

Chair's Report, Eton Community Association

15th April 2026

At The Hop House, The George

The past year has been another active and positive one for the Eton Community Association, and it is a pleasure to welcome residents, local businesses, councillors, the Eton Information Centre team, and colleagues from Eton Wick. Our meeting place at The George has become a valued home; we are grateful to both The George and The Christopher for their continued hospitality.

Overview

The ECA was founded in 2010 to ensure that both residents and traders had a voice in the life of the town. That purpose remains central to our work today. Over the past year, we have delivered a wide range of community events, supported local initiatives, strengthened relationships with partners, and continued to champion the wellbeing of Eton.

Community Events and Activities

Christmas Lights and Switch-On

Our largest annual event once again brought the community together. Special thanks go to Stephen and Paul Roach from RBWM, and this year Robyn also from RBWM. Ben and Karen were great at helping through this transition year; both have now moved from Eton and rolled off the Committee. We are grateful to the many others, notably Martin Cabble-Reid and very many volunteers, of course, Father Christmas, who contributes significantly to make the event such a success.

Litter Picks

Quarterly litter picks led by Leonie, with support from the Town Council, continue to attract strong participation, with up to 50 volunteers including College boys and beaks. Eaten Café and Budgens kindly provide refreshments. Our litter-picking equipment has also been loaned to local schools, Eton College, and Swan Support. And this year has seen ECA High Viz vests added to the kit!

Walks, Quizzes and Social Events

Stewart's pub quizzes, now held at the Watermans where larger numbers can take part receive excellent feedback and the next one is eagerly awaited. His pub walks remain popular too, combining exercise, good company, and a well-earned lunch.

The Christmas Dinner at The Christopher was another enjoyable evening, and we plan to hold more meals out during the year, building on the well-attended curry night....but with an enhanced menu and choice of dishes.

Flags and Remembrance

Thanks go to Paul, our local roofer, for ensuring the flags were raised, and to Lloyd for tying more than 90 flags to the poles.

For Remembrance, Leonie, Bryn, Dawn, Stewart and I installed the poppies, and took them down again. I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the ECA at the outdoor ceremony, followed by a moving service and community gathering, thank s to our new Eton vicar Andreas and his ordained wife (Name)?

Town Improvements and Green Spaces

We continued maintenance work around Baldwin's Bridge and Barnes Pool and are asking College if we can take back maintenance tasks. Monthly walkabouts help us identify issues such as lighting, paving, and contractor performance. Progress from the Borough has been slow due to funding and contract challenges, but new structures are being developed and we hope to see improvements.

Communications and Publications

Eton Matters

Delivered to every resident, retailer and business, and shared on the College intranet, Eton Matters continues to be a valued publication. Thanks to Rosie and all contributors and advertisers who help cover printing costs. New volunteers and story ideas are always welcome.

Shout Out Newsletter

Our fortnightly email newsletter, curated by Russell, reaches several hundred subscribers. It focuses strictly on Eton and Eton Wick events, with occasional Windsor items, and complies fully with GDPR and ICO requirements.

Partnerships and Community Support

Eton Information Centre

The EIC team, led by Barbara, is a vital part of our town—both as a visitor hub and as a social space for residents. Although the EIC operates under the Eton Community CIC, its activities are closely connected to the ECA. This year saw guided walks, the fundraising Ball, art displays at Art@67 and 79A, and children's activities including Teddy Walkway events and notably Arts Week, which is well into the planning stage for 2026. Local schools and Eton College boys continue to be active partners. Upcoming events include Jane Speller's next show, which will be held during Arts Week.

Police and Local Authorities

We thank Thames Valley Police—David, Lizzie, and their PC and PCSO colleagues, led by Steph—for their ongoing support. We always hope for more police presence, but we value the dedication of our PCSOs.

We also thank RBWM councillors especially Cllr Mark Wilson and officers, Eton Town Council, Eton College, and our local schools for their collaboration throughout the year.

Committee and Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks go to the committee:

- Stewart Rogers, Treasurer – praised by our auditor for the best-presented accounts he has ever seen for the second year running!

- Leonie Bryant, Secretary – always organised and proactive and the initiator of the new ECA High Viz vests, ensuring we don't look like convicts!
- Bryn Lee, Deputy Chair – a great support to the whole team
- Stephen Gosnell, Christine Barber, Amanda Snell, Malcolm Leach, Graeme Read

Associate members—Rosie, Peter, Russell, Sylvia, and Paul Roach (now Robyn)—provide essential support, particularly for communications and town management. And this year we've been absolutely delighted that Sandrine and Chris Spence have really helped us with using digital solutions for our minutes for example.

We are grateful to all partner organisations and volunteers who contribute to the life of Eton. Anyone interested in joining the committee or helping with events is warmly encouraged to speak to us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ros Rivaz