



Floreat Etona

March 2017

Issue 12

Eton *Matters*

College Museums
Open to Public

My Hobby
Working with Wood

A Card From
Her Majesty

70 yrs Ago
Water Everywhere



St John's Church
Second Life

An Eton Community Association Publication

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Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz
ECA Chair



As always at this time of year, just as spring starts to show its early signs of new growth, we look back to Christmas. The cosy evenings by the fire, the beautiful walks across the Brocas with hats, gloves and scarves and sunshine warming our backs...and Christmas; a time with family and friends. Here in Eton, we are so lucky that our High Street creates a perfect environment for Christmas lights, trees and merriment.

A huge thank you to Malcolm Leach, who yet again led the important Lights Switch on event and also to Paul Roach without whom Christmas in Eton & Windsor wouldn't happen! Malcolm's team this year included Karen Waller, Steve Gosnell and Jane Reed, all of whom worked tirelessly to create a wonderful evening for the community. A huge thank you from us all!

There are now monthly events taking place thanks to Katie Leach and Paul Bayley, including the Pie and a Pint with the Beer Story at The George and the tailoring event at New & Lingwood. Coming up soon, we will have the Great British Spring Clean (see page 26), which proved very popular last year as Clean for the Queen, with many community stalwarts, several College boys and staff and masses of black bags, picks and gloves for us all to do our bit, before tea and cakes by way of a thank you! Please do join us. Sign up on www.etoncommunity.co.uk to ensure your email address is on our distribution list. You will receive a short Shout Out every couple of weeks with information about our events.

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

Forthcoming Eton Community Association Meetings

All at 6.30pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Eton

Everyone welcome

Monday 10 April and Monday 5 June (AGM)

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

Rebecca Tessler – Museum Officer, Eton College

Eton College's three museums open together to the public for the first time.



Following in the footsteps of the popular Eton College Natural History Museum, the College has opened the doors of the Eton Museum of Antiquities and the Museum of Eton Life every Sunday afternoon from 2.30-5.00pm. Admission is free to access treasures from the College Collections. From an ancient coffin depicting Thutmosis III to flora and fauna from the Thames, the museums showcase the ancient, natural and social history of both Eton and the world. Discover artefacts from Greece to specimens

from the fields of Eton; compare vessels from South America with those used across the centuries in College Hall at the school.

The Eton College Natural History Museum has pioneered this access to the collections, having been open to the public on Sunday afternoons since 2000. Originally opened in 1875 to house the Thackeray collection of British birds it now boasts an eclectic mix of natural history from butterflies to fossils and from coral to extensive displays of Thames Valley wildlife. The Eton Museum of Antiquities, having recently been opened in the purpose-built Jafar Gallery in 2015, explores history through archaeological finds. From tools dredged from the Thames to stunning examples of Egyptian blue faience, the museum displays the scope of this fantastic collection. The Museum of Eton Life tells the story of life at the school from its foundation in 1440 to the present day, charting the development of all aspects of the Eton experience from the subjects taught, the sports played to the clothes worn and the houses lived in by boys at the school throughout its history.

These openings are made possible by a fantastic team of Museum Custodians who look forward to welcoming you on Sunday afternoons.

Eton College Museums Open Sundays 2.30-5.00pm

Eton Museum of Antiquities - Jafar Gallery - South Meadow Lane

The Museum of Eton Life - Baldwins Shore

The Natural History Museum - South Meadow Lane

Free Admission



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St. John's Church – Second Life

Two moments in particular stand out for me. On Friday, 13th September 1991 was the service of dedication when local residents were invited for the official re-establishment of their Church. Elderly ladies were in tears saying they had been christened, married, had their own children christened in the Church when it was thriving, and that now, at long last, they had their Church back. It was all very emotional. Wind back over nine years from this date when I was gazing out of my office window watching pigeons flying in and out of the Chancel roof and wishing that I could do something to help that ailing Church. I received a call from the then Buildings Bursar of Eton College, Brian Hoare, asking me if I could have a look at the Church with a view to converting it to their new sanatorium which, at the time, was being planned for the site alongside the Church Hall. What a moment! I could hardly believe it.



There followed many months, in fact years, of developing the proposals into a scheme which would satisfy the interested parties; Eton College of course, the Diocese, English Heritage, local planners and conservation officers, and local residents. Everyone was incredibly supportive and formal consent was duly forthcoming. It was also decided to move the local doctors' surgery into the complex, where they could serve both "town and gown", thereby creating a real community project.

Philip Tilbury –Eton Architect

The Nave and Aisles of the Church was structurally “challenged”. When originally built, it had a 9’ high clerestory above the Nave, but this had to be removed for safety and the main roof was lowered, which is why this roof has a rather odd relationship with the lean-to Aisle roofs. The original Church also had a tall spire on the Tower which had been badly damaged in the war and had to be removed. It left the top of the Tower leaning 10” toward South Meadow. These structural problems meant that the Nave and Aisles had to be rebuilt, leaving the Tower, Chancel, Lady Chapel and North Porch standing



New and old combined

alone for a while. The Tower needed extra help during the demolition phase, requiring a large steel girdle wrapped around its upper reaches, tied down to a huge concrete block set in the ground on its eastern side, all to stop it falling over.

Much of the original fabric was salvaged for reuse: the pitch pine roof trusses were carefully lifted off and stacked vertically in a secure compound on South Meadow; the whole of the West window stonework and the internal arcades taken out and laid, stone by stone, bedded in straw and covered ready for rebuilding. Beautiful English slates were salvaged from the roof but thieves managed to break in and stole most of them one evening. They liked them so much they came back the next night for the remainder. This was a very sad moment as there was a shortage of slate in the country at the time and a good match was not available.

The stone from the arcades was reused in the colonnade at the newly-formed west end, and we had to test the very ornate capitals to ensure water would run off naturally and not linger in pockets where, if frozen, would shatter the stone. 26 years on, they are still in fine condition.

The good Victorian stained glass of the Chancel was carefully removed, restored and re-fixed in the newly-formed St. John's Church where one can be close and personal to the glass and really appreciate its beauty.

I consider myself extremely privileged to have been part of this project which has given so much back to the people of Eton.

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Bookworm

Information and Book Reviews from your Library

Karen Usher and Vicki Wilson (right)

Eton Library Supervisors



Working in libraries gives us access to a multitude of books and we love exploring a range of genres in order to share our observations with our customers. Each year a new wealth of books are published and 2016 was no exception. Shakespeare's 400th Anniversary inspired much new writing and Hogarth Publishers commissioned several novelists to 'rewrite' some of his plays as prose.

Of the three I have read so far, *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler (*Taming of the Shrew*), *The Gap of Time* by Jeanette Winterson (*The Winter's Tale*) my favourite is *Hag-seed* by Margaret Atwood. This is her modern day version of *The Tempest*; the title inspired by a Shakespearian swearword. It is set in a prison and follows the revenge plotted by Felix (Prospero) on Tony (Antonio) for losing his place as artistic director of a Canadian theatre festival. It is a play within a play within a novel using the premise of being imprisoned from the original to relate to the prisoners who are putting on the play. Margaret Atwood very cleverly weaves the magic of the *Tempest* into the contemporary setting and I loved the way she cast the parts among the prisoners, maintaining the original characters from the play in modern form. The prisoners' own interpretation of the play shone a new light on my own understanding of its themes.

There are more books written and planned in this series, notably Tracy Chevalier tackling *Othello*, Gillian Flynn adapting *Hamlet*, Edward St Aubyn is writing his version of *King Lear* and Howard Jacobson is taking on *The Merchant of Venice*. These are already or will soon be available to borrow from the library. Call in or go online to browse and request books. We are always happy to make recommendations and help you choose the perfect read.

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 Friday 10th March then weekly from
21st April to end of June (excl. 2 June)**

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.**

Kids' Play – My Eton

Bligh Henshilwood – Aged 10

I live in a little cosy town called Eton, home to Eton College. A skip over the bridge gets you to Windsor Castle and to my school St Georges. I have lived in Eton for my whole life except for a three-year gap when I was four when we moved to Melbourne, Australia.



Eton is many things to me. I like it because it is quite small and I can cycle, walk or drive to school (when I am very late!). It has lots of fields for me to meet my friends and play football on. My dog Harry, who is a German Short Haired Pointer also likes it a lot but thinks most of it is his back garden, as he knows it so well and the many people who live here, which I like. I like going to Costa for a hot chocolate to warm up in the winter, or for a 'cooler' in the summer sat watching the river.

When I was little we would go to the river to feed the swans, although sometimes I remember being quite scared of them. We did this on New Year's Day in the rain this year with our friends and it was still great fun. Although the fun bit now is watching

the birds swoop down to steal the bread! We sometimes take a boat out too which is great fun though my grandparents used to be a little scared when I was small and just learning to row!

I like that there are many different types of people that live in Eton and that my family and I have many friends here. It is sometimes difficult to walk down the road without my Mum or Dad having to stop a lot to chat! Mum says Eton is a real community, which is a rare thing and we should cherish it. I can start to see what she means. I hope other people living in other towns are as lucky as we are.

Dear Teacher,

Thank you for being so patient with me. You really understand us younger children. I guess you know that we don't stay still for very long and really can't sit through a whole book. Nothing personal. You must know too, that I can't always share. I just don't get it. I'm glad you don't get mad when I get grumpy and say "no". It's very cool to be able to say something and get a reaction from big people! It's good that you are always watching, and close by in case I need you. I'm glad you understand that it is way more fun to get things out than to put them away. Thanks Teacher, for not being mad at me – I know you look tired at the end of the day. Oh, and Teacher, I wanted to tell you - you are a very big part of my life. **Anon.**

(Courtesy of Karen Waller)

Sign up to Eton News



Eton Community is a thriving association of residents, retailers and business working together to improve Eton as a place to live, work, and visit.

The association meets at least quarterly and is committed to:

- ✦ Providing **news** and information about Eton
- ✦ Organising **events** for the community
- ✦ Coordinating **projects** to maintain and improve Eton's environment
- ✦ **Representing** the needs of people in Eton with other organisations
- ✦ **Raising funds** to help make Eton an even better place.

Great source of Eton information. Locally managed by volunteers.
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etoncommunity.co.uk





Eton within the Borough

Malcolm Alexander
RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle

2016! Wow, what a fantastic year that was, to be living in Windsor & Eton.

The Queen's 90th birthday walkabout was, of course, the highlight of that day for many of us, and I rather think HMQ enjoyed it too. Many other events marked this very special birthday including street parties, tea parties, bonfires and beacons – and all passed with good humour and restraint. I think we really have to say a thank you here to our local police, who kept us all secure while not being in the least over-bearing.

The Eton Community Association goes from strength to strength, the most notable venture being the imminent completion of the Eton Walkway and its official opening. My wife and I were invited to join members and friends of the Association for a Christmas meal in December. A well organised and convivial evening, full, my wife said later, of very interesting people.

We look forward to building on the achievements of last year in several ways:

There are plans to improve cycle parking in the town by introducing storage facilities, which hopefully will see an end to cycles being chained to the railings of our iconic bridge. Plus new arrangements for car parking payments are being introduced in RBWM controlled car parks. Pay & Display will become pay on exit, with new access and egress control barriers installed. Meadow Lane car park will become part of this new regime.

2017 will see the final stages of the work associated with the Borough Local Plan (BLP) and I am pleased that so many of you took the time to respond to the consultation. It is worth reminding ourselves here of the objects of the Plan, which are to:-

Protect our Heritage: Provide housing: Promote tourism: Grow local businesses: Ensure town centres are the heart of our communities: To minimise the impact of flooding.

All of these things, without a doubt, are relevant to our historic Eton.

There will be many pressures in the coming year, but one of the greatest will be to continue to challenge the government, to ensure that the third runway at Heathrow does not happen. By the time this goes to press we will know whether a Judicial Review of this decision will go ahead.

So much to do; time to stop writing and get to work.

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

Do you have a few hours to spare every four months?

We need someone who is willing to volunteer a few hours for every issue of Eton Matters to obtain sponsorship through advertising to pay for the printing.

If you would like to help contact the editor.

Email: editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

My Hobby – Working with Wood

Pawel Myszograj – Eton Resident



Coming to the UK in 2005 from Poland I hadn't planned to stay very long, however in 2007 I started working for Eton College as a handyman.

My hobby is working with wood, I am self-taught and just like to make

things, turn something what may now be junk into something completely new or different for someone gives me great pleasure. I was trained as a metal-worker and also like working with metals but this requires a different type of workshop.

Creating and hand working gives me a



lot of satisfaction and is very therapeutic, every stage from idea, planning, choice of materials, building to finish and of course the smile on the clients face when I present them with their item.

I had the chance to buy some really nice hand tools from a colleague that had belonged to his father-in-law and he gave me a lovely wooden toolbox as well so I wanted to do something for him in return so I restored his wooden plane and made a box for it.

The hand cart was quite an interesting and challenging project as it was old and in bad shape, however it had been built by hand by an experienced carpenter so even after years of use and abuse was still in one piece, sort of.



In His Presence

La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



I am preparing Sunday's sermon on the moment when Mary and Joseph take their 6 week old baby to the temple and old Simeon recognizes this baby as the one who will be the light of the world and the glory of the people of God. I love the upside down message of Christianity where it is the tiny vulnerable human being who is revealed as holding all the power of the cosmos. Never mind our posturing and self-aggrandising and grasping world. The message of Christ is that love and grace will always win in the end. I pray that you may encounter this grace as we enter the season of Lent and emerge on the bright morning of Easter with death forever overcome.

Lent begins on 1st March with services in Eton and Dorney on Ash Wednesday. On Good Friday we start our procession with the cross at Eton Church at 9.30 and walk through to Eton Wick and Dorney churches. And then do emerge bright and early on Easter day and join us for bacon butties at crack of dawn at Boveney! Watch out too for Eton Church being open on Saturdays in March and April.

With joyful blessings. La.



Messy Easter

Friday 14th April 3-5 pm

Drop in for activities, worship and tea

All Welcome

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Contacts: Revd La Stacey, 01753 852268

Paula Darrall, 07739 180609

Eton Matters

We Need Your Stories

To keep this mini-magazine going we need your stories of your interests, your or your families association with Eton past or present, the history of your home or street, your observation around Eton.

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Diary

March

7th	17.00 – Combined Evensong with the choir of St Paul's School, Concord, NH.- College Chapel
10th	20.45 – ECMS Concert (Marcello Palazzo MS) - College Chapel
11th	14.00-16.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open
12th	09.00 – Eton Spring Clean – Meet at Council Offices (See Page 26)
15th	20.45 – Onyx Brass concert with pupils from Eton College – College School Hall
19th	20.15 – School Concert – College School Hall
21st	20.15 – ECMS Choral Concert (Haydn: Creation) – College School Hall
25th	14.00-16.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open

April

1st	14.00-16.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open
8th	14.00-16.00 – St. John the Evangelist, Eton – Open
10th	18.30 – Eton Community Association – St. John the Evangelist Church
12th	18.30 – Passover Communion - St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick
14th	09.30 – Good Friday Walk of Hope – Start - St. John the Evangelist, Eton on to 10.30 – Eton Wick for service then on to 12.30 – Dorney
14th	15.00 – Messy Church – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

June

5th	18.30 – Eton Community Association (AGM) – St. John the Evangelist Church
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Regular Events

Knit and Natter Group – Every Monday – 14.00 – Eton Library
Eton College Museums – Every Sunday – 14.30-17.00 –Free entry
Eton Town Council Meeting – 19.30 - First Thursday of Month - Eton Council Offices

Churches (regular services)

St. John the Evangelist, Eton (C of E) Services

1st & 3rd Wednesdays	10.00 – Communion (said)
Every Wednesday	08.00 to 09.30 - Come in for a coffee (except during Lent)
4th Sundays	Sing a New Song preceded by coffee at 18.15 (Sundays – 9.30 & 11.00 Services - St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick)

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

Apostolic Fellowship of Christ – Baldwin Institute

Sunday School – Sundays – 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 19</i>
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Council Office – Eton	Tues-Fri – 08.00-12.00
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Charteris Day Centre – Eton	Mon – Thurs – 10.00-15.00
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Please Note: the Eton Community Association Meetings on Monday 10th April and Monday 5th June (AGM) will be held in the St. John the Evangelist Church, High St., Eton, both starting at 6.30pm.

Useful Numbers

Churches	St John the Evangelist (Vicar)	01753 852268
	Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton Court	01753 542862
Community Warden	Phil Griffiths	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, nr 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
	24 hour line for key services – report illicit actions, late night noise, dangerous structures, etc.	01753 853517
Swan Support		07968 868172



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Taking Council

Bob Austen

Town Clerk, Eton Town Council



With Christmas done and dusted and the New Year rushing by, it is timely to reflect on what a magnificent spectacle the Christmas lights have been in Eton this year. Those individuals and organisations responsible can feel justly proud of their achievement; I cannot think of a better display anywhere. OK, we had issues with the street lights in the High Street but the majesty of the Christmas lights I think overcame that nuisance.

Residents may have noticed two new dog bins in Eton, one at the entrance to the Brocas and one on Jubilee Square. Dog fouling seems to be the number one curse in Eton and elsewhere; I receive more complaints about this subject than anything else. The Town Council may well look at increasing the number of dog bins, for example on the new Watermans Arms bench/planter area.

Looking ahead, we have the Eton Town Spring Clean on Sunday morning 12th March when we hope to see lots of families taking part in this annual challenge to tidy up our beautiful town. Look out for posters and publicity (see page 26).

Peeking Beneath the Surface

Derek Bishop – Eton's Mayor

When renovating our property in the High Street, in 2009/10, we discovered, hidden beneath the floor boards of an attic bedroom, a child's shoe with some random slips of paper covered in strange symbols.

After a little research, we found that this was, at the time, a fairly common practice. A shoe under the floor was said to protect from evil spirits - apparently once the spirits entered the shoe, they were unable to fly back out !



At the time I was going to take the shoe away from the house to display elsewhere but I was emphatically advised that this would be very bad luck- it should remain in the house.

The shoe now resides in an illuminated box beneath the floor boards of our home.

I am quite sure that there are many more instances of such charming superstitions within our historic town.....

A Card From Her Majesty

Marie Pick at 100 chats to Ros Rivaz

When I woke up on 3 November, I thought to myself "I don't feel any different; I don't feel 100!" But what made it a different birthday was a card from Her Majesty the Queen.



Marie, who lives in the centre of Eton, was 100 in November and you certainly would have no idea. She is sprightly and fun, making excellent coffee and serving mince pies and biscuits of exquisite quality, whilst chatting about her long and happy life.

There are so many fascinating stories. At 21, Marie was working in the perfumery Department of Selfridges. She received a pen for her 21st birthday from her Department; her son, David, who is now 64, still treasures the memento. Marie also has a wonderful daughter, Vanessa, who lives in Datchet and phones twice a day.

She was sent to Beirut when she was called up during the war. Her brother had advised her not to go for a uniformed position, so off she went to

a foreign office job hundreds of miles away working for Major-General Sir Edward Spears. Following a health challenge, after 2 years, she was repatriated via Cairo and Suez to a troop ship and then home, no expense spared!

She worked with her mother, running the family flower shop, following the death of her Father, where a dashing young man noticed her and asked for her hand in marriage. Marie was married in 1946, before many of us were even a twinkle in our mother's eye! Marie and her husband, George, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary after 50 years of marriage, shortly before he sadly passed away in 1998. Subsequently Marie moved to Eton.

Marie's two children have given her 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, all making her extremely proud. Son, David lives in Sussex and London and despite travelling abroad frequently, always keeps in touch. Alongside family and friends, Marie also has a fan club that extends to her hairdresser, those who know and look after her at her favourite shops, Simon, our Postman and the Bartletts of Lily Chic fame!

Becoming Master of a Livery Company

Dr Noorzaman Rashid – Eton Resident

My wife Kulbir and I moved into Eton in August 2015 from Datchet where we lived in the Manor House associated with William Herschel. Following our interest of English history we landed somewhere between Eton College and Windsor Castle. A serendipitous meeting with the very charismatic Ros Rivaz evolved into a new group of friends and neighbours for us.

On 20th October 2016 Eton friends joined my wife and I and 150 other guests at a private ceremony held in the City of London at one of the ancient Livery Halls (Vintners). Here I was installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants. After taking an oath I was gowned and bestowed with a beautiful gold



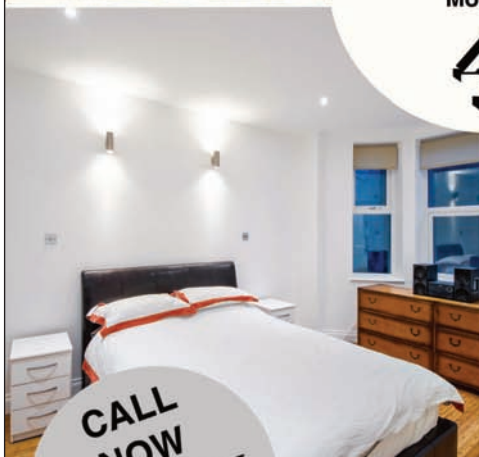
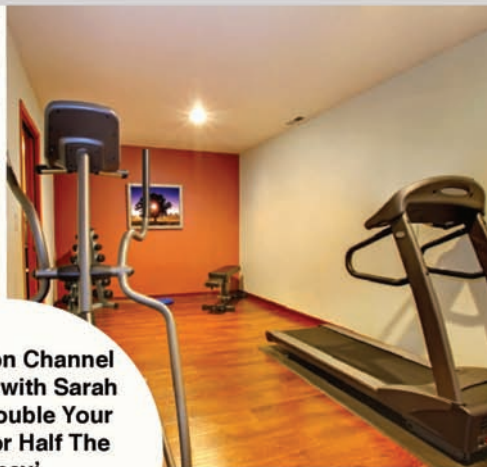
chain of office. During my year of office I will have to attend at least 150 events from charitable functions, livery dinners, fundraising events to a lunch in the Old Bailey with Judges (don't ask me why) to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. I was delighted to receive the latter and will be taking my daughter and son, who is unaware that he will have to wear a morning suit and top hat!

There are 110 Livery Companies in the City of London, the first were established in the 12th Century and all hold Royal Charters. The Management Consultants were established 25 years ago. Originally established to protect their trades, today the Livery Companies focus on philanthropic work supporting charities and the Lord Mayor of London and Corporation of the City of London. As Liverymen we participate in electing the Lord Mayor each year and the Sheriffs!

As Master I'll be hosting a White Tie Banquet at the Mansion House on 25th April and a Summer Ball at the splendid Plaisterers Hall on 11th July. Please feel free to contact me Noorzaman.rashid@gmail.com if you are interested in attending either of these events.



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Porny School

Katherine Russell
Head Teacher

It gives me great pleasure to write this short article to introduce myself as the Headteacher of Eton Porny. Eton Porny is such a wonderful, quirky and exciting place, full of history, a subject very close to my heart, and I very much look forward to getting to know the Eton Community. It has been a super start to 2017, with a new term and I want to thank our staff and parent community for warmly welcoming me to the school. Already we have started to create great working partnerships to ensure that our children have the very best opportunities that we can provide. The staff have been amazing and thrown themselves whole heartedly into a new term. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and working together to build a successful and sustainable future for the school. Having met Dr Ros Rivaz, I am also very much looking forward to meeting the rest of Eton community; it is only when we work together that we are stronger. Let's hope that 2017 is a healthy year of progress and prosperity for us all.

Eton Pre-School

Sue Clifford – Manager



It is not often that the Pre-School gets to offer a new service to the community but this year has seen us do just that! After lots of discussions over the last 12 months we have, at last, launched our new after school club for children from 3 to 9 years...we've named it Toast! The children who currently attend are from Eton Pre-School and Eton Porny School but it is open to anyone in the community if they are registered with us.

The children from Eton Porny School are collected at the end of their day and brought back to the pre-school where they join up with our younger ones for a snack and lots of play.

So far we have painted, played with playdough, made Christmas decorations, created with Lego amongst other things and made up our own game to play in the garden which the children have named "LAVA!"

Families can access either one or two hours after school/pre-school so offering childcare until 5.30 pm Tuesday to Friday. Interested in our services? Look us up on www.etonpreschool.org or ring us on 01753 850842.

What's in a Name? - The Brocas

Derek Ledger – Eton Resident

When we first took up residence in Eton we came across the name Brocas and discovered the meadow of that name. It seemed to be alien to the quintessentially English character of the area so I thought it worth digging a little to discover where the name came from. It seems that, like so many family names that of Brocas derived from a town of that name. The first mention is of a John Brocas who was born in Gascony, south west France in about 1298. He was brought to England in 1324 where he grew up under the protection of King Edward II and entered royal service, probably in Windsor. He later became responsible for the royal stud and provided horses for the English army, acquiring great wealth in the process.



As John's influence and wealth grew he was able to purchase great swathes of land in and around Windsor, Eton and Clewer, including what became known as the Brocas field. He became part of the English army in France in 1340 fighting at the Battle of Sluys and gave distinguished service which resulted in a knighthood, bestowed by King Edward. He was also part of the army in Brittany and later became English Ambassador in Spain.

Sir John seems to have had a very busy life; he was involved in the creation of the Knights of the Garter and in 1351 he was commissioned by the king to assist in the rebuilding and expansion of Windsor Castle. He also fought in several wars for his king in Europe. Sir John died on the 15th. of January 1365 at his Clewer Manor home.

The fate of the Brocas meadow after it was purchased by Sir John is not entirely clear. There is a possibility that it was bought by the provost of Eton, Henry Bost in 1490 and gifted in his 1503 will to the College which has owned it ever since.

The Brocas meadow today provides much pleasure to the myriad number of dogs that are taken there for exercise. Rental boat owners much favour the river bank for overnight mooring and artists find the view of the castle across the river irresistible, there must have been hundreds of paintings of it over the years. The annual grass cutting in autumn must create fragrant bedding and mouth-watering meals for the animals for which it is destined as the many different wild summer flowers that grow must add palatable flavour and sweet aroma.



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Neighbourhood Plan

Derek Bishop – Chair, Steering Group

We are on the home stretch in developing our Eton & Eton Wick Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of the plan is for you, the community, to express how we would like our town to develop over the next twenty to thirty years. As you know, we divided the work into 4 groups, co-ordinated by a Steering Group. I lead the project, as your Mayor, and those who sit on the Steering Group volunteered to help.

The four groups that have worked tirelessly to develop the Plan are:

- Housing & Development
- Business, Leisure & Tourism
- Transport & Infrastructure
- Environment

We have come to the community for input and consultation 3 times as well as consulting with specific people or bodies regarding certain areas.

We have always felt that having all of our aspirations in one document would be useful, so we had incorporated some areas which are not, strictly speaking, within the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan. The most significant of these relates to the congestion at the Keate's Lane/Slough Road junction. We know that the inconvenience, pollution and

potential safety issues are a cause for concern. We also know that when searching for a potential solution, we will not allow our Eton Wick community or Dorney neighbours to suffer more "cut through" traffic, caused by those trying to avoid the A4 congestion.

Heroes Wanted.

It's time to clean up this town

"Clean Up Eton Morning"
Sunday 12th March
Meet at Eton Council Offices
Anytime From 9.00am All Equipment Provided

By the time we go to print, the final version of the Plan (excluding aspects that do not fall within scope) accompanied by 2 documents: the Consultation Statement and the Basic Condition Statement will be submitted to RBWM. This will be a great achievement for Eton & Eton Wick and I want to thank all of you who have been involved, in the Steering Group, in sub groups or in giving your thoughts and ideas through the various consultations. RBWM will send this through the formal referendum stage when their review is completed. We understand that this may take place in the summer; we will let you know when we know.

70 Years Ago – Water Water Everywhere

Peter Eaton – Eton Relsident

70 years ago this month Eton was inundated by flood water, the worst flood of the 20th century. The scene was set for this flood by extremely cold and snowy weather with two periods of cold weather, starting in December 1946. The second period started on the 21st January 1947 and continued until the 10th March with temperatures falling as low as -21C in Woburn, Bedfordshire (25th February) with only 2 nights when temperatures were above 0C in the whole of February and snow falling on 26 out of the 28 days somewhere in England with only 30 hours of sunshine.



A Pint in a Punt

Photo Courtesy Watermans Arms

On the 10th March milder weather swept in with heavy rain with further rain 2 days later causing a rapid thaw, however because of the frozen ground the snow melt and the rain could not soak in and flowed directly into the streams and rivers. On the 14th March the Thames topped its banks reaching its peak on the 20th at 6'8" (2.03m) above normal levels, taking a further week to

subside. This caused severe flooding of many homes and businesses in Eton with the High Street flooded but just passable by vehicles.

I missed the floods arriving on the scene 18 months later but there are several life-long Eton residents who will have early memories of the flood. My mother often recalled her experience of the flood living in Brocas Terrace saying the water came to the top of the fireplace and with the doors open swans swam through the house. The chickens they kept were put in the loft over the scullery and my gran, granddad and my mum lived upstairs not moving out even after the floods subsided, the place drying out around them. 6 months later my mum and dad married continuing to live in the house.

The meadows of Eton often flooded until the 1970s until greater control of the river became possible. I can remember as a child our garden being completely flooded but not in the house, although the 4ft deep cellars were like swimming pools, and walking across planks to get out to Eton Court, probably in the 1959 flood, that was before the road was raised when Atherton Court flats were built. In comparison the last significant flood in 2014, at its height, water still had about 18" (450mm) to rise before reaching floor level.

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Naturewatch

George Fussey – Curator, Eton College Natural History Museum

Eton's Natural History Museum in South Meadow Lane was built to hold the Thackeray Collection, one of the largest collections of stuffed birds in Victorian Britain. Much of that collection is still in the Museum, over 160 years later. One of my favourite stuffed birds is our Blackcap, and one of the quiz questions that we ask children when they are doing the 'treasure hunt' around the Museum is to answer the question, what colour head does the female Blackcap have? The answer, of course, is not black (that would be too obvious!), but a beautiful chestnut brown.



Photo courtesy of Brian Clews

Blackcaps are warblers that have markedly changed their behaviour over the last fifty years or so. Prior to 1960 it was very rare to see a blackcap in winter in the UK, but the RSPB now estimate that some 3,000 birds overwinter here compared to the 1 million or more pairs that take up residence in summer. So though they are widespread throughout Berkshire in the summer, I was delighted to

welcome a male Blackcap as a regular visitor to my garden birdfeeder (containing sunflower hearts) over the Christmas period. It is also partial to the fallen apples that I leave on the lawn. In the summer Blackcaps typically feed on insects before transitioning to berries and other fruit in the autumn.

The Berkshire Bird Atlas notes the species arriving in the county in November and December. Many of our overwintering Blackcaps come from Central Europe and, in particular, Southern Germany. These migratory movements are known from ringing studies. These involve captured birds being fitted with a uniquely-numbered, lightweight metal ring on their leg that can then be read and reported if they are ever found or caught again. Studies show that our summering Blackcaps, on the other hand, arrive from March onwards and then depart for Southern Europe and North Africa. Some ringed birds have been recovered from as far as Senegal, though Morocco and Tunisia are more common destinations, apparently.

Few of us give any thought to the amazing journeys that some of our garden birds make in one calendar year

The Eton College Natural History Museum in South Meadow Lane is open to the public every Sunday, from 2.30pm until 5pm. It is Berkshire's only dedicated Natural History Museum and is a family-friendly museum with over 16,000 objects. It has numerous displays featuring the wildlife of the Thames Valley. Contact us: g.fussey@etoncollege.org.uk or by phone on 01753 370602 or visit www.etonnhm.com

Where has All the Water Gone!

Peter Eaton – Eton Resident

During the first part of the 20th century documentary evidence shows Barnes Pool to have been completely covered with water, in fact the sluice gate in the downstream culvert still exists showing the height water was held back at to achieve this.

Barnes Pool was fed by what was always known as the brook to the north-east perimeter of South Meadow and this in turn was fed from a culvert, the source of which always appeared to be a mystery but was assumed must have been from the River Thames.



The culvert has ceased to flow and both the brook and the pool have been mainly dry, except in flood, for a large number of years. The reasons behind this is unknown at present but could be many, such as the result of a change in river and/or ground water levels or tree roots blocking the culvert.

As a child I remember the

brook as a wonderful natural environment and going there and playing, damming it up near the culvert and catching stickleback and bullhead fish (then releasing them again of course) and getting frog-spawn. At that time the brook did continually flow and was about 300mm deep near the culvert and running over gravel although it was very shallow and muddy in parts as it travelled on.

Several years back I thought it would be great if the brook and pool could be brought back to life and I am pleased to say this has had much support of late and recently a small group of us who have felt similarly for some time have started to look into the feasibility of making this happen.

If you have any knowledge, memories or pictures of the brook or Barnes Pool as it was or If you would be interested or have a particular skill that may be useful in making this happen and would like to be involved or support this environmental project please contact me via my editor email - editor@etoncommunity.co.uk - or drop your name and telephone number in to Bob at the Council Offices.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue jacket with large pink and yellow floral patterns over a red and white striped shirt, stands in a lush green field. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dense line of green trees.

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