



Floreat Etona

July 2020

Issue 22

Eton *Matters*

***One Man's
War***

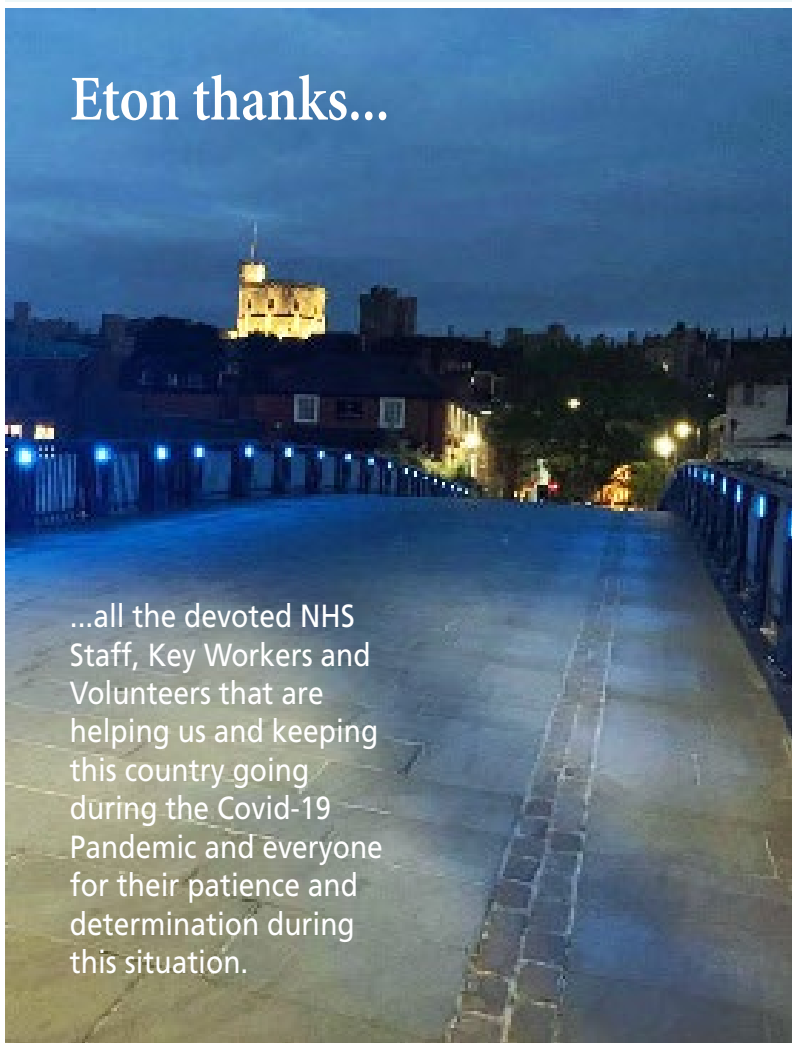
***The Real
Deal***

***Eton
Mess***

***My Story
so far***

Eton thanks...

...all the devoted NHS Staff, Key Workers and Volunteers that are helping us and keeping this country going during the Covid-19 Pandemic and everyone for their patience and determination during this situation.



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Eton Community Association Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting of Eton Community Association used a remote format. We decided to post the notice of the AGM both in shops and in the newsletter, which complies with our Constitution. We then used videos of the Chair's and Treasurer's reports, posted on the ECA website to deliver the 2 principal reports. The voting of the Chair, officers and members was also conducted remotely to conclude the process. All comments from the community to secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk are always welcome.

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, Hybert Design, Warren Property, J Manley Gallery, Richer Sounds Rhubarb and Custard, Vario Press, Beechwood Interiors, My Handyman, Eton Cycles, Salamandra, Academy Insurance, Eton College, Kelvin & Co and Dogknows. **Peter Eaton, Editor**

Eton Community Association and Eton Matters Information

ECA Chair - Ros Rivaz- chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk
ECA Secretary - Leonie Bryant - secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk
ECA Treasurer - Malcolm Leach - treasurer@etoncommunity.co.uk
EM Editor - Peter Eaton - editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

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Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz - ECA Chair



What a strange few months. ...But Eton Matters continues as usual! And we decided to help the wonderful businesses who support this publication through their advertising by not charging for the advertisements on this occasion. That decision has received great feedback!

We all look back to February and the first half of March and value what we could do and enjoy. Having said that, we have all adapted to the new way, walking 2 metres away from people, but (mostly) remembering to say "Good Morning" or "Afternoon"; it is distance that matters, not the camaraderie of those within and visiting our Town! We are sad for those who have been unwell, those who have lost friends or relations and we thank those who continue to work, whether that be the NHS, food providers and pharmacies, teaching of essential workers' and vulnerable children, utility workers or others. It is easy to forget those unsung heroes such as the refuse collectors.

In the first weeks since our last publication, we have had a street clean, a pub quiz and an exhibition. Using a contractor rather than us volunteers, the flags are up in our High Street, which we achieved in time for VE Day! We have achieved progress with the High Street; no-one can forget the Gas Main replacement and the wonderful Bernie and team. They will be here to finish the last stretch by the time this Eton Matters is complete. In addition, ensuring manholes are replaced when there is little traffic, ensuring streetlights work and replacing knocked bollards have all been on our agenda.

It was just a year ago that we re-created Eton, our island Town (Eyot = Island and Tun = Town). The formal opening on 29th March 2019 was presided over by The Provost and attended by those who had contributed in so many ways. We continue to maintain and enhance this wonderful space.

It was also a year ago that we started to give birth to the Eton Information Centre. Barbara, Sue and Douglas and many wonderful volunteers have done a fabulous job and after the current interlude, they will be back helping everyone, albeit following whatever guidelines are in place to keep themselves and the public appropriately safe.

Thank you to all those who are being amazing, most notably volunteers who are organising, picking and delivering groceries to those who need to stay at home. Much of this is done by relations and neighbours, but the service that we organised, working with Eton Town Council and the Church, meets an important need. Our Ward Councillor, Cllr Rayner and our Windsor, Eton and Ascot Town Manager, Paul Roach have been incredibly supportive and accessible throughout, whether related to the Gas Main; Coronavirus support; obtaining business rates relief, including ensuring everyone eligible was informed and supporting appeals too. Thank you too to Ron Lewandowski, our Mayor and George Fussey, his Deputy, our very local Town Councillor.

Town & Gown

Eton Welcomes and Celebrates Key Workers - Jo Rainey

On the day that lockdown was announced in the UK, Eton announced a range of initiatives to help our local community in a time of national crisis.

School for children of key workers has been running since late March, working with the expertise of Eton Porny and Eton Wick First School. Free access to EtonX, College's online learning platform, has been offered to all UK state schools, and nearly 1,000 schools have joined. Have a look on the internet! Finally, Eton pledged to open up boarding houses to key workers in need of accommodation. This has really seen Eton's community come together by sharing its resources to support those working on the frontline.



Around 180 key workers have stayed in Eton's boarding houses so far, inhabiting spaces normally occupied by hundreds of teenage boys. Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, police officers, fire and prison officers have been supported by Eton staff, who have volunteered in four boarding houses which re-opened in March. Eton's frontline staff have cooked for and

cleaned the boarding houses, and our security department have acted as a 'hotel reception'. Bekynton, the school's catering department, have supplied regular meals and snacks as guests arrive and depart depending on their shift times, and the laundry department has been washing scrubs for our local hospital.

The sacrifice our guests make every day of their working lives has reminded us of our privilege in living and working as we do in such incredible surroundings. We have been honoured to provide them with a safe and comfortable environment to return to at night, when many are self-isolating to protect vulnerable relatives, or are working away from home. We are delighted that:

- A pen pal initiative has been established in Cotton Hall, with regular emails winging their way between key workers and the boys whose rooms they are staying in, including shared 'views from my window'
- Regular flowers and baked goods have been donated by members of the Eton community
- Socially distanced catch ups are offered in Dames' flats in boarding houses to offer guests a chance to decompress.

One Man's War

In May we had the 75th anniversary of VE Day but because of the Covid-19 pandemic situation our celebrations had to be severely curbed and will see in August the 75th anniversary of VJ Day. As a tribute to all who served and those who lost their lives to keep this country free this is the story of a lifelong Eton man some of you will have known, Gerald Moseley (1916-2005).

Gerald, my second cousin, enlisted in the Royal Navy in July 1940 a month before his 24th birthday. His mother must have waved him off with some trepidation as his father, Edward, was killed in WWI just a year and a day after Gerald was born (Eton Matters



Issues 2 & 17). For his training he joined HMS King Arthur, the requisitioned Butlin's Holiday Camp at Ingomells near Skegness and then to HMS Wellesley (photo) in Liverpool and HMS Pembroke in Chatham, becoming a Coder. His first active service was on HMS Mooltan serving escort duties in the South Atlantic from December 1940.

He joined the battleship HMS Barham in March 1941 for service in the Mediterranean, luckily being transferred for further training to Alexandria on 15th November just 10 days before she was torpedoed and exploded killing 862, two-thirds of her crew.

Gerald's next tour was not so lucky though. With the demise of the Barham he was transferred to the destroyer HMS Havoc which in April 1942 ran aground off Kalibia

on the Cap Bon peninsula, Tunisia and was captured by the Vichy French. Freed after the successful allied Operation Torch on French North Africa in November, Gerald recalls the events on returning for leave in December in an interview reported in the Windsor Express newspaper at the time. *"Upon landing from their stranded vessel the crew were captured by a lone Vichy French Tommy-gunner and taken to Tunis where they were treated rather badly. After a few days they were transported to the internment camp of Laghouat on the edge of the Sahara desert. we were herded into a barn then a bare stone room with only straw to sleep on and hardly any food.our diet consisted of almost entirely of lentil soup and macaroni.....had it not been for Red Cross parcels we should have been very badly off."*

"... one Sunday sitting near the camp wireless listening to the news when the BBC announcer said 'British and American troops had landed on the coast of North Africa and making a rapid advance.' Immediately everyone went crazy, shouting and singing..."

"Four days later we were on the way to the railway station and freedom"

A tribute to mark the 75th anniversaries of VE and VJ days

Peter Eaton

After 4 months being land based in Chatham and becoming a Leading Coder, Gerald was transferred to the new sloop HMS Crane being involved in the battles of Biscay, Sicily, Atlantic, Normandy, English Channel and Okinawa. Being in Tokyo Bay for the signing of the surrender on the 2nd September 1945 on-board the USS Missouri, Gerald describes the scene in his own words from notes he wrote.

"There was, of course, immense relief that the war was finally over, and we had survived. Following the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese had surrendered on the 15th August 1945 the fleets had all moved into Japanese waters. There was always the possibility that some fanatical Japanese might try some desperate and suicidal attack as the show of force that entered Tokyo Bay was tremendous." During the signing above the combined fleet "Some 300 Flying Fortress and Liberators flew overhead supported by fighters."

"Following the signing the first British prisoners of war held in Japan were brought out and sailed down the line of the fleets on the escort carrier HMS Speaker, cheered all the way by the crews of each ship as they passed. A truly emotional moment. Fortunately no act of treachery occurred and the occupation of Japan proceeded."



Gerald was mentioned in a despatch for his distinguished service and devotion to duty while serving on HMS Crane and published in the London Gazette on 11th June 1944.

Also in Tokyo Bay at the time was another Eton man many will remember, Chiefy Barnes, serving on the battleship HMS Anson.

As we must never forget all those who have served this country in times of war, many paying the ultimate price of their life, we must also never forget all who contributed and sacrificed so much at home in the

war to keep this country free. Similarly, in these unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the future we must never forget the acts of selflessness of the NHS and all other key workers, the contribution of all the volunteers and the sacrifices we are all making in this fight.

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The Real Deal

a life in antiques

Peter Martin

I was born at 92 High Street where my parents were upholsterers, cabinet makers and undertakers (est. 1835). After my father's death we sold second-hand and antique furniture until my mother's death in 1967.

On the 1st October 1968 I opened my first shop at 69 High Street (the rent £4 per week) selling antiques, accessories and reproduction copper and brass. My wife, with our 1 year old son in a pushchair, and my two sisters ran the shop while I was out buying stock.

Windsor Bridge was open to traffic then and the High Street was constantly in gridlock giving travellers time to peruse the shop windows. In 1971 the Bridge was closed and the street was clear of through traffic making parking and loading much easier.

By the mid '70s I had also opened at 65 High Street at which time there were 20+ antique shops including an Antique Centre with 30 or so dealers in the street. Eton was a mecca for overseas dealers and the London trade. As a young and active dealer I sold to dealers in the street and the trade generally, many remaining clients and friends for many years, and sold containers of antiques to the USA, Canada and South Africa.



In 1978 I bought 40 High Street with its large showrooms, workshop, storage and flats above, inheriting one of the previous owners as a salesman. On returning to the shop on one occasion he

informed me he had had a "scruffy, long blonde haired guy with torn jeans" in, who, he proudly said he had told he couldn't afford anything in the shop. Later I learned it was Rod Stewart who went along the street and spent £10,000 with a colleague to furnish his mansion in Windsor Great Park.

On another occasion a neighbouring dealer called me to see an unusual display cabinet he was proud of. Coming from a family of undertakers I told him it was a bier, a cabinet for displaying a body before burial. He went white and sold it the next morning for a loss.

My son, Paul, joined me in the late '90s until I semi-retired in 2010. For two more years we traded from the Eton College Boathouse in Brocas Street until my son moved to Sussex where he now trades on the internet from a warehouse and runs a fine pub.

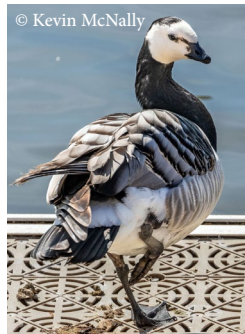
From the Thameside

Beryl Owens and Kevin McNally

We retired to Eton six years ago and have much enjoyed the beauty and strong sense of community we have discovered here.

During lockdown our community has been enhanced by the arrival of a Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) more commonly found at this time of the year on the arctic islands of the North Atlantic.

© Kevin McNally



He is a feisty individual who makes up for what he lacks in stature (half the size of the resident Canada Geese) by a keen defence of what he considers to be his space; involving high pitched squawks and much chasing. We have imaginatively called him Barney. He welcomes visitors to see him – just don't get too close.....

We are not sure exactly where Barney has come from –but perhaps the famous myth is true? Perhaps Barney DID emerge fully formed (but presumably quite a bit smaller) from a common Barnacle (*Cirripedia*)? I am sure he will keep his secret.

It is possible that Barney has remained here due to the huge improvement we (and perhaps he) have noticed in our physical environment in the last weeks. The air is cleaner, the noise is less and the waters calmer. Windsor and Eton look even more beautiful in these times – though we are not sure that we (or even he) can recommend them lasting TOO much longer.....



© Kevin McNally



MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Explore the Eton College Collections online

A wealth of images, articles, posts and podcasts from the college's archives, art, library and museum collections may be found on our blog and other social media:

www.etoncollegecollections.wordpress.com



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We very much looking forward to welcoming you back to our museums and galleries as soon as possible.



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In His Presence

La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



The church is out on the street! The faithful band of pilgrims who usually meet on a Tues-day and a Wednesday in the small church above Eton High Street doctors' surgery has been sent on their way into the big wide world! I don't know if you remember the story about Jesus sending his disciples off on their own without him: he called them together and gave them his authority; he told them not to load themselves up with equipment, but to keep it simple; and he sent them off in pairs to tell everyone about God's kingdom and to heal the sick. 'If one lot won't listen,' he said, 'don't get fussed. Just shake the dust off your feet and move on.'

So out in the public place called the internet, with not much in the way of equipment and even less in the way of internet savvy, we're reading the astonishing stories and telling of our experiences, and we're praying for courage and grace and strength and healing for our world. You can find the prayers on the "Church Community of Eton with Eton Wick, Dorney and Boveney" Facebook page (it's OK, you don't have to join Facebook to see them – just click 'not for now' when it asks you if you want to join - and then be patient while it loads.) <https://www.facebook.com/647610252009554/>

We are very aware, though, that many people don't have internet access. For anyone who would like to hear a friendly voice on the end of the phone, there is a rota of people who would love you to call them. Give me a ring on 01753 852268 and I'll get the list to you.

I'm not sure what the situation will be by the time this goes to print. I am hopeful that we may be able to open the parish church (St John the Baptist) for private prayer and medi-tation. I imagine it will be rather longer before we can open the church above the surgery again since we share a common entrance with potentially ill patients. I have a tiny plan to do some sort of open-air service – I'll let you know through the usual Eton channels of communication if that happens.

Jesus sent his followers out, not because he was wanting to get more people in his gang than anyone else – he wouldn't have been fussed about the number of 'likes' he got on Facebook. He was teaching a way of wisdom that revealed our deep connection to each other, the infinite value of each human life on the planet, the knowledge that there is more to life than can be encompassed by our logic. It is a way of spirituality that many yearn for. If there is anything we can do to make that accessible to you, please drop me a line.

With blessing. La

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

Bookworm from Eton Library

*Mary Skelly and Anna Fallgren
Supervisors*



At the time of writing, all the Libraries in the Royal Borough are still closed, so we thought it would be a good idea to remind you about some of the Library resources which you can access on-line.

The RBWM Libraries website is a gateway to a wealth of e-resources to explore, which you can access from home. Simply visit: <https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk> and click on libraries and museums. If you are new to our e-resources, or simply need a helping hand, please e-mail maidenhead.library@rbwm.gov.uk with your contact details and a member of staff will get back to you.

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Our regular customers will remember The Summer Reading Challenge. Presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, this scheme encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'. Each year the Challenge, delivered with the support of public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence. Never has such support been needed more than during the current lock down when the 'summer slide' is likely to have an additional impact on confidence and mental health for both children and parents alike.

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into all different kinds of funny books!

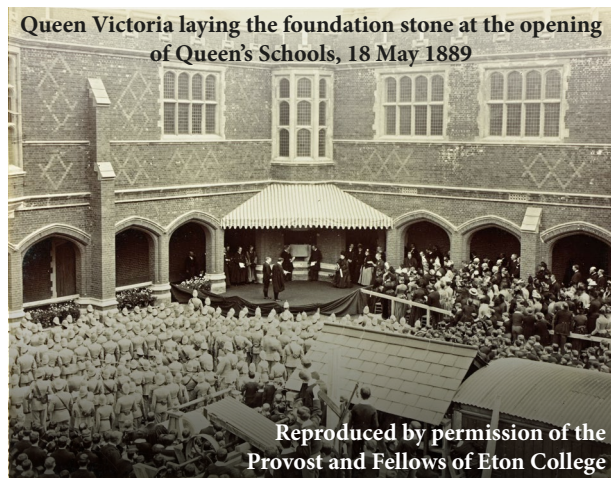
The Silly Squad summer campaign will see libraries working with ambassadors to promote a new digital challenge platform to reach children across the nation. With children already at home, the 2020 Challenge will run from June to September.

Sign up at sillysquad.org.uk from Friday 5 June to join the Squad!

Science at Eton

Eleanor Hoare - College Archivist

Residents of Eton no doubt noticed the building works on Keate's Lane which were completed last year. Behind the scaffolding was Queen's Schools, originally built in 1889-1891 to a design by Sir Arthur Blomfield, and the Science Schools, built in 1956-1964, and enlarged in 1983 and 2000. These magnificent buildings house the classrooms, laboratories and lecture rooms of the science departments.



Science was first formally introduced to the curriculum in 1868 following the Public Schools Act. Prior to this, boys could attend special lectures given by the top scientists of the day, but there was a charge of 2s per lecture. Now science would be part of the regular school timetable, and the first chemistry labs were built the next year under the careful eye of Eton's first science master H.G. Madan.

In 1885, the science staff were joined by Thomas Cunningham Porter, who taught science at Eton until 1930. During his time, he campaigned for improved facilities and to enhance the status of the separate sciences. He was also the founder of the Photographic Society, and his work in this area helped develop 3D film cinematography. He had his own room to carry out experiments in, and it was reported among boys that he had even raised a dead cat to life with a galvanic battery.

Held in the Eton College Archives are two superbly illustrated notebooks kept by Guy Speir (HEL, 1893) of his science lessons with Dr Porter. These are a rare example of class work, and it is wonderful to see the imaginative drawings which Speir has added. Little notes and comments by Porter show an informal side to the image of a Victorian schoolmaster.

In 1881, an article in *Nature* concluded "Although Eton still ranks as a purely classical school... yet the study of science is pursued within her walls to an extent which—in some respects at least—is unequalled at any other school." The new work on the buildings maintains this standard, with Eton College having one of the largest school science departments in the UK.

A man with short brown hair and a slight smile is standing on a stone pier or breakwater. He is wearing a dark blue blazer with thin white vertical stripes and a white V-neck collar, a light blue shirt, and a white V-neck sweater. He is holding a green rowing oar with a wooden handle. The oar has the words "GRAND CHALLENGE" and "1869" written on it. The background is a body of water with gentle ripples. The overall tone is sophisticated and nautical.

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A childhood crush on cartoon character, Marine Boy, has led Christine MacKay to becoming one of the UK's most celebrated entrepreneurs, having been named in Entrepreneur's top 100 list for 2020. Six years ago, Christine founded **Salamandra.uk**, initially right opposite the entrance of Windsor Castle and after outgrowing those premises, moved to Eton High Street and has since opened another lively lounge in Dundee, the UK's only UNESCO city of design.

Salamandra.uk has been nominated for a number of awards in various industries, from engineering and telecoms to kids' entertainment. Most recently, Salamandra.uk's AR animation global campaign has been submitted for not one, not two but three categories in the Pharmaceutical Marketing (PM) Digital Awards 2020, that recognise the best in digital creativity, innovation and effectiveness from across the healthcare industry.

Previously this year, Salamandra.uk's live-action/animation mash-up titled 'Their, They're and There' was released on Channel 4's Random acts series and has now been nominated for best family short in Cardiff Animation Festival AND received a nomination at the British Urban Film Festival 2019.

Diary

Our Diary will return hopefully in the next issue
when we have more certain times

Useful Numbers

| | | |
|--|--|---------------|
| Charteris Club | Julie or Jackie | 07598 565091 |
| Churches | St John the Evangelist (Vicar) | 01753 852268 |
| | Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton Court | 01753 542862 |
| Community Warden | Jake Hynard | 01628 685636 |
| Council Offices, Eton | Bob Austen, Town Clerk | 01753 860377 |
| Councillor (RBWM) | Samantha Rayner | 07811 974442 |
| Emergency | Fire/Ambulance/Police | 999 |
| Eton College | | 01753 370100 |
| Eton Community Association | Chair | 07734 073117 |
| | 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

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I am writing this article towards the end of May and have been in lockdown since returning from holiday on 15th March and have therefore not been at the Council Offices since 6th March, almost 3 months!

Working from home is not my preferred choice; I miss the discipline of office hours and miss being involved in the daily life of Eton. Of course, I have kept in touch with councillors on a regular basis and we have continued to hold our monthly Council meetings 'virtually' through Zoom, to which members of the public are invited.

The Coronavirus epidemic has meant the Council making changes in certain areas:

- The Council Offices were closed immediately. The Town Clerk was obliged to work from home and the programme of Council meetings and meetings of local charities and organisations in the Council chamber all cancelled.
- The Council play area at South Meadow Lane Recreation Ground was closed and tape and signs erected to deter visitors. This has since required additional attention and our grounds contractor has been called in to make the zip wire unusable.
- Eton councillors have worked with Eton Community Association, Eton College, the clergy, businesses and residents to ensure that vulnerable citizens of the town have been looked after and their food and medicinal needs are met during the lockdown. The sense of community spirit has come alive during this period and we all hope that this will continue when life is back to normal.

The usual duties of the Council have continued during the lockdown including the emptying of dog bins, maintenance of the green spaces in the town, reviewing planning applications and making recommendations, and monitoring the condition of local footpaths and rights of way. Other duties like riparian ownership and sustainability and biodiversity projects have been put on hold for the time being.

I am looking forward to returning to active duty in Eton as soon as possible and to renewing acquaintances with residents and colleagues.



Following a request from Cllr Malcolm Leach the Town Council agreed to increase the areas of bedding plants in the shrub beds at Baldwin's Bridge and Jubilee Square to make them more colourful. Recently the contractor, Excellent Plants, prepared and planted the areas for this summer.



Eton Porny School

Katherine Russell
Head Teacher

We are certainly all living through a very strange and unprecedented time at the moment, one that I am sure will be looked at and remembered through our memories as well as in history in the years to come. With any experience there are always lessons to learn and positive aspects to take away and I'm sure that the time we're living through at the moment will not be any different in that sense.

From a school perspective the last few months have presented all of us with new challenges particularly around how to keep the education of our children going remotely. As you would expect everyone has risen to this challenge and we are grateful for the positive support of our staff, children and parents.

We couldn't write this article without ensuring that mention is made of the fantastic support we've received from Eton College for our key worker and vulnerable families' provision. In particular, enormous thanks to Jimmy Scragg, who has worked with us throughout the lockdown period and been so helpful and supportive. The catering staff have kept us all well fed and watered and the Eton staff volunteers have supported with amazing activities and experiences. Our children even made it to the front page of The Times.

This fabulous Eton community spirit, which has proved to be so prevalent at this difficult time in so many ways, is what makes our little town such an incredible place to live and work and one in which I am delighted to be associated with.

Eton Pre-School

Sue Clifford - Manager



We have all been having a rather different experience of late. The children in Pre-School have been at home with their families for quite a long time and the staff have had to learn lots of ways of supporting from a distance. It is normal for us at Eton Pre-School to be hands on, to cuddle children when they are sad and comfort their adults when they are troubled, we have tried to do this from afar which is not easy for any of us.

But from the day I write this we turn a corner and start to rebuild our connections as the

children return to school. I suspect we will have our ups and downs. This is a new chapter for us all but throughout all of this difficult time the community has supported each other. I have been proud to see how well our families have coped and to feel the support from neighbours and people I have never met. I hope that our little family at pre-school and our supporters in the wider society continue to benefit from this change and that we have all learnt a new lesson. My thanks to you all.

Eton Mess

Jane Smart - Eton Resident

Even before the current situation, celebrity chefs were publishing books and presenting television series on how to create dishes in record time (30 minutes) using limited (five) ingredients. Well, how about a delicious dessert in 15 minutes using three ingredients –our “local” delicacy Eton Mess.

Although the mixture of strawberry, meringue and cream is reputed to have originated at Eton College, it was apparently first recorded by that name in 1893 as having been served at a garden party attended by Queen Victoria on the eve of the wedding of Prince George and Princess May of Teck. How it came by the name and its link to the College are not known for sure although various stories can be found online. It is however traditionally still served at the annual cricket match with Harrow School.



Whatever the story, the seasonal combination is a long-standing favourite of garden fetes, weddings and other summer events, not least for its simplicity, attractiveness and speed of preparation. Recipes abound (although the classic version of crushed meringue, either home-made or shop-bought, and strawberry pieces folded into lightly whipped cream hardly needs a recipe) - and the variations found on restaurant and hotel menus are endless: any soft fruit, flavoured meringue, cream perked up with a splash of alcohol, syrup topping, garnishes of nuts, chocolate, flowers or mint leaves. M&S are currently suggesting a very glamorous version using blueberries and lavender.

With dining-out and social events off the scene at the moment, why not let your culinary creativity go mad with ingredients that are available and create a Mess of your own!





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Eton within the Borough

Samantha Rayner

RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle

We hope you and your families are safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's a very difficult time for many.

We have been incredibly impressed by the work of the Eton Community to support each other. The community has really come together and given much needed fellowship as we all face the same challenges. The local businesses have also been terrific. The work of the Eton Community Association and Town Council have been central to this.

Eton College itself has played enormous role in looking after Key Workers by providing much needed accommodation to many so they can safely work and protect their families and loved ones. The sacrifice of the Key Workers is humbling.

The local church in Eton, Eton Wick and Boveney led by La Stacey has put on Facebook daily services which has been incredibly powerful at keeping the community together and have faith at this time.

In the Royal Borough the council has suspended many services including the libraries and leisure centres to focus on helping the vulnerable during COVID-19. Many services have become virtual and on line to reach out to those at home including the museum and library services. Each department has changed and redeployed as necessary to help. The library team for example are now on the phone contacting on a weekly basis the residents who are shielded to make sure they are well and those who are alone receiving particular attention. Over 10,000 of these calls have been made.

The council business rates department have worked really hard throughout the crisis reviewing and processing the business rate grants for hundreds of business. It's important to support business through this.

The focus over the next few months will be to continue this work but also help the Borough and high streets like Eton gradually ease out of lockdown and adapt as each restriction is lifted to ensure it can do as much as possible to support local businesses and residents.

If you need any help from me or my fellow councillors please contact us.

Contact your Councillors

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Cllr. Samantha Rayner | email: cllrS.rayner@rbwm.gov.uk | phone: 07811 974442 |
| Cllr. John Bowden | email: cllr.bowden@rbwm.gov.uk | phone: 07905 906957 |
| Cllr. Shamsul Shelim | email: cllr.shelim@rbwm.gov.uk | phone: 07958 412650 |

Lockdown Walk

Michelle and Russell - Eton Residents

The last few months have forced unwanted change upon everyone, but to our great surprise some of these changes have been beneficial. Eton must be one of the best places to live during lockdown! In some ways it has reminded us of the simplicity of childhood. No deadlines, long days, fabulous weather, always shopping in our local High Street, cooking meals from scratch. The uncrowded streets, quiet blue skies and empty roads were peaceful and rather nostalgic. We've had the time to slow down, read and take up new interests.

Determined not to waste our precious daily exercise slot, we explored Eton and the surrounds by bike and on foot as never before, feeling unexpectedly fitter and slimmer as a result! Birds and wildlife seem to be more plentiful than ever and the flowers have been spectacular... or are we just noticing everything more?

When our frequent Riverside stroll to Boveney Lock became too busy, we favoured a circular route to Datchet instead. Walking along the river path past the Boatman pub, you reach the boatyard alongside the railway, from where the path opens out into the expansive fields on the side of Home Park. Meeting the road bridge over the Thames, descend down the steps on the other side to continue the narrow and rather overgrown Thames Path towards Datchet, finally crossing the road again to take the footpath immediately opposite into Datchet Golf club. Closed at the time, we could stroll along the edge of the pretty course and emerge at the far end, crossing the wooden bridge over the Jubilee river where we watched a nesting swan and her newly hatched signets nervously take to the water!



The walk passes in front of the boathouses opposite the Athletics Club, before turning back through the serene playing fields of Eton College, and along the river meadows behind the College buildings, finally emerging at Baldwins Shore and into our beautiful Eton High Street. The perfect end to the walk would have been an evening drink in the sun at any of our lovely pubs. But don't worry, those days will return, and our walk will be completed in style!



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Naturewatch - That Old Chestnut

George Fussey - Curator, Eton College Natural History Museum

Horse Chestnuts were recently voted Britain's favourite tree in a poll organised by the Royal Society of Biology. Around Windsor and Eton, Horse Chestnut trees are a major feature of the local landscape. They dominate the Slough Road approach to Eton alongside Agar's Plough and are a key feature of Weston's Yard, with conkers strewn across the footways in the autumn. Horse Chestnuts famously line much of the 4km Long Walk in Windsor Great Park.

Unfortunately, Horse Chestnuts are being ravaged by a disease called Bleeding Canker. Just after the millennium, the disease became rampant and by 2007 some 50% of Horse Chestnuts in the UK were affected by a bacterium called *Pseudomonas*. The Forestry Commission estimates that 35,000 to 50,000 trees are affected countrywide. Interestingly, *Pseudomonas* comes originally from the Himalayas and is another

example, like the Corona virus, of a disease which has jumped from infecting one species (Himalayan Chestnut) to another and then spread around the world. The bacteria multiply within the tubes that carry nutrients up and down the trunk (the phloem) which lie just under the bark, eventually blocking them. This causes the tree to die because it can no longer take up water. Another sign of the disease is dark reddish-brown sticky liquid oozing from cracks in the bark, marking where the infections occur. In dry weather, this dries out to form a rusty-brown or black deposit. Some infections last for years with little effect on the crown, but in other cases it can spread rapidly and can cause the crown to die back and the leaves to turn prematurely brown and drop very early on. Why some Chestnuts are resistant to the infection is not fully understood.

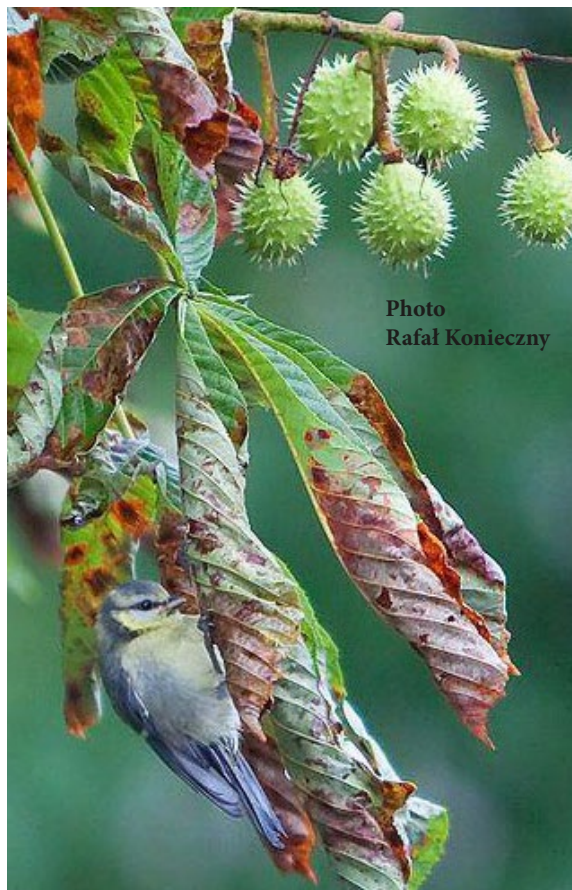


Photo
Rafał Konieczny

To add insult to injury, UK Horse Chestnut trees have also been seriously threatened by an outbreak of a leaf mining insect. These turn out to be the larvae of a tiny moth (about 5mm long) called *Cameraria ohridella*. The moth seems to have originated in south-eastern Europe and arrived in the UK in 2000: the first outbreak was noticed in Wimbledon in 2002. The larvae of the moth lives within the leaf, eating the photosynthetic tissue and weakening the tree, making it even more susceptible to Bacterial Canker. The moth can go through three or four generations in a year and so by the autumn the trees can become covered with the tell-tale unsightly papery brown patches which are characteristic of the disease. With up to 700 larvae living in a single leaf the effect can be very disfiguring. This is a serious problem given that horse chestnuts are almost exclusively planted for their ornamental value.

Diseases and parasites that spread around the world are very much the result of the global, interconnected world in which we live. The recent Coronavirus outbreak reminds us that such events can be utterly devastating. This is why we need to monitor the natural world around us and develop our understanding of it.

I'm There Come Rain or Shine

Janet Gillard - Lollipop Lady



I have been a Lollipop Lady for Eton Porny First School now for 38 years. It all started when my son came home from school in 1982 to say the school needed a Lollipop person and he said you could do that mum couldn't you! So I was trained and started that year.

It can be a bit scary at times walking out in front of cars and lorries etc. hoping that they will stop for you. It can also be annoying at times when a lorry or a car parks on the crossing so I can't do my job safely. Sometimes motorists abuse me when I ask them to move. Most of all it is enjoyable meeting all the parents, new and old, chatting to them and watching the children grow in confidence.

Once I was interviewed by Radio Berkshire about why I do the job, how it has changed over the years and how people's attitudes towards me have changed in that time.

I am on the crossing come rain or shine and go home sometimes wondering why I do this job: but then I say to myself, I do it because I really think it is a most rewarding job!

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My Story so far...

Giovanni Canali - Tastes Delicatessen

I was born in Sassuolo, near Modena, Italy, and brought up in Parma then Switzerland. At 18 I came to London to study Business & Finance, during which time I also worked part-time in Sainsburys, staying on after university and becoming a section manager. Subsequent jobs included selling technical standard documentation, the setting up of the UK subsidiary of an Italian telecoms company, and working for a private TV studio specialising in shopping channel programmes. This last role involved too much travelling to Italy to balance with family life.

An old-school friend who ran a successful cigar company in Peru was looking to diversify into chocolate since Peru has the best cacao varieties in the world. He needed help, and I was looking for a change, so I entered the world of single-origin bean to bar chocolate! I enjoyed doing trade shows, meeting new people and talking to customers, and realised that the food industry was for me.



I became a supplier of chocolate bars to Karen at Tastes Delicatessen and one day while delivering an order heard that she was considering selling the business - words that would take my life in a whole new direction. I had an immediate desire to be the next owner of Tastes and luckily managed to buy the shop.

Eton is a very attractive place with a strong sense of community and I felt at home straight away – everyone was very supportive and welcoming from the beginning. The decision to stay open during the Covid-19 lockdown was an easy one as I didn't want to let my loyal customers down and wanted to do my bit for the community (and I'd miss seeing them every week). I also didn't want to sit at home contemplating the stock

going out of date! Without a doubt, the response and support from the local community during these tough times has surpassed my wildest expectations.

My immediate priority for the shop is to continue to offer high-quality food at honest prices. I am in the process of upgrading the till computer and will then develop the

Continued over

Continued from previous page

website to realise its untapped potential. The past seventeen months have flown by and I love every day in the shop – talking to customers and exchanging stories. What happens in Tastes, stays in Tastes!

When not in the shop I enjoy skiing, and playing and watching tennis, but gave up on football after the last financial scandal engulfed my childhood favourite team, Parma. Pilates twice a week is a must as working in the deli is quite physically demanding. To relax I enjoy listening to audiobooks, especially Jo Nesbo novels, while clearing up in the evenings and prepping the shop in the mornings; cooking, eating and drinking (I have the belly to prove it!); poker; and playing boardgames with the two fantastic children (Michi 22 and Jennifer nearly 19) I share with my wife of 28 years. Being a dad is the best job in the world, closely followed by working in the deli!

Boss Cat

Jane Speller - Eton Resident

I collected Bronte from Ruislip almost four years ago where she was being looked after by a Cat Protection Volunteer. I had already fallen in love with her photograph, so I knew she was the cat for me.

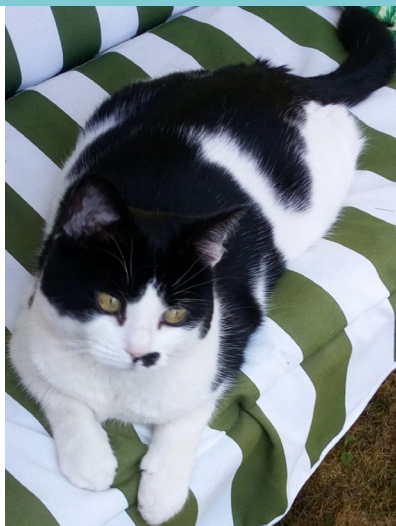
Bronte had a very difficult start in life. At three years old I was to be the sixth stage in her life that I knew of.

Bronte was very shy and wary of me for the first three hours whilst she explored her new home. After which she followed me around everywhere and slept on my bed.

It is amazing what love and patience can achieve. Bronte went from being perpetually on guard and nervous to being totally relaxed and in charge. She now knows she is Boss Cat. Having me firmly under her paw. I am now well trained and have learned to carry out her every whim with alacrity. I wouldn't have it any other way.

She taught me to play Stair Tennis. This involves Bronte being recumbent on a stair and a ping pong ball. I have to toss the ping pong ball, whilst said Bronte bats the ping pong ball back down the stairs to me. Suffice it to say that I have yet to win a game! Oh yes, we do have a set of rules.

A friend once told me. You can't own a cat. If they like you they will live with you. If not, they will move on. However, it is quite obvious by the way Bronte behaves towards me that she is very fond of me. How do I know? Because she tells me so in so many ways. From rubbing noses to letting me hold her paws and her tail. So I don't think she is going anywhere! Lucky me.



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