

Issue 34

ETON

July 2024

MATTERS

PHOTO CREDIT:
AMANDA SNELL



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CHAIR'S CHAT

ROS RIVAZ - ECA CHAIR



Summer is here and the sun is shining (although the spring was rather wetter than we had expected)!

And my goodness we've been busy! 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 with great participation and well-deserved nourishment afterwards from Budgens and recently, the ever-popular Eaten café butties! We've enjoyed Stewart's walk to the Fox and Hounds and the ECA AGM too, with food and drink at The George. This included a donation of a pin of beer from Windsor & Eton Brewery. Isn't it great to see the flags up; with a thank you to Lloyd for tying them onto poles and to Paul for erecting them!

We receive great feedback about the (now fortnightly) ECA weekly Newsletter (or Shout Out, as we call it) and Eton Matters. Thank you to Russell and to Rosie particularly. Sign up at www.etoncommunity.co.uk.

A special mention is deserved for our committee member Malcolm Leach, who has been elected as the Eton & Eton Wick Mayor for the second year, with Linda Tarbox as Deputy. Sadly, their long time Clerk has decided to retire. Bob, we will miss you! And the Eton Information Centre (run by our sister organisation, the Eton Community CIC), has gone from strength to strength, increasing all that they do for the community, from providing information, to the comfy chairs affording a great place for locals to sit and chat in the opportunities between customers. Do pop in or email info@visiteton.info if you would like to know more!

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, Academy Insurance, Vario Press, Eton Environmental Group, My Handyman, Eaten Cafe, Lawsons Residential, Eton Vet, Susan Handy Dance, Eton College, Tastes Delicatessen, Eton Antique Bookshop and Beaubelle.
Rosie Maggs, Editor

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NATURE WATCH - BRITISH RAILS

KEVIN MCNALLY

You might be forgiven for thinking that this was yet another article debating the pros and cons of rail privatisation - who can forget that British Rail was once upon a time 'getting there'? We do after all have the fortunate distinction of two rail stations in Windsor, so railways remain a topic close to our hearts....

But no - this article isn't about British Rail but is about British Rails...birds of the family Rallidae resident in these isles. Rails are a large family of birds with over 130 species and global distribution. They are small slender rather secretive birds most at home on the ground (some are flightless) running between reeds or long forest grass. They live in all parts of the world, and some have found themselves isolated on small island groups in remote parts of the world rendering them among the rarest and most threatened of bird species. You may have read of the 'mysterious' presence of the eponymous rail on The Inaccessible Islands in the South Atlantic. Given the island's name the mystery is how did a tiny flightless bird arrive in such an isolated location....? However, our focus should be on local rails. Rails come in three main varieties, firstly rails proper of which the only British representative is the Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* which is in our area - typically in reeds - but is quite difficult to spot.



Secondarily we have crakes and Gallinules with the most common British form being the Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.



Thirdly we have Coots - with the Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* being our common local representative.



So to one of the age old riverside questions- it it a coot or a moorhen? As we can see Coots are dark, larger than a moorhen, don't mind open swimming and have a white bill and 'shield' above the bill - giving the appearance 'bald as a coot' (apologies to those hirsute challenged). Moorhens are smaller not quite so dark with red and yellow bills and green legs. They are less likely to swim on open water.

In conclusion rails may be rare and elusive in other parts of the world but here provide two of our most familiar and popular water birds both of which can be readily seen on our beautiful stretch of river.



WINDSOR BRIDGE

PETER EATON

Many of us often walk into Windsor taking for granted the structure that allows us to cross over the river. Well that structure, Windsor Bridge, has just recently reached a milestone, for on the 1st June it was 200 years since its official opening in 1824. The first record of a bridge crossing the River Thames in this position was in 1172 when an income of £4 was recorded from tolls for vessels passing under the bridge. In 1242 permission was granted for oaks to be felled in Windsor Forest for a new bridge between Eton and Windsor.



Probably after many repairs or rebuilds the wooden bridge had deteriorated to an extent that it was suggested in 1819 that a new bridge should be built of new materials. That new material was cast iron, first used for bridges in 1781 by Abraham Darby III at what is now called Ironbridge.

Architect Charles Hollis was engaged by the Windsor Brough Council to design the bridge following his use of cast-iron in the pillars and roof supports during the rebuild of Windsor's Parish Church. Thomas Telford is also said to have advised on the design. The builder was William Moore who sadly died before its completion. In July 1822 the Corner Stone was laid by Prince Frederick, Duke of York with 'Masonic ceremonies' and it is said the silver trowel used is still within the Borough's artifacts.

The construction of the bridge designed as three arches supported on two massive granite pillars each with seven cast-iron ribs across the width was, as so often happens still today, dogged with issues.

A barge hit the bridge and sank. Some of the cast-iron ribs from Wales were cracked and needed repairs or replacing. Rumours were rife that the foundations were being washed away, as soon as built and resolved only by 'the employment of 4 chain pumps, a steam engine and 40-50 Scots Fusilier Guardsmen'. Sadly, also a labourer died when he slipped and fell under a monkey hammer while piling.

Despite all the issues and although long overdue the bridge was completed at a cost of £15,000 and formally opened on the 1st June 1824. During its early years tolls were charged to cross the bridge however by 1874 feelings against these were starting to run high, it wasn't until 1st December 1898 that the protesters led by Joseph Taylor of Eton succeeded and the toll gates were removed.

In the 1830s concerns started to be raised that cast-iron was only a sixth its strength in tension than in compression, however, as most of the structure of an arch is in compression worries subsided and it wasn't till 1938 that concerns were again raised when 3 cracks were found. It was thought at that time that a rebuild would be necessary but despite it carrying much heavier traffic that it could ever been envisaged it was not until 1969 was it necessary to restrict traffic to single line and finally on the 10th April 1970 after an Emergency Meeting the bridge was closed to motorised traffic. Objections to its closure were many but mainly from the Eton/Buckinghamshire side and a Public Enquiry in December 1971 finally sealed its fate as a road bridge. Thankfully the Relief Road (Royal Windsor Way) had opened in 1966. In March 2000 load assessments suggested restrictions on pedestrian traffic were needed. As it was felt the main arch structure was still good a repair and renovation could be carried out at a cost of about £400,000. This was completed for the Golden Jubilee and on the 3rd June 2002 the late Queen officially opened the renovated bridge.

Despite being battered daily by the River Thames and the structural issues over time, for 200 years it has continued to be a valued connection between Windsor and Eton and hopefully as it is now a Grade II listed structure it will continue be so for many years to come.

Acknowledgement: Royal Windsor Website: www.thamesweb.co.uk/windsor





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THE FIRST ETON PORNY SCHOOL

BRIAN HOARE - RETIRED BUILDINGS BURSAR, ETON COLLEGE

Eton is the proud home of two historic Schools. This is a short introduction to the foundation and opening of one of these, the 212 year old Porny School at its original location in the High Street in the reign of King George III.

In 1790 the Fellows of Eton College, with the guidance of cleric Provost, William Roberts, considered the establishment of a Charity and Sunday School for the poor of the parish. Marc Antoine Pyron du Maitre, otherwise Mark Antony Porny, born 1731 in Caen, from 1773 French Master at Eton College, became involved. Porny, a religious man, had formed an interest in establishing a Sunday school. After 29 years teaching and writing he died in 1802 and by his will fully endowed the establishment of the School which bears his name and is recorded on the commemorative plaque on the High Street building facade. He wrote and published French textbooks and several on Heraldry becoming a man of some means. Due principally to the contesting of his will by relatives, it was not until 1812 that the School was finally built by Tebbutts of Windsor for £1723, at the site of 29 and 29A High Street in Eton. It was to provide free education for 90 children elected from the poor of the Parish.

The School opened

On 26 April 1813 under the management of the Provost and Fellows and eight members of the parish, becoming the original Porny Trustees.

The day school capacity was 60 boys and 30 girls but may not have initially reached those numbers. To be considered for a day place regular prior Sunday School attendance for at least one year was required for children of the Parish who had been baptised and born in wedlock. John Hope was appointed the first Schoolmaster at a salary of £50 a year plus £9 for teaching music. Mrs Miller was the first Schoolmistress at a salary of £35 a year (presumably less because of the smaller number of girls?). Both were provided with a front school house (29 and 29A). The Porny Trustees met Initial and recurrent School equipment and operating costs from Porny's legacy which had grown through the time delay to c £8000.

Weekday School hours were initially 8am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 5 pm in summer, 9 am to noon and 1,30pm to 4 pm in winter. Sunday school was 9am to noon and afternoon to 5pm. There was a total of 6 weeks' holiday. Saturdays were clear.

The curriculum of the Day School was straightforward. Boys were taught reading, writing and arithmetic; the girls reading, writing and useful skills of needlework and knitting. The Bible was the main teaching resource. All children were: admitted at seven years old with boys staying to fourteen and the girls at thirteen.

Sunday school was mixed and based opposite the chapel-of -ease then located at the present site of the St John the Evangelist War Memorial garden.

The plan below records that the School building frontage comprised the two houses for the Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress with a through passage between leading via a Schoolyard to two unconnected Schoolrooms; a boys and a girl's.

Neither of the two houses had entrances directly onto the High Street. Access was gained from doors in the dividing passageway. These led into a kitchen scullery serving a separate front parlour and had stairs leading up to a bedroom/ utility on the upper of the two-storey building. The parlours were multi-purpose; living /dining/study. The kitchen had a hand water pump which, via a pipe, also provided a sluice service to the privies at the rear of the schoolrooms.

The larger of the two schoolrooms provided for up to 60 boys; the smaller, for 30 girls. Each was heated by a stove; initially fuelled by wood, later by coal. Lighting, when needed, by candles or oil lamp. A two-hole privy was attached to each schoolroom apparently draining outside via a ditch into the backwater stream leading to the adjacent River Thames.

A surviving carpenter bill of 1813 records some of the schoolroom fittings. Wooden Bench desks up to 24 feet long; bookcases; teachers' table 8 foot long with 4 lockable drawers; writing shelves on brackets (prior to use of individual writing slates) and table used by children to learn their letters by tracing with their forefingers.

On leaving school pupils who had shown regular attendance, good behaviour and teacher approbation were presented with a Porny bible and prayer book.

Mark Antony Porny died in 1802 .Toward the end of his life he was appointed by King George III as a Knight of St George. Windsor where he was laid to rest at the south side of the Chapel; his grave still to be seen with its Latin inscription.

In 1863, a half century after its opening, the School transferred to its present larger location at 14 High Street. A goodbye to the past but not farewell and remaining today at the heart of the community.

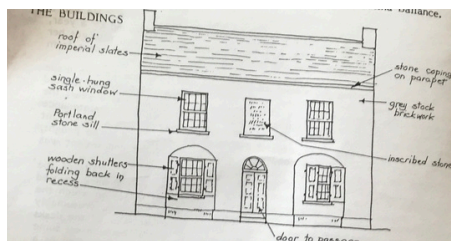


Fig. 2. The original masters' and mistresses houses, (now 29 and 29a High Street) of the charity school endowed by Mark Anthony Porny. For their plan, see fig. 3

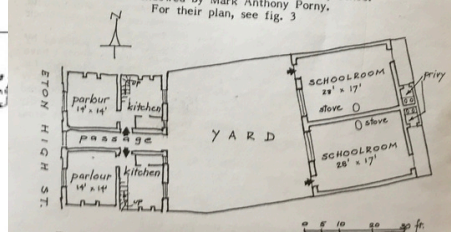


Fig. 3. Plan of the Charity School and masters' and mistresses' houses as built in 1813-13. The High Street is at the left; fig. 2 shows the elevation on that side



Part of an Apprenticeship Indenture and A Silhouette of Mark Anthony Porny

THE DASHWOODS

HUGO AND AMANDA SNELL

This is a very short story of how Hugo & Amanda Snell, who recently moved to Brocas Terrace, have a long-standing connection to Eton!

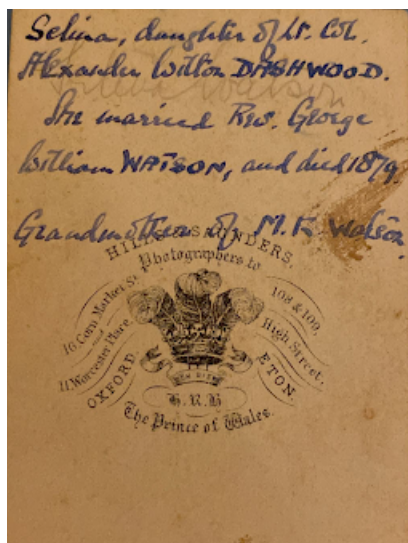
This photograph, taken in Hills & Saunders, at their studio at 108 & 109 Eton Highstreet around 1865, has helped us find our connection to the area which dates back to around 1721. The photograph is of Selina Dashwood (b.1832) and has been in the Snell household for over 150 years. Selina Dashwood was Hugo's Great Great Grandmother and is the reason Hugo has 'Dashwood' as a middle name!

Selina Dashwood's Great Great Uncle was Sir Francis Dashwood (b.1708) who attended Eton College around 1721. He was the 11th Baron le Despencer, Chancellor of the Exchequer (1762-1763) and the founder of the Hellfire Club (Knights of St. Francis). From what we have read, he lived his life to the full and he had some very interesting hobbies...! Some of the Hellfire Club meetings are known to have been held in the West Wycombe Caves, also known as the Hellfire Caves, which are located 14 miles from Eton. What happened in these meetings is best kept unsaid! West Wycombe Park, close to the caves, is a now a National Trust property which is to this date still inhabited by the Dashwood family.



While studying at Eton College, Sir Francis Dashwood is known to have been associated with William Pitt the Elder, the 1st Earl of Chatham, who served as Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1766 to 1768. Also, whilst travelling in Russia, he is known to have impersonated King Charles XII of Sweden. We are now looking up Amanda's family tree in Sweden to see if she has any relation to the Swedish Royals!

We are very happy to be living in such a beautiful part of the country that is steeped in so much history. Having met in Windsor in 2015, to now living by the Brocas and being able to walk along the historic Eton Highstreet that our ancestors walked many years ago, makes it even more special to us. Our link to Eton is very faint, but we look forward to creating our own history here.



ETON PORNY SCHOOL

EMMA STANFORD-SMITH
HEAD TEACHER



At Eton Porny C of E First School the children are encouraged to take on a range of leadership roles across the school. The children take immense pride in taking on these roles and really develop in confidence during the time that they undertake these roles. Our school council takes responsibility for gathering pupil voice and putting change into action to improve not only the school community but also to impact their local communities too.

This year the school council decided to put our school values into action and support a local charity. After much deliberation, they decided on the very worthy cause of Windsor Foodshare. Windsor Foodshare provides short term weekly help in the form of non-perishable foods, bread, eggs, fresh fruit, and vegetables to any local household in which due to a lack of funds there is a likelihood of an individual becoming hungry.

In the autumn term, our Harvest collection was donated to the charity and our school council went along to deliver it. The children were fascinated and amazed by the set-up of the Windsor Foodshare and wanted to learn more about it and get involved. They couldn't believe how much food there was but were shocked when they realised that it takes approximately 2520 items a week to support about 120 families!

They were very lucky to be invited back to volunteer for a session and see behind the scenes and get involved directly with helping to check and sort donations.

We look forward to continuing our support for Windsor Foodshare in the future and if you'd like to find out more you can do so at windsorfoodshare.org.uk

IN HIS PRESENCE

CAROLE THE CURATE (TRAINEE VICAR)

Farewell from Rev Carole

The saying, 'time flies' seems so much more apparent the older I get; do you find that too? I have been part of the benefice of Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney and Dorney for 3 years now and my curacy, or practical training to be a minister, is coming to an end. My last day is the 21st July 2024 where I will be leading my final Sunday services at 9.30am in St James the Less, Dorney and 11am in St John the Baptist, Eton Wick, followed by a 'bring and share lunch' at Eton Wick to which everyone is welcome. The years have flown by.

I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement as I have stepped into the role of a 'curate in a vacancy' this year. It has given me great insight and admiration for Rev La as she coped with such a large workload. I can honestly say I would not have been able to fulfil this role as a part time curate if it were not for so many people from the benefice that have stepped up and taken on extra responsibilities. The highlights have been the major festivals of Christmas, Easter and Remembrance and all the 'extra' celebrations that happen during these seasons such as the Christingle services in all 3 churches and inviting the schools to 'Christmas Unwrapped' and 'Easter Experience' where the children can take part in interactive activities to help explain the meaning of these festivities. I have also had the privilege to book and preside at many weddings and a few baptisms, always a joyous part of my ministry.

I have come to realise that relationships are key for not just the Christian faith, but for everyone. I have made some deep connections with people during these 3 years, and it will be a struggle to move on. It has especially been a privilege to lead funerals and help people through the sadness of bereavement. God has created us to be in relationships with each other, we are not meant to be isolated and alone, even introverts need fellowship. This is one of the reasons we are encouraged to go to church, so that we can support each other as we worship together and learn more about the love that God has for everyone. Perhaps if you used to come to church, I would encourage you to return and see what you have been missing. Or if you have never attended, why not give it a try, you might be surprised about how it lifts you! Christians believe in one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are in the ultimate relationship or fellowship with each other. We are made in the image of God and therefore are 'made' for relationship with each other, it is a basic human need.

As I move on to work as an Associate Minister in Iver, alongside my husband who is the Parish Priest, I will hold you all in my prayers because of the deep connections I have made with you all. Finally, I want to thank all of you in the wider local community, both inside and outside the church, who have welcomed me so warmly and made me feel at home in this very special area. I pray that you will flourish and be mindful of those that are lonely.

God bless you all,

Rev Carole

PICKLE BALL

BRYN LEE

Eton, of course is known for its own unique sports. At the College, there is the Wall Game, Eton Fives and Eton's own version of football. But, for the last 18 months, a new game is taking the town by storm.

For many, the name Pickleball will mean nothing. In America there are now 13.8 million players, including celebrities and former tennis greats, such as John McEnroe and Andre Agassi. Closer to home, the sport is being introduced at sports and tennis clubs, with great success.

Pickleball is somewhat of a "cuckoo" sport as it can share badminton court markings. This has helped the sport develop rapidly, as no special courts need to be built. It is played over a net that is 0.86m high, using a ball similar in size to tennis, but made of plastic, with holes in. These holes allow the ball to travel fast, but not very far, making for a great rally based game. The racquet, or paddle as it is called (not to be confused with Padel, which is another great, but different sport) is, at first glance, like an over-sized table tennis bat. Scoring may seem complicated, as do references to the "kitchen", but after 20 minutes of play, most players seem to get the hang of the rules.

So who plays? Well, in the US it is very competitive, with top players being sponsored and matches shown live on TV. Interestingly, as Pickleball has grown in popularity, so has the number playing tennis increased. At Eton, it is very much played for fun, although a few players have already progressed to national competitions. If you have played tennis, table tennis or badminton, adapting to Pickleball is easy. And if you have general ball awareness, then it is quick to pick up.

Pickleball is a great game for players of all ages and, as it is played in doubles, makes it very sociable. Whilst the size of court doesn't allow for much running, you still get a good "sweat on", thanks to the constant involvement of all players.

Currently, Eton Pickleball is played three times a week at Athens Sports Hall, in the College, and other venues within the RBWM borough, including the single court at Eton Wick Sports Centre.

Introductory sessions at Eton Wick will be held during the next few weeks. If you are interested in playing, please contact Bryn Lee on brynlee10@gmail.com



Diary

Thursday 4th July – ECA Pub quiz

Wednesday 10th July - ECA meeting at the Hop House, The George

Monday 15th July – Brocas Fair set up

Monday 5th August – Brocas Fair pull out

Saturday 14th September - College Eton Action Fair

Wednesday 25th September - ECA meeting at The Christopher

Wednesday 30th September - ECA meeting at the Hop House, The George

Thursday 14th November – ECA Christmas Lights Switch on

Saturday 22nd March 2025 – Eton Community CIC Eton & Eton Wick
Information Centre Fundraising dinner event

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 - Thursday-Sunday 11am-3pm.

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 864545
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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
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BOB AUSTEN MBE
TOWN CLERK, ETON TOWN COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of Eton Town Council on Thursday 9th May, Cllr Malcolm Leach was elected to serve a second year as Mayor and Cllr Linda Tarbox was elected to serve a second year as Deputy Mayor. Malcolm and Linda have worked tirelessly over the past year to improve the Council's operations in Eton and Eton Wick and with a dynamic and motivated team of councillors behind them, they have pledged to continue along this path in the future.

Your councillors for Eton Town are as follows:

Malcolm Leach (Mayor)

Rowan Cole

Margaret Hayes-Powell

Douglas Hill

Dawn Lee

James Stanforth

Lars Swann

Over the past months there has been considerable redecoration work in the Council Chamber, the first time in many years. The room is now fit for purpose, with new IT infrastructure that will encourage commercial hirers as well as our regular charity and community groups. Members of the public are invited to view the improvements, all of which have been achieved on a very reasonable budget. Also in the past months, the 3 play areas across Eton and Eton Wick have been renovated to ensure that they are fully operational and safe to use. The play area at South Meadow Lane Recreation Ground is intensively used,

especially during the weekends and summer months, and so the equipment requires constant inspection and maintenance.

It has been regrettable that progress on the Cockpit has not happened as we expected it to, and the Council has been actively pursuing dialogue with RBWM and the developers to try and work out a way forward. At the time of writing there is nothing definitive to report but hopes of work commencing soon remain high.

On a more positive note, residents will have noticed how beautiful the flower displays are outside the Watermans Arms, on Jubilee Square, by Baldwins Bridge and in the triangular bed after Barnes Pool. Eton Town Council manages all these displays, and we hope that they bring smiles to residents and tourists alike.

Finally, this will be my last contribution to Eton Matters as I am retiring from my role as Town Clerk after 10 hugely enjoyable years at the helm. It has been a privilege for me to serve the Council and the residents of Eton and Eton Wick and I hope that in some small way I have made a difference over these years. May I offer my deepest thanks to the many folks that I have met for their patience and friendship, and to wish everyone good health and happiness for the future.



FAREWELL

LORD WALDEGRAVE

DEPARTING PROVOST AT ETON COLLEGE

One of the pleasures of being Provost of Eton College is the many and various interactions with the local Eton community, whether it is with individual traders in the High Street or with the representative organisations. Caroline and I will be very sad indeed to be saying ‘goodbye’ to so many friends when we leave this summer. One of the proofs of the liveliness of the community is that we often find that we need to add some extra time to a walk to catch a train at Windsor Riverside because there are so many conversations to be had on the way!

Helping to maintain a vibrant High Street in these times is a continual challenge, when delivery vans are everywhere and online shopping has become the norm for so many people. So it was a delight to me to see the opening of Budgens – controversial with some at the time, but now I think widely welcomed – during our time here. Other major developments have been the successful development of housing on part of the historic Rafts site, the splendid restoration of Barnes Pool, and the creation

of the Eton Walk Way – among many other things. Let us hope that the Cockpit is soon restored to its ancient glory and to new use. All strength to the arm of those undertaking that great task: after all, the Cockpit is even older than Eton College.

And the Eton community is excellent at parties! Jubilees and Coronations, Christmas Lights plus reindeer – all are carried through with style and a good sense of fun. Plus litter picking! Always a high priority, I am afraid, and always organised excellently.

Ever since King Henry Sixth, looking down from his beloved Windsor, decided to build his school and his great Chapel where he could see them, across the river in Eton, the fortunes of the town and the college have been closely intertwined, I hope to each other's benefit. I know that Nicholas Coleridge, my successor, intends to work closely with you all to make sure that such friendly cooperation continues into the future.

TIME FLIES

SOOZY UNDERWOOD

Does time really fly? Well no, but time and again it seems like it does. At least that is the experience of four Eton residents.

And it's all about keeping an eye on the time.

Intrigued? Ok, time to explain.

Ben and Soozy Underwood have a Grandmother clock proudly situated in their lounge, inherited from Susie's grandfather who had it specially made by a master craftsman in the Yorkshire village of Follifoot, near Harrogate.

But the clock, beautiful as it is was motionless, suspended in time, until the time came when next door neighbour Antony Cove spotted the clock and said "I can get that clock going"....and he did. It was time for time to start flying again. Except that is not the real point of our story about how time flies. Give me a minute and I will explain.

You see, when the door of the clock was opened it marked the first time that Soozy and Ben read the inscription on the copper plate inside. "H C Townsend, Follifoot, 1985". That was the moment (yes in time) when a bell rang in Soozy's head. Seconds later she rang their friends Alister and Renee Townsend who live at the "Old Dial House" almost within chiming distance just across the road in Eton. "Is there a connection?"she asked, knowing that Alister's family at one time lived in Follifoot. "H C Townsend was my great uncle Claude " replied Alister

"He made your clock!". An inspection of the inscription on the copper plaque and the craftsman's signature acorn motif confirmed beyond doubt the authenticity of the clock's maker. Now all these years later it is just as if time has flown and the clock is feeling very much at home. Oh...hang on,just a second. There is one detail we didn't tell you. The motif on the top of the clock placed there by H C Townsend all those years ago reads, you guessed it,..... "Tempus Fugit-TIME FLIES".





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A FORMER LIFE

BARBARA HUNT

During the winter months Eton Information Centre became a community hub. Comfy chairs were introduced, and local residents were invited to call in to meet with the staff and reminisce about life in Eton during the time they had been resident. Selected conversations have been turned or will be turned into blogs which will feature on the Eton website www.visiteton.info

It occurs that everybody has a past, a moment in the sun when they were young or perhaps not so young. It may have been as a soldier, sailor or airman fighting for their country, a job which when looking at the individual today you would never think possible or perhaps having spectacular sporting prowess, business acumen or linguistic skills.

You do not have to look far to see what I mean. Next time you are passing the Eton Information Centre call in and find out which of the staff performed the Can Can whilst holiday repping, who ran their own antique business. Who is Swedish by birth and who danced at the bunny club and became a cat walk model! Fair to say since doing all of that they can also now offer the service, finance, retail, advertising, web social media and marketing skills.

In a fast moving world where the young are the only ones to have ever “lived” take a few moments to speak to the older members of the community. It will surprise you exactly what they have done in the past and just what exciting memories they can share!





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SADDLERY SHOP

DAVID WADDLETON

When I first acquired the saddlery shop it was during the era when Eton was Town & Gown. Lord Charteris actually made a visit in person and recommended various product lines for which I would find purchasers amongst the boys. None today would be valid! Through his hand of friendship, I also made the acquaintance of Tim Card, the Vice Provost at that time, whose vision for Dorney Lake has made a big impact on Eton College, and his memory is rightly honoured with a stone memorial situated on the Dorney Lakeside land. Tim also had the foresight to start the Friends of Eton College Collections, an organisation that has stood the passage of time, with Friends helping to restore many of the rare items within the Collection.

During a conversation on the origin of Eton College I was intrigued with a story from the then bursar. At a College social event, I told him how a visiting Buddhist monk had told me there was a ley line passing through the front of 103 High Street, expecting to be rebuffed. Instead I was told a story that the Abbot of Great Missenden, whose lands included Upton and the raised land above flood level

where the village of Eton stood, had sold this land to Henry VI insisting that the proposed College chapel's corner stone, would sit above this same Ley Line. However, the Abbot had lied. The Ley line actually branches West towards Taplow church passing through that church's North East corner stone!

During the year of Covid Lockdown I researched this story and sadly could find no provenance to back it up. I found it interesting to note that a Robert Risborough, the Abbot of Great Missenden was a bit of a crook during his period of office which spanned two reigns. There is documentation to support that he sustained the ire of King Edward IV for his fraudulent sales and leases of lands he was not entitled to. However, the archives of Buckinghamshire seemed to indicate the land was owned by Burnham Abbey, with no connection to Great Missenden. However there are large gaps between recorded dates. If anyone has additional data perhaps they may contact us in order to verify or refute such statements?



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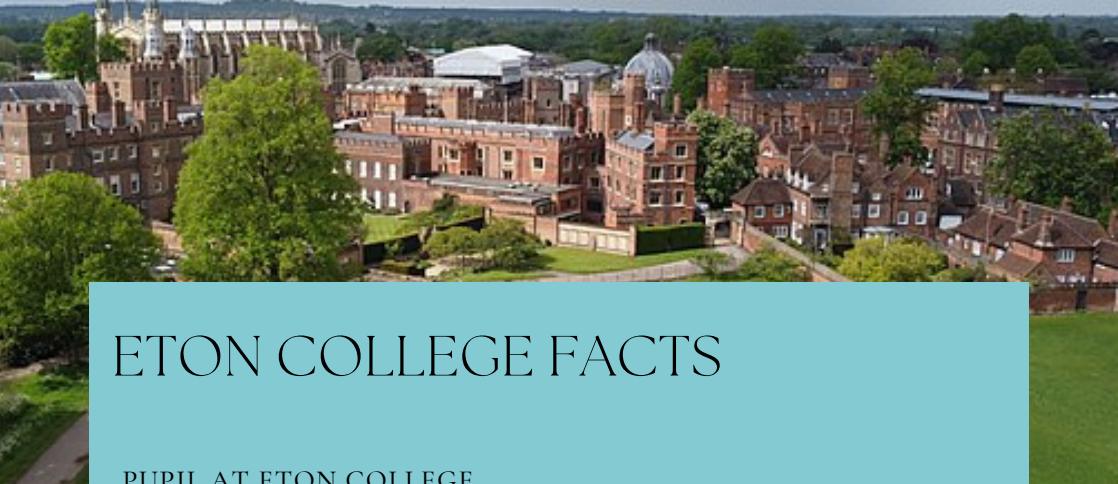
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ETON COLLEGE FACTS

PUPIL AT ETON COLLEGE

Eton College is a charity for the advancement of education. It was founded in 1440 by Henry VI as “Kynges College of our Ladye of Eton besyde Windsor” and since has been focused of the education of boys between the ages of 13 and 18.

To preserve its heritage Eton has kept many idiosyncrasies and traditions from the past, which makes it the unique place that it is today. All boys have to wear tail suits when going to lessons, however, what you wear also indicates your position in the school: boys who have received a King’s scholarship have to wear gowns, boys with achievements such as the house captain-ship wear a bow tie, and boys who are selected into pop (Eton’s version of prefects) wear grey trousers and a waistcoat of their choosing.

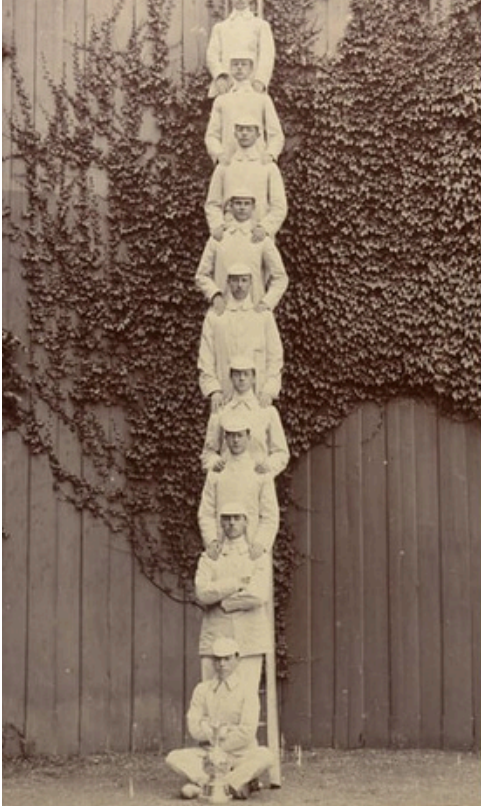
Eton also commemorates its heritage in many ways, for example, through a celebration on the fourth of June, to remember George the 3rd who took much interest in the school, and St Andrews Day.

Eton’s school buildings are laid out more like a town and boys may have to walk up to ten minutes to get between each of their lessons. the history of Eton is immortalised in its grounds and buildings, many dating back to the fifteenth century.

The life of an Eton school child is often busy, involving chapel in the morning, lessons, sport,s and extracurricular activities such as music or drama.

at the end of a boy’s Eton career, at 18 and having done their A-levels, boys generally go to a range of prestigious universities, take a year abroad, or get straight into working life.





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London 2012

ETON AND THE OLYMPICS

ROSIE MAGGS

The 26th July 2024 will be the start of the Paris Olympic Games. The Olympics brings together thousands of the best athletes to compete for their countries. Cast your mind back to 2012, when Eton played a role in helping the games come together. Eton College's Dorney Lake was used for the rowing and canoe sprint events, in both the Olympics and Paralympics in 2012. It attracted over 400,000 visitors during the Games period and was voted the best 2012 Olympic venue by spectators! Thirty medal events were held on Dorney Lake, during which Team GB won 12 medals, making the lake one of the most successful venues for Team GB.

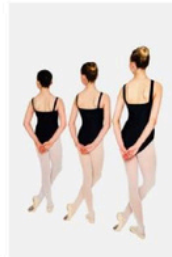
It's not just the 2012 Olympics that has links to Eton, the 1908 Olympic Marathon went through Eton. In Eton you can see a marker on Baldwins Bridge which measures the distance of the 1908 marathon. The official distance from the start of the marathon to the finish at the stadium was established; the original distance of 25 miles was changed to 26 miles so the marathon could start at Windsor Castle and then allegedly changed again at the request of Princess Mary so the start would be beneath the windows of the Royal Nursery. To ensure that the race would finish in front of the King, the finish line was moved by British officials who "felt compelled to restore the importance of the monarchy." As a result of these changes, the marathon covered a distance of 26 miles, 385 yards which became the standard length starting with the 1924 Summer Olympics.



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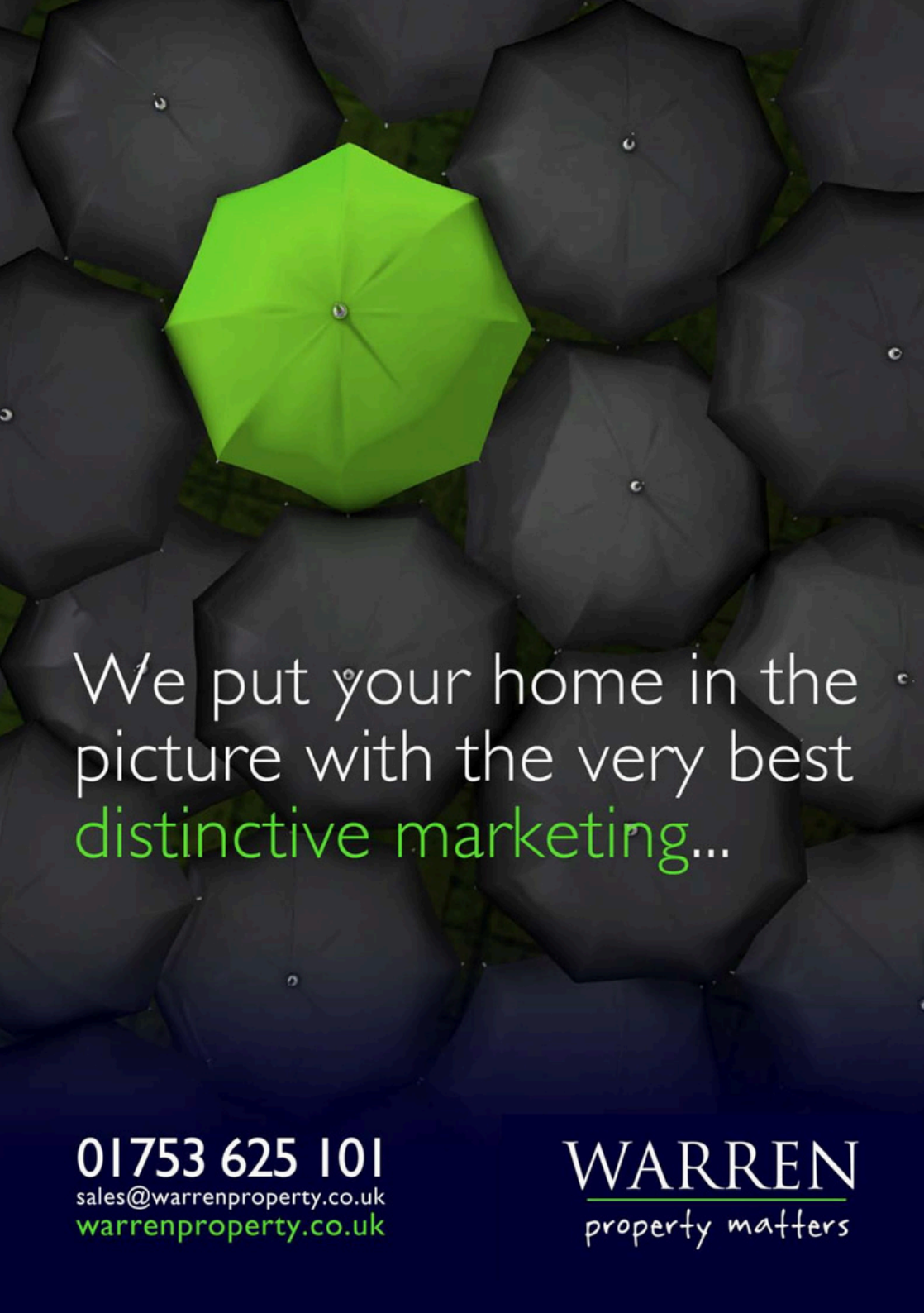
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