



Floreat Etona

March 2023

Issue 30

Eton Matters

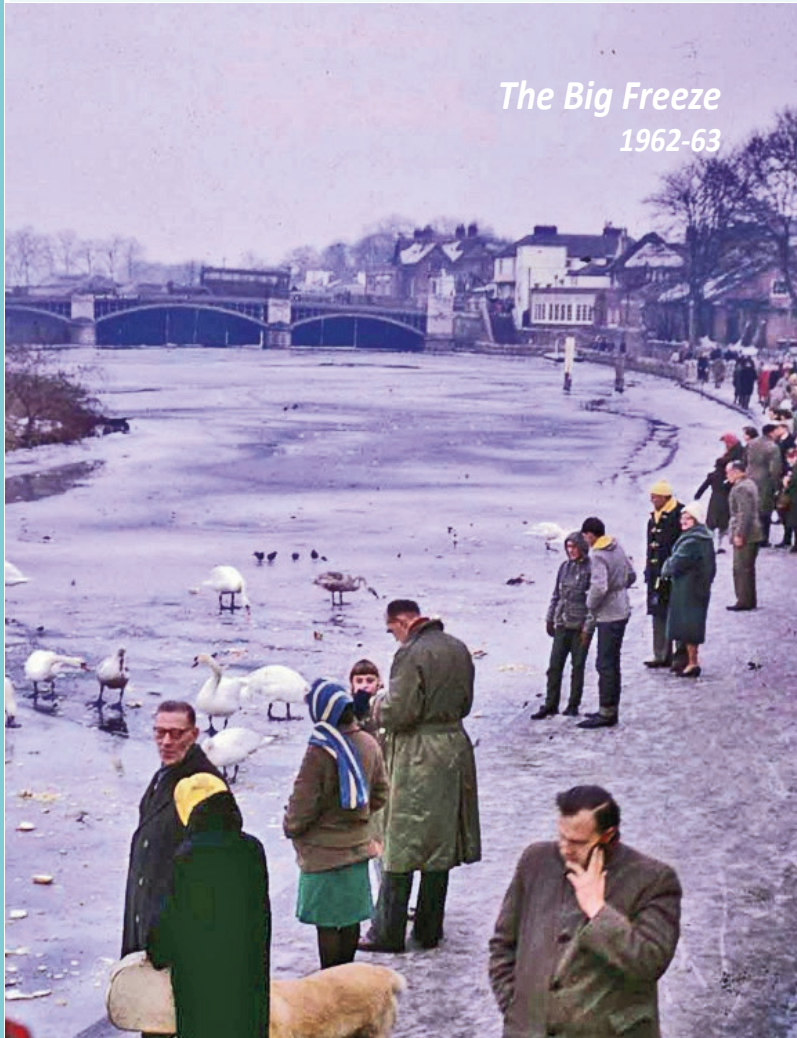
*Eton Information
Centre*

*An Otter's
Tale*

*Remembrance
An Unusual Grave*

*Jane Shore
Edward IV's Mistress*

*The Big Freeze
1962-63*



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Chair's Chat

Ros Rivaz – ECA Chair



The light evenings are here and there seems to be a buzz in the air as we are all free to socialise again. The cost-of-living issues however are very real. We have started holding Coffee and Catch-up sessions in St John's Church working with Rev La, volunteers and the Eton Information Centre team, which provide a regular welcome break from the cold!

We've been busy! The ever-popular Christmas lights switch on was excellent, thanks to Karen, Stephen, Ben and Paul Roach. Christmas Dinner at The Christopher was such fun and we've held ECA meetings at the Hop House of The George, where around 30 of you join us! The litter picks have also been a regular occurrence. Sincere thanks to all our committee who have led events and to The George for use of the Hop House and Eaten Café and Budgens, both of whom provide treats for our litter picks.

We receive great feedback about the ECA weekly Newsletter (or Shout Out, as we call it) and Eton Matters, so thank you to Russell and Peter particularly. Sign up at www.etoncommunity.co.uk! The news that Peter our Editor is going to hang up his pen is a worry, but we can't thank him enough for editing so many amazing issues. Welcome to Rosie who will be taking his hard-to-fill shoes.

Upcoming events at the planning stage include litter picks, Windsor Racing, the Eton Information Centre ball (organised by our sister Eton & Eton Wick Information Centre) and the Coronation Street Party sponsored by Eton College. And thank you to Cllr Samantha Rayner for reinforcing our requests to RBWM and for judging the winner of the Christmas Window Display competition, Simon James Hair.

Forthcoming Eton Community Association Meetings

8 Mar; 26 April; 14 June AGM
18.30 at the Hop House, The George PH.

I would like to thank the regular and guest contributors and the sponsors of this issue of Eton Matters, without whose generosity we would be unable to produce this mini-mag. The sponsors are: Kavanagh's Budgens, New & Lingwood, Warren Property, J Manley Gallery, Academy Insurance, Vario Press, Beechwood Interiors, My Handyman, Tastes Delicatessen, Lawsons Residential, Windsor Electrician, Upgrade Your Day, Susan Handy Dance, MKM Luxe Suisse and Vi Personal Training Studio.

Peter Eaton, Editor

Eton Community Association and Eton Matters Information

ECA Chair – Ros Rivaz – chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk
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ECA Treasurer – Malcolm Leach – treasurer@etoncommunity.co.uk
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Eton Information Centre

A Busy and Successful Year - Nicola Bell

Readers may already be aware that our year ended on an absolute high – when we were announced Silver Award Winners in the Visitor Information Service of the Year category of this year's Beautiful South Awards, operated by Tourism Southeast.



Left to right: Catherine, Nicola, Sue & Pernilla

The EIC team worked really hard to achieve this prestigious accolade, which was judged over a number of months.

During 2022, we welcomed and assisted over 7,000 visitors face-to-face in the Information Centre, in addition to calls and emails. At every possible interaction, we try to encourage visitors to stay longer – not just visiting the College, but to sample Eton's shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs.

We have tried to be really flexible in our service - offering extended opening hours to meet demand, for example after the passing of HM The Queen, when we opened up especially with the Book of Condolence, and to assist the influx of visitors heading into Windsor & Eton.

We continue to support ECA events, in the provision of information and selling tickets – Street Party, Light Switch On etc, and continue to expand our Art@67 programme which promotes the work of local artists, giving consumers further reason to visit Eton.

Last year we launched our Fully Hosted Group Tour packages, for 10-30+ people, which, again, ensure footfall through the town, and ran competitions – including an Easter Bunny Shop Hop, Teddy Trail and photographic challenge – again all designed to get people exploring Eton, and spending money with local businesses.

We continue to work with the College to help promote the Museums, Galleries and Heritage Tours, and run our attractive, well-stocked visitor gift shop, offering locally sourced & themed homewares, souvenirs, books and artwork.

If you have not already, do read through our brilliant new website, www.visiteton.info, which was also launched in 2022, and which we hope you'll agree presents Eton as a wonderfully varied, flourishing and vibrant place to visit. Any thoughts or feedback, please email nicola@visiteton.info. Make sure you're following @Visit Eton on Instagram, and please pop in to the Information Centre when you're passing and say hello to the team!



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In December we had a reminder that we can still get cold weather in this country, however, lasting 10 days with a minimum temperature of -6.9°C , it was nothing in comparison to the almost 10 weeks of severely cold weather we had 60 years ago in the winter of 1962-63 with minimum temperatures down to -12.5°C on the 23 January 1963.

Accepted as being the coldest winter since 1740 and extending into Europe, North America and the Far East it was notable in this area because the River Thames froze across between Windsor and Eton for that century.



December 1962 started with a 7 day period of sub-zero night temperatures with 3 days where temperature never rose above 0°C (Ice days). Although snow fell on the 12th, this was followed by relatively mild stormy weather until the 22nd, when it turned colder with snow falling on Boxing Day. Snow then fell for the following 10 consecutive days with blizzards on the 29th and 30th doubling the laying snow to 21cm (over 8") with drifts of 75-90cms recorded and reaching a depth of 31cm by the 3 January 1963. Although there were several short periods where some thawing took place the snow would not eventually clear completely until the 1st week of March.



January saw 12 ice days and February 2 (maximum temperature below 0°C) with the lowest daytime temperature of -5.6°C on the 24 January. Snow fell on 38 days throughout the 3 winter months, however it was exceptionally sunny with 208hrs., 20% above average.

Peter Eaton

Eton Resident



Another contrast to today, when everything seems to come to a standstill with the slightest snow fall is the fact that, being 14 at the time, I do not remember losing a day's schooling despite having to travel 3 miles on a bus to it. We had fun in the playground with ice slides and snowball fights, however, with the snow in December my godson, Terry (11 at the time), told me that if he threw a snowball at school he would get detention!

The Thames freezing created another playground. By the 25th January at the ferry crossing between the Brocas and the Windsor promenade the ice was over 75cm(3") thick. People walked, skated and cycled on it despite it being considered unsafe because the underlying water level had dropped. Tarpaulins were hung

under the bridge to try to insulate the water main to Windsor from the water works in Tangier Lane (can be seen in the cover photo). There were water main bursting and pipes in homes freezing up, food shortages with prices rising considerably and fuel shortages with power cuts, made worse by a work-to-rule, closing cinemas and theatres.

On the 5th March there was no overnight frost, only the 5th time since December 22nd and the daytime temperature rose to 11°C with locally the last of the Boxing Day snow clearing. Crocuses were in flower by the 13th March but Daffodils not until 6th April and everything seemed to be getting back to normal.



Acknowledgements:

Cover photo: thames.me.uk -
Where Thames Smooth Waters
Glide – Jeremy Worth

University of Reading blog – The
Winter of 1962 -1963

thamesweb.co.uk- Royal Windsor Website –The Great Freeze of '63 – photos and the diaries of Gordon Cullingham,
Deputy Borough Engineer for Windsor

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Eton within the Borough

Samantha Rayner

RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle

This year is another exciting year in The Royal Borough as we celebrate The Coronation of King Charles III. Eton will be at the centre of this glorious historical occasion looking magnificent.

The Royal Borough conducted a residents' survey to find out what you think about the Council and how we can do better to serve you. 66% are satisfied or very satisfied with the way the council runs things which is higher than the national local government authority benchmark.

There are still things we can improve on such as tackling anti-social behaviour and improving parking. We are looking to improve these by investing in employing through Thames Valley Police more police to be dedicated to the local area. There have been issues especially since Covid and this we have listened to and are acting to combat to help Eton. On parking we are opening another 2 car parks for residents with the first hour free as with Meadow Lane car park. This will help Eton High Street thrive as a centre of shopping and restaurants as one of the additional car parks is nearby in Windsor.

Another key factor that matters to most who took part in the survey is Climate change. Last year we agreed to setting up of a Climate Partnership group with the council and key stakeholders to deliver this change together as the key to success will be everyone taking part. For this we have committed £750,000 over 3 years. This is a significant investment but one we believe is critical to tackling this enormous challenge.

Thank you to all residents, businesses, Eton Town Council and Eton Community Association for helping us in our roles; it's a huge honour and privilege to serve Eton.

Contact your Councillors

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

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

Why not write an article on something of interest to you or relevant to Eton

Contact the Editor for details: editor1@etoncommunity.co.uk

Naturewatch – Where are the English Geese?

Kevin McNally – Eton Resident

Or indeed the Scottish, Welsh or Irish geese? We who live in Eton are familiar with a variety of geese forming a significant portion of the waterfowl on the river. These are largely Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) and Egyptian Geese (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*) with a smattering of Greylag (*Anser anser*), Brent (*Branta bernicla*) and the occasional Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). We have some identities here - but nothing particularly 'British'.....?

Well in fact the above five species are all happily confirmed as British residents (along with Bean, Pink footed, and White fronted geese). Most inland and coastal waterways will be home to one or more varieties of geese and as we know they can coexist very comfortably with humans and are not at significant survival risk.



The most numerous goose locally is the Canada Goose. Common in North America (unsurprisingly, in the UK are typically non-migratory being found on or near the river all year round. We who live close to the river know that they are a noisy species with a loud dissonant honking call - which I can confirm they are happy to practice at three in the morning! We are used to it now but visitors sometimes comment that it sounds like a goose is trying to get into their room! It is easily recognised by its large size grey brown body black legs and neck with a white chin stripe.

Our other reasonably common resident is the Egyptian Goose. This small goose (some classifiers prefer to characterise it as a large duck) is an African species brought to the UK as an ornamental bird. Not common in Europe at all, the ones in the UK are all descended from escaped imported birds and recognised by its brown eye patch and attractive plumage.



However this is all avoiding the big question - what is our native goose? Naturalists agree that our native goose is the Greylag Goose also being the most common goose in Europe. This rather beautiful and large goose is found widely on the river and is the ancestor of the white domestic goose familiar from farms and farmyard stories. So when you next see one (picture below) don't forget to remind it of its origins - from a decent distance of course as these are the ones that lend geese their rather fearsome reputation.



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Eton Pre-School

Sue Clifford – Manager

It has been a bit of a chilly start to the year with several days of cold snaps and frosty mornings. The children have loved watching the ice freeze and melt and a fringe of delicate icicles appearing on the hut in the garden. We have several feeding stations for our garden birds including two cheeky robins who tell us off if they haven't been fed, so the children have ensured that during this cold weather the bird feeders are regularly topped up with seed mix, sunflowers seed and mealworms – our robins favourite. We are really lucky to have a wide variety of feathery visitors and we always encourage the children to care for our environment and respect the creatures we find in the outdoors. We hope you have all been feeding the garden birds too over the winter! If you would like to see what we are up to contact us @etonpreschool.org



Kid's Play

Theo age 8 and Casper



My Didi and Pops live in Eton. Eton is great!

I have a new brother. His name is Casper. This weekend I came to Eton and showed my brother Eton.

We went to the fair and I went on a scary one that swings while spinning. I showed Casper the flashing lights which he liked.

We went to the brewery with my mum and step-dad's friends and they had a new baby too called Lyla. She just came out of hospital because she had something wrong with her lungs.

I like coming to Eton. There is lots to do.



Eton Porny School

Emma Stanford-Smith
Head Teacher

Pupil leadership at Eton Porny is really important as it develops the children's engagement and ownership of the school. It also supports the children in developing a range of values and skills including responsibility. Here are all the ways we are leaders at Eton Porny School:

Wellbeing champions are trained to ensure that Eton Porny is a happy and safe environment for all children. They raise awareness of mental health as well as being a friendly face around school to others.

Our School Council is made up of everyone in our school but we have representatives who take the lead and are the 'movers and shakers'. The school council take into account pupil voice around how we can improve as a school as well as raising money for a range of local and national charities.

Eco Squad work together to ensure that our school is as friendly to Planet Earth as we can be. They make suggestions on ways for us to be eco-friendly whilst sharing their knowledge with the rest of the school. They are keen to work in partnership with Eton College's Environmental Society to bring about lasting change.

House captains and vice house captains help to create a competitive atmosphere around all events and competitions in school.

Sports leaders ensure that playtimes and lunchtimes are fun, active and action-packed! They set up and encourage other to join in with new activities at breaktimes.

Library monitors help to keep our library tidy and well stocked. They enjoyed choosing new books recently with money we made at our book fair.

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with all of our exciting learning and adventures on our school Twitter account @EPFirstschool.



H.M. King Charles III

Coronation

Street Party

Sunday 7th May

**Ticket Details will be announced
nearer the time in the
ECA Newsletter**

In His Presence

Rev. La Stacey

Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church



When the Census figures came out early this year, the news media made much of the fact that we should no longer claim to be a Christian nation since fewer than 50% of the population now say they are Christian. There is a ready dismissal of Christ-followers as foolish. St Paul noticed that too. In one letter he wrote 'we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles'.

It seems the world likes to decry, but still notices, the message. The news headlines as I write are about the Archbishops' report 'Care and Support Reimagined'. They are calling for a new NHS-style universal social care system. At New Year Justin Welby had said, 'Caring goes to the heart of what it means to be human.... Jesus reminds us of the value of every single person, young or old.'

Now one might say we don't need Jesus to remind us of that. It is self-evident and a basic human instinct. That is what the historian, Tom Holland, thought until he started researching for his book, 'The Making of the Western Mind'. He discovered, much to his surprise, that historically the idea of everyone, weak and strong, poor and rich, being of equal intrinsic value, does indeed stem from Christ and his cross. He concludes this understanding 'has, at its molten heart, the image of a god dead on a cross'. He quotes from that same letter of St Paul which says God 'chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, He chose the weak to shame the strong.'

At the moment, it seems to me, we as a society are indeed shamed by our broken social systems. Those who work in them are crying out that they cannot meet the needs. The reports of those in need are heart-breaking to read. I wonder (because I am a vicar and so I'm allowed to wonder this!) whether we would do well to stop being so proud of how rational we are and listen again with the ears of the heart to the outrageous claim of Christianity. Tom calls it the 'audacity of finding in a twisted and defeated corpse the glory of the creator of the universe'. We're coming up to Good Friday and Easter and the season where we contemplate the paradoxical victory of Christ. Maybe, if we dare to contemplate the story, we will rediscover a vision for a kind society that works both for those who need it and for those who work in it. With Easter blessings, La



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Diary

Mar

8th 18.30 – Eton Community Association meeting – Hop House, The George PH

10th Eton Information Centre Ball

Apr

5th 18.30 – Shared Supper & Communion – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

7th 9.30 – Walk of Hope – Start at St. John the Evangelist, Eton to

10.30 – St John the Baptist, Eton Wick – Service & Hot Cross Buns, continue to

12.30 – St James the Less, Dorney

9th 5.45 – Sunrise Service – St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

26th 18.30 – Eton Community Association meeting – Hop House, The George PH

May

4th RBWM Council and Town Council Elections

7th Coronation Street Party – Details to be announced

June

14th 18.30 – Eton Community Association AGM – Hop House, The George PH

Regular and Social (Eton & Eton Wick)

Council Office – Eton: Tues – Fri – 08.00-13.00 (in office Tuesday & Friday)

Eton Town Council Meeting – 19.00 - First Thursday of Month - Eton Council Offices

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

South Meadow Strollers – Tuesdays 10.00 – South Meadow, Eton

Eton Armchair Theatre – 4th Wednesday

Coffee Morning – Wednesdays 10.30-12.00 - St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

Crafty Creations – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 14.00 - St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

Baby & Toddlers – Thursdays 10.00-11.30 - St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

Toddler Drop-in – Fridays 9.00-12.00 - St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

Churches (regular services)

St. John the Evangelist, Eton (C of E) Services

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 10.00 - Communion (said)

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

Remember you will need to take photo ID with you to vote

In the Local Elections for

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council

And Eton Town Council

to be held on Thursday 4th May 2023

Useful Numbers

Churches	St John the Evangelist (Vicar)	01753 852268
	Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton Court	01753 542862
Community Warden		01628 685636
Council Offices, Eton	Bob Austen, Town Clerk	01753 860377
Councillor (RBWM)	Samantha Rayner	07811 974442
Emergency	Fire/Ambulance/Police	999
Eton College		01753 370100
Eton Community Association	Chair	07734 073117
Eton Porny School		01753 861995
Eton Pre-School		01753 850842
Healthcare	Fast Medical Help, Non-Emergency (NHS)	111
	Doctors	
	South Meadow Surgery (24 hr line)	01753 833777
	(Appointments)	01753 832332
	Eton Pharmacy	01753 863819
	Hospitals	
	King Edward VII Outpatients, Windsor	01753 860441
	Prince Charles Eye Unit, KE VII Casualty	01753 636359
	Wexham Park Hospital	01753 633000
	Wexham Park A& E	01753 634017
	Upton Hospital, nr Slough – Walk-in unit	01753 821441
	Heatherwood & St. Marks Minor Injuries units	01753 877805
	Heatherwood Hospital	01344 623333
	St. Marks Outpatients	01628 632012
Library	Mobile	07766 366719
	Renewal Hotline	0303 123 0035
Natural History Museum	Eton (curator)	01753 370602
Police	Crime in Progress	999
	Non-Emergency	101
River Authority	Environment Agency (gen. enquiries)	03708 506 506
	Floodline	0345 988 1188
Royal Borough Of Windsor And Maidenhead (customer care)		01628 683800
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Swan Support		07968 868172



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Taking Council

Bob Austen MBE, Town Clerk, Eton Town Council

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email: clerk@etontc.uk



First of all, may I express my thanks to all those Eton residents who have kindly sent me messages regarding my award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for 'Services to the Community in Wargrave'. I have no idea which person or persons nominated me for this honour; it is most certainly not something that I coveted. Nevertheless, it is very nice to receive it!

On to Council matters:

Eton Town Council Sports Hall:

I am delighted to advise that the Eton Town Council Sports Hall in Eton Wick is now open and already we have secured regular bookings from archers and footballers. The Sports Hall is situated at the heart of Eton Wick behind the Village Hall and offers a warm and inviting space for all sports clubs and fitness groups, meetings, parties, societies, clubs, training and workshops. Having been renovated in the last year, the Sports Hall comprises the usual facilities including changing rooms, rest rooms and some storage upon request.

We offer hire by the hour or day and block bookings can be also be made. Hire charges start at £25/hour. Visit the new booking page to review the booking calendar, make an enquiry or secure a booking: <https://venuehire.scribaccaccounts.com/Eton-Town-Council>

Eton Town Council Chamber:

The Council is progressing plans to offer the Council Chamber to local businesses as a meeting room which can be used for e.g. business meetings, staff training and presentations. Initially, we shall be 'testing the water' to determine what level of demand there might be for this facility in Eton and at the time of writing we are arranging an Open Evening in February when businesses will be invited along to express their views and possible interest. Please contact me if you would like further information.

The Council Chamber is already being used regularly by community groups and of course business meetings of Eton Town Council.

Eton Town Council Elections:

On 4th May 2023 there will be local elections held across RBWM and residents will be able to vote for their choices of Eton town councillor. It is understood that there will be at least one vacancy on Eton Town Council and so if you are interested in serving, please keep a look out for the Notice of Election which RBWM will post in the near future. In the meantime, if you would like information on the role, please contact me.

As usual, please inform me if you have any problems and I shall do my best to resolve them.

Otters are the largest British members of the weasel family. Their webbed feet and dense fur, combined with streamlined shape and long, tapered tail makes them formidable swimmers. They swim stealthily (the better to hunt their prey) with eyes on the top of their head allowing them to keep a low profile in the water. Indeed, they are beautifully adapted to swim under water for several minutes, able to close their noses and ears whilst submerged.

Early one morning in November, 2021, Wendy Hermon, Rescue Coordinator of Swan Support, phoned the Eton Natural History Museum to report a juvenile female otter which had sadly been involved in a road collision in Wraysbury. This distressing event nevertheless provided the Museum with a wonderful opportunity to showcase the recent success of otter populations in the Thames Valley and add to the already comprehensive displays featuring local wildlife. Top taxidermist Luke Williams has been able to produce not only a fabulous stuffed specimen but also has produced its articulated skeleton alongside it, despite the damage caused by the collision.



Otters are apex predators and sit at the top of their food chains. Typically, 75% or more of their diet is fish, the remainder including crustacea such as crayfish. Toxins taken in lower down the food chain tend to be passed up to the apex: because otters live relatively long lives (on average 3 – 4 years) these toxins can accumulate and cause population decline as a result. Consequently, by the early 1970s, otters had disappeared from the Thames, in all probability due to the over-use of pesticides from the 1950s onwards, compounded by habitat loss. Reflecting this, from 1990 – 99 the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) only

George Fussey

Curator, Natural History Museum - Eton College



Photo: Bernard Landgraf

had 13 records of otters, however in the last decade (2010 – 19) there was a considerable recovery in numbers with over 200 records. Protection by legislation (the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations of 2010) has played a part, helping to limit pollution and encourage the conservation and creation of riverside habitat, overseen by organisations both national (e.g. the Mammal Society and the Otter Trust) and local (BBOWT). Because otters are a protected species the Museum's Curator must hold a licence to allow the display of our otter for educational use.

Otters are elusive creatures for a variety of reasons, apart from their covert swimming habit described above. Most active at dawn and dusk, otters are mostly solitary creatures. Males and females come together only to mate. Females rearing cubs look after their two or three pups for 6 months or more before they, too, become independent. Otters are amazingly mobile. Males tend to patrol up to 40km of river with females roving about half as much. Many otters lack a distinct home range and transience makes them prone to being involved in road collisions. Indeed, since 1994 the Cardiff University Otter Project has made a key study of 4,000 or so otters involved in roadkill, for example, being able to analyse post mortem heavy metal contamination.

Otters, sitting at the apex of their various food chains, are thus vitally important as biological indicators of the health of our rivers and the habitat alongside them. Their relatively long lives, and the persistent accumulation of contaminants they are exposed to through the food chain, means that they are a better barometer of pollution than water sampling alone can provide. The health of otters and their flourishing populations are the best biomonitors of all. Do come and see the Museum's latest specimen, just one of the 17,000 objects in its collection.



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The City of Eton, Georgia, USA

Researched by Brian Hoare, Retired Eton College Buildings Bursar



In 1833 in North Murray County, Georgia, a stagecoach stop called "Pleasant Valley" was established. Around 1872, the Pleasant Valley Academy was organized. Upon completion of the railroad in 1906 and the remarkable academic achievements by

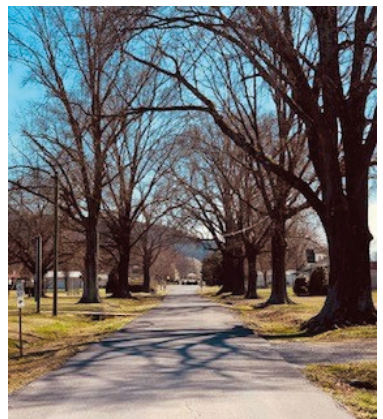
students of the Pleasant Valley Academy, the Town was renamed "Eton" in honour of Eton College in England and its excellent academic reputation. Despite the name change and the Incorporation in 1909, Eton, Georgia continues to be the home of Pleasant Valley living.

As Gatekeepers for the Appalachian Mountains, expect breath-taking views of the mountains and countryside in Eton. Enjoy the hiking trails, trout streams and wildlife at the Cohutta National Wilderness, the State of Georgia's second largest wilderness area. Plan a fun camping trip to Grassy Mountain which hosts the highest elevation lake in the State of Georgia, Lake Conasauga. Be just a short drive from Chattanooga and Atlanta and just a few hours away from Georgia's Atlantic coast.



The City of Eton is a great place to visit, live, or work. Of course, there are several things you'll have to live without in a small town like Eton: smog, crime, the rush, and the high cost of living. The current population of the city is estimated at 1200. Its first bank opened in 1910 with 2 hotels opening in 1913. In 1920 residents were first to subscribe to limited electricity service, it being turned off at 10.30 every evening.

Information supplied by Kim Hall, City Clerk



Our Lollipop Lady Retires

Children and Staff - Eton Porny School

A poem from the children:

Mrs Gillard, thank you for being our lollipop lady,
For helping to keep us safe each day.
Bravely stopping the busy traffic so that we can cross the road,
'Hellos ', 'Good Mornings' and high fives - guiding us on our way.
You've helped Eton Porny pupils to get to school safely come rain, snow or shine,
So that we can learn, play and grow.
You've done a great job for the past 40 years.
Thank-you, we will miss you more than you know!



After 40 years of service as a Lollipop Lady at Eton Porny, the legendary Janet Gillard is retiring. Janet has been a much loved part of our community and the lives of countless children and their families during this time, as both Lollipop Lady and prior to that as a lunchtime assistant. We will miss seeing her smiley face each morning.

The whole Eton Porny community send their thanks for Janet's long standing commitment to the school and its families. We wish her a very happy and restful retirement and we look forward to seeing her around Eton.



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Remembrance - An Unusual War Grave

Eton (St. John's) Cemetery



When the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) was established by Royal Charter on 21 May 1917, it was charged with the commemoration of those designated as war casualties of the British Empire. Since that date, the IWGC (renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or CWGC in 1960) remains responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Those in military service at the time of their death automatically qualify for commemoration, providing they died within the qualifying dates (First World War: 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921; Second World War : 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947); location and cause of death are immaterial, whether killed in action,

died of wounds, of illness or accident, due to suicide, or suffered judicial execution – all are equally commemorated.

The grave of Old Etonian Geoffrey Hugh Willoughby St. Quintin, fashioned with some grandeur in Irish marble, appears an unlikely war grave. Similarly, St. Quintin seems an implausible candidate to qualify as a casualty of war, given he 'died of sickness' after the Armistice and is not listed in the Eton College First World War Roll of Honour. Nevertheless, CWGC records St. Quintin as a war casualty.

From the Eton Archives, we find that St. Quintin entered the College in January 1913, boarding with Hugh de Havilland (H. de H.) in Keate House. He was born at Flowerburn House, Fortrose in 1899, the only son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey St Quintin (deceased), leaving Eton in July 1918 with a determination - as with so many young men of the time - to enlist in the army immediately and join the war effort.

Also in the Eton Archives exists a house photograph of H. de H. from 1916, yet (not unusually for the time) the sitters remain unidentified – St. Quintin therefore could be

Sarah Warren

School librarian, Eton College

any one of the boys in the photograph.

However - as luck would have it - an obituary for St. Quintin appeared in the Eton College Chronicle in March 1919, giving vital clues as to his appearance and build.

Eton College Chronicle, March 20 1919

Described as '6 foot 5 inches high' (he would only have been 17 when the photograph was taken), 'big and well made in proportion', St. Quintin almost leaps from the centre of the photograph.



Reproduced by permission of the Provost and Fellows of Eton College

Although St. Quintin was officially buried as a 'Private', reference to his attendance at Bushey (the Officer Training Battalion for the Household Brigade) can lead us to assume that - had he lived - he would have gone on to gain an officer's commission.

How then did a young man of 'magnificent physique', in training to become an army officer, die so suddenly, and why is he buried here at Eton? Reference to his death certificate gives definitive answers.

St. Quintin died at his Uncle's home in Knightsbridge, one of the millions who succumbed in a previous pandemic - the 'Spanish Flu' - whilst an enlisted man; its virulence was such that influenza and pneumonia killed this evidently healthy young man aged only 19 within five days in December 1918. He was buried 'in the Eton to which he was so devoted' in a private grave - a truly unusual casualty of war.

Registration District ST. GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE.								
1918. DEATHS in the Sub-District of Mayfair and Knightsbridge in the County of LONDON.								
Columns—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
305	South December 1918 33 Albert Hall Mansions, Knightsbridge	Geoffrey Hugh Willoughby St. Quintin	Male	19 years	Son of Geoffrey Willoughby St. Quintin of independent means	(1) Influenza (2) Pneumonia (3) certified by Specialist Longhurst M.R.C.S.	Henry D. Ogilvie Grant Uncle 33 Albert Hall Mansions Knightsbridge	Ninth of December 1918

Death Certificate GRO

With grateful thanks to Georgina Robinson, Archivist at Eton College

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Jane Shore - Edward IV Mistress

Rosie Maggs, Next Eton Matters Editor

Elizabeth Shore, more commonly known as Jane Shore, was one of the mistresses of King Edward IV. King Edward IV was a key figure in the War of the Roses, a civil war in England that saw the House of York and the House of Lancaster fighting for the throne. King Edward IV deposed King Henry VI from the throne and took power of England in 1461. King Henry VI was briefly reinstated as King in 1471, but Edward quickly took back power and was King from 1471 until his death in 1483.

King Henry VI was the founder of Eton College, and this was one of the reasons that Eton College was in jeopardy during the War of the Roses. Edward IV certainly didn't want to continue with policies or legacies of his enemy.

Edward IV was famous for having multiple mistresses, despite his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville. Jane Shore became mistress to Edward in 1476 until his death in 1483, unlike his other mistresses Edward was completely devoted to Jane. Jane was also not showered with gifts like his other mistresses, hinting at a more real relationship between the two. Jane was described as being 'attractive to men more through her personality than her physical beauty, being intelligent, literate, merry and playful'.



Upon seizing the throne in 1461 Edward IV pronounced all grants made by Henry VI void. By 1463 Edward had decided to give a lot of Eton Colleges' land and treasures to St Georges in Windsor. This had a hugely detrimental effect on Eton College, which once had land and grants to rely on for income, was now struggling. According to sources its annual revenue went from £1,500 a year to around £370 by 1468. In 1469, Eton College saw its financial affairs improve, although this did happen before Jane became mistress, it is the later influence that apparently sees Jane become important in keeping the College going.

Jane Shore is said to have had considerable influence over the King, although never using it for personal gain, she helped give him a balanced view. Sir Thomas More wrote about Jane and Edward IV in his history of King Richard III that "...where the King took displeasure, she would mitigate and appease his mind; where men were out of favour, she would bring them in his grace; for many who had highly offended, she obtained pardon; of great forfeitures she got men remission".

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The myth that surrounds Jane Shore and Eton College is that she urged Edward to save the school. In 1477 Henry Bost, Jane's reported confessor, was appointed as Provost, which would suggest Jane's influence got him the position. This would have given the school some form of protection as it was seemingly under the control of the new monarch.

Although there is no proof from the time that Jane did step in to save Eton College, this myth has followed her since her death, so maybe there is some truth in it. Perhaps the accounts of her being a reasonable influence on the King has filled the gap in the mystery of why the Henry VI founded school survived during the War of the Roses against all odds.

Jane Shore fell from grace after Edward's sudden death in 1483, being punished by his brother Richard III which included walking through London in her chemise and spending time in prison. Today, portraits of Jane Shore are kept in the College collection and it is even said her ghost 'The Grey Lady of Eton' haunts the Cloisters.

My Last Edit!

Peter Eaton, Retiring Eton Matters Editor

After 30 issues and almost 10 years, a few months off for good behaviour, I have decided to step aside as editor of this magazine.

Because of producing a newsletter for the Brocas Residents' Group I was talked into producing a newsletter for the Eton Community Association (ECA). As Malcolm Leach, then ECA Chair and I worked on proposals for a newsletter it rapidly developed into a mini-mag. There was a rapid learning curve for the first issue to be produced and distributed free through letter boxes in November 2013. With the aim of a 24 page mini-mag 4 times a year; Eton Matters was born! From March 2015 we went to the current format of 3 issues a year and 32 pages, delivered free through Eton's letterboxes, thanks to our postman and volunteers, and available to Eton College through their intranet.

A big thank you must go to our wonderful regular contributors and equally to our guest writers; it is your varied content that makes this magazine a good read!! Equally I must thank all our sponsors that have and continue to support the cost of printing by their advertising, our proof readers and Vario Press for their help and quality printing from the start. I must also thank the current ECA Chair, Ros, because without her ability to continually find guest writers and sponsors there wouldn't be a magazine.

It's a little ironic for someone who in the '60s took 5 attempts to pass English O'level GCE to be an editor, however, I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of producing Eton Matters; hope you've enjoyed reading it. But now is the time to pass the baton on and to no better person than Rosie Maggs, who as well as helping out at the Eton Information Centre is founder and editor in chief of The Historians Magazine. Good luck Rosie!

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