



Floreat Etona

November 2017

Issue 14

Eton Matters

Town & Gown
The Bursar

Kids' Play
Henry's Eton

Leave Nothing but
Footprints

Children's Hospice
Nears Completion



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Bridge**

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Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz - ECA Chair



We have welcomed many new faces to Eton and also to the six weekly Eton Community Association meetings we hold. Do look at the website at www.etoncommunity.co.uk and email any of those noted below if you wish to join in activities we arrange, from Open Shop events, to pub quizzes....and who knows, perhaps we will have reason to organise another Street Party before too long. In addition, please email us or sign up yourself via the website if you want to receive the short newsletter we send out every week or two. In a fortnight we will be switching on the Christmas lights, which for all of us in Eton is the wonderful time of year when we boast about having the best lights in the area! Good luck indeed and a huge thank you to all of those who are organising the switch on activities this year!

After a reasonably warm September, summer doesn't seem that far away, with masses of tourists enjoying Eton High Street, the Brocas and Eton College, amongst other things. We know from our footfall counters that more people are coming over the bridge from Windsor and more are also passing our second monitoring point, near to Budgen's. This is good news and provides an opportunity for many of our retailers and hostellers to capitalise on. However, one frequent tourist photo, the Sugar Maple tree in Jubilee Square, has changed shape since the last issue of Eton Matters. Back in September, the storm ripped a huge branch from this spectacular tree, so the tree will be replaced by another similar one, which will also give a canopy of beautiful colours, providing shade in the summer and some protection from rain too.

I would like to thank the regular and guest contributors and the sponsors of this issue of Eton Matters, without whose generosity we would be unable to produce this mini-mag. The sponsors are: Kavanagh's Budgens, New & Lingwood, Thaxter & Stovell, Makena, Warren Property, J Manley Gallery, Rhubarb and Custard, Vario Press, Beechwood Interiors, Eton Stationers, My Handyman, Eton Cycles, Peter J Martin & Son, Chic 2 Chic. and Golden Curry. **Peter Eaton, Editor**

Forthcoming Eton Community Association Meetings

All at 6.30pm at the Council Offices, Eton

Everyone welcome

Wednesday 1 November; Monday 4 December; Wednesday 24 January

Eton Community Association and Eton Matters Information

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

ECA Secretary - Jessie Lawrence - secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

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

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

EM Advertising Manager - advertising@etoncommunity.co.uk

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Hair Cut for Charity

Ellie Lawrence



My name is Ellie Lawrence and I was asked to write a small article about my recent decision to cut my hair off for the charity Little Princess Trust, which provides real hair wigs for children suffering hair loss. I am 16 years old and following a stressful surgery to repair two broken bones in my spine in 2015, I was diagnosed with alopecia in late 2016, which still affects me in my daily life. I wanted to make a difference to other young children suffering from hair loss causes such as alopecia and cancer, as I know and can understand the pain and self-consciousness they all experience. Considering my hair was down to past my waist, normally, cutting even an inch off was out of the question, however knowing what such a great charity can do for someone who really needs the help, inspired

me, leading me to cut off a whole 12 inches! Looking in the mirror each morning just reminds me what a selfless and powerful deed I did, and how proud I am of myself. To support Little Princess Trust go to: www.littleprincesses.org.uk



Landmark Damaged



You may have walked passed Jubilee Square recently and seen the extensive storm damage to the Sugar Maple tree that was planted there in 2011. The RBWM "Tree Team" inspected the tree on 13th September and it was hoped that it could be cut back and would regrow, but the damage is so severe that it will have to be replaced. Although the tree has been cut back to make it safe, it will be completely removed soon, the stump ground out and a replacement planted this winter. It has been agreed to replace it with a Liquidambar tree which will provide interest throughout the year and spectacular leaf colours in autumn.



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Town & Gown

I grew up in a village in Somerset where my father was the village grocer. I was used to knowing more or less everybody so for me one of the pleasures of my current job is being back in a village environment where it is very rare for me to walk up the High Street without having an impromptu conversation with one or more residents along the way. Of course sometimes those who greet me with a cheery “Good Morning” want to discuss their concerns about, or dissatisfaction with, something the College has done or is rumoured to be about to do. I regard this as fair game. Inevitably the College has a huge impact on life in Eton so we owe it to the community to be as open as possible about our plans.



My parents outside their shop

Before joining Eton, I was the Commercial and Finance Director at Ascot Racecourse during the period when we were developing the new £200 million Grandstand. We held many public meetings with Ascot residents to give details of the project and answer questions about it. When I became Bursar of the College, at the beginning of 2010, I was told that there was something of a divide between town and gown and that one of my objectives should be to improve the relationship. I have tried to ensure that all those who had never stepped foot inside the College have had a chance to do so and that local people know about our building projects before planning applications are posted on the RBWM website. I hope you will agree that Charlotte Villiers, our Exhibition and Outreach Co-ordinator has done an excellent job in organising opportunities to see our wonderful Collections and, for those of who didn't spot the news in a previous edition of Town and Gown, our three museums (Museum of Eton Life, Natural History Museum and Museum of Antiquities) are now open every Sunday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm with free admission. We will be holding another open meeting before the end of the year to let you know more about our next big project which will be new indoor sports facilities.

I spent twenty years working in film and television, living in London, before moving into the world of horseracing at Ascot. When I came to Eton for my interview it was the first time I'd stepped foot in any school since I left school (too many years ago to

Janet Walker - Bursar, Eton College



Drawing of Lupton's Tower and School Yard by M. Dolan

contemplate!) and the first time I'd ever been in a public school. I was delighted to be offered the job whilst recognising that I would be on a very steep learning curve. The position of Bursar at the College is equivalent to that of a Chief Operating Officer in a company and with over 500 staff providing administrative, operational and financial services and over 400 buildings, there is always plenty to do and endless variety. I feel exceptionally privileged that my commute to work is now a stroll across the playing fields of Eton, sometimes spotting the heron along the way, and my office is in a fifteenth century cloister. I am also proud to be part of an institution that offers such an exceptional education to those lucky enough to come here. I was pleasantly surprised by how much the boys are encouraged to be individuals. As the former Provost, Eric Anderson said, "there are as many Etons as there are people who go there".

It is probably also true that there are as many Etons as people who live here but I think we all share the feeling of how fortunate we are to live in such lovely surroundings. Floreat Etona, both town and gown.

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The Finch Hatton Memorial Bridge

Derek Ledger - Eton Resident

Like me, most people will have driven past it umpteen times without realising what or where it is or the significance of its name. From the road it appears as a stone capped red brick abutment with a wooden gate opposite the entrance to Agars Plough on Pocock's Lane. Closer examination will reveal that it is the end of a pretty little bridge spanning Willow Brook that connects the road to one of the cricket fields of Eton College. It was commissioned by Lord Winchelsea and designed by none other than Sir Edwin Lutyens and was constructed in 1934.

The bridge is a substantial if small structure built of red brick with limestone capping and cobble stone paving. Its principal attraction are the two stone griffins on the south abutments which look out towards the college chapel. There is an inscription along one of the side walls that states: "Famous in these



fields and by his many friends greatly loved. Denys Finch Hatton 1887-1931." This gives a clue to the name of the structure which is the Memorial Bridge to the man who played a prominent role during his time at the college as well as later in Africa. Finch Hatton was captain of cricket at Eton, president of the Prefects Society, secretary of the Music Society and Keeper of the Field and Wall. He later graduated from Brasenose College, Oxford. In 1910 he went to South Africa and then to British East Africa where he became a big game hunter in what is now Kenya. He bought some land on the western side of the Great Rift Valley which he turned over to a partner. When he returned to Kenya at the end of the First World War he met and fell in love with a Danish aristocrat, Baroness Karen Blixen, they never married but had a torrid affair which has been portrayed in the film "Out of Africa" starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford. Finch Hatton joined in the campaign of white settlers that eventually resulted in the creation of Kenya as a united country and his exploits together with such others as Lord Delamere, whose descendants still live there, gained him notoriety and fame. Finch Hatton became one of the premier big game safari organisers and one of his clients was Edward, Prince of Wales who was a ruthless hunter but changed from a gun to a camera largely at the behest of his host.

On the morning of the 14th of May 1931 Finch Hatton took off from Voi in his Gypsy Moth aircraft, circled the airport twice and then plunged to his death. In accordance with his wishes he was buried in the Ngong Hills which overlook Nairobi. His brother erected an obelisk on his grave and on a plaque are the words "He prayeth well, who loveth well both man and bird and beast."

Kids' Play - Things to see and do in Eton when you're 4

Henry Brewis - Age 4



EtoEton is a great place to have fun. I like jumping and walking on walls. The biggest wall I walk on is next to College Chapel. I love my favourite wall. I call it the Dinky Wall. It's on Baldwin's Bridge. Barnes Pool has stepping stones and sometimes has water in it. There is a bench for having a little break. There are pansies.

There are lots of flowers in Eton. They are very beautiful. I like the flowers in baskets on the houses and shops and I like the Union Flags. I like the pretty plants in the gap next to Thaxter & Stovell.

Boot-scrapers are very good. You can get mud off your shoes so you don't make your house dirty. There are lots in Eton. Some are on doorsteps and some are in the walls.

Some of the shops have little loops to put your dog lead on. I like dogs. I like my best dog friends Bailey and Murphy and George and Ralph and Mabel and Elmo. They live in Eton.

There is a brilliant playground in Eton. I slide down the really big slide and pretend I'm a pirate in the big boat. I like the swings and the see-saw. There is lots of grass for running around.

Mummy likes walking. We walk all around Eton and Eton Wick and Windsor. We walk in the Brocas, on the Thames Path, in South Meadow and to La's church in Eton Wick. There are special metal plates in the pavement for the Eton Walkway. I like the Jubilee river and the Public Right of Way that we walk on. Sometimes we find geocaches. Geocaches are like treasure. Sometimes there are toys inside.

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Christmas shopping in historic

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*A vibrant and eclectic mix of independent shops,
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Eton is renowned for its selection of interesting shops and restaurants, making it the ideal destination for Christmas shopping and relaxing.


The festive season commences on **Thursday 16th November** with our Christmas light switch on evening.

-  Carols in The Chapel, Eton College, 6pm
(tickets £3 from various shops on Eton High Street)
-  Procession to Jubilee Square
-  Lights to be turned on at 7pm
-  Real reindeer!
-  Hot food and drinks stalls
-  Father Christmas will be attending!




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This event has been organised by the Eton Traders' Association and Eton Community Association

Therwe and Back Again - ECA Lunch Walk

Mike Turner - Eton Resident

On a sunny Sunday a band of intrepid Etonians set off on a walk from Jubilee Square. Ros Rivaz, in true multi-tasking style, came armed with bin liners so we could litter pick as we walked.

Our route took us past the new Jafar Gallery, the Eton Museum of Antiquities, home to the world's finest private display of Egyptian relics, the Myers collection. The gallery is open to the public on Sunday afternoons. We continued past allotments and north to the Jubilee River, a man made water course built in the late 1990s, providing flood control for Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton. It forms a valuable resource for walkers, bird watchers and canoeists/paddle-boarders. Being part of the National Cycle route, you can cycle from Eton to Maidenhead almost entirely traffic free.



With the Jubilee river to the right, we passed Dorney Common, a grazing and haymaking area that has been in agricultural use for around 1000 years. On reaching the Palmer Arms we deposited full bin bags and sat down for liquid refreshments and a welcome, leisurely lunch. Dating from the C15th it was originally part of the Dorney estate, the Old Brewery at Dorney Court, providing the beer. Feeling thoroughly sated we continued towards Dorney Rowing lake taking the path that weaves along the northern boundary of the lake. Like the Jubilee

River, this area is now an important habitat for all kinds of wildlife.

Leaving the rowing lake, we followed the Thames through Boveney Lock and onwards to Boveney Church. The church of St Mary Magdalene dates from the C12th although there has been a church on this site since Norman times. It is well worth a visit and only a 15 minute walk from Eton. From here, we passed wheat fields on the weary home road back to Eton. The combination of a lengthy lunch and exercise had worn out most people but everyone agreed it was a convivial way to spend an afternoon.



Eton within the Borough

Malcolm Alexander
RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle

By the time you receive this edition of Eton Matters things will be moving apace in the RBWM as a whole. The following items are a taste of things to come.

- Consultation has started on the Boundary Commission draft proposals for the Ward boundary changes throughout the Borough. This will include reducing the number of Councillors from the current 57 to a proposed 43.
- A review of the Council's parking plan, which will provide new permanent and temporary parking provision within the Borough, is under way. A capital budget provision of £12.25 million overall has been agreed and will include the construction of an additional deck at River Street Car Park in Windsor.
- I have put forward, on behalf of Eton, a number of capital budget submissions totalling £375,000 and we look forward to finding out if these bids will be successful.

Closer to my own patch and again it was my pleasant duty to judge the Front Gardens in Bloom competition. Approximately 20 gardens received awards of merit and congratulations to Mr & Mrs A Russell of Somerville Road and Mr Paul Jennings of Atherton Court who won 1st and 2nd place respectively. I must add that it was a bonus this year to actually meet Mr Russell when I was on my walkabout, as this is the third time I've had the pleasure of awarding him the prize. I also met Mr Jennings, whose inventive attention to the plot he is tending gives enjoyment not only to himself but to many others too.

Also on the congratulation list is Ieva Poriete, (right) owner of Bespoke Womenswear in the High Street. You may remember Ieva took on a pop-up shop in Thames Street during the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, and invited those people who have been fortunate enough to meet Her Majesty to post their recollection about this special occasion. Ieva has now published a book of these memories and is intending to present this to the Queen, as a memento of her 90th birthday.

As I am writing this it seems much too early to talk about Christmas, however Thursday 16 November is on the calendar – let there be lights!!



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

In His Presence

La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



Every now and then I'm pulled up short and realise how privileged I am to have been born into this particular corner of the world. We don't get the fierce weather of the Caribbean or the monsoons of Bangladesh or the earthquakes of Japan. We have the security of a welfare state; I have the right to vote and am considered a person in law, not an object owned by anyone. I am moved to give thanks, not so much to my lucky stars, as to God. When you give thanks you can't help wanting to share. There's some 3000 year-old wisdom recorded in the book of Proverbs which says: "A generous person will be enriched and one who gives water will get water." As we begin to think about finding Christmas presents for people, this is a good time to find ways of using the blessings we've received to bless others. If we share the joys we have, we find the joy is multiplied. "Some give freely yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want." Solomon had some good sayings!

In "Eton Matters" Issue 12, Philip Tilbury, the Eton architect, submitted a fascinating article that described how the Church was transformed from a partially derelict state in the early 1980s, in danger of demolition, to a thriving building serving Community, College and Church with its surgery, sanatorium, accommodation and beautiful Church upstairs, featuring the fabulous stained glass window that we can all now admire at close quarters.



The Church was open to visitors on Saturday afternoons during the summer, thanks to a group of volunteers who have enjoyed sharing its peace and interesting history with guests from all over the world. We thought it would be a great idea to share Philip's account, with his kind permission and also Reverend La! - and so the article has been enlarged by our printers, Vario and framed by

J Manley Gallery. It can now be seen on the wall beside the smaller stained glass windows. We already have laminated cards giving the history of the original Eton Church from medieval times, through to its establishment in the Victorian period on the present site. With the new panel, we are now able to give visitors the rest of the story, from 1982 to the present day. **Written by Katie Leach**

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site: stjohnstjamesed.org.uk

A man with wavy brown hair and light blue eyes is the central figure. He is wearing a three-piece suit with a green, yellow, and red plaid pattern. The suit includes a jacket, a matching vest with a chain, and matching trousers. He is also wearing a pink and white checkered shirt and a dark tie with a colorful paisley pattern. A red pocket square is visible in his jacket. He is standing on stone steps in front of a brick building with dark wooden framing.

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Diary

Nov

1st	18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices
5th	15.00 – Bereavement Service – St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
12th	10.55 – Remembrance Service – St. John the Evangelist, Eton
16th	18.00 – Carols – College Chapel followed at 19.00 – by Christmas Lights Switch-on – Jubilee Square
30th	9.30 and 18.00 – 2018 Intake Open Morning and Evening – Porny School

Dec

1st	21.00 – ECMS Organ Recital – Eton College School Hall
4th	18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices
3rd	18.00 – Community Carol Service – Eton College Chapel (tickets not required) 20.15 – Band Concert – Eton College School Hall
10th	15.00 – Advent Carols – St. Mary Magdalene, Boveney 20.15 – School Concert – Eton College School Hall
17th	16.00 – Family Carols – St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
24th	16.30 – Christingle – St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Jan

10th	9.30 and 18.00 – 2018 Intake Open Morning and Evening – Porny School
24th	18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices

Regular Events

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)
4th Sundays	18.15 – Worship Workshop (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 – *Library Diary see page 21*

Council Office – Eton Tues-Fri – 08.00-12.00

Eton Porny School 2018 Intake

Open Mornings and Evenings for 2018 Intake

At 9.30am and 6.30pm

Thursday 30th November 2017 and Wednesday 10th January 2018

For Further Details Telephone 01753 861995

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	
	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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Over the past 3 years as Town Clerk I have dealt with dozens of issues/complaints from residents and organisations in Eton, most of which are directed at services provided by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. These have come onto my desk on a fairly regular basis and I pass them on to the appropriate officer/department and progress them through to a positive outcome.

Alas there has appeared in more recent times a definite slowdown in the response time from the Royal Borough. This delay in achieving solutions has resulted in the creation of the Eton Priority List which Ros Rivaz, Peter Eaton and myself are jointly managing, to keep issues/complaints on the radar at all times. There are currently 33 issues on this list, 28 of which are within the domain of the Royal Borough, which is 80%. The three of us are meeting monthly on a trial basis to identify where we are with the various issues and to add any new ones that have surfaced. It is my role then to constantly push the Royal Borough for resolutions. This is another way that the Town Council is serving the local community.



On the Beat

Sgt. Emma Pendry

Email: windsorcentralnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

On the 1st June, the 'New Policing Model' was introduced. There has been an initial transition period, which is now coming to an end. Under the New Policing Model, we, as part of the Engagement/Geographic Team, are dedicated to serving our community and encouraged, to develop relationships with our communities, in order to tackle those issues which are of most concern to our local residents and businesses. We will foster 'Social Responsibility' and will work with residents to effectively resolve emerging issues.

In order to achieve the best results, we will look to; improve information gathering and identify underlying issues, offenders or tensions within communities; increase and improve the quality of local intelligence and identify new strategies, which may not have been considered.

On the 6th September I returned from maternity leave and will be working on an effective Engagement Plan for Eton and Eton Wick. The Neighbourhood Team are delighted to be working closely with the Eton College Security Team and thank them for their ongoing support, information sharing, invites to community events and supporting police patrols. A recent event we attended was the fantastic Eton Action Fair on the 23rd September.



Porny School

*Katherine Russell
Head Teacher*

I am sure that many of you will know Eton Porny is a member of the Slough and East Berkshire Multi-Academy Trust (SEBMAT) which, as from September, has a new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Chris Spencer. We have also welcomed two new teachers onto our staff team this term, Miss Helen Nicholas and Mr Michael Dale as well as a new caretaker Mr Paul Briault. I know that the Community will help make them all feel very welcome as you get to know them.

Looking so smart in their uniforms our new children in the Early Years Foundation Stage have started their learning journey with us, making new friends and busily exploring various, exciting, learning opportunities. It is also during this term that we hold open mornings and evenings for parents and children to come and visit us. The dates and times of these sessions can be found on our website or by contacting our school office.

Eton Boys have begun their volunteering placements at our school working with our children on a new project towards achieving the Green Flag award. I am hoping that this initiative will be a wonderful opportunity for our children to further develop their own leadership skills alongside supporting our school to become more conscious of the impact our actions have on the environment around us.

Eton Pre-School

Sue Clifford - Manager

Every year the pre-school hosts a café stall at this Eton Community Fair where we serve tea, coffee, yummy cakes and delicious bacon butties to those who attend. We are very pleased to say that this event raised £1150 for the pre-school when it was held at the end of September this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who came, ate, drank and generally supported us; we hope you enjoyed yourself as much as our staff obviously did!!

So you may well ask, why the pre-school needs to raise money?

Well as a registered not for profit charity organisation we fundraise to supply all those little extras which enhance the learning of all our children who attend. So thank you from Eton Pre-school.



If you would like to know more about us contact us at www.etonpreschool.org.

Bookworm

Information and Book Reviews from your Library

Karen Usher and Vicki Wilson (right)

Eton Library Supervisors



In 2014, I was very lucky to be given one of the ceramic poppies from the installation, Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London, created by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper. Marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, the 888,246 poppies were a memorial to every British or Colonial life lost at the Front during the war. This year, Where Are The Poppies Now aims to reunite these poppies in a digital map that records the stories behind why each poppy was purchased, to create an invaluable archive for future generations.

Art, music and poetry can be a potent expression of great joy or tragedy. Since 1915 the poppy has been a visual symbol of war, inspired by Lt Col John McCrae's poem.

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below*

Most peoples' understanding of the First World War is informed by our response to the soldier poets, and the post of Poet Laureate recognises the importance of poetry to reflect on significant national events. Originally created for John Dryden by Charles II in 1668, Carol Ann Duffy is the current, and first female, Poet Laureate,

In 2009, she was asked by the BBC Radio 4 programme Today to write a poem to mark the deaths of Henry Allingham and Harry Patch, two centenarian veterans of the First World War. The Last Post imagines what would happen if time ran backwards and those killed in the war came back to life.

*You lean against a wall,
your several million lives still possible
and crammed with love, work, children, talent, English beer, good food.
You see the poet tuck away his pocket-book and smile.
If poetry could truly tell it backwards,
then it would.*

Eton Library: Tel: 01753 860506/857933

Open: Mon -4.00-17.00; 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 Every Friday term times

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.

Community Warden: 1st Tuesday every month 11.00am-12.00noon for help with community Issues.

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Canada Connection

Mike Turner - Eton Resident

You may have seen the Canadian flag flying over Jam on July 1st each year, celebrating Canada Day, my adopted nation from the early 80's. This year is Canada's 150th birthday.

The Prince of Wales travelled to Canada, representing the Queen and whilst in the capital, Ottawa, visited the headquarters of Shopify, an e-commerce company powering over 500,000 businesses worldwide. My daughter-in-law, Regine, who has two retro-style fashion outlets in Ottawa and Toronto was an early adopter of Shopify and was invited to meet Prince Charles. Here is her story in her words:-

"The event was really great! Shopify is a big employer in Ottawa. Their offices are straight out of Silicon Valley - catered lunches, beer fridges, and the like - all the amenities to attract hip, young talent!



Regine and Katie (right) meet Prince Charles

I've known the COO for a while as we were both mentors for a program that offered grants to students to start businesses over the summer. Shopify helped us get online and open an ecommerce shop. We only had our brick & mortar businesses then, and were just about to open the Toronto shop. Shopify at the time was testing out a new point-of-sale system that synced up with their online inventory, so being a local business they asked us if we would be part of this new beta - and we happily agreed! Now our sales

online have been doubling year over year, and Shopify often reaches out to us to share our story with other brick & mortar shops who are considering making the leap. So I guess we've become a local e-commerce success story! Which is why we were chosen to be among 3 e-commerce shops using Shopify's platform to meet Prince Charles!

It was a very fun event, both Katie (Regine's business partner) & I were totally impressed by Prince Charles' ability to really connect while he was speaking with us - he asked thoughtful questions, and we never felt like he was just going through the motions to get on to his next stop. Just the total personification of charm & good manners! It definitely made for a very memorable way to spend Canada Day on the occasion of the 150th!"

Consider the Swans

Wendy Hermon - Swan Support Treatment & Rescue Centre Co-ordinator

As the weather gets colder we will see the wonderful sight of the swans and geese grazing on the Brocas. However, this makes them more vulnerable to dog attacks which sadly as many local residents know are on the increase on this riverside meadow.

When a dog chases a swan, the dog owner will often say "don't worry they won't catch them they are only playing" - this is not how the swan sees it! Frightened and panicking and needing at least 100ft. to take off, unlike ducks and geese which can take off immediately, the swans will try to run back to the river making them more easily caught by a dog which then often follows them into the river. We have dealt with over 15 dog attacks on the Brocas in recent months, some had minor injuries but others, by their nature the most challenging, resulting in the death of the bird sometimes with the



break-up of swan families. This photo is of a pair of swans with their cygnets, sadly the female died after being mauled by a dog leaving her mate of 6 years and the 5 cygnets that were only 1 week old.

Swan Support asks you to please consider the swans' vulnerability when entering the Brocas from Brocas Street or when nearing the swans grazing, please keep your dog on the lead so that we can keep these terrible attacks to a minimum.

At Swan Support, a charity dedicated to the rescue, treatment, rehabilitation and release of swans around the Thames Valley area, I and my dedicated team of volunteers with over 20 years' experience, are ready 24 hours 7 days a week, to respond to any incidents reported to us, like crash landings, fishing tackle, territorial fights, vandalism, shootings, dog attacks and displacements. Swan Support dealt with the 12 swans that were shot in Windsor in January this year.

Our rehabilitation centre in Datchet has outdoor pens in running water and a treatment centre. We hold a ringing license meaning any swan that comes in, is released with a unique identifying metal ring, so we can track it during its lifetime.

We also focus on the educational aspect – offering talks about our work and the life of this magnificent bird. We work with the Royal Swan Marker and Swan Warden to monitor the health of the swan population in the area and support Swan Upping, the Henley Royal Regatta and other events on the river. Swan Support can be contacted.

To volunteer or to organise a talk, please contact me. Email: info@swansupport.org.uk

To report an injured swan phone: 07968-868172 www.swansupport.org.uk



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Galapagos - *Leave Nothing but Footprints*

Malcolm and I made an unforgettable visit to the Galapagos Islands in May. The Islands lie 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and are still actively volcanic. They vary in age from around 4 million to around 0.7 million years old and the scenery varies dramatically from barren volcanic rock and sandy beaches to rocky coastline, mangrove forests and lagoons surrounded by lush greenery. And those are just the parts we saw!

The location has enabled life to be played out there in total isolation. There are more endemic species of animals and plants (living there and nowhere else) than in any other place on the planet. Darwin famously visited the Islands for a few months on the HMS Beagle in 1835, and as a result of his studies, was able to explain the theory of evolution by natural selection. For the first time, it became clear that God had not created each individual species of e.g. mockingbird or tortoise, but that through gradual modification, one species had evolved into several more.



The cruise company Celebrity works in close collaboration with the National Park of the Galapagos, to limit visitors and educate in conservation, so that we "leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories".

Our ship carried us overnight between islands, anchoring at some distance from the shore. We made 2 trips per day to each of the islands on our itinerary, aboard a Zodiac dinghy seating

16 including our naturalist, who escorted us on a nature trail over the varied terrain.

The first island we visited was Espanola – one of the oldest islands, where erosion has created soft, sandy beaches. We found many sea lions, - pelicans, marine iguanas and albatrosses. They live in harmony with each other, and are totally unbothered by visitors. You can literally fall over the wildlife. (though best not to!)

Take Nothing but Memories

Katie Leach - Eton Resident

The marine iguana – how did it get there? Probably on a raft of vegetation floating from mainland South America. It has adapted to live on a black desert of lava – with only seaweed to eat, it had to learn to swim, its snout adapting to grazing on underwater rocks, its claws growing stronger to enable it to cling on in ocean currents. After swimming, it must bask in the sun to restore its body heat – and it sneezes out extra salt from a gland in the snout.



Espanola is the perfect breeding ground for the magnificent waved albatross, they gather in their thousands to mate here, going through an elaborate courtship dance. We saw dozens, sitting in a green field and others on the wing. The long, sandy beaches give them a great runway for take-off and landing – very helpful, considering their enormous wingspan of 8 feet!

Eton Matters - We Need Your Stories

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

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Naturewatch - Ragwort

George Fussey – Curator, Eton College Natural History Museum

Nearly a quarter of the 17,000 specimens in the Eton Natural History Museum collections are dried and pressed flowers. Our herbarium dates back mostly to the 1830s and it represents an amazing record of plants, many of which used to be common but have since become rarities, or even extinct. Some plants, however, have increased their numbers over the years and have even become troublesome. One such plant is the group of daisies known as Ragworts.

At the end of August this year, the College made hay on its local meadows. One of the prettiest flowers in the fields is Ragwort, with its bright yellow flowers. Before the hay can be cut, the Eton groundsman make sure that they pull out all the Ragwort, a really laborious process. The reason is that it is highly toxic to livestock. Fortunately, horses and most other grazers will not eat the living plant but they will after it has been cut and dried out. The plant is said to be responsible for half the stock poisoning incidents in Britain and in sufficient quantities it can and does cause fatal liver damage. However, there is one moth, the Cinnabar Moth, whose black and yellow caterpillars eat Ragwort with relish and use the poisons it contains to protect themselves from bird attack by making themselves particularly distasteful.



Photo: Karen Phillips

One species of Ragwort is known as Oxford Ragwort. Old Etonian Sir Joseph Banks, the founder of Kew Gardens and botanist on Captain Cook's first circumnavigation, first noticed it growing in the Oxford University Botanic Garden in the 1770s. Its natural habitat is the volcanic rock around Mount Etna, but somehow it found its way to Oxford. Its downy seeds soon escaped the gardens and eventually made its way to Oxford railway station by the 1830s. From there it grew easily on the clinker of railway tracks and has spread, carried along by the slipstream of trains and courtesy of the Great Western Railway, to every part of urban Britain where it likes to grow on any waste

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

Children's Hospice nears Completion

Fionnuala Lawes, Community Fundraiser



Excitingly, our new hospice building is now being kitted out and prepared for inspection by the Care Quality Commission. We currently expect to welcome the first of our families early in the New Year. It has always been the vision of Fiona and John Devine to build a children's hospice in Berkshire and now this dream is becoming a reality. Construction on the six-acre plot of land near Maidenhead began in September 2015, and was completed in March this year.

It takes the equivalent of five full time care staff to open just one of our six children's bedrooms for overnight care and, once fully open and fully staffed with roughly 100 employees, annual running costs are expected to exceed £2.5m, so we will be reliant on the continuing support of the local community. We know from our work with our families how much they need a local children's hospice; somewhere close to home which is warm and welcoming, giving excellent care and where families can meet and share experiences.

Today, Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service funds a Care Team of eight incredible Alexander's Nurses, Carers and Play Specialists, who run a community service in the home providing respite, play therapy, palliative care and end-of-life care. We currently provide 290 hours per month of that care to 101 children and their families across Berkshire and bordering towns, and have helped support 40 children to end-of-life. There are over 600 children, aged 0-19, throughout Berkshire alone and a further 670 from surrounding areas with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and with a range of complex physical, neurological and medical conditions, a significant proportion of whom have physical, mental and/or audio-visual disabilities. We are the only charity from Berkshire providing a hospice service in the community.

Our 5th annual Santa Dash is on Sunday 26th November, a 5k fancy dress fun run along the Long Walk and around the town centre with adult santa suits and kid's reindeer antlers provided. Details are on our website www.alexanderdevine.org where you can also sign up as well as find information on other ways to help the charity.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and continues to support Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. We are all story makers in the lives of these extraordinary children, and whilst we can't add days to their lives, we can certainly add life to their days.

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