

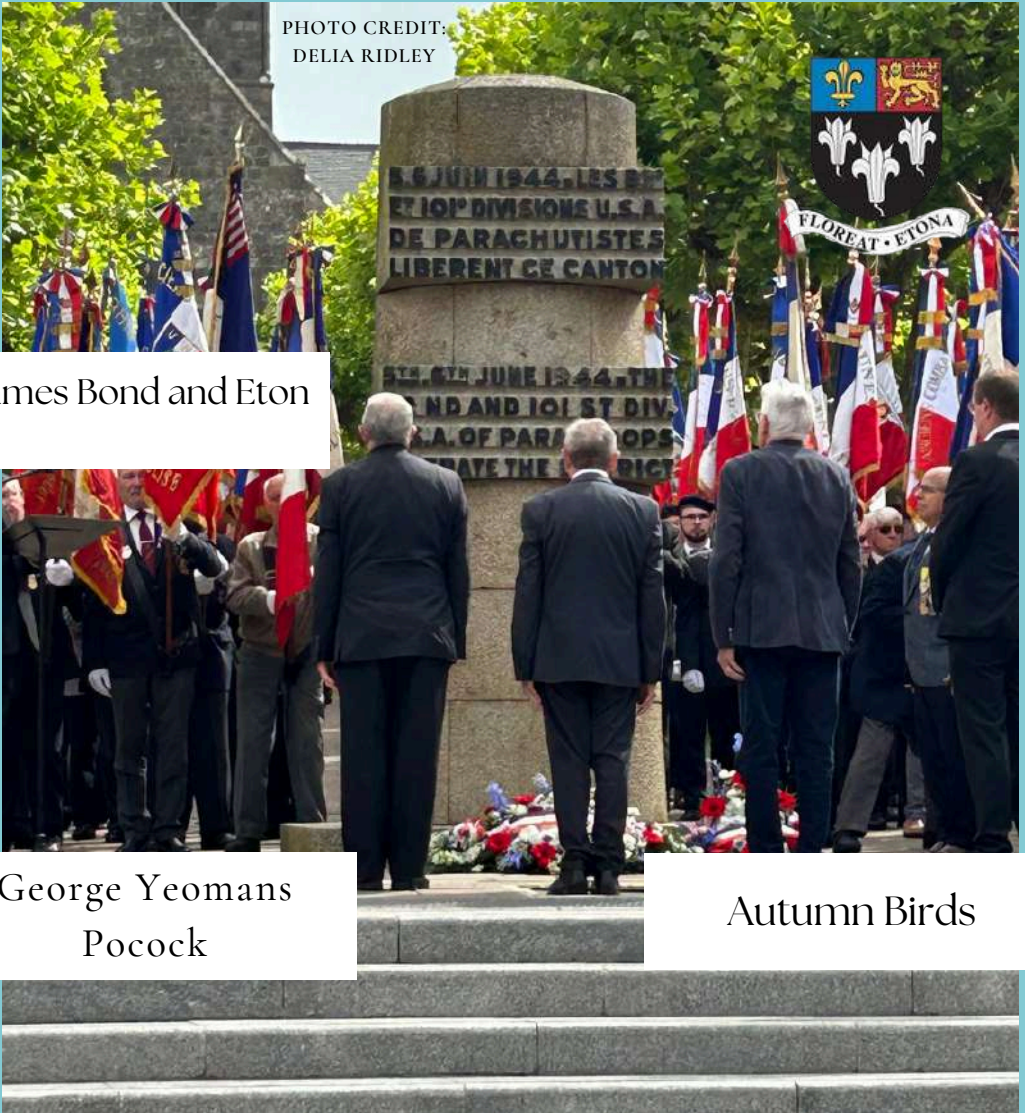
Issue 35

ETON

Nov 2024

MATTERS

PHOTO CREDIT:
DELIA RIDLEY



James Bond and Eton

George Yeomans
Pocock

Autumn Birds

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CHAIR'S 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!

What a lot has been happening! 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, The Rancher community evening, the Eton College exhibition, an Eton Walkway walk organised by the Eton Information Centre, and College's Action Fair. Our local businesses have supported us in various ways, for example with the refreshments after the litter pick from Budgens.

The poppies are being put up, and the wonderful service at St John's Church will be on Sunday 10th November. The Christmas Lights will be up soon awaiting 14th November event, which hears us chime 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and aren't we always amazed that Eton has the best lights around! Thank you to Ben, Stephen and Paul (with Karen still playing a part) to ensure we enjoy an evening of celebration.

The ECA weekly Newsletter (or Shout Out, as we call it) is now established in the fortnightly routine, 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.

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, Academy Insurance, Vario Press, Eaten Cafe, Lawsons Residential, Eton Vet, Susan Handy Dance, Eton College, Tastes Delicatessen, Eton Antique Bookshop.

Rosie Maggs, Editor

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NATURE WATCH -AUTUMN BIRDS

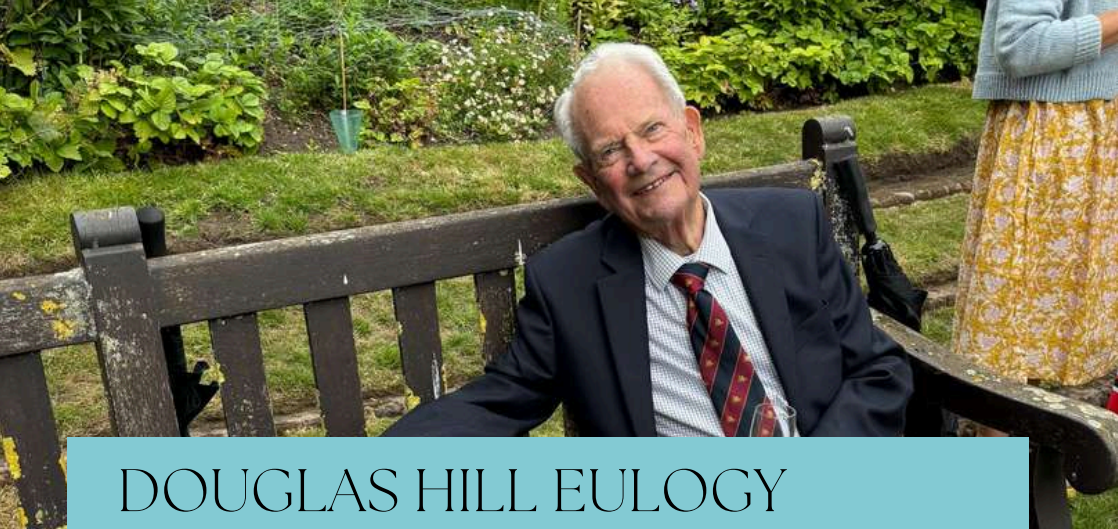
MARK FIELKER

As summer fades into autumn, the local bird population changes, losing its summer migrants and welcoming back its winter visitors. Around Eton, Redwings appear in reasonable numbers and you might occasionally spot its cousin, the Fieldfare, both having spent the summer in Scandinavia and northern Russia. Our resident Starling population is swelled by visitors from the continent and you might be lucky to spot at least a mini-murmuration as the birds prepare to roost for the night. And even the birds that appear to be the same, such as Blackbirds, are probably different individuals due to short-range chain migration. Some species like Blackcaps that used to migrate are now increasingly resident as climate change provides less extreme conditions through the winter. And that change to the annual temperature profile is creating problems for some migrants as they strive to coordinate their summer arrival with the emergence of invertebrate food sources. In Autumn, Jays can be seen flying high overhead as they gather acorns to stash. The local Grey Squirrels are also busy storing food for the cold winter months. The bird song that faded through the summer is now made up of just occasional contact calls and territorial songs of birds like Robins.

But later in the winter just a little warmth and sunshine can fool a Great Tit into thinking spring has arrived and delivering its 'teacher, teacher' song. If we are lucky, interesting passage visitors make an appearance: White-fronted Geese, Wood Sandpipers and Little Stints have all been seen in recent years on Dorney Common. Rowan, hawthorn and holly trees are covered in red, waxy berries, ready to provide food for winter thrushes and others. Some suggest that an early and abundant crop is a harbinger of a cold, hard winter. Occasionally, when the berry crop in Scandinavia fails, we get an irruption of Waxwings in the UK, stunning birds that can form flocks in their hundreds. Leaves are falling from the trees and by the end of December the last of the deciduous foliage will have gone. I reckon the mulberry tree I walk the dog past each day is the last to lose its leaves each year. And then spring will not be too far away.



WAXWING (BOMBYCILLA GARRULUS)
GETTY IMAGES.



DOUGLAS HILL EULOGY

WRITTEN BY GEORGE FUSSEY

Today, I want to say something about Kiwis in general, and one kiwi in particular.

Kiwis are fascinating, uniquely attractive, and wonderfully charismatic. I am not yet talking about Douglas, however!

Kiwis are remarkable birds, unique, iconic and instantly recognisable. These nocturnal birds have a long beak, with nostrils at the tip to help them locate their food in the dark. Unlike most nocturnal animals, they have tiny eyes and rely on a sense of touch to find their prey. Their feathers are more like fur and not for nothing are they known as honorary mammals! They lay enormous eggs, the equivalent of an 8 stone human female giving birth to a 14 pound baby!

According to the website *Kiwis for Kiwis*, the Kiwi is a natural fit for the New Zealand national psyche. The website says that New Zealanders relate to the quirkiness of the Kiwi, and marvel at its beautiful adaptations to forest life evolved over millions of years in wonderful isolation. In Maori legend, the Kiwi is respected as the bird that saved the trees of the forest from insects

In 1905, the All Blacks began their persecution of the England Rugby Union team. In the first match between the two countries, played at Crystal Palace, New Zealand won 15 – 0, scoring five tries. After the game, a cartoon in a newspaper depicted a Kiwi tormenting a Lion and the image stuck in the popular imagination.

New Zealand has exported many things to the British Isles. Think of the 26,000 t of New Zealand Lamb that come to our shores in 2023 and products like Butter, Manuka Honey and deliciously aromatic Sauvignon Blanc wine. But I think we can all agree that one of their best exports was Douglas Hill.

Douglas once told me that he came to London in the swinging sixties and confessed to me that he lived an irresponsible life back then.

He must have soon got this irresponsibility out of his system, because ever since I knew him, Douglas has been a pillar of the local community in Windsor and Eton. Chairman of Eton Town Council, Douglas was Eton's first Mayor and a long-serving Town councillor.

He has given extensive and selfless service to MenCap, Baldwin's Bridge Trust, Eton Traders Association, the Community Association, the Ex-Servicemen's Club and the Royal Albert Institute to name but some. He was most recently a stalwart volunteer at the Eton Information Centre in the High Street.

As you will know, Douglas ran, for 30 years or more, the Chemist shop in Eton High Street. Tim Heald, in his history of the Royal Warrant, wrote that such small local companies typified the Windsor and Eton warrant holders since the reign of George IV. Douglas took huge pride in fulfilling prescriptions for the Royal Family and great delight in their long life and good health. But despite such lofty responsibilities, Douglas would think nothing of personally delivering prescriptions for an elderly or immobile person that couldn't easily pick up their own. He was the most obliging of shopkeepers and the most dedicated.

Who but a quirky Kiwi could run a shop that, on one side was a pharmacy and on the other, a high-end vintner's, selling the beloved chardonnays and sauvignons of his native NZ. It was a neat balancing act to minister to the good health of the people of Eton on one side of the shop whilst also providing a little unhealthy recreational alcohol on the other.

Douglas was scrupulously fair, principled, resolute, determined, and hugely public-spirited. Douglas was a gentleman and a gentle man. He would always go the extra mile. He was respected, appreciated, and loved by the local community and he will for ever live in the hearts of this Town and this College, and all the organisations in which he played such a key role. It has been an honour for me to have said a few words about Douglas today.

Douglas, rest in peace.





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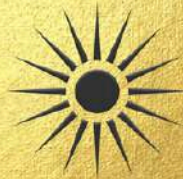
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GEORGE YEOMANS POCOCK

THOMAS WIGLEY

A Blue Plaque was unveiled on 13th September at the George in Eton High Street to celebrate and recognise the association between this remarkable man and the town of Eton where he lived as a boy. Pocock was a legendary builder of racing boats in Seattle; widely respected, he was also an accomplished rower, coach and a bit of a philosopher.

He emerged slightly stealthily into the public eye this year, played by actor Peter Guinness, in the film of the book “The Boys In The Boat” directed by yet another George, George Clooney. Daniel James Brown’s book sets out the true story of the 1936 US Men’s Eight crew who won gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Pocock built the ‘Husky Clipper’ boat in which the Boys raced to victory and he coached them too, throwing in some of his trademark rowing philosophies for good measure.



In 1901 George, aged ten, lived at 78 Eton High Street, now part of the George Inn, with his widowed father Aaron and siblings Lucy, Dick and Kathleen. It was the sport of rowing which brought Aaron and his young family to Eton to build rowing boats for Eton College. Boat building and rowing were in the Pocock genes. The family would row together on the Thames in Windsor and they loved to race the river steamers.

In 1909 George built his own scull from workshop off cuts, rowed it 35 miles down the Thames from Eton to Putney where he won a professional rowing handicap race and a £50 purse which he used to fund his passage to Canada in 1911 and the rest is history. Pocock Racing Shells thrives today in Seattle.



BROCAS TERRACE AND EMLYNS BUILDINGS

ETON'S UNASSUMING TERRACES

PETER EATON

Brocas Terrace and Emlyns Buildings are two unassuming Victorian terraces but are in a prominent position making the eastern boundary of the popular Brocas meadow. The terraces were built between the 1820s and 1850s, Emlyns Buildings was built first, on a piece of land called Spurrs Close which covered the area between what is now Meadow Lane and a boundary with the Brocas approximately running from the entrance from Meadow Lane opposite the car park to the sycamore tree and on to the entrance from Brocas Street.

The land was all part of the Eton cum Stockdales and Colenorton Manor with at that time John Penn as Lord of the Manor. The architect he engaged was Henry Emlyn, not the one who was involved with St. George's Chapel but a nephew. He also built the terrace at the lower end of the High Street, Nos. 126 – 137 and added walkways to the sides of previous brick-built Baldwin's Bridge.

The brick-built cottages were basic 2 up 2 down with a single storey kitchen, then called sculleries, with an outside toilet on the end. There were 21 houses in Emlyns Buildings and originally 8 houses in Brocas Terrace. 1-2 and 19-21 Emlyns Buildings are built conventionally and at right angles to 3-18 which with Brocas Terrace face the Brocas and were built back to front with the front rooms and front doors and verandahs facing the Brocas. However, although a path gave access to most of Emlyns Buildings gardens and front doors there was no such access to the front doors of Brocas Terrace. Just prior to the second world war the sculleries of Emlyns Buildings were knocked down and replaced with flat roofed kitchens



Meadow Lane side of No.1 Brocas Terrace showing lean-to sculleriy and outside toilet and rear entrance

and bathrooms however with the onset of the war Brocas Terrace was never modernised. The terraces first appear on the 1851 census but all 29 houses as Emlyns Buildings, Brocas Terrace doesn't appear in its own right until the 1871 census.



Typical single storey scullery showing the back door (left) and the door to the outside toilet

Although Eton College acquired the Manor in the 1940s descendants of Penn still owned the terraces which along with cottages in Tangier Lane and Sunbury Road. They became known as the Eton Pole Wynn estate until they were offered to the sitting tenants and their families to purchase in the 1970s. As with my family there was history within these cottages as many previous generations had lived in them. Until that time Brocas Terrace had remained relatively un-modernised although most had put a bath in the sculleries with an access to the toilet knocked through.

From that time and especially as the cottages were sold on the open market extensions have been built and modernisation has taken place. Nos. 1a and 9 Brocas Terrace were added in the 1980s replacing the old side sculleries of the end cottages. As these terraces are in the Eton Conservation Area, in general these alterations have been carried out sympathetically and therefore their original humble beginnings can still be seen.

I am writing a book on these terraces so if anyone has information or photographs of the terraces in times past, I will be interested.

Please contact me through the Eton Community Association.



Typical Brocas side showing the verandah and front door. Some as on the left put a front on their verandah using it for a cottage business.

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ETON PORNY SCHOOL

EMMA STANFORD-SMITH
HEAD TEACHER



At Eton Porny School we have started using The Zones of Regulation™ curriculum. These lessons and activities are designed to support children in gaining skills in the area of self-regulation. It is defined as the best state of alertness of both the body and emotions for the specific situation.

We are supporting children to recognise when they are in the different Zones as well as learn how to use strategies to change or stay in the Zone they are in. The children will gain an increased vocabulary of emotional terms, skills in reading other people's facial expressions, perspective about how others see and react to their behaviour, insight into events that trigger their behaviour, calming and alerting strategies, and problem solving skills.

We were very fortunate to successfully receive a bid from the Baldwin's Bridge Trust to help us purchase many items from our wish list. We have purchased a number of books, sensory toys, lights and soft furniture to enable us to create a regulation space in school. The children have loved exploring this space and have nicknamed it the 'Zen Den' and are already using the tools and space to support them with regulating their emotions.

We were also delighted to receive a 'wellbeing kit' donated from Mitch, the founder of 'Cups of Calm and More', a local business who supply resources to support wellbeing for children. Rupal from Specsavers in Windsor also joined us, as they have sponsored this initiative for schools in the local area. We hope to purchase more kits to use in each classroom!





JAMES BOND, IAN FLEMING AND ETON

BRIAN HOARE - RETIRED BUILDINGS BURSAR, ETON COLLEGE

“The name’s Bond, James Bond”

To paraphrase Jane Austen, it is a truth universally acknowledged that an aspiring author in search of a good fortune must be in want of a character. Etonian author Ian Fleming created his character, who has become iconic and elevated beyond the ordinary; his fictional name Bond, James Bond (Agent 007) Secret Intelligence Service MI6. Bonds literary creator, Ian Lancaster Fleming, was born on 28 May 1908, at 27 Green Street, Mayfair, London, the second son of Valentine Fleming, MP for Henley, and his wife Evelyn, née Sainte Croix Rose.

According to the authorised biography (1) James Bond was born on Armistice Day 11 November 1921 at Glencoe, Scotland, only son of Andrew Bond and his Swiss wife, Monique Delacroix. Fleming’s greatest creation, his alter ego. James Bond has had an enormous

and ongoing influence on our literary and visual culture. Since his introduction in 1953 in his novel, then film, *Casino Royale*, global book sales for the Bond series exceed 100 million in multiple languages and the 27 films have grossed over £23.4 billion to date. The fictional character has consumed his creator. Ian Fleming entered Eton in the Michaelmas Half 1921 a year after elder brother Peter who had already established an academic reputation. Although a good French and German linguist, influenced by his mother, Ian’s forte as an Eton “dry bob” was athletics and he twice became Victor Ludorum (Champion of Athletics) in 1925 and 1926. Tragically his father did not live to witness Ian’s success - dying on the Western Front in 1917. A parental death echoed in his creation’s life. James had been tragically orphaned at the age of 11 after his parents were killed in a mountaineering accident in the Aiguilles.

Following his parents' death James was brought up by his only living relative, his paternal aunt Charmian Bond, sister of Andrew, James's father. An academic, she took James into her home, raised and tutored him, becoming his legal guardian. She lived in the small village of Pett Bottom, Canterbury. Andrew had intended to send James to his own former School, Fettes College in Edinburgh. Presumably James, a clever strong-willed boy, did not wish to return to Scotland and he gained entry to Eton in Michaelmas 1934. Unfortunately his association with the school was ended prematurely only two years after some controversial incident.

Bond's obituary in *The Times* was penned by M who incorrectly recorded that the reason concerned an incident with a boy's maid. In fact, Bond was expelled for breaching House and School Rules for being AWOL (Absence Without Leave) in London for a weekend. He had been accompanied by the consensual elder sister of a fellow Etonian.

Footnote

As yet, there has been no public commemoration of Ian Fleming in Eton neither by college nor Town nor OEA. Incredible for one of the all-time world's most popular and read English authors. Deserving at least of a Blue Plaque? Perhaps at Timbralls or the High Street / Information Centre?

James Bond is not dead; he lives to Die Another Day. The family has copyright until 2035, with the next film scheduled for release in 2026.

Ian Fleming died in 1964 aged 56 from a heart attack. He is buried in St James Churchyard, Sevenhampton. His epitaph in his Eton Latin reads "*Omnia perfunctus vitae praemia marces*" which roughly translates as "You are rotting away now after having had a great life."

References

- (1) Pearson J; Ian Fleming Publications 2023
- (2) Shakespeare N; Harvil Secker 2023
- (3) Eton Wick History Group; The Bond Family image
- (4) This Author's personal conjecture



Diary

Wednesday 30th October – ECA meeting in the Hop House, The George

Sunday November 10th - Remembrance service – St John’s church, outside with laying of wreaths and inside afterwards, for those who wish – details to follow in Shout Out.

Thursday 14th November – Annual Lights switch on, in the chapel for those who wish, followed by procession and lights switch on – details to follow in Shout Out.

Friday 29th November – Annual Christmas Dinner at The Christopher (with limited spaces)

Wednesday 11th December - ECA meeting in the Hop House, The George with a Christmas drink and canapes.

Wednesday 22nd January – ECA meeting in the Hop House, The George.

Wednesday 5th March – ECA meeting in the Hop House, The George.

Saturday 22nd March – Annual Eton & Eton Wick Information Centre. fundraising Ball.

Wednesday 16th April – ECA Annual General Meeting in the Hop House, The George.

Sunday 26th April - Eton & Eton Wick Information Centre Drama afternoon.

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

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CHRISTMAS IN

Eton



2024

THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

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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
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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 The Eton Pantry from 25th
October

THIS IS AN ETON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENT
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Useful Numbers

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
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| Eton Porny School | 01753 861995 |
| Eton Pre-School | 01753 850842 |
| Fast Medical Help, Non-Emergency (NHS) | 111 |
| Eton Pharmacy | 01753 863819 |
| King Edward VII Hospital | 0300 247 3000 |
| Wexham Park Hospital | 01753 633000 |
| Wexham Park A& E | 01753 634017 |
| Library -Renewal Hotline | 0303 123 0035 |
| Natural History Museum Eton (curator) | 01753 370602 |
| 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 |

D-DAY

DELIA RIDLEY

A brief visit to Normandy just before 6th June 2024 provided visions of packed highways with tanks, motorbikes and army jeeps from WWII driven by American and British men and women dressed in their combat fatigues heading to Omaha beach in preparation for 6th June Memorials.

Waves, smiles and a few tears everywhere, parachute jumps over several towns and an amazing celebration in Sainte-Mere Eglise where John Steel is forever immortalised as an American paratrooper caught on the church spire for several hours ..eventually cut down by the Germans, arrested, escaped and became a huge hero in the town for the rest of his short (57 years) life. On Arromanches-les-Bains an army of tanks and jeeps on the beaches giving rides to children and whomever, bagpipes playing and young American and British Soldiers selling hot dogs and hamburgers to the many visitors.



The silence and solitude on the Normandy beaches was overwhelming; gentle waves lapping in bright sunshine, blue skies overhead and WWII aircraft flying low paying their respect for all the lives that were lost on DDay; it was impossible not to visualise the men scrambling out of landing craft into freezing waters in their hundreds under fire from snipers hidden on the shrubbery but the white crosses in all the memorial gardens were a constant reminder.

A brief visit forever in the memory and never to be forgotten like the brave men and women who fought the battle for freedom 80 years ago....

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

FR. SHYJU CHACKO

Recently I made a visit to a town in Italy, Assisi, the place where Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) lived and did his ministry. He was an Italian mystic, poet, and Catholic friar who founded the religious order of the Franciscans. Inspired to lead a Christian life of poverty, he became a beggar and itinerant preacher. He's called *the second Christ*. I had read his biography but when I visited the place, I could really feel his presence wherever I went because the town Assisi is very peaceful, serene and green.

One of the beautiful prayers, St. Francis has written is the prayer of peace begins like;

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

We live in a world where peace is diminishing in the family, society or in the world or sometimes even in our own hearts too. Here comes the relevance of this beautiful prayer of St. Francis, Lord make me a channel of Your peace. Saint Francis of Assisi is praying to make him or make us a channel of peace or an instrument of peace. If you consider yourselves as an instrument of God, He uses that instrument to transform His peace to the humanity.

Sometimes we find people on the street who have lost peace and they use drugs or alcohol to get some peace of mind we know that they never get because the real peace is God. There are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, and one among them is peace. The real peace is always from God. As Jesus says in the Bible in St. John's gospel 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid".

In order to have that peace from God we should seek him and approach him and give everything to have him. This is what Saint Francis of Assisi did in his life. He was a son of a rich cloth merchant in Assisi. But he gave up everything including his last cloth before his father and he wrapped God ask his father. He slept peacefully. Saint Francis invited all of creation -animals, plants, natural forces, Brother Sun, and Sister Moon -to give honour and praise to God. Let us approach God for the real peace and may God bless us all.

St. Augustine's, Datchet / Our Lady of Sorrows, Eton | 70, Eton Road Datchet, SL3 9AY | frshnanadu@gmail.com



ETON PRE-SCHOOL

SUE CLIFFORD

It seems to have been a very wet year! Although rain never stops play at Eton Pre-School. As Alfred Wainwright said “There’s no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing!”. So, all of our children have waterproof suits for those days when the sun is not around! We have them in lots of different sizes, and they are all adjustable making it easier to play and climb whatever the weather brings.

We have lots of outdoor toys and recycled items but our absolute favourite at the moment is our new slide, which has been in constant use from the moment it arrived! We are very well supported by lots of wonderful parents and grant funding organisations to ensure our children get a fantastic range of high-quality resources like this lovely slide. How lucky our children are! If you want to see what we are up to check us out @etonpreschool.org.

ETON LITTER PICK

On Sunday 6th October, the Eton community came together to participate in a litter pick (the first of this academic year), helping to keep the streets and green spaces of the town clean. Boys, staff and Eton residents assembled at the Town Council Offices, and after donning their fetching high-vis and gloves, set to work on everything from pesky cigarette butts to the ubiquitous plastic bottle.

Armed with litter-pickers and bin bags, the team set off to tidy up, and they didn’t have to look very far to find the rubbish. Bottles, caps, cans, bags and countless other items were found in bushes, on roadsides and even partially buried in soil. Plastic waste is rarely absent from headlines in the modern day, and after the morning’s work - it was obvious why.

Last year, a report commissioned by Trash Free Trails, a nonprofit conservation organisation, found that on average UK footpaths contained around 41 pieces of litter per kilometre. The report estimates as many as 9.1 million pieces of litter could be ruining the over 220,000km of footpaths in the country. The authors say the word ‘pollution’ should be used rather than ‘litter’, as “there is clear and growing evidence that this human-made detritus is harmful to the health of the ecosystems that it escapes into. This is the definition of pollution, and we should not avoid it any longer.”

This sobering reality has been little acknowledged by the government, with no commitments related to waste, plastic or recycling in the 2024 Labour Party manifesto. This places emphasis on grassroots initiatives like Sunday’s pick and the work of Trash Free Trails among many other organisations, as change in this case has to start from the bottom up. On Sunday, the team discovered a myriad of weird and wonderful objects, including lots of household cushions. During past picks, sheets of tin foil, old lamps and even an entire car seat have been found, showing there’s no limit to what people might throw away. The sheer volume of litter each time serves as a potent reminder of our need to consume less, reuse more, and dispose of waste properly.

Events like these are also really important as a way for boys to help Eton town as members of that community, separate to the School, as despite the preconceptions of many they are not one and the same. We are extremely lucky that Eton calls such a brilliant place home, and Sunday’s pick was just one way of giving back to our environment.



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WELCOME MESSAGE

SIR NICHOLAS COLERIDGE,
PROVOST OF ETON COLLEGE

One of the joys of returning to Eton has been strolling up and down the High Street again, and finding it as attractive and picturesque as ever. It feels like a vision of the perfect English street, with its heritage shopfronts, Union flags fluttering, and the excellent mix of shops, so many of them quirky and individual.

I was at school here in the 1970s, and was a great frequenter of the High Street. Some of my favourite shops have now gone – Freddie Owen's poster shop where I bought all the decorations for my Eton rooms, and which also sold militaria, cap badges, medals and army buttons. Then there was Audiocraft, the record shop which allowed you to stand in a row of soundproofed booths, listening to the latest albums by David Bowie or Roxy Music. And the medieval Cockpit tea shop was still doing a roaring trade, and I hope will resurrect with a new exciting business. But so many of my favourites are still going strong, and there are some laudable newcomers too.

Tom Brown still stands sentinel at Barnes Pool bridge – the tailors where I was measured for my first Eton tailcoat. And there too are the great Welsh & Jeffries and Billings & Edmunds, and New & Lingwood where I recently bought a new dress shirt and bow tie. The staff inside many have changed, but the alluring Dickensian atmosphere, the bolts of cloth and that distinctive heritage aroma thankfully remain.

There are some splendid newcomers: I love the pair of antiquarian bookshops with their excellent stock; we have already found at least half a dozen volumes to buy.

There is Gilbey's of course, which has been around for a while but is such an asset to the street, with its giant photographs of lobsters and charming restaurant staff. Actually, all the shopkeepers along the High Street are pretty charming.

And who could forget Budgens? I wish it had existed during my first stint at Eton. And the great Tudor Stores, which once contained a 'back room' where Eton boys could read comics provided by Mr and Mrs Speller, and order fried food at a special chef's table. A great place then, and a great place still, and selling excellent milk shakes as well.

We like the Côte Brasserie on Windsor bridge, which has succeeded the old Italian 'House on the Bridge', scene of thousands of post-Confirmation lunches. And there is an unexpectedly good deli towards the river, which also sells lemongrass soap and home-made pottery. And we cannot forget the Eton teddy shop – we might buy one soon for our granddaughter.

I hope the antique shops prosper and increase in numbers. They always seem very fitting in Eton High Street.

And it is amusing to find the various new exotic nail bars that have cropped up and certainly never existed back in the day. And I like the new craze for punning names of shops on Eton High Street: Bark Sheer dog grooming, Eaten Café and more. I am full of admiration – and very relieved – to find the street so unspoiled, and cared for by so many different bodies. It is a slice of British vernacular to treasure.

ETON WITHIN THE BOROUGH

CLLR JULIAN TISI

Sometimes being a Councillor can be incredibly frustrating and tough. Two recent examples come to mind.

Early this month, I chaired the RBWM Audit and Governance Committee, where we are dealing with the most difficult financial situation the Council has ever faced. We are trying to gain assurance over our up-to-date financial position but from a starting point of accounts that have not been signed off for three years. We have since discovered, as part of our work, that even basic reconciliations had not been performed – and we have uncovered a few nasty surprises when we finally got them done. Audit and Governance is one of those unloved but important duties that must be done well. But it can be difficult finding these “nasty surprises”.

Separately, just this week, I joined my fellow ward councillors Devon Davies and Mark Wilson on the Windsor and Ascot Development Management Committee (aka Planning). There are perhaps few committees that have such a direct impact on our local environment, its look and its amenities. Yet there are limitations on what we can do – or even say – about any planning application that comes before us.

For example, we cannot indicate our approval or rejection of any application before the meeting, or we forfeit our right to vote.

Politically, this can sometimes be difficult.

But other times, there are moments that make it all worthwhile.

Also, this month, on 13th September, we gathered with many of you in front of the George, Eton High Street, to see Sir Matthew Pinsent unveil a plaque in honour of George Pocock, master boat builder for Eton College. Rowers were there in their coloured jackets, including Eton Excelsior and Windsor Boys School (including our own Cllr Mark Wilson who is an honorary member). We heard from some excellent speakers, including young rowers. We even learnt that Sir Matthew had in fact rowed in one of George Pocock’s boats himself.

The weekend before I had attended a local fete in Bray. The Eton Excelsior rowing club were there and I was very proud to come top in my age category for their 2-minute Ergo challenge. I won’t however reveal what age category this was!

ETON AT THE MOVIES

SIMON CARPENTER

Our picturesque town with its historic charm and renowned college has served as both a cinematic backdrop and a fount of talent for the film and television industry. As a location both the college and the town bring an air of elegance, tradition, and privilege to the films and television series in which they have featured. Notable examples include "The King's Speech", "The Other Boleyn Girl", "The Riot Club", "The Crown" and the comedy "The Inbetweeners" to name a few.

While the cinematic setting is essential to the atmosphere of a film, it's the characters that we loathe, love, root for and laugh at who make the story come alive. And here Eton College has blessed us with some great actors.

Comedic virtuosos such as Hugh Laurie (the wonderfully dim but enthusiastic subaltern in "Blackadder Goes Forth") and Hugh Grant ("Love Actually" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral") spring to mind. Emmy award winners Dominic West ("The Crown", "The Wire" and "SAS Rogue Heroes") and Damien Lewis ("Homeland" and "Band of Brothers") have showcased their acting chops in gritty and contemporary roles.

Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne amazed us playing Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything" while Tom Hiddlestone made his name as the supervillain Loki in the Marvel franchise.

While the actors take centre stage film and television also need directors, screenwriters and costumers to create the story and realise the vision. Here too Eton college has given us some greats.

Directors such as two time Oscar winner Christopher Nolan ("Memento", the "Dark Knight" trilogy, and "Inception") and Richard Curtis of "Love Actually" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral" fame - both starring fellow Old Etonian Hugh Grant. And, of course, costumes play a crucial role in film and television, serving multiple functions that enhance storytelling, character development, and the visual aesthetic of a production. In this regard Eton is currently home to Joe Kowalewski who was part of the team that helped "Cruella" win both an Oscar and a BAFTA for costume design in 2022.

We are blessed to live in today's Eton with its rich history and famous college. Were King Henry VI to be reincarnated today he would surely be utterly overwhelmed by the magic of modern media. Equally I'm sure he would gratified and proud that his legacy continues to play its part in entertaining audiences around the world.

Come on Eton - let's go to the movies.





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J. MANLEY GALLERY

SANDRA RODRIGUEZ

Some of you reading this article may be aware that 27 High Street, Eton is home to Manley, a fine art restoration gallery. However, did you know that this much respected establishment boasts a fascinating history, and is one of the Royal Borough's longest surviving businesses.

It all started 23rd March 1891, when John Manley acquired a Framing and Gilding business from Messrs Ellis Hills, who had been previously trading as Hairdressers and Picture Frame Makers for an unknown number of years, at 84-85 Peascod Street in Windsor (the site currently home to Enzos).

This was no ordinary purchase; it was the birth of a business that would grow to become synonymous with the highest standards of fine art restoration, framing and conservation, as well as selling original art and fine quality prints, all of which resulted in winning the trust of a wide selection of local patrons, including the Royal Family. John Manley's extraordinary talent in art restoration and framing, not to mention his unwavering commitment to quality, service and training up young local talent caught the eye of King Edward VII, who awarded the firm its first Royal warrant. This prestigious endorsement marked the beginning of a long and cherished relationship, with further warrants granted by King George V, Princess Christian, Queen Mary, and King George VI.

After John Manley's passing in 1921, his wife Maud took the helm, skilfully navigating the business through decades of transformation, relocating from the original Peascod Street premises to firstly 27 High Street (currently Barbour) and secondly, 46 Thames Street (currently Zizzi). Their son, Patrick, and granddaughter Charlotte, carried on the tradition, earning the last Royal warrant from Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth in 1956.

The business moved "Over the River" to 27 High Street, Eton in 1964 where it continued up to the point when the Manley family took the decision to sell it in 2004 to Malcolm Leach, who you may know is the current Mayor of Eton. Sandra Rodriguez de Paula joined Manley in 2021 as Head of Restoration and officially took the ownership baton from Malcolm late 2023 to coincide with his retirement plans.

Throughout its illustrious history, the business has, and continues to work with, private collectors, museums, agents, artists, corporate and institutions large and small. Some of the more familiar names the business has had the pleasure of working on over the years include John Constable, Tracey Emin, David Hockney, George Stubbs, J.T.W Turner, William Hogarth, and William Blake, Paul Gauguin and Salvador Dali, to name a but a few.

Sandra comments "Being part of the Windsor and Eton community fills us with immense pride. At Manley, every commission we receive, and every client we work with is treated the same. It has always been this way and always will. As we look to the future, our mission is clear: to continue building on the legacy of excellence that has defined Manley for over 130 years."

For more information: www.manleyrestoration.com



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GLADSTONE

DAVID WADDLETON

I took over from old Mr Clarke, the Saddler, and opened the shop in 1990 after extensive building renovations. I was lucky to have access to Mr. Clarke's son, David, and the Royal Bookbinder of the Day, and a leather clothing expert. I spent the next 30 years having great fun repairing and restoring classic Leathergoods products, especially from the grand days of discovery of travel post WW1 and earlier.

We restored fabulous items for a film prop company in London, and had many premier clients. All good things come to an end. Now I am left with one or two treasured historic travel goods, one of which I include here. It is easy to forget in our current world of everything for everyone at the touch of a few buttons on a smart phone, that there was no Boots the Chemist, nor other chainstore, on every High Street. No supplies of everything a Gentleman may need for an outing with his Lady. Fine gloves were made from a soft, flexible sheepskin leather known as Basil, no longer made today. These gloves had stretchers to ensure a fit for the Lady. My case also contains opera glasses, a sewing kit, hair brushes, comb, and handheld mirror, toothpicks, match container with striker, ladies purse, cut throat razors for shaving, bottles for powders, soap, and medications, a notebook, button/stud openers, a pair of toothbrushes, a nail manicure set, a little gentleman's pack I cannot open for fear of breaking the binding that keeps it from prying eyes, a pouch for stamps, envelopes and notepaper, an inkwell and a cork screw. There is a long outer pocket secured with straps and a catch for documents. The outer leather has the basket weave finish, which was hard wearing. This Gentleman, would have been prepared for every eventuality. The Gladstone Travel bag is a design still popular today in its many varieties, old and new, named after the politician, William Gladstone, who used his bag as a visual prop for others to see, as it was associated with the Medical Bag used by Doctors.

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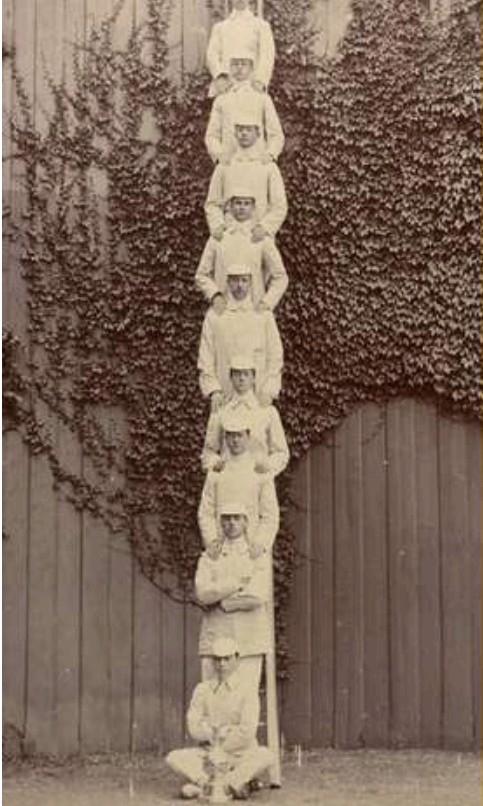
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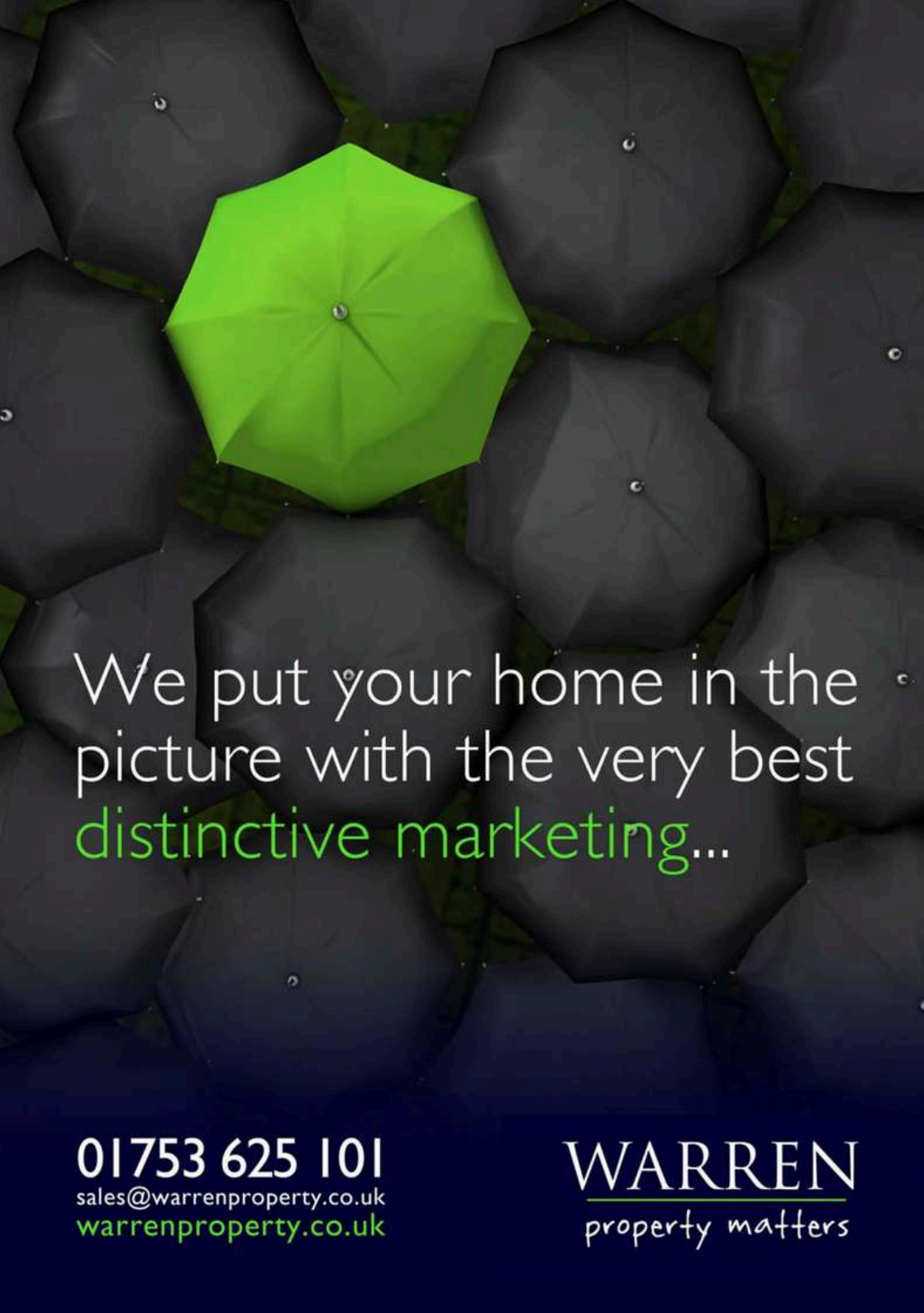
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