

**ECCLESTON
PARISH COUNCIL
MAGAZINE
2017 – 2018**



ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE

**AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
FOR
CHILDREN'S PARTIES, COFFEE MORNINGS,
MEETINGS, CLASSES, EXHIBITIONS, TRAINING
SESSIONS**

Contact the Caretaker on 01744 638554

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Resident

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as Chairman of Ecclestone Parish Council for the past twelve months.

The time has just flown by with another busy and productive year and a big thank you to Janet our busy Parish Clerk.



As Chairman I was invited to Bleak Hill School to present prizes to the children. As always it was a pleasure to attend and recognise the achievements of the children.

In November, along with other members of the Parish Council, I attended Christ Church for the annual Remembrance Day Service. After the service Rev Sonya Doragh led prayers at the War Memorial at the end of Burrows Lane and fellow Parish Councillors laid a wreath.

In December children from Bleak Hill School choir attended Ecclestone Library for the Christmas tree lighting, which is a great way to start the Christmas celebrations. Again thank you to Rainfords Christmas Tree Land for supplying the tree. Also thank you to the Library Staff for decorating the tree and getting into the Christmas spirit supplying tea coffee and mince pies.

It has been another busy year at the Smithy Museum. Without the hard work of our two curators, Joanne and Vicky, none of it would be possible. They work extremely hard putting on various events throughout the year with one highlight being the annual Blacksmith's Day. We also have many visitors coming to the Smithy with exhibitions being put on throughout the year.

I would like to thank all the Parish councillors for all the work they have put in throughout the year.

Warmest regards

COUNCILLOR GEOFF PEARL
CHAIRMAN
ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 12 November 2017, Councillors attended a Service of Remembrance at Christ Church, Eccleston. Afterwards Rev Sonya Doragh led Councillors and residents in prayer at the War Memorial on Burrows Lane, where wreaths were laid in remembrance.



PARISH COUNCILLORS

West Ward

Cllr Anita Ashcroft c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Cllr Joanne Broughton c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Cllr Ian Kempself
21 Howards Lane, Eccleston 01744 27697

Cllr Elizabeth Skepper
18 Henbury Court, Eccleston 01744 758868

Cllr Ruth Watmough
17 Mulberry Avenue, Eccleston 01744 631378

East Ward

Cllr Michael Haw
4 Linden Way, Eccleston 07837 759432

Cllr Geoff Pearl
53 Norton Grove, Thatto Heath 01744 340413

South Ward

Cllr Christina Duncan
163 St Helens Road, Eccleston Park 0151 426 5615

Cllr Lynn Gray-Williams
7 New Road, Eccleston Park 0151 431 1070

Cllr Carol Pearl
53 Norton Grove, Thatto Heath 01744 340413

Cllr Teresa Sims
11 Portico Avenue, Eccleston Park 0151 426 5118

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Eccleston Parish Council hold meetings every second Tuesday of the month except for August when the Parish Council is in recess. Meetings are held at 7.30pm.

Usually meetings are held every quarter at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park, but unfortunately at the moment Our Lady's is unavailable, therefore meetings will take place at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston until further notice (see dates below).

DATES OF MEETINGS – 2018-2019

Please check the website for times and venues

24 April 18	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall
8 May 18	Parish Annual Meeting	Village Hall
12 June 18	Parish Council	Village Hall
10 July 18	Parish Council	Village Hall

The following venues to be confirmed

11 September 18	Parish Council	Village Hall
9 October 18	Parish Council	Village Hall
13 November 18	Parish Council	Village Hall
11 December 18	Parish Council	Village Hall
8 January 19	Parish Council	Village Hall
12 February 19	Parish Council	Village Hall
12 March 19	Parish Council	Village Hall
9 April 19	Parish Council	Village Hall

Copies of the Agenda are posted on the two Parish Council Notice Boards – outside the Village Hall and St Helens Road, Eccleston Park – as well as at Eccleston Library and on the website. Minutes of meetings can also be found in Eccleston Library and on the website www.ecclestonpc.org.uk.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ELECTORS for the Parish of Eccleston are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 24 April 2018 at 7.30 pm in Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2017
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2017
- 4 Township affairs
- 5 Light refreshments will be available

COUNCILLOR GEOFF PEARL
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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 to Eccleston Parish Council,
6 Gorsey Croft, Eccleston Park, Prescot L34 2RT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2017**

The following statement represents the financial position of Eccleston Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 2016-17:

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£
Precept	54,078
Administration	4,269
Ecclesfield	277
Hall Charges	7,016
Smithy	2,596
Total	68,236

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Administration	33,499
Ecclesfield	3,499
Village Hall	19,518
Smithy	10,985
Open Spaces	2,182
Grants	1,100
VAT payments	3,208
Total	73,991

<u>In summary</u>	
Brought forward 1 April 2016	25,922
Plus receipts	68,236
Less expenditure	73,991
Balance at 31 March 2017	£20,167

Janet Anderson
Clerk to Eccleston Parish Council



Eccleston & West Park Local Policing Team Surgery dates:

- ❖ Friday 6th April 2018, 1100-1200hrs @ Eccleston Police Station
- ❖ Friday 20th April 2018, 1100-1200hrs @ Eccleston Police Station
- ❖ Friday 4th May 2018, 1600-1700hrs @ Eccleston Police Station
- ❖ Friday 18th May 2018, 1100-1200hrs @ Eccleston Police Station
- ❖ Friday 1st June 2018, 1100-1200hrs @ Eccleston Police Station
- ❖ Friday 15th June 2018, 1600-1700hrs @ Eccleston Police Station

If you need to speak to a Police Officer in the meantime,
please attend your nearest General Enquiry Office at:

St Helens Police Station, College Street, St Helens, WA10 1TG

St Helens Police station is open:

Monday – Saturday from 0800 to 2200 hours
Sunday from 0800 to 1700 hours

If your enquiry is non urgent please ring 101
In the case of an emergency please ring 999

You can follow your local Policing Team on
Twitter & Facebook:



@MerPolStHelensS



St Helens Police

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL USER GROUPS

OUR TIME SENSORY BABY

Monday 11am and 1pm

Our Time Sensory Baby holds themed sensory sessions at Eccleston Village Hall on Monday mornings. It is a chance for babies to explore their new world through their senses.

The next term will start on Monday 16 April 2018 for babies from birth to approximately 12 months.

Please contact Louise Anderson on 07379 737903
@OurTimeSensoryBaby
ourtime.sensory@yahoo.com



BU DOKAN JU JITSU

Monday and Friday evening

Ju Jitsu classes have been at Eccleston Village Hall for 30 years. Both adults and children have gone on to obtain their Black Belt.

Ju Jitsu teaches self-defence giving confidence and helps keep you fit. We have pupils from age 5, with the eldest pupil being in their 50's.

Classes are held Monday and Friday evenings at the Village Hall
Juniors 6.30pm-7.45pm
Seniors 8.00pm-9.30pm

For further information please call Geoff Pearl on 07721 009418.

SLIMMING WORLD

Wednesday 6pm

The Slimming World Group run by Tracy Potter in Eccleston Village Hall has recently crowned their young slimmer of the year. The competition celebrates Slimming World's younger members, recognising 16 to 21 year olds who've transformed their lives by adopting healthier eating habits and getting active.

Everyone from the age of 11 upwards is welcome at the Eccleston Slimming World group on Kiln Lane every Wednesday at 6.00pm and young people aged 11-15 can attend for free when they're accompanied by a parent or guardian and have the approval of their GP. For more information visit www.slimmingworld.co.uk or call Tracy on 01744 630899.

SUNNY BUNNY'S

Thursday from 9.45am

Sunny Bunny's provides themed music, movement and sensory experiences designed for preschool children to enjoy with their grown-ups. Sessions are Thursday mornings at Eccleston Village Hall.

The classes are aimed at children aged 6 months to 5 years old. More recently they have developed Baby Bunny's classes for babies aged 3 to 12 months old.

For further information please contact Amanda or Victoria:

sunnybunny@outlook.com

07511 792031

www.sunnybunnys.co.uk



TOMCAT THEATRE COMPANY DRAMA GROUP

Saturday from 10am

TomCat Theatre Company has recently started sessions to develop drama and social skills in a fun, stimulating and safe environment at Eccleston Village Hall. Classes are Saturday mornings.

If your child would like to learn theatre skills, develop their confidence and be part of a team then TomCat Theatre Company run sessions for school years 2 to 9.

Contact Cathy Owen, Creative Director on 07368 247981

www.tomcattheatre.co.uk

cathy@tomcattheatre.co.uk

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL

is available for hire daytime or evening

Contact the Caretaker on 01744 638554

NEWS FROM THE SMITHY

2017 at the Smithy Heritage Centre was an especially exciting year, with lots of fabulous family-friendly free events as always; more importantly huge steps were made in improving the Smithy and raising its profile.

The Smithy's rocking horse toy was selected as one of the artefacts to tell "A History of Lancashire in 70 Objects", a project celebrating the 70th anniversary of Lancashire Life magazine which involved museums, galleries and historic buildings across the old County Palatine. The simple handmade metal toy reflects the rural heritage of Lancashire and the blacksmith's shop being at the heart of village life. It featured in the magazine and was part of a trail across seventy venues telling different aspects of the story of life in Lancashire.

The exhibition Cabinets of Curiosity looked at the history of museums and how they developed from private collections of the exotic and unusual. The cabinets and walls were filled with weird and wonderful objects, some from the Smithy's collection, some kindly on loan from The Atkinson and the rest from the personal collection of Mark Olly. The historian/writer/TV presenter also gave a funny and fascinating talk at our well-attended cheese and wine evening.

International Blacksmith's Day included a visit from Phil Howard, a traditional clog maker, as well as regular participants Phill the wheelwright, Mark the blacksmith, Paula and Twiggy the green wood craftspeople. Gallons of real ale were consumed by the grown-ups, as well as tons of cakes and lashings of tea and soft drinks. As ever, all profits from the sale of refreshments go into the ring-fenced pot of money to look after the Smithy building and collection.

Heritage Open Days brought in families from across the north west and the Great Ecclestone Bake-off continued to prove popular

(2017 saw its fifth year), with judges from St Helens WI commending the entrants for the high quality of all the cakes. The winner was Louisa Latham's "The Millemonial" lemon drizzle loaf, with Tania Barker's "Catch-up Carrot Cake" taking the second prize.

Apple Day, the final event of the year, was a great success, with lots of surplus apples and windfalls brought in to go on to Dunham Massey to be turned into apple juice and cider rather than going to waste. The apple-themed activities went down a storm, with art, crafts and archery on offer.

2017 saw the completion of the Small Capital Grants project to improve the security of, and conditions within, the Smithy building. It was funded by Museum Development North West and Arts Council England, but in order for us to apply, we needed some match funding which came from the Smithy's ring-fenced pot of income from events and donations – we couldn't have done it without you! It is much warmer, brighter and safer in the

Smithy now, thanks to the new double-glazed windows; damp has been prevented by the re-laying of the side path (the previous one was above the level of the building's damp course) and the whole complex is now protected by CCTV.



The handsome external doors, handcrafted in oak by Phill Gregson and Joseph Fredricks were custom made to replace the previous larger ones that were placing a lot of strain on the building as they were hung on hinges affixed to the delicate sandstone. The new doors are hung within a frame which is helping to spread the load.

One last job remains to get the Smithy in tip-top condition which will help the building to survive for generations to come: the pointing needs to be replaced and we need your help to do it!

Over the years, it has been re-pointed in places using cement mortar instead of limestone mortar; it is incompatible with the sandstone. The building is effectively spitting it out and taking small chunks of the sandstone with it. It is a specialist job to rake it out and repoint with limestone mortar, costing in excess of £5,000.

Every time your child enjoys one of our 50p craft activities, or you buy a raffle ticket, cup of tea, slice of cake or pint of real ale, you will help us to achieve our dream of making the Smithy the best it can be and protect it for the future. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events throughout 2018!

The Smithy opens on Easter Saturday, 31 March with our new exhibition Visions of Another World looking at science fiction and fantasy creations over the last two centuries. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays 1-4pm until Saturday 22 September.

Check our website www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk or follow us on Facebook and Twitter @smithyheritage for all the latest event listings.

SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE
OWNED AND GOVERNED BY ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL
Kiln Lane, Eccleston, St Helens WA10 4RA
OPEN WEEKENDS 1pm-4pm
Saturday 31 March 2018 – Saturday 22 September 2018
FREE ADMISSION
Curators: Joanne Chamberlain and Vicky Griffiths
Telephone: 01744 730744
Email: smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com
Website: www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk

ST JAMES WITH ST MATTHEW, ECCLESTON

St James Eccleston Park has seen much change recently. The re-ordering project has been completed. We now have individual seating, ramped access and toilet facilities for people with disabilities as well as a full hearing loop and screens for audiovisual worship.

In January 2017, the parish united with the neighbouring parish of St Matthew Thatto Heath to form a new more viable parish known as St James with St Matthew, Eccleston. St James' Church remains the parish church but St Matthew's has been re-designated as a Chapel of Ease. This provides a presence in Thatto Heath for occasional services and community use without having weekly Sunday worship.

At our 10.30am Sunday service at St James we offer a friendly welcome to all who walk through our doors. Tea and coffee are served in the lounge area after the service to allow for ongoing fellowship.

Both St James' Church Hall and St Matthew's Centre are open all week with various groups using the premises including Over 60s, Slimming World, Over 55s, Safe Families for Children, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Yoga, a Dance School and an Art Group. The church also runs family activities:

- **WOW (Worship on Wednesday)** – a child-centred service for children and their parents/carers held in Lane Ends School.
- **PramPushers** – a parent/carers and tots group held in Lane Ends School, on Thursday mornings.
- **Supertots** – a parent/carers and pre-schooler's group, held at St Matthew's Church Centre on Tuesday mornings.

In May 2017, Reverend Harry Welch retired after 17 years at St James. Since then we have been working towards the appointment of our new priest and it is hoped that a new appointment will be announced later in the year. So watch out for more exciting news from us!

CHRIST CHURCH

2018 is a special year for Christ Church, marking as it does 180 years since it was built. The building itself is Grade II listed and was built with funding from local wealthy gentleman, Samuel Taylor (who also donated the land to create Taylor Park).

It is a beautiful building set in beautiful grounds – and ensuring it stays that way takes love, care and dedication from a lot of people. That's why, on 21 April and 21 July this year, we are holding two 'working parties' and we hope lots of volunteers will come along to help with tasks like painting, cleaning the stained glass windows, clearing the gutters or even just to make refreshments for the workers...the list of tasks is endless, so whatever your age or ability you would be very welcome!

Indeed, if anyone has an hour or two to spare on Thursday mornings either weekly or occasionally, we have a very merry band of helpers who carry out garden maintenance and Church cleaning every Thursday morning and new volunteers are always made very welcome.

More widely, the generosity of people in Eccleston never ceases to amaze. In the run up to Christmas, Christ Church announced that our annual shoebox appeal (through which people fill a shoebox with small toys, games, craft items, teddies and so on, for children who are less fortunate) would be run in conjunction with the St Helens Foodbank, and that the shoeboxes would be distributed locally.

In previous years our shoeboxes have been sent overseas, but through our contact with the Foodbank we've been made aware of the increasing breadth of poverty here in St Helens and so approached them with our idea of supporting children locally. The idea was welcomed, and the congregation and community were fully behind it in no time. We collected empty shoe boxes from local shoe shops and volunteers spent an evening in Church

covering them all in Christmas wrapping paper, before they were taken away by people willing to fill them. Pretty soon fully stocked shoeboxes were being piled up in Church – and we were thrilled to be able to hand them – 73 in total – to the volunteers at the Foodbank ready for distribution to local families experiencing hard times.

Thanks are due as well to those of you who were able to respond to last year's Christian Aid Appeal by donating money in the envelopes we posted. Over £2,600 was raised by the people of Eccleston, which the charity will use to support vulnerable people during times of crisis.

Blessings for the year ahead, from Rev Sonya Doragh and everyone at Christ Church.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 6 December 2018

11am

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

WHAT'S NEW AT ECCLESTON LIBRARY?

Empathy Project

Eccleston Library has been chosen to take part in a special Empathy project delivered by Empathy Lab: Engaging Libraries. Empathy is a key skill that both adult and children can learn through reading books. Through reading we are able to learn about different situations and then use this learning in real life situations to help us “put ourselves in someone else’s shoes”.

The project has involved working with the community and asking the question – what are the issues in your community where more empathy would help? We have 2 planned family events: one taking place on Wednesday 9 May and then an event later in June. More information to follow through flyers in the library – we do hope that you will join us for these activities and help create a true community feeling.

Cultural Hubs Events

Cultural Hubs is an exciting art in libraries project that allows us to bring a fantastic range of art events into all St Helens libraries. Past performances at Eccleston have included a Murder Mystery and Gerard Logan, William Shakespeare’s The Rape of Lucrece. Call into Eccleston library to pick up a brochure and find out what performances are taking place this season.

Family History Society

St Helens Family History Society continues to meet at Eccleston Library (whilst Central Library is closed) every Tuesday from 3.45pm – 6.45pm. New members are always welcome to come along and join the group.

Opening Hours

Eccleston Library is open:

Monday 1pm – 7pm

Tuesday 10am – 7pm*

Wednesday 1pm – 7pm

Thursday 10am – 5pm

Friday 10am – 5pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm

*Additional hours on Tuesday whilst Central Library is temporarily closed.

To keep up to date with library information and events, please check out our Twitter and Facebook page



@STHLibraries



www.facebook.com/STHLibraries

Check out our website www.sthelens.gov.uk/libraries

KATE JONES
Community Library Officer

LEARN TO SAIL AT PILKINGTON SAILING CLUB

Pilkington Sailing Club has been teaching people to sail for over 60 years and you are welcome to join our Beginners' Course at Eccleston Mere, Burrows Lane, St Helens.

This year's course will start with an introductory evening in the clubhouse on Thursday 19 April at 19:30, this will be an opportunity to meet the instructors and others on the course.

On the water training will start the following Thursday at approximately 18:30 and continue every Thursday throughout the summer and autumn. In the early weeks there will be theory sessions which are an important part of the course. Having the theory sessions in the early weeks allows more time on the water later. As the course runs until September, there will be plenty of opportunities to sail in different weather conditions.

You don't need any special equipment, just a full change of clothes; we will supply the boats and buoyancy aids. When competent you will be able to use the boats at other times as part of your membership fees.

Cost: Adult: £210 (training fee £100 plus £110 membership fee – until April 2019)
Junior: £155 (training fee £100 plus £55 membership fee – until April 2019)

There are special rates for family groups
Prices correct at time of going to print.

If you are interested in joining us then please contact Derek Lee for further details:

pilkstraining@gmail.com

www.pilkingtonsailingclub.co.uk

PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB BOWLING SECTION

Part-way down Burrows Lane you will pass the gateway to Prescott and Odyssey Cricket Club. If you venture down the access track you will find not only a cricket club but also a bowling club, hidden behind tall hedges. There is a lovely, sheltered green where approximately 40 people enjoy their sport from April to September. Once a member you can access the green at any time, but there are flourishing groups of members who turn up on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to enjoy each other's company while taking exercise in the fresh air. For anyone with a more serious and competitive streak we run teams in two leagues – the St Helens Pensioners' League, which plays on Monday afternoons and the St Helens Churches' League, which plays on Monday nights. We don't expect to come top of the league but we certainly don't disgrace ourselves, and above all we enjoy ourselves.

We have a clubhouse where tea is drunk and biscuits eaten on social afternoons and at home matches, and there is a small team who take care of the green and its surroundings. The grass is mowed once, sometimes twice, a week, the rose beds weeded, the wooden benches mended or painted and so on. They meet on Wednesday mornings to do all this and put the world to rights over mugs of tea. At the end of the season a programme of winterisation takes place when the grass is scarified and fed after which it is left to rest until the following April. New helpers are always welcome. And don't have to be men!!

Various social events take place during the year, for example mid-season and end-of-season Scrambles when we play against each other. There are even silver cups to be won (and polished!). The September Scramble ends with a welcome plate of hot-pot followed by apple pie. Then there is the Christmas Dinner, held at the Stanley Arms at the end of November, when around 40 people enjoy a great meal, great company and great entertainment (provided by two of our own talented members).

I have the privilege to be Chairman of this lovely club and I urge you to come and join us. Come along on a Tuesday or a Thursday afternoon at about 1.30 and introduce yourself. You don't have to be able to play, we will show you the essentials and even lend you a set of bowls until you decide whether the game is for you. You will be made very welcome.

JUDITH JOHNSON

Chairman, POCC Bowls Section

BLEAK HILL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Bleak Hill Rovers' junior football teams have been playing on Ecclesfield for over 40 years and each weekend over 200 youngsters can be seen enjoying the "beautiful game".

We want to encourage anyone between the ages of 5 and 18 to come along and play football. Our aim is to give everyone an opportunity to play, irrespective of ability.

Currently, we have over 30 coaches who give up a lot of time to support the youngsters whether it be training in an evening or managing a match on a freezing winter's morning. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of parents, grandparents, supporters and minders who have come along each week to support their youngsters. If you want to watch youngsters enjoying themselves, come along to Ecclesfield on a Saturday or Sunday.

We are hoping to start a "Development Group" in the summer which will be for any youngster who is going into Reception or Year 1 from September. If your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter would like to join us then please get in touch with me at cbarratt@blueyonder.co.uk.

We want to help youngsters develop lifetime skills and understand that the goal is not just about winning but about enjoyment.

Over the last 40 years we have had youngsters who have gone on to play with professional soccer, rugby league and rugby union clubs but, more importantly, we have had thousands of youngsters who are going through life remembering the great times they had playing football with Bleak Hill Rovers.

If you want to know more about us, would like to join us, help with coaching or sponsor us, please get in touch via our website www.bleakhillrovers.com.

CYRIL BARRATT

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers

DE LA SALLE PRESENTATION EVENING

On Thursday 23 November, as a community we celebrated the achievements of the Year 11 pupils who left us in June. They returned to receive their GCSE certificates, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards and Special Leavers' and Subject Awards. These included our oldest Award 'The Brother Hilary Cup' which is given to a pupil for special merit and outstanding service to the school.

Alongside pupils and their parents/carers, invited guests included: Governors and staff, primary head teachers, De La Salle Brothers, LEA representatives and the mayor and mayoress. All attended to celebrate with and wish our leavers the very best.

Our Chair of Governors, Cllr Teresa Sims, opened the evening with a welcome to all and Mrs Thompson our new HOLA for RE led us in prayer. Soloists in year 7 and 11 entertained us all and Mr Rannard then introduced himself as the new Head Teacher. Our guest speaker for the evening was author Frank Cottrell-Boyce who is an ex-West Park pupil, his speech was both inspirational and highly amusing.



An enjoyable and reflective evening was had by all and we wish our pupils, who will always be part of our Lasallian family, a happy future.

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

Since opening in July 1997 Willowbrook Hospice has cared for over 8,500 people with life limiting illnesses.

Willowbrook makes no charge for its services which include outpatient clinics, a 12 bed inpatient unit as well as a range of wellbeing therapies and spiritual support.

It costs over £4.5 million each year to maintain the care and support available. The majority of which is raised through the generosity of supporters in the local community.

The Living Well in Borough Road, St Helens has gone from strength to strength proving creative and complementary therapies including yoga and Pilates.

The gift shop inside the Hospice sells a wide range of new gifts. It's ideal for cards and small presents.



Willowbrook's services are supported by a team of over 520 volunteers in every department at the Hospice – from reception, to gardening and housekeeping, fundraising or working in our charity shops.

Grateful thanks to them and the doctors and nurses for their dedicated care.

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to give back to your local community, please get in touch with Ian Turnbull, Volunteer Coordinator on 0151 430 8736 or email help@willowbrookhospice.org.uk.



This year the Hospice is hosting a wide range of activities such as afternoon tea parties, moonlight colour walk, Ride 45 cycle challenge.

Details are available on the website www.willowbrook.org.uk or ring 01744 453798.

Thanks to Sue at the Living Well for the update.

Fundraising Office on 01744 453798
Hospice 0151 430 8736
Web site www.willowbrook.org.uk

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN

BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Message from the Head

Welcome to this summary of what has been happening at Bleak Hill recently. As always I am indebted to our staff, families, friends and Governors for their support, hard work and commitment. We are immensely proud of the achievements of all our children. Please visit our website at www.bleakhill.st-helens.sch.uk

Exciting Curriculum Activities

At Bleak Hill we offer a broad and balanced curriculum and we always seek ways to make learning exciting for the children. Reception children enjoyed visits from people who help us including a vet and a police team with a van! Year 1 had a visit from a real live pilot, which was very exciting. Every year group took part in Arts Week and studied a different artist. They produced wonderful artwork which staff made into a gallery around school. Parents were invited to visit the gallery and we received some lovely comments about the quality of the children's work.

The Outdoor Environment

In Autumn we held an Environment Day, where families and staff, together with 'John & Sue' brought their wellies and gardening tools and did lots of jobs in the garden to prepare for the winter, including path laying, preparing the ground for an outdoor classroom, digging out a natural pond, painting, willow weaving (you should see our tepee!). We are delighted to be working with Mersey Forest on developing our woodland and grounds.

Friends of Bleak Hill

Once again we are incredibly grateful for the amount of effort put in by the Friends of Bleak Hill. The items which the funds purchased recently included replacement outdoor furniture for playgrounds, Reading and Maths Sheds for Reception, Guided

Reading Cards for year 1-6 and a dance combo speaker for use across the school.

Sport

Children took part in a wide range of sporting competitions during the year including new age kurling, football, athletics, boccia, hockey, tri-golf, highland games, cricket, tennis, netball and quadkids. A number of our teams represented St Helens at the Merseyside Youth Games again last summer and we are very proud of them all.

Extra-Curricular Activities

These have included music, Zumba, judo, fencing, gymnastics, hockey, athletics, dance, 'fun with clay', music, chess and reading club. As always Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a holiday at PGL.

St Helens ONE Teaching School Alliance

Bleak Hill is a Teaching School and along with other schools in the Borough we deliver initial teacher training through Schools Direct. In addition we provide CPD opportunities for staff across St Helens and beyond and we offer bespoke school to school support.

Parish Council Awards Assembly

Each year we are fortunate to have end of year awards. Eccleston Parish Council generously contributed towards gift vouchers for our trophy winners, which is much appreciated.

Ofsted Inspection

In November 2017 we welcomed Ofsted. The school had previously been graded as outstanding 11 years ago. We were absolutely delighted to retain this outstanding status and again, this is a testament to the hard work and commitment of all involved.

MRI WELLENS

Headteacher

ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been another very busy year at St Julie's and one where we have been celebrating further successes. During the year we had an extremely positive RE Monitoring visit from the Archdiocese, renewed our Basic Skills Award as well as our Silver Primary Science Quality Mark and achieved the School Games Gold Award.

The continuing hard work and dedication of all the teachers and the pupils, supported by their parents was rewarded by another great set of Key Stage 2 SAT results in July. The whole school community was delighted to receive a letter from the Senior Assistant Director of Schools congratulating us on our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 results for 2017, which stated "***the school can be justifiably proud of its success, and your pupils, staff and leaders all deserve to be congratulated on their achievement.***" We are also pleased that in the recently published DfE figures, 86% of our Year 6 children achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined making us the second highest achieving primary school in the Local Authority.

Of over-riding importance however is the emotional development and well-being of our children. With this in mind we embarked on happiness and well-being training for staff, pupils and parents which has had great impact and continues to be a focus for us all.

In September, with the support of the Parents and Friends Association, we began to create a Sensory Room to provide a relaxing environment and help us to further meet the emotional needs of our children. An existing room was emptied of cupboards, filing cabinets and shelves and, financed by the PFA, the room was painted, carpeted and refitted with new blinds.

We are extremely grateful to *Slater Electrical Ltd* who further enhanced the refurbishment of our Rainbow Room by installing LED lighting, specialist coloured lights and bubble tubes. They

donated a day of their expertise and time to transform the room. Now with beanbags and other furnishings it is a haven for all children to use.

When the school budget is so tight we are even more reliant on the fantastic fundraising organised by our PFA and the generosity of our parents. In future months we plan to further develop our outdoor environment and the beautiful grounds we are blessed with so that we can take our learning outside in all weathers and explore our part of the Mersey Forest.

MRS A HODGSON

Headteacher

ECCLESTON LANE ENDS SCHOOL

Some of the successes Eccleston Lane Ends School have recently had:

Olivia Duff in Y6 was highly commended in a competition to design a new logo for St Helens Council and was invited to St Helens Town Hall to receive her certificate.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Boccia Champions in the St Helens Schools competition.

Y6 Debating Champions – four members of Y6 represented our school in a debating competition and were very pleased with their medals and trophy. Debating and being able to put over coherently different sides of an argument is part of the English curriculum.

THE LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

The Centre is celebrating a milestone, it was officially opened 50 years ago this year, on a cool autumn day by Mrs Mary Wilson, wife of the Prime Minister.

The Committee has held lots of fund raisers including a fantastic wine tasting evening from the recently opened Ecclestone Winestore.

Keep an eye out for more fundraisers towards the annex conversion project.

The annual bedding plant sale is on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th May.



WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE?

Mon	Art Club 9am-12pm	Afternoon Tea and Prize Bingo 2.30 to 4.30pm (alt wks)	Weight Watchers 6-8pm
Tues	Jo-Jingles group 9am-12pm		The Bridge Club 7.15pm
Wed	9.30am-12pm Beginners Bridge Club	Les Petite Pois French lessons 1pm-5pm	The Board Gamers 6.30pm
Thurs	Baby sensory class 10-11am	Yoga group 2pm-4pm	Bingo club (alt wks) 7-30-10pm
Fri	Tai Chi 10am-11am	U3A hand chimes group 2-4pm	St Helens Contract Bridge 8pm
Sat	Ecclestone Maths Centre 9am-12-30pm		

Monthly • The '89 Society (2nd Thursday) • The Gardening Circle (4th Thursday)
Ecclestone Card Crafters (2nd Tuesday 1pm)

The Committee would like to thank everyone, helpers, volunteers and users for their continued hard work and support.

For more information please telephone 01744 26813

or e-mail: lesterdrivecentre@gmail.com



HENBURY COURT

Henbury Court celebrated its 10th anniversary year in 2017 and is a popular place for people over 60 who wish to live independently within their own self-contained apartment. It is well known in the Eccleston area and boasts a current waiting list of people wanting to live here.

The social committee, led by Doreen Appleby, have organised events over the years and have donated a total of £7,915.00 to various charities as listed below.

- Macmillan £664
- Willowbrook Hospice £1,707
- Eye Clinic (Macular Degeneration) £484

Other charities include: Motor Neurone, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Lilac Centre, Help for Heroes, Honey Rose, St Helens Carers and Shelter. Bleak Hill Primary School has also benefitted from donations as a thank you for the Christmas carols sung by the children each year.

Aside from raising the above money by hosting afternoon teas and cake sales, other regular activities include: monthly pamper days, weekly coffee morning and exercise classes. Over the years other events have taken place such as day trips, educational talks from the Townships Family History Society, supper nights and singing from local choirs. Residents contribute to the community by using local businesses when celebrating their special occasions and Christmas lunches.

Many local bands such as the Woodlanders have played at Henbury Court ensuring residents have enjoyed a 'good night out' by staying in their own communal lounge, with no worries about travelling back home.

The kindness of the residents has benefitted many and subtly ripples out to the wider local community.

If you would like to give a presentation or talk at the court please call: 01744 757815.

SHIRLEY HORROCKS

Development Manager

CHAIRMEN OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

1894-1917	T Garner	1972-1973	G Brownlow
1917-1928	J Simm	1973-1974	P A Brosnan
1928-1931	C Pennington	1973-1975	F Smith
1931-1939	Ch Taylor	1975-1976	R Pennington
1939-1940	T Wright	1976-1977	H J Hunter
1940-1941	O Morris	1977-1978	W R Crosby
1941-1942	D Saunders	1978-1979	T McCormack
1942-1943	H E Moody	1979-1980	W R Naylor
1943-1944	H Taylor	1980-1981	R D Foster
1944-1945	J C Ackers	1981-1982	W S Paton
1945-1946	G Foster	1982-1983	G M Brownlow
1946-1947	J T Tyrer	1983-1984	W R Crosby
1947-1948	J Rainford	1984-1985	T McCormack
1948-1949	Ch Taylor	1985-1986	W R Naylor
1949-1950	D Saunders	1986-1987	G M Brownlow
1950-1951	H E Moody	1987-1988	Mrs C Pyke
1951-1952	J C Ackers	1988-1989	J Hockenhull
1952-1953	J T Dudley	1989-1991	W R Crosby
1953-1954	J T Tyrer	1991-1992	Mrs T V Sims
1954-1955	J Barron	1992-1993	D Bayliss
1955-1956	Ch Taylor	1993-1994	Mrs T V Sims
1956-1957	G Palin	1994-1995	Mrs A Melia
1957-1958	H E Moody	1995-1996	D Bain
1958-1959	H J Hunter	1996-1998	Mrs T V Sims
1959-1960	J C Ackers	1998-1999	Mrs S A Evans
1960-1961	J T Dudley	1999-2002	Mrs T V Sims
1961-1962	J Ducker	2002-2004	D Bain
1962-1963	H Broughton	2004-2005	Mrs M Maloney
1963-1964	J C Ackers	2005-2008	Mrs C Duncan
1964-1965	W R Crosby	2008-2009	L Perry
1965-1966	L Prest	2009-2011	G Pearl
1966-1967	T McCormack	2011-2012	Mrs E Skepper
1967-1968	N W Ridge	2012-2013	Mrs C Pearl
1968-1969	H J Hunter	2013-2015	Mrs T V Sims
1969-1970	W R Naylor	2015-2016	Ms A Ashcroft QPM
1970-1971	R D Foster	2016-2018	G Pearl
1971-1972	W S Paton		

CLERKS TO ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

VILLAGE HALL CARETAKER

01744 638554

SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE

Curators:

Joanne Chamberlain

Vicky Griffiths

01744 730744

smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com

PARISH CLERK

Janet Anderson

0151 345 7533

ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

LOCAL CONTACTS

CHURCHES

Christ Church, Chapel Lane, Ecclestone
Rev Sonya Doragh 01744 22698

Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico Lane, Ecclestone Park
Fr David Melly 0151 426 6251

St James Church, St Helens Road, Ecclestone Park
0151 426 6421

St Julie RC Church, Howards Lane, Ecclestone
Fr Tom Neylon 01744 28196

SCHOOLS

Bleak Hill Primary, Hamilton Road, Windle
Head: Mr I Wellens 01744 678190

De La Salle High School, Mill Brow, Ecclestone
Head: Mr A Rannard 01744 20511

Ecclestone Lane Ends Primary, Albany Avenue, Ecclestone Park
Head: Mrs C Gowan 01744 678270

Ecclestone Mere Primary, Saleswood Avenue, Ecclestone
Acting Head: Mrs S Hesketh 01744 678280

St Julie RC Primary, Brooklands Road, Ecclestone
Head: Mrs A Hodgson 01744 678233

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

ST HELENS COUNCIL

Contact Centre 01744 676789

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

01744 677575

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

Fundraising Office 01744 453798

Hospice 0151 430 8736

AGE UK MID MERSEY

Mansion House, Victoria Park 01744 454530

ST JULIES OVER 50s CLUB

Fortnightly Thurs 2-4 pm, Mr Prior 01744 21401

Mrs Sheppard 01744 738732

LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

Mrs Martlew 01744 26813

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Millennium Centre, Corporation Street 03448 269 694

NATIONAL TRUST

St Helens Centre, Anne Speirs 01744 759309

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

ECCLESFIELD CHANGING FACILITY

Ecclesfield Changing Facility is administered jointly by Eccleston Parish Council and Windle Parish Council. Eccleston Parish Council owns 70% of the Facility and Windle Parish Council owns 30%.

The Facility is situated on Ecclesfield Open Space where there is a car park for users, which was a condition by St Helens Council attached to the planning permission for the Changing Rooms.

The Facility is maintained by a Caretaker who is responsible for security, cleaning and upkeep. St Helens Council, who owns the open space and leases it to Eccleston Parish Council for a yearly fee, maintain the grounds. Contributions from the two Parish Councils and fees from the football teams fund the running of the Changing Facility.

The Committee meets at least 4 times a year to address problems and all user representatives are invited to attend and give their views. At the present time the Facility is used for football practice and weekly matches. There are also basketball nets for the use of all residents.

Caretaker – Bob Kelsey

01925 294102

07880 538387

