



Floreat Etona

March 2018

Issue 15

Eton Matters

***Brunel's
Bridge***

***Travels
With A Potato***

***From River
to Lake***

***Digging
up the Past***



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Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz - ECA Chair



I love it when the signs of spring come; shoots peeping out of the earth! It's a bit late to say "Happy New Year", but we hope you have a happy, healthy, successful 2018. Gone are the warm fires and frosty walks...but lighter evenings and longer days, with everybody out and about again feels good!

Karen Waller was such a star in leading what many of you have described as the best Christmas lights switch on event ever. Stephen Gosnell and Paul Roach were also exceptional; thank you to our financial sponsors and all our helpers on behalf of Eton residents, businesses, visitors and Alexander Devine, our chosen charity.

The monthly events continue, with the ECA pub quiz's at The Crown & Cushion being particularly popular. The annual spring clean is almost here. If you regularly attend our various events, we welcome you; if you have never done so to date, you are very welcome indeed. Just email the contacts below, all of whom will respond.

The Street Party, in celebration of HRH Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding in Windsor will take place on 20th May. We are delighted that they have chosen Windsor for their nuptials; Eton will be celebrating. We will keep you updated through the ECA website and the regular "Shout Out" email that you receive about once a week. If you are not signed up, click on the button top right on the home page of the website. Do let us know if you fancy helping too.

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, Thaxter & Stovell, Makena, Warren Property, J Manley Gallery, Rhubarb and Custard, Vario Press, Beechwood Interiors, Eton Stationers, My Handyman, Eton Cycles, Salamandra, Chic 2 Chic., Lewandowski Architects and Golden Curry. **Peter Eaton, Editor**

Forthcoming Eton Community Association Meetings

Everyone welcome

Monday 12 March at 6.30 at St. John the Evangelist Church

Monday 23 April; Wednesday 6 June AGM - Both 6.30 at the Council Offices

Eton Community Association and Eton Matters Information

ECA Chair - Ros Rivaz - chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk

ECA Secretary - Jessie Lawrence - secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk

ECA Treasurer - Malcolm Leach - treasurer@etoncommunity.co.uk

EM Editor - Peter Eaton - editor@etoncommunity.co.uk

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Town & Gown

Tim Johnson - Precentor & Director of Music, Eton College



After six years as Precentor & Director of Music at the College I find that I am still learning about the unique town in which it sits. As I cycle down the High Street every morning to take my daughter to school, I am constantly struck by the wonderful combination of exciting redevelopment and extraordinary calm. My wife, Rachel, and I have been made to feel so welcome since we arrived. Having moved from the relative anonymity of central London it's been great to feel part of such a strong community both within the college and the town.

My slightly curious job title reflects the fact that my time is split between leading the music in College Chapel and within the College as a whole. From the very beginning, music has been at the heart of the College. Eton's statutes of 1443 provided for 10 men and 16 boys to sing the services and, with a few

breaks, the choir has been singing in College Chapel from then until the present day. Since the 1960s Music Scholarships and bursaries have helped support the growth of music in the College. There are now 91 members of the music team, including 76 part-time visiting music teachers who deliver a programme of around 1100 music lessons each week.

For many years the music department has played a role in the life of the local community - providing organists for local parishes, singing at community services and, most recently, performing at the switching-on of the Christmas lights alongside Basil Brush! The last year has seen a further push to connect with the wider community. Our senior musicians now visit local primary schools in the area to support music making, and in September we established a series of children's concerts, aimed at pre-school and primary-aged children. Three of these normally take place each term in the Music Schools on South Meadow Lane on Sunday afternoons at 2.15pm.

Nearly all of our larger-scale concerts are open to the local community and are free to attend. Amongst the musical highlights of the Eton year are the three 'School Concerts', given by Eton's 90-strong Symphony Orchestra. These take place in the School Hall in the last week of each term (the next is on Sunday 18 March at 8.15pm). Further details of musical events at the College can be found on our twitter feed @Eton_Music

Finally, it's been a particular joy to connect with the community through my role as Musical Director of the Windsor & Eton Choral Society. The 160 members of the choir, who come from all sorts of musical backgrounds, rehearse in the Music Schools on Tuesday evenings. New members are always extremely welcome!

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Boom Boom Basil!

Boom Boom Ieva!

Imagine my surprise when Basil Brush came into my Shop. He came for a fitting because he thought this was Aladdin's Cave! Maybe it is, it sure looks magical with all the fabrics and sketches on the wall!

Basil had some important jobs at The Windsor Theatre, playing his role of Basil, The Lord Chamberlain, in the Sleeping Beauty pantomime! If you have an important job, you need an outfit that



live in Eton(ia)...it was meant to be!! Basil decided to give the outfit a preview when he switched on the Eton Christmas lights. Boom Boom Basil!

Basil needed to impersonate Freddy Mercury for his second outfit, so that he could sing at Princess Aurora's birthday party. And that was a special event... after Basil had such fun in Aladdin's Cave here, Nurse Paloma Pinchme, played by



suits! We developed the silver and white brocade outfit together, so that Basil could attend the wedding of Princess Aurora (aka Beauty) with Prince Edgar of Etonia. My father's name was Edgar and I



Ieva Poriete - Eton Businesswoman

Steven Blakeley, came in. Steven needed to be Marilyn Monroe, jumping out of the Princess's birthday cake...so Nurse Paloma Pinchme needed to make the cake first. We develop a volumes cup-cake dress. I had so many comments and questions about the outfit whilst in my window around the Eton lights switch on. It's OK, it wasn't an outfit for just anyone. It was a British Bake Off themed outfit...and for those of you who went to the Pantomime, you will have seen Paul Holloway at about 30cm tall, on the front of the outfit, helping with the wooden spoon!

Nurse Paloma Pinchme also needed a time travelling outfit, to travel back 100 years to find Prince Edgar of Etonia. You can see why Basil wanted to switch on the Eton Christmas lights. Where else would his friend the nurse find The Prince of Etonia!



Uncovering the past...

Derek Bishop - Eton Resident & Mayor



While renovating my apartment several years ago, we uncovered a "lost" window which had been covered up for 200 years after the adjacent original Porny school was erected in 1812. The space with the window and original timbers was discovered by chance when we had to repair a hole in the plaster ceiling just above it and a friend snapped a flash photograph through the hole. We decided to open up the wall, which was immediately behind the staircase and leave the window and original structure on display as an ongoing reminder of the history of the property. During this renovation we discovered a number of windows and features which had been covered up over the years.

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Brunel's Bridge

Derek Ledger - Eton Residents



The railway bridge just upstream of the western edge of the Brocas meadow is known as the Windsor railway bridge but should equally be named as the Eton Bridge as its lies within its boundaries, just. The bridge has several noteworthy features, the principal one being that it is the world's oldest wrought iron railway bridge still in regular use. It was designed by the renowned railway engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and was the inspiration for his later and more famous masterpiece, the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash in Devon.

The rail branch from Slough to Windsor and Eton Central was opened in 1849 but had been delayed by the objections of the Provost of Eton College who claimed that its proximity to the classrooms would be a distraction to the students and insisted that the railway be moved well away from the College buildings. The alignment of the railway had to be moved well to the west from its panned route to alley his concerns. Most of the line is built up on a brick arched viaduct, constructed in stages between 1861 and 1865, leading up to the bridge in order to cross the marshy ground which was liable to flooding before the Jubilee River flood relief detour was dug. It replaced the original wooden trestle viaduct and was designed to take the two rail tracks of Brunel's broad gauge of 7 feet and a ¼ inch.

The bridge is constructed as a single span of three wrought iron lattice trusses so that it could accommodate the two tracks between them, it rests on stone buttresses but is only anchored at one side to allow for expansion and contraction depending on weather conditions. The railway line was singled in the 1960's and the upstream line was removed allowing room for various water and sewage pipes to be laid along the bridge. It is 62 metres long and almost 5 and a ½ meters above water level.

Travels With A Potato

Rob Shorrock - Eton Museum of Antiquities

At some point in the 1970s a small Roman coin was discovered in a garden off Eton High Street. It was not until 1984, however, that Jack Speller was able to get his find properly identified by the Keeper of Antiquities at Eton College. What he had uncovered was a coin of the Emperor Probus (with a figure of Victory on the reverse) from the late third century CE.



Probus was born in Sirmium in modern-day Serbia, reigned for six years (an impressive feat during those tumultuous years), but ended up being hacked to death by his own disgruntled soldiers. Such was the fate of poor old Probus, but what about his coin?

The legend (written in Greek) reads as follows: A[UTOKRATOR] K[AISAROS] M[ARKOS] AUR[ELIOS] PROBOS SEB[ASTOS] - which translates the Latin IMPERATOR CAESAR MARCUS AURELIUS PROBUS AUGUSTUS. Since Alexandria in Egypt was the only city to produce Greek coinage for Probus we can be confident that this is where it was minted. And from the Greek letters on the obverse we are able to date the coin to the fourth year of Probus' reign (278-279 CE).

How then did this Greek/Egyptian/Roman coin make its way to a garden in Eton? Unlikely as it may sound, it did not travel in the purse of a Roman soldier or merchant, but hitched a ride to Britannia in a sack of potatoes. Jack Speller had not been digging in his garden when he unearthed the coin, but emptying out the soil from a sack of particularly earthy new potatoes.

As the clods of earth fell out, something caught Jack's eye and that something, after days of painstaking cleaning to remove the heavy clay, turned out to be our Roman coin (a tetradrachm no less, with a value equivalent to a denarius). Since the potatoes came from Cyprus, the coin must, at some point in antiquity, have made its way there from Alexandria, where it presumably lay lost and buried for almost two thousand years. In the 1970s it was then unwittingly scooped up into a hessian sack and transported all the way to Tudor Stores Grocery shop on Eton High Street.

Some forty years later Jack's daughter offered the much-travelled coin to the Eton Museum of Antiquities and we have been delighted to accept it as much for the story of its journey as for the object itself.



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Tickets will be £8 per person, for more information, as it becomes available please visit www.etoncommunity.co.uk



Rowing at Eton

from River to Lake



For many years Eton College had three boathouses on the River Thames; Masters Boathouse on the Home Park stretch, Andrews on the stretch above Boveney Lock and Rafts beside the Windsor Bridge. The Rafts Boathouse was also where Eton's boatbuilding and boat repair activities were housed. Although wood had long been replaced by modern fibres the skill of building in wood has been maintained for use in building ceremonial boats, associated with the Procession of Boats held on the College's Fourth of June celebrations. One boatbuilder with traditional wooden boat building skills is still employed at Dorney Boathouse where most of the College's boats are now housed.



(Photos show the 1903 4th June Celebrations off of the Brocas, top, and below skiffs at Rafts in 1994. Reproduced by permission of the Provost and Fellows of Eton College.)

As early as the nineteen sixties Eton College rowing masters were lobbying the Head Master, then Anthony Chenevix-Trench, and the Provost and Fellows for a rowing course that had still water and therefore separate from the River Thames. The increasing pleasure traffic on the river and periods in winter when the speed of the river was

Roderick Watson - Former Bursar, Eton College

making the sport of rowing difficult, and at times unsafe, was the main motivation for moving competitive rowing practice from the much-loved River Thames. A plan to build a "Trench" somewhere near the river at Eton was soon abandoned in favour of using the Thames Field between Dorney and Boveney where there was a flat featureless space owned by the College. Early plans to excavate a course to be used solely by Eton met with considerable opposition from local authority planners in Buckinghamshire. In the late nineteen eighties and early nineties the Provost and Fellows, seeing a national need, changed track and sought planning for a 2,000 metre, eight lane course built to international standards, with park and arboretum. The rowing lake could be used not only by Eton College but could be used by the other schools, clubs, the national team and the public at large. After a lengthy planning battle this plan was ultimately successful. Almost before the course was completed, Great Britain hosted the 2005 Rowing World Cup there and in 2006 the Rowing World Championships. The name Eton Dorney was coined for its use in the 2012 Olympic Games, a tribute to its association with Eton.



Aerial view of Dorney Lake

How Deep Did It Get?

Derek Bishop - Eton Resident & Mayor



Currently hidden by trees, on the wall of 138 High Street on the west side of Barnes Pool Bridge, which is at the northern end of the High Street, there is a flood level marker showing the height that the floods reached in 1894 and 1947.

This marker, which was placed there by the owners of the Bridge and adjacent building (The Baldwins Bridge Trust), is soon to be refurbished and when this is done it will be updated to show the level that the flooding reached in the floods of early 2014.



Porny School

*Katherine Russell
Head Teacher*

Although it is almost the end of January, I would like to start by wishing everyone a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year, even though it's a little belated. By the time this article is published in the magazine it will already be March and hopefully slightly warmer. With this being my first Christmas time at Eton Porny, The 'Christmas Lights Switch on' was a fabulous and exciting event for our older children to be involved in and I'd like to thank the Eton Community Association for inviting us as a school to be part of this unique experience.

Our children were also lucky enough to work with some of the Chefs from Eton's very own The Christopher Hotel in our Food Tech Room over the course of November, cooking a variety of dishes. This was all thanks again to the Eton Community Association for their ongoing support of our school and also to Janet Tregurtha from The Christopher Hotel who made all of the necessary arrangements; our children thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

Eton Boys, who attend Eton Porny weekly as part of their Community Engagement Programme, have been working very hard with our children on a school wide ECO project. They started by guiding the children in conducting a survey to establish how ECO friendly the school is at present and then used this information to devise an action plan to reduce energy and waste. The group have also planted broad beans and peas in a bid to help improve the school's biodiversity; it was wonderful to see at the start of this term that there are already 7 shoots sprouting. Thanks must also go to the Eton Wick Allotment Association for giving us a comprehensive guide as to the types of plants we can grow in our planting area.

Eton Action Group

Ros Rivaz, Chair of the Eton Community Association and Peter Eaton, Co-ordinator of the Brocas Residents' Group came together in September 2017 with Eton's Town Clerk, Bob Austen to find a way to receive, submit and track maintenance and other issues concerning residents of Eton to the Royal Borough and other bodies for action. A procedure has now been agreed with RBWM so that all issues once submitted will be put on a tracking list and if not actioned within 4-6 weeks will be submitted monthly to the Royal Borough or responsible body for updating on progress or an expected completion date. Around the turn of each month the tracker list will be published on the ECA web site and can be viewed by clicking on the 'Keeping Tabs on Eton' tab via the following link: www.etoncommunity.co.uk To report issues that are concerning you to the Town Clerk either email: town.clerk@etontowncouncil.org.uk or phone: 01753 860377.

A man with a beard and wavy hair, wearing a multi-colored plaid blazer, a light blue shirt, a teal tie, and a patterned pocket square, leans on a green ornate metal railing. He is looking upwards and to the left. The background shows a building with classical architectural details.

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Diary

Mar

- 4th 10.00 – Eton spring Clean – Meet Eton Council Offices
- 12th 18.30 – Eton Community Association – St. John the Evangelist Church
- 18th 20.15 – School Concert – School Hall, Eton College
- 28th 20.15 – ECMS School Concert – School Hall, Eton College
- 29th 18.30 – Shared Supper & Communion – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick
- 30th 09.30 – Good Friday Walk of Hope – Start - St. John the Evangelist, Eton on to
10.30 – Eton Wick for service then on to 12.30 – Dorney
- 30th 15.00 – Messy Church – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

Apr

- 1st 06.30 – Easter Day Sunrise Service – St Mary Magdalene Church, Boveney
- 10th 10.30-11.30 Children's story, rhyme and crafts – Eton Library
- 23rd 18.30 – Eton Community Association – Eton Council Offices

May

- 20th 12.00 – Royal Wedding Street Party – High Street

June

- 6th 18.30 – Eton Community Association – AGM – Eton Council Offices

Regular Events

- Council Office – Eton** Tues-Fri – 08.00-12.00
- 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** 19.30 - First Thursday of Month - Eton Council Offices
- Library** Mon – 14.00-17.00; Tues – 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00;
Fri – 14.00-19.00; Sat – 10.00-13.00; *Library Diary see page 30*
- Churches (regular services)**
- St. John the Evangelist, Eton (C of E)** 1st & 3rd – Wednesdays 10.00 – Communion (said)
4th Sundays – 18.15 – Worship Workshop
(Sundays – 9.30 & 11.00 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



The Charteris Club

Eton Wick Village Hall

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12.00 - 14.00

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Useful Numbers

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| Charteris Club | Julie or Jackie | 07598 565091 |
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| | Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton Court | 01753 542862 |
| Community Warden | Phil Griffiths | 01628 685636 |
| Council Offices, Eton | | 01753 860377 |
| Councillor (RBWM) | Malcolm Alexander | 01753 850389 |
| Emergency | Fire/Ambulance/Police | 999 |
| Eton College | | 01753 370100 |
| Eton Community Association | Chair | 07734 073117 |
| | Treasurer | 01753 865647 |
| Library | Eton | 01753 860506 |
| | 24 hr renewal line | 0303 123 0035 |
| Eton Porny School | | 01753 861995 |
| Eton Pre-School | | 01753 850842 |
| Healthcare | Fast Medical Help, Non-Emergency (NHS) | 111 |
| Doctors | South Meadow Surgery (24 hr line) | 01753 833777 |
| | (Appointments) | 01753 832332 |
| Hospitals | King Edward VII Outpatients, Windsor | 01753 860441 |
| | Prince Charles Eye Unit, KE VII Casualty | 01753 636359 |
| | Wexham Park Hospital | 01753 633000 |
| | Wexham Park A& E | 01753 634017 |
| | Upton Hospital, nr Slough – Walk-in unit | 01753 821441 |
| | Heatherwood & St. Marks Minor Injuries units | 01753 877805 |
| | Heatherwood Hospital | 01344 623333 |
| | St. Marks Outpatients | 01628 632012 |
| Natural History Museum | Eton (curator) | 01753 370602 |
| Police | Crime in Progress | 999 |
| | Non-Emergency | 101 |
| River Authority | Environment Agency (gen. enquiries) | 03708 506 506 |
| | Floodline | 0345 988 1188 |
| Royal Borough Of Windsor And Maidenhead (customer care) | | 01628 683800 |
| | 24 hour line for key services – report illicit actions, late night noise, dangerous structures, etc. | 01753 853517 |
| Swan Support | | 07968 868172 |



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Taking Council

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I am writing this article full up with flu and alarming the fellow tenants of 102 High Street with my hacking cough. The whole building seems to vibrate. The media informs me that this is Australian Flu; as if they haven't done enough damage to the home country with thrashing us at cricket, they are now trying to kill us off with their bugs. Disgraceful!

To business. Eton Town Council is making significant progress on a number of fronts which it is hoped will come to fruition in 2018. The most notable ones are as follows:

1. South Meadow Lane Recreation Ground Pavilion

This has long been an eyesore and a blot on the landscape of Eton. It has been a priority of your Town Clerk to seek a solution to this since coming to post 3 years ago, and it is pleasing to report that under the leadership of Councillor Duncan Reed, the Council is progressing a redevelopment scheme which will dramatically improve the appearance of the building and make it fit for the purpose. A planning application has been made to RBWM and we are looking forward to seeing the project develop, although it will require significant fundraising.

2. Barnes Pool

A lovely old black and white photograph on the wall in the Council Offices shows a large expanse of flowing water under Baldwin's Bridge, evidence of what must have been a very attractive scene in bygone days. With the enthusiastic involvement of Peter Eaton, Ros Rivaz and the Mayor, Councillor Derek Bishop, there is now every likelihood that residents of Eton will once again see the brook and Barnes Pool restored as a visible waterway. There is strong support for the scheme from the various agencies, including RBWM, and if funds are forthcoming then it is hoped the project will become a reality.

3. Eton Court Car Park Mural

Under the leadership of Councillor George Fussey, the Town Council is progressing a scheme to enhance the rather drab appearance of this car park with a mural which will be painted on the wall at the entrance. The children at the local primary schools in Eton and Eton Wick have been involved in creating a design and this will be exhibited at Eton College on 5th March. There is money set aside for this from the Section 106 Community Arts Projects fund.

Of course the bread and butter issues of streetlights, drains, dog fouling, fly tipping and so many other routine complaints and issues will keep your Town Clerk and the Council fully engaged in 2018. Please do let me know if you experience any problems.

Eton Allotment Society

Digging up the Past

Gardening and looking after plants has always been a great tradition which has been passed through generations. We have it in our genes! One of the ways we express our love for gardening is allotmenting, which adds the social side to the passion of gardening. We share our ideas, our produce, we compete and help each other.



Courtesy Britain from Above

The history of the Eton Allotments Society goes back to the 1800's. With land leased from the College, there were originally 211 plots spread over three sites,

seen in the 1947 aerial photo above. The earliest recorded photograph below shows these eager allotment holders from 1890 tending their plots with the railway arches visible behind.

Originally the allotments played a significant role of helping families to supplement their basic necessity of food. This was more noticeable during the years of rationing and austerity, when the rent book records and aerial photograph above show that all the plots were under fruitful cultivation. With the end of austerity, the plots were slowly

abandoned and it was left to a few hardy devotees to carry on with their passion.

By 2002 only three plot holders remained rooted at the present site, but it was thanks to the efforts of the then chairman, Bill Smith, that the Society survived. By tending the vacant plots, Bill kept the Society alive until a new generation of plot holders came on board and eventually all the remaining plots are once



Eton Allotment holders c.1890 reproduced from 'A Town Called Eton' by Selina Balance

Eamonn McLarnon - Secretary

again tended. We would also like to take the opportunity of mentioning Jim & Ann Bovington, who for over twenty years have set the benchmark, both in flowers and vegetables.

Over the years there have been many humorous events; the 'angry bees' belonging to one plot holder, the local farmer's cows paying visits and the local school children picking prize flowers the night before the exhibition! One claim to fame is that the allotments featured in the film 'Spider' by David Cronenberg which starred Ralph Fiennes. For those who know the film, the grave has not been uncovered.

Hopefully the Society can continue for the future and we wish the best for the College boys who have also decided to explore the joys of allotmenting.

In His Presence

La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



Do any of you suffer with Reynaud's disease? It's a posh name for your hands getting freezing cold and fingers going dead and then being jolly painful when they eventually warm up again as the blood rushes back. I remember going skiing one time (sounds sporty – don't be fooled – my skiing was far from sporty!) and having to stop and bend over in agony as my toes and fingers warmed up as the exercise warmed me through. If you want your fingers and toes to come back to life you can't avoid the pain of the blood flowing back in.

I suppose that could be a metaphor for Lent. If we are wanting our pale and insipid selves to be enlivened and reinvigorated, we have to allow the flow of the Spirit back in. Maybe the disciplines of Lent – quiet awareness of God's regard; examining the motivation for our actions; reading the bible; fasting in some respect; giving more to charity – are the warm-up exercises. Watch out for the pain of the blood flowing at Good Friday, but then be prepared for the joyful new life as we celebrate the Easter resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

I have a lovely little book by Sister Wendy Becket from which I plan to share some pictures and reflections at the Wednesday Eucharist services during this coming season. Sometimes pictures help the blood reach parts that words cannot!

See Diary (p.16) for seasonal and regular services. For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' website: stjohnstjamesed.org.uk

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Kid's Play - Under the Weather

Henry Brewis - Age 4

One day I didn't feel very well at all. I was very sick and very hot. I had a fever. My glands in my neck were absolutely enormous. The next day I had a big, red rash which was hot when you touched it, and my tongue was really red. Mummy said, "I don't think it's a virus, because you're not all snotty." Mummy took me to see some nurses, but they weren't sure what the matter was. The next day I had a bumpy rash on my tummy. Mummy said it was like sandpaper and she took me to South Meadow surgery. The doctor checked my temperature, rubbed my tummy, and looked in my ears and throat. She said, "it seems like scarlet fever." She did a test to send to a laboratory to see if it was scarlet fever and she gave me a prescription to take to Reid's pharmacy. I was taking antibiotics for ten days, and I didn't go to school for a week. My skin peeled on my fingers, my toes, and my rash. The antibiotics were disgusting but Mummy and Daddy said they were better than scarlet fever. When the laboratory scientists checked the test, they knew it was definitely scarlet fever. Some of my friends were poorly, too. Mummy and Daddy say that I'm not a medical professional, despite what I sometimes claim, and that if you are worried about a rash, you should seek medical advice. You can find up-to-date information about scarlet fever on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/#symptoms-of-scarlet-fever>

Eton Pre-School

Sue Clifford - Manager



At Eton Pre-School we follow an ethos of "Learning through play", it's written on our advertising, on our posters, even on our notice board but not everyone understands what it means. Often people coming to see us, watch the children play and can see how happy

they are but don't understand 'what' they are doing. The simple answer is that they are "learning how to learn" If you want a child to write, then they have to be good at climbing. If you want a child to be good at science they have to experience and experiment with lots of materials. If you want a child to be good at maths they have to be able to sing in rhythm. So the next time you see a small child playing look a bit closer, you might be seeing the start of a talent or even be spotting the next Picasso!



Eton within the Borough

Malcolm Alexander

RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle

It's Budget time in the Royal Borough. Yes, it's that time of year when the Councillors and our Officers in the Royal Borough start to prepare the figures for the forthcoming year. OK, we don't exactly look forward to the Council tax bill dropping through the letter box do we? But take comfort from the fact that we have the lowest level of council tax outside of London.

I'm going to make your head spin with figures in this contribution. Not the lightest reading I know, but this spot is 'Eton within the Borough' and it is your right to have a flavour of the bigger financial picture.

Our capital investment plans for 2018/19 include investing £10.6 million in improving our highways infrastructure, including street lighting and road safety schemes. We are intending to commit £1.3 million on an improved CCTV system to include £120,000 on CCTV in our car parks, whilst continuing to invest in our Community Wardens. I am personally supporting that fact that residents should continue to benefit from free parking permits and Advantage Card holders within the Borough should not be subject to increases in parking charges in car parks under our control, although visitors will see an increase.

We will continue to invest in enhancing existing services including the vitally important school expansion programme, and free transport for pupils with special needs and low income families.

An area which has gained much media attention is the plight of the homeless within our iconic Towns and we will continue to persuade other agencies to work with us. As a Borough we continue to invest in the provision of temporary accommodation for homeless residents.

This year, as last year, a 3% adult social care precept will be levied on council tax. As an example, it would mean £28.85 on a band D property, which equates to 55p a week (the cost of a pint of milk) and all of this will be spent on Adult Social Care.

Lastly, please look out for the final public consultation on the Boundary changes, which will be published soon, and respond if you feel it's appropriate. Personally I am not convinced that the proposed merging of Eton, Eton Wick, Datchet and Horton will serve our community best. Not that I wish to lead the witness!

Contact by email: cll.alexander@rbwm.gov.uk or phone 01753 850389

Great British Spring Clean - Clean Up Eton Morning

Join us for this annual litter pick of our town
Sunday 4 March - 10.00-12.00 - Meet at Council Offices



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Galapagos - Leave Nothing but Footprints

After seeing the albatrosses and sealions of Espanola, we visited Floriana. From the ship in the early morning, we saw dolphins and manta ray leaping – flashes of brilliance that disappeared instantly. Floriana was one of the first islands to be colonised, because it has something most Galapagos Islands don't - a reliable source of water. It was one of the 4 islands visited by Charles Darwin on HMS Beagle. The morning trail began with a landing in a mangrove forest, a trek over a sand and gravel beach to a salty lagoon hidden amongst the lava fields, where we found Caribbean flamingos. They sift the mud and silt in the lagoons, filter feeding on brine shrimp and small crustaceans which are packed full of carotenoids which cause their feathers to turn pink.



The Galapagos finches all evolved from a single species. Once they settled in the Galapagos Islands, the shape of their beak adapted according to the food source they found. Some developed strong bills for cracking nuts, others finer beaks for picking insects out of wood. If the food source changed, so did the beak shape. Sadly this has happened remarkably quickly on islands that have seen an increase in human population and the availability of less natural food. We saw quite a few finches but always struggled to identify them – ground finch? Cactus finch? Our naturalist knew the answer but by the time we looked at our photos they all looked rather similar!



We loved the Sally Lightfoot crabs, with their eyes out on stilts! - Young Sally Lightfoots have a black carapace to blend in with the rock, but as they grow older, they turn a brilliant red. Living alongside the marine iguanas they carry water inside their carapace which they use to periodically pour over their gills, allowing them to keep breathing when on land for long periods. If they feel threatened they will squirt the water towards the attacker in the hope of

Take Nothing but Memories

Katie Leach - continues her memories of her visit

scaring it away! The lava heron is the main predator of the Sally Lightfoot crab specialising in hunting down the soft-shelled juvenile crabs and has evolved to be slate grey in colour, so they can blend in with the rocks as well as the baby crabs!

On visiting Gardener Bay we found an unmanned Post Office on the beach! Here we could leave a postcard in the barrel if we wished.

You can also check through those left by others and undertake to hand-deliver any to an address near to their own home (or you could decide on a random place for your next holiday!) but the cards must be hand delivered.

We spotted Galapagos Penguins from the Zodiac, on the way back to the ship. They were carried north on the Humboldt current from the Antarctic and only survive because they stay in the cooler channels. Living further north than any other penguin species they have developed to be half as tall as the Emperor penguin in order to lose heat faster.

Lava cactus is found only on lava fields, and can store moisture in its stems when water is available. Its spines provide defence against plant-eating animals.



Eton Matters - We Need Your Stories

To keep this mini-magazine going we need your stories of your interests, your families association with Eton past or present, the history of your home or street or your observations around Eton.

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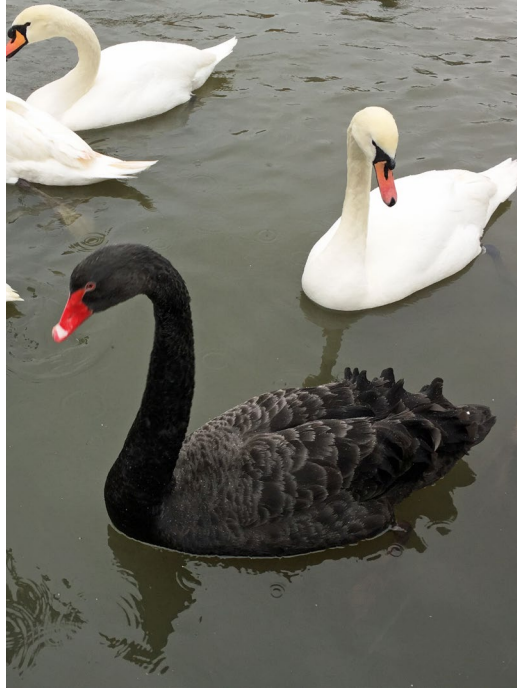
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Nature Watch - Black Swan

George Fussey - Curator, Eton College Natural History Museum

Many residents will have noticed the Black Swan that has been on the Thames in recent weeks. Black Swans were first brought to England in 1791 as ornamental birds (just like peacocks and golden pheasants) but like many other captive species they occasionally escape and breed in the wild. The first recorded breeding in the UK was in 1902 and there is a well-established feral population on the Norfolk Broads. Black Swans bred at Great Meadow Pond in the Great Park in 2004, though it wasn't until three years later that they successfully fledged. According to 'The Birds of Berkshire' (2013), they are occasionally found at local gravel pits and as many as ten have been seen around the junction of the Thames with the Kennet in Reading in recent years.

In fact, the iconic Black Swan is native to the wetlands of south-western and south-eastern Australia and Tasmania. It is the state bird of Western Australia and features on its flag and coat of arms. However, this species has now naturalized in New Zealand where it was deliberately introduced (in 1865) to clear Watercress, itself an alien species. In New Zealand, Black Swans soon spread in the absence of any competition and has numbered 200,000 in recent years, becoming a considerable agricultural pest in the process. Evidence from New Zealand populations is that breeding success becomes greater as the sizes of flocks increase and so it is entirely possible that, in time, Black Swans could compete with, and displace, UK native species. The spread of species around the world, often aided by man, and not always with any consideration of the consequences, is a familiar tale. Our own Mute Swan has founded wild populations in countries as far apart as USA and Japan. Keeping an eye out for changes in the ranges of species, natural and otherwise, will become ever more necessary in a world of changing climates.



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

Bookworm

Information and Book Reviews from your Library

Karen Usher and Vicki Wilson (right)

Eton Library Supervisors



As a child I loved listening to my parents read me a bedtime story and now I enjoy Radio 4's Book at Bedtime; this has been broadcasting stories for adults since 1949 (with a short break 1957-1962) which is a testament to its enduring popularity. But you don't need to wait until bedtime to have a story read to you if you listen to an audiobook. In contrast to a decline in ebook sales, more people are listening to books than ever before. Downloading an audio book has never been simpler and, at a time when we're all juggling busy lives, enables you to listen to a good read while you're doing other things like exercising, cooking, or my particular favourite, driving.

The narrator is crucial in communicating the text. To me, Martin Jarvis is the voice of Just William and Stephen Fry is the voice of Harry Potter. Talented actors like Juliet Stevenson can illuminate novels by Rose Tremain or Pat Barker, while John le Carre is an excellent example of an author reading his own work.

Although you can buy audio books, you need look no further than your local library for access to a range of titles for all ages, and downloading books from the library website is free with a library card: <https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/libraries>.

On a different note, children are welcome to a story, rhyme and craft session 10.30 – 11.30am celebrating Easter on Tuesday 10th April.

Open: Mon -4.00-17.00; Tues-10.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00; Fri-14.00-19.00; Sat-10.00-13.00
Eton Book Group: 6.00-7.00pm Fridays every 4 weeks. Check with Library for exact dates
IT volunteer, Alex, Tuesday mornings for help using your computer. Book in advance.
Community Warden: 1st Tuesday every month 11.00-12.00 for help with community Issues.



On the Beat

Sgt. Emma Pendry

Email: windsorcentralnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Prior to Christmas I started a piece of work with Councillor Phillip Highy into the possibility of the installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras through Eton Wick and Eton. The initial survey has been completed and we are now at a stage where the relevant Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) needs to be completed. Prior to this work being completed however funding needs to be secured and Councillor Highy has been working tirelessly to achieve this. When the final pledges are in and the target figure is achieved, I will start on the Privacy Impact Assessment. This will then be submitted for consideration and if agreed I am hopeful the installation can begin. We still have some hurdles to jump but the early signs are positive.

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