambassadors (brought together by Julia White), Malcolm Alexander, Derek Bishop, Karen (Tastes), Vicky (Ella's party shop, Eton Wick), Phil (Warren's), Noel (Bugden's), Stratti (The George), Fergus (Waitrose) Steve Westbrooke, Sue Nicholls and all those who helped on the day and/or before including all of the ECA committee. We thank Eton College, Baldwin's Bridge Trust and the Eton Community Association for their financial sponsorship.



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Naturewatch

George Fussey - Curator, Eton College Natural History Museum

In an earlier Eton Matters, I wrote that one of the best things I have added to my garden in recent years has been a bird feeder holding Nyjer seeds. The seeds of this African yellow daisy are rich in oil and protein. Their fat content gives small birds the energy they need to survive the winter and the protein helps them renew their plumage for the breeding season. Goldfinches adore my Nyjer feeder and queue up in numbers to eat their fill.



Photo: Brian Clews, Berkshire Bird Atlas Project

This April, though, I was surprised to see a male Siskin feeding, my first in 30 years! Though they do like to feed on the seeds of riverside Alders and Birches this was still a great sighting in my riverside garden. Movements of Siskins are quite complex, something that can be worked out from the recoveries of birds which have been ringed. Scottish birds are thought to make up a significant proportion of the English wintering population, though some come from Europe as far afield as Norway.

Siskins were always scarce in this part of the country until the Forestry Commission started to plant conifer plantations in the Thames Valley. Gradually, the

Scottish population then expanded southwards. Ironically, the trend is now for the authorities to remove conifers to restore broadleaf woodland, so it may well be that Siskins will become even rarer in future.

Siskins do have years when they are especially common even in Berkshire and, remarkably, our records go back over 150 years thanks to records made by a 16-year-old Eton boy named Alexander Clark Kennedy. He wrote the first ever book anywhere in the world containing photos of birds, and in it he stated that there were abundant flocks of Siskins in the years 1857/8 and 1866/7. You can see his book, and a Siskin, in the Eton College Natural History Museum!

Eton College Natural History Museum is open to the Public Sundays 2.30pm-5.00pm
Birds of Berkshire Atlas now available at a discounted £15 - contact George Fussey

National Schools' Rowing Regatta at Eton

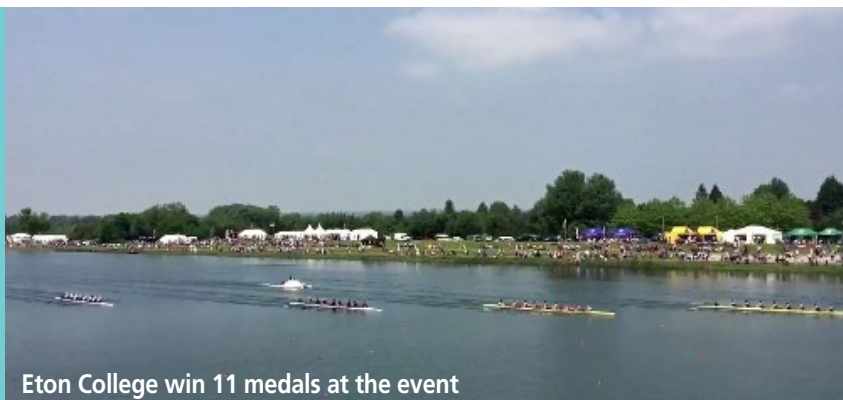
Sam Grant - Eton College Rowing Professional

Eton hosted the National Schools' Regatta in May. We are so proud! The event has been located in various places, most recently and for the last 10 years, in Nottingham. Windsor Boys, Eton College and the local clubs, such as the Eton Excelsior Club ensured that there was great local participation. The Eton Excelsior club has a strong junior girls section too. All of our local rowing establishments regularly produce successful GB trialists.

Eton College has contributed the most rowing Olympiads to the GB teams, including Sir Matthew Pinsent and Constantine Louloudis, who at just 20 achieved a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympics, along with his team mates. He is certainly one to watch for years to come.

The NSR is the largest regatta for juniors in Great Britain. Held annually, the regatta offers events for Junior rowers between J14 and J18. The regatta was first raced in 1947, and has since grown to what is a world class event, enjoyed by clubs and schools across the United Kingdom.

More than sixty years after its founding, the National Schools Regatta has evolved into an event that is the largest domestic rowing event for girls and boys of school age, run over three days with around 3,500 competitors contesting 50 different events. There are more and more state schools involved and many more girls. Rowing clubs compete too, so rowing as a sport for young people is now very accessible to all.



Eton College win 11 medals at the event

Sam Grant - Rowing Away

Sam has lived all his life in Eton Wick. His Dad, Ian, was born and raised in Eton and Ian's Mum worked at the Eton Town Council office. Sam went to Windsor Boys' School, where he rowed and learnt to coach rowing. He joined Eton College staff 8 years ago and has the role of "Rowing Professional". Sam will be moving on to a new post at the Royal Shrewsbury School in September, as Senior Rowing Coach. Well done Sam; we hope you will come back to Eton sometime!

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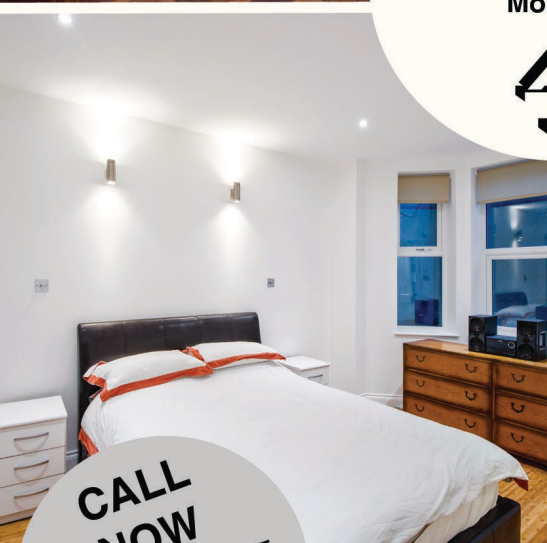
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