

Issue 32

# ETON

Nov 2023

# MATTERS

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Eton's Ack-Ack Gun

Naturewatch:  
Beach Birds

Eton's Lost Garden

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# CHAIRS CHAT

ROS RIVAZ - ECA CHAIR



I am always surprised when the dark evenings arrive and now with the clocks going back, my goodness. However, once the Christmas Lights are up, Eton seems so alive again!

There has been masses going on! We have enjoyed various events organised by the committee, who deserve a big "Thank You" from us all. The Town has benefitted from Leonie's Litter Picks, Stewart's Pub Quiz, which gained brilliant feedback, a pub walk to The Pineapple and more. Our local businesses have supported us in various ways, from refreshments after the litter pick from The Christopher Hotel to allowing the pub quiz to be hosted in the Crown & Cushion.

Following Halloween, the poppies will be put up, the wonderful service at St John's Church on 12th November this year will take place and before we know it, the Christmas Lights event will be up and 16th November will see us all chiming 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and being amazed that Eton definitely has the best lights around and an evening of celebration to match! Thank you Karen, Stephen, Ben and Paul.

The ECA weekly Newsletter (or Shout Out, as we call it) has become fortnightly, and remains so popular as the place to find out what we are organising and what is going on locally. Sign up at [www.etoncommunity.co.uk](http://www.etoncommunity.co.uk) We don't use the database for anything else and you can unsubscribe at any time.

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, Eton Environmental Group, My Handyman, Eaten Cafe, Lawsons Residential, Eton Vet, Upgrade Your Day, Susan Handy Dance, Eton College, MKM Luxe Suisse and Beaubelle.  
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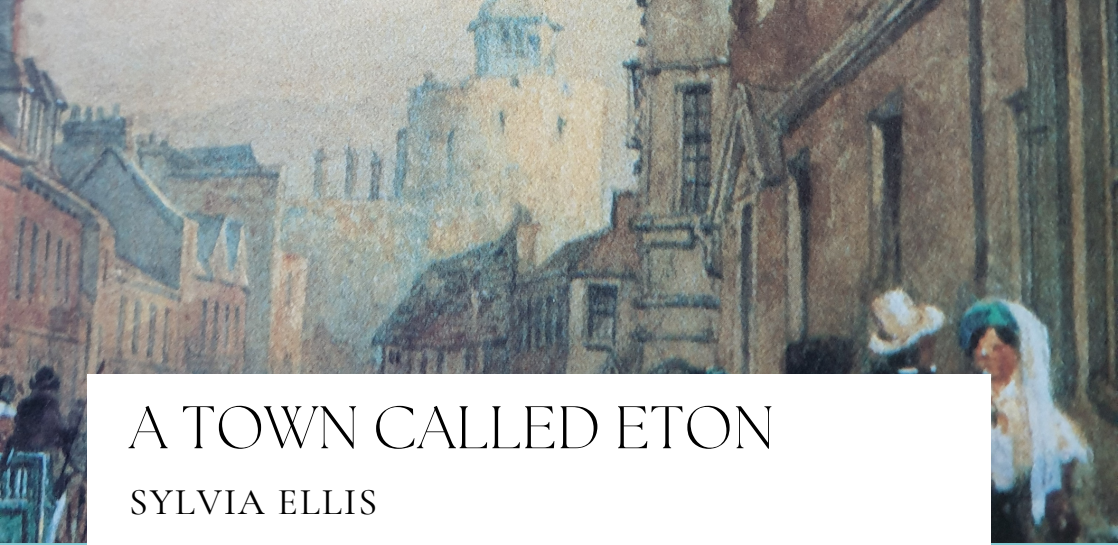
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# A TOWN CALLED ETON

SYLVIA ELLIS

Do you want to know more about the history of Eton as a village and town?

“A Town Called Eton” was published in 1982. This book has both a general history of the town, and more details about the streets and some of the people. It has maps, drawings from previous centuries, and recent photographs.

Some examples from the book -

Eton is an unenclosed parish. Pages 57-58 explain the background to the proposed Enclosure Bill being defeated in 1826.

A court case found that the College own the Brocas (page 90).

It is quite tricky to look up the Cockpit, but there is a history on pages 130-131, which believes it likely that the Cockpit was built around 1420. The Turk’s Head is also covered here on pages 131-132.

The current Windsor Bridge opened in 1823, being closed to motor vehicles in 1970 (page 54). The bridge lies entirely within Windsor (page 6), so is not the responsibility of the parish of Eton.

This book tells of a building which both overlooked and overlapped the property

next door, resulting in annual payments of 15 shillings to the Norwood family (page 156). Not covered is that these payments continued until the building was demolished and replaced by the “look-a-like” Kings Quay as part of the Riverside development in King Stable Street.

The map dates are early 15th century, 1742, about 1860 and late 19th century. The drawings include Eton from the river in 1771. There are many photos – some of Eton from the river, others of buildings, gardens and building features such as a balconies.

The book concludes by referring to the Chantry Place development in King Stable Street as “likely to be the last possible sizeable building scheme in the town” (page 162).

Written by Selina Ballance, an architectural historian, this book is available second-hand. It is well worth reading to realise how active the town has been.

ISBN 0946601003.





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# ETON'S ACK-ACK GUN

PETER EATON

Although a larger battery of anti-aircraft (Ack-Ack) guns was based at an encampment on Dorney Common, Eton did its bit to protect the country from attack from the skies in WWII.

A Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun (automatic cannon) was mounted on a tower at the eastern end of the Brocas, adjacent to the ends of the gardens of Nos.1 and 2 Brocas Terrace. An encampment was established in front of the northern end of Emlyns Buildings to house the military needed to operate the gun who were all part of the 38 Brigade 1st Anti-aircraft Division controlled from a local base at Langley.



*The pictures show an aerial view of the tower, without the gun, and the encampment photographed c1946 from the Castle's North Terrace, an aerial view of the 3 military buildings taken in 1949 after the tower had been removed, an overhead view of the tower and encampment 1945*

The tower and the encampment were all within the area of land known as Sprurrs Close prior to the terraces being built in the 1830s-40s.

Although the tower was removed in 1947, three of the buildings (two wooden and one brick, probably the cook house) went on to have a second life with the Scouts and then Sea Scouts up until the 1980s.

The lone sycamore tree that stands in front of Emlyns Buildings was just within the south-west corner of the site originally planted by the late John Cox, boatbuilder and life-long resident when he was Boy Scout just after the war.

Ditches were dug across the Brocas to prevent enemy aircraft from landing on the meadow and these can still be seen, although somewhat eroded now, as you walk across the Brocas meadow.

*The pictures show a Bofors gun tower Holton Heath Dorset similar to the one here and a Bofors gun Nothe Fort Weymouth.*





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# ETON WITHIN THE BOROUGH

As we stepped into our roles as new councillors, little did we know the whirlwind of experiences that awaited us. Weeding Eton Wick waterways, facing a 70-person protest over unplanned development in Windsor, drama over the refurbishment of the Windsor Central station footpath, everything about The Cockpit. It seems that each week we are faced with some new issue to resolve and invariably there is a wonderful group of people we get to meet. We have been left in awe at the people of Eton - the amount of care they show for their community is incredible. Back in May we had our first meeting with the Eton Town Council for their AGM and monthly meeting. They had a new website planned for launch the next Monday, had reviewed all the local planning applications, were getting updates from the police. These people were on the ball! During the next few days, we were given a tour of Eton. Our tour guides pointed out all the issues and shared local knowledge.

Resident-led tours seemed to be a theme of late May/early June as we were shown Eton Wick, Eton Wick waterways, Home Park, Eton College and Legoland. To complete the set, we were shown around The Cockpit which sits under the scaffolding in the middle of Eton High Street.

We're currently working with The Cockpit team and RBWM planning team to remove barriers to renovating this 15th century building and can't wait to see it open.

One of the best responsibilities a councillor has is to choose the annual Garden in Bloom winner and runner up. Despite tough competition from gardens in Windsor and Eton Wick, both awards were given to residents of Eton. We've also liaised with Highways officers and the local PCSO's to improve signage at the entrance to the High Street to encourage compliance with the no entry regulation. While things have improved, there is still work to be done, not least reinstating the left turn arrow removed some time ago by Thames Water!

We'd like to reiterate just how proud and privileged we are to represent the ward, how impressed we've been at the evident care that the residents of Eton have in their community, and how we've already been welcomed so warmly by community groups to help make Eton, the ward, and borough a better place to live.





## NATURE WATCH - BEACH BIRDS

KEVIN MCNALLY

When my daughter was very young she delighted in seaside visits and she uniformly christened the mainly white birds she saw there as 'Beachbirds'.

This name has stuck in our family and nicely covers the Gulls and Terns this article will focus on. A particular question will be what are 'beachbirds' doing in beachless Windsor and Eton at all?

Gulls and Terns are members of the family Laridae which also includes Skimmers and Kittiwakes. Importantly naturalists do not recognise the term 'Seagull' as part of their classification (any more than they do 'beachbird') and we should use the term 'Gulls' to describe these familiar birds. This also has the advantage of removing the need to explain why Gulls are found commonly where there is no sea - it's food sources that unite them rather than salty water.

There are several Gulls found in our area with the most numerous being Common Gulls (*Larus canus*) and Black-headed Gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)



Black Headed Gull (in winter plumage)





## Common Gull

Identifying gulls accurately is challenging as many look similar and plumage can vary through the year - for instance Black headed gulls have black heads during the summer. Both the above gulls are quite small however (the Common gull is a little larger) and easy to tell apart from a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) which is much larger and the gull often found near rubbish dumps - as well as by the river.



## Herring Gull

These gulls (and the others occasionally seen in the area) are linked by their aggressive seeking of food. The smaller gulls are a little more dainty and normally eat fish near the water surface - but they will resolutely steal the food that you are trying to give to the swans and geese - often catching food thrown in the air. The larger gulls are aggressive scavengers and will eat pretty much anything - including the ice cream out of your hand! All gulls have stout, hooked bills and fully webbed feet apart from hind toes.

The beak is a simple way to tell them apart from their close relative - Terns. We are fortunate to have Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) in our area during the summer. This migratory visitor is, like all terns, an excellent flyer and an elegant bird. With a straight beak, slimmer body and better manners they are the very epitome of an ideal Beachbird.



## Common Tern



September saw the start of another busy term at Eton Pre-School. We have welcomed lots of new children and their families to our service. Our after school club is really buzzing with excitable new participants and the whole area is looking fabulous. As part of our fundraising last year we applied to the Eton Parish Education Trust to help with the cost of a much needed new kitchen. They were extremely generous in their response and we are delighted that we start our year with a kitchen ready to serve 60 snacks, 25 lunches and 25 teas to our attendees per day. We would like to send an enormous thank you to EPET and all those involved in making it happen, without your support it would not have been possible.

If you would like to hear more about us, please look on our website [www.etonpreschool.org](http://www.etonpreschool.org).

## KIDS PLAY – THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE

BEN UNDERWOOD -  
BARKER GALLERY



In last autumn's edition, I wrote a small piece on the burgeoning ornamental waterfowl collection in Eton behind the Barker Gallery on the High Street. I am pleased to report a very successful breeding season with a hatch of ringed teal now fully fledged and off to new homes. The collection has some new arrivals, a pair of chilean teal from the very southern tip of South America. I take great joy in showing people so do call by. What is heartening is that amongst the plastic toys and iPads my two daughters have taken a real interest in the birds. At the last Eton community ball, we were lucky enough to successfully bid for a day out with Swan Support, who do an excellent job looking after the waterfowl on the river. My daughter Occie very excited to have the opportunity to go out on the boat to help with the cygnet count and health check of the flock. Thanks to Swan Support for all your good work!



# ONLY ONE YOU

## ETON PORNY SCHOOL

EMMA STANFORD-SMITH  
HEAD TEACHER



At Eton Porny our whole school vision (pictured below) recognises that we are all unique and special. We are really proud to celebrate each person's skills, talents and differences and use this to learn from each other and learn how to live well together. As a Church of England School this vision is rooted in the Bible however we also use a picture book 'Only One You' by Linda Kranz to bring this to life for the children and families at school and make it accessible to all.

Over the summer we were delighted to have a local artist, Annalies, in school working on a beautiful mural to bring this vision to life visually in our school. This work was very kindly funded by a donation from The Baldwins Bridge Trust. The children designed their own fish from 'Only One You' and picked out their favourite quotes to inspire Annalies. We are so happy with the final result and it makes us smile everyday!





# IN HIS PRESENCE

REVD CAROLE GOODING

November seems to be a month for remembering. We begin on the 1st with All Saints Day, remembering the lives of many saints who have passed. The 2nd of the month marks All Souls Day remembering all our loved ones who are no longer with us. Then we have the 5th of November where we remember the 'gunpowder, treason and plot' of Guy Fawkes celebrating with fireworks. On the 11th November, at 11am we remember the end to hostilities during the first world war. This year there are services on the 12th November for this special occasion: 9.15 starting in the graveyard and then moving into the church for a service at St James the Less, Dorney. 10.55 in Eton just outside St John the Evangelist and then into the church. 2.30 at the memorial in Eton Wick, the Scouts will lead us to St John the Baptist and then we will have a service at 3pm. The Royal British Legion plays a very active role supporting serving and ex-serving personnel. They say: 'We remember those who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts; from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day. We also remember all those who have served and their families'. The church also has a special service of remembrance, Holy Communion, each Sunday, started by Jesus Christ. He asked us to remember when he died on the cross because of his love for us which means that we can be with him for eternity. We remember this act of love by taking bread and wine, representing his body and blood that was broken for us. As we enter into November, let us remember Christ's love and all that we can be grateful for.

## FOUNDERS DAY

ROSIE MAGGS



Founder's Day is an event in Eton's Michaelmas (Autumn term) calendar. It commemorates the man who founded Eton College: Henry VI.

Henry VI (6 December 1421- 21 May 1471) may be remembered for his part in starting the War of the Roses, a civil war in England from 1455-1485 or being known as a weak-willed individual who wasn't much suited for the role of King. But it is easy to forget the educational legacy he left behind. Not only did Henry VI found Eton College, he also founded King's College, Cambridge and All Souls College (Oxford). On Founders Day, Etonians come together to give thanks and recognise the hard work and dedication that went in to setting up the school by their founder.

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# Diary

16th November - 24th March - An Etonian Collector:  
The Richard Amis Bequest  
A new exhibition of fine art drawn from the Eton Collections.

## November

15th November - ECA Meeting, 18:30 - The Hop House at The George

16th November 2023 - Eton Christmas lights switch on (more info on page 18)

18th November - Eton College Founders Day, St Andrews Day Celebrations and the Wall Game.

## December

1st December - ECA Christmas Dinner, 19:00 - The Christopher (see newsletter for booking details)

### 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 - Second Thursday of Month - Eton Council Offices

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

Eton Information Centre - Call in for a chat with friendly staff, find out more about all things local and tell us your memories of living in Eton - Wednesday - Friday (Times TBC)

### 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



# Useful Numbers

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 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  |
| 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  |
| Fast Medical Help, Non-Emergency (NHS)                      | 111           |
| Doctors South Meadow Surgery (24 hr line)                   | 01753 833777  |
| (Appointments)  | 01753 832332  |
| Eton Pharmacy   | 01753 863819  |
| 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  |
| Library -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  |
| 24 hour line for key services – report illicit actions etc. | 01753 853517  |
| Swan Support  | 07968 868172  |

CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS IN



**THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER**

**Food stalls, fun-fair rides, music,  
dancing and all the fun of Christmas!**

Kicking off in and around Jubilee square from 5pm

The Chapel service is at 6pm followed by  
a Christmas procession with Father Christmas.

**Star of Windsor Pantomime, Kevin Cruise  
will be compering from 6:30pm**

Watch the Christmas lights switch on in  
Jubilee Square at 7pm

***Meet Father  
Christmas and  
his Reindeer!***

Tickets for the Chapel service will be available from  
the Eton Information Centre and Eton Stationers from 1st  
November

THIS IS AN ETON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENT  
[www.etoncommunity.co.uk](http://www.etoncommunity.co.uk) | [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk)

# TAKING COUNCIL

**BOB AUSTEN MBE**

TOWN CLERK, ETON TOWN COUNCIL

Tel: 01753 860377

Email:

[clerk@etontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@etontowncouncil.gov.uk)



This has been a very busy time for Eton Town Council with several new initiatives set in place to make the Council more pro-active and responsive.

Under the capable chairmanship of the Mayor, Cllr Malcolm Leach and his deputy, Cllr Linda Tarbox, the Council has created a number of working groups to augment the work being achieved by the three committees of the Council – Standing Committee, Environment Committee and Planning Committee. These working groups comprise the following:

- Business Working Group: to identify opportunities to increase customer traffic into the town and further the interests of local businesses.
- Highways & Footpaths Working Group: to monitor the condition of roads and footpaths across the whole parish and seek resolutions where needed.
- Promotion Working Group: to maximise the potential of the various Council facilities – Sports Hall, Recreation Grounds & Council Chamber. The latter offers an attractive space for business meetings and the Council is aiming to promote this opportunity vigorously.

Each committee and working group has a designated lead councillor, backed up by other councillors with particular interests in the subjects. Meetings of the full Council and its committees are open to the public, and agendas and minutes are published on the website. Eton Town Council is committed to transparency and welcomes residents to attend these meetings.

Working groups are rather more ad hoc in nature but residents can learn of their activities from the committees through which they report.

Issues that have concerned the Council in recent months include the following:

- The Cock Pitt – a magnificent building that should be the centre-piece of the High Street but has been hampered by endless delays by the planning authority. Eton Town Council has been actively supporting efforts to unblock the system and get the development on track.
- The Brocas – the Council engaged HM Probation Service ‘volunteers’ to help with clearing litter from the field boundaries which are often missed by the regular contractors.
- Public Slipway – alongside the local residents’ group, the Council has arranged for the area to be jet-washed and there is a regular maintenance regime in place to ensure it is kept clean and tidy.
- ASB – the Council continues to address issues as they arise, working with other stakeholders to reach swift resolutions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any problems and I shall do my best to help, either directly or by signposting to the correct authority.



## TOWN AND GOWN - NEW LOWER MASTER IN COLLEGE CHAPEL

PAUL WILLIAMS - LOWER MASTER AT ETON COLLEGE

It was a great honour and privilege to have been formally installed as Lower Master in College Chapel recently. All my teaching has been at Eton and all my married and family life has been here. Becky and I, along with our four children, have lived in various houses around the town and we have always felt that one of the very special things about teaching at Eton is the fact that we live in such a wonderful town. We are very much looking forward to returning to the centre of Eton in October so that popping down to shop on the High Street will be even easier than it is at the moment. We had family and friends with us last Christmas and as we walked over the Windsor Bridge and up the High Street, they commented on what a beautiful place it was. It was a good reminder to me of what I can easily take for granted – that we do live in a very special town. Our four children all went to Jacks (now Eton Pre-School) and then on to the Eton Porney School and so we have

many happy memories of bringing them to and from those over the years – being helped across the road by Janet or being taught by the excellent teachers at the Porney. My favourite photo from the High Street is one that a friend took when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth came across the Windsor Bridge and into Eton in 2002. The photo has the Queen in the foreground and me, with one of my children on my shoulders in the distance.

I have loved getting to know many of the traders on the High Street over the years and hope that in my new role, I will do so even more. Our daughter has worked in Eton Stationers whilst two of our three sons have worked in one of the tailors – that was very much part-time and so I don't think that they can count as traders themselves! I trust that I will still be able to enjoy being on the High Street and won't be constantly thinking whether or not boys are where they shouldn't be at that particular time!



# ONCE IN A BLUE MOON



The full moon on 30 August was a supermoon and a Blue Moon - blue by name and not by colour (in case you were wondering). They normally occur every two or three years and are when two full moons appear in the same month. We typically have 12 full moons each year, with each of these having their own name, such as Strawberry Moons, Harvest Moons or Worm Moons.

But Blue Moons are a bit different. The cycle of the Moon - the time it takes to go through its different phases - takes 29.5 days to complete.

This means that 12 full cycles take 354 days, which is less than the 365 days (or 366 days) in our calendar year. This 13th full moon of the year does not fit with the normal naming scheme, so is instead referred to as a Blue Moon. This has led to the phrase 'once in a Blue Moon', meaning something that doesn't happen very often.

## ACADEMY INSURANCE

ALAN LAWRENCE



We were hoping to announce Academy Insurance arrival in Eton with a brass band, flags and an open day. We moved our office from Slough High Street in December 2020 a few months before the covid lockdown. So we just quietly got on with our business helping our existing and new customers. Our office is at Rafts Court between The George and The Watermans Arms if you blink you could miss us. But our office is always open for our customers old and new and we welcome you all to come in for a chat about your insurance. So far we have managed to help some of our local clients with their car, home and business insurances. We have a very experienced team and specialise in all types of insurance.

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# LEAD IN BUILDINGS

## ETON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Do you know that until it was banned in 1992, lead was used to make some kinds of paint – particularly for use on windows, doors, and other woodwork, as well as for some metal items like radiators? If your home was built before the 1960s and given the age of many properties in Eton & Eton Wick (we have 138 listed buildings alone!), there could be some lead around.

It was also applied to lime plaster in grander buildings, and we certainly have many of those in our beautiful, historic town! Believe it or not, from 1963 onwards, UK manufacturers labelled paints containing lead with the warning ‘do not apply on surfaces which might be chewed by children.’

And in May this year, a mum in Kent made the news after revealing her son had lead poisoning after chewing on door frames in their council house. The young boy has a condition called Pica, a feeding disorder in which someone eats non-food substances. Lead is particularly dangerous for children as they absorb four to five times as much ingested lead as adults. Pregnant women are also vulnerable as they can pass along high lead levels to their unborn children, stunting their development.

According to the World Health Organisation, there is no safe level of lead exposure. In the UK, landlords are not legally obliged to disclose whether a building they are renting or selling contains lead paint.

The easiest way of dealing with lead paintwork – if it’s in good condition – is to seal it in with an overcoating of modern paint. This is the cheapest option, as lead paint is only dangerous when it is peeling off and emitting lead particles into the air. But if the paintwork is in bad condition and needs to be removed before you can decorate, use methods that don’t create dust or fumes, like a solvent or caustic-based liquid stripper. If you have to use a hot-air gun, use it just enough to soften the paint – don’t burn it because this will release fumes.

However, if you are in any doubt, please consider having a lead paint survey carried out by an accredited company like Eton Environmental Group. Our lead paint sampling service helps householders and businesses to assess risks, prevent or control exposure to lead, and put other measures in place to protect people as far as reasonably practicable.

Our trained operatives can carry out sampling and these samples will be analysed by an independent UKAS accredited laboratory to determine the lead content. A full report will then be provided and should hazardous lead paint materials be identified, we will work with you to agree the best course of action, including project managing the safe removal of the materials, if required.



# WE MAKE COMPLIANCE SIMPLE

## OUR SERVICES

Eton Environmental Group provides a range of health and safety building compliance services. We operate nationwide and offer a free, no-obligation consultation if you are concerned you may not be complying with the law.



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# WINDSOR AND ETON FOOTBALL

ALAN LAWRENCE

December 1983 third round proper draw live on radio BBC 2.

Windsor and Eton or Bournemouth v Manchester Utd.

Supporting Windsor and Eton in the 80's was easy.

League titles, cup wins and F A cup runs were the norm. Opposition included Wimbledon, Bournemouth, Torquay, Brentford, Gillingham. Friendlies also included Arsenal and Red Star Belgrade.

As a 14 year old watching local football we were spoilt, we were that good.

For the next 30 years we had success, we had promotions, relegations, cup wins, a winding up order and a new name Windsor FC.

For the last few seasons we seemed to be just treading water, we had a rolling monthly lease on the ground, a relegation last year and some unrest in the loyal local support.

Something had to change.

Step forward Mark Cooper (ex player and manager and now co chairman) and Paul Mitchel (youth team chairman).

A new name, well sort of back to Windsor and Eton F.C.

This is now one club that incorporates the men's team, youth team from under 7s to under 18s with plans for a ladies team, a veterans team and a differently abled team.

The new chairman has secured a 25 year lease from the crown which will now allow us to put

some firm foundations again at Stag Meadow. The ground is dying for development to keep up with our neighbours Slough Town, Ascot and Bracknell who have left us behind. Plans are afoot so watch this space.

The new Windsor and Eton team are currently playing in the Thames Valley Premier League. This is a step 7 league a long way below where we were when I first started watching them. But we have to start somewhere. There is something happening at Stag Meadow. The community has really got behind the team and the first home game had an attendance of 1022.

This was followed by two 400 plus attendances at the next two games. There is free entry to all the games, a well stocked bar from the Windsor Brewery. An unbeaten team as of the 11/09/2023 and a massive amount of optimism surrounding the place. Last season we were lucky if we had 70 people watching, this season we are seeing mums, dads, grandparents and kids in attendance.

The Windsor youth team players can now see a clear route from youth to adults football. Before Windsor were losing all their best players to their local rivals. So the message to all Windsor and Eton residents is you have a football team(s) come down and get involved or bring the family down and lend your support.



# ETON'S LOST GARDEN

BRIAN HOARE - RETIRED BUILDINGS BURSAR, ETON COLLEGE

Celebrating his 60th birthday milestone in 1911, Edward Littleton "Toddy" Vaughan, bachelor Eton House Master acquired, from the College, the lease of a 2 acre plot of former meadow land across the bordered willow tree stream, a tributary of the Thames, north of The Field in Eton adjacent to the Slough Road. With intended retirement in mind, Toddy commissioned architect Edmond Warre to design a house in the Arts and Crafts style. On completion in 1913 the property, was designated "The Marches, Willowbrook, Eton " and became bachelor Toddy's principal home for nine years. In 1922 his life changed as he married Irish lady Dorothea Waller. As a wedding present Toddy commissioned the then foremost English design partnership of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens to transform the grounds between House and brook. Apart from pollarding of the willows little had been done since 1913 so Gertrude and Edwin had a not quite blank canvas. Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944) and Miss Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) were arguably the most celebrated English domestic Architect and Garden designers of the 1890-1930 period. As individuals they became eminent in their own professions and as a partnership in small landscape design they were unrivalled; together they designed 112 schemes, of which just 3 are in Bucks/ Berks including this one in Eton. Miss Jekyll introduced laurel hedges. Ferns, heuchera, begonias, artemisia a whole range of colourful

and scented plants many of rare varieties. All of these encouraging bio diversity in a new habitat demonstrating the important role gardens play in nature. Bisgrove<sup>(1)</sup> describes the overall effect of The Marches garden " The setting is important. With deft touches, the whole scheme is unified into a single picture, cool green and ivory, gradually building up in a heavy crescendo of orange and red flanking the view out across the pool and lawn"

This is shown to effect in the full watercolour by Liz Pepperell. Miss Jekyll was trained as an artist. At the age of 83 her design for The Marches defines her lifelong planting principles. Postscript, The Vaughans employed a full time gardener. On Dorothea's death in 1954 The Marches reverted to Eton College where it became mostly multi occupied as a Masters Colony. Over the last 70 years or so the original two acre site has been subject to some new house redevelopment as Vaughan Copse but The Marches remains. Edwin Lutyens was knighted. The original Garden designs are held in Berkeley, University of California with some copies in Eton College Collections.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Bisgrove, Richard (1992) The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll



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## AN UNLIKELY PLAYWRIGHT

### JANE SPELLER

If someone had told me three years ago that I would write a play, let alone a quartet of plays, I would have laughed. True I had written some sketches and material for the fundraising shows I have put on over the years, when I could not find enough suitable material. But not a play. But suddenly, needs must. A fundraising idea was needed and not a show. I had started a monologue for myself called Amazing Grace, mapped it out and then written four scenes. After which I decided that the audience would get very bored just listening to my voice droning on. So Amazing Grace was shelved. So... I had this 'thing' sitting in my computer going nowhere.

It occurred to me that I might be able to turn Amazing Grace into a play? No longer a monologue but have other characters brought in as well. A challenge. Suddenly I was off. Writing text for three actors.

How to set the play? It was to be performed in St John the Evangelist, in Eton. So, I decided to turn Agatha and Grace into a play within a play. Two actresses, Alice and Ellen, would read a radio play with a character called Bert being a radio producer. The format was born!

Agatha and Grace premiered on 9th October 2022. To my surprise it was well received, and we raised over £600. I performed with Mark and Tanya Beeton, both experienced actors.

By the time Agatha and Grace was being performed I had written three other plays, all in the same format. Two actresses and a radio producer gather to record a play.

The Coffee Break Detectives was performed on 2nd October 2023. This time I was lucky enough to have two professional actor/directors to perform with me, Sophie Spencer and Peter Broad. Again, the play was well received. We made £766 for the new church hall at Eton Wick.

That now leaves The Bluebird Brooch and The Annual Village Pageant, currently in first draft format, and which need licking into shape.

I have been asked how I get the ideas for the plays. The honest answer is... I don't know. I just sit at my computer and start typing. The dialogue and storylines just pop into my head. At times I find it hard to type fast enough to keep up with my thoughts.

I am very lucky to have a great supportive team behind me. I must thank The Rev La Stacey for her encouragement and support. Duncan Reed does a wonderful job with ticket sales and publicity. I could not manage without my Front of House Manager, Stephen Baker, and a host of kind friends who help me dress the set or help on the day. The plays are very much a team effort.

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