

**ECCLESTON  
PARISH COUNCIL  
MAGAZINE  
2019 – 2020**



**ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL AND SMITHY MUSEUM  
KILN LANE**

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

Contact the Caretaker on 01744 453065

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Dear Resident

Eccleston Parish Council is one of the busier Parish Councils in St Helens and this year has been no exception. Our business is very varied as you will see from the articles in this magazine and we invite articles from all Eccleston groups and schools.

The Parish Council own Eccleston Village Hall, including our Smithy Heritage Centre, which attracts many groups including groups from outside Eccleston. Many of our residents attend the exhibitions and events that are organised by our two curators Vicky and Joanne, who do a magnificent job. Our Curators also engage with local schools providing project boxes to help with special topics students undertake. And I am sure that you will be familiar with our Blacksmith's Day and the Heritage Weekend events.

We also share ownership of the Ecclesfield Changing Rooms, (behind the library on Broadway), with Windle Parish Council. A committee made up of both Eccleston and Windle Parish Councillors oversee the hiring of pitches for football teams, or indeed any other sporting use, along with the maintenance of the changing rooms.

Work is imminent to upgrade the changing facility with a completely new roof and renewed tarmacking round the changing rooms, together with the car park being re-surfaced. District Councillors from both Eccleston and Windle agreed to fund the upgrade for the benefit of both Eccleston and Windle user groups via their allocation of funds which each Ward receives for "Environmental Improvements".

Eccleston Parish Council also leases 7 open spaces from the District Council i.e. Ecclesfield, Kiln Lane, Ansdell Drive, Clarkes Crescent, Saleswood Avenue, Gillars Green (behind the shops) and Millwood Avenue.

So, this hopefully gives you an insight into the workings of the Parish Council – very ably co-ordinated by Janet our Clerk (she never moans).

We are very pleased not to have to raise our precept this year, whilst planning to re-furbish the inside of our Village Hall, not only painting, but upgrading the heating system, which will benefit our user groups.

I would like to thank all my colleague Parish Councillors for all the work they put in throughout the year. A huge thank you to our Clerk, Janet, also Vicky and Joanne (our part-time Smithy Curators), Lisa our caretaker and cleaner, and Bob who oversees the changing rooms on Ecclesfield.



Additionally, I would like to thank the staff from United Utilities who tidy up our War Memorial for us so that we can lay wreathes on Remembrance Day. They do this very willingly and indeed they add their own little touches to the memorial as their own mark of respect.

As the team was not able to attend on the Remembrance Sunday I, as Chairman, met with them to acknowledge their contribution and thank them on behalf of Eccleston Parish Council.

Warmest Regards,

**COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS**  
CHAIRMAN  
ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

### **West Ward**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| CLlr Anita Ashcroft QPM                               | c/o <a href="mailto:ecclestonpc@hotmail.com">ecclestonpc@hotmail.com</a> |
| CLlr Phil Cass<br>49 Lowther Crescent, Eccleston Hill | 07813 153522   |
| CLlr Ian Kempself<br>21 Howards Lane, Eccleston       | 01744 27697  |
| CLlr Francis Williams<br>25 Lester Drive, Eccleston   | 01744 734474   |
| CLlr Ruth Watmough<br>17 Mulberry Avenue, Eccleston   | 01744 631378   |

### **East Ward**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| CLlr Michael Haw<br>4 Linden Way, Eccleston           | 07837 759432 |
| CLlr Geoff Pearl<br>53 Norton Grove, Thatto Heath     | 01744 340413 |
| CLlr Elizabeth Skepper<br>18 Henbury Court, Eccleston | 01744 758868 |

### **South Ward**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| CLlr Christina Duncan<br>163 St Helens Road, Eccleston Park | 0151 426 5615 |
| CLlr Lynn Gray-Williams<br>7 New Road, Eccleston Park       | 0151 431 1070 |
| CLlr Carol Pearl<br>53 Norton Grove, Thatto Heath           | 01744 340413  |
| CLlr Teresa Sims<br>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 2020-2021

***Please check the agenda before the meeting to confirm the venue\****

|                  |                       |              |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 28 April 2020    | Annual Parish Meeting | Village Hall |
| 12 May 2020      | Parish Annual Meeting | Village Hall |
| 9 June 2020      | Parish Council        | Our Lady's   |
| 14 July 2020     | Parish Council        | Village Hall |
| 8 September 2020 | Parish Council        | Village Hall |
| 13 October 2020  | Parish Council        | Our Lady's   |
| 10 November 2020 | Parish Council        | Village Hall |
| 8 December 2020  | Parish Council        | Village Hall |
| 12 January 2021  | Parish Council        | Our Lady's   |
| 9 February 2021  | Parish Council        | Village Hall |
| 9 March 2021     | Parish Council        | Village Hall |
| 13 April 2021    | 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 at Eccleston Library and on the Parish Council website. Minutes of meetings can also be found at Eccleston Library and on the website [www.ecclestonpc.org.uk](http://www.ecclestonpc.org.uk).

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

ELECTORS for the Parish of Ecclestone are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 28 April 2020 at 7.30pm in Ecclestone Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Ecclestone.

### AGENDA

- 1 Election of a Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 April 2019
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2019
- 4 Township affairs

Light refreshments will be available

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING**  
**31 MARCH 2019**

The following statement represents the financial position of Ecclestone Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 1 April 2018-31 March 2019:

| <b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b> | £             |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Precept                | 57,653        |
| Administration         | 4,238         |
| Ecclesfield            | 222           |
| Hall Charges           | 7,355         |
| Smithy                 | 2,144         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>71,612</b> |

| <b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b> |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Administration            | 32,353        |
| Ecclesfield               | 4,499         |
| Village Hall              | 14,237        |
| Smithy                    | 12,542        |
| Open Spaces               | 1,359         |
| Grants                    | 800           |
| VAT payments              | 3,017         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>68,807</b> |

In summary

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Brought forward 1 April 2018    | 23,155         |
| Plus receipts                   | 71,612         |
| Less expenditure                | 68,807         |
| <b>Balance at 31 March 2019</b> | <b>£25,960</b> |

Janet Anderson  
Clerk to Ecclestone Parish Council

## **ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL USER GROUPS**

### **OUR TIME SENSORY BABY**

Monday 11am and 1pm

Our Time Sensory Baby is entering its third year at Eccleston bringing sessions that build foundations for early learning with themed sensory sessions providing magical experiences for babies through sensory exploration. Start your baby's learning journey here with Our Time. Sessions are at Eccleston Village Hall on a Monday for babies from birth to pre-walking.

Please contact Louise on 07717 485158

Facebook – OurTime – SensoryBaby

Instagram – ourtime.sensorybaby

### **BU DOKAN JU JITSU**

Monday and Friday evening

Ju Jitsu has been in the Village Hall in Kiln Lane for 30 years. During that time both children and adults have gained the coveted black belt. In fact, a few people after gaining their black belt have gone on to gain further Dan grades.

Ju jitsu is the original Japanese martial art out of which came Aikido, Judo, Karate and Kendo. Ju Jitsu will help to get you fit and teach you to defend yourself.

Budokan Ju jitsu Eccleston is registered through the Martial Arts Council through The National Federation for Personal Safety.

Classes are held Monday and Friday evenings at the Village Hall

Children 6.30pm-7.45pm

Adults 8.00pm-9.30pm

For further information please call Geoff Pearl on 07721 009418.

## **FITNESS BEYOND THE BUMP**

Wednesday 9.30, 10.30 and 11.30

Fitness Beyond the Bump provides postpartum fitness classes to mums and you can bring baby too.

The classes are delivered by Leanne a mum of 2 young boys and a fitness professional of 13 years specialising in pre and post-natal fitness.

The postpartum fitness journey isn't just about losing your baby weight, more importantly it can help prevent postpartum depression, boost your energy levels, improve mood, act as a stress release, restore muscle strength that has been weakened during pregnancy and childbirth as well as improve your general fitness.

Contact Leanne for more details:

[www.fitnessbeyondthebump.co.uk](http://www.fitnessbeyondthebump.co.uk)

[Leanne@fitnessbeyondthebump.co.uk](mailto:Leanne@fitnessbeyondthebump.co.uk)

Facebook – fitness beyond the bump

Instagram – leannefitnessbeyondthebump

## **SLIMMING WORLD**

Wednesday 5.30pm

Slimming World celebrated its 50th birthday last year. Consultant Tracy is proud to have been a member for 30 years and a Consultant for the past 13 years at Ecclestone Village Hall.

Men, women and young adults from the age of 11 upwards are welcome at the Ecclestone 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 07791 180281.

## **YOGA**

Thursday 7pm

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](http://www.picktime.com/Yogacon)

If you have any questions email Cath O'Neill at: [yogacon@outlook.com](mailto:yogacon@outlook.com) or check Facebook for further details [www.facebook.com/Yogaconyoga](http://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](http://www.tomcattheatre.co.uk)

[cathy@tomcattheatre.co.uk](mailto:cathy@tomcattheatre.co.uk)

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

On Sunday 10 November 2019 Parish Councillors attended a Service of Remembrance at St James, Eccleston Park. Afterwards Rev Coffey led Councillors and residents in prayer at the War Memorial on Burrows Lane, where wreaths were laid in remembrance.



## **HEDGEHOG HOUSE AND ANNEXE**

This year I bought a second hedgehog house and over the year all the food left out has been eaten.



This recent photograph was taken of a hedgehog enjoying a quiet moment!

Wildlife – I still have visits from pheasants, squirrels and many birds in the garden.

## **COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN**

## NEWS FROM THE SMITHY

For the 2019 season, the Smithy hosted an incredible array of Viking artefacts, kindly on loan from North West Heritage, a group comprised of metal detectorists, historians and enthusiasts, dedicated to uncovering the historical importance of the North West.

The artefacts had first featured in the high-profile "Viking: Rediscover the Legend" exhibition at The Atkinson in 2018 alongside significant Viking treasure hoards. At the Smithy, the objects took centre stage, important in their own right. From fragile fabrics and fine jewellery to weaponry and heavy duty farming equipment, all aspects of Viking life were reflected in the displays – even blacksmithing!

For Blacksmith's Day, even the craft demonstrations echoed the exhibition theme, as the technologies and techniques on show were all very much in keeping with the Viking way of life. As a special surprise, and from a very different era, Arnie the horse arrived pulling the replica Suffragette Wagon that he'd been towing all around Britain with owner, Phill Gregson the wheelwright, to celebrate the centenary of Women's Suffrage!

As ever, a range of local ales and ciders was on sale, but disaster struck when it was found that one of the pumps was faulty. We owe an extra special huge thank you to Daryl from The Turks Head who saved the day and provided a replacement, and Cllr Michael Haw who kindly couriered it over to us!

The profits from sales of refreshments and craft activities at the Smithy help go towards caring for the building and collection.

For Heritage Open Weekend at the Smithy, Viking re-enactors came and created a wonderful display, authentic crafts and even cooked some real Viking-style food.



Visitors were also taught how to play the game Hnefatafl (above) and listened to some Norse myths and legends. The Village Hall was transformed into a Viking market with all manner of exciting goods available.

The 7th Great Eccleston Bake-off was a success, with a large range of tasty treats on display.



The judges from St Helens WI had a hard time choosing between the delicious cake entries, but the winner of 7th Great Eccleston Bake-off was Elizabeth Helsby (centre). She is pictured with Chairman Cllr Teresa Sims (right) and Cllr Christina Duncan (second right). Runner Up was Sue Hirons (left), next to the winner of the Best Decorated Cake award, 9 year old Olivia Darlington.

2020 will have lots of surprises in store – here are some key dates for your diary.

**Saturday 11 April 2020 – the Smithy opens for 2020!** This year's exhibition will be a fascinating display of collections of objects of all shapes and sizes, from the ancient to the modern. Many collections stem from travel or historical research, others from a personal interest and even obsessions! Do you have a collection? What made you focus on that particular thing?

**Saturday 16 May 2020 – International Blacksmith’s Day.** Fun for all the family with live demonstrations from talented traditional craftspeople, fun craft activities for the children, real ale, cider, hog roast, tea, coffee, and tons of cake!

**Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 2020 – Heritage Open Weekend.** An extravaganza with lots to see and do, and the 8th annual Great Eccleston Bake-off of course!

The Smithy will be open weekends, 1pm-4pm from Saturday 11 April to Sunday 13 September, and other times by special appointment. Admission is free!

For further details see [www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk) or follow us on social media:



Smithy Heritage Centre



@smithyheritage

## **SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE**

Kiln Lane, Eccleston, St Helens WA10 4RA

OWNED AND GOVERNED BY ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

**OPEN WEEKENDS 1pm-4pm**

**Saturday 11 April 2020 – Sunday 13 September 2020**

**FREE ADMISSION**

Curators: Joanne Chamberlain and Vicky Griffiths

Telephone: 01744 730744

Email: [smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com](mailto:smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk)



**Eccleston Police station is open**  
**Every Friday from 1300 to 1400 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:



twitter @MerPolStHelensS



St Helens Police

**Community first**

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www.merseyside.police.uk

**REPORT ON TWITTER**  
@MerPolCC

**REPORT ON FACEBOOK**  
Merseyside Police CC

**CALL US ON 101**  
Please note our 101 lines can be extremely busy at times and there could be a wait.

**CALL 999**  
In an emergency always call 999

## **CHRIST CHURCH**

Happy new year to everyone. I'm pleased to say work is progressing to secure an appropriate buyer for the former Church Hall site, to develop houses in keeping with the outline planning permission. Once this is furthered, we will begin the exciting phase of creating a new, smaller, more sustainable hall beside Church, for the benefit of our congregation and wider community.

Our fundraising events continue, with our Christmas Fair having raised £2,000 and more events planned, including our Spring Fair on 4 April. If you would be interested in having a stall please email [info@ccemail.org.uk](mailto:info@ccemail.org.uk). As always, we are grateful to our neighbours for their ongoing support – from volunteering on our gardening team, helping to run our Toddler Time group, to endless patience with parking for Church services! Thank you all sincerely.

If anyone would like to join in – by helping our gardening team maintain the churchyard and cleaning team maintain the building on Thursday mornings, please get in touch. Volunteers are always welcome at our Toddler Time group as well. Great friendships, good fun and sense of community all on offer.

A reminder that we offer a host of groups – including our children's clubs which run in term time only; Toddler Time (Friday mornings, 9.15am in Church) All Stars and Star Academy (primary school age, Friday evenings at Eccleston Mere school 6.15 till 7.30), YPF (for high school children, Fridays at the Vicarage from 9pm).

Our grown-ups' social event (Thursday Fellowship) takes place every other Thursday at Trapwood Centre with entertainment/speakers and lots of chat and laughter. Newcomers always welcome and lifts available.

Blessings for the year ahead.

**REV SONYA DORAGH**

## **WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE**

Since opening in 1997, Willowbrook Hospice has provided free specialist palliative and end-of-life care for over 9,000 adults in the St Helens and Knowsley area that have life-limiting illnesses such as cancer, motor neurone disease and COPD.

Willowbrook's aims are to:

- provide free specialist palliative, end of life care through the expertise of a multi-professional team to those patients who are referred by their GP, hospital consultant or health professional
- help each patient achieve the best quality of life possible with dignity and in comfort, with our specialist doctors able to assess and manage symptoms and medication
- encourage patients, their families and carers to ask for information to help them make decisions about their care.



The hospice has 12 inpatient beds, an outpatient service and also offers wellbeing and holistic therapies.

Willowbrook's services are supported by a team of over 600 volunteers in every department at the hospice – from reception, to gardening and housekeeping, fundraising or working in one of the Willowbrook charity shops. If you have a few hours to spare please get in touch with Ian Turnbull on 0151 430 8736 or email [help@willowbrookhospice.org.uk](mailto:help@willowbrookhospice.org.uk). For retail volunteer opportunities contact Bev Neilson on 01744 766929 or email [BevN@wbhtrading.co.uk](mailto:BevN@wbhtrading.co.uk).

It currently costs almost £5 million to provide our specialist care. Of this amount only one 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. So whether it is 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 really 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](http://www.willowbrook.org.uk).

### **Claire House – Caring for terminally ill children**

Claire House Children's Hospice provides specialist nursing care to help seriously and 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.

The main site for inpatient care is on the Wirral but last year Claire's opened a day service hospice in West Derby, Liverpool. Staff from Claire's also go out to visit patients in their own homes.

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](http://www.clairehouse.org.uk).

Thanks to Sue at the Living Well for the update

**COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA DUNCAN**

## **ST JAMES WITH ST MATTHEWS**

Dear Friends

St James with St Matthews has had a busy and challenging year in 2019. We recognised our poor financial position and have spent much of the year coming to terms with what that means for the future. Each member of the congregation has had to examine their own personal giving to Church.

We have also sought to reduce our expenditure where possible, just like many of us are doing at home. And we have looked carefully at our buildings. This culminated in November, with the PCC taking the difficult decision to close the now crumbling St James Church Hall and look to sell the small parcel of land on which it sits. This was a hard and painful decision for us to take, not just as the Hall was built by the parents and grandparents of current Eccleston Park residents, but also because many church members along with people in the community have happy memories of the Church Hall going back decades, perhaps of Scouts or Art Group or Toddler Group, or Amateur Dramatics; of how good the sprung dance floor was or even of eating school dinners there before Eccleston Lane Ends School was built.

We have supported and enabled the relocation of the few remaining groups using the Hall and are planning a 'Celebration and Leave-Taking' event in the next few months. Some of you may have attended something similar when Christ Church closed their old hall some time ago. We would like as many of you as possible to come along over the space of a weekend, to share memories and mementos; photos and funny stories; to eat cake and drink tea and help us bury a time capsule that properly commemorates the valuable place St James' Church Hall occupies in the social history of Eccleston Park.

Watch out for a sign outside St James Church in due course or on social media [www.facebook.com/stjameswithstmatthews](https://www.facebook.com/stjameswithstmatthews).

In other news, hot on the heels of a fabulous Harvest and Scarecrow building competition, we had a busy Advent and Christmas period, with many people joining us for the lovely traditional services of Candlelit Carol Service and the Christmas Eve Communion, as well as our informal and family friendly events like the Advent Fun Day and the Christmas Eve Crib Service. Our 'Beer and Carols' events at The Grapes and The Wellington grew in popularity too! Joining with many Anglican churches the length and breadth of the country, we had a light-up star, visible to everyone passing St James', 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 2020 with a focus on encouraging ourselves, our friends and families, neighbours and work colleagues to Try Praying – you can find out more here <https://www.trypraying.co.uk> – why not give it a go yourself, you've certainly got nothing to lose. Over the coming months there will be more opportunities to share fellowship and raise funds including a Sunday Afternoon Organ Recital with afternoon tea, a craft shopping event, and a garden party in grounds of St James' vicarage.

Both our weekday toddler groups are doing well, but we are always keen to find space for new families. 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – family Parade Service, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 ask the big questions of life. We'd love to meet you.

**REV HELEN COFFEY**

helentcoffey@gmail.com or 07742590672

## **ECCLESTON LIBRARY**

Your library card maybe small in size, but did you know as a library member you can take advantage everything below?

- Discounted tickets for Cultural Hubs Performances
- Free use of public computers
- 24/7 access to your library account via the library app and/or website
- Download the Borrowbox App and borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks for free
- Access “Marvel” comics and other magazines on line
- Get your hands on the latest bestsellers
- Access Ancestry online and trace your ancestors
- Access FREE wifi in all St Helens Libraries
- Borrow Microbits and learn to code

If you're not a library member, join free today.

Please call in with one form of identification containing your address details and become a member straight away.

### **Opening Hours**

Eccleston library is open:

Monday 1pm – 7pm

Tuesday 10am – 7pm

Wednesday 1pm – 7pm

Thursday 10am – 5pm

Friday 10am – 5pm

Saturday 10am – 4pm



**@STHLibraries**



**[www.facebook.com/STHLibraries](http://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](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/libraries)

**KATE JONES**

Community Library Officer

## **PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB BOWLING SECTION**

If you venture down the access track to Prescott and Odyssey Cricket Club on Burrows Lane you will find not only a cricket club but also a bowling club. There is a lovely sheltered green where approximately 40 people enjoy their sport from April to September. 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, 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, fed and 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 with silver cups to be won (and polished!). The September Scramble ends with a 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 along on a Tuesday or a Thursday afternoon at about 1.30pm and join us. 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 you buy your own. You will be made very welcome.

**JUDITH JOHNSON**

Chairman, POCC Bowls Section

## **BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Message from the Head**

The last academic year was, as always, a busy and challenging one. I am indebted to our staff, families, friends and governors for their support, hard work and commitment. We are exceptionally fortunate to have staff who regularly go above and beyond to ensure that the children receive a broad and balanced education and a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities. We are immensely proud of the achievements and successes of all our children, both in school and outside. 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](http://www.bleakhill.st-helens.sch.uk)

### **Exciting Curriculum Activities**

During the year, our exciting curriculum included many opportunities to enhance learning. These included United Utilities Water Workshops, Build-a-Bear, trips to St Andrews Church, local history walks, Young Voices Concert, BBC Philharmonic recording at Media City, World of Glass visits, Y5 and 6 PGL holidays, whole school enrichment day with MD Productions, Liverpool Museum trips, to name but a few. We also held our annual Arts Week, culminating in an exhibition of the children's work.

### **The Outdoor Environment**

The now famous John & Sue from Ecolibrium continued to work with our children each week. This enabled the outdoor offer to develop considerably over the year. We also worked with Mersey Forest who provided funding for additional paths in our woodland area. In addition, they kindly part sponsored Forest School training for one of our staff, who will complete the Level 3 training. This will enable us to increase our use of the outdoors further.

### **Sport**

Children took part in a wide range of sporting competitions during the year including football, rugby, cricket, boccia, athletics and swimming. This year we tried some new sports, taking part in a table tennis and a

water polo competition! Once again, we were proud to send teams to Merseyside Youth Games to represent St Helens.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

This year we have had an excellent uptake of places at our many and varied extra-curricular clubs. This year, these have included music, choirs, judo, chess, athletics, gymnastics, art, table tennis, cookery, fencing, cheerleading, creative arts, outdoor learning, yoga and mindfulness and many more.

### Charity Work

This year the children have raised money/donations for a number of charities including Comic Relief, St Helens Food Bank and the Poppy Appeal.

Our children went out into the community where the choir performed at a number of establishments including Henbury Court, St Helens Hospital and Willowbrook Hospice.

### Friends of Bleak Hill

We were once again indebted to the small but hardworking committee of the FOBH. This dedicated group helped organise events for school which raise much needed funds for the children but also provide a social side to the school. Events during the year included Christmas shopping night, bingo evenings, Mother's Day and Father's Day shops, Summer Gala and more! The items which the funds purchased this year included the whole school health and wellbeing day with MD Productions, part funding of the visiting Pantomime and BenQ interactive screens for a number of classrooms.

### Parish Council Awards Assembly

We were fortunate, once again, to have the support of both Eccleston and Windle Parish Councils at our annual awards assembly in the summer term. We are grateful for their ongoing sponsorship of our awards, which form a special part of life at Bleak Hill.

**MR I WELLENS**

Headteacher

## **ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

At St Julie's we are blessed to be part of a community with a rich history and strive to develop in our children an appreciation and understanding of their local area.

Learning based on the local environment and educational visits further afield make learning 'come alive' for our children. Enquiry based study using first hand experiences develop the children's knowledge of their own local environment and at St Julie's we believe this begins in the early years with an exploration of our extensive school grounds and the surrounding area.

Many of you will be familiar with the children's books about the adventures of Percy the Park Keeper. The infant children at St Julie's regularly receive visits from Percy's brother – our own Peter the Park Keeper (in fact a well-known local Historian) who explores the school grounds with the children talking about the seasonal changes, the types of trees, the wildlife and their importance to our local environment. In Year 2 the children build on their learning from Reception and Year 1 extending their knowledge of the local area in order to find answers to the question "Why are green spaces important to Ecclestone?" During a visit from Local Councillor Mrs Teresa Sims the children asked questions about open spaces, the Green Belt and the work of the Parish Council. She was impressed by their knowledge and insightful questions.

Our history curriculum is designed to encourage the children from an early age to have an understanding of their local heritage. Also in Year 2 the children are asking "Why is Samuel Taylor important to Ecclestone?" and are helped by the Rangers to find answers to the question as they explore Taylor Park. They have found out that Samuel Taylor lived at Ecclestone Hall and that Taylor Park was part of his estate which he developed; he then gave the park for the benefit of the community. As part of this exploration of the local area the children have visited the Smithy and looked at old maps of Ecclestone. They have also discovered that both Christ Church and the Griffin Inn are made from sandstone from the quarry in Taylor Park and that in fact

The Griffin Inn used to be called the Magpie Inn and its name was changed because of the Griffin on the coat of arms of the Taylor family. In Key Stage 2 the children extend their enquiry by asking “Why are there World War One graves in Eccleston?” and “How did the Industrial Revolution change St Helens?”

The curriculum at St Julie’s is also enriched further by our strong link with Eccleston Library. Every class regularly visits the library throughout the year to deepen their learning: for Roald Dahl day, local history events, World Book day, Shakespeare week and many other themed events. Through funding the library has also enabled children from Year 3 to take part in the Arts Award Discover scheme. Children worked with local artist Kate Hodgson – a former pupil of St Julie’s – on a project involving monoprinting, researching artists and ultimately screenprinting their designs on T shirts for a performance piece called “Outfit for 35 people”. Now in Year 4 the children are embarking on the next stage, Arts Award Explore.

The children at St Julie’s love to sing and have taken part in many musical experiences this year from performing with the Young Voices choir at the Manchester Arena to singing with other St Helens schools at the Lost in Music event in the Town Hall. Year 4 children were excited to visit Eccleston Court Nursing Home in October to sing Harvest songs and again at Christmas to sing Carols.

St Julie’s values its part in the local community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who support us and help us throughout the year to provide our children with rich learning opportunities. I am grateful to the volunteers who give up their time to support the children in school and to the staff and Governors who work tirelessly for our children. If you would like to find out more about our curriculum please visit our school website:

[www.st-julie.st-helens.sch.uk/](http://www.st-julie.st-helens.sch.uk/)

**MRS A HODGSON**  
Headteacher

## LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

The Committee organised a Folk Night as part of our fundraising for the annexe and we needed to build a temporary stage. A member of the Lady Farmers group kindly let us borrow some straw bales and Karen from Splendid Pets let us have some wooden pallets. Equipped with a drill and a box of screws we set the stage for renowned folk singer Mark Dowding, who played a fantastic set of songs, some featuring old 'Lanky Twang', traditional tales and humorous escapades. At the interval we served home cooked hot roast beef and ham sandwiches with beer or wine.

Keep an eye out for more fundraisers towards the annexe conversion

The annual bedding plant sale is on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May.

| WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE?  |                                    |   |                                  |
|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Mon   | Art Club 9am-12pm                  | Afternoon Tea and Prize Bingo 2.30pm-4.30pm (alt wks) | Weight Watchers 6pm-8pm          |
| Tues  | Jo-Jingles group 9am-12pm          | Pilates 5.45pm-6.45pm                                 | Bridge Club 7.15pm               |
| Wed   | Beginners Bridge Club 9.30am-12pm  | Les Petite Pois French lessons 12pm-5pm               | Board Gamers 6.30pm              |
| Thurs   | Mini Professors 10am-11am          | Yoga group 2pm-4pm                                    | Bingo club (alt wks) 7.30pm-10pm |
| Fri   | Tai Chi 10am-11am, 11am-12pm       | U3A hand chimes group 2pm-4pm                         | St Helens Contract Bridge 8pm    |
| Sat   | Eccleston Maths Centre 9am-12-30pm |   |                                  |
| Monthly • The '89 Society (2nd Thursday) •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](mailto:lesterdrivecentre@gmail.com)



## **HENBURY COURT**

During the past year lots of activities have occurred at Henbury Court.

We had an external decoration of the building with internal decoration of the communal areas to be carried out later this year. The front garden of the building has been revamped and decorative stone and flourishing Red Robin shrubs now offer a lovely welcome to Henbury.

Here are some of the activities and events over the year: the Woodlanders entertained us for an evening, a weekly coffee morning and raffle (which provides funds for social activities), keep moving, light exercises, chair based yoga, monthly pamper days, St George's lunch, hot dog, fish and chip supper, Christmas lunch. There is also an annual boules competition with a grand finale and prize giving event which takes place in the lovely garden area, finished off with ice-cream (or a tipple).

Residents were invited to Bleak Hill School to watch a musical play which was thoroughly enjoyed. The children from Bleak Hill School come each year to sing Christmas Carols which is always a treat to watch.

We have an upcoming Fashion Show when residents will model the outfits.

Once again a big thank you to the residents of Henbury Court who are so generous towards local charities including the Leprosy Mission, Salvation Army and Bleak Hill School. They are always willing to donate to good causes. You are welcome to a coffee morning where you can chat with residents to gain an insight to the development. Please contact the Development Manager for further details on: 01744 757815.

**SHIRLEY HORROCKS**

Development Manager

## **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL'S  
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

**Thursday 3 December 2020**

11am

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

### **BANANA LOAF**

**Serves 6**

**Cooking time 1 hour**

#### **Ingredients**

4 ripe bananas

3 eggs

8oz/225g self-raising flour

½ teaspoon salt

6oz/175g brown sugar

3oz/85g margarine

2oz/55g walnuts



#### **Method**

1. Preheat oven to 180C/360F/gas mark four.
2. Beat margarine and sugar together.
3. Add eggs a little at a time.
4. Beat in flour and salt.
5. Mash bananas and chopped walnuts.
6. Fold into mixture.
7. Put the mixture in to a small loaf tin
8. Bake in the centre of the oven for one hour.

Enjoy!

**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    | 2018-2020 | 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

Lisa Poole  
01744 453065

### SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE

#### **Curators:**

Joanne Chamberlain and Vicky Griffiths  
01744 730744  
[smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com](mailto:smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com)

### PARISH CLERK

Janet Anderson  
0151 345 7533  
[ecclestonpc@hotmail.com](mailto:ecclestonpc@hotmail.com)

## LOCAL CONTACTS

### CHURCHES

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Christ Church, Chapel Lane, Eccleston<br>Rev Sonya Doragh                   | 01744 22698   |
| Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park<br>Fr David Melly | 0151 426 6251 |
| St James Church, St Helens Road, Eccleston Park<br>Rev Helen Coffey         | 0151 426 6421 |
| St Julie RC Church, Howards Lane, Eccleston<br>Fr Tom Neylon                | 01744 28196   |

### SCHOOLS

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Bleak Hill Primary, Hamilton Road, Windle<br>Head: Mr I Wellens                 | 01744 678190 |
| De La Salle High School, Mill Brow, Eccleston<br>Head: Mr A Rannard             | 01744 20511  |
| Eccleston Lane Ends Primary, Albany Avenue, Eccleston Park<br>Head: Mrs C Gowan | 01744 678270 |
| Eccleston Mere Primary, Saleswood Avenue, Eccleston<br>Head: Mr R Mugan         | 01744 678280 |
| St Julie RC Primary, Brooklands Road, Eccleston<br>Head: Mrs A Hodgson          | 01744 678233 |

## **OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| ST HELENS COUNCIL<br>Contact Centre  | 01744 676789                               |
| ST HELENS HOSPITAL   | 01744 646461                               |
| WHISTON HOSPITAL   | 0151 426 1600                              |
| ECCLESTON LIBRARY  | 01744 677575                               |
| WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE<br>Fundraising Office<br>Hospice   | 01744 453798<br>0151 430 8736              |
| AGE UK MID MERSEY<br>Mansion House, Victoria Park  | 01744 454530                               |
| LESTER DRIVE CENTRE<br>Mrs Martlew   | 01744 26813                                |
| CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU<br>Millennium Centre, Corporation Street  | 03448 269 694                              |
| ST JULIE MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP<br>Tuesday and Friday, 9am-11am (term time only)<br>In St Julies Parish Hall<br>Contact:<br>Audry Baines      07917 762849 <a href="mailto:terrence.baines@sky.com">terrence.baines@sky.com</a><br>Ann Unsworth      07745 940845 <a href="mailto:annunsworth@virginmedia.com">annunsworth@virginmedia.com</a><br>Mandy Roberts      07771 773956 <a href="mailto:mandyroberts22@outlook.com">mandyroberts22@outlook.com</a> |  |
| ST JULIES OVER 50s CLUB<br>Fortnightly Thurs 2-4 pm<br>Mr Prior<br>Mrs Sheppard<br>Mrs Phillips  | 01744 21401<br>01744 738732<br>01744 21958 |

## **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 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.



**ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Kiln Lane  
Eccleston  
WA10 4RA**

available for hire  
daytime or evening  
contact the Caretaker 01744 453065

If any resident would like to submit an interesting article for next year's Parish magazine please contact the Clerk

email: [ecclestonpc@hotmail.com](mailto:ecclestonpc@hotmail.com)

telephone: 0151 345 7533

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