



*Floreat Etona*

March 2022

Issue 27

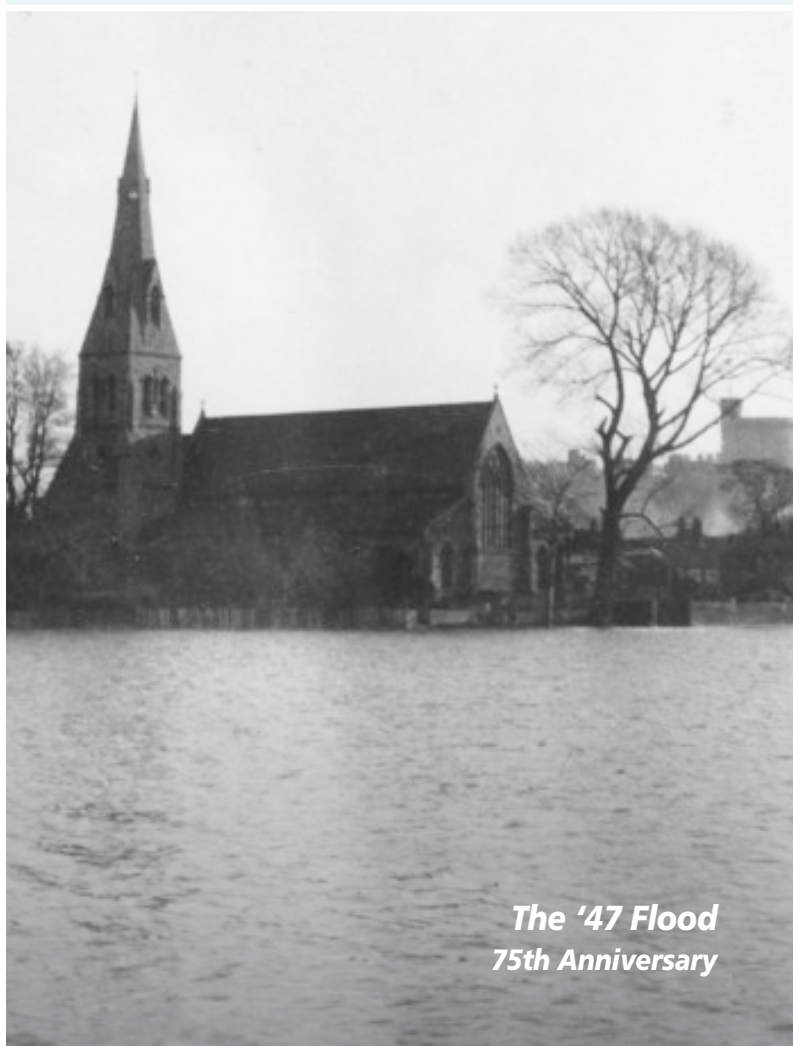
# Eton *Matters*

***Eton  
Montem***

***Ghosts  
and Graves***

***Eton's  
Pipemakers***

***Eton  
Information Centre***



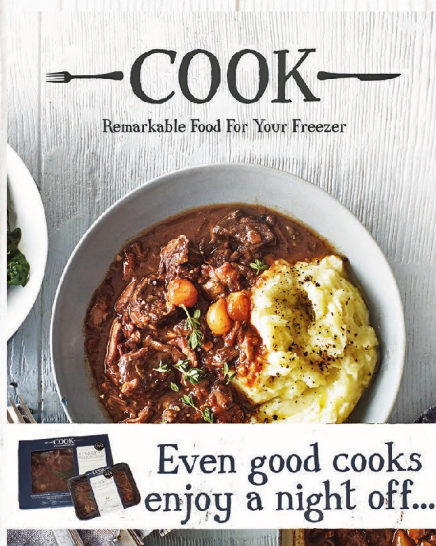
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75th Anniversary***

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## Chair's Chat

*Ros Rivaz - ECA Chair*



The light evenings are here, and we have more freedom following the COVID announcements. However, we are aware that everyone will have been touched in some way by the pandemic and there is still a road ahead of us all before we can consider it over.

Despite COVID, we've been busy! The ever-popular Christmas lights switch on event was excellent, despite the challenges that were thrown to Karen, Stephen and Paul Roach. Christmas Dinner at The Christopher was such fun, with everyone being verified COVID safe beforehand. We've held face to face ECA meetings at the Hop House of The George, where the space and window/ door arrangement is optimum. The litter picks have also been a regular occurrence and in January, College gave us a private showing of their Collections' exhibitions. Sincere thanks to all our committee who have led on different events and to The George for use of the Hop House and Eaten Café, who provide the bacon butties 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](http://www.etoncommunity.co.uk)!

The Eton & Eton Wick Information Centre goes from strength to strength; Barbara and the team deserve a thank you - see Page 24! And thank you to Cllr Samantha Rayner for reinforcing our requests to RBWM. She also judged the winners of the Christmas Window Display competition, The Christopher Hotel and Don Beni.

### Forthcoming Eton Community Association Meetings

Mar 2nd @ Hop House George PH; April 13th or 20th tbc; May 18th AGM; July 6th

**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, Richer Sounds, Academy Insurance, Vario Press, Beechwood Interiors, Fresh 'N' Fine, My Handyman, Eton Cycles, Salamandra, Eton College, Eaten Café, Lawsons Residential and Susan Handy Dance. **Peter Eaton, Editor**

### Eton Community Association and Eton Matters Information

ECA Chair - Ros Rivaz- [chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:chairman@etoncommunity.co.uk)

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EM Editor - Peter Eaton - [editor@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:editor@etoncommunity.co.uk)

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# Eton Montem

*David Tredor - Eton Resident*

Did you get any of your Covid jabs at the Salt Hill Centre near the centre of Slough? Well nearby is a mound which has a long-standing connection with Eton College.

Eton Montem (literally meaning “to the mountain”) was first reported in 1561, becoming a tradition where Eton boys processed to the mound in Montem Lane, Slough in fancy or military style dress. Initially it seems to have been an initiation ceremony for new boys, who were scattered with salt (which can mean ‘wit’ as well as ‘salt’) at the mound.

Until 1758, Montem was held annually in January. The timing was then moved to the more clement weather of Whitsun Tuesday and the festival became biennial. In 1778, the frequency was reduced further so that Montem was only celebrated once every three years.

By the 18th century, the ceremony had become a glorified flag day. Salt was no longer scattered on scholars; instead, pinches of salt and little blue tickets were sold to passers-by. The blue ticket acted as an exemption from further contributions) for ‘salt’ – money that went towards the anticipated expenses of the Captain of the School (the senior Colleger) at King’s College, Cambridge. Collecting was restricted to two ‘salt-bearers’ (also senior boys at the college) and ten or twelve ‘servitors’ or ‘runners’ who between them covered all the roads around Eton and Windsor.



Over its time, the event seems to have become bigger, becoming eventually a semi-military muster of the whole school. Crowds and royalty (including at various times George III and Queen Charlotte, George IV, William IV, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) flocked to see the event. Towards the end of the ceremony's life, more than £1000 would typically be collected in salt, but this was before

expenses, leaving substantially less for the Captain.

The final Montem in 1844 followed the opening of the Great Western Railway and attracted large and rowdy crowds from London. In view of this (and the much-diminished profit to be made), headmaster Edward Craven Hawtrey and Provost Francis Hodgson abolished the custom before the 1847 Montem. The reduced anticipated profit can be seen from the fact that the Captain was compensated with a payment of £200.





## ETON COLLEGE COLLECTIONS

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### Museum & Gallery Openings

On Sunday Afternoons, the Museum of Antiquities, the Museum of Eton Life, the Natural History Museum and the Verey Gallery are open to the public **2:30 —5:00pm**.

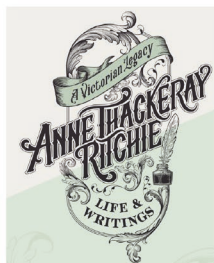
Visits are **free** and you are welcome to **drop in** anytime during opening hours. For further information about our current **exhibitions**, please see:

[collections.etoncollege.com/visit-us/](https://collections.etoncollege.com/visit-us/)



*Henry VI*

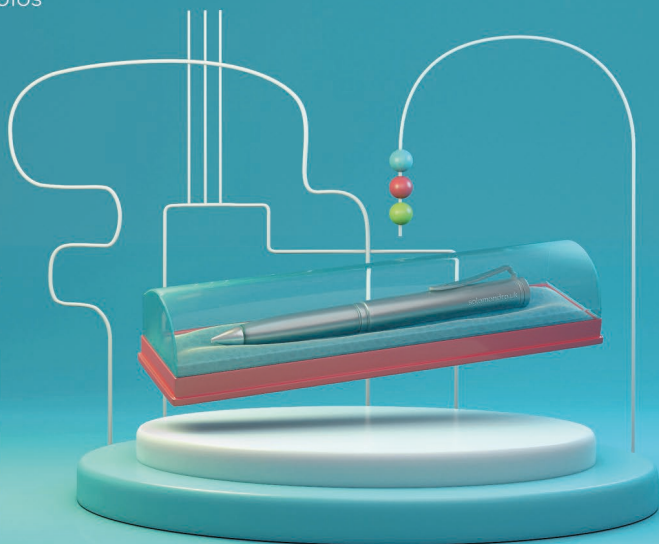
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# Ghosts and Graves

Framed by the lych gate, In the shadows of the flint Eton Cemetery Chapel and flanked by stone memorials commemorating the war dead, lie the burial places, distanced by some 40 years, of two acknowledged connoisseurs of supernatural literature; M R James and Margaret Oliphant.



Montague Rhodes James (1862-1936) OM MA, (centre back) a brilliant medieval scholar, antiquary and expert on Bible-apocrypha, was once described as "the cleverest man in Britain". He is now best remembered, by the general public, for his two collections of "Ghost stories of an Antiquary", written originally as chilling Christmas Eve entertainments for fellow dons at Kings College, Cambridge, where he was Provost (1906-1918) and later for Masters at Eton College, his old school, where he also became Provost (1918-1936).

M R, known affectionately as Monty, was born in 1862 at Goodnestone

Parsonage in Kent, the son of curate Herbert James. A precocious boy, he won a scholarship to Eton in 1875. At that time Francis Oliphant, elder of two sons of Margaret Oliphant, entered the sixth form.

Monty shone at Eton culminating in winning the most prestigious academic award, the Newcastle Scholarship in 1882, before entering Kings College Cambridge further distinguishing himself becoming Junior Dean then Fellow. An outstanding linguist he learned Aramaic and Hebrew for his biblical studies. His light relief became his annual Christmas Eve ghost stories read to members of the Cambridge Chit Chat Club. An enthusiastic member of the amateur dramatic society Monty was ideally suited to portrayal of chilling character. At Eton he wrote "The Wailing Well" for a scout camp and "After dark in the Playing Fields" for an ephemeral.

Monty knew of the ghostly works of Mrs Oliphant. He considered "The Open Door" one of the really good ghost stories, where "the elements of beauty and pity dominate terror".

At her peak in the second half of the Victorian era, Mrs Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897) (top left with sons) was one of the most popular, successful and prolific authors of the

# Brian Hoare

*Former Eton Resident*

time. Born near Musselburgh Scotland she became the best-selling writer of over 160 novels, novellas and shorter works of fiction, travel, literary criticism and biographies, latterly of Queen Victoria (who reportedly regarded her as her favourite author). As a widow she earned sufficiently well to send her two remaining sons to Eton and to raise her brother's family, moving to Windsor c1866 to be near them. By this time she was already a public celebrity.

Mrs Oliphant responded to the growing public interest in the supernatural in 1876 beginning a series of annual publications of "Stories of the seen and unseen" featuring



tales of ghosts, spirits apparitions and (foretelling fellow Scot JK Rowling?) wizards.

Hers was a tragic personal life; she became familiar with death. She lost three children in infancy and her husband to tuberculosis. Her two surviving sons both died in their 30's. Still mourning their passing she too died in Windsor in 1897 where she is commemorated by a Blue Plaque on her house in Clarence Road. Such was her status she has a Memorial to her in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. She is buried, marked in a striking trio of gravestones, with her two sons Cyril (1856 -1890) and Francis Romano (1859-1894).

Monty died peacefully at Eton, unmarried but not alone. The University, his books and

Eton were his life. His headstone is inscribed from Ephesians 11; "No more a sojourner but a fellow citizen with the Saints and of the household of God".

Sources/Acknowledgements

Ghosts and Scholars/Rosemary Pardoe; Bucks Garden Trust





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## *Honours for Local Couple*



Lynne & Philip Highy were delighted to be awarded British Empire medals in the recent Queen's 2021 Birthday Honours list.

Philip has worked at Eton College for over 37 years and was an active Councillor for over 20 years including holding the position as Mayor for 8 years. Lynne is a familiar face in Eton walking the trainee Guide Dog puppies or as a nurse helping with the flu vaccines at the Doctors surgery. Both Lynne and Philip were instrumental in helping organise four "Street parties" in Eton along with other voluntary work in Eton.

They were awarded their medals for many years of charity work in the local community but especially for extended support during the Covid 19 pandemic in Eton & Eton Wick. In a recent awards ceremony hosted by Mr James Puxley, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, they were presented with their medals.

The following quotes were used in their citations:

"Working tirelessly to raise the profile of the parish".

"Active fundraiser for many years".

"Unwavering support to the community".

"Been involved with many charities and fundraising over the years including helping to raise awareness of Stroke & Prostate cancer."

Congratulations to both Lynne and Philip - well deserved!

# Naturewatch - Herons, Storks and Cranes

*Kevin McNally - Eton Resident*

I was recently reading one of Mick Herron's excellent 'Slough House' novels (number five as it happens) when it occurred to me that Herrons (or rather Herons) are something we regularly see along the river here at Windsor and Eton.

The heron we see on the riverbank (or in fields close by) is the Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*). One of Britain's largest birds they are often spotted standing motionless waiting for prey. A lightening stab and the purpose of the spear like bill becomes clear. Britain's only large resident heron, they are easy to recognise with their grey and white plumage, black stripe above the eye and significant orange bill. Their closest British relatives (egrets and bitterns) look quite different and are of smaller size. You would be very lucky to catch an extremely occasional visit from their European cousin the Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) which is of similar size to the Grey but with darker colouration.

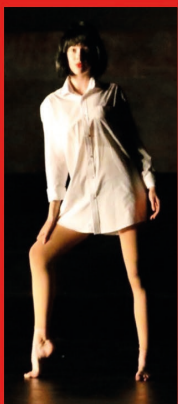


In flight the Grey Heron keeps its neck retracted into the familiar S-shape and this coupled with long trailing legs makes it relatively simple to identify in the air. Our Grey Herons do not migrate and breed in colonies called Heronries. These are often in the tops of trees and consist of sometimes hundreds of large untidy nests containing 3 or 4 eggs apiece. After hatching the young fledge in about six weeks.

Like most birds they are easy to disturb and will fly off (often an inconveniently long distance) if your approach is too noisy or rapid. With patience however it is possible to get quite close and thus they make a satisfying photographic subject being large and stationary. If you are interested in bird photography then here is a good subject to move to after exhausting your capacity to photograph the ducks, geese and swans nearby. Over time herons do get more used to human proximity and will tolerate an even closer approach making even a medium telephoto a useful tool. There are a couple of herons in the ponds at Cliveden that are well used to the public walking by.

What about storks and cranes? Well, in the next edition of Eton Matters, I will share whether we should be looking out for storks and cranes as well...and how would we spot the difference?

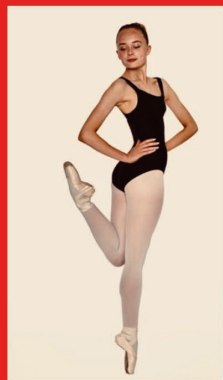
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ETON WINDSOR DATCHET OLD WINDSOR ETONWICK WOKING ICKENHAM RICHMOND



## Eton Porny School

Katherine Russell  
Head Teacher

At Eton Porny School we are pleased to finally be able to return to some of the more 'normal' school experiences.

At Christmas time, we were able to have our traditional theatre visits. Reception had a theatre company come into school to perform and the rest of the school went to Windsor Theatre to watch the pantomime.

The whole school have benefitted from and really enjoyed having a range of trips, visits and visitors to support them with engaging with their topics and enhance their learning.



We have also been able to offer a full range of clubs and participation has been high across the school. The children have been busy enjoying a range of sporting activities including fencing, football, rugby and dance, creative opportunities, computing skills including coding and animation as well as chess and Latin!



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



## *Kid's Play - Competition Winners!*

*Barbara Hunt - Operational Lead, Eton Information Centre*



Do you remember Christmas; has it really been 2 months since then! The children from Eton Porny School made sustainable Christmas decorations and entered a competition to find the best ones. The competition was run by the Eton Information Centre. The children used egg shells, twigs, card, corks and all sorts. The winning entries were displayed at 79a Eton High Street, opposite the Eton Information Centre for all of us to enjoy. Well done Eton Porny!

*Sue Christodoulou from the Eton Information Centre welcomed the winners and presented their prizes.*

## *Eton Pre-School*

*Sue Clifford - Manager*



We have been really busy at Eton Pre-School, as always, with lots of play and learning. We are working hard on making sure our children get as much time outside as possible... even in the cold weather!

Did you know that the recommendation for children of three to five years, for active play, is 180 minutes a day? That's 3 hours. Do your children get 3 hours of activity a day?? We aim for the pre-school children to get to as near to this target as possible. Active play is not just running around, although we do lots of that, but it also includes climbing, balancing, building, scooting. Added to that anything in the classroom that isn't sedentary, so lots of things to keep our brain working too as well as our muscles. If you want to get in touch to hear what we have been up to contact us on [www.etonpreschool.org](http://www.etonpreschool.org) or chat to Tessa on 01753 850842.

# *In His Presence*

*Rev. La Stacey*

*Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church*



Something I read the other day made me sad. A student of philosophy was claiming Christianity taught that matter and spirit are split. As far as I know Christianity teaches no such thing. In fact it is one of the heresies that the Council of Chalcedon sought to correct in AD451! The whole point was that the material and the spiritual are never split in Jesus' life. Matter has spiritual significance.

Maybe what the philosophy student had picked up is that it is not an easy path to follow: much of what calls itself 'Christianity' gets somewhat skewed. It gets turned back into a purity code, where people think they have to jump through hoops in order to get a ticket into 'heaven', some distant place, distinct from the created world.

I rather think Jesus had something completely different in mind, which is why he got in so much trouble.

Jesus shocked religious folks by spending his time with the people society condemned. He really annoyed the upstanding, hard-working, sensible and steady folk of his day by refusing to abide by their purity codes, or their shaming codes, or their searches for scapegoats. At the time of Jesus, religious practice mostly sought to eliminate what was classified as 'sin'. They tried to push away anything 'bad' that didn't quite match their standards of perfection. So, for example, priests with certain kinds of disabling physical conditions were forbidden to serve at the altar

Jesus came with different wisdom. If you continually try to push away imperfection you end up pretending - a pretence that outwardly everything is fine, whereas inwardly, behind closed doors, things are rotten. This is where the split comes from. You pretend that what you do with your body in the material world around you has no effect on the perfect image-world you carry in your head.

Jesus shows a different way. We are called instead to notice the hurts and harms in ourselves and in society and treat them caringly. Do you remember the story of the 'Good Samaritan' where the very person, the Samaritan, who was considered the enemy of the man lying hurt, was the one who carried him and rescued him? The Samaritan is meant to represent God in the story. That is a bit shocking: the baddie representing the supremely Good God. 'Go and do the same' says Jesus. We are meant to imitate the God who carries and cares for hurts and weaknesses. There is no splitting out our material lives from any supposed spiritual dimension where everything is perfect. As we learn to integrate our whole being, redemption becomes a reality. We'll stop trying to pretend the problems of over-consumption, or corruption, or unkindness are someone else's problem, and we'll find much more constructive and joyous ways of living together. Let's go and do likewise!

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# Diary

## Mar

2nd 18.30 – Eton Community Association meeting – Hop House, George PH

## Apr

13th or 20th 18.30 – Eton Community Association meeting – Date/venue tbc

13th 18.30 – Shared Supper & Communion – St. John the Baptist Church, Eton Wick

15th 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

15th 16.00 – Messy Easter – St John the Evangelist, Eton

17th 5.45 – Sunrise Service – St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

## May

18th 18.30 – Eton Community Association meeting AGM – Venue tbc

## 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

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

**Crafty Creations** – Alternate Wednesdays - 14.00 – 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)

(Sundays – 11.00 & 16.30 Services - St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick)

**Our Lady of Sorrows (Catholic)** - Service – Sundays – 09.30

## South Meadow Strollers

*Sociable Exercise for Active Senior Citizens Living in Eton*

Meeting every Tuesday at 10am in South Meadow, *(by kind permission of the Provost and Fellows of Eton College)*, the Strollers walk up and down a football pitch dribbling a football.

If you are one of Eton's active senior citizens then come along for some fun and exercise or email: [secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk](mailto:secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk) for details. Spectators welcome.

After strolling why not gather at a nearby café for coffee and chat.





## Useful Numbers

<b>Churches</b>	St John the Evangelist (Vicar)	01753 852268
	Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton Court	01753 542862
<b>Community Warden</b>		01628 685636
<b>Council Offices, Eton</b>	Bob Austen, Town Clerk	01753 860377
<b>Councillor (RBWM)</b>	Samantha Rayner	07811 974442
<b>Emergency</b>	Fire/Ambulance/Police	999
<b>Eton College</b>		01753 370100
<b>Eton Community Association</b>	Chair	07734 073117
<b>Eton Porny School</b>		01753 861995
<b>Eton Pre-School</b>		01753 850842
<b>Healthcare</b>	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
<b>Library</b>	Mobile	07766 366719
	Renewal Hotline	0303 123 0035
<b>Natural History Museum</b>	Eton (curator)	01753 370602
<b>Police</b>	Crime in Progress	999
	Non-Emergency	101
<b>River Authority</b>	Environment Agency (gen. enquiries)	03708 506 506
	Floodline	0345 988 1188
<b>Royal Borough Of Windsor And Maidenhead (customer care)</b>		01628 683800
	24 hour line for key services – report illicit actions, late night noise, dangerous structures, etc.	01753 853517
<b>Swan Support</b>		07968 868172



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# Taking Council

*Bob Austen, Town Clerk, Eton Town Council*

*Tel: 01753 860377*

*email: [clerk@etontc.uk](mailto:clerk@etontc.uk)*



I have been asked by a number of residents what are the responsibilities of Eton Town Council?

Town and parish councils are the smallest areas of civil administration in England and provide the tier of local government closest to the people. They are an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent.

Specific Eton Town Council (ETC) responsibilities are as follows:

- **Allotments:** ETC is responsible for the allotments at Eton Wick which are sited on land owned by RBWM and leased to ETC. The allotments are managed by Eton Wick Allotment Society.
- **Public Buildings:** The Council Offices in Eton are leased from RBWM and the Council Chamber is used by local community groups.
- **Grants:** ETC can consider grant applications from local community groups. Currently, the Council grants funds annually to Eton Community Association and Eton Wick Village Association.
- **Litter & Dog Waste:** ETC provides litter bins and dog waste bins on ETC owned and RBWM leased land.
- **Planning Applications:** ETC analyses all planning applications within the parish and makes its recommendations to RBWM Planning. Town councillors seek to obtain the views of local residents ahead of ETC meetings.
- **Play Areas:** The Council manages the 3 play areas in the parish.
- **Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces:** ETC manages 4 recreation grounds in the parish and the flower beds at Watermans Arms, Jubilee Square and Baldwins Bridge.
- **Riparian Responsibilities:** The Council maintains the banks of the watercourses in Eton Wick that flow alongside Haywards Mead Recreation Ground and Bell Lane Open Area.
- **Benches:** The Council owns and maintains benches in Eton Memorial Gardens, outside the Council Offices and in the 4 recreation grounds.
- **Trees Maintenance & Biodiversity:** The Council seeks to ensure that the large number of trees within the parish are maintained in a safe and healthy condition. Additionally, ETC works with local environmental groups to encourage biodiversity in green areas.
- **Liaising with local stakeholders** on issues affecting the community.
- **Maintaining a watching brief** on all roads within the parish to check for problems and report accordingly. Each town councillor has responsibility for a specific area.

Please inform me if you have any problems and I shall do my best to resolve them.



## *Eton within the Borough*

*Samantha Rayner*

*RBWM Councillor for Eton and Castle*

This is a very exciting year for Eton as we celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne. The celebrations will begin on 6th February, accession day. Eton being in view of the castle has a very special connection with this.

I'm delighted Eton is going to be central to local Jubilee events. This year with the long bank holiday in June there is the opportunity to have street parties. Over the bridge in Windsor please come to the Long Walk where there are 4 days of events and entertainments.

It's great to see Eton once again busy after the last 2 years of the pandemic. The car parks are showing that the usage is now at pre pandemic levels and will increase. This is a very encouraging sign and tribute to the hard work of all the businesses and residents making it an attractive and important destination.

It was a huge pleasure to see how hard the shops and businesses worked to make Eton look magical for Christmas and the beautiful displays. All this makes such a huge difference. Thank you so much to the ECA for organising the best window displays and it was a privilege to judge - a very hard choice with the joint winners from the Christopher Hotel and Don Beni.

Thank you also to the Information Centre which is growing in strength and providing a hub of local talent as well as information.

Swan Support have had huge challenges this year with Bird Flu and worked extremely hard keeping wildlife and pets safe. To have a strong local charity doing this work really makes a great support when emergencies like this happen.

The planning team at RBWM have been working for many years on the Local Borough Plan which sets out the housing and infrastructure framework to guide development etc. for 2013- 2033. It is now ready to be adopted at council on 8th February. This has been an enormous piece of work but secures the future housing supply, industrial areas and protects our green spaces and heritage. This is important to Eton and works with your Neighbourhood Plan to give a strong planning document with weight.

We are immensely privileged to be your local representatives in the Borough and please do let us know how we can help you with council matters.

### **Contact your Councillors**

Cllr. Samantha Rayner	email: <a href="mailto:cllrS.rayner@rbwm.gov.uk">cllrS.rayner@rbwm.gov.uk</a>	phone: 07811 974442
Cllr. John Bowden	email: <a href="mailto:cllr.bowden@rbwm.gov.uk">cllr.bowden@rbwm.gov.uk</a>	phone: 07905 906957
Cllr. Shamsul Shelim	email: <a href="mailto:cllr.shelim@rbwm.gov.uk">cllr.shelim@rbwm.gov.uk</a>	phone: 07958 412650



## Town & Gown

*Peter McKee - Vice Provost, Eton College*



I first came to live in Eton in September 1994 and have called this beautiful place my home ever since. For a Belfast-born, 'dyed in the wool' Irishman that is no small thing to say, but I have always felt very at home here. My young son is always amazed that, when he and I set off down the High Street together, it takes quite a while to get from the College to the bridge, because there are so many people to stop and chat with on the way. "Do you know everyone in Eton, Dad?" is a question he has asked me on numerous occasions.

Eton is, for me, much more than just the High Street, although that is the beating heart of the place; I have also grown to love the immediate surroundings. Dogs have played a big part in our lives here; we had numerous Chocolate Labradors, from which we bred even more. They were

mostly well behaved and loved the wide open space on the Brocas and long walks along the tow path.

The strong sense of community has always struck me and, although it always feels a bit different when the Eton boys are away on school holidays, it seems to still thrive, perhaps just a little more peacefully! That sense of community has undoubtedly mattered a great deal in these last two years; let us hope that the coming months see continued positive steps and the steady return of the visitors, who come to soak up the atmosphere and history of our community. We have come through some sad times and, as the snowdrops come out, it is so important to look forward with eager anticipation to happier days ahead. I know that the main events for the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee are planned for later in the year and that they are certainly to be looked forward to; but in a place with such strong royal connections we shall surely not miss the opportunity to 'raise a glass' in the loyal toast on February 6th as Her Majesty completes seventy years on the throne.

*Sometimes adversity brings opportunities.*

During Covid-19 closures I had time to develop our Hot Chocolate Connoisseur Menu - Come and Enjoy! - Chef Sybil

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## Eton's Forgotten Industry - Pipemakers

*Martin Jones - J. Manley Gallery*

Clay pipes were used for smoking tobacco from the mid 16th century until the early 20th and I often unearth fragments on my Staines allotment. In 2020 one small find caught my attention; a pipe mouthpiece just an inch in length bearing the incomplete inscription 'J.SMIT' on one side and 'ETON' on the other.

Curiosity piqued, the internet led me to an article describing how potter Eric Ayto came to Eton in 1970 searching for evidence of a pipemaker named Atherton.

Eric's subsequent research revealed over 200 years of pipemaking in Eton and more than 40 associated names, the earliest recorded being that of a Richard Robinson in 1689.

Records from 1839 showed Eric's pipemaker, J.Atherton, at 24 Brocas Street. The buildings are long gone but Eton residents will have guessed the location already, as 'Atherton Court' which now occupies the site.

Mid 19th century pipe fragments found in a field in Eton Wick bore the names ' Mary and Anne Norwood' showing that this wasn't a trade exclusively for men. The Norwood family were making pipes in Eton as early as 1797 with Richard Norwood being Eton's last pipemaker, working from King Stable Street retiring before his death in 1914. This building was demolished in 1930 on the orders of his daughter as it blocked sunlight to her home at no. 20, thus explaining the gap between nos. 20 and 22 that we see today.

It appears the fragment I found was from a pipe manufactured by brothers John and James Smith who originally worked for Richard Norwood in the late 1800s. The Smiths started their own workshop when their cottage at 21 Eton Square was connected to the gas supply. Sadly, no. 21 was pulled down in 1974.

Evidence of this industry can still be found locally. I recently spotted two large fragments of clay pipe in St. John's churchyard. Although unmarked, I like to think they were made by one of Eton's many pipemakers.





# Eton Information Centre

Barbara Hunt - Operational Lead



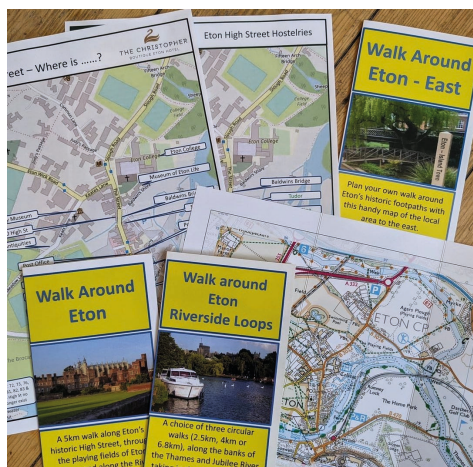
The Centre opened in June 2019 and whilst Covid provided a bumpy start, an awful lot has been achieved. The remit always has been to inform and educate whilst supporting the local economy and to this end Eton Information Centre has created walking maps, offered Walkway tours of the town for groups and individuals, sharing Eton's rich heritage, and led by members of the Information Centre team. A downloadable audio tour has also been created in multi languages, so the Eton Walkway is always an option!

The very popular Eton uniformed teddy bear has provided a trail for children and families. This Christmas we ran a competition to find the teddy bears hidden in shop windows – thus encouraging footfall the full length of the High Street. We have worked in partnership with traders in Eton (who have supported our maps and offered prizes) and the Theatre Royal Windsor (who provided a prize for our Christmas competition). We have regular monthly competitions, all designed to get people to explore the town.

We promote the galleries and museums at Eton College and welcome students from the College who spend time with us as part of their volunteering programme. We have worked with Eton Porny School and have displayed the children's art and crafts at the office.

Our art programme has been a huge success and art@67 and gallery@79 are two areas where local art can be displayed and purchased. Local artisans are working in a variety of medium, from acrylics, water colours, ceramics, glass, and photography – all are available to purchase as a souvenir and to those who wish to support local art at affordable prices.

In June last year we took a step into the digital world and our Instagram page Visit Eton was launched. The page has some stunning photographs of the town and is keenly followed. Coming soon is our new website. So, follow us, visit us online or in person and make the most of Eton's Information Centre – we are here to help!





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# The '47 Flood

75th Anniversary



On the date this is published (1st March 2022) 75 years ago the residents of Eton and many other riverside areas around Britain were unaware what was heading their way during March - the Great Flood of 1947.

Following a winter that didn't want to end of sub-zero temperatures and heavy snowfall, a sudden thaw with heavy rain started on the 9th March

and as the ground was frozen solid to a depth of about 3ft. (0.9m) the water couldn't drain, and flowed directly into the rivers. Rivers including the Thames rose fast and in this area broke its banks on the 14th March. The flood peaked on the 20th March at 6ft. 8in (2.03m) above normal levels and took a further week to subside.

Much of Eton was flooded except for the higher grounds of the College, with the High Street still just being passable, although the wash from vehicles did do damage to shops.

I missed the flood, coming along 18 months later, but my grand-parents with my mother lived in Brocas Terrace at the time and recollections from them were that the flood

came to the top of the fireplace; they moved upstairs opening the doors so the water came though, as did the swans. The chickens they used to keep in the garden were put in a loft over the scullery. They never moved out, so afterwards the house must have dried out around them. At this



## *Peter Eaton - Eton Resident*



time they must have also been preparing for a wedding as In the August my mother and father married, moving in with my grandparents after.

Although 1947 was the last time to date there was significant property flooding, the fields around Eton

regularly flooded until the 1970s, when significant work was started to control the river better. One November we had to move our regular Guy Fawkes bonfire from the Brocas to the higher waste land that is now the car park, and I remember the floods getting to the scullery back door and having to walk across boards to cross flooded Meadow Lane from Brocas



Terrace to get to Porny School in January 1959 (that was before the road was raised at the time of building Atherton Court flats). The most significant flood recently which had the potential of being similar to 1947 in Eton, had it not been for the Jubilee River flood alleviation scheme, was in January 2014.

Sources/Acknowledgements: Watermans Arms; Royal Windsor Website; Eton Wick History website.

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# Going Underground

*Brian Hoare, Louise Davidson and Peter Eaton*

Following central Eton College being bombed during the Second World War the Provost and Fellows considered what precautions could be taken to protect the College and its inhabitants in event of further conflict. By the mid-50s concerns had changed from conventional warfare to the possibilities of nuclear attacks when the USA and Soviet Union fought for supremacy in a nuclear arms race.



As part of a building programme at College a nuclear bunker was considered and eventually built in 1959 by HD Bowyer of Slough. In 2000 representatives from Subterranea Britannica, whose interests are in man-made and man-used underground places in Britain, were granted conditional permission to visit the College bunker.

They report that the bunker can be accessed by 3 staircases and a lift from which the representatives entered into a concrete walled corridor. Each of the staircases is protected against blast by dog-legged corridors. The main corridor goes

one way into a “private” area where all surfaces are painted cream and the other into a “public” area. In both areas there are several small rooms off the main corridor. Through a door is a small corridor with bays off of it, in which would have been bunk beds. One bay still had some bunks in it.

There are vents throughout the bunker’s corridors and rooms for the extensive air-conditioning system served by 2 fans and what appeared to be a simple filter system in one of the rooms. Two other rooms have blast doors with Haywards of Borough, London SE1, and the date 1959 stamped on the identification plate. Behind one door is the current heating system and the other a generator and back-up battery system.

The building, the group reports, was designed to house 48 people including the Provost and Fellows, was still in good condition with no signs of damp. However, there are no toilets or running water although the group was told it was fully equipped at one time and with tinned food, although again there was no kitchen. At the time of the visit, much of the building was used for storage.

To read the Subterranea Britannica group’s full report of their visit in 2000 go to their website link: <https://www.subbrit.org.uk/sites/eton-college-nuclear-shelter/>



# Memories of Etonians

Jane Speller - Eton Resident

I have often been asked, "Do you know any Eton Boys who went on to become famous or well known?" Answer... Of course, I do. But I do not believe in name dropping or passing on conversations held in confidence.

The first Etonian I met was on 1 May 1959 around 6.30pm on a Friday. John and I worked it out. John was very gallant and opened the door of the Tudor Stores when he saw me coming across the road wearing my school uniform, including hat. To my surprise he knew my name and took my satchel before asking me to follow him. I duly did as I was instructed and I found myself, for the first time, in the Tudor Stores tuck shop.

One scary occasion happened when the three of us were invited to the Stately Home of one of The Boys. Spencer kindly showed my parent and I around. At some point on the tour, we were invited into a secret room behind a hidden door. The room was tiny to house the four of us. There was just a small leaded light window high up giving out feeble light. Most of the room was taken up with an exceptionally large wardrobe made from mahogany. Spencer asked my father to help him move the piece of furniture to the other side of the room, thus blocking the exit. Having squeezed past my mother and myself Spencer then opened a trap door in the floor. He explained that long ago enemies were tied to a chair and then dropped into the moat, now dried up, below. The trap door was duly closed. My father and Spencer started to move the wardrobe back to its original place. They shifted it halfway when it became completely stuck on a bare floorboard. The exit was still blocked as the door opened inwards. No one knew that we had entered the hidden room so it would be ages before help came. I pointed this out to my father and Spencer. With a huge, renewed effort they finally managed to get the recalcitrant piece of furniture back into place. The four of us quickly piled out of the small hidden room, all greatly relieved.



When I was the Administrator for the Friends of St George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, I decided to put on a fund-raising show for the charity. The first I organised and performed in. I told John about the proposed show. He immediately offered to sponsor the whole event. The show was called "Singing in the Rain." A professional soprano proffered her talent, and Denny OE helpfully agreed to play the piano, he was

an excellent organist as well. Alexander OE volunteered to pour the wine during the interval. So, three Old Etonians kindly helped me that evening in the Vicars' Hall in Windsor Castle. Bless their cotton socks..... Floreat Etona!



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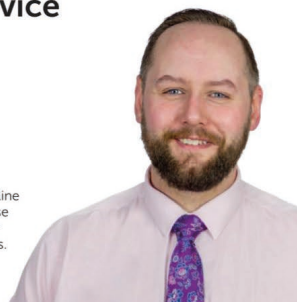
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