



Floreant Etona

March 2016

Issue 9

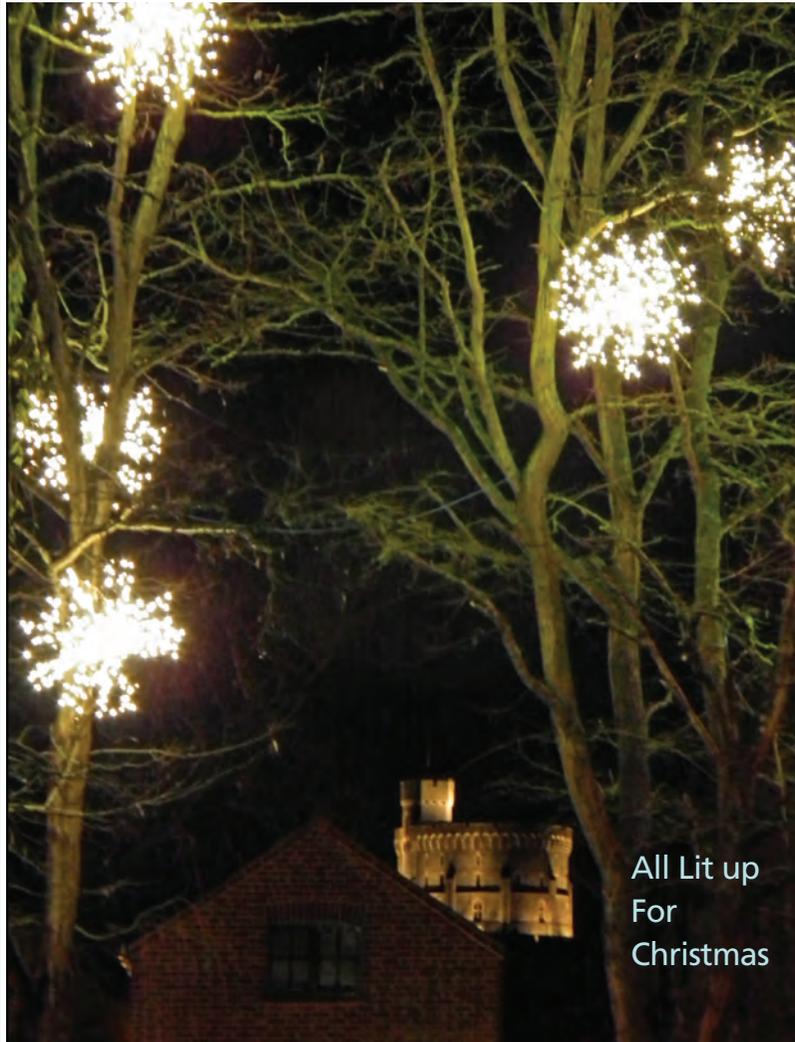
Eton Matters

*Driving
A Way of Life*

*Bollards on
the Bridge*

Thames & Town

*Eton's Old Bird
Sanctuary*



All Lit up
For
Christmas

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Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz
ECA Chair



Christmas seems a little way away now and it seems late to be wishing all our Community a Happy New Year! I want to extend a huge thank you to Malcolm Leach, Paul Roach from RBWM and Heather Shelley for another great Christmas lights event. Our financial sponsors, all those who personally contributed, such as Eton College and the Porny School choir deserve huge thanks too, as well as those who ran stalls and even kept an eye on all of the buggies whilst children were in the chapel for the service. The switch on day itself is an excellent get together and signals the start of the rush for us all to buy the Eton Traders' wares. I really would like to extend a special thank you to Paul Roach, the Windsor and Eton Town Manager, as his contribution was huge. We reckon we have the best lights of any local village or town!!

The next big community event will be our celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday. We are very fortunate to have such a special neighbour!! We will be holding a Street party; please see page 23 in this edition of Eton Matters. Ieva at Ieva Poriete Bespoke Womenswear is developing a great idea to show clothes that local residents have worn when meeting the Queen. For both of these activities, we need your help please.

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 are: *Kavanah's Budgens, Lily Chic, Thaxter & Stovell, Warren Property, Premier Basements, 61 The Salon, Wags, Spring Palms, J Manley Gallery, Zero 3, 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

Tues 1 Mar; Tues 12 Apr (AGM); Tues 24 May; Tues 5 July

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

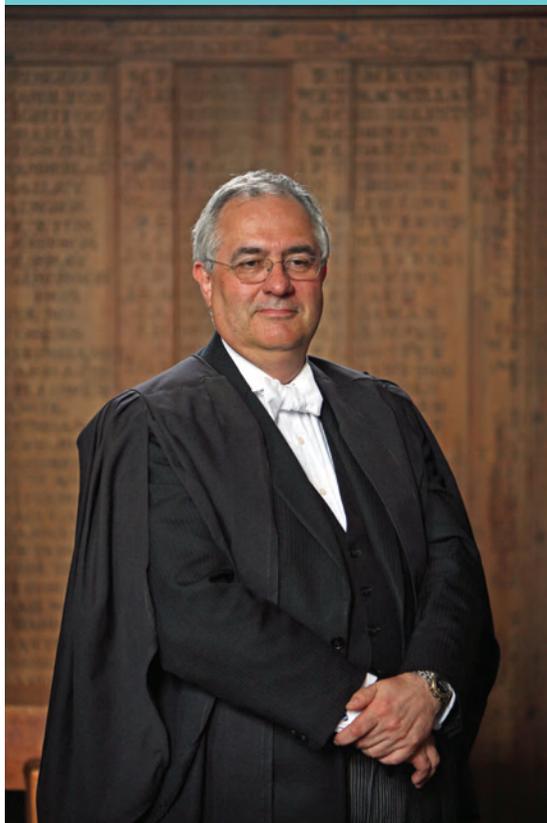
EM Editor – Peter Eaton – editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

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Town & Gown – Bob Stephenson

Lower Master – Eton College



It gives me very great pleasure to be able to contribute to your magazine. Eton certainly does matter and the vibrancy of the local community is of crucial importance to the health of the College. In my thirty two years of living and working in Eton I have never known the High street to be as full of purpose as it is today. Gone are the days when the only people on the streets were groups of foreign tourists and Etonians passing through on their way to Windsor. Today the High street provides a genuinely stimulating environment for visitor and resident alike.

I am delighted that the College continues to work closely with all in the community to try and engender a mutually beneficial relationship. It is important for our boys to be part of that community and for our staff to feel that Eton can be their home as much as their place of work. Having said all of this the charm of the place has not been

lost and, in my opinion, has been enhanced in recent years by the wide range of businesses that have been attracted to the High Street. It is remarkable that in the 21st century the town has such a strong identity and a sense of community which is tangible well into the late evening. When I have been away from the College, perhaps attending a conference in London, it is always a pleasure to alight from the train at Riverside station and walk across the bridge into an atmosphere that most English towns lost a long time ago. It is a great tribute to all of those involved with this magazine that they believe Eton Matters and through their efforts and the efforts of many others in this town Eton thrives and has emerged from a most severe recession healthy, robust and ready for the many challenges that lie ahead. Rest assured that to those of us in the College we value our relationship greatly and we are proud that "Town and Gown" live so happily alongside each other but, of course, it is more than this. We are inextricably interrelated and I certainly would not have it any other way. We continue our march into this century together and we are stronger for it.



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Driving; A Way of Life

I really like living in Eton. It's a friendly place and I know so many people. I've lived here since about 1955, but I was born in the area too. I was born in 1940 in Hillingdon hospital. Mum and Dad had a house built in Hayes, but during the blitz a land mine exploded and brought all the plaster down and switched the lights on! It was blackout at the time, which was unfortunate. We were temporarily moved to a thatched cottage on the Bath Road, but then we moved to Paignton, Devon, before coming back here in 1955.

We moved to Broken Furlong and I pursued my work, which was really my hobby too; driving! I loved driving and I still think that steam engines, old lorries, vans, buses and aeroplanes are great!



The first photo shows a Marston's lorry driving across the Windsor Eton Bridge in 1955. It is a Bedford 5 type, with a petrol engine, that did 9 miles to the gallon! It was transporting bricks from the London Brick Company in Bedford. When Bracknell was built, the brick lorries went up Eton High Street and over the bridge between 3 and 4am, so that the lorries were there, ready to be unloaded at crack of dawn.

The second photo shows Robert Calvert's, a Builders' Merchants that used to be in King Stable Street, own lorry, a Thorneycroft Nippy. It would have been built in Basingstoke in 1936. When you look at the writing on the side, you can see that the telephone number of Robert Calvert was Windsor 59! There were no long phone numbers to remember!



Paul Jennings – Eton Resident

I used to deliver to the Engineering works, which is now CSK Architects, behind the High Street and originally accessible from a narrow road in front of Union Terrace cottages. I delivered stainless steel plate and rods. The engineering stores worked closely with the Boat builders at the wharf alongside Brocas Street. When Atherton Court was built, it was hard to drive my articulated lorry to deliver to the stores, I also delivered to the building site when Atherton Court was being built, particularly bringing bricks to site. It is a pity that the old row of cottages was demolished, but Atherton Court has provided a good home for me and many others for the last 51 years!

My hobby is still old vehicles. I was at a vehicle fair recently and was amazed to see the bus that used to take me to Totnes grammar school from Paignton every day; FTT 704, all renovated with the original livery and markings. Memories!



This picture from a painting supplied by Paul shows the waterfront of Robert Calvert, Builders' Merchants, which was located between King Stable Street and the river. The picture with the article 'Thames and Town' on page 21 shows this area now redeveloped into Eton Riverside apartments.



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Contemporary Bollards on the Bridge

Jacqueline and Mike Turner

With public art sculptures hitting the headlines, you can't have failed to notice the stunning stainless steel bollards on the Eton side of the Windsor Bridge. However, how many of you know the story behind this amazing piece of public art?



In 1996 the RBWM were planning a major refurbishment of the south end of High Street, Eton. This involved creating a one-way section with chicanes to calm the traffic, re-paved with traditional York stone, granite kerbs and cobbled areas at the pubs where kegs are unloaded. As part of this major infrastructure project there was 1% allocation of budget towards a public art project.

A working group was set up comprising: Patricia Cowe and Sue Williams from RBWM with Jacqueline Norris (Turner), John Corrigan, Anthony Cove, David Waddleton, Elizabeth Matthews and Roderick Watson representing the Eton community. The team interviewed and shortlisted several artists, finally selecting Wendy Ramshaw OBE for the commission. Concurrently a successful application

was made to the National Lottery for additional funding. The balance was made up from generous donations from local businesses, schools and individuals.

Wendy is a renowned artist/jeweller, recognised in the 1993 Queen's Honours for her services to the arts and has many significant public works to her name; gates at St John's College, Oxford; Edinburgh Gate, Hyde Park; Cass Sculpture Foundation, so the team felt very excited.

Wendy designed the stainless steel bollards and viewing tower with a plan for more features to lead the eye along the street. The viewing tower is set in a sandstone circle with the abstracted words 'Eton' inlaid in brass.

The commission was installed in 1999 with an inauguration in 2002. The artwork has been hugged by thousands of children and photographed by international visitors ever since, resulting in massive a web presence.

All Lit Up For Christmas

Peter Eaton – Editor



With thanks to the Royal Borough, Windsor and Eton Town Partnership, Eton Community Association, Eton Traders, Eton Town Council, Baldwin's Bridge Trust and Eton College, a large crowd saw the new Christmas Lights display unveiled at the switch-on by Kevin Cruise and Santa on the 19th November. This followed carols in the College Chapel and Santa's reindeer parade. The cross-street lights, 'Welcome to Eton' signs at both ends of the High Street, small wall-mounted lit trees lining the street, Christmas trees at the Bridge and Jubilee Square and mistletoe lights in the trees at Barnes Pool all gave a fantastic display and everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening's entertainment.



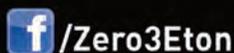
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Adolescents and Recreational Screen Time

Dr Emma Speed-Andrews – Chartered Clinical Psychologist, Eton College



Video games are a ubiquitous part of almost all adolescents' lives, yet increasingly research documents the negative impact children could face to their mental health should they spend excessive recreational time on the computer.

This is particularly concerning given one in ten youngsters now have some kind of mental health problem, while a third of teenagers feel "low, sad or down" at least once a week.

Public Health England (PHE) state that those who sit in front of a screen for four hours a day or more are most at risk. Though many suggest that the link between recreational screen time and health generally occurs beyond two hours a day, with the association to issues such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, loneliness and isolation increasing with each additional hour of use. While this increasing body of evidence should not be ignored, or glossed over, there is a need to report a perspective that also considers the benefits of moderate screen use. Benefits, such as allowing a stress release through being absorbed into an imaginary world in which negative emotions can be worked through, to having a common language to be part of a conversation with friends.

Until the safety of the virtual world is proven, there are various standards that we can follow on screen time, and even if these are not strictly adhered to, they can serve as a good reference point. These ideals consider the age of the player (recommending that younger children have more limited access to screen time), the average number of hours played per day, at what time of day, what type of game played and whether the content is suitable for the audience.

As for future directions, given the success of video games in permeating almost all households, across almost all countries, perhaps more attention could be given to how they may benefit healthcare and be used to address some of the difficulties young people face.

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**

Under 5s Storytime: 2.30-4.00pm Fridays 18 March, 22 April and 13 May.

Eton Book Group: 6.00-7.00pm Fridays 11 March, 8 April and 6 May.

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

Taking Council

Bob Austen, Town Clerk, Eton Town Council



This has been a very busy period for your Council as it wrestles with a host of issues including cycle parking, anti-social behaviour, traffic management, car parking and a number of sensitive planning issues. Your councillors are working hard to see that Eton retains its essential charm as a historical riverside town and at the same time recognising that progress is inevitable and indeed necessary. Thankfully there is much to admire in the town and so there is an ongoing need to be vigilant to ensure our heritage is not sacrificed. Working closely with Eton Community Association has brought rich dividends for the Town in these issues.

In recognition of Her Majesty's 90th birthday celebrations, up and down the country villages and towns will be organising clean ups of their streets and open areas as a 'Clean for the Queen' initiative. Eton Town Council is working with Eton Community Association in this project and we have set the date for Sunday morning 6th March. A full report will follow on the event in the next issue of Eton Matters.



Porny School

Making Good Progress

Liz Clark – Former Executive Headteacher

This is my final article for Eton Matters. Having been the Executive Headteacher of Eton Porny C of E First School for two years now, this is a sad occasion for me. Eton Porny is a unique and exceptional local, community school and it has been an absolute pleasure to lead the school through some very challenging times since the Inadequate Ofsted Judgement in January 2014. Although that might seem a contradiction in terms I can honestly say that despite the challenges I have enjoyed every aspect of getting to know the children, the staff, the families and the local community and leading the school.

I hope the community is aware now that we have successfully taken the school out of Special Measures and it is therefore no longer Inadequate. This fantastic achievement came out of the 5th Monitoring visit by our HMI at the end of November, being converted for a full Ofsted Inspection.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved within the school community who has contributed to this success. We could not have done it without you. I would like to wish everyone in the school community good luck in the next phase of Eton Porny's future.

In His Presence

La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



Are you a joy bringer or a thrill seeker? So much of our time we are seeking the next thrill, the new, improved this-or-that which will bring us pleasure or make us more desirable or fill our dissatisfied hole-in-the-heart in some way. Joy works the other way round: "Delight yourself in the Lord and he'll give you the desires of your heart" says the psalmist. In the Easter story great joy bursts upon the world when the first disciples encounter the risen Jesus. In our churches, as well as in the services held there, we are invited to step into that encounter along with the first disciples and allow the joy of it to seep into us.



The church in Eton above the doctor's surgery will be open at least on Saturday afternoons during March, and hopefully more as summer approaches, for you to spend time in quiet. Or if you like to be creative, then do come and offer your skills at Messy Church where we try to explore the Bible stories in a tactile way. We'll be celebrating too in the parish church in Eton Wick this year, with the Bishop joining us to mark our 150th anniversary in June. Come and join in this joyous occasion!

On The Beat

Michelle Walker

Police Community Support Officer



Over the past few months we have seen a number of incidents regarding groups of children with catapults in the Windsor and Eton areas. We have had an incident of a broken window which is thought to have been caused by a catapult and also injuries to birds. Can anyone that sees such groups please call us on 999 due to possible offences that can be caused with a catapult.

On the subject of contacting us can I remind everyone of the options you have. 101 is our non-emergency number and should be used to report local issues or things of a non-urgent nature. 999 is for when there is a threat to life or property. Emailing us is also an option however please be aware that this should never be used for anything that requires an immediate response from us. We have recently received emails from residents reporting incidents that we would ideally want to attend fairly promptly but we have been unable to due to the fact that specific Officers or Neighbourhood teams have been sent the email and Officers may be on days off or on holiday.



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Diary

March

1st	18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices
5th	14.00-17.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open
12th	14.00-17.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open
15th	18.30 – Last Supper Shared Communion – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick
19th	14.00-17.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open
20th	15.30 – Messy Church – St. John the Evangelist Church, Eton
24th	19.00 – Foot Washing and Tenebrae Service – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick
25th	09.30 – Good Friday Walk of Hope – Start – St. John the Evangelist, Eton on to 10.30 – Eton Wick on to 12.30 – Dorney
26th	14.00-17.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open

April

12th	18.30 – Eton Community Association – AGM – Eton Council Offices
24th	15.30 – Messy Church – St. John the Evangelist Church, Eton

May

15th	15.30 – Messy Church – St. John the Evangelist Church, Eton
24th	18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices

June

12th	12.00 – ECA's Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party
19th	15.30 – Messy Church – St. John the Evangelist Church, Eton
26th	11.00 – 150th Anniversary Service with Bishop of Buckingham – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

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 <i>Library Diary see page 12</i>
Council Office – Eton	Tues-Fri – 08.00-12.00
Charteris Day Centre – Eton	Mon-Thurs – 10.00-15.00

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	
Library	Eton	01753 860506	
	24 hr renewal line	0303 123 0035	
Eton Porny School		01753 861995	
Eton Pre-School		01753 850842	
Healthcare	Fast Medical Help, Non-Emergency (NHS)	111	
	Doctors	South Meadow Surgery (24 hr line)	01753 833777
		(appointments)	01753 832332
	Hospitals	King Edward VII Outpatients, Windsor	01753 860441
		Prince Charles Eye Unit, KE VII Casualty	01753 636359
		Wexham Park Hospital	01753 633000
		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 370602	
Police	Crime in Progress	999	
	Non-Emergency	101	
River Authority	Environment Agency (gen. enquiries)	03708 506 506	
	Floodline	0345 988 1188	
Royal Borough Of Windsor And Maidenhead (customer care)		01628 683800	
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World Vision International

Dirk Booy – Eton Resident & Head of Global Programs WVI

I work for World Vision International (WVI) a Christian humanitarian relief, development and advocacy organization. Our vision is to create a better life for vulnerable children around the world. Therefore, our programs focus on areas like health, water, education, livelihoods for parents, and community care/protection. WVI has over 45,000 staff working in 96 countries impacting the lives of more than 200 million children.

As a non-profit organization, WVI receives the bulk of its resources from private donations. Additionally, we are awarded grants from governments, foundations and multilateral organizations (e.g. UN agencies). All totalled, WVI's global budget is @ USD 2.6 billion (£1.82 billion).

In my capacity as head of our Global Programs, I oversee our technical programs. I have teams of professionals in the areas like nutrition, agriculture, health, education, and micro finance who work at building our capacity to deliver quality programming. My work requires me to travel @50% of the time providing leadership, support and encouragement to our staff around the globe.

I've been involved in development work my whole career. Joanne and I have spent over 20 years living and working in Africa – mostly Sierra Leone and Tanzania. Our three children were raised there and all have ended up in careers that serve their fellow human beings. Our oldest has returned to Africa and works for World Vision as well.



I'm often asked: poverty is such a big challenge, are you really making a difference? Overall, the answer is yes. In 1990, 33,000 children died needlessly each day. Today that number is 21,000. But those are numbers. In my work, I meet families all over the world who know it is working. When children have access to a school, to immunizations, to health care; when, mothers are trained to earn an income and care for their children; when communities are empowered to adopt change that protects the next generation – it all makes a BIG difference!

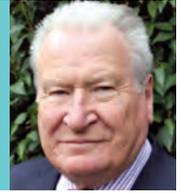
My wife, Joanne, and I moved to Eton a little over 5 years ago. We liked the historical feel, the central location and the walking culture. But more so, we have come to love the warm and friendly community.

For further information on WVI go to: <http://www.worldvision.org.uk/>

Eton within the Borough

Malcolm Alexander

RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle



How can so much preparation become such a distant memory so quickly? I'm talking about Christmas, of course. Yet just a month on, and the Easter eggs are lined up in Tesco's like a chocolate army. But aside from family get-togethers, a couple of things are fondly remembered from the festive period. One was a joyous carol service, and the other was the Eton lights 'switch on'. Lovely atmosphere that evening, and the wonderful new display does Eton proud.



The past few months have been extremely busy, and also productive. The Meadow Lane car park extension started on time; thank you to the Mayor of Eton, Cllr Derek Bishop, and representatives of the Brocas Residents' Group, Peter Eaton, Linda Oatway and Anthony Allison with daughter Lucy, for joining me on that occasion, pictured left.

The long-awaited Bollards have finally been installed in Brocas Street and the

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation has taken place. This will cover the The Brocas and Footpath 51(FP51). As ever, planning issues continue to challenge, and attempts are made to alleviate complaints while recognising the reality of business. The planned alterations to the fenestration (window openings) at the Flaming Cow will, we hope, be a step in the right direction.

Looking at a change of use, we have a planning proposal for 'The Cockpit' – claimed to be the oldest building on Eton High Street. This former restaurant, now a derelict building, is the subject of an application for part residential conversion, and part commercial.

There is a lot of planning ahead (in a different way) for the Queen's birthday celebrations, with some exciting initiatives being undertaken by many communities. One which I'm particularly interested in is the 'Clean for the Queen' idea, a campaign to clean up Britain in time for Her Majesty's 90th birthday. The weekend of 4th, 5th, and 6th of March has been nominated as national housekeeping day and Eton's clean sweep will take place on March 6th. Help if you can.

No more space to mention ideas for the future, so keep an eye on minutes of upcoming local meetings – online or at the Town Council offices.

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

Thames and Town – Historical Snippets

Graham Walter, Eton Resident

The town of Eton has always been closely associated with the river on whose bank it stands. Indeed, according to one interpretation of the name, “Eton” is derived from Old English Ea-tun, meaning River-Town. Another interpretation of the name is Ey-tun, or Island-Town; in the medieval period Eton was on land between what is now the Thames and a significant branch of the river at what is now the end of the High Street.

The area next to the river was until recently associated with industrial use. A section downstream of Windsor Bridge used to be called Eton Wharf, and would have seen the shipment of heavy goods to or from London and other places along the Thames (records show various coal merchants operating at Eton Wharf in the 19th Century, one being John Mason, died 1840). There were also local industries such as tanning, which needed easy access to quantities of water. With the advent of improved roads, this area became a builder's yard, with little or no river traffic.

Near the bridge were watermen, offering ferry services and boats for hire, and slightly further up river were boat builders. In the building immediately below the bridge (now Côte Restaurant), boats for hire were stored at river level, from where they could be easily launched into the water. Unfortunately this floor of the restaurant is rather susceptible to flooding because of this design!



The picture on page 7 shows what this area looked like in the 1960s.

Over the last few decades, nearly all the river front has been redeveloped as luxury apartments, with only a few boathouses upstream of the bridge, and Côte Restaurant left as the only non-residential buildings. The river traffic has shifted from mainly commercial to pleasure boating, with public short term moorings at what was Eton Wharf, and rowers from the College using the boathouses.

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

J Manley Gallery

Established 1891

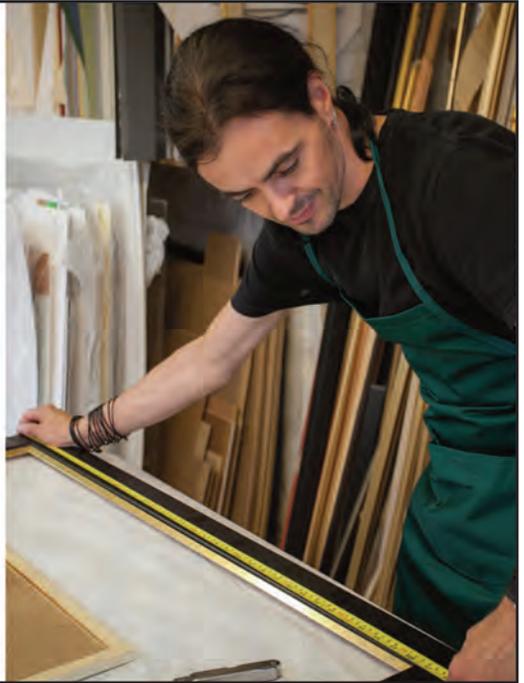
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Eton Community Association – What are we up to!

Ros Rivaz – Chair

Christmas, a summer event, the wonderful Eton Matters and caring about greenery are our regular activities. We have supported the Meadow Lane car park extension actively and the Public Space Protection Order process, which allows the Police to control inappropriate behaviour in our Town. Well done to the Brocas Residents' Group who have led on these and have been lobbying for these improvements for many years. I am optimistic that by the time this Eton Matters comes through your door, we will be seeing even more progress on these fronts.

If you want to know more about what we are doing about noise and air pollution, do come to ECA meetings. We have a great relationship with the excellent Eton College, where more events are open to the community and are well advertised to be sure that we can benefit. We circulate planning applications to give the community a chance to share their views. Do turn up to our meetings; the more the merrier and all views, ideas and inputs are welcome. Please see the page 3 of Eton Matters for dates/locations.





I am excited to say that we have fixed upon Sunday 12th June for the Queen's 90th birthday Street party from 12 till 5pm.

Tables, chairs and bunting, under a sun or rain proof awning, will be hired and in place for us all to use for a small donation, which will cover the costs from bands to insurance.

We are working to develop a fun day! Keep an eye out for posters and flyers. In addition, Ieva is working hard to develop a popup exhibition "How I met the Queen" a timeline of stories covering 90 years of history. For both events, please let us know (see contact details on P3) if you want to help.

Tell us your story How and When you have met the Queen



Finally, it seems unbelievable that JaM, run for so many successful years will have ceased by the time you read this. Not only was this a fab shop with some great events and a powerful on line presence, but Mike's contribution to Eton Traders and Eton Community has been invaluable over very many years. Mike and Jacqueline, we will miss you!

A Caper Around the Castle

Thomas, aged 3



One of my favourite things to do with my Daddy is to visit Windsor Castle. We go right at the end of the day, just as its closing, so that we can avoid the long queues. And because my Daddy has an Advantage Card, it doesn't cost us anything to get in. I like to take my sword and shield with me so that we can play knights.

My Daddy gives me the ticket to hold as we go through the gates that beep. I have to put my sword and shield through the machine, but luckily they

come out the other side! I show our ticket to the man or lady at the doors and then we are in. We walk up the hill (well, Daddy walks, but sometimes I like to be carried) and through the little doorway next to the stone archway. Then we pretend to fire arrows at the enemies through the arrow slits in the wall.

Once we have fired arrows at all the enemies, we go to look at the big cannons. They make me think of pirates and Daddy and I have fun talking like pirates and pretending to fight with cutlasses! Next we go inside the Castle. Sometimes my little sister comes with us, and then we have to go to the cloakroom to leave her buggy. They have baby slings that my Mummy and Daddy can borrow, so their arms don't get too tired carrying her. She is getting a bit heavy now!

Inside the Castle there are so many things to look at. I like to look at the swords and the guns, but most of all I like the suits of armour. I like to imagine that they come to life when the Castle is closed and all the tourists gone, and practise sword fighting and jousting in the Castle corridors!

On the way out, we stop to watch the soldier dressed in his smart red and gold uniform, with his tall black hat. He looks like a statue, he stands so still, but then suddenly he will start marching up and down. I like to practise my marching too; it's fun to sing "The Grand Old Duke of York" as we march out of the Castle!

We always say hello to the policemen outside the Castle gate before heading home for tea. I can't wait for my next visit!

For more information on visiting Windsor Castle, see www.royalcollection.org.uk



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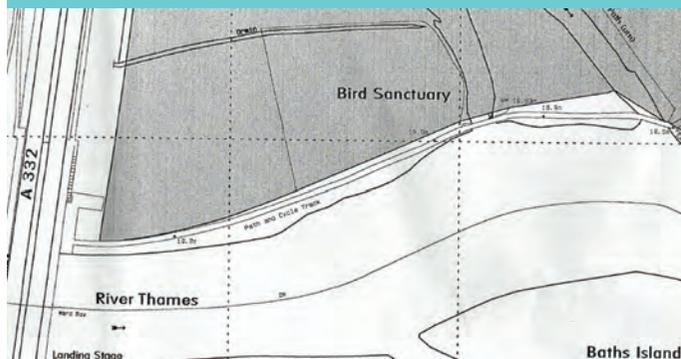
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Nature Watch

Eton's Old Bird Sanctuary



This nature reserve was started by Eton boys in 1934 on the site of old osier (willow) beds on a site on the north bank of the Thames. It's easily missed as you walk along the tow path heading west just before you go under the Windsor Relief Road.

The site was the focus of interest of what was at that time a very active College Natural History Society. A small pond was dug out by the boys and there is a photo below of them wallowing in mud, glorious mud!

There is a comprehensive bird species list from that time and details of nests and hatching success, plus details of the sort of habitats that were created to encourage birds. 46 species were recorded during its first decade and the boys counted 41 nests produced by 16 species in 1937. At that time there were numerous Reed and Sedge Warblers. Interest



of boys in the site waned progressively from the 1970s onwards and it is only in the last fifteen years that efforts have been made to conserve the area and conduct surveys. Recent surveys show that the number of bird species has declined to 27, largely due to the habitat drying up. The most notable species now are Reed Buntings, Chiffchaffs, Garden Warblers and Whitethroat. Two snails on the site are listed in the Red Data Book, meaning that they are very rare. They are *Perforatella rubiginosa* and *Lacinaria biplicata*. Moth surveys have shown a decent species list and one nationally rare species,

George Fussey

Curator – Eton College Natural History Museum

the Cream-bordered Green Pea (*Earias clorana*). There are four nationally scarce spiders on the reserve and six nationally scarce beetles and a rare ant (*Lasius brunneus*). The cutest species seen was a Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*) which appeared one evening whilst a moth survey was being carried out!



*Reed Bunting – can be found at the Bird Sanctuary.
Photo: Birds of Berkshire Atlas/Brian Clews*

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


CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

JOIN
YOUR LOCAL
CLEAN UP

"Clean Up Eton Morning"
9.00am Sunday 6th March
Meet at Eton Town Hall
All Equipment Provided

Join the Clean for The Queen weekend on March 4/5/6 and let's clear up the UK in time for a very special Birthday.

Help Needed

We need another volunteer to join our small editorial team for Eton Matters to liaise with businesses in Eton to obtain sponsorship through advertising for this mini-mag. As it is only published 3 times a year, it should only take a few hours for each publication.

Please contact the editor by email:
editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

Also

Anyone who can help with the arrangements, particularly on the day, for the Street Party please contact the ECA Chair by email:
chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk

Or

Why not join the committee and help with all our good work. Contact the Chair prior to AGM

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Protests Pay Off!

Duncan Reed

Government postpones runway decision for at least 6 months



The protests against a third runway at Heathrow mounted by campaign groups, politicians and local authorities have paid off. Just before Christmas the Government was forced to announce that it was postponing its decision on a new runway until the second half of this year. It had been expected to give the green light to the third runway (providing tough conditions were met). But in December Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said that it was still examining both the Heathrow options as well as Gatwick. The forthcoming Mayoral elections will have played a role in the Government's decision. The candidates of all the five main parties have come out against a third runway at Heathrow. In particular, the Conservative candidate Zac Goldsmith has said he would resign as an MP and trigger a by-election in his constituency of Richmond and North Kingston if it was given the go-ahead. But this was not an announcement purely driven by politics. We understand that the Department for Transport feels it needs to do more work to assess the various options. There are continuing concerns about air pollution around Heathrow. There is uncertainty about who will pay for the cost of the associated road and rail infrastructure. And the Government is also worried about the level of visible protest – such as the Central London rally (pictured above) organised by HACAN – which has surfaced since the Airports Commission published its report last July.

*article re-printed with permission of HACAN (www.HACAN.org.uk)

Following the public meeting in early 2014 where it was agreed that the ECA would support the opposition to 3rd Runway at Heathrow, Duncan has updated us periodically on the campaign. Duncan can be contacted by email at duncreed@gmail.com for any information on the anti-3rd runway campaign.

Eton Pre-School

Sue Clifford – Manager



At the end of 2015 Eton Pre-School had a visit from OFSTED, who inspect Early Years provision, to ensure we are all up to standard. I am very pleased to say that we got an 'Outstanding' for the second time in a row. The staff have worked really hard to achieve this and so many of our Parents wanted to tell the inspector about us that she had to spend an hour more than planned with us!



The children were very welcoming to the inspector and engaged her with all sorts of chat and games including trying to measure her with the tape measures and insisting she sat in their den in the rainy garden!

I would like to express my thanks to all of you who have helped us achieve this accolade from supplying raffle prizes to raise money for equipment, to providing us with recycled materials for creative activities. Between us we create a truly outstanding community!

Oh.... and check out our new website at etonpreschool.org for more information!

On The Drawing Board

Peter Eaton – Editor

Watermans' Island

Following much discussion on whether to remove or retain a seat at the eastern end of the Watermans' island in Brocas Street the decision has been made to retain seating there. It was generally felt that seating was needed as the bus stop seating is inadequate



Visualisation courtesy of Lewandowski Architects Ltd.

and when in use blocks the pavement but a design was needed to stop the seating being used for sleeping on and enhance the area.. The proposed design for a planter and seating attached as seen in the visualisation here has now been submitted for planning consent by the Town Council with a decision due towards the end of March. RBWM Planning Application No: 16/00189

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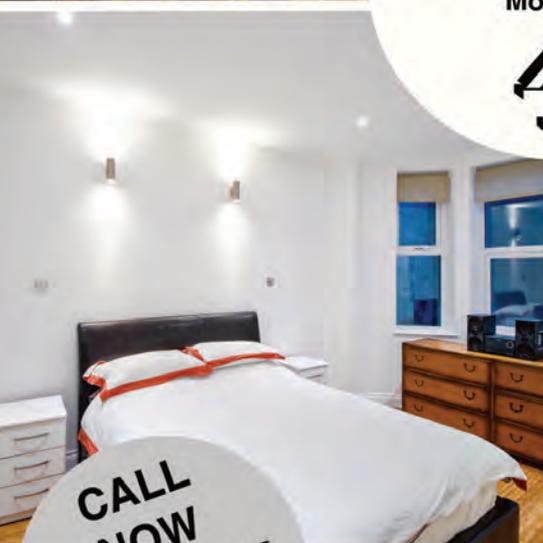
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