

**ECCLESTON
PARISH COUNCIL
MAGAZINE
2016 – 2017**



ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE

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

Contact: Lisa Poole 01744 638554

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Resident

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to have served as the Chairman of Eccleston Parish Council for the past 12 months and you will have noticed that this year we have decided to change the style and format of our Annual Parish Magazine, primarily to ensure stability in our budget, thus enabling us to keep our Parish Precept the same as last year.



It has been an extremely busy and productive year, as can be borne out by our very busy Clerk, Janet, who really does deserve a huge thank you from us all.

As Chairman I was invited to present achievement awards to the children of Bleak Hill School last July and, as always, it was a pleasure to attend.

In November the Parish Council attended St Julie's Church for the annual Remembrance Day service and then, together with Fr Tom Neylon and some residents, laid a wreath at the War Memorial at the end of Burrows Lane.

In December, together with Parish Councillors, I attended the Annual Parish Council Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at Eccleston Library. The children of St Julie's school came along to get us into the festive spirit with a superb concert of Christmas Carols. Once again a huge thank you to Rainfor's Christmas Tree Land for kindly supplying the tree and a special thank you to our library staff who entered into the festive spirit providing tea/coffee and mince pies!

It has also been another very busy year for our two Curators, Joanne and Vicky, who work tremendously hard in our Heritage Centre (The Smithy) with the highlight of the year being the annual

Blacksmith's Day, which is truly a family day out. Vicky and Joanne put on a whole variety of exhibitions and events throughout the year and help with project work within our schools. The Smithy is now a very well known "must see" within our town.

Improvement work to the Village Hall continues and during this year the toilets and corridor will be completely refurbished. The Village Hall is well used by various groups and for parties.

To conclude, I would like to thank my Parish Councillor colleagues for all their hard work over the past year.

Warmest regards

COUNCILLOR GEOFF PEARL
CHAIRMAN, ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 13 November 2016, Councillors attended a Service of Remembrance at St Julies, Eccleston. Afterwards Fr Tom Neylon 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.

Every quarter 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 (see dates below).

DATES OF MEETINGS – 2017-2018

Please check the website for times and venues

25 April 17	Annual Parish Meeting	Our Lady's
9 May 17	Parish Annual Meeting	Village Hall
13 June 17	Parish Council	Our Lady's
11 July 17	Parish Council	Village Hall

The following venues to be confirmed

12 September 17	Parish Council	Village Hall
10 October 17	Parish Council	Our Lady's
14 November 17	Parish Council	Village Hall
12 December 17	Parish Council	Village Hall
9 January 18	Parish Council	Our Lady's
13 February 18	Parish Council	Village Hall
13 March 18	Parish Council	Village Hall
10 April 18	Parish Council	Our Lady's

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 Eccleston Library and 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 25 April 2017 at 7.30 pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2016
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2016
- 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 of Eccleston Parish Council,
6 Gorsey Croft, Eccleston Park, Prescot L34 2RT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2016**

The following statement represents the financial position of Eccleston Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 2015-16:

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£
Precept	53,936
Administration	2,875
Grant (Smithy)	7,800
Ecclesfield	264
Hall Charges	5,613
Smithy	1,515
Total	72,003

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Administration	31,422
Ecclesfield	3,499
Village Hall	13,073
Smithy	13,717
Open Spaces	2,098
Grants	1,100
VAT payments	2,651
Total	67,560

<u>In summary</u>	
Brought forward 1 April 2015	21,479
Plus receipts	72,003
Less expenditure	67,560
Balance at 31 March 2016	£25,922

Janet Anderson
Clerk to Eccleston Parish Council

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL USER GROUPS

SLIMMING WORLD

Tracy Potter will be celebrating 10 years in September at Eccleston Village Hall. The award winning Slimming World consultant welcomes you on Wednesdays at 5.30pm or 7.00pm. Recently she has had the biggest weight loss with a male member of 9.5 stone in 5 months.

*Free membership if 5 join together. *Discount offered for senior citizens. *2 free weeks when a 10 week countdown purchased. Call Tracy on 01744 630899 for more information.

BU DOKAN JUJITSU

For nearly 30 years Jujitsu has been taught to many children and adults. Jujitsu is the original Japanese martial art. In October Andrew Haddock gained his Junior Black Belt. Andrew trained twice a week for 6 years to obtain the required standard for his black belt.



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

For more information contact Geoff Pearl 07721 009418

THURSDAY EDUCATION SESSION

Thursday, 5.00pm-8.30pm
Stephen Mooney

SUNDAY EDUCATION SESSION

Sunday, 10.00am-5.00pm
Delle Education
07732 155461 / 07452 150625

WINE GUILD

First Sunday of the month
Dorothy Titterington
01744 601715

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL
is available for hire daytime or evening
Contact: Lisa Poole 01744 638554

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 7 December 2017
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Eccleston Library, 11am
ALL WELCOME

2016 AT THE SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE

2016 got off to a fantastic start with the news that the Smithy had been awarded a grant of over £8,000 from Arts Council England and Museum Development North West to improve the building to better care for and protect the collection. We now have new double-glazed windows which have also been coated with special film to block out UV light that can damage artefacts; the Smithy is now much warmer and brighter, as the old ones were glazed with scuffed plastic. A new state-of-the-art CCTV system covers the whole Smithy and Village Hall complex, improving security for everyone, and the path to the side of the Smithy has been re-laid to prevent damp damaging the building. Master Wheelwright Phill Gregson and his apprentice Joe Fredricks have made new outer doors which will be fitted at the beginning of March.

2016 marked 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare; a national Shakespeare Week celebrated his legacy, so the Smithy opened earlier than usual to host a cheese and wine evening with a fascinating talk from our Museum Mentor Rosemary Tyler who spoke about the Bard and local connections to Elizabethan theatre. Our exhibition "Plague and Prose" looked at how life changed through the medieval period through to Shakespeare's day – the medicine, beliefs, superstitions, celebrations, culture and cuisine. As a fun element, we had a *Where's Willy?* challenge: the Curators took a life-size Shakespeare cut-out on a tour of local landmarks and businesses that have kindly supported the Smithy over the years, and posted the pictures online; the public were invited to identify where he was. The Seven Stars, Christie's Deli, the Co-op, Mill Brow bridge, Christ Church Eccleston, Mirage Hair Studio, Wardleworth's, Triprint, Mill Brow Nature Reserve, the pinfold on Burrows Lane, and Burchall's were all graced with a visit (and Curators Vicky and Joanne got more than a few funny looks!)

Each year, International Blacksmith's Day gets bigger and better; Puzzle the horse pulled a dray loaded with barrels from George Wright's Brewery at Rainford and caused a sensation for passing motorists.

His owner, farrier John Parkinson then shod Puzzle, who was in need of a new pair of shoes after his long journey that had started in Scarisbrick; he was admired by



the hordes of families and enjoyed a well-earned pint of Puzzle Ale, brewed especially for the event. The craftspeople excelled themselves with demonstrations of wheelwrighting, blacksmithing, bee skep making, green woodturning and gypsy flower-making, with members of the public encouraged to join in and have a go. Simon Critchley captured some beautiful moments from the day.

The third annual Murder Mystery Night linked in to the Smithy's Shakespearian theme, with a theatre producer meeting a sticky end. For the Festival of British Archaeology, a special display about the medicinal plants used by the Tudors, and a special "A Midsummer Night's Dream" inspired event was held, a day of music and fairy magic for all the family. Younger visitors were invited to come dressed as pixies, fairies, elves and sprites and follow the fairy trail around the Smithy's grounds, and former Curator Tom Hughes brought his collection of historical instruments to play music of Shakespeare's day and tell tales of yore. Professional photographer Jo Rutherford set up a fairy photoshoot for families, and kindly donated her fees to the Smithy's building fund.

The Curators held a Tudor banquet to mark the finale of the 2016 season, Heritage Open Weekend. Visitors were able to taste food of the past and take the recipes home to try. Children also had the chance to dress up as knights and make a helmet to keep. Former Curator Dave Griffiths held a special craft session where visitors carved a mould for a coin or token which he then cast in pewter. Also, Paul Potter ran archery activities which Cllr Skepper excelled at!

The fourth annual Great Eccleston Bake-off had the most entries yet and once again was judged by St Helens WI members. Victoria Morgan's lemon curd layer cake was declared the winner, with Sue Hirons' trifle cake coming second.

A windfall apple collection day was held out-of-season to gather fruit that would otherwise go to waste. The apples were taken to Dove Syke Cider in Lancashire and will be used to make cider that will be served at the Smithy in 2017. The Curators would like to thank everyone who brought them along. This will now become an annual family event with apple-themed activities, cider and sausages.

The Smithy will re-open on Saturday 15 April 2017 with *Cabinets of Curiosity*, an exhibition of weird and wonderful collections and curios...

SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE
OWNED AND GOVERNED BY ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL
Kiln Lane, Eccleston, St Helens WA10 4RA
OPEN WEEKENDS 1pm-4pm
Saturday 15 April 2017 – Sunday 10 September 2017
FREE ADMISSION
Curators: Joanne Chamberlain and Vicky Griffiths
Telephone: 01744 730744
Email: smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com
Website: www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk

ST JAMES WITH ST MATTHEWS

The New Year saw St James Eccleston Park merging with St Matthews Thatto Heath to become one church renamed St James with St Matthews and worshipping regularly in the Eccleston Park church. The Thatto Heath Church will be used for occasional services (at least 6 times a year) and weddings and funerals. The Eccleston Park building underwent refurbishment recently, reopening last Easter. The pews were replaced with comfortable chairs which better allows wheelchair and pram access as well as affording greater flexibility of use. The beautiful parquet floor was renovated and a glass and wooden screen has been erected allowing space for children, an accessible toilet and a tea bar. The next stage of the process involves fitting a new sound system and screens to enhance the worship.

The Sunday school is growing and now has 3 groups aged from 3 years up. The church runs a worship on Wednesday or WOW group in Eccleston Lane Ends School after school for children and their families to explore the Bible through stories, songs and craft. There's also a thriving toddler group called Pram Pushers which is held on a Thursday morning in the school community room. Regular community and fundraising activities are held throughout the year which include; eating Chinese food, testing your general knowledge, serving afternoon tea, building scarecrows and making Christmas decorations. There is also a great Friday coffee morning held on the first Friday of every month in the church hall.

In April, the present vicar Rev Harry Welch and his wife Barbara will retire after 18 years serving God in the Eccleston Team and in particular at Eccleston Park. They will be greatly missed in both the church and school but St James with St Matthews look forward to a future guided by God and welcome anyone of any age to come along to their 10.30am service on a Sunday.

ST JULIE'S PARISH

I began writing this article on the eve of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January). When I came to Eccleston 21 years ago there were four churches in the area and opportunities to share prayer, visit the other churches, socialise together and regular meetings between the ministers. The Methodist Church, Burrows Lane, and the URC Church, Kiln Lane, have closed and their congregations dispersed. The opportunities for spending time together have diminished but there is an ease in relationships between the ministers and congregations. It is good to see people from Christ Church present in St Julie's for baptisms, confirmations, first communions, marriages and funerals. We also feel comfortable in joining people in Christ Church for services. I will not forget the warm welcome that the Reverend Sonya Doragh received at her installation in Christ Church and hope that Sonya and her family will be blessed in their new home.

In 2016 we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the opening of St Julie's Primary School. Some of us may have attended the school as pupils, worked as teachers and support staff, or be parents and grandparents of children in the school. The celebrations came to a climax with the Mass celebrated in church on the 21 September by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, the Archbishop of Liverpool. This was a fitting way to give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received and to look forward to the next 50 years.

September 2016 also saw the temporary departure of Fr Liam Collister, who was asked by the Archbishop to look after St Sylvester's parish in Liverpool. Fr Liam was appointed in 2015 having spent 3 years as an assistant at the Cathedral and has settled in to a new situation in Eccleston sharing responsibility for St Julie's and St Teresa's, Devon Street. Fr Liam returned at the end of January and will eventually take up a new appointment in the archdiocese later this year.

On 8/9th July the Archbishop will return to the parish. St Julie's is one of 14 Catholic parishes in the St Helens Deanery and each parish will be visited by him during 2017.

Some of us will remember the significant development in the area during the 1950's and 60's. Those who were the young mums and dads are now grandparents or great-grandparents and a good number have gone to their heavenly reward. In recent years we have attended the funerals of those who were the pioneers of the parish. Recent development has seen a younger generation who grew up in Eccleston returning to set up home and raise families of their own. There is change in the air and we are called to welcome new neighbours as well as those who are coming back to their roots.

There are asylum seekers located across the borough and Catholics across the town are supporting the council in providing a friendly welcome for adults and children who have been uprooted from their villages, towns and cities in some of the most troubled parts of the world. The 'Welcome the Stranger Café' is open 11am – 2pm in the Beacon Building, College Street. Pope Francis constantly reminds Catholics, Christians, people of faith or none to face outwards and embrace the stranger because we have much to learn and to receive from them. We all can do a little bit to ease the suffering and pain of others through providing for their basic needs and giving of our time to offer the hand of friendship during a vulnerable time in their life.

During this year we will hear St Matthew's gospel. On 26 November, the feast of Christ the King, we will hear from chapter 25:31-46. "Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothed you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you most solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." May we continue to be generous in our response.

FR TOM

CHRIST CHURCH

In April 2016 Christ Church welcomed its new Vicar, Sonya Doragh, to the village – along with her husband Phil and their three children, Harry, Nick and Robert.

The family have settled in beautifully, and despite an unfortunate break in at the Vicarage in the early days of their tenure, they say they have been made very welcome.

The final piece in the jigsaw of their move to Eccleston will come this March, when they move into the new purpose-built Vicarage on Church Lane, which is currently undergoing the final touches of interior fit-out.

The Vicarage complies with the ‘Green Guide’ national rules for clergy housing, which the old Vicarage on Chapel Lane sadly does not. The front door of the vicarage opens into a hallway which gives access to the vicar’s office and an accessible toilet for those there on parish business; there is then a secure internal door between this part of the house and the rest of the family space. This is important because it means family life can continue relatively uninterrupted and there is a greater separation between work and home. The new house is also much more energy efficient, sustainable and economical to run.

With Sonya at the helm the congregation have been as busy as ever organising community ‘FUN’raising events, such as a concert by the world-renowned Black Dyke Colliery Band at the Town Hall which raised over £1,200; a performance by the St Helens U3A drama group which raised over £600, and our Christmas Fair in November, which raised some £1,800 in total (thanks in no small part to a chance to visit Father Christmas, which had families queuing up!)

We're also extremely grateful to Eccleston Mere School for lending us their hall for our Messy Church events which take place six times a year and are extremely popular. This is a gentle way of introducing children to Christianity, with lots of crafts, activities and science demonstrations for them to enjoy with their families. The forthcoming dates for 2017 are Saturday 25th March and Saturday 13th May – beginning at 3pm. The events are free to attend, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Our Friday morning Toddler Time – held in Church from 9.15 – 10.45 during term time – has also proved a big hit. Tea, toast, biscuits and juice – plus lots of toys and nursery rhyme singing – are included for a contribution of £1 per child.

In the coming year we hope to continue our 'FUN'draising success, kicking off with our Spring Fair in Church on Saturday 22nd April – including a duck hunt for the little ones. All are welcome so please spread the word!

With love and blessings from all at Christ Church for the year ahead.

RACHEL LYON
Christ Church

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 others' 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. Neither team comes top of their league but neither do they come bottom, and matches are played in a good spirit of friendliness. The aim is to enjoy ourselves, and we do.

We have a clubhouse where tea is drunk and biscuits eaten on social afternoons and at home matches, and there is a small team of men 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 after which it is left to rest until the following April. New helpers are always welcome.

Various social events take place during the year. 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 come and join us on a Tuesday or a Thursday afternoon. 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 and buy your own. You will be made very welcome.

JUDITH JOHNSON

Chairman, POCC Bowls Section

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO SAIL A DINGHY? COME SAIL WITH US ON ECCLESTON MERE

Pilkington Sailing Club has sailed on Eccleston Mere for over 50 years. The Club is a community amateur sports club affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). We sail every Sunday afternoon throughout the year and most evenings from Spring to Autumn. The Club is an RYA registered Training Centre and run sailing courses for people of all ages who wish to learn to sail.

Sailing with Pilkington Sailing Club a very affordable sport where members have free use of the many dinghies that the Club owns.

2017 is a special year for the Club when we celebrate our 60th birthday and have several social as well as on-the-water events planned.

The Club is a friendly family club open to all.

If you are interested in finding out more please phone Freda on 01744 21770 or me on 01744 884821, or just pop down to the Mere on a Sunday afternoon and see what we do.



ROB TYLER

Pilkington SC

Email: pilkstraining@gmail.com

Website: www.pilkingtonsailingclub.co.uk

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

St Helens Libraries are introducing some new services, not just in Eccleston Library but in all 13 of our libraries across St Helens.

For our very youngest readers we have introduced Bears Reading Adventures. Follow Bookstart Bear on his reading adventure, which takes him to the park, supermarket and library. However, there are ten objects missing that need to be found and children will get a sticker for each of the missing objects every time they borrow a book.

When children have collected all 10 stickers they can download a certificate from www.bookstart.org.uk/bearsadventure which also contains tips for families on how they can have fun reading together every day. Children can join in with Bear's Reading Adventure any time but why not bring them along to our read and rhyme times where they can meet other children, have fun, sing songs and read books together.

In addition to our usual Reading Group for adults, there will now be a "Storytellers Aloud" session where children can listen to various stories, perhaps reading aloud themselves and discussing what they've read. These sessions will take place every first and third Wednesday in each month at 3.30pm.

Our new Homework Club will hopefully encourage children to complete homework on time. Library staff can guide them to our various information resources, both printed and online. Homework Club members get 10 free black and white printouts and the club takes place on the first and third Thursday of each month from 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Another recent development is the introduction of on-line magazines and comics. "Comics Plus" lets you borrow from a choice of 15,000 digital comics! "Zinio" offers on-line versions of popular magazines such as "Good Housekeeping" and "Auto

Express”, as well as 12 months of back issues. All you need to access these services is a library card and access to a web browser. Remember as well as comics and digital magazines, we still offer e-books letting you download books in the comfort of your own home. There are no fines on these as they wipe off your device once the loan period is up! Why not look at all our digital services by downloading the St Helens Library App available from the Play and Apple stores.

Eccleston Library still offers volunteering opportunities for young people aged 12 to 24, 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.

How can I join the library?

It’s really easy to join St Helens Libraries and it’s still free to join. 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 too and make visiting the library 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

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

KATE JONES

Community Library Officer

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF PROVIDING CARE

Since Willowbrook Hospice opened in July 1997 the charity has helped thousands of people in its community when they have been most in need of specialist, compassionate and high quality palliative and end of life care.

The Hospice provides a range of services for people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. Care is provided through the Hospice's outpatient clinics, a 12-bed inpatient unit, day therapy as well as a range of wellbeing therapies and spiritual support.

Last year saw the opening of Willowbrook's new Living Well building on Borough Road which became the new base for the Hospice's fundraising, advance care planning and finance teams.



The Living Well also has a fabulous café providing a range of tempting treats as well as a high end charity shop specialising in unique collectables, home ware, jewellery and gifts.

In recent months The Living Well has been developing a programme of wellbeing activities and therapies which are available to members of the community. The holistic support services are based at The Living Well in Borough Road and include creative wellbeing and complimentary therapies. Anyone wishing to attend these sessions should contact Pat Bennett on 01744 646809.

A kitchen garden has been made which provides produce for catering. Patients, relatives and volunteers are involved with that.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary the Hospice is hosting a year-long programme of special events and fundraising activities throughout the year. From darts to tea parties, a celebration dinner to fabulous summer festival...there's something for everyone to get involved in!

Willowbrook is dependent on all the volunteers who help at the Hospice, The Living Well, the shops and social events. Grateful thanks to them and the doctors and nurses for their dedicated care.

There are many events planned for the year. If you can help in any way contact:

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

**COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN
And WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE**

BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Message from the Head

The last school year seems so long ago but it is a year which we look back upon with a great sense of pride in the achievements of all of our children. This school year is nearly half way through and has been just as busy and exciting as the last. As always I am indebted to our staff, families, friends and governors for their support, hard work and commitment. To keep up to date with what's going on at school, please visit our website at www.bleakhill.st-helens.sch.uk

Choir/Singing

Our children have been privileged to perform at Parish Church, Henbury Court, Willowbrook Hospice and Eccleston Court. A wonderful time was had by all! Recently our Year 6 children took part in Young Voices 2017 with thousands of other children at the Manchester Arena. It was a wonderful event which we know brought a tear to the eye

School Garden

In September 2015 we started to work with 'John & Sue' in our school garden. They provided outdoor education to each year group in school which included sowing, growing and harvesting a variety of vegetables and flowers. Outdoor cooking was a favourite together with outdoor crafts and other activities. This leads nicely on to

Environment Days

In April and October we held Environment Days on a Saturday, 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 summer and then the winter, including path laying, willow weaving, weeding, sewing wildflowers, painting etc. It was particularly rewarding to see how the children got involved – they especially liked making a herb garden each to take home.

Google Expedition

We recently welcomed the Google Expeditions team to Bleak Hill. Using their technology, through 3D viewers, children were able to visit many places on earth and beyond, in the comfort of the school building. This expedition certainly had the WOW factor!

Friends of Bleak Hill

As always, we are indebted to the Friends of Bleak Hill who give countless hours of their time for the benefit of the pupils. In addition to the very important fundraising that they do, the social events that they arrange provide another angle to school life which cannot be underestimated. Events during the year included Christmas shopping night, discos, bingo evenings, Mother's Day and Father's Day shops and more! The summer gala was 'the big one', attracting many families and members of the community on a sunny evening. The items which the funds purchased this year included laptops, iPad's and our school text messaging service among other things.

Teaching School

As a well-established Teaching School, Bleak Hill provides, with its strategic partners, a host of training opportunities. This includes CPD for existing staff across the borough and beyond.

Sad News

We were extremely sad to learn that one of our longest serving Governors, Windle Parish Councillor Mrs Sheila Barton had passed away during the summer holidays. Mrs Barton was a wonderful lady who always gave her time and expertise freely and who is greatly missed by us all.

M R I WELLENS

Headteacher

GOLDEN JUBILEE AT ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY: THREE CHEERS FOR 50 YEARS!

After months of planning, our 50th Anniversary celebrations began on 12th September with a Birthday Assembly marking the very first day that the school opened its doors in 1966. The school was decorated with bunting and balloons as past staff returned to St Julie's to be interviewed by our current School Council and to be shown round the newly clad buildings.

This event was followed by two Open Afternoons to which past pupils, parents and staff were invited to view the photographs and memorabilia that had been collected and displayed. There was a warm and friendly atmosphere as visitors shared their memories over tea and cakes served by our PFA.

The highlight of our 50th Anniversary was the Mass celebrated by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon attended by the children and staff, past pupils and teachers, Governors, Parishioners and representatives from our fellow Catholic Primary Schools and De la Salle, our feeder High School. Concelebrating with the Archbishop were Parish Priest, Canon Tom Neylon and Assistant Priest Father Liam Collister together with past pupils of St Julie's who had gone on to join the Priesthood: Father Andrew Rowlands, Father John Heneghan and Father Dominic Curran. Among the congregation were two Sisters of Notre Dame, the Order of nuns founded by St Julie Billiart. The Church and School were decorated with the work of the children featuring the Sunflower, St Julie's favourite flower.

Following the Mass the Archbishop went on to bless and formally open the new prayer gardens in the school grounds: one an area devoted to Our Lady for quiet reflection and class worship; the other at the entrance to the school dedicated to St Julie and adorned with clay Sunflowers made



by the Year 5 and Year 6 children in the Art Department on one of their many visits to De la Salle. The gardens looked resplendent and we were truly blessed as the sun shone down on us that day.

Two weeks of festivities in September came to an end with a 1960s party in school for the children featuring a sensational sixties skiffle band and for the grown-ups, a Jubilee Ball in the evening at the Mansion House. Our year continues with further commemorative events under the theme of St Julie's: Past, Present and Future...

MRS A HODGSON
Headteacher

ECCLESTON MERE SCHOOL

Eccleston Mere continues to increase in size and there are now 407 children at our school. This number will continue to rise over the next year and a half and by September 2018 our school will have two classes per year group.

After considerable building work and refurbishment the school will be complete by Easter 2017 when a canopy will be erected in the Nursery environment. The school will continue to develop the outside space when funding becomes available.

2016 started well as school was nominated for the St Helens Primary School of the Year Award. This was voted for by friends and family and we were delighted to win this highly contested category.

Also, during the Autumn Term, school has worked towards a number of outside achievements. We have successfully achieved the Primary Science Gold Award, Bronze Sports Mark and have had a positive interim visit from Basic Skills. We have held the Basic Skills Mark for over 10 years. Our school also continues to value our outside space and the children from the Eco Team are currently working on a nature trail for our school.

We continue to develop computing provision and the children have the opportunity to use laptops and iPads frequently throughout lessons. iPad provision was helped in school by one child winning a competition supported by Asda and the PTA. Staff continue to update their training to develop their skills. The Year 6 children have benefitted from working with one of our school Governors on a 3D printing project. We also like to share what is going on in school via our Facebook page.

Eccleston Mere continues to value the children's health and well-being. During this year we have organised an "Outdoor Day" when the whole school spent the day outside in our school grounds making scarecrows, nature trails, den building and campfires to name but a few activities that took place. Both the children and staff enjoyed this event. Other initiatives that take place are adaptations to the day

to suit individual children's needs and mindfulness colouring. Further developments will include peer massage, Lego therapy and a 6 week PSHEE block entitled the "5 Steps to Health and Well-being".

The children have also had many musical activities and we work closely with Schools' Music and the Local Authority. Year 5 and 6 children enjoy African and Samba drumming on a weekly basis and many take part in the percussion orchestra on a Thursday after school. The choir children practice on a weekly basis and have worked towards several musical events including: Oliver, a Christmas performance at the Seven Stars, a concert at Manchester Arena for Young Voices and they will very shortly be entertaining the elderly in our local community.

As a school we continue to receive a large amount of support from our local community. We have recently needed to recruit new governors to our Governing Body and we are delighted with the support we received. We also have a very active and supportive PTA and this has been strengthened over the last few years. PTA events are very well attended not just by our school family but by the wider Ecclestone community. Our relationship with Christ Church continues to strengthen through the delivery of assemblies and Messy Church. We also have visited White House Farm in Rainford three times a year for the last twenty years. All of this support helps to make Ecclestone Mere the school that it is.

Over the last few years we have endeavoured to think of a mission statement for our school with little success. However, following a parental questionnaire in 2016 one of our parents wrote a lovely comment on the slip and we decided to adopt this. It is "The school with a heart that beats to everybody's tune". As a school this is what we try to do, we would acknowledge we don't get everything right all of the time but there is a willingness to listen and to try to make a difference.

MRS Y KIRK
Headteacher

THE LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

The hall was full of antiques, all had been brought along by their wives!

What an hilarious evening was enjoyed with television personality, auctioneer and valuer Adam Partridge, who recounted some of his humorous experiences in the business.

The Committee have been fundraising and have managed to purchase the garages that are adjacent to the Centre and aim to annex them to it when funding permits.



WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE?			
Mon	Art Club 9am-12pm	Afternoon tea & prize bingo 2.30pm to 4.30pm (alt wks)	Weight Watchers 6pm-8pm
Tues	Jo-Jingles group 9am-12pm		The Bridge Club 7.15pm
Wed	Beginners Bridge Club 9.30am-12pm	Les Petite Pois french lessons 1pm-5pm	The Board Gamers 6.30pm
Thurs	Baby sensory class 10am-11am	Yoga group 2pm-4pm	Bingo club (alt wks) 7.30pm-10pm
Fri	TaiChi 10am-11am	U3A hand chimes group 2pm-4pm	St.Helens Contract Bridge 8pm
Sat	Eccleston Maths Centre 9am-12.30pm		
Monthly • The '89 Society (2nd Thursday) • The Gardening Circle (4th Thursday) Eccleston 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



BLEAK HILL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

2017 sees the Bleak Hill Rovers Club celebrate 40 years of junior football on Ecclesfield. Each year around 250 youngsters get an opportunity to enjoy a game of football. Our aim is to give anyone in the age range 5 to 18 an opportunity to play, irrespective of their ability.

This year we have 24 teams, playing on either Saturday or Sunday. It is encouraging to see the youngest players in our skills group learning the basics of the game but it is even more exciting to watch them develop as individuals and as a team. Right from the age of 5 they are learning transferable skills which will help them through life.

We want to help youngsters develop their 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.

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 and if you know of anyone who wants to join us please get in touch via our website which is www.bleakhillrovers.com

CYRIL BARRATT

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers

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	2016-2017	G Pearl
1971-1972	W S Paton		

CLERKS OF 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

Lisa Poole
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
Rev Harry Welch 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 J Toal 01744 20511

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

Ecclestone Mere Primary, Saleswood Avenue, Ecclestone
Head: Mrs Y Kirk 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

ECCLESTON FIRE STATION

0151 296 5475

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Millennium Centre, Corporation Street 03448 269 694

NATIONAL TRUST

St Helens Centre, Miss A Tonks 01744 753121

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 own the open space and lease it to Eccleston Parish Council for a yearly fee, maintains 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