



Floreant Etona

July 2021

Issue 25

Eton Matters

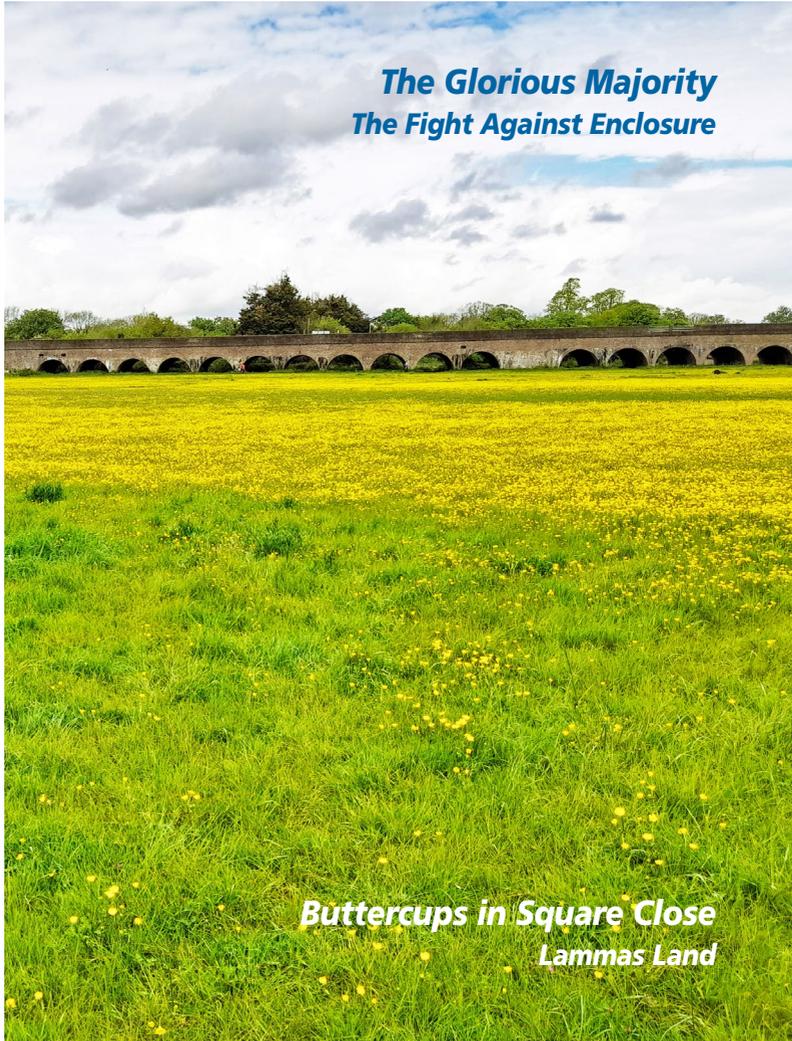
***Eton Connection
Captain James Hook***

***Tudor
Stores***

***Isle of
Eton?***

***Was Fred
Flintstone Here?***

***The Glorious Majority
The Fight Against Enclosure***



***Buttercups in Square Close
Lammas Land***

An Eton Community Association Publication

A BIG
THANK
YOU

FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PATIENCE

We're working
hard to keep
our shelves full
and everyone safe

Monday-Saturday 7am-8pm
Sunday 10am-5pm

124A High St,
Eton SL4 6AN

KAVANAGH'S
Budgens



Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz - ECA Chair



I want to say that summer is here, but at the time of writing, that is not the case. I am optimistic that at the time of reading, the sun will be shining every day!

The pandemic has had a significant impact everywhere; Eton is no exception. People and communities have found ways to adapt and stay safe. I am proud that we have played our part, helping those in need. For those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 we send our thoughts and condolences. Supporting the vaccine roll out and indeed having jobs when the opportunity arises are all contributing to keeping Eton as safe as possible.

And we have held our first event! Thanks to Leonie's organisational skills, we held another Litter Pick, with 46 people joining in. Bacon butties courtesy of Eaten Cafe and soft drinks courtesy of Budgens provided a reward for the hard work of so many. We now have a regular drumbeat of zoom meetings, which have proved popular, attended by our Borough Councillor Samantha Rayner and by Thames Valley Police. Our second annual remote AGM needed to be held in this way too, but next year we look forward to welcoming you all as usual with a glass of wine!

The Christmas annual event planning has already started; note 18th November in your diaries when we launch our High Street as a place to buy gifts for family and friends! We are starting to plan for HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with an Eton Street Party on 4th June 2022; another date to pencil in! if you want to help, please email secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

And in the meantime, stay safe as we all emerge...

Forthcoming Eton Community Association Meetings

July 14th and Sept. 8th @ 6.30pm Venue to be confirmed

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, Warren Property, J Manley Gallery, Richer Sounds, Vario Press, Beechwood Interiors, Fresh 'N' Fine, My Handyman, Eton Cycles, Salamandra, Eton College, Maydencroft and Eaten Cafe. **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

Disclaimer and Copyright: The Eton Community Association has taken every care in compiling information and materials but will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused as a result of any inaccuracy or error contained in this publication. The accuracy of material provided by contributors or from third party sources can not be assured and is likely to be copyright of the author and therefore permission to use or copy such material must be sought from the author. The Eton Community Association does not endorse any web sites, services or products mentioned and can not be responsible for the content or privacy policy of external web sites.

From the Thameside

Beryl Owens and Kevin McNally

It would be understatement to suggest that a great deal has happened since we last reported 'from the Thameside' in the July issue last year. We have had Covid, Brexit, Biden, a sad death at the castle, Line of Duty (ending?), a Granddaughter (for us 😊)... and Barney (our visiting Barnacle Goose) has gone!

We hope that he has gone to a better place (by that we mean colder and with more friends). Happily he has left a great number of more typical residents behind. We remain



Mute Swans lay 4 to 10 eggs (apparently - we have never seen 10) and they hatch after about 5 weeks. The cygnets cannot fly for up to 6 months during which time they are fiercely protected by both parents. The 'busking' display by the Cob (rather beautiful - wings half raised, neck back) is a threat display - great for photographs - but keep away.

We should start a new campaign of behalf of swans with a slogan 'Not ugly Not ducklings'. You be the judge - time to march perhaps...?

particularly attached to our resident royal Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) who are not particularly mute (they just don't whoop or trumpet) but are beautiful as adults - perhaps the most beautiful swan?

Intriguingly their closest living relatives are Australian Black Swans - rather than more obvious Trumpeters or Whoopers. Perhaps a nice metaphor for these days.

Well - we must now approach the Swans dark secret - ugly ducklings! Made famous in story and song by Hans Christian Andersen and Danny Kaye it seems set in stone that their ducklings are ugly. We hereby take issue with this!

Those of us familiar with the riverbank know it is not true.



Museum & Gallery Openings on Sunday Afternoons

The Museum of Antiquities, the Museum of Eton Life, the Natural History Museum and the Verey Gallery will be open to the public again on Sunday afternoons, 2:30-5:00pm, from **Sunday 4 July**.

You are welcome to drop in anytime during opening hours.



Don't miss the new Verey Gallery exhibition *Six Centuries of Food and Dining at Eton College*.



For further information about Sunday openings and the exhibition, please visit: collections.etoncollege.com



unpack your
business potential
with animation...



The Eton Connection

Captain James Hook



In 1904, on his deathbed, Captain James Hook, commander of the Pirate brig the "Jolly Roger" and principal protagonist of Peter Pan, spoke his final words; "Floreat Etona". 19 years later, as guest at the Fourth of June luncheon, author and playwright J M Barrie was challenged by Provost M R James: "Was James Hook a great Etonian but not a good one?"

A month later Barrie returned to Eton to respond to Provost James. His purpose was "To refute the terrible indictment"; his jury being a packed audience of Etonians. "Not only was Hook an Old Etonian, he was a member of Pop" "Hook was not his true name. To reveal who he really was, would even at this date, set the country ablaze. He had been at a famous public school and its traditions still clung to him like garments; it remained a matter of form. Thus it was offensive to him to board any ship in the

same dress in which he had fought beforehand."

But above all he retained his passion for good form.

"At Eton he was a dry bob [1], contrary to what one might have expected, as his future was to be on the sea, but, boy or man, he hated the touch of water, and he was always the last to leave his ship. He won many colours at Eton. His Aunt Emily had three of his caps, honourably won, hanging over her mantelpiece, advising that James had got them specially made at a little place in the city. In his last year at school he was a member of what is perhaps the most exalted assemblage in the world- The Eton Society, or Pop. The Society consists of the 30 or so leading persons in the school, who are chosen entirely on account of their mental equipment. Legend has it that Hook's election was a great surprise to the other members, who alone have the right of voting, and that James must have manipulated the ballot-box. But even so, what ardour to excel. The page in the books of the Society recording his election has been mysteriously destroyed and for some time it has been suspected that this could be explained in only one of two ways - either the authorities did it because they thought his subsequent career (meteoric as it was) reflected (on the whole) no credit on the school, or the dilapidation were made by autograph hunters."

Brian Hoare

Former Eton Resident

"What were Hook's intellectual attainments? Here we are on firm ground; he was in the First Hundred. He also contributed to one of the journals of original matter known locally as Ephemerals. His contribution, entitled 'A Dissertation upon Roast Pig' seemed to have merit, but for some unexplained reason his tutor interfered to prevent his being paid for it."

"Of James' appearance and manners when at Eton there are contradictory accounts. According to his Aunt Emily he was a sweetly pretty boy and pious, with much of the courtliness that afterwards so struck his victims on the high seas while he was prodding them along the plank. The soul of honour, she said also, was so sensitive that she urged the powers that be not to cane James but to cane some adjacent piece of furniture, which had the same effect on the parts of the impressionable boy. This advice was not followed, and she feels that the harsher treatment fretted his dark spirit."

"His contemporaries were reportedly impressed less favourably. They admit an air of cheap distinction, of which he seems to have been pleasantly conscious. But chiefly they recall a gluttonous boy. "He oozes so unpleasantly through his clothes," wrote one, "that in the Wall Game if you pushed him against the wall you smeared it with him."

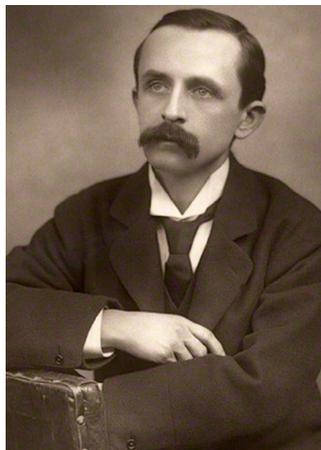
"Others dwell on that blood of his, which they describe as "yellow after the colour has gone out of it." This blood, saved him many lammings from the head of the house, who, though Keeper of the Fives fainted at the first sight of it- as James knew and bragged about it. When in want of funds he used to cut himself slightly for three pence and considerably for a strawberry mess. This shows that he was not without admirers. His piety, say his detractors, was merely that he prayed unctuously not to be found out in certain nefarious transactions. The boy in short, was temperamental."

There are no authenticated photographs of James as a schoolboy. Unfortunately some contemporaries- seeking momentary prominence, signed their own photographs "Yours truly, Jas. Hook"

Post Script: After his death, in a search of his ships hulk , hundreds of well-thumbed copies of the Eton Chronicle were found in his bunk , confirming that throughout his life of piracy Captain Hook had been a faithful subscriber.

References: Primary source; "Captain Hook at Eton" J M Barrie's (photo right) speech 1923

[1] dry bob : sporting Eton term for, principally, a cricketer, footballer, rugby, hockey player etc. A wet bob is a rower.



J Manley Gallery

Established 1891

Framing and Restoring Fine Art for over 100 Years

We offer a personal service of the highest standard on all your Framing requirements and our Restoration team provide a wide service in Fine Arts including Oil and Acrylic painting Watercolours, Pastels, Engravings and Prints.

We also restore Ceramics
(Porcelain - China - Pottery).

All work is undertaken at our premises in Eton

27, High Street, Eton, SL4 6AX
Telephone 01753 865647
www.manleyrestoration.com



Create your own salad bowl
or sandwiches from a choice
of over 20 fillings

Hearty selection of cooked
breakfasts served daily

Gluten free, Vegan and
Vegetarian options

Exclusive 'Eton-Mess' ice-
cream freshly made on
premise



Delivery & take-away
service available

Lockdown Hours: 1000-1600
seven days a week

Jacket potatoes with a
choice of up to 3 fillings

Fully Licensed - Beer, Wine
Liqueur Coffees and Bailey's
Hot Chocolate



The Eaten Cafe, 45 High Street, Eton, Berkshire, SL4 6BL
T: 01753 864725 E: www.eatencafe.co.uk



Tudor Stores

Jane Speller - Eton Resident

My parents, Jack and Eileen Speller, took over the Tudor Stores in April 1959. They turned a run-down establishment into a high-class grocery store and tuck shop and ran them for twenty-five years.

What was the store like? From inside the shop, on the right of the window, saw piles of fruit and vegetables. Further back you found the confectionary display and behind, on the wall, a numerous array of large sweet jars and a weighing machine. A considerable amount of shelf space was given over to breakfast cereal, biscuits, and tinned fruit, being very popular with the Eton boys.

My father cooked hams that were sliced to order. People came from afar to buy the ham. Sixty different cheeses were on offer. We occasionally offered rather more unusual items such as tins of escargot, roasted caterpillars and chocolate covered ants. The caterpillars and ants being bought by the boys to play pranks on their friends. The fad did not last, I hasten to add. We only made the one order.



My parents (picture left with me on the right) were warm, friendly and genuinely loved their customers many of whom became true friends. My father delivered groceries around College and Town and villages around, often carrying favours like changing light bulbs and mending fuses on his way or perhaps helping someone with a heavy load giving them a lift home.

The tuck shop, behind the grocery store, was run by my mother. On sale were freshly made chips, eggs on raft, bangers, sausages, bacon, soft drinks, milk shakes and a wide selection of ice cream. Trash (or comics) were available to read. Once there were so many boys in the tuck shop that they sat three abreast on the stairs leading up to our living quarters.

On the Fourth of June we sold over 700 carnations in a variety of colours. It took four of us to sell the flowers just after 8am. We put tables up in the eating area of the tuck shop. We also helped the boys put the carnations into their buttonholes and pinned them in place. The side passage was filled with punnets of strawberries that had been pre-ordered. The smell was divine and lingered long after my father had delivered them around Eton College.

Happy memories!

Naturewatch - Egrets, I've had a few!

George Fussey - Curator, Eton College Natural History Museum



Photo courtesy of J. M. Garg

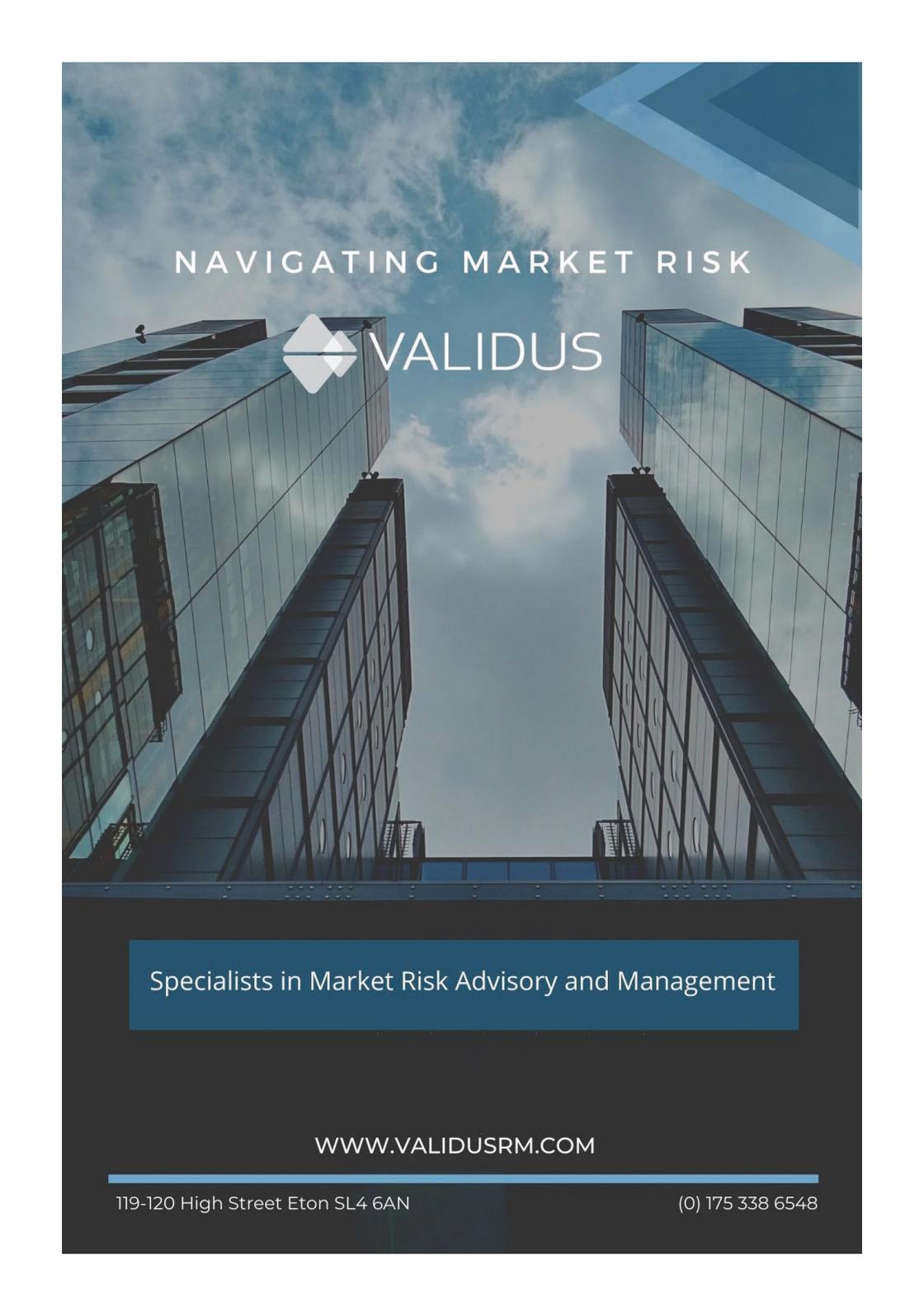
We have become used to seeing Grey Herons fishing north of Barnes Pool but recent sightings of a Little Egret suggest that the nature area around Queen's Schools is providing increasingly attractive habitats for a number of species. Egrets like to fish in twilight and in areas with low vegetation or none at all and their prey are usually 2 – 6cm long. The majority of prey are fish, but amphibians, crustaceans and insects also feature, alongside occasional small reptiles and mammals.

This 'uncommon but increasing visitor to Berkshire' has started to breed locally, according to the Berkshire Bird Atlas, starting in 2006. It seems that climate change is responsible for the northwards spread of this species. The first record in Berkshire was in 1991 and, for such a conspicuous bird, it is unlikely to have been overlooked. The species is mostly migratory, but when the climate permits it will overwinter: however, overwintering populations can be severely affected by harsh and extended wintry weather.

During the breeding season, they typically have two or three elongated feathers on their hindcrown, as shown in the photo above. Indeed, they are among a number of species that suffered greatly from the plumage trade towards the end of the nineteenth century. It is thought that Little Egrets would have become extinct were it not for the disruption caused by the First World War. Even now, a principal cause of mortality for this species in Europe is hunting.

When foraging, they characteristically use a 'wade-or-walk-slowly' technique: they stop frequently, tilt their head to one side, and deliberately stir up the silt with an extended foot. Fish and frogs are swallowed head first! Another technique that has been observed is called 'double-wing' feeding. In this, they carry both wings stretched forward over their head, like a parasol. This shading is thought to improve their view of prey in the water in the same way that a human would shade her eyes on a particularly bright day.

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



NAVIGATING MARKET RISK



VALIDUS

Specialists in Market Risk Advisory and Management

WWW.VALIDUSR.M.COM

119-120 High Street Eton SL4 6AN

(0) 175 338 6548



Eton Porny School

Katherine Russell
Head Teacher

After yet another lockdown, we were all excited to return back to school in March to see our teachers and our friends. There have been some changes to keep us all safe but we are still learning lots, working really hard and having so much fun with our friends.

'This year it was nice to be at home sometimes but it's a lot easier being at school because you don't have to log in to do your work. Also, we have been able to have visitors in school to teach us new things and exciting days, like a Roman day!' Yolashi.

'It is so nice not having to log onto a zoom call every day. It's easier to see each other in real life and work together with my classmates.' Rojus.

After Easter, we had to temporarily move from our school to Churchmead School. We thought it was a really exciting adventure and everyone was really kind and welcoming. We even got to participate in some secondary school style lessons.

'We got to go in to the science labs, put on our protective glasses and use the Bunsen burners to experiment. The teacher, Mr Hart, also created some explosions using chemical reactions – he had to do it behind a screen!' Darcey.

'In art, we experimented with some new techniques. To warm up we had to draw our partner BUT we weren't allowed to look at the page or take our pencil off of the paper! Also, we used charcoal to draw a portrait in the style of Pablo Picasso.' Cameron.

Although we had a fantastic time at Churchmead it was nice to come 'home' to Eton Porny and see the new changes that had taken place whilst we were away.

'It was great coming back to Eton Porny because we got to play in our own playground again and finally see the new outdoor classroom. It was really nice to be back in our own classroom again too.' Sebastian.

We are really looking forward to our last half-term at this school and a relaxing Summer holiday!

Oak Class, Year 4.

Kid's Play

Darcey - Aged 8

This year has been a very strange year. I've enjoyed being at home with my sister and being home-schooled during lockdown but it's awesome to be back at school to see my buddies and my favourite teacher, Miss Boyle. I go to Eton



Porny but have recently been at Churchmead School while they did some work to my school. I love my school but this is my last year there. It's sad because normally in Year Four we dress up as elves and take part in the Christmas parade but because of COVID-19 a lot of things have been cancelled. I also would've loved to have gone on the PGL trip, which would've been my first trip away without my parents. I might've got to build a raft! In a week's time we'll be back at Eton Porny where we'll be able to use our new outdoor classroom. Miss Boyle has already booked us in for lessons on our first day... and you never know we might even have Sports Day this year!

Eton Pre-School

Sue Clifford - Manager



Over the time of the pandemic, it has become clear just how much the youngest members of our society have missed. We realized at Pre-School quite quickly that some of our children had very few experiences outside their home environment and for some this was having an impact on their speech or confidence.

There was no point in having toy animals to play with if the children have never seen any animals or knew how they behaved! So, one of the first things we did on the children's return was to invite our friends from "animal ark" to bring in some furry friends for us to meet. We had a range of small animals including rabbits and Guinea pigs as well as some more unusual creatures like sugar gliders and a barn owl! The hit of the day however was their gorgeous dog 'Goper' who was a large, and incredibly friendly, Labrador. We are looking forward to working hard on catching up on experiences now and creating some more awe and wonder! If you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you. @etonpreschool.org

In His Presence

Rev. La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



As I write there is scaffolding inside and outside St John the Evangelist Church in Eton. You may have had to negotiate it as you have walked round to visit the doctors' surgery. We are having a repair done in the large East window. Mary Magdalene's hair had a large hole in it and there were some fractures around the hole too. Her hair has been taken away for re-styling and a spot of new dye!

This is a precious window in the heritage of the town. It was installed in 1865 in memory of the queen's loved husband and consort. Victoria herself donated some funds for the installation. How fitting that it should be repaired in this year as we pray for Elizabeth in her grief. May God's love help repair the hole in her heart too.

Mary Magdalene is a significant figure in the gospel stories. She is unique in being mentioned in all four gospels as witnessing the crucifixion, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus. She did not abandon him. She was not afraid to follow. Either because of deep love or because of deep understanding, she 'got' what he was doing. From the

depths of her understanding, she has the courage to stand in the face of disaster and finds that in those depths life is transformed: death and fear don't get the last word – love does. She is the first witness of the resurrection and the apostle to the apostles, bringing the news of it to them.

I pray that, as we come out of lock-down, we too may have courage to face into the pain we have experienced and know renewal with a new-found depth of compassion. May there be renewal on the face of the earth which amounts to more than the relief of being able to go to the hairdresser's again and having a new hair-do!

NEW & LINGWOOD

118 HIGH STREET, ETON, SL4 6AN



01753 866286

07496 457663

WWW.NEWANDLINGWOOD.COM

Diary

July

4th or 11th – Pub Walk Final details via Shout-out or ECA website.

14th 18.30 – Eton Community Association meeting – Zoom or face to face

Aug

15th 10.00 – Litter Pick – meet at Eton Town Council Offices

Sept

8th 18.30 – Eton Community Association meeting – Zoom or face to face

Nov

18th Christmas Annual Event – details to follow in next issue

4th June 2022 – Eton Street Party for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Mobile Library in Eton (parked outside old library)

Mon 13.00 – 14.00 - 5/7; 26/7; 16/8; 6/9; 27/9; Mon 11.00-12.00 - 12/7; 2/8; 23/8; 13/9; 4/10; 25/10;

Tues 15.00-16.00 – 20/7; 10/8; 31/8; 21/9; 12/10; Wed 13.30-14.30 – 14/7; 4/8; 25/8; 15/9; 6/10;

27/10; Fri 13.00-14.00 – 2/7; 23/7; 13/8; 3/9; 24/9; 15/10.

Regular Events

Council Office – Eton: Tues – Fri – 08.00-13.00

Charteris Club – Lunch Tuesdays & Wednesdays - 12.00-14.00 – Eton Wick Village Hall

Eton College Museums – Every Sunday – 14.30-17.00 – Free entry

Eton Town Council Meeting – 19.00 - 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)

Tuesdays – 9.15-11.30 Community Bible Study

(Sundays – 11.00 & 16.30 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

This diary is produced on the anticipation of all Covid legal restrictions having been lifted on the 21st June. Some dates/times/locations may be altered to accommodate Covid regulations and safety.

Help Us to continue to make Eton Matters an interesting read.

Please write an article on anything of interest to you or relevant to Eton.

Contact the Editor for details: editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

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		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	
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
	Eton Pharmacy		01753 863819
	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
	Library	Mobile	07766 366719
		Renewal Hotline	0303 123 0035
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	



ACADEMY

INSURANCE
SERVICES LTD

Independent & Approachable Local Insurance Broker

Specialists in:

Motor Insurance
Home Insurance
Van Insurance
Taxi Insurance
Business Insurance
Fleet Insurance
Commercial Insurance
Landlord Insurance
And lots lots more ...

Call: 01753 521 216 or 0800 083 9885
www.academyinsurance.co.uk

Academy Insurance Services Ltd are authorised
by the Financial Conduct Authority

Academy Insurance
2nd Floor, Rafts Court
Brocas Street
Eton, Berkshire
SL4 6RF

Taking Council

Bob Austen, Town Clerk, Eton Town Council

Tel: 01753 860377

email: clerk@etontc.uk



Much has happened at Eton Town Council since the last Eton Matters.

Firstly, the local elections which took place on 6th May introduced two new councillors, Malcolm Alexander and Margaret Hayes-Powell. Malcolm is already well known in Eton during his time as our Borough Councillor when he proved to be a good friend and supporter of the Town. Margaret is a member of Eton Community Association and has a strong desire to see good things happen in the Town.

Margaret and Malcolm were introduced to their colleagues at the Eton Town Council Annual Meeting on 21st May, the first face to face meeting of the Council in over a year. We were able to hold this at Eton Wick Village Hall which enabled Coronavirus safety regulations including the inevitable social distancing.

Secondly, the Annual Meeting saw the retirement from the Council of the Mayor, Councillor George Fussey. During his term George has served the Council with great devotion and skill, particularly during his time as Mayor where he has upgraded governance and systems to increase transparency and efficiency. George has made a huge impact on the business of the Council and his contribution has been invaluable. Members expressed their warmest appreciation to George for all that he has achieved and wished him well for the future.

Cllr John Lovell, who was the Deputy Mayor, was elected as the new Mayor. John has been a town councillor for many years and is a well-known figure in Eton and Eton Wick for his many contributions to various organisations in both communities over a long period of time. Members wished him well in his term of office.

Cllr Malcolm Leach was elected Deputy Mayor and Malcolm is also well known in Eton for his service on the Council and to Eton Community Association where he serves on the committee.

There is now another vacancy to fill in the Eton ward and we hope that we will be able to recruit more great talent onto the Council.

In conclusion, may I wish all residents a happy and stress-free Summer!

Town & Gown



I am John Hayter and I work in the Porters' Lodge at Eton College. The Lodge is situated at the main entrance to the Foundation area of the School. There are 3 porters but only 1 on duty at any given time. I have the grand title of Head Porter which means that if something goes wrong, I can blame the other two!

Our role has several aspects: we are probably the first people that most visitors coming to the College will meet so we endeavour to present a friendly and helpful greeting. We are responsible for ensuring that no one enters the Foundation who is not either a resident, staff member or an expected visitor. Although there is ample signage it is quite common for members of the public to walk straight through the gate. Tact and diplomacy are the order of the day but that can be severely tested when dealing with people who have an air of

entitlement to go where they please. We also handle any incoming phone calls, issue visitor day passes, and hold a large quantity of keys for various parts of the College which maintenance staff and teachers regularly require.

The porters play a role in administering school discipline and boys who have broken particular school rules have to report to the Lodge at specified times. For example, boys who have been persistently late are entered in the Tardy Book, and they must report to the on-duty porter each day before 0745 in full school dress. I have to say that even when they are in trouble or on a punishment the boys are usually incredibly polite and respectful. But some boys do try and pull the wool over your eyes and wriggle out of their responsibilities. I suppose if you give a set of rules to a group of very bright boys, they will figure out how to bend them! My only experience of Eton before coming here was me regularly trying to avoid running over the boys on my way to work as they crossed the Eton Wick Road to and from Bekynton, their main dining hall.

Prior to joining the staff at Eton, I served for over 30 years in the Metropolitan Police. I spent the first half of my service in the borough of Camden, which covers from Kings

John Hayter - Head Porter, Eton College

Cross in the south, through Camden, Kentish Town, and Highgate in the north. A really busy part of London in the late 70's (and still is now) and a real eye opener for a 19-year-old boy from Wiltshire! Camden was a great place to police in the 70's/80's and I made lifelong friends on the way. Those days were also troubled times, with the IRA and other terror groups still very active and there was also the tragedy of the Kings Cross Fire. That era also saw frequent massive public disorder in London and across the country. I was deployed on public order duties at several, including Broadwater Farm, Brixton, Notting Hill and even to the north of England during the Miners' Strike. None of this was the stuff of Z Cars and Dixon of Dock Green that I had been brought up on! The later part of my service was at Windsor Castle with the Royalty Protection Department, poles apart from Camden High Street on a Saturday night but closer to my home and family and, of course, with its own challenges. During my time there I travelled to Scotland several times when the Queen took trips to Balmoral and Holyrood. This was a different type of policing altogether and I have tremendous memories of my time working for the Royal Family.

I have now been at Eton for over 11 years and have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I am always amazed how confident and respectful the boys are and how friendly the staff are. Eton must be doing something right!

Spring Clean-up

Darius Marchant - Eton College Student

On Sunday morning (April 25th), members of the Environment Action Group decided to join the ECA (Eton Community Association) for the Eton Spring Clean. 46 participants went out prepared for the worst, but we were pleasantly surprised with the lack of litter at Fellows Egot. Sadly, this was short-lived as by the time we reached South Meadow, we were appalled by what we found in the surrounding shrubbery. Our bin bags were filled with empty cans, plastic wrappers, clothes, and discarded luggage! More than 40 sacks of rubbish were collected, and we even shockingly found a car battery and a radiator! However, cleaning up the litter in our surrounding community was very rewarding and seeing the sheer amount of litter we collected was a worthwhile experience. Little things like this will count in the long run.



FRESH 'N' FINE

NATURAL FOOD. AMAZING COFFEE
CAFE, DELI & PATISSERIE



English Cream Teas
Traditional Afternoon Tea
Patisserie Selection
Healthy Food, Breakfast and Salads
Artisan Sandwiches and Berkshire's Renowned Ciabattas
Hot Chocolate Connoisseur
Frappes, Natural Smoothies and Amazing Coffee
Great Taste Award Winning Purbeck Ice Cream

THE HOME OF QUALITY HANDMADE ARTISAN DELICACIES.

7 HIGH STREET, ETON SL4 6AS



G V G

THE ACCESSORIES THAT GIVE BACK

LEATHER HANDBAGS AND ACCESSORIES

HANDMADE IN ETON

10% OF EVERY PURCHASE DONATED
TO CHARITIES

FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.GVGACCESSORIES.COM



FREE DELIVERY FOR ETON
USE CODE 'LOCALETON'



Eton within the Borough

Samantha Rayner

RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle

As we approach the summer and the Covid restrictions lift it's wonderful to see the shops and businesses in Eton open. Eton High Street has a brilliant and diverse selection. The Tourist Information Centre, with its great volunteers, greets people as they cross the bridge to attract footfall into the town.

Following the decision to close the library last year in Eton the council is now offering the mobile library service which will park in the High Street from 2nd June 2021. So residents can access the extensive library as well as other council services. All the details of days and times are on the website.

Eton has some stunning gardens and amazing floral displays. The Garden in Bloom Competition this year is being run by the RBWM Mayor. If you would like to enter please do so as it will be wonderful to make an award in Eton. The closing date is 30th June 2021 and the details are on the website.

A huge thank you to all the people who volunteer to make Eton a fabulous place to live, work and visit - from putting up flagpoles, litter-picking and sitting on the Town Council you all make Eton a true community.

Stay safe and Don't Let Your Guard Down.

If you want any help or advice please contact your local councillors.

Contact your Councillors

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



Because of the Covid lockdown the celebrations at J. Manley Gallery to mark 130 years of the business were rather subdued. It was started by John Manley in March 1891 when he purchased a framing and gilding business in Peascod Street. After several moves the business, now in his son's hands, moved to Eton in 1964. Malcolm Leach, the current proprietor, took over the business 35 years ago.

Was Fred Flintstone Here?

Paul - Senior Project Manager, Structural Repairs

We thought you may be interested to learn of progress being made at the old charity shop at 53 High Street.

The access is obviously extremely challenging but not hindering good progress. The old building has clearly been demolished, leaving an uncharacteristic void. To some it may appear progress is somewhat slow but much activity is taking place in the ground. While we endeavour to cause as little disruption as possible, we are also acutely aware of what a nuisance construction work can be, so please accept our sincere apologies for the inconvenience this brings for many residents, especially our immediate neighbours.

Piled foundations have now been completed, laying the roots for the new structure to begin to sprout and add a very attractive youngster to the street's architectural family. But first new drainage has to be constructed before a concrete platform can be spanned across the piles, to support our new addition to the street. For many, and including us, this phase of the work holds much excitement. Not only for getting the dirty work out of the way, but also for the potential discoveries to be made from this modest space's long history of settlements.

While in the ground excavating drainage trenches, under close archaeological supervision, many exciting discoveries have been made. Several clay and glass bottles were found within the top metre of what is mainly made up ground, we suspect dating back to around the 19th century and were probably dumped as commonly as we throw away our trash today. Most notably, however, and almost mistaken for common grey clay as the bucket of the excavator skimmed its top almost 1.5 metres down, was what Swampy (our affectionate nickname for our all seeing site Archaeologist), spotted with his beady eye, before the ground attempted to conceal it again as it fell in behind the bucket! On jumping in and excitingly clearing with his trowel, further inspection may have revealed it to be remnants of a Neolithic structure! I'm sure, back then, Fred Flintstone, would have been proud of the day he laid these stones, as we equally are today, in creating the next chapter for this plot.



We eagerly await the results of this awesome discovery, and look forward to revealing them in the next segment of this location's story.



ETON CYCLES REPAIRS

077 100 43069

www.etoncycles.co.uk
info@etoncycles.co.uk

Property Maintenance and Repairs, Inside or Outside

Painting and Decorating, Picture / Mirror Hanging

and much much more

My Handyman

Your Local (Eton Wick) Handyman, for All Those Little Jobs

E mail Help@My-Handyman.Biz

mobile 07582 855712

home 01753 853828

The Glorious Majority

The Fight Against Enclosure

Because of a proposal for the pavilion at Eton Recreation Ground and concerns over Crown Farm, Eton Wick, Lammas Land rights have come to the fore locally recently.

Lammas comes from the Saxon times when it was a religious ceremony to celebrate harvest (loaf-mas). Later it became a date on which townspeople and villagers were allowed to put animals out to graze for a period on the arable land after the crops had been harvested. In this area this was from the 1st August to 31st October.

From the 16th century the open field system of farming where villagers were given as tenants an unfenced strip or strips of land, often not together, within large fields to cultivate to feed themselves was coming under threat from landowners because it was considered inefficient. Landowners wanted to enclose the fields which concerned villagers as they would lose their way of feeding their families.

In Eton this came to a head in 1826 when Lord of the Manor, John Penn, who had already successfully enclosed his land in Stoke Poges, presented an Inclosure (Enclosure) Bill to Parliament. In an attempt to appease Eton's villagers the Great Common had been omitted from the Bill however this failed and villagers presented a petition to Parliament with over 180 of them signing or making their mark.

It appears Penn made one serious mistake in not consulting the Crown and when Officers of the Crown became aware it was too late to do anything but for them to oppose the Bill. Eton College was originally interested in Penn's proposals as tithe-owners of land (a tithe was originally a payment made of a tenth of the value of produce from the land) much of which was leased from the Crown and possibly this influence over Eton College encouraged them to change sides. Equally they also had the potential to sway the balance in Parliament as many Members were old Etonians. The true story will never be known as all records were lost in the Great Fire of Parliament in 1834.



The Bill was defeated by 173, "The Glorious Majority" on the 1st May 1826 and celebrated by bonfires and feasting in the local inns. To celebrate this victory a banner of blue silk with painted design was made and it still hangs in the Eton Town Council offices. On the front of the banner in gold "*MAY ETON FLOURISH AND EVER PROTECT HER RIGHTS*" and on the reverse "*THE GLORIOUS MAJORITY - 173 1st MAY 1826*".

Peter Eaton - Eton Resident

It is the defeat of this Bill that has kept the land between Eton town and Eton Wick village clear of development. Because of Enclosure, Lammas Land is now rare in England with most of the ancient rights now lost but all the Lammas and Common land was registered under Commons Registration Act of 1965 and its ownership confirmed in a public enquiry in 1978. Although there are a few exemptions, Lammas Land cannot be developed without the permission of an Inspector for the Secretary for State of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This permission is in addition and separate from planning consent. Development in this instance has a far ranging definition being anything that impedes access to or over the land or alters the surface of the land. From this it can be deduced that public access to Lammas Land is the prime benefit today. If development is granted permission by the Inspector then it is most likely the landowner will have to transfer the Lammas status to an unregistered piece of equivalent land with a register for these transactions being maintained in this area by the RBWM.

We owe it to those who fought in 1826 against enclosure here to continue to ensure our access rights under Lammas and Commons Law continue to be protected ensuring the vast area of land between Eton and Eton Wick remains open and undeveloped.



Beechwood Interiors

DESIGN | MANUFACTURE | INSTALL

Specialists in Bespoke Cabinetry

Luxury Kitchens & Wardrobes

Handcrafted Fine Furniture

Modern and Traditional Spray Finishes

T: 01753 650506 E: Info@beechwood-interiors.co.uk

W: beechwood-interiors.co.uk



Like us on
Facebook



houzz



FOLLOW US ON
Instagram

Vario

Vario Press is delighted to be supporting
the Eton Community Association.

Creating professional design and print products
for local businesses and Eton College.

Attention to detail – and service to match.

For more information please contact Peter Alexander at:

Vario Press Ltd

Marish Wharf, St. Mary's Road, Langley, Slough Berkshire SL3 6DA

Tel: 01753 548944 www.varioup.com

Eton College Golf Club

Karen Heath, Heather Keogh and Peter Hill-Cottingham.

Golf started at Eton when the Athens golf course was established in January 1889. It was a flood-prone course bordering the Thames, between Eton and Boveney. Initially, golf at Eton College attracted some controversy and polarised opinion. The traditional games at Eton were football, cricket, and rowing. These were all team sports promoting team spirit and camaraderie. Golf, on the other hand, embodied social endeavours with the talents and fortune of the individual. It was considered a non-exercise sport at this time and did not reflect the team spirit ethos that the Eton boys traditionally experienced.

Golf at Eton declined in the early part of the 20th century, mainly due to the frequent flooding and seasonal deterioration of the Athens course. Many all-season golf courses opened in the vicinity of Eton, offering superior playing conditions all year for college boys and masters.



A campaign by Old Etonians in the late 1960s helped raise the funds for a new golf course at the school. Designed by Frank Pennink, it was constructed on land bordering the Windsor-Slough railway line. It opened in June 1973 for the benefit of Eton boys and its members, but there is also an enthusiastic external members' community too.

Golfers are frequently deceived by this short 9-hole course. It is a very tight, pretty and challenging course, testing the resolve of most players and rewarding accurate play. The fairways are narrow and mainly tree lined with tiny greens and many bunkers to catch wayward shots. There is, thankfully not much water, except for the Willow Brook that bisects the par 3 holes; which has caught out many an experienced player.

The club provides a varied programme of social and competitive golf events with monthly competitions, inter-club fixtures, scrambles, knockouts and charity events providing plenty of opportunity to enjoy their golf in picturesque surroundings.

Eton College Golf Club prides itself on being a friendly and sociable club with a solid sense of community and enthusiasm, making incremental improvements year by year for the benefit of the school and the members. Anyone interested in joining this pretty and friendly club, please contact the Club Secretary: secretary.ecgc@gmail.com
Website: www.etoncollegegolfclub.co.uk

Isle of Eton?

Derek Ledger - Eton Resident

Most people have heard of the Isle of Sheppey, Canvey Island, the Isle of Dogs and Eel Pie Island but what about the Isle of Eton? All these Thames estuary and river "islands" are only separated from the mainland by narrow strips of water, some tidal, one only separated from the mainland by a lock and others by a division in the flow of the river. But they are all linked to the mainland by bridges which permit vehicular and pedestrian access.

But what is the difference between an isle and an island one may ask? The Isles of Man and Wight are considerably larger than either Eel Pie or Canvey where the landmass of each seems to indicate them to be isles rather than islands. But dictionary definitions state that an Isle is separated from the mainland by only a narrow strip of water, all this is rather confusing especially when considering whether Eton is an isle or an island. It has been claimed that we became an ait when the channel under the Baldwin's Bridge was opened.



Eton became an island when the manmade Jubilee River was completed in 2002 as it separated us from mainland Britain by water. The three communities can now only be reached by crossing water, which gives us as much right as any other island to be classed as such. Neither Eton Wick or Dorney can lay claim to have the island named after them as they are much younger than we

are in terms of a place of permanent habitation. However we are still not officially classified as an island and it needs some worthy to start a movement to motivate the citizens of Eton to press for the official recognition and registration of the Isle of Eton. After all what has the Scilly Isles got that we have not?

The long and very boring lockdown that we have been enduring has created many idle thoughts, so why not let the mind stray to fantasies and implausible ideas even if they are impracticable?

We're your friendly local TV,
hi-fi and home cinema store.

**LOWEST
PRICE
GUARANTEED***

**Pop in for a demo
and let us bring your
music and movies to life!**



* Lowest Price Guarantee, we'll beat any genuine advertised price, voucher offer or system deal, online & in-store, by up to £100. Products must be brand new, with a similar guarantee and in stock. Ask in-store for more details.

richersounds
Experience Better



40 High Street, Eton
SL4 6BD | 0333 900 0087
richersounds.com

Sam, Manager,
Eton Store.
6th year of service.



01753 625 101

sales@warrenproperty.co.uk
warrenproperty.co.uk

WARREN

property matters

Achieving the best rent,
from the best tenants,
in the shortest time...

