



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting on Wednesday, 14th December 2022 at The Hop House, The George Inn

Attendees: Ros Rivaz, Lloyd Beaumont, Ben Willcox, Alan Lawrance, Anna-Maria Bevan, Isabella Bevan, Wendy Rowland, John Rowland, Barbara France, Roger Line, Malcolm Leach, Hardeep Virdee, Elizabeth McMahon, Olga Line, Stephen Gosnell, Sebastian Clifton-Welker, Nicola Bell, , Christine Barber, Roger Marrett, Karen Waller, David Waddleton, Mike Brown, Dawn Palmeiri, Karen Waller, Anthony Cove, Mike Blightman, Catherine Blightman, Dawn Hooper, Bryn Lee, Katie Leach, Cathy Pickin, Kirsty Brown, Simon Weston, Willie Calvert.

Apologies: Leonie Bryant, Stewart Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Katherine Russell, Julia Gosnell, Shahan Ledger, Derek Ledger, Sylvia Ellis, Shirley Young, Peter Eaton.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Ros welcomed attendees and thanked The George for their support for this evening's Christmas drinks and nibbles.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes are available on www.etoncommunity.co.uk.

Ros omitted to bring the previous minutes and asked that any items be raised by attendees and that the correct Matters Arising follow up would be addressed at the next meeting.

3. Chair's Report

- I. The Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar events were continuing daily. It is specifically encouraged for Eton folk to join 15th December at CSK Architects, 19th December at The George PH and 21st December at the Eton Natural History museum. These were the remaining Eton-based events.
- II. Peter Eaton, Editor of Eton Matters stated his intention to retire after more than 10 years as our Editor. Working with some of the committee, Rosie Maggs, who has several connections with Eton and excellent credentials, has agreed to shadow Peter and to take on the role. Peter will be hugely missed in his role, but we know he will be there for Eton Matters and will continue with various other Eton activities. We will find a way to thank Peter!
- III. The Eton Information Centre received a special call out for achieving the Silver Medal at the Beautiful South Tourism awards. Catherine Pickin, who was at the event and

received the Award with Sue Christodoulou spoke about the experience. It was highlighted that this Award enables the Eton Information Centre to advertise itself more widely. A Crowd Funding website has been set up to encourage funding support for the Eton Information Centre, which is seen by local residents and businesses as being a boon for tourists and locals alike. The press release had been submitted to all of the local papers and included supportive comments from Cllr Rayner and RBWM Tourism.

- IV. To donate to the Crowd Funding challenge, the link is here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joanna-shaefer> (Joanna Schaefer is the Finance lead for the Eton Information Centre). Or for those who wish to give regularly, please email secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk for the banking details.
- V. The Eton Information Centre would be hosting a Dinner event, with auction prizes and a dinner, as had been organised and enjoyed by some 130 people back in 2019. More information would be given to the Eton Community when further details were available.
- VI. Ros explained about the Coffee and Catch up sessions that are being successfully run each week (and now in the 5th week). These are being co-ordinated by the Eton Information Centre, who staff the Friday sessions, with Jackie staffing Tuesday or Wednesday. As with the last meeting, there are no other volunteers able to commit on a regular basis, although some support when possible. The funding approved has not yet been received but will be transferred from ECA to EIC upon receipt, as agreed at the last meeting and with the support of Rev La Stacey. Typically up to 5 guests are arriving. Moving to regular days and adding a Toddler group 2 days per week are in the plan.
- VII. The Eton Action List continues the monthly rhythm of reporting issues that require repair etc. The most notable and concerning item currently is the heritage light that is not working in the South West of the Windsor/Eton bridge. This was reported a few weeks ago and parts that are required to fix it have been ordered.

Eton Action List – Please continue to report anything that you feel is in need of repair i.e. wobbly paving stones, street lighting not working etc – please use secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk for this purpose and it will be actioned and added to the list. Alternatively, contact Bob Austen at clerk@etontc.uk

High Street shops and plans – those of significant change:

The success of the High Street was also commented by our Treasurer, who had been away and was delighted to return to see the successful High Street. Recent enhancements include:

- 52 - The Antique/bric-a-brac store now open at the former Warren's Estate agent location.
- 104/5 - Eton Travel now open as the revised Warren's Estate agent location.
- 61 - The new bespoke tailor and dress maker/alteration premises.
- 41 – Faciology is now open.
- 29/30 – the Coach who runs her business with coffee.
- 93 – now open as the new book shop.
- 88 – although available for sale, retaining some book sales.

- 44 - A Dog's Life shop unfortunately has now closed but The Eton Pantry has now moved into the premises. They specialise in farm shop produce, gifts and alike.

In addition, progress albeit slow as a result of planning issues, is being made to start work on the Cockpit. The owner knows that he has outstanding support from the Community and from Eton College.

The works at 53 High Street have recommenced and the scaffolding removed from the first floor upwards. The desire to have the pavement back on the east side of the High Street is palpable!

4. Treasurer's Report

Malcolm reported that the ECA funding position was in a good place, even recognising that there are ring-fenced funds and that the outgoings for the Christmas Lights switch on event are still to be paid. A reserve is always retained in case of unexpected needs.

Malcolm particularly commented on the success of the Christmas Lights Switch On event.

5. RBWM Councillor Matters

Cllr Rayner explained the RBWM budgeting process and how, despite extreme inflation, the proposed increase was less than some might expect. She encouraged attendees to look at the RBWM website and to ask any question that may result.

Cllr Rayner was looking forward to judging the Eton Christmas Window competition and commented on the excellent High Street, both the Christmas look and feel as well as the retail shops that continue to thrive and evolve.

She explained that Christmas tree disposal site would be confirmed for Eton asap.

6. Events

Ros reported on the successful events since the last meeting: the erection and taking down of the **poppies for Remembrance**, the laying of the wreath for ECA for Remembrance; the **pub walk to the Fox and Castle**. She asked Karen Waller and her team to talk about the successful **Christmas Lights Switch on event**, which was fabulous in terms of numbers and ambiance. The event was also a financial success, which is important as the costs for repair and storage of the lights are now borne by ECA in addition to the other costs. Martin Cabbler-Reid was especially called out for the hour's entertainment he conducted from the stage, culminating in the 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and the Switch On itself. The **ECA Christmas dinner at the Christopher** was also judged by all attendees to be a great success. Support from The Christopher and from locals Dan and Emma enhanced the evening.

If anyone wanted to come but missed out this year, please inform secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk to be sure to be informed in good time next year.

Coffee and Catch Ups in St John's Church in Eton had taken place on many Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays since the end of November. The Eton Information Centre has co-ordinated and resourced much of this. These would be augmented by Mums and Toddlers

from mid-January and the Church will stay open from the start of Mums and Toddlers to the end of Coffee and Catch up on at least 2 days per week though the winter.

The **Eton Christmas Window competition** was to be judged by Cllr Samantha Rayner on 15th December. We can advise that with stiff competition, Simon James Hair was this year's winner, receiving the voucher for Tastes Delicatessen, thanks to proprietor Giovanni.

A **Street Party on Sunday 9th May 2023** was being organised for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Christine Barber had arranged almost all of the entertainment and the team had submitted the road closure plan to RBWM. Quotes had been received for most of the other significant items. Eton College had generously agreed to financially support the event, notably for the infrastructure, which is a large part of the cost base of Street party events.

Next litter pick – date to be confirmed in the New Year.

7. Eton Porny School Update

Unfortunately, Katherine Russell was not able to join us for the meeting to provide an update.

8. AOB

Nothing to report

9. Next Meeting Date

Date confirmed as Wednesday, 1st February at 6.30pm. Please e-mail AOB to secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk prior to the next meeting.