

**ECCLESTON
PARISH COUNCIL
MAGAZINE
2018 – 2019**



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

Eccleston Parish Council is one of the busier Parish Councils in St Helens and this year has been no different. The business of the Parish Council is varied, as you will see from the articles in this magazine. We own Eccleston Village Hall and the Smithy Heritage Centre and we employ 2 part time curators who do a magnificent job in putting on exhibitions; activities; individual talks to community groups, engaging with schools – the list goes on! – not forgetting our annual Blacksmith's Day and the Heritage weekend events.

We have joint ownership of the Ecclesfield changing facility with Windle Parish Council, and a joint committee of both Eccleston and Windle Parish Councillors oversee the hiring of football pitches and changing facilities to a number of regular local clubs – over 300 young people use the pitches on a weekly basis. Additionally, we lease several open spaces from the District Council ie Ecclesfield; Kiln Lane; Ansdell Drive; Clarkes Crescent; Saleswood Avenue; Gillars Green (behind the shop) and Millwood Avenue.

We are constantly challenged to make our budget stretch across all our business – and once again this year we have managed to keep our precept the same for our residents.

Our Remembrance Day Service was held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Eccleston Park and following the Mass, Parish Councillors travelled to the War Memorial at the end of Burrows Lane, together with Father Dave Melly, to lay a poppy wreath and remember those who lost their lives in battle.

Our annual Christmas tree ceremony was held in the Library on the first Thursday of December and children from Eccleston Mere provided a beautiful choir to really start the festive season. Mince pies and hot tea/coffee went down really well!

I cannot thank enough all of my colleagues on the Parish Council for their total commitment to Ecclestone, and for all their help and support to me personally.

A huge thank you to our Clerk, Janet, for her total dedication to ensuring the Parish Council runs smoothly, and to our Curators Vicky and Joanne. Thank also to Bob the Ecclesfield Caretaker and Lisa who keeps our Hall and Smithy complex clean and tidy.

Warmest Regards,

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS
CHAIRMAN
ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 11 November 2018, Councillors attended a Service of Remembrance at Our Lady Help of Christians, Ecclestone Park. Afterwards Fr Melly 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 QPM 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 at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston. Every quarter the meetings are held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park (see dates below).

DATES OF MEETINGS 2019-2020

Please check the agenda to confirm venues

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 23 April 2019 | Annual Parish Meeting Village Hall |
| 14 May 2019 | Parish Annual Meeting Our Lady's |
| 11 June 2019 | Parish Council Village Hall |
| 9 July 2019 | Parish Council Village Hall |

The following venues to be confirmed

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10 September 2019 | Parish Council Our Lady's |
| 8 October 2019 | Parish Council Village Hall |
| 12 November 2019 | Parish Council Village Hall |
| 10 December 2019 | Parish Council Our Lady's |
| 14 January 2020 | Parish Council Village Hall |
| 11 February 2020 | Parish Council Village Hall |
| 10 March 2020 | Parish Council Our Lady's |
| 14 April 2020 | 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 23 April 2019 at 7.30pm in Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of a Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2018
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2018
- 4 Township affairs

Light refreshments will be available

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL TENDERS

Any contractor wishing to be placed on the Eccleston Parish Council list of approved contractors 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, Prescott L34 2RT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2018

The following statement represents the financial position of Ecclestone Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 1 April 2017-31 March 2018:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| RECEIPTS | £ |
| Precept | 54,305 |
| Administration | 5,426 |
| Ecclesfield | 288 |
| Hall Charges | 6,399 |
| Smithy (inc remaining grant) | 3,129 |
| Total | 69,547 |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Administration | 30,675 |
| Ecclesfield | 3,499 |
| Village Hall | 18,004 |
| Smithy | 8,342 |
| Open Spaces | 1840 |
| Grants | 1,100 |
| VAT payments | 2,962 |
| Total | 66,422 |

In summary

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Brought forward 1 April 2017 | 20,030 |
| Plus receipts | 69,547 |
| Less expenditure | 66,422 |
| Balance at 31 March 2018 | £23,155 |

Janet Anderson
Clerk to Ecclestone Parish Council



If you need to speak to a Police Officer
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](https://twitter.com/MerPolStHelensS)



St Helens Police

MY WILDLIFE GARDEN

Every day I have a visit from pheasants – 2 males and 5 female. I feed them and all the other garden birds – magpies, sparrows, robins, bluetits, blackbirds and occasionally a squirrel.

There is also a cheeky little robin who likes his own feeding station.

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL USER GROUPS

OUR TIME SENSORY BABY

Monday 11am and 1pm

Our Time Sensory Baby builds foundations for early learning with themed sensory sessions providing magical experiences for babies through sensory exploration. Sessions are at Eccleston Village Hall on a Monday 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 5.30pm

The Slimming World Group, run by Tracy Potter, in Eccleston Village Hall has recently crowned Paul Stewart their Man of the Year. Losing 4 stone 5.5lb has completely transformed his life after he suffered a heart attack at the age of 28.

Men, women and young adults from the age of 11 upwards are welcome at the Eccleston Slimming World group in the Village Hall, Kiln Lane every Wednesday at 5.30pm. Young people aged 11-15 can attend free when they're accompanied by a parent or guardian and have the approval of their GP.

For more information call Tracy on 01744 630899.

YOGA

Thursday 7pm and Sunday 11am

Yoga is a great way to increase physical strength and flexibility. As we age, strength and flexibility become more important to keep us active and feeling young! By working hard physically, we disengage our busy minds allowing us to relax and unwind. Yoga is great for stress and anxiety, and helps us cope with the pressures of modern life.

The classes are a flowing, vinyasa style of yoga and can accommodate all levels of ability including complete beginners and can be surprisingly challenging! Mats and equipment are provided. Places are limited so pre-booking is essential.

To book a mat go to www.picktime.com/Yogacon

If you have any questions email Cath O'Neill at yogacon@outlook.com or check Facebook for further details www.facebook.com/Yogaconyoga



TOMCAT THEATRE COMPANY DRAMA GROUP

Saturday from 10am

TomCat Theatre Company hold 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

In May last year the Smithy hosted Blacksmith's Day and despite fears that the Royal wedding, rugby's Magic Weekend and the FA cup final may affect attendance, the turnout was incredible. Visitors were treated to a performance, by TomCat drama group, based on the history of the Smithy.



Local musicians, The Bath Tub Gin Band also played a set.

In September, the Smithy held a Smithy-Con science fiction themed event with stall holders filling the Village Hall. The 6th Great Eccleston Bake-off was again judged by St Helens Women's Institute.

In late September, as the closing event, the Smithy held Apple Day. Visitors brought along a staggering amount of apples, many of which were pressed on site and turned into juice. Remaining apples were taken to produce cider for next year.

2019/2020

This year's Smithy exhibition will be Vikings and the Curators are working with Paul Sherman of North West Heritage Group who will supply artefacts for the exhibition. The group are primarily interested in items found in the North West. This season at the Smithy events and education will link with this exhibition.

Upcoming events include:

International Blacksmith's Day on 18 May 2019

Heritage Open Days on 14 and 15 September 2019

SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE

Kiln Lane, Eccleston, St Helens WA10 4RA

OWNED AND GOVERNED BY ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

OPEN WEEKENDS 1pm-4pm

Saturday 20 April 2019 – Saturday 15 September 2019

FREE ADMISSION

Curators: Joanne Chamberlain and Vicky Griffiths

Telephone: 01744 730744

Email: smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com

Website: www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk

HEDGEHOG HALL – A VERY DES RES

All summer I fed the hedgehogs at the bottom of my garden. As autumn came I thought of giving them a house. I had one made – a rectangular wooden box with a removable top and a tunnel. I placed it where I thought the hedgehogs might be. I put some straw inside and left it for some time.

When it was opened for inspection there was a beautiful nest inside with at least one hedgehog fast asleep. The house was covered with branches and checked it was watertight. Food has been left beside it every night and always eaten.

Hibernation? – not so far. Perhaps they will not bother to hibernate when they get dinner every night but apparently they don't hibernate if we have a mild winter.

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN

ST JAMES WITH ST MATTHEW, ECCLESTON

Dear Friends

Firstly a word of introduction. I'm Rev Helen Coffey and I arrived last September as the new Team Rector for Eccleston Team. I'm married to Tony and we have three grown up children and three small grandsons, with another grandchild expected in June. I have served previously Parishes in Ashton in Makerfield and also in Downall Green and Garswood.

Thank you to so many local people who have given Tony and I such a warm welcome to the area – we feel like we've been here a lot longer than six months!

St James with St Matthew had a busy Autumn with our annual scarecrow making competition prior to our Harvest Festival in October. Watch out for this again this year! On Halloween we provided almost 200 of our local children with a range of fun activities based on Jesus as the Light of the World – the slime-making table was far and away the most popular!

Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides delivered a very thoughtful and respectful Remembrance Day Service whilst the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were parading down in St Helens.

We had a busy Advent and Christmas period, with many people joining us for the lovely traditional services of 'Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight' and the Christmas Eve Communion Service, as well as our informal and family friendly events like the WOW Christmas Fun Day and the Christmas Eve Crib Service. Joining with many Anglican churches the length and breadth of the country, we had a light-up star, visible to everyone passing either of our churches, to remind us all that following the star leads us to the Saviour, and that having met Jesus, one is never quite the same again.

We begin 2019 by looking forward to making even more connections with our local communities in the year ahead. We are very keen for

both the church buildings and the hall/parish centre to be welcoming environments for even more community groups. In fact, we have just received funding for a luncheon club to start at St Matthew's Centre. We'd like this up and running as soon as possible, but need a few more volunteers to help meet and chat to the older people and those experiencing loneliness and isolation in the community. Could you volunteer a couple of hours on a rota basis once a fortnight? If so, please ring me on 07742590672 or helentcoffey@gmail.com.

Our Sunday Club is growing too, so if you'd like your children or grandchildren to have loads of fun whilst learning a little bit more about Jesus, you'd be welcome to pop along.

Sunday service is always 10.30am – you can be sure of a warm welcome, with lots of new friends waiting to be made. We usually follow this pattern:

1st Sunday – Holy Communion

2nd Sunday – family Parade Service

3rd Sunday – Holy Communion

4th Sunday – family Worship with Baptism

Finally watch out for Alpha too – look for the banner at the front of either St James or Christ Church – a great way for adults to look at the big questions of life. We'd love to meet you.

God bless

REV HELEN COFFEY

CHRIST CHURCH

2019 started with welcome news for Christ Church, after years of hoping and praying, we now have planning permission to build 'The Orchard'; a new church hall on Church Lane.

We are excited about the ways in which we as community and church family will be able to use the space. I hope that the inconvenience over the time of the build will pale into insignificance once we have the benefit of the building.

Which means it is time to say Goodbye to the old hall on Chapel Lane, with a short service, entertainment and refreshments at 4pm on 30 March in the Church Hall car park. All are welcome to attend. For many people the hall has been the setting for many happy childhood memories, for some it is where they met their spouse, I suspect it may even be the venue for at least one first kiss!

Another exciting event on our calendar will take place in summer. What's the saying, 'every dog has its day?'; well, this year their day will be 22 June with an event for dogs (and their people) on the field behind church, organised by one of our Lay Readers (and proud dog owner), Mrs Sue Kirkham. Full details will be announced nearer the time.

Our ever-popular Spring Fair will also be held on Saturday 27 April in Church, and will have the usual array of stalls selling refreshments, crafts and home-made fayre. See you there!

Blessings

REV SONYA DORAGH

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

Since opening in July 1997, Willowbrook Hospice has cared for over 9,000 local people with life limiting illnesses. The care offered at Willowbrook is holistic with patients' needs and wishes at the heart of everything we do. We also provide support for friends and family members of our patients.

Willowbrook's services are supported by a team of over 550 volunteers in every department at the hospice. If you have a few hours to spare please get in touch with Ian Turnbull on 07395 331199 or email help@willowbrookhospice.org.uk.

It currently costs almost £5 million to provide our specialist care. A third is given to us by local health providers. For the rest of our funding we are grateful for the support and generosity of our local community.

Last August, the hospice was affected by storms and flooding which had the devastating effect of closing 4 of our 12 bedrooms. This damage combined with wear and tear of other parts of the hospice from 22 years of use has meant that we need to undertake a complete refurbishment at a total cost of over £200,000. We realise that this amount can't be raised overnight but please do your best to support us. Whether it's taking part in one of the Willowbrook fundraising events, donating money or goods, shopping in one of our charity shops or joining our lottery – every penny does count! For more information on how you can support Willowbrook, please ring our Fundraising Department on 01744 453798 or go online at www.willowbrook.org.uk.

Claire House – Caring for terminally ill children

Claire House Children's Hospice provides specialist nursing care to help terminally ill children to live life to the full. The hospice also offers emotional support for families to help them cope with the progress of their child's illness. Similar to Willowbrook, Claire's is a charity and depends heavily on people in the local community to support them by donating, shopping in their charity shops or taking part in events. For more information on Claire House please visit www.clairehouse.org.uk.

Thanks to Sue and Nicky at the Living Well for the update

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN

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 18 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 evening 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.

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.

We are also a Sailability Club and can cater for people with special needs.

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. 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 1.30pm 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

This season we have grown from 200 to nearly 300 youngsters enjoying playing football each weekend. We are probably the biggest club in St Helens and one of the biggest in Merseyside but size is not our aim. We continue to try to provide football for every youngster, no matter how good they are.

Our teams are encouraged to play open football with a smile on their face whilst appreciating that we all want to win but not at any cost. Our coaches spend many hours planning and running training sessions as well as turning up each week to manage their game. The FA are introducing more and more regulations into youngsters' football and so we are continually having to adapt to the changes.

Almost every team has at least one qualified coach and every coach has been DBS checked and probably attended Safeguarding and Emergency Aid courses.

We have a really good working relationship with Liverpool County FA who are encouraging us to develop as a Community club with their full backing. The most recent examples being the formation of a "Wildcats" group (girls' football) and support for our Skills section for youngsters in Reception and Year 1.

For more information about Bleak Hill Rovers please look at our website (www.bleakhillrovers.com) or our Facebook page.



CYRIL BARRATT

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers

ECCLESTON LANE ENDS BOWLING CLUB

Unsurprisingly, not a great many people are aware of the history of this club. The club was founded in 1866 by philanthropist Samuel Taylor of Eccleston Hall, St Helens. First known as 'Eccleston Lane Ends Working Men's Recreation Room and Library', provided to enable local workers to enjoy 'recreation facilities, good fellowship and social discourse' and located close to the junction between Burrows Lane and St Helens Road.

The original two storey building provided recreational facilities including snooker and boxing as well as having a well-stocked library which members could use for free. In 1938 the club was accepted by the Charities Commission as a Registered Charity and is operated within Charity guidelines. In 1922, land was purchased on the opposite side of St Helens Road, and developed as a bowling green and tennis courts.

In 2015, the club building on St Helens Road was sold. Its original purpose was less and less relevant in modern times and the upkeep was a constant drain on the club's finances.

The money generated from that sale is now being used to modernise the facilities around the bowling green. The first stage of that being the provision of 'state of the art' LED floodlights, which were formally switched on at the start of the 2016 season. A full refurbishment of the clubhouse, bar and TV lounge was completed for the 2018 season.

There are, currently, approximately 110 members and the club is supervised by a Management Committee under the guidance of three Trustees. The Club is keen to attract new members for both social and team bowling and is entering the world of new technology by having a presence on Facebook and planning to create a website. Just search 'Eccleston Lane Ends Bowling Club'.

If you would like to join us in this friendly, outdoor activity, please contact one of the people named below, or call in at the green. The address is 'The Green' off St Helens Road, Prescott, L34 2UG.

Chairman: Steve Roberts 07855275718
Secretary: Ian Gray 07889693648
Trustee: Geoff Lewis 01744 758120

DE LA SALLE – 1719 SOCIETY

In 1719, St John Baptist De La Salle passed away with just 100 Brothers devoted to the care of the newly founded schools and concern for the salvation and education of the poor boys in France. He probably never imagined that 300 years later a group of students and teachers would make the journey to Rome, in his name, to learn more about our Founder and to strengthen their leadership qualities ready to serve in the Lasallian 1719 Society, a Year 11 senior prefect role.

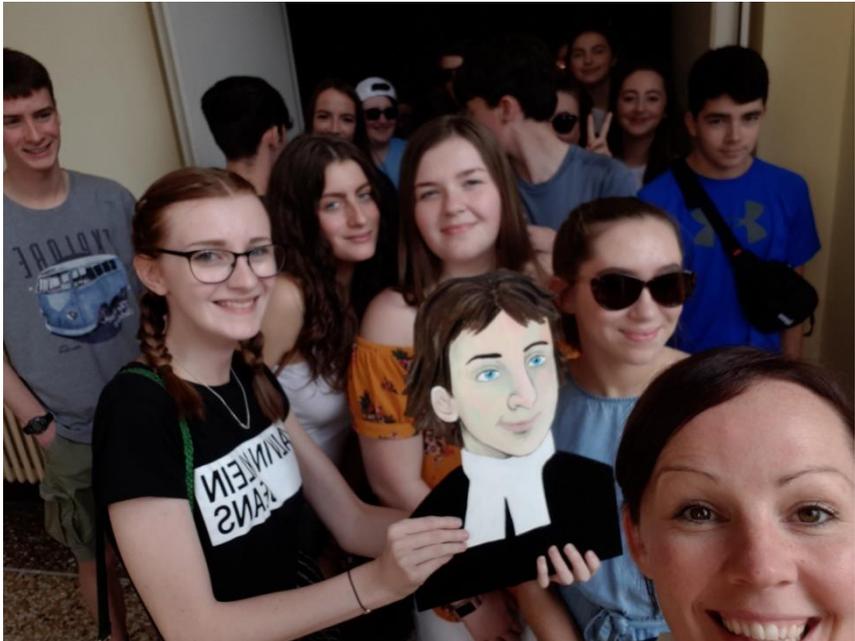
24 students form the Society, which is made up of five strands; leadership, communication, chaplaincy, student support and extra-curricular, took part in the visit. In preparing for the trip students were led in workshops based on the founding story, leadership and vision/mission activities relating to the Society by Heather Gilson, Co-ordinator of Mission initiatives within the Lasallian network. This reflective and inspiring start to the trip ensured that students began their leadership journey with an open heart and mind ready to embrace their new role.



Whilst in Rome, we all stayed at the Mother House (Lasallian Generalate) and had the pleasure of meeting Br Bob Schaefer, Br Aidan Kilty and even a chance encounter with our Superior General Br Robert Schieler. Sessions were based around knowing your own story, the

importance of recognising that we are each in control of how our story develops and how this relates to the work of De La Salle. Sessions also covered an assessment of leadership skills and qualities; what vocation means and how we can live a life with purpose; Lasallian service projects led by Nora and Laura from Rome; a planning session looking to the future and finally our days were framed with beautiful reflective moments of prayer leading us to feel extreme gratitude for the time we all spent together.

Of course, when in Rome, you must see the sights and sample the cuisine, so we ventured in to the city to see the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain, Spanish steps and the Vatican and enjoyed pizza/ pasta/ ice cream and the last of the sunshine before heading back home to serve at the first big event which was Open Evening. I think people slept very well that night!



BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Message from the Head

2017/18 was another wonderful year for Bleak Hill. In November 2017 we had our long-awaited visit from Ofsted and were delighted to retain our Outstanding designation. 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. I hope the following will give you a flavour of the many and varied opportunities the children have enjoyed. You can find more information and lots of photographs at www.bleakhill.st-helens.sch.uk

Exciting Curriculum Activities

During the year, our children enjoyed a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum, which included many opportunities to enhance learning. These included Saints Sky Try experience, Knowsley Safari Park, Parent & Child Cook and Taste Course, World of Glass, The Christmas Sing, St Andrews Church, the Runway Centre at Manchester Airport to name a few. We also held an Arts Week, culminating in an exhibition of the children's work. Later in the year we held a Science Week and had some wonderful visitors to school to support and enthuse the children.

During the year we also began The Daily Mile, which gets children out walking or running for 15 minutes a day.

The Outdoor Environment

We continued to develop our outdoor learning environment. Our outdoor classroom has taken shape and our new woodland pond has hosted its first tadpoles! We were fortunate enough to get funding to run a Nature for Health Club involving children and an adult member of their family, which was a resounding success. We continue to work with 'John & Sue' from Ecolibrium each week, offering wonderful opportunities to our children to learn about the outdoors.

Charity Work

This year the children have raised money for a number of charities including Children in Need, Alder Hey Hospital, St Helens Food Bank and the Poppy Appeal. Our children and families have been most generous with their time and their contributions.

Friends of Bleak Hill

We enjoyed another successful year of fun and fundraising and are extremely grateful for the amount of effort put in by the Friends of Bleak Hill. The fundraising is important to us, given our very tight budget position, but the social events that take place provide another important angle to school life. Events during the year included Christmas shopping night, discos, bingo evenings, Mother's Day and Father's Day shops, Summer Gala and more! The items which the funds purchased this year included some further replacement outdoor furniture for playgrounds and a new set of laptops.

Sport

Children took part in a wide range of sporting competitions during the year. A number of our teams represented St Helens at the Merseyside Youth Games again this year and we are very proud of them all.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Many children have chosen to take part in the extra-curricular activities on offer. These have included computing, netball, music, Zumba, judo, fencing, gymnastics, hockey, basketball, cricket, athletics, dance and art. Year 4 enjoyed an evening trip to the Preston Guild Hall to see a performance of David Walliams' Gangsta Granny, which was very exciting! Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed holidays to PGL centres.

St Helens 150 Celebrations

All children took part in projects to research and then celebrate our town, culminating in a wonderful assembly. Children worked with a resident artist to design and create a commemorative mosaic which is now displayed by our main entrance. This was unveiled by the Mayor in December. There was a tremendous amount of pride in our town evident among children, staff, parents and guests!

Parish Council Awards Assembly

Our Windle and Eccleston Parish Councils' annual assembly took place at the end of the summer term and was once again a wonderful occasion. Awards to the winners were sponsored by the Parish Councils and their support is very much appreciated.

MR I WELLENS
Headteacher

ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had another very eventful year at St Julie's opening our doors to the local community:

PFA Summer Gala Success!

In July we held our first St Julie's PFA Gala – the sun shone on our beautiful grounds and there was a wonderful atmosphere. A huge number of people came along to join the family fun: enjoying the tasty food, traditional games and stalls and to watch the footballers, gymnasts and dancers. The PFA were very grateful to all those who donated items and baked cakes, and all those who helped on the stalls.

As you can imagine, it took months of planning to make it all run so smoothly and all-day Saturday and Sunday morning to set up so it was a massive thank you to our PFA who organised the event so well. The fabulous news was that the first gala raised a tremendous **£3502.40** in profit! The school are always extremely grateful to our PFA Committee members who do such good work throughout the year to raise money to buy essential resources for our children.



St Julie's Remembers

On Thursday November 8th we held a commemorative event in school which was a very moving tribute to those who lost their lives in battle and those affected by war. After the event we received many heart-warming comments, recognising the thoughtful poems, artwork and writing produced by the children and the creative displays produced by the staff. News of our exhibition spread quickly and the following day we received a visit from Mr John Burns, the Branch Chair of Ashton-in-Makerfield Royal British Legion. Photos of the exhibition can be seen on the school website so please take a look if you weren't able to come along and please add your own reflections and comments to the blog.

Further Success!



You may have seen in the local press following the publication of DfE figures for 2018 that 91% of our Year 6 children achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined making us the highest achieving primary school in the Local Authority.

We were also very pleased to receive a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards congratulating staff and pupils on “your school’s outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check.” He went on to say, **“Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.”**

We are of course immensely proud of all the achievements of our children at St Julie’s and of their diverse talents and skills and are grateful to our teachers and school staff who work tirelessly to enable children to achieve so well.

For the second year we have achieved the School Games Gold Award which recognises the range of PE taught and competitions entered. Opportunities such as our WW1 Remembrance event give a flavour of the rich curriculum we offer at St Julie’s.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who give up their time to support the children in school, we could not cope without them. Many thanks to you all from the children, staff and Governors of St Julie’s.

MRS A HODGSON
Headteacher

LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

Some of you have probably noticed an addition to the roof of the Centre. As part of our 'Green Energy' project we have installed a Solar PV system to help reduce carbon emissions and energy bills. We had advice from the Carbon Trust and thanks to the support from The Rainford Trust, Co-op and the Rainhill Rotary. This means that Phases 1 and 3 of the Annex Project are done! Keep an eye out for more fundraisers towards the annex conversion.



The annual bedding plant sale is on Sunday 5th and Monday 6th 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 | Beginners Bridge Club 9.30am-12pm | 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 | Eccleston Maths Centre 9am-12-30pm | | |
| Monthly • The '89 Society (2nd Thursday) • The Gardening Circle (4th Thursday) Eccleston Kard Krafters (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 email: lesterdrivecentre@gmail.com



HENBURY COURT

All our residents at Henbury Court, Eccleston, live independently in their own self-contained apartment. They come and go as they please. Henbury Court enables retired people to retain their independence. The vast majority of our residents find their needs can be met and significantly spend less time in hospital or nursing care than the average population of people of the same age.

This is helped by ongoing social interaction of residents participating in different activities within the court. Activities include a weekly coffee morning, gentle exercise, chair yoga sessions and daily meetings in the lounge or garden (weather permitting) for a chat. Additionally, residents organise birthday and anniversary celebrations, summer boules competition and luncheons to name a few. The Christmas calendar is always packed thanks to social organiser Doreen Appleby.

The last 12 months have been very busy for residents as they have raised an amazing £1,878 for local and international charities. To date residents have donated a staggering £9,693 to various charities over the past 11 years.

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

SHIRLEY HORROCKS

Development Manager

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL'S
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Thursday 5 December 2019
11am
ECCLESTON LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

WHAT'S NEW AT ECCLESTON LIBRARY?

Joining the library

We are pleased to announce that it's easier than ever to join the library! We now only need **one** form of Identification, showing your name and address. The library card then entitles people to take advantage of all our services, including 24 hour access via the library website.

E-books and e-audio services

Have a look at "Borrow Box" – our new service for borrowing e-books and e-audiobooks. All you need is your library card and pin number. There are literally thousands of titles to choose from – and it's completely free!!

Local history at the library

Over the last few months, many local history items have been moved to Eccleston Library. These include the Electoral registers, newspaper reels, old maps, and much more. Please ask the staff for more information.

Family History Society

St Helens Family History Society continues to meet at Eccleston library 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



@STHLibraries



www.facebook.com/STHLibraries

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

Website www.sthelens.gov.uk/libraries

LIL'S IRISH BROWN SODA BREAD

Serves 8-10

Prep time 15 mins

Cooking time 45 mins (approx)

Ingredients

14 oz /400g wholemeal flour

7 oz /200g plain white flour

1 oz /25g margarine

Half a teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon sugar

1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

15 fl oz /425ml buttermilk

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200C/400F/gas mark six if using fan reduce temperature slightly.
2. Put wholemeal and white flour in a bowl and mix together.
3. Rub in margarine with your fingers then add together bicarbonate of soda, salt and sugar into the bowl. Mix well.
4. Add buttermilk and mix everything together.
5. Flour work surface and tip out. Work the dough into a round loaf. Place on a lightly floured baking tray and score the top lightly with a cross.
6. Bake in the middle of the pre-heated oven and after about half an hour, turn it upside down and continue to cook for a further 15 minutes until done. (Fan oven may require less time.)
7. Remove from the oven and check the bread is cooked by tapping the base of the loaf. If you get a hollow sound, it's done. Leave it to stand on a rack and enjoy when cool.

COUNCILLOR ANITA ASHCROFT

**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 Hockenhill |
| 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 | 2018-2019 | Mrs T V Sims |

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, Eccleston Rev Sonya Doragh | 01744 22698 |
| Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park Fr David Melly | 0151 426 6251 |
| St James Church, St Helens Road, Eccleston Park Rev Helen Coffey | 0151 426 6421 |
| St Julie RC Church, Howards Lane, Eccleston 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, Eccleston Head: Mr A Rannard | 01744 20511 |
| Eccleston Lane Ends Primary, Albany Avenue, Eccleston Park Head: Mrs C Gowan | 01744 678270 |
| Eccleston Mere Primary, Saleswood Avenue, Eccleston | 01744 678280 |
| St Julie RC Primary, Brooklands Road, Eccleston Head: Mrs A Hodgson | 01744 678233 |

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

| | |
|---|--|
| ST HELENS COUNCIL Contact Centre | 01744 676789 |
| ECCLESTON LIBRARY | 01744 677575 |
| WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE Fundraising Office Hospice | 01744 453798 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 Mrs Sheppard Mrs Phillips | 01744 21401 01744 738732 01744 21958 |
| LESTER DRIVE CENTRE Mrs Martlew | 01744 26813 |
| CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU Millennium Centre, Corporation Street | 03448 269 694 |

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 own 70% of the facility and Windle Parish Council own 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 facility.

The facility is maintained by a Caretaker who is responsible for security, cleaning and upkeep. St Helens Council, who own 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

