

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE 2015 - 2016

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Resident

I find it hard to believe that the past 12 months have passed so quickly. For me, it has been a privilege and an honour to serve you, the community of Eccleston as your Parish Council Chairman, and I have enjoyed every minute of it.



Eccleston Parish Council is one of the busier Parish Councils and this year has been very busy indeed.

We have joint responsibility for Ecclesfield changing facility with Windle Parish Council and oversee the hiring of football pitches and changing facilities. In excess of 300 local children and young people use this facility, the majority of which either live in or attend our local schools in the Eccleston area. In addition we also have a number of adult teams too.

Improvements to the Village Hall will continue into 2016 as per the condition survey report. Thanks to funding our curators obtained from Arts Council England, Small Capital Grants Museum Development Fund some major restoration work is also being carried out at our Smithy Heritage Centre this year.

Our joint Smithy Curators, Vicky Griffiths and Joanne Chamberlain, together with our volunteers have once again excelled themselves. A number of events and exhibitions have taken place in the past 12 months, which were extra special as it was our 20th anniversary.

We were also thrilled to receive an award from St Helens Heritage Network for "excellent efforts in making Eccleston Smithy a bright jewel in our local history crown".

Our starter event in April was International Blacksmiths Day and Real Ale event. It was again well attended. The appearance of Puzzle the horse having his shoes renewed by the blacksmith was a highlight.

In September the grand finale at the Smithy was our Heritage Weekend, "Happy Birthday Smithy." We had our 3rd Great Eccleston "bake off" and had a large number of cakes entered which were judged independently by our local Women's Institute. I tasted several of them together with Cllr Duncan – well, it would be rude not too, wouldn't it? Well done to our winners they were delicious!

The same day I judged the talented dog contest, which consisted of over a dozen dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes. I watched in awe as they did tricks and obedience tasks.

In November, together with fellow councillors, I attended St James Church to mark Remembrance Sunday. This was followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph at Burrows Lane. On behalf of all my colleagues, I would like to thank the Reverend Harry Welch and his congregation for making us feel so welcome.

December saw us attending the annual Carol Service and Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Eccleston Library. This year we were pleased to welcome pupils and staff from Eccleston Lane Ends Primary School who provided a beautiful carol service without a "carol sheet" in sight. They must have amazing

memories. Thank you also to the staff at Eccleston Library for hosting the event and to Rainford Christmas Tree Land for donating the lovely Christmas tree.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the following people. My fellow Parish Councillors for their help and support. To Janet, our Clerk, who works long and hard assisting us with all issues, big and small. Thanks to our Curators, Vicky and Joanne, our caretakers Lisa and Bob and all the volunteers.

Warmest Regards,

COUNCILLOR ANITA ASHCROFT QPM
Chairman
Eccleston Parish Council

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The expenditure for 2014/2015 was £64,224 with the receipts and expenditure as follows:

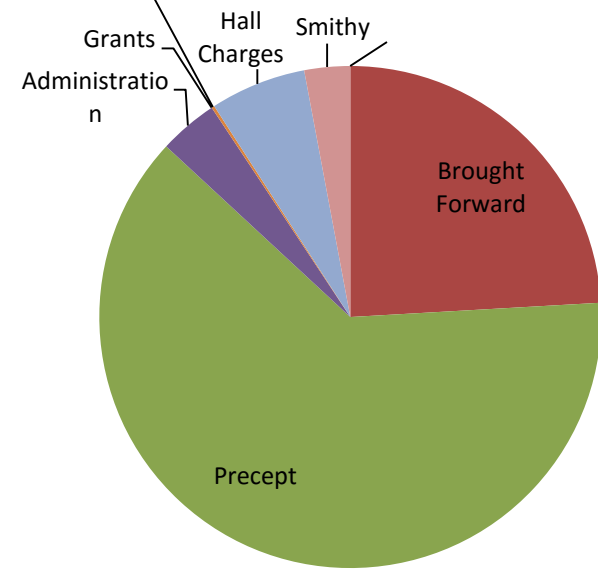
RECEIPTS

	2013/14	2014/15
Brought Forward	23,711	20,649
Precept	46,206	53,823
Administration	2,874	3,252
Grants	0	0
Ecclesfield	249	161
Hall Charges	6,041	5,292
Smithy	2,401	2,527
Total	81,482	85,704

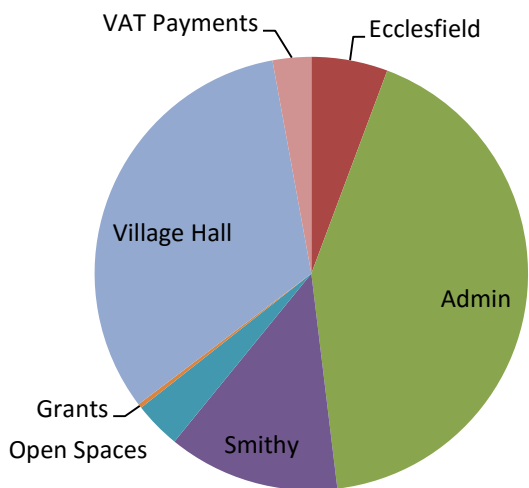
EXPENDITURE

	2013/14	2014/15
Ecclesfield	3,499	3660
Administration	27,161	27,220
Smithy	10,933	8,222
Open Spaces	2,179	2,246
Grants	1,100	200
Village Hall	14,091	20,829
VAT Payments	1,869	1,847
Total	60,832	64,224

RECEIPTS 2014/15



EXPENDITURE 2014/15



PARISH COUNCIL TENDERS

The Parish Council wishes to expand its list of contractors prepared to tender for work in the areas of grounds, building, electrical, fencing and all similar maintenance. Any contractor wishing to be placed on the Eccleston Parish Council list of approved contractors who will be invited to tender for Council work, should apply in writing with the names and addresses of recent clients who agree to provide a reference to: **Janet Anderson, Clerk of Eccleston Parish Council, 6 Gorsey Croft, Eccleston Park, PRESCOT L34 2RT**

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL KILN LANE

is available for hire on a regular or one-off basis
daytime or evening

CHILDREN'S PARTIES, COFFEE MORNINGS, MEETINGS, CLASSES, EXHIBITIONS

Contact: Mrs L Poole 01744 638554

****VILLAGE HALL CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE DAYTIME****

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ELECTORS for the Parish of Eccleston are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 26 April 2016, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston, St Helens.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2015
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to April 2015
- 4 Township affairs
- 5 Light refreshments will be available

**COUNCILLOR ANITA ASHCROFT
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

JANET ANDERSON, CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL hold meetings every second Tuesday of the month, except for August, when the Parish Council is in recess. Four months of the year the meetings take place at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park. The remainder of the year the meetings take place at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston. Agenda are posted on the two Parish Council Notice Boards – outside the Village Hall and St Helens Road, Eccleston Park – as well as Eccleston Library. Minutes of meetings can also be found in Eccleston Library and on the website at the address below.

WEBSITE – Our website address is www.ecclestonpc.org.uk and, amongst other information, you can find copies of the recent agenda and minutes of meetings.

All residents are welcome to attend meetings and can bring up topics at the beginning of each meeting under Residents’ Issues.

DATES OF MEETINGS – 2016-17

Please check the website for times and venues

Tuesday 26 April 16	7.30 pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 10 May 16	7.30 pm	Parish Annual Meeting	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tuesday 14 June 16	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 12 July 16	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The following venues to be confirmed

Tuesday 13 September 16	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tuesday 11 October 16	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 8 November 16	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 13 December 16	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tuesday 10 January 17	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 14 February 17	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 14 March 17	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tuesday 11 April 17	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

2015 AT THE SMITHY: A YEAR IN PICTURES

The Smithy opened out-of-season for *Vintage Valentines*, an exhibition of Victorian Valentine's cards on loan from The Atkinson, Southport, alongside a group of postcards sent from Charlie, a soldier in the First World War to his sweetheart Rose.



2015 marked 20 years since the Smithy Heritage Centre opened and the very first event held was a horse-shoeing demonstration; for International Blacksmiths Day we re-created the moment, with Puzzle the Horse visiting the Smithy and being shod by owner John.



Our dog-themed exhibition *Man's Best Friend* was incredibly popular, and as part of Heritage Open Weekend we held a fun dog show; Lily Belle won Waggiest Tail, and the prizes for Best Bark and Best Trick went to Sasha.



Waggiest tail



Best Bark

Dogs Trust constructed a fantastic agility course and also provided free micro-chipping on the day.

The third Great Eccleston Bake-off was our most exciting yet, with the lovely ladies of St Helens WI judging the entries. It took a full nail-biting half hour for them to reach their verdict – Gill Lea-Wilson won with "Luscious Lemon", a lemon sponge cake with lemon drizzle and borage flower decoration; Joanne Mercer was runner-up, with "Not now, Mr Grey...", a spiced chocolate cake with red wine and whipped mascarpone.



The final event for the year was our Macmillan Coffee Morning with St Helens WI and the wonderful staff from Millbrook Lane Co-op, raising almost £400!

The Smithy received an award from St Helens Heritage Network for "excellent efforts in making Eccleston Smithy a bright jewel in our local history crown".



Chairman with Vicky and Joanne (Curators)

VICKY GRIFFITHS
Joint Curator, Smithy Heritage Centre

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL!

In September 2016 we will be celebrating our Golden Jubilee at St Julie's. On 12th of September 1966 the bell rang as the school opened the doors for the first pupils. The school then was known as Blessed Julie's, as Julie Billiart was not canonised until 1969. Perhaps you were one of those first pupils, or remember the building and opening of the school?

Thousands of children have spent happy years at St Julie's and the school has been the workplace for many people too. We would love to hear from anyone who has a connection with the school and can share their memories, photographs or keepsakes.

Our Golden Jubilee committee has been meeting regularly to plan for how we can mark this very special occasion in our School's history. The Archbishop will be celebrating Mass for our school and Parish Community on September 21st. We hope to display the memorabilia that we collect so that all can share in our celebration.

As a lasting memorial of our Golden Jubilee we intend to create a Prayer Garden within the grounds of the school. If you have any landscape gardening expertise, or know how to make a garden rabbit-proof, then please get in touch! Indeed, if you have any suggestions for how we can mark our Golden Jubilee, or would like to be involved directly in our preparations please get in touch via email at stjulies.jubilee2016@sthelens.org.uk or via our school website.

St Julie Catholic Primary School has played a very special part in the Parish of Eccleston for 50 years and the staff and friends now would like to invite you to join in our celebrations in any way you can. As a school we are continually striving to develop and improve, to provide the best opportunities for all of our children. It is equally important for us all to look back over our history, to remember all the people and events that enabled us to be the Outstanding School we are now. Please join us in our celebration of this wonderful school.

ANNE HODGSON
Acting Headteacher

BLEAK HILL SCHOOL

We are enormously proud of the achievements of all of our children and I am indebted to our staff, families, friends and governors for their support, hard work and commitment. This article gives just a flavour of the many and varied opportunities the children have had over the last few terms to take part in a host of activities and competitions. It is my privilege to share some of our adventures with you. I hope that this gives you a flavour of life at Bleak Hill!

End of Summer Term 2015

At the end of the Summer Term we said goodbye to our Year 6 children who moved on to the next phase of their education, taking the exciting step into secondary school! After working hard all year, they achieved excellent results and ended their time at Bleak Hill with a wonderful performance of 'Let Loose'. As always, our end of year awards ceremony was held and with the support of Eccleston Parish Council, awards were made to 8 children from the juniors for Merit. Two children received the Shield of Endeavour and one child was presented with the Charlotte Baines Memorial Award. Staff and pupils value the support and encouragement provide by members of the Parish Council.



Our Schools Direct students came to the end of their teacher training year and all graduated. They have now begun their careers and we are very proud of their achievements.

Autumn Term 2015

We welcomed our new Reception children to school in September and have enjoyed getting to know them and watching them settle into school life. We also welcomed a new intake of Schools Direct students who are progressing well through their course. During the term Years 3 and 4 performed a Harvest Assembly and Years 1 and 2 entertained us with their Nativity Assembly. Year Ahead meetings were held for all year groups and parents were welcomed for two parents' evenings.

Choir

During the second half of Autumn Term, children in the school choir performed at Parish Church, Henbury Court and Willowbrook Hospice. They also performed at the NatWest Bank in St Helens. A wonderful time was had by all! In March, Year 6 performed in a massed choir event in Manchester – 'Young Voices' which was a fantastic experience.

Charities

Pupils have supported various charities including the British Legion through the Poppy Appeal and Willowbrook Hospice through their Christmas Toy sales. Plans moving forward include fundraising for Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

Visitors to School

We have had many visitors to school, including Saints Community Coaches who have worked with Year 6. We have also had a visit from Mr Connor McGinn, MP and two visits from the Mayor, Councillor Steve Glover and his Mayoress, Councillor Lynn Glover. Councillor Glover is a long-serving member of our Governing Body and we have been delighted to see him serve as Mayor.

Sport

Continuing our great sporting tradition, our successes included The Wargrave Cup rugby competition and our Y5 Kwik cricket team won the regional finals. They went on to play in the interval of the England v Australia one day international in September. We also had a series of wins at the Merseyside Youth Games, including wins in Y5/6 girls' and boys' Quad Kids' (athletics), Y5/6 hockey and Y3/4 tennis. In October Year 5 had a wonderful day sailing on Eccleston Mere. Recently we have been awarded the Youth Sports Trust's Gold Mark. The Youth Sport Trust Quality Mark is an accreditation scheme, which provides schools with a nationally recognised kitemark for PE and school sport.

Clubs

Children have been offered a variety of clubs both before and after school. These have included football, athletics, judo dance, fencing, zumba and boccia. In addition, school has continued to work with Wizzkids to provide Breakfast, After School and Holiday Clubs to support our families.

Friends of Bleak Hill



We are indebted to our wonderful PTA, the Friends of Bleak Hill who work tirelessly to raise much needed funds to provide extra equipment and experiences which we would not be able to provide from our budget. Events recently have included Christmas Shopping Night, Bingo, Disco's, Bake-Off and Quiz Night. Many more activities are planned. We have recently spent funds raised on new laptops for the mobile computer suite, our text messaging service, books and curriculum resources. The next big project is to increase our iPad suite.

MR I WELLENS **Headteacher**

ECCLESTON LANE ENDS

At Eccleston Lane Ends we value children's achievements both in and out of the school environment. We validate children's learning beyond the normal school day by encouraging each child within school to take part in a scheme called **Children's University**. This scheme allows our children to gain recognition for their commitment to enhancing their own learning through educational visits to museums and galleries, active sports or educational clubs and much more. Over the course of the year children receive a point for every hour of extra-curricular learning that they have completed. Once they have accumulated thirty points or more they graduate in full cap and gown at Hope University in a fantastic graduation ceremony. The scheme has encouraged children to flourish and values a child holistically. Eccleston Lane Ends has outstanding pupils and Children's University helps us to truly value every child's achievement allowing them to shine like the stars we know they are!



Two of our fantastic Year 4 children, Ava McCann and Rocco Escoffery, attended a times tables competition hosted by our Write Club 7 network school, St Theresa's Primary School in St Helens. The children practised their tables for many weeks in order to be chosen as representatives for their class. Their super knowledge and fast recall meant they won the challenge, beating representatives from 6 other primary schools in the network. They came back to school buzzing, showing off their certificates and trophy of their success. Staff and children were extremely proud of them and their hard work. Well done, Ava and Rocco!



MRS C GOWAN
Headteacher

ECCLESTON MERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Amazing times at Eccleston Mere! We are delighted with the Local Authority investment in our school. Our children will shortly have the very best learning environment, as phase 2 of the refurbishment/extension project reaches its conclusion.

This project has taken three years to complete and staff, children and parents have been extremely understanding and supportive during this time.

School numbers have increased over the last 4 years. We now have a two-form entry from Reception to Year 3.

Developments have included 6 new classrooms, a group room, a medical room, a dance and drama studio, a library and new facilities for staff.

The previous Sure Start building has also been included into the main school structure and this further enhances the provision at Eccleston Mere.

During the last school year we have also been awarded The Arts Mark and the Inclusion Mark. The Basic Skills Award has been renewed for a fifth time.

Currently, we are working towards our Science Gold Mark.

We continue to have very supportive parents and a hard-working PTA. All PTA functions are well attended and this supports the work of the school. Recent purchases have included: I-pads, I-pad charging trolleys and cases for use throughout school.

As a school we continue to give our best for local children.

MRS Y KIRK
Headteacher

DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL

Our year began with a wonderful celebration of Mass at the Cathedral involving our new year 7 students and year 5 and 6 students from our feeder primaries. It was uplifting to see over one thousand young people worshipping together.

In October the school participated in its annual sponsored walk in which all students walked up to 8 miles raising thousands for a range of charities. Also in this month the school hosted a visit from Asylum seekers from Eritrea who have now arrived in the UK. Their testimonies really brought home the harsh reality of people living at the very margins of society.

The school is also participating fully in the Year of Mercy called by the Holy Father and has organised its very own door of mercy through which all students can enter. This door of mercy will also be carried around the feeder primaries so that they too can participate in prayer and mediations dedicated to the importance of Mercy.

Charity fundraising continues to motivate our students. This year we again ran our Operation Christmas Child with students contributing many essential items to be given to children locally and globally who otherwise would go without at Christmas. During Lent each year group will have a week in focus in which they will participate in a range of activities designed to raise funds and awareness for a range of charities which include CAFOD, Willowbrook Hospice and Refugee Action

Our school has introduced a pastoral system involving Progress Leaders and Pupil Support managers designed to ensure that the school focuses on the correct balance between pastoral and academic development.

There has been some excellent individual achievements this year. This includes our year 11 students whose combined academic efforts contributed to a 10% increase in GCSE grades and there has been

individual success such as Olivia Hussey winning Sports Personality of the Year at the Pride of St Helens Awards and Michael Gaffney, representing the North West and winning a bronze medal in a National Gymnastics campaign held in Birmingham. Also Millie Costello was awarded Young Sports Person of the Year in the St Helens Sports Development Awards for her excellent athletic achievement which has also been recognised nationally. Other events to note this year have been the addition of American Football to the curriculum, the success of our hockey teams, netball teams and rugby league teams. Sport continues to play an important part of life at our school.

Our Year 11 students enjoyed a wonderful trip to New York. This is an annual trip open to year 11 and the group enjoyed all the usual highlights including Empire State Building, Central Park and of course shopping on 5th Avenue. Other trips have include a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, Spanish exchange visits, curriculum visits to the Yorkshire sculpture park and the on-going efforts of the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

This year the school has introduced a series of *Aspire to Be* talks for students. These involve talks given by a range of participants including local and national businesses and are designed to motivate students to think about a range of careers. One of the most successful was delivered by three former students who this year have been successful in their applications to study at Oxford or Cambridge. This shows that the very best Universities are not beyond the reach of our students.

MR J TOAL
Headteacher

PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB BOWLING SECTION

Part of Prescott and Odyssey Cricket Club's site is occupied by their bowling section. The bowlers maintain a pleasant, secluded green for the enjoyment of over 40 members and they would all give a warm welcome to anyone who fancies giving Crown Green bowling a try. The season starts around Easter and continues until mid-September. After the "opening of the green" members can be found socialising and taking part in friendly games among themselves every Tuesday and Thursday from about 1.15pm onwards. A break for tea and biscuits adds to the relaxed atmosphere. Anyone can come and join in, and if they have never bowled before they can borrow bowls from the club and will always find someone to give them a helping hand.

The club currently fields three teams which have weekly matches, one in the Monday afternoon Pensioner's League, another in the Monday evening Churches' League and a new team playing in the Newton league on Thursday nights. So for anyone who feels a bit competitive there is plenty of scope. But there is no obligation to join a team; many of our members play for fun only. If you are interested in trying your hand at the game, ring the Chairman, Mrs Judith Johnson on 01744 24227 for further details – or just turn up on Tuesday or Thursday.

During the year we have a number of fun events, usually on Saturday afternoons, and for the last two years in the run-up to Christmas we have organised a dinner which has been a great success. There is, of course, work involved for those prepared to do it, but again no one is obliged to help with this. There is a dedicated and hard-working team who undertake to look after the green throughout the year and they would welcome any new member who would like to get involved. Once the season finishes a day of green maintenance and preparation for the winter takes place. A major overhaul has been done this autumn and we confidently expect to have a superb playing surface next season.

MRS J JOHNSON
Chairman, Prescot and Odyssey Cricket Club Bowling Section

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

Another year is upon us and the library remains busy as ever.

There are lots of events planned for families – check out all the activities by looking on our website or calling in to the library and asking the staff.

It's going to be a busy year with the library hoping to link in to national events such as the Shakespeare 400th anniversary, the National Year of the English Garden, World Book Day, 200th anniversary of Charlotte Bronte and 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme to name a few!

This year's Summer Reading Challenge for children also has special significance this year – as the theme is "The Big Friendly Read" to celebrate 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl. We hope that even more children will take part this year in this ever-popular Challenge!

Eccleston Library is currently offering an opportunity for young people aged 12 to 24 to take part in an exciting programme called "Reading Hack". A hack is defined as an activity to "change something in an extraordinary way". The aim is that the young people undertake reading based activities and events to gain skills and experience, working alongside library staff. They can also use these experiences towards gaining an Arts Award. Anyone interested in taking part can contact the library for further details.

Remember we also have ample computer facilities in the library – with free access to 10 public computers and printing facilities from 10 pence per page. Or use the computers to do some family history research – all free of charge!

Why not take advantage of our free E books offer. Our Libr-E offer has plenty to offer all readers and more information can be found by looking on the library catalogue webpage. We also have the St Helens Library App – why not try it out?

The library service is also looking for local volunteers to expand our Home Delivery Service in an effort to give a more personal provision for housebound people. If you have some spare time and can help out by visiting some of our customers, please contact Gillian Yates on 01744 677445 or email gillianyates@sthelens.gov.uk

HOW CAN I JOIN THE LIBRARY?

It's really easy to join the library and best of all its free of charge. Just call in with proof of your address and also proof of signature and you will become a library member that same day.

Don't forget to join your children up for free membership and make it a family outing.

WHEN IS ECCLESTON LIBRARY OPEN?

Monday 1 – 7pm
Tuesday – CLOSED
Wednesday 1 – 7pm
Thursday 10 – 5pm
Friday 10 – 5pm
Saturday 10 – 1pm

HOW CAN I KEEP UPDATED?

- 1) St Helens Libraries have a twitter account, look for our latest tweet at *@STHLibraries*
- 2) St Helens Libraries now have a Facebook account – check for information on here.
www.facebook.com/STHLibraries
- 3) Look out for event posters and flyers in the library
- 4) Check out our website *www.sthelens.gov.uk/libraries*

For further information telephone Eccleston Library on 01744 677575 or email ecclestonlibrary@sthelens.gov.uk

We hope to see you soon!

KATE JONES
Community Library Officer

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS AT THE SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE 2016

OPEN WEEKENDS, 1-4PM
Saturday 12 March – Sunday 11 September

SHAKESPEARE AT THE SMITHY

Plague and Prose

This year, the Smithy will be opening earlier so that we can join the festivities for Shakespeare Week, marking 400 years since the Bard passed away, leaving his literary legacy. This year's exhibition will look at how life changed throughout the medieval and Tudor period – the discoveries, beliefs, superstitions, celebrations, culture and cuisine.

International Blacksmiths Day & Real Ale Event

Saturday 21 May, 12 - 5pm

Each year this exciting international event gets bigger and better – blacksmithing and wheelwrighting demonstrations from 12 to 5pm alongside other craftspeople showcasing their skills, with handmade unique items available to buy. Feeling thirsty? We'll be serving local Real Ales and ciders from 12 to 10pm, as well as snacks and traditional pub games to keep you occupied.

Midsummer Murder at the Smithy

Saturday 25 June, 7 - 10pm

The Smithy will be hosting an evening of intrigue, mystery and murder! Be transported back to the 1600s, and meet a cast of colourful characters from Murder Mystery Productions – interview the suspects and solve the crime! Tickets are £15, with buffet supper and first drink included. To book, pop in to the Smithy during opening hours, or contact us on 01744 730744 or email smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com

Festival of British Archaeology at the Smithy

16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 30th & 31st July, 1 - 4pm

Get involved with the Council for British Archaeology's national event – this year, we'll be looking at herbal magic, medicine and cunning folk. There will also be themed craft activities over the three weekends, just 50p per child.

Eat, drink and be merry! - Heritage Open Weekend

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September, 12 - 5pm

Get your oven gloves on and join in with the 4th Annual Great Ecclestone Bake-off!

We'll also be having a bit of 16th century-style fun with a feast fit for a king at the Smithy – there's lots of fun to be had for all the family!

VICKY GRIFFITHS and JOANNE CHAMBERLAIN

Joint Curators, Smithy Heritage Centre

NEWS FROM THE LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

The Ecclestone Old People's Welfare Committee has celebrated a milestone as it was formed 60 years ago in 1955. Mr John Barron was chairman of the Old Age Pensioners Association and was '...deputed to convene a meeting with the object of forming a local old people's welfare committee...' The first meeting was held at Chapel Lane school on Monday 14th March 1955 with a guest speaker being a Miss D Cooper the county (Lancashire as it was then) organiser of Old People's Welfare. There were many representatives from local organisations 'encouraged' or cajoled onto the committee. It also happens to be 50 years since the Committee purchased Stanley Ellison's old builders hut on Lester Drive and began the process of conversion.



The '89 Society members were entertained by the superb talent of Mark Dowding with Lancashire songs, stories and poems. Mark is a member of the Lancashire Folk Group and sang traditional Lancashire songs by local writers like Harry Boardman, Edmund Hill and poems by Harvey Laycock, Henry Clifton and Cliff Gerard, all with wonderful titles like 'Billy Suet' and 'Bodle un Mischief un Poncake un me'. Mark even had the original tune for, 'She was very fond of dancing'. There is a clip of Mark on our Facebook page. There was a fascinating talk by Tom Preston on the Gerard Family of Garswood Hall. A history of Nursery Rhymes – who would guess that 'Hey diddle diddle' is about a pub crawl or that so many innocent tales recall treachery, torture and bloodshed. Brian Arnold 'let the cat out of the bag' and explained the origin of many everyday phrases in his humorous talk, Naughtly Nautical Terms.

A special team of crack gardeners came along to help redesign our patch of garden. Ecclestone Brownies and their leaders, veni, vidi, vici! Leader Vicky Myers had them plan out the space before they turned out in force to 'get grubby'. It rained all night and all the day, stopping just before they arrived. Fortunately they are Lancashire Brownies and despite mud everywhere they battled with weeding, raking, digging, a

little trimming then enriching the soil, learning about worms, planting and sowing! There was mud, weeds and worms everywhere but they thoroughly enjoyed digging in and helping. Thanks to the Brownies, leaders and to a couple of our own Gardening Circle members who helped. The reward was a superb variety of wildflowers, which came out in our 'meadow' which attracted a huge variety of insects from butterflies, bees and hover flies to damsel and even a dragonfly.



Local duo, Harmony Unlimited entertained at the Christmas concert and there was even a sing along.

The '89 Society (not the average age of the members, but formed in 1989) has a varied programme of historical subjects, travelogues, music and arts, wildlife and nature, in the form of talks, slideshows and workshops.

The Gardening Circle has enjoyed varied talks ranging from local subjects, The Changing Nature of St Helens by local lad Tom Ferguson, to composting techniques and Mount Pleasant Gardens in Cheshire.

The Lester Drive Centre website: www.lesterdrivecentre.org.uk has on it a history of the Centre, details of groups and forthcoming events and more information on our building project. PlusNet have kindly provided internet connection. The Centre is also now at: [Facebook.com/lesterdrivecentre](https://www.facebook.com/lesterdrivecentre)

The Eccleston board gamers, or ERGO, are meeting regularly on a Wednesday to play strategy, wargames and RPGs. The members hold 'taster' sessions and are always looking for new gamers, so if you want to rule the galaxy have a look at: www.facebook.com/groups/175742915794792

The Gardening Circle meets on the fourth Thursday in the month and is looking for new members. Working in the garden can be good exercise, enjoyable and rewarding – particularly if you grow some vegetables. They are a friendly group and always ready to offer hints and tips, there are talks and demonstrations about flower and vegetable gardening.

Anyone who likes playing Bridge should come along to the Tuesday Bridge for a friendly non competitive evening, but if you really know nothing about Bridge and are interested in learning to play, then come to the Wednesday morning group when we have instruction aimed at beginners and intermediate level players to introduce or brush up on the rules – with lots of hints and tips. Everyone is friendly and welcoming and at only £1.50 per session it includes tea and biscuits. Experienced Bridge players would enjoy the Friday group. For more information please contact Derek on 29388.

The Art Club are keen to encourage new members. There is no teacher but members help each other, so if you have some experience and want to meet with people of a similar interest, contact Tony Sweeney or come along on a Monday 9am. The members use watercolour, pastel, pencils and have just started exploring oil paint.

The IT&Tea group meets twice a month usually on a Tuesday and last Friday of the month at about 2pm. Anyone who gets stuck with a problem on their computer, laptop or tablet, is just learning about the internet or simply wants some advice with a mobile phone or other bit of tech we will try and help. All we ask is £1 for tea and biscuits.

The Committee have worked hard fundraising towards our building project and are interested if anyone has any fundraising ideas or suggestions. We would welcome any assistance, so if you are a local business or individual who would like to support us, (a registered charity that works to benefit the community), please contact the committee, phone, write or email.

WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE?

Monday Mornings the Art Club meet from 9am 'til noon. In the afternoon on alternate weeks we have an Afternoon Tea and Bingo from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. The event is very popular with the elderly as they meet and enjoy fellowship with their peers, play a few games of prize bingo and have a nice afternoon tea. In the evening the Weight Watchers meet.

Tuesday mornings the very popular Jo-Jingles group meets. In the evening The Bridge Club meets from 7.15pm. If you are, or have been a bridge player, why not come along, it costs £1.50.

Wednesday morning at 9.30am Beginners Bridge Club meets, with instruction from Derek. At 1.00pm Les Petite Pois French lessons for early years children. The Board Gamers meet from 5.30pm.

Thursday morning baby sensory class with massage and music, in the afternoon 2pm to 4pm the Yoga group. In the evenings (alternate weeks) the Bingo club meets for prize bingo and refreshments. We always have room for more players so don't be shy give it a try.

Friday morning the TaiChi group have gentle exercise class from 10am 'til 11am. In the afternoon U3A has a hand chimes group. Friday evenings the St Helens Contract Bridge meets.

Saturday mornings is Maths tuition with Stephen and Eccleston Maths Centre tutors.

In addition to the regular weekly events we have monthly meetings of: The Lady Farmers (3rd Wednesday), The '89 Society (2nd Thursday) and The Gardening Circle (4th Thursday). The Eccleston Card Crafters (2nd Tuesday 1pm) The '89 Society have enjoyed a successful year with a range of first-rate speakers covering a wide range of topics. If you are a gardener or a would-be gardener, or if the '89 Society programme appeals to you, or if you would like to know more about any of the activities at the Lester Drive Centre please ring 01744 26813 or e-mail: lesterdrivecentre@gmail.com

The committee would like to thank everyone, helpers, volunteers and users involved at the centre for their continued hard work and support.

ANDREW MARTLEW
Lester Drive Centre

CHRIST CHURCH

Making a difference in Eccleston and beyond...

Each year Christ Church puts a great deal of energy into organising charity events and fundraising ventures – and every year the incredible generosity of the Eccleston community continues to inspire and amaze us. Did you know, for instance, that the Christian Aid collection Christ Church organises across Eccleston each year raises more than any other Parish in St Helens? In 2015 the total collected was £3,900 – a phenomenal amount that Christian Aid will use to support various projects around the world. In total Christ Church raised over £10,000 in 2015 for good causes – including The Children’s Society, The Syria Appeal and the Umoja Street Children’s Trust in Kenya. We also collected **493** bags of food for St Helens food bank, and at Christmas sent **53** shoeboxes filled with toys and supplies via the Samaritans Purse charity for distribution to the world’s poor and vulnerable children.

Those will be difficult figures to beat in 2016 but we will certainly try our best – and knowing the generosity of the Eccleston community we stand every chance of doing so!

We are also working hard to increase our community provision, including starting our new Toddler Time session which takes place in Church each Friday morning in term time. This has been very popular with parents (and grandparents!) looking after young children, who enjoy coming for a cuppa, a chat and some lovely hot buttered toast – while their little ones enjoy the toys and activities. We charge £1 per child, with refreshments provided for all.

This, together with our Friday evening groups (All Stars for children aged 4-7 and Star Academy for 8-11 year olds at Bleak Hill School and – for High School age kids – YPF held in the Lower Church Hall), mean we now run regular groups dedicated to children of all ages. We also run Messy Church events at Eccleston Mere School – so that children can encounter Christianity in a way that is designed specifically for them – ie. fun!

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who enable us to run our events and fundraisers, and to the wider community as always for your continued support. If you would like to know more about our activities or services visit www.cce.org.uk.

RACHEL LYON
Christ Church

ECCLESTON PARK TENNIS CLUB

Once a sport of the upper classes; tennis is now enjoyed by millions of recreational players all over the world. It really is a game for life – encouraging agility, speed and endurance in children and the older generation. It's also a great family game with a great social aspect; tennis really does have something for everyone.

Eccleston Park Tennis Club was founded in 1904 and serves the communities of Eccleston Park, Prescott, Rainhill, St Helens and the surrounding areas. The family club is an easy-going and friendly place that caters for all standards of play from those who want to play socially to those who have their sights set on competitive play.

The club also prides itself on nurturing talent and being a completely inclusive club for players of all ages. So much so that Club President, Margaret Strong recently won the Lifetime Achiever Award from St Helens District Sports Council. At over 80 years of age, Margaret can be seen throughout the week enjoying a great game of tennis.

The amenities at the club are second to none and with memberships only starting at £40 per year, you can't say fairer than that. These include a clubhouse and changing rooms, three shale courts and two all weather courts. Eccleston Park Tennis Club offers some of the best facilities in the area. After receiving funding from Sport England, the club now boasts the only floodlit courts in the area.

The club takes part in social tennis and match play and new members are always welcome. With four men's teams and two lady's teams playing in the Liverpool and District group league, there is always a place for anyone wanting to take up tennis.

During the playing season the club holds two social tennis sessions per week in addition to six club tournaments each year; with regular social events throughout the year. Currently there are two enthusiastic and qualified coaches and coaching is available for juniors and adults all year round.

So what are you waiting for, get off that couch and contact Eccleston Park Tennis Club for a free, no obligation tour. If you're interested in joining the club please call 01744 608708 or email info@epltc.co.uk or check out their Facebook page for all their latest offers and details of open days.

Eccleston Park Tennis Club
Off St Helens Road
Forest Close
Eccleston Park
L34 2TT



www.epltc.co.uk
Club

Twitter: @epltc

Facebook: Eccleston Park Tennis

JU JITSU AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Budokan Ju Jitsu has been at Eccleston Village Hall for over thirty years. Ju Jitsu is the original Japanese martial art. Judo, kendo, karate and aikido all came out of Ju Jitsu.

Ju Jitsu gives self confidence and discipline.

We are registered with the Martial Arts Council through The National Federation of Personal Safety (GB).

We train on a Monday and Friday evenings.

Children's classes start at 6.30pm and adult classes start at 8.00pm.

Ju Jitsu is a good way of getting fit it and teaches you self defence.

New members are welcome.

Contact Geoff Pearl on 07721009418

COUNCILLOR GEOFF PEARL

HOSPICE UPDATE

Willowbrook Hospice cares for people in St Helens and Knowsley who suffer from a range of life limiting conditions. The service is free and all the patients' needs are cared for by dedicated staff.

There are 12 in-patient beds plus all the supporting services such as day therapy, outpatients.

The Costa cafe is a welcoming place for patients and relatives. It is hoped to further develop the gardens.

I have now visited the exciting new building in Borough Road. Nicky escorted me round. It is a lovely building which has been renovated with the aid of a Government grant for derelict buildings. Furniture and carpets have all been donated and the staff and volunteers are settling in.

It will be a centre for wellbeing to reach out to all the community with seminars for education, treatment rooms, various classes and fund raising events.

There will be an excellent cafe and shop to generate income.

All of this requires funding. Many thanks to all the volunteers who work in the Hospice, the shops, warehouse, social events, lottery and to doctors and nurses for loving care.

For further information contact:

Hospice Fundraising Office, Nicky – 01744 453798

Hospice – 0151 430 8736

Web site www.willowbrook.org.uk

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN

TRAPWOOD CLOSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

All activities are open to those aged 50 years and over who live in the wider community. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Activities include: bingo, lunch club, arm chair exercise and choir practice.

Costs: A minimal amount may be charged for some activities and refreshments.

If you are interested in attending any of the activities please ring 01744 677843.

EDITH'S RECIPES

BOOZY LEEKS

Ingredients

6 to 8 small leeks, trimmed and washed

1 clove of garlic, crushed

1/2 cup (100 ml) red wine
1 tsp (5 ml) red wine vinegar
2 tbsp (30 ml) parsley, chopped
pinch of salt
black pepper

Method

Place the chopped leeks, butter and garlic in a suitable bowl and cover with cling film and cook for about 4 minutes in the microwave

Add the red wine and a pinch of salt and mix well. Cover and cook for about 6 minutes or until leeks are tender.

Drain the leeks on a serving dish and reduce the remaining liquid either uncovered in the microwave or in a sauce pan for 2 minutes. If you like a sticky sauce add a little sugar before reducing.

Add the vinegar and pepper to taste.

Pour over the leeks and garnish with parsley.

CHEWY DATE BARS

Ingredients

250g (9oz) stoned dates, roughly chopped
75g (3oz) Demerara sugar
60g (2.5oz) plain flour
50g (2oz) porridge oats
4 tbsp vegetable oil
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp mixed spice
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 tbsp dark rum
2 large eggs, beaten
175g (6oz) pecan nuts, roughly chopped
icing sugar, to dust

Method

Heat oven to 180C, 350 F, gas 4.

Grease and line with greaseproof paper a square tin about 15cm (6in) square.

Place all the ingredients into a bowl. Stir well.

Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and smooth flat the surface.

Place on the middle shelf of the oven and bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until the top is firm to the touch and browned.

Leave to cool for 10 minutes, then turn it out onto a wire rack to cool, and hide it!

When cold, cut into pieces and dust with icing sugar or icing sugar and coco powder.

MRS EDITH MARTLEW

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1 December 2016 – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Ecclestone Library, 11am

CHAIRMEN AND CLERKS OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL 1894-2013

CHAIRMEN

1894-1917	Thomas Garner	1962-1963	H Broughton	1991-1992	Mrs T V Sims
1917-1928	Joshua Simm	1963-1964	J C Ackers	1992-1993	D Bayliss
1928-1931	Chris Pennington	1964-1965	W R Crosby	1993-1994	Mrs T V Sims
1931-1939	Ch Taylor	1965-1966	L Prest	1994-1995	Mrs A Melia
1939-1940	T Wright	1966-1967	T McCormack	1995-1996	D Bain
1940-1941	O Morris	1967-1968	N W Ridge	1996-1998	Mrs T V Sims
1941-1942	D Saunders	1968-1969	H J Hunter	1998-1999	Mrs S A Evans
1942-1943	H E Moody	1969-1970	W R Naylor	1999-2002	Mrs T V Sims
1943-1944	Harry Taylor	1970-1971	R D Foster	2002-2004	D Bain
1944-1945	J C Ackers	1971-1972	W S Paton	2004-2005	Mrs M Maloney
1945-1946	G Foster	1972-1973	G Brownlow	2005-2008	Mrs C Duncan
1946-1947	J T Tyrer	1973-1974	P A Brosnan	2008-2009	L Perry
1947-1948	Jas Rainford	1974-1975	F Smith	2009-2011	G Pearl
1948-1949	Ch Taylor	1975-1976	R Pennington	2011-2012	Mrs E Skepper
1949-1950	D Saunders	1976-1977	H J Hunter	2012-2013	Mrs C Pearl
1950-1951	H E Moody	1977-1978	W R Crosby	2013-2015	Mrs T V Sims
1951-1952	J C Ackers	1978-1979	T McCormack	2015-2016	Ms A Ashcroft QPM
1952-1953	J T Dudley	1979-1980	W R Naylor		
1953-1954	J T Tyrer	1980-1981	R D Foster		
1954-1955	J Barron	1981-1982	W S Paton		
1955-1956	Ch Taylor	1982-1983	G M Brownlow		
1956-1957	G Palin	1983-1984	W R Crosby		
1957-1958	H E Moody	1984-1985	T McCormack		
1958-1959	H J Hunter	1985-1986	W R Naylor		
1959-1960	J C Ackers	1986-1987	G M Brownlow		
1960-1961	J T Dudley	1987-1988	Mrs C Pyke		
1961-1962	J Ducker	1988-1989	J Hockenhull		
		1989-1991	W R Crosby		

CLERKS

1894-1912	E Range
1912-1934 ...	J Stead (Grandfather)
1934-1967	V Stead (Father)
1967-1976	J Stead (Grandson)
1976-1979	G T E Lewis
1979-1982	D T Thomas
1982-1986	D S Grimley
1986-1991	Mrs D Worsley
1991-1997	Mrs C Roberts/Relph
1997-2012	Mrs L Scott
2012-present	Mrs J Anderson

LOCAL CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS

West Ward

Anita Ashcroft – c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Joanne Broughton – c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Ian Kempself

21 Howards Lane, Ecc, WA10 5HX Tel 01744 27697

Elizabeth Skepper

18 Henbury Court, Ecc, WA10 4RA Tel 01744 758868

Ruth Watmough

17 Mulberry Avenue, Ecc, WA10 4DA Tel 01744 631378

East Ward

Andrew Dawson

118 Kiln Lane, Ecc, WA10 4RJ Tel: 01744 309080

Michael Haw

3 Rutherford Rd, Windle, WA10 6HJ Tel: 01744 29121

Geoffrey Pearl

53 Norton Grv, Thatto Heath, WA9 5PP Tel: 01744 340413

South Ward

Christina Duncan

163 St Helens Rd, Ecc Park, L34 2QB Tel: 0151 426 5615

Lynn Gray-Williams

7 New Road, Prescot, L34 6JS

Carol Pearl

53 Norton Grv, Thatto Heath WA95PP Tel: 01744 340413

Teresa Sims

11 Portico Ave, Ecc Park, L35 7JL Tel: 0151 426 5118

Parish Clerk

Janet Anderson,

6 Gorsey Croft, Eccleston Park, PRESCOT, L34 2RT

Tel: 0151 345 7533

E-mail: ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Smithy Heritage Centre Curators

Joanne Chamberlain	Tel 01744 730744
Vicky Griffiths	Tel 01744 730744
Smithy Heritage Centre	Tel 01744 730744

Village Hall Caretaker

Lisa Poole	Tel: 01744 638554
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ACTION LINES

Ring these numbers to report problems or poor service:

Street Lights – Call Centre	Tel: 01744 45600
- quoting the number painted on the street light	
Refuse/street cleaning	Tel: 01744 45600
Traveline (National Number)	Tel: 0871 200 22 33

CHURCHES

CHRIST CHURCH, ECCLESTON Christ Church Vicarage, Chapel Lane	Tel: 01744 22698
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OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS RC CHURCH Fr David Melly, Portico La, Eccleston Park	Tel: 0151 426 6251
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ST JAMES CHURCH, ECCLESTON PARK Rev Harry Welch, St James Church Vicarage St Helens Road, Prescot	Tel: 0151 426 6421
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ST JULIE RC CHURCH Fr T Neylon, St Julie Presbytery, Howards Lane	Tel: 01744 28196
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SCHOOLS

BLEAK HILL PRIMARY, Hamilton Road. Head: Mr I Wellens	Tel: 01744 678190
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DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL, Mill Brow, Eccleston, Head Mr J Toal	Tel: 01744 20511
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ECCLESTON LANE ENDS CP, Albany Avenue, Eccleston Park, Head: Mrs C Gowan	Tel: 01744 678270
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ECCLESTON MERE CP, Saleswood Avenue, Head: Mrs Y Kirk	Tel: 01744 678280
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ST JULIE RC PRIMARY, Brooklands Road, Act Head Mrs A Hodgson	Tel: 01744 678233
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TODDLERS/PLAYGROUPS/ACTIVITIES

Time for Ted, Eccleston Village Hall, Thursday morning
9.30am (term time classes)
Contact Joanne Wood Tel 07738 119327
Email: jwood78@sky.com

Jo Jingles, Lester Drive Centre, every Tuesday morning
1-2 years 9.30; 2-3 years 10.30; 3-4 years 11.30am
Contact Fran Harrop Tel: 01744 454000

ECCLESTON PARK NURSERY
St Helens Road, Prescot Tel: 0151 431 0008

PLANET KIDS PRIVATE DAY NURSERY
Broadway, Eccleston Tel 01744 754555

KEEP FIT/SPORT

SLIMMING WORLD
Mrs T Potter – Weds eve
Eccleston Village Hall Tel: 01744 630899

BOYS SOCCER
Bleak Hill Rovers, J Monsvoll Tel: 01744 615466
Kicks Soccer School, A Greenall Tel: 01744 629460
07770 660412

ADULT SOCCER
Ecclesfield FC Tel: Contact Ecclesfield Caretaker
Griffin FC 077880 538387

ECCLESFIELD CHANGING FACILITY
Caretaker Bob Kelsey Tel 07880 538387
Secretary Janet Anderson Tel: 0151 345 7533

ECCLESTON LIONS RLFC
www.northwestrugbyleague.co.uk

PRESCOT & ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB
Burrows Lane – applications in writing or phone in season:
Tel: 0151 426 6811

JUJITSU
Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane
Mon & Fri 6.00pm-9.45pm
07721 009418

ART CLUB
Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane
Tue 9.30am–12.00pm – Call in to join

PILKINGTON SAILING CLUB ECCLESTON MERE
General Enquiries
Freda Lunt Tel: 01744 21770
Rob Tyler Tel: 01744 884821
www.pilkingtonsailingclub.co.uk

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL Tel: 01744 676789
Town Hall, Victoria Square – all departments, Call Centre

ECCLESTON LIBRARY Tel: 01744 677575
(Closed Tuesdays)

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU Tel: 0844 8269694
Millennium Centre

VICTIM SUPPORT Tel: 0300 303 1979
North West Region

HALTON & ST HELENS VCA
St Helens Office Tel: 01744 457100

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE
Fundraising Office Tel: 01744 453798
Willowbrook Hospice Tel: 0151 430 8736

HALTON & ST HELENS PCT Tel: 01928 593600

DASH (Disability Advice & Information St Helens)
Monday-Friday 10.00am-4.00pm Tel: 01744 453053

AGE UK MID MERSEY
Mansion House, Victoria Park Tel: 01744 454530

NATIONAL TRUST, St Helens
Mr E J Smith, Chairman Tel: 0151 426 6955

ST JULIES

OVER 50s CLUB

1st & 3rd Thurs 2-4 pm, Mr Clarry Prior Tel: 01744 21401
Mrs Jacky Sheppard Tel: 01744 738732
HALL HIRE – Mr Roger Mullin Tel: 01744 734486

LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

Bookings, Mrs E Martlew Tel: 01744 26813

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICERS – Eccleston

Tel: 0151 777 6052 (Burrows Lane)

NEIGHBOURHOOD INSPECTOR - 0151 777 6048

Articles in this magazine were written by Parish Councillors, people involved in the Parish or residents of Eccleston/Eccleston Park. The views are their own and not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. I for my part have tried to make sure that all information is as accurate as possible at the time of going to print. I apologise in advance for any mistakes.

Janet Anderson – Clerk to the Parish Council