**The Diary of John Maynard Keynes**

John Maynard Keynes was an incredibly influential British economist in the twentieth century. His most famous publication, ‘The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money’, was a revolutionary contribution to economic scholarship. He attended Eton as a King’s Scholar from 1897 to 1902. The following select diary extracts detail his life at the school throughout the year of 1900.

“*January 1*: There is a great correspondence in the ‘Times’ as to when the twentieth century begins. ‘The Times’ takes the obvious view that Jan 1, 1901 is the day very strongly. Sentimentally however there is much to be said in favour of to-day…The nation as a whole favours next year but this dispute will have taken the edge off any celebration.”

“*February 3*: Total for week = 30 hours work (bad).”

“*February 10*: I have done more work during this last week than ever before. My problems, my verses and my essay all took time. Total for week = 42 ½ (good).”

“*February 18*: ‘The floods have risen, O Lord’ says the Psalm for this evening and it is not far wrong. We stand a very fair chance of having to go home.”

“*February 20*: The playing fields are now completely covered and the prospect from my window is nothing but water. The river rises steadily but slowly.”

“*February 22*: The river went down 1 in.”

“*March 18*: Provost preached. He is very soothing.”

“*May 18*: I saw the Queen. She drove past as we were going into 5 o’clock school. She is very like her photographs, but her nose was dreadfully red.”

“*July 1*: I always have said that drybobs take no exercise; they simply stand about and take a brisk run of about twenty yards two or three times an afternoon.”

“*September 26:* We have quite made up our minds now that we like Luxmoore. He keeps things going thoroughly, is seldom dull, and not over severe. At the same time he keeps perfect order.”

“*December 13*: Up to Luxmoore I am fourth. I am sent up for good – for original Elegiacs on St Cecilia’s Day.”

“*December 31*: I went to my dancing class again. Everybody says I am sure to like it when I get older. Perhaps I shall. People have got used to castor oil.”

To read further entries, Keynes’ diary for the years 1900 and 1901 have been published in the 1973 issue of the *Etoniana*, numbered 127. This is available to access from our digital resources page. Thank you!