Issue 41

ETON MATTERS

Nov 2026



Eton College and the South African War

The Cricketers Inn and Union Terrace

Nature Watch - Berkshire's Hot, Dry Summer

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CHAIR'S CHAT

ROS RIVAZ - ECA CHAIR



It's November already! My goodness, another year rushing along.

We have had many activities since our last issue: informal drinks get-togethers at The Christopher, regular meetings at The George, a pub quiz (which seems so long ago), and an excellent litter pick. We are looking forward to more activities with Remembrance Sunday on 8th November, the amazing Christmas Lights event on 12th November and a Christmas soiree... which is still being planned. In the New Year we will all have the chance to join the ECA viewing of the exceptional Eton College Photography exhibition at the Verey Gallery.
Thank you to the committee members, who deserve a big "Thank You" as do our sponsors and partners, notably Eaten Café for providing bacon or egg butties again for the litter pick, The George for hosting our meetings, The Watermans for hosting the pub quiz, the Christopher for hosting the drinks get-together and all those who advertise in Eton Matters and who contribute to the annual Christmas Lights/ Flag collection.
A special thank you this year goes to Eton Town Council who have raised funds to buy the replacement Christmas cross street lights. Whilst ECA run the event, Eton Town Council own and maintain the assets, which include the cross street lights, the Welcome to Eton signs, the mini Christmas trees, the mistletoe lights in the willows at Barnes Pool and the additional lights at Baldwin's Institute.

Let's thank Russell and Rosie too, for their critical work to ensure the fortnightly ECA Newsletter (or Shout Out, as we call it) and Eton Matters arrive in our homes and businesses. Sign up at www.etoncommunity.co.uk.

And there are forthcoming events being planned: the Annual Fund Raising Eton Information Centre (EIC) Ball (run by our sister organisation, the Eton Community CIC), and the 2026 Arts Week. EIC support our community in many ways, providing information, chatting to those who pop in and sit in the comfy chairs for a chat and encouraging tourists and locals to use Eton's High Street. You can reach them at info@visiteton.info

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, Welsh and Jeffries, Warren Property, Vario Press, Eaten Cafe, Susan Handy Dance, Eton College, Castle View and Great Park Care Home.

Rosie Maggs, Editor

Association and Eton Matters Information ECA Chair – Ros Rivaz – chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk
ECA Secretary – Leonie Bryant – secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk
ECA Treasurer – Stewart Rogers – treasurer@etoncommunity.co.uk
EM Editor – Rosie Maggs – editor1@etoncommunity.co.uk

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Painting by Compton Hall (mid 1920s)

THE CRICKETERS INN AND UNION TERRACE

PETER EATON

The photo of a painting of the Cricketers (and Brocas Terrace) by Compton Hall, painted in the mid 1920s, shown to me by a local resident, prompted me to look into the large 3-storey house. It fronted onto Meadow Lane and headed to Union Terrace, a row of 13 two-bedroom cottages which were roughly on the line of the north block of Atherton Court flats today. They were built before 1839, as they appear on the 1839 Tithe map and survey of Eton. The houses and 92 High Street were owned at that time by William Wright, and although they looked similar to Emlyns Building, built about the same time, there is nothing to confirm the builder as being Henry Emlyn.

Whether The Cricketers, with its stepped covered entrance from Meadow Lane, was a pub from the time it was built is unknown, as the property was occupied in 1851 (census) by James Hooper, a boat builder, with his wife Sarah Hooper and their 3 children. In the 1861 census, James Cooper is a beer seller living with his wife, Sarah (probably the same people). By the 1871 census, at the age of 63, Sarah was noted as a beer house keeper with her niece at 13, a servant, for 5 lodgers. Sarah remains there in the 1881 census but had gone by the 1889 French's Directory, being followed by several occupants as beer sellers. The 1910 Lloyd George Survey states that the owners of The Cricketers were Mr J Gibbons of Fulham and Mrs C Calver of Catford, with the occupier being WJ Holturn and the brewers Fuller, Storey & Co of Maidenhead having an interest

Union Terrace houses belonged, at that time, to the executors of Henry Darville. The 1939 Register shows the Cricketers as empty, and it is believed it returned to a domestic dwelling shortly after.

The 13 Union Terrace houses were fronted by a pavement raised above a narrow-gravelled road leading to two warehouses behind the High Street properties and a passageway through to the High Street. They were small 2-up, 2-down cottages with just a small yard leading to outside toilets and enclosed by a high rear wall. The front rooms looked across the narrow road to another high wall of the garden of 91 High Street, which was a jungle of fruit and nut trees. As a kid, my best friend lived in Union Terrace, and we used to occasionally play into that garden and go scrumping there in the autumn.

The 2 warehouses at the end of the road, prior to WWII, became small factories; during the war, my mum worked in one making Dzus fasteners for wartime aircraft. The building to the right of the passage was demolished for the Wigginton House development, and the one to the left has been converted to an architect's studio with an apartment above.

The demise of Union Terrace came about in the early 1960s when, along with terraced homes in Meadow Lane and the north side of Brocas Street, it was demolished to make way for the Atherton Court development and the road alterations that left the Watermans Arms on its island.



The Cricketers and Union Terrace 1949

Acknowledgements:
Jonathon Palmer (Compton Hall painting), Pubwilki and Genealogist websites.



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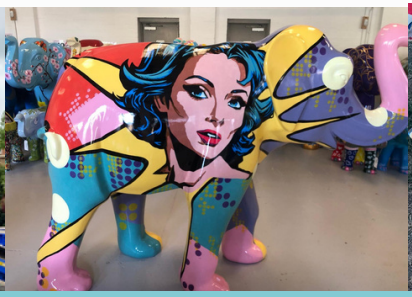
TRUNKS ACROSS THE THAMES

The wonderful Trunks across the Thames trail has been a fantastic celebration of creativity, community spirit and compassion, bringing colour and joy to Windsor, Eton and Slough throughout the summer.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making this remarkable initiative such a success. The auction of the elephants raised a further £240,150 for Thames Hospice, with Harry Ballin as the brilliant auctioneer!

Most small elephants have been returned to their schools so that the education programme can continue, helping to explain that death is an integral part of the circle of life.







THE TOWN CRIERS LIVERY

The royal borough's town crier's livery was mainly the work of David Coulthard of Tom Brown's Tailors of Eton, who worked together with Chris Brown, the town crier, to produce a unique outfit which is loosely based on an 18th-century coachman's coat.

Most of the country's 200 or so town criers wear red livery, but as this is a royal borough, Chris will join the town crier of Royal Wootton Bassett as one of the few criers to wear a purple livery.
The buttons on the waistcoat are decorated with Tudor roses in memory of Henry VIII.

The coat buttons feature the three lions motif from the Royal Standard to honour the Borough's close connection with the Monarchy.
You can see Chris the town crier at civic ceremonies, community events, and historic proclamations throughout Eton and the wider Royal Borough.





Picturing Eton

Exploring the history of photography through the daily life of Eton College revealed in the Photographic Archive collection

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NATURE WATCH: BERKSHIRE'S HOT, DRY SUMMER

STEPHEN TEBBUTT

By the time you read this, as autumn descends on us, the long hot summer of 2026 will be a distant memory. The scorched lawns will (hopefully) be greening again, the evenings will be drawing in, and the first signs of autumn will be everywhere. But for wildlife, this summer will have left its mark.

The figures show just how exceptional it was. At the University of Reading's weather station, summer 2026 had an average temperature of 20°C, making it the hottest summer in records going back to 1908. Nearby Heathrow, a useful comparison for Windsor and Eton, recorded 26 summer days at or above 30°C. And if, like me, you are old enough to remember the legendary drought summer of 1976, it may come as a surprise to learn that 2026 was hotter overall.

For some species, the heat brought opportunity. Warm, sunny weather can be good for insects, provided there are enough flowers and damp refuges. One of the most spectacular visitors this year was the hummingbird hawk moth. I saw them often on my flowering geraniums and lavender: small, fast, and hovering in front of flowers like tiny tropical birds. These remarkable moths migrate from southern Europe and North Africa, and 2026 appears to have been an excellent year for sightings in Britain.

Other insects may also have benefited from the warmth: bees, hoverflies, butterflies and dragonflies were all more noticeable on sunny days, especially in fields that were not mown and were allowed to grow 'wild'. Reptiles such as slow worms and grass snakes may also have enjoyed the heat, basking and remaining active for longer.

But there were losers too. Dry ground makes life harder for blackbirds, thrushes, robins and badgers searching for worms.

Shallow ponds and ditches can shrink or disappear, putting pressure on frogs, toads, newts and aquatic insects. Young trees, hedges and wildflowers may struggle when their roots cannot reach deeper moisture. Rivers and streams can also suffer as low water becomes warmer and less oxygen-rich.

A hot summer can look glorious to us, but for nature it is more complicated. The lesson from 2026 may be that wildlife needs shade, ponds, long grass, nectar-rich flowers and messy corners more than ever. In a changing climate, these small refuges may become lifelines.





ETON COLLEGE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

SIMON CARPENTER

The significant impact that the South African War of 1899 to 1902 had on Eton College is reflected in the grandeur of the memorial to the 129 Old Etonians who died in that war. Although these figures pale in comparison to the carnage of World War I, it is nonetheless a sobering death toll when one considers it represents 8% of the 1,470 men that the College contributed to the South African war effort. And, as with WW1, this Old Etonian fatality rate is, sadly, double that of the overall number for the British Imperial and Colonial forces (where 22,000 out of 448,000 soldiers – 4% - died).



Brit Trench line at Spion Kop

Why might that be? A clue lies in looking at the ranks held by those who served and fell - although, as we will see, rank is not the only reason so many perished.

Of the Etonians who went out to South Africa 94% were commissioned officers. In other words, leaders who, in most cases, would have been in command on the battlefield.

It is worth bearing in mind that the practice of purchasing one's commission had ceased some three decades earlier, so these Old Etonians would have assumed the mantle of leadership by merit, examinations and experience.

Of the 129 names listed on the South African Brass in Eton's Lupton Chapel, 96% were officers. That they would have been in the vanguard of the battle is especially true of the 99 subalterns and 32 captains who most often were leading tactical manoeuvres in the thick of the fighting and perishing alongside their men.

On the face of it, the words attributed to the 1st Duke of Wellington, on a later visit to Eton, that "it is here that the battle of Waterloo was won" ring as true for this later war – the reality that a rounded education as provided by the College prepared young men with a sense of duty, obligation and honour which manifested in their willingness and ability to serve, lead, and sacrifice on the front line.

As one who fought in a more recent guerrilla war and who has visited many of the battlegrounds where the equally courageous and skilled Boers held sway, I have no doubts about the courage and frequent heroism of these young men. However, they were not all felled in battle. While 61 men were killed in action, many more succumbed to infection and disease.

Coming as it did at the end of the Victorian era, the South African war predated the use of penicillin by some four decades. Battlefield medics and hospitals alike had access only to simple antiseptics such as carbolic acid and boric cid. But they did have portable X-ray machines which, albeit primitive, could be used to locate bullets and shrapnel in soldiers' bodies.

The British Army also had an organised system of dedicated hospital trains and ten hospital ships, alongside field and general hospitals, to move wounded personnel swiftly away from front lines. Another aspect which somewhat mitigated primitive medical treatments was the fact that the Boers, for the most part, used modern high-velocity rifles such as the Mauser.



View from Spion Kop

The small-calibre, full-metal-jacketed 7mm Mauser bullets created clean, narrow perforation tracks through soft tissue rather than tearing large, ragged holes like older, larger calibre black-powder weapons. They were also less prone to fragmenting inside the body or carrying large pieces of dirty fabric deep into the wound, which significantly lowered the introduction of sepsis-causing foreign material. Furthermore, the dry soil of the South African veld lacked many of the bacteria common to wetter climes meaning minor or clean-piercing wounds often healed rapidly with little more than a simple antiseptic covering. Nonetheless, more than a quarter of those who died succumbed from wounds sustained on the battlefield.

Disease was the other big killer, especially those diseases accompanying unhygienic conditions, poor sanitation and problematic water supplies. Typhoid (then known as Enteric Fever) was rampant and accounted for most deaths due to disease. One in five of the Etonians who died in South Africa were carried off by a disease that today is routinely treated with antibiotics.

As someone who has experienced the gamut of emotions that go with combat- terror, relief at surviving and the ineffable misery that accompanies the loss of comrades- I am always humbled and saddened to see the all-too-many names on war memorials. The poignancy of promising lives snuffed out in their prime and of the enduring grief and loss suffered by families and friends should move all of us. But, at the same time, our town be proud of the fact that Eton College has produced so many men of calibre and character who have done their duty, served the cause of their nation and, in doing so made the ultimate sacrifice. May they Rest in Peace.

FLOREAT ETONA.

ETON'S B3022 (SLOUGH ROAD) NEW LOOK

CLLR DEVON DAVIES

For those of you who drive or walk to Slough, you will have noticed the nice new surface the road has between Common Land and Loverrose Way. Those of you who are particularly dull, like myself, may have some questions: Why this road? Who is paying for this? How is a road resurfaced?

Why this road?

The council manages a 632 km road network using an asset-management approach that follows national best-practice guidelines. Each year we gather condition data from visual surveys, traffic counts and pavement testing and feed it into our Highway Management and Maintenance Plan. Roads that score lower on safety, condition or sustainability criteria rise to the top of the list. In practice this means that routes with heavy traffic, a high number of potholes or a history of water-related damage are prioritised. The B3022 was earmarked because its surface has deteriorated faster than comparable streets, and resurfacing will prevent more costly repairs down the line.

Who is paying for it?

Funding for the programme is a blend of central government capital grants (provided by the Department for Transport) and local revenue.

The latest Local Transport Delivery Plan 2027 secures multi-year funding, giving us the certainty to schedule comprehensive works rather than reacting to emergencies.

A major highways contract awarded in late 2025 to Marlborough Highways bundles maintenance, footways and bridge works under one agreement. The contractor is paid from the pool of grants and council funds and is responsible for delivering the works we have identified.

How is a road resurfaced?

1. Planning & Design – Our engineers specify the required surface (in this case, 40 mm of 14 mm Stone-Mastic Asphalt) and map out traffic-management measures.
2. Tendering – The contract is issued to an approved contractor; bids are assessed on cost, capability and safety record.
3. Preparation – Existing worn surface is milled away, drainage is inspected, and any utility works are coordinated.
4. Laying the New Surface – The Stone-Mastic Asphalt mix is placed, compacted and finished to the required smoothness.
5. Inspection & Handover – Independent inspectors verify the work meets specifications before the road re-opens to traffic.

ETON PORNY SCHOOL

EMMA STANFORD-SMITH
HEAD TEACHER



WINDOWS, MIRRORS AND DOORS: A JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

At Eton Porny, we believe that every child is unique and special, gifted with their own talents and purpose. Our approach to spiritual development is rooted in the understanding that spirituality is not a destination but a journey of discovery, reflection and action. We describe this through three simple ideas: **Windows, Mirrors and Doors.**

Windows are the moments that help us notice something bigger than ourselves. They might be found in nature, acts of kindness, learning something new, moments of prayer or simply pausing to appreciate the beauty of the world around us. These experiences inspire awe, wonder and curiosity.

Mirrors encourage us to reflect on those experiences. They help us ask questions about who we are, what we value and how our experiences shape our beliefs and understanding of the world. Through reflection, we develop a deeper sense of self and purpose.

Doors are the actions we take as a result. Whether showing compassion, helping others, standing up for what is right or making a positive difference in our community, doors represent taking what we have learnt and putting it into practice.

We invite you to consider your own spiritual journey. What has been your recent **window moment?** When did you last pause for a **mirror moment?** And what **door** might be opening for you next? Together, these moments help us grow, connect and discover what it means to flourish.







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HOSTING A WAR HERO

BY BARBARA FRANCE

In the 1980's, I found myself running a business with no business experience, so I decided to join the Windsor, Eton, Ascot Chamber of Trade. I then became President of the Chamber, which meant hosting various events. One memorable event was when I invited RAF Veteran Johnnie Johnson, who was known for shooting down more German planes than anyone else in the Second World War. Having been born in Germany in 1941 and previously an employee of Lufthansa, I thought this was the perfect time to make a joke. I said, "Just in case anyone thinks that Johnnie regards me as 'ze vun zat got away' I arrived here by Lufthansa. Fortunately, Johnnie and his comrades directed their cannons at the Luftwaffe".

Over 200 people were at the event and it was a very memorable evening. I kept in touch with Johnnie for several years after the event.

Below is a clipping from an article on the event in The Observer in November 1985 along with a picture from the event.

Image left to Right
Mayoress and Mayor, Mrs Barbara France, Johnnie Johnson, Janet Partridge and Mr Ron France.



28 THE OBSERVER, NOVEMBER 29, 1985

War hero was their guest

GERMAN-born Barbara France, president of the Windsor, Eton and Ascot Chamber of Trade, brought the house down at a grand banquet with her jokes about the war.

Mrs. France had leading dignatories roaring with laughter as she jokingly spoke of her special guest, Johnnie Johnson the pilot who shot down more German planes than anyone else in the Second World War.

Mrs. France, who was born in Berlin in 1941, said: "Just in case anyone thinks that Johnnie regards me as 'ze vun zat got away', I arrived here by Lufthansa.

"Fortunately, Johnnie and his comrades directed their cannons at the Luftwaffe."

Air-Vice Marshal Johnson, who shot down 38 German planes, was special guest at the Chamber of Trade's banquet and ball.

Over 200 people attended the function at Windsor's Castle Hotel.

Air-Vice Marshal Johnson proposed the toast to the Chamber by saying: "I feel like Elizabeth Taylor's eighth husband.

"We both know when to do it, why to do it and how to do it. The problem is how to make it interesting."

Also on the top table were the Mayor, Cllr. Dick Shaw, the Mayoress, Mrs. Sylvia Shaw, Windsor and Maidenhead Council's chief executive, Geoff Blacker, and Windsor's police superintendent, Eric Malam.

● Pictured, left to right, are the Mayoress and Mayor, Mrs. France, AVM Johnson, Janet Partridge and Mr. Ron France.

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SLOUGH
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speak on
Guru.

ETON PRE-SCHOOL

SUE CLIFFORD

Eton Pre-School has now been in its home in St John's Church hall since 2011. We can't believe it has already been 15 years! Our decking in the garden was definitely looking its age this year and in serious need of replacement. I guess we can't blame it for looking tired as nearly 60 children a day run, jump, scoot, dance, play hopscotch, draw, hula hoop and throw water all over it .... just to mention a few things.

We were very lucky to have Jake and his team from Baxter design and build from Eton Wick come in over the summer and do a superb job of replacing it including replacing all the bannisters and steps and making it look amazing for at least the next 15 years.

Our grateful thanks to them....do come and have a look. We are just down Sun Close behind Eton Sports.



FAREWELL TO ETON, PETER MCKEE

As I prepare to step down from my role at the College and move out of Eton after over thirty years living in this community, perhaps inevitably I find myself reflecting on all the people that I have got to know in that time. Eton has been my home for a little over half my life and I have so many happy memories.

When my son, Patrick, is here and we set off down the High Street to walk into Windsor, he is amused at how long that short trip takes. As we stop to chat to the umpteenth person we meet, he asks if I know everyone in Eton. I cannot claim that I have quite that big a list of "Contacts", but I have many friends in this place, all of whom have contributed to the happy time that I have spent here.

In these last five years or so I have had the opportunity, as Vice-Provost of the College, to help to develop new connections between the town and the gown, as well as nurturing established ones. The Eton Parish Educational Trust has done much to support our schools, of which I believe we can be proud; and the Poor's Estate, which involves the College with representatives from the Council and the community, has developed itself as a local grant making charity. Its part, along with the Baldwins Bridge Trust, in bringing the Thames Hospice Elephants to Eton and Eton Wick was a particular triumph.

I may be leaving the College but I will certainly be back in Eton from time to time and hope to see both the people here and the place continue to thrive.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

DAVID WADDLETON

On Sunday 20th September, I walked up the steep hill alongside the Castle, having left Eton. It was thankfully quite quiet, and I headed for the church of St. John the Baptist, for a memorial service for the Battle of Britain. The High Street church, just down from the Guildhall, is one of the four Windsor Parish churches, where I sing with others to accompany the liturgy in the services. The Vicar, Rev'd Sally, will be retiring mid-October, so this will be her last major civic service. A band of Scottish Pipers with two very accomplished drummers marched up the High Street, followed by a large contingent of RAF Cadets, then the less formal walk of the Royal Borough Mayor, councillors, and various high-status representatives for Berkshire. A lone piper played, followed by the Last Post, and my mind took me back to a day when I was in a tall ship in the Tower of London basin, in time for that same sound echoing over the waters. After the minute silence followed the Reveille, then the laying of wreaths. The words we must never forget: They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them. As time passes and new generations are faced with the possible prospect of another war, these words are very important.

The service format was of Hymns, readings and prayers, with a psalm, a short Sanctus and sermon. All words pointing towards our Christian faith leading us out of darkness into the light of Jesus Christ. I recall how our Windsor churches are often well attended on significant days, though most of the year, local people are out walking their dogs or jogging on a Sunday morning with the light of Jesus very far from their minds.

My gift is singing. I would have liked to have been a professional but my parents had other ideas for me.

Instead, I sing in a choir at our Nation's Cathedrals and locally, hoping our music will lift those with personal problems to seek the teachings of Jesus and find the light for their personal darkness.



FROM COLOURFUL BULBS TO CHRISTMAS SPARKLE: THE STORY OF ETON'S LIGHTS

CATHERINE REED

There is something special about seeing Eton lit up for Christmas. Against the backdrop of the High Street, historic buildings and familiar streets, the lights have become part of how many of us know that Christmas has arrived.



The displays remembered from earlier decades were a far cry from today's professionally installed LED lights. Following Eton's major facelift in 1975, local traders began raising funds for Christmas displays across the High Street. Early displays featured artificial greenery, snowmen, penguins and Christmas trees, powered from local shops and residents' electricity supplies. Putting them up was a real community effort.

Strings of lights were laid out, individual bulbs checked and broken ones replaced before being hung across the High Street. The result was colourful and festive.
The displays were replaced and updated over the years, including a major replacement in 2001. The Eton Community Association took over responsibility for the lights and switch-on celebrations from the traders in 2011, with the lights updated again in 2015.

A huge thank you to all the incredible traders and residents who have contributed to Eton's Christmas lights over the years. It is wonderful to see one generation step back and the next pick up the tradition, keeping Eton shining for the future.



Today, the Christmas lights infrastructure is owned by Eton Town Council, which is fundraising to replace and upgrade the ageing display for 2026. The Christmas lights switch-on celebrations are organised and hosted by the Eton Community Association.

Help support the new 2026 Christmas lights through the Windsor & Maidenhead Community Lottery. Tickets are £1 a week - scan the QR code to support the fundraising.

Eton Town Council is signposting the Windsor & Maidenhead Community Lottery solely as a fundraising opportunity for the new Christmas lights. The Council does not endorse gambling or any particular lottery, and participation is entirely optional. The lottery is only available to people aged 16 and over - under-16s must not participate. If you choose to gamble, please do so responsibly and only spend what you can afford. Visit gambleaware.org for advice, tools and support on gambling harms in Great Britain.

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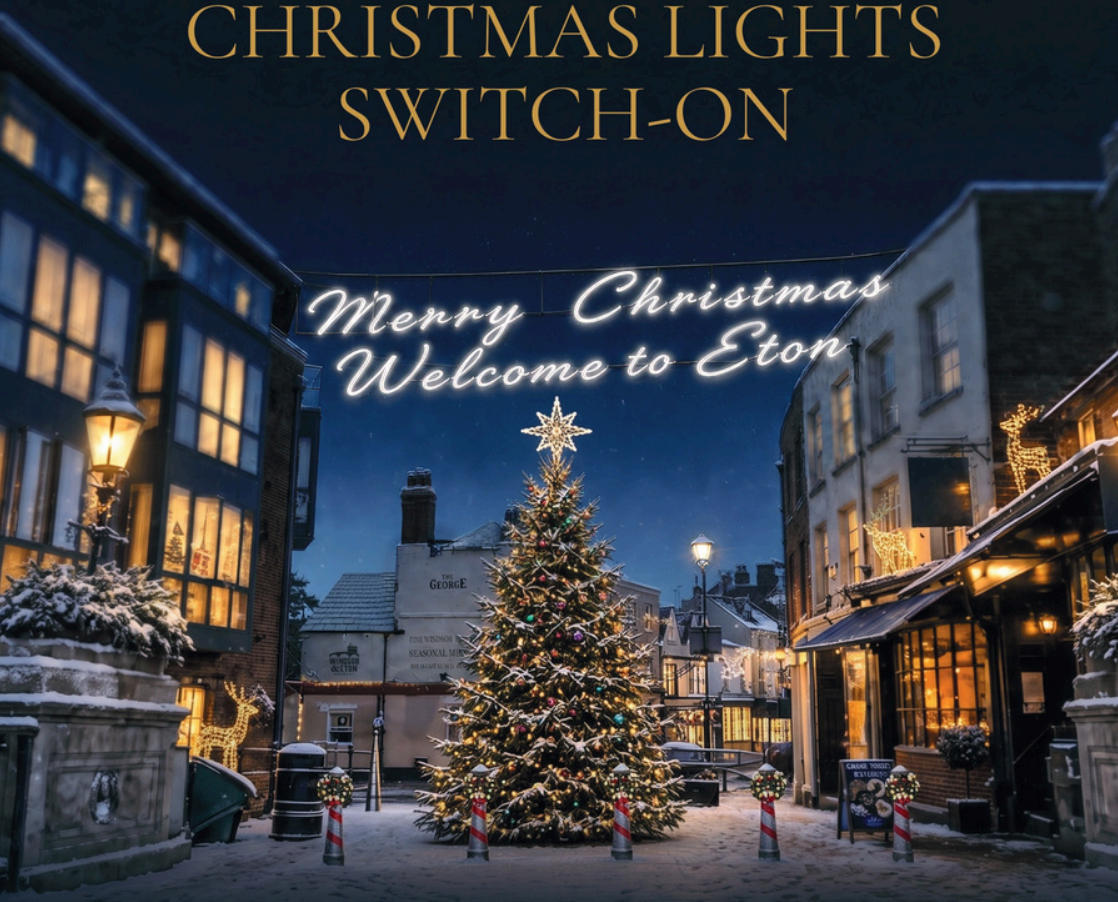
ETON

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON



ETON COMMUNITY

FLOREAT • ETONA

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JUBILEE SQUARE / THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

FESTIVITIES FROM 5PM
LIGHTS SWITCH-ON AT 7PM

Food stalls, funfair rides, music and all the fun of Christmas!
Hosted by Kevin Cruise.

Diary

Upcoming dates

Sun Nov 8th – Remembrance service and wreath-laying at

St John's Eton

Thu Nov 12th - Christmas lights switch-on from 5pm

Wed Dec 2nd ECA meeting at the Hop House 6.30pm

Fri Dec 18th ECA Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Christopher Wren

Wed Jan 20th ECA meeting at the Hop House 6.30pm

Regular and Social (Eton & Eton Wick)

Council Office – Eton: Tues – Fri – 09.00-13.00
Eton Town Council Meeting – 19.00 - Second Tuesday of Month - Eton Council Offices
Eton College Museums – Every Sunday – 1:30pm - 4pm – Free entry

Eton Information Centre - Call in for a chat with friendly staff, find out more about all things local and tell us your memories of living in Eton - Monday - 11:00 am -3:30 pm, Thurs-Sun- 10:30 am- 4pm, closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Churches (regular services)

St. John the Evangelist, Eton (C of E) Services
2nd and 4th Wednesday every month Holy Communion followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. 10am

Tuesdays 19.00-20.00 – Bible Study
(Sundays – 11.00 & 16.30 Services - St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick)
Our Lady of Sorrows (Catholic) - Service – Sundays – 09.30

Useful Numbers

Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton Court	01753 917030
Council Offices, Eton Anna Petts, Town Clerk	01753 860377
Emergency Fire/Ambulance/Police	999
Eton College	01753 370100
Eton Porny School	01753 861995
Eton Pre-School	01753 850842
Fast Medical Help, Non-Emergency Services (NHS)	111
Eton Pharmacy	01753 863819
King Edward VII Hospital	0300 247 3000
Wexham Park Hospital	01753 633000
Wexham Park A& E	01753 634017
Natural History Museum Eton (curator)	01753 370602
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 etc.	01753 853517
Swan Support	07968 868172
Eton Information Centre	01753 852588

LORD CARNARVON AND THE DISCOVERY OF TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

BRIAN HOARE - RETIRED BUILDINGS BURSAR, ETON COLLEGE

A century ago, the discovery of the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun became one of the most celebrated archaeological discoveries of all time. Behind the discovery stood George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon — an Old Etonian whose enthusiasm for Egyptology and financial support made possible Howard Carter's long search for the tomb.



George Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, whose financial support enabled Howard Carter's search for Tutankhamun's tomb

Born in 1866, Carnarvon was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He succeeded to the earldom in 1890 and was the owner of Highclere Castle in Hampshire. An enthusiastic amateur Egyptologist and collector of antiquities, he began excavating in Egypt in the early twentieth century. His marriage to Almina Wombwell brought him a substantial financial settlement, enabling him to pursue his interests in archaeology.

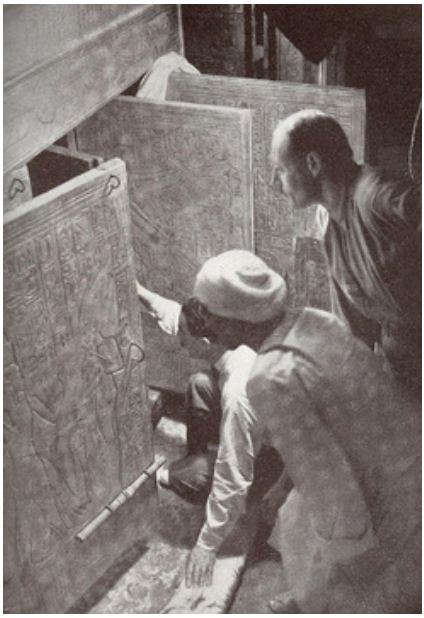
Carnarvon engaged Howard Carter, an experienced archaeologist and Egyptologist, to lead his Egyptian excavations. Their partnership became particularly important in the search for the burial place of the relatively obscure young Pharaoh Tutankhamun, who had ruled Egypt during the 18th Dynasty.

Carnarvon obtained the concession to excavate in the Valley of the Kings in 1914, and although the First World War interrupted the work, excavations resumed. Carter continued searching while Carnarvon provided the financial backing. By 1922, several seasons had produced little success, and Carnarvon was reconsidering the search.

On 4 November 1922, Carter uncovered the first step of a staircase leading into the rock. By the following day, a sealed doorway had appeared.

Carter immediately realised the potential importance of the discovery and sent a cable to Carnarvon in England: “At last have made wonderful discovery in Valley, a magnificent tomb with seals intact.”
Carnarvon travelled to Egypt and arrived in Luxor on 23 November. On 26 November, Carter made a small opening into the tomb and, with Carnarvon and others, looked inside. When asked whether he could see anything, Carter famously replied: “Yes, wonderful things.”
The tomb contained an extraordinary collection of more than 5,000 objects, including gilded furniture, chariots, shrines, jewellery and the famous golden burial mask.

The richness and remarkable preservation of the contents created worldwide fascination. Tutankhamun, little known outside specialist circles before the discovery, became one of the most famous names from the ancient world.
Carnarvon did not live to see the excavation completed. He died in Cairo on 5 April 1923, only months after the discovery. His death subsequently gave rise to stories of a “Curse of the Pharaohs”, although there is no reliable evidence that the tomb was responsible for his death. Howard Carter continued the painstaking process of recording, conserving and removing the treasures, which took many years.


The moment Carter opens the shrine.

The discovery became one of the defining archaeological achievements of the twentieth century.
For Lord Carnarvon, the story represents a remarkable legacy. The Old Etonian was not himself the archaeologist who made the discovery, but his patronage, enthusiasm and financial support enabled Carter to continue the search until, after years of disappointment, the lost tomb of Tutankhamun was finally found.

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ETON AND THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

ROSIE MAGGS

October 1962, Soviet Russia tried to install weapons on an island in the Caribbean, an event that became known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. The weapons could have destroyed the United States and so President John F Kennedy blockaded the country.

As I've said in a previous article, nearly every big event in history has an Eton link and the Cuban Missile Crisis is no different!

Welshman Sir David Ormsby-Gore, the then-British ambassador to Washington, managed to keep the president calm. And it just so happened Sir David (later 5th Baron Harlech) attended Eton College. A well-known story told of him at Eton is that, when a boy in his house killed himself, the housemaster called the boys together, and asked if any of them had any idea why this should have happened. Ormsby-Gore put up his hand and asked, "Please sir, could it have been the food?.

JFK and Ormsby-Gore knew each other well, since 1938, when JFK's father Joseph Kennedy, had been US ambassador to London. They were both second sons of important men, and bonded over the fact they had no expectation of greatness on them - it would happen they would both go on to lose their elder brothers.

They stayed in touch throughout, as Kennedy became a congressman and Ormsby-Gore an MP. On 23 October, when the Cuban Missile Crisis was in full swing, they sat up all night, with Sir David studiously avoiding calls from then-Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

Kennedy had set up a shipping embargo around the island, yet the Soviet boats, carrying ever more missiles, steamed towards Cuba.

Apparently Sir David made a suggestion which many at the time saw as weak, but which in hindsight was one of the world's great pieces of diplomacy.

'Why don't you shrink the embargo from 800 miles to 500?'"

He argued this would give the ships' captains, and the Soviet leaders, greater time to think of the consequences of what they were doing.

It worked. On 29 October the Soviet ships turned for home.

Under Sir David's guidance, the two super powers went on to establish the "hot line", a direct communication to ensure tensions could never again reach that level without the two leaders speaking.

The US also withdrew missiles from Turkey and an arms reduction treaty was forged.

Ormsby-Gore went on to propose to JFK's widow, Jacqueline Kennedy, and although she turned him down, the two remained good enough friends that she would attend his funeral in 1985.



ETON COMMUNITY

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Welcome drinks sponsored by **Company X**

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SPORT IN ETON

BRYN LEE

In a series of articles, I will look at the sports played in Eton and the immediate surrounding area. Starting with some of the current sports enjoyed by members of our active community.

Golf

Eton College Golf Club at the far end of Eton has an active membership of 350 players and a growing waiting list of applicants. The 9 hole course is kept immaculately by the Eton College grounds staff under the management of Lee Marshallsay.



If you can hit the ball straight, then you have a chance of a good round on a challenging course. However, stray offline and you're likely to be caught up in the trees, the bunkers, or general rough.

Pickleball

Pickleball started in Eton four years ago and has grown in popularity, with sessions taking place at Eton College's Athens Sports Hall and also at the Eton Wick Sports Hall. These sessions are mainly for those wishing to take up a new sport and to share their fun with other like-minded people.



At the Eton Wick Sports Hall, coaching sessions take place on a Saturday morning, and we've been delighted with the number of locals who've come through their first sessions to progress onto more competitive Pickleball at Athens.

Football

Eton Wick Football Club, based at Haywards Mead in Eton Wick, plays in the Thames Valley Premier League, in Step 7 of the football pyramid. The adult section has a reserve side as well.

In addition, Eton Wick Youth FC caters for boys and girls from 6 years old, offering coaching as well as competitive matches.



With a very friendly clubhouse, this is a proper football club dating back to 1881 and is always looking for new members of all ages.

For more information on golf and Pickleball in Eton, please contact Bryn Lee, who can connect you to the right person. **Brynlee10@gmail.com**

For information on Eton Wick FC, contact **etonwickfc@hotmail.com**

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Services at St John's Church, Eton

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 10am

2027

January:	13th and 27th	**July:**	14th and 28th
February:	10th and 24th	**August:**	11th and 25th
March:	10th and 24th	**September:**	8th and 22nd
April:	14th and 28th	**October:**	13th and 27th
May:	12th and 26th	**November:**	10th and 24th
June:	9th and 23rd	**December:**	8th and 22nd



Our church is on the first floor of the building. Just enter the main door (which is also the door leading to the surgery lobby) and use the lift or stairs to the first floor.

Each service is taken from the Book of Common Prayer, has Holy Communion, one or two popular hymns, a short sermon and is followed by free coffee/tea and biscuits and takes about 35 minutes.

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All are welcome - we love meeting new people and visitors!

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