

**ECCLESTON  
PARISH COUNCIL  
MAGAZINE  
2020 – 2021**



**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  
(Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; Sat-Sun 10am-4pm)

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Dear Resident,

Eccleston Parish Council is normally one of the busier Parish Councils in St Helens – but there has been nothing normal about this year!

As I write, it is almost 12 months since we had to close the doors to both our Village Hall and our Smithy – this was when the first lockdown was announced, and the doors have had to stay closed ever since. It is a real sadness that our local groups can't yet meet again. But whilst the hall has been closed we have taken the opportunity to ensure that it has been deep-cleaned, decorated and equipped with sanitising equipment. Additionally, we are fixing an external defibrillator cabinet to the exterior walls of both our hall and changing rooms on Ecclesfield – for the benefit of both hall users and residents living in the immediate locality.

What is a great sadness is that our Smithy Curators have not been able to put on any of their planned exhibitions, and what was greatly missed was our "Blacksmith's Day", which is always extremely popular and of course our Heritage week-end could not take place (which includes the very popular "Bake-Off").

Vicky and Joanne, our Smithy Curators, have put the exhibition that they planned for this year on the Smithy website entitled "Objects of Desire". (Photographs of what residents collect.) Our Curators also normally engage in projects with local schools, providing project boxes to help with special topics students undertake – again, with the way schools have all had to operate, this has not been possible.

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 and Millwood Avenue.

We also share ownership of the Ecclesfield Changing Rooms with Windle Parish Council. The Changing Rooms were built in 1990 for the benefit of all residents and groups in both Eccleston and Windle. We

have just upgraded the changing room roof and re-surfaced the car park. Elected Parish Councillors from both Parish Councils manage the hiring of the changing rooms and all enquiries are welcome.

A sadness was also that we were unable to visit one of our churches for Remembrance Day, but myself and one other Parish Councillor did lay the wreath at our Cenotaph on Burrows Lane – a huge thank you to United Utilities for ensuring this could happen!

Our annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony (usually held in the library on Broadway) was not allowed, so we asked the library staff to light the tree as normal on our behalf!

I cannot thank my Parish Councillor colleagues enough because whilst our “doors may be closed for the time being”, the work goes on and Parish Council meetings still take place (all virtually); committees take place; and all organised superbly by Janet, our Clerk – she never moans (well not much) and is always available – so thank you Janet!

We are also extremely fortunate to have Bob our Caretaker of the Changing rooms – he does all the “checks and balances” needed and ensures all runs smoothly.

Vicky and Joanne do a superb job (labour of love) in our Smithy – they make things happen, and are much respected throughout Eccleston, and beyond.

Lisa keeps “our house in order” and does a superb job, ensuring our hall is “fit for purpose”.

I sincerely hope by the time you read this magazine we may be in a position to able to welcome back our local groups – so please Stay Safe and Well.

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 49 Lowther Crescent, Eccleston Hill	07813 153522
CLlr Ian Kempself 54 Millbrook Lane, Eccleston	07514 823818
CLlr Francis Williams 25 Lester Drive, Eccleston	01744 734474
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
CLlr Elizabeth Skepper 18 Henbury Court, Eccleston	01744 758868

### **South Ward**

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 holds 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).

***UNDER CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM.***

### DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2021-2022

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

27 April 2021	Annual Parish Meeting
11 May 2021	Parish Annual Meeting
8 June 2021	Parish Council
13 July 2021	Parish Council
14 September 2021	Parish Council
12 October 2021	Parish Council
9 November 2021	Parish Council
14 December 2021	Parish Council
11 January 2022	Parish Council
8 February 2022	Parish Council
8 March 2022	Parish Council
12 April 2022	Parish Council

\* 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 Eccleston are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 27 April 2021 at 7.30pm ONLINE VIA ZOOM. If you wish to attend, please contact the Clerk for the meeting link and password.

### AGENDA

- 1 Election of a Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 April 2019  
(There had been no meeting on 28 April 2020 due to covid-19 restrictions.)
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2020
- 4 Township affairs

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING**  
**31 MARCH 2020**

The following statement represents the financial position of Ecclestone Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 1 April 2019-31 March 2020:

<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	£
Precept	58,356
Administration	3,319
Ecclesfield	234
Hall Charges	8,999
Smithy	1,446
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,354</b>

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	
Administration	35,667
Ecclesfield	3,499
Village Hall	13,841
Smithy	6,861
Open Spaces	665
Grants	200
VAT payments	1,751
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,484</b>

In summary

Brought forward 1 April 2019	25,960
Plus receipts	72,354
Less expenditure	62,484
<b>Balance at 31 March 2020</b>	<b>£35,830</b>

Janet Anderson  
Clerk to Ecclestone Parish Council

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

On Sunday 8 November 2020 the Chairman, Cllr Teresa Sims, along with Cllr Geoff Pearl attended the War Memorial at Burrows Lane, adhering to social distancing measures. They placed a wreath on behalf of the residents of Eccleston Parish. Due to covid-19 restrictions Parish Councillors were not able to gather for the usual service of prayer. The gates were opened for the day for people to visit. They were also opened on Remembrance Day – Wednesday 11 November 2020.



## **CHRISTINA GOES HOME!**

Christina Duncan, one of our longest serving Parish Councillors decided to retire recently to her home soil in Scotland – we will, and already are, missing her and her words of wisdom!

Christina is keeping in touch with former colleagues and friends in Eccleston on a regular basis and sends good wishes to all!



## **ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL**

In these unprecedented times, Eccleston Village Hall has been closed since March 2020. The health and safety of people using the Village Hall and the whole community is of paramount importance. Parish Councillors will continue to monitor the situation and will follow all official guidelines on the opening of public buildings, and also when groups will be allowed to meet again.

## **USER GROUPS**

Please contact the groups individually for more information:

### **OUR TIME SENSORY BABY**

Monday 11am and 1pm

Our Time Sensory Baby is entering its fourth 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 over 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.

## **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!

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)

**If you would like to book the *newly decorated*  
Village Hall for**

children's parties, coffee mornings,  
meetings, classes, exhibitions, training sessions

**AVAILABLE DAYTIME OR EVENING**

**Please contact the Caretaker on 01744 453065  
(Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; Sat-Sun 10am-4pm)**

## NEWS FROM THE SMITHY

### **Objects of Desire Exhibition**

We had a fantastic exhibition for 2020 lined up entitled 'Objects of Desire' but due to covid-19 restrictions the Smithy was unable to open.

The background to the show is looking at collecting and what it is about a certain subject that gets you hooked! The huge variety of collections out there is stunning. They range from film stars such as Elizabeth Taylor who had a penchant for diamonds to a lady in Leicester who collected her cat's whiskers!

Joint Curator, Vicky, has a collection of Jem and the Holograms Dolls that she loves dearly but I have never considered myself a collector. However, when we started to pull the exhibition together, I started to notice how many dog related items are dotted about my house.



Perhaps I am a closet collector and never actually realised it!

As we did not manage to open the Smithy to let you see these wild and wonderful objects, we have decided to try again for 2021.

You can see a selection of items on our website and we have been asking for people to share their passion with us online. If you have a particular subject that you have collected and would like to share it with us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at [smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com](mailto:smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com) or via Facebook or Twitter.

Take a look at our website to stay up-dated with what we are doing (smithyheritagecentre.org.uk) and hopefully we will see you sometime later in the year.

**JOANNE CHAMBERLAIN**

Joint Curator

Smithy Heritage Centre

The Smithy usually opens weekends, 1pm-4pm from Easter to 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 the Smithy on social media:



Smithy Heritage Centre



@smithyheritage

**SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE**

Kiln Lane, Eccleston, St Helens WA10 4RA

OWNED AND GOVERNED BY ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

**USUALLY OPEN WEEKENDS 1pm-4pm**

**Easter-September 2021**

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OF OPENING**

**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)

## LOOKING BACK AT THE SMITHY

Ordinarily I'd be looking back over the previous season's exhibition and events at the Smithy Heritage Centre and telling you all about it, but due to Covid-19 the Smithy was never opened to the public in 2020.

Joanne and I have found it very strange, working from home rather than chatting with our lovely visitors, and the frantic pace of hosting International Blacksmith's Day and Heritage Open Weekend. We've repainted and refreshed the Education Room and have a fabulous exhibition for you to enjoy, Objects of Desire, ready for when we get the all clear to re-open.

In the meantime, here's a wonderful excerpt from Memories of Ecclestone, the book we produced capturing stories of life in the local area. You can download the whole book as a pdf from our website:

[www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk/read-memories-of-ecclestone](http://www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk/read-memories-of-ecclestone)

*We were in our early teens – Bob, his sister Virginia and myself, when we first had the pleasure of visiting the Ecclestone Village Smithy back in 1957-58.*

*Our love of horses took us to Fairclough's Farm in Ackers Lane. They ran two or three milk rounds and we each went out on cold, frosty mornings to help deliver the milk before school. These milk rounds soon wore away the horseshoes, so every three weeks we had to ride the horses, Bobbie, Blackie and Betty, to the Smithy for new shoes. There was far less traffic back then, so we enjoyed the trek along Ackers Lane, down Alder Hey Road (which was still a dirt track) and left onto Kiln Lane.*



Ellis Hall shoeing a horse outside the Smithy c.1950s

*We knew when we were nearing the Smithy as we could hear the clang of the blacksmith's hammer working on a job on the anvil. As we turned into the Smithy we were greeted by Ellis Hall, the village blacksmith/farrier, a freckle-faced man with a pleasant manner and a ready smile, wearing his usual "bib-and-brace" overalls which were covered in the dust and grime of his trade. When shoeing, he would always don his leather apron (or brat) to protect his legs from the hard hooves of the horses. We only ventured into the depths of the Smithy if it was raining, otherwise the horses would be shod outside the big arched doorway on the dirt floor.*

*We never tired of visiting Ellis and the Smithy. The smell of the sizzling hoof, the clanging of the metal on metal and the roaring noise of the forge when the bellows were being used. All happy memories!*

Robert and Rosalyn Gerrard, now living in Australia.

## **VICKY GRIFFITHS**

Joint Curator

Smithy Heritage Centre



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**

**REPORT ONLINE**  
[www.merseyside.police.uk](http://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

## **ECCLESTON LIBRARY**

It has been a strange year for everyone, including St Helens Library Service, as we all fight this pandemic. The library service, like others, has had to change and adapt.

When you visit Eccleston Library you'll notice we have made small changes to the layout of our building to enable social distancing and a one-way system. We have also installed acrylic screens and returned books are quarantined and cleaned before being put back on our shelves. We've had some lovely comments from our customers telling us how safe they have felt when visiting us.

Following Government guidelines, Eccleston Library is closed during the current lockdown and though we cannot deliver our events programme on site at present, St Helens Libraries are offering a wide range of digital sessions which you can access through our Facebook pages. These include our popular 'Read & Rhyme Time' sessions for pre-school children, 'Stay Home and Read' our weekly adult book recommendations, 'Plugged In' primary age homework support, 'Dude! Where's My Book' teenage book club and 'Bedtime Stories' a calm and soothing storytime perfect for bedtime. We also share regular 'Book Bites' short reviews of some of the most popular books available.

Don't forget your library card gives you 24/7 access to our digital services – all for free! You can access – eBooks & eAudiobooks via the BorrowBox service, and eMagazines, eComics and eAudiobooks via the RBdigital service.

We've also made joining the library as easy as possible! Just fill in the online form at <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/libraries> and we will email you a temporary membership number within 24 hours so you can take advantage of the fantastic range of eservices straight away!

We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support, and ask that you please follow us on social media for continued updates.

**JAYNE MILLS**

Library Officer

## THE CARMELITE OF MY CHILDHOOD

Until recently, if you stood at the junction of Springfield Lane and Green Lane and looked upwards, attached to the stone wall on the bend was a small, painted wooden sign, announcing, in white capitals on brown: "Carmelite Monastery, Eccleston." At its centre was a cross, its quadrants bearing the letters: "AMDG" (Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam - For the Greater Glory of God). With only the wall, gate and lodge now remaining, the oasis of prayer that was once the Carmelite Monastery has all but disappeared, replaced by new, executive housing.

Shortly before the First World War, during school holidays, my maternal grandmother, Nellie Liptrot, and her sister, Maggie, would escape the grime and bustle around their childhood home in North Road to stay with their cousins, the Swifts, at Howards Farm in Howards Lane. From this vantage point they watched the chapel rising as Springfield House was transformed from the country seat of the Walmesley-Cothams into the home of a community of contemplative nuns.

My family ties with the community predate my parents' move to their newly built home in Eccleston shortly after I was born. In the early part of the last century it was usual for large Catholic families to provide a vocation to the religious life. My paternal grandfather's sister, May Walsh, took her vows as a novice in the Carmelite Order of nuns here, in 1915, shortly after the Springfield community was established, then took holy orders, but was later moved to another monastery in Cambridgeshire.

My own introduction was at an early age. Before Blessed (now Saint) Julie Parish was established, local residents could hear Mass at the Carmelite Chapel, otherwise they had to travel farther afield, to Windleshaw or St Teresa's. As, initially, we had no car, my parents would take me to the chapel.

I found it rather an eerie place when I was small. The nuns were behind a grille at right angles to the altar, so the lay congregation could hear their monotone chants echoing around the building, but were

unable to see the source. In those days, the priest had his back to the lay congregation, but was side on to the nuns.

Later, when I was an altar server at the Carmelite, as I knelt at the foot of the altar, I could see the nuns only at communion, when a queue of ghostly figures, in cream cloaks, one by one knelt at a small grille to take the host, then vanished into the abyss.

Their shopping was undertaken by a lay nun, who did not take the full vows, and went out into the local community on the Mother Superior's behalf. For my time as a server there, spanning ten years or so, that post was held by Sister Catherine, who hailed from Mawdesley, an elderly and rather short and stout bespectacled nun, who wore a black mop cap and a long black dress, rosary, and dark cloak, with sensible black shoes. Though I did once visit a Carmelite nun at another monastery, the only one I ever spoke to at Ecclestone was Sister Catherine.

Walking into the monastery precincts through the side gate from Green Lane, the lodge, where the handyman and gardener lived, was to the left, public access to the chapel was to the right, and straight in front, perhaps forty feet away, was the access for priests and servers, the sacristy door. It opened into a square room, poorly lit by leaded glass windows, its walls painted in faded cream. One wall was lined with hooks, from which hung immaculately clean and starched surplices and heavy and well-repaired cassocks. In the centre stood a large mahogany table on which lay the priest's vestments, the heavy white cotton alb, the stole and the sleeveless heavily embroidered and velvet covered chasuble, worn over the other vestments, like an elaborate poncho, the descendant of a late Roman Empire travelling coat.

The vestments were brought into the sacristy by the nuns through a connecting door, well before any priest or server set foot inside.

To the left of the door, and set in the wall, stood a cabinet about two feet in diameter and three in height, on a turntable. The cabinet exterior was tongue and groove wood, its shape similar to the dorsal

turret of a WW2 bomber, but it was open for about a third of its diameter, the remaining covered two thirds ensured the impossibility of either the room or nun on the other side being seen.

The chalice, wine and water in cruets, and small glass bowl and towel were transferred by way of this contraption. The procedure was quaint. A nun would wait in the adjacent room for a server to enter the sacristy. When he had donned his cassock and surplice from the wall rack, he would knock on the closed turntable. It had been filled by the nun who was on the other side of the wall; she would cough delicately, turning it back for the server to remove the contents, except for the chalice, which the priest would take with him as he walked into the chapel to begin Mass. If you were too tardy changing into your robes, a somewhat louder cough from behind the turntable was the nun's way of saying: "Get your finger out, lazybones." I often imagined that a small and frail elderly nun was smoking a Woodbine only a few feet away from me.

After Mass, you would reload the turntable, knock and turn it. Once the contents were unloaded, a holy cough would come from the adjacent room, and, presto, the emptied, open side returned to view.

Benediction was a service held on Sunday afternoons. Instead of a chasuble, the priest would wear a much heavier and longer outer sleeveless vestment, a cloak, known as a cope, always highly ornate and gold in colour, fastened by a clasp between the shoulders. Some of the older priests were grateful for help putting it on. Unless there was more than one of you assisting, as an altar server you had a busy time indeed during the service.

The hardest job was managing the thurible, a roughly spherical brass container. The base had a very small but flat bottom, so that it did not roll over. It hung by chains from a small handle. The chains went up to the handle through rings on the top half. A single chain was attached to the top part only, so that it could be lifted upwards and incense could be heaped on the lit charcoal. The five chains were a nuisance, but on feast days there was a silver-plated thurible, the top half resembling a gothic church, and with two extra chains round the side.

This was not a heavenly device, rather it was quite the opposite, presumably designed by someone with a strong dislike of small boys. It confused even the priests, and when it was time for the incense to go in, your heart was filled with terror. All those chains could become horribly tangled, the thurible, its top stuck at an angle to the bottom, rather than resting on it, laughing at you with gaping mouth. I had several near misses, where the charcoal was painfully close to the edge but didn't come out.

The server, when he emerged from the sacristy with the priest, was swinging the thurible containing an already lighted piece of charcoal, thus averting the risk of priest and server bursting into flames in an attempt to light it on the altar. The server would kneel between the altar gates and swing the brass ball to and fro, aromatic smoke billowed out once the incense was in. Luckily I didn't hit the edge of the step. A predecessor of mine, swinging the brass apparatus over-enthusiastically (I do confess to testing how fast and high I could swing it, I dare not have done with the fiendish silver plated-version, nor would he) hit the step. The charcoal shot out, instantly starting to burn the thick, wool altar carpet. In a flash, Sister Catherine is reputed to have near vaulted out of her bench, past the terrified server, dousing the smoke with the jug of water she kept on the ledge alongside her in the front pew.

The server's job was more tortuous if you were alone, as in the middle of the service, when you were kneeling on the very edge of the sanctuary, between the altar rails, you had to put down the thurible on the wooden floor behind you, walk on to the altar to gather up and place a veil over the priest's shoulders, then rush back, pick up the thurible, and, grasping the chains together just above the top half with one hand, the other clinging tightly on to the handle, lift the thurible to head height and wave it in the air, as the ball clattered into the chains. Smoke drifted upwards, as the priest, holding the monstrance, an ornate gilded vessel with a glass-fronted container, in which was a host, raised it in a blessing of the nuns behind the grille, then of the rest of the congregation.

I cannot finish without mentioning the gong, a source of great excitement for small boys using it. It was sounded at various times during services. You whacked its dome with a clapper, a padded round sphere with a brass handle. The harder you hit the gong, the louder the bong resonated around the chapel. I sincerely hope my initial enthusiasm didn't have an adverse effect on any nuns who might have had heart trouble.

I served on the altar with many priests, not just those based at Blessed Julie. Some hardly said a word, and were out of the sacristy quickly, but all were pleasant. Some were surprisingly chatty after the service – my favourites were Fr John Gough, when he was home from the missions, Dean Fitzpatrick from Sacred Heart, and the one I most looked forward to, the kindly Fr Morrisey from St Teresa's, who always thanked you and asked about your family and your interests, and would spend several minutes in conversation with you before he left.

Despite the negative publicity that has attached to the clergy in recent years, I can't say as a server that I met any that weren't genuine. They were friendly, considerate, some very interesting, and all were dedicated to their work.

A century of our Carmelite Community came to an end when the few remaining nuns were dispersed to other houses in their order.

St Berthold de Malifaye, a crusader, founded a community of hermits on Mount Carmel, and from it, the order developed. He is remembered in the name St Berthold's Gate.

Though there are few signs of what was once there, memories remain with many local people.

**COUNCILLOR FRANCIS WILLIAMS**

## LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

The pandemic has caused turmoil and misery worldwide and has impacted on public gatherings everywhere. The Centre closed down in line with Government restrictions in March and the Committee has been monitoring published guidance for the reopening of Village Halls and Community Centres. Unfortunately because of the layout and size of the building we were unable to comply with several of the main recommendations. Planned maintenance and upkeep has also been delayed.

The pavement has been resurfaced and the kerbs lowered along the car park, this will greatly assist users and make accessing the Centre much easier and safer. The Committee would like to thank our District Councillors for their support, making this possible.

Keep an eye out for fundraisers towards the annex conversion.

\*The annual bedding plant sale is first BH Sunday & Monday May.\*TBC

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-12	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	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)



## **PORTICO VINE ARLFC**

Portico Vine ARLFC's aim is to provide as many life enhancing opportunities to our young people, broaden their horizons, improve self-confidence and develop community spirit through teamwork and camaraderie in a safe environment.

During the close season of 2019, the committee members of Portico Vine made plans to make 2020 the biggest and best year filled with family fun, rugby league related activities. Player numbers were at a record high, as were registered volunteers and everybody had bought into the new ethos – work as One Team and together we can reach our One Dream. Then 2020 arrived. Everything stopped. Or so we thought....

Responding to the pandemic, a comprehensive Covid-19 health and safety policy was put in place. The document was sent to the Rugby Football League who highlighted it as best practice and shared all around the country. Our small club was leading from the front in the clichéd 'unprecedented' times.

The club made contact with some of the country's largest manufacturers and producers of soup with our aim being to collect and re-distribute to some of the most needy in the community. Suitably titled "SOUPER LEAGUE".

We made the easy decision to halt mandatory subscription fees as training and matches were now prohibited. However, we still had to honour our rent, bills and other overheads. We were very lucky that our loyal sponsors stuck by our side and we're indebted to members who have carried on paying voluntary subscriptions even to this day.

As the clubhouse required refurbishment and modernisation. We made contact with an organisation called Volunteer It Yourself who specialise in community projects via matched funding through Sport England. Our club's bid was accepted. A team of professionals from Volunteer It Yourself would work alongside our volunteers, the result of which meant some of our U14/U16 and U18s could be awarded a City and Guilds qualification.

Magnified by the Covid restrictions, this was one of the biggest projects the club had ever undertaken. A new kitchen with new facilities, changing rooms revamped, roofs fixed, new lighting, new paint, new shower fittings, updated communal area and toilet facilities improved. We are excited for the time we are able to show our members around.

In 2019 we completed an application to transform the clubhouse facilities at Scholes Lane with a significant capital bid. Our vision was to provide a function room and social area our members and the wider community would benefit from. In autumn, the application was granted permission to continue. Despite being a team of volunteers juggling family life with work commitments, we have been working on this project day and night for over 15 months. We hope to appear before the RLWC2021 in February for full board approval. This would leave a legacy for generations to come.

In August, the RFL advertised a competition to mark their 125th anniversary, inviting club members to submit a poem to mark the occasion. Out of thousands of entrants, our members, Isaac, Kieron and Diezel came top three – 1st, 2nd and 3rd across the whole country. What talented kids!

In November, as lockdown 2 was brought into England, we made contact with State of Mind who kindly put on a bespoke session to our members via Zoom. The club plan to roll out a similar session aimed at our younger members in 2021.

We are actively recruiting both players (males and females) and coaches during the lockdown so we can be best placed when a return to play is possible. We plan to have age groups from U7 through to U18 with plans to form an adult's tag team later in the year. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch via our Facebook page or email address - [Contactus@porticoarlf.com](mailto:Contactus@porticoarlf.com).

Portico Vine is blessed with the most selfless, caring, compassionate and inspirational people I have ever had the pleasure to meet.

**MARK HOBIN**

Chairman

## **ECCLESTON LANE ENDS BOWLS CLUB**

Well. That was different! We couldn't have imagined a year like 2020. It started out like every other year. The green was looking wonderful and we were looking forward to another enjoyable season. We held our AGM in February at the Guildhall. Our members began paying their subscriptions and the league fees for all our eleven teams were being submitted.

Then, on 16th March, the government announced the first lockdown. No Bowling! There were a lot of very bored bowlers.

At last, on the 13th May the lockdown was eased and we were allowed to bowl again, albeit with very strict limitations. No more than six on the green, (2m apart, of course). No sharing equipment. Hand sanitisers everywhere and a register of everyone who played to meet track and trace rules. Bumping elbows seems very unnatural. Gradually, we were allowed to increase the number of players. The number of people who took advantage of the chance to bowl was amazing and we also attracted quite a number of new members.

Although many of our members had willingly paid their subscriptions, knowing there may never be any bowling this year, the club was in danger of financial difficulties, as we still had our overheads to pay. Then, at the end of May, we were awarded a grant from the Sport England Community Emergency Fund. That proved a lifesaver.

By August the bowling authorities had relaxed the restrictions to the extent that we could organise some friendly matches and our two internal competitions, both of which were very well supported. As the season came to an end in October we were able to look back and wonder how we had managed to get through such a turbulent season. Who knows what 2021 will bring.

If you would like to join our very friendly and welcoming bowls club please contact:

Ian Gray on 07889693648 or Steve Roberts on 07855275718.

You can also find our page on Facebook.

## **BLEAK HILL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

Bleak Hill Rovers junior football teams have been playing on Ecclesfield for over 40 years and, in the last two years, we have nearly doubled in size with each weekend over 400 youngsters enjoying the “beautiful game”. We are now one of the biggest junior clubs in Merseyside and take up all the available pitches on Ecclesfield every Saturday and Sunday.

We want to encourage anyone between the ages of 4 and 18 to come along and play football. Our aim is to give everyone an opportunity to play, irrespective of ability but also recognising that youngsters start to get competitive themselves when they go to high school.

Currently, we have over 40 coaches who give up a lot of time to support the youngsters whether it be training in an evening or managing a match on a freezing winter’s morning. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of parents, grandparents, supporters, careers and minders who come along each week to support their youngsters.

Over the last 12 months we have had to restrict the number of supporters at each game but we have put in place risk assessments etc as advised by the FA and St Helens Council, which have ensured that whenever possible we have training or played matches with a limited number of supporters.

We now have nearly 100 girls either training or playing at Bleak Hill Rovers and our girls section is one of the biggest on Merseyside.

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

If you want to know more about us, would like to join us or sponsor us, please get in touch via our website [www.bleakhillrovers.com](http://www.bleakhillrovers.com).

**CYRIL BARRATT**

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers

## **ECCLESTON PARK TENNIS CLUB**

Eccleston Park Tennis Club has provided a vital source of physical activity and social interaction across the Eccleston community since 1904, offering access to tennis coaching, matchplay and social tennis for adults and juniors of all ages. The goal of the club for the last 15 years has been to redevelop 3 old shale courts into an artificial clay surface that allows all-year round play for the local community. This goal, including additional floodlighting, was finally achieved this year following years of tireless fundraising efforts by dedicated volunteers, culminating in a 2020 crowdfunding campaign which raised £26,828. The amount raised was more than any other tennis club in Britain and demonstrated the importance that the club still has in the local community, 115 years after forming.

Normal summers at Eccleston Park Tennis Club involve playing the game we love and holding tennis events on club grounds for members and the local community. In the first lockdown through Facebook the club held online festivals to promote the best musicians and DJs that our community has to offer in order to raise £2,000 for Willowbrook Hospice and the Owen McVeigh foundation.

For people of all ages throughout Eccleston and St Helens, 2021 will offer an opportunity to try tennis for the first time or return to the game, either participating with friends or engaging in the sport as a whole family. The tennis club has plans in place to provide a wide range of coaching aimed at juniors of all ages, beginners, those focusing on cardio activity and more experienced players. The full coaching schedule will be finalised for the new season, but a number of classes have already been timetabled and can be found online at [wedotennis.co.uk/Eccleston-park](http://wedotennis.co.uk/Eccleston-park), as well as details being available on the club's Facebook page: [facebook.com/epltc](https://facebook.com/epltc). On the Facebook page, you will find information about taster sessions which we will offer in the spring once sports club have reopened, as well as individual and family memberships. This page will be the best place for you to ask questions about coaching and memberships.

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

2020 has certainly been a strange year, but despite the restrictions there has been plenty of activity down at the green. Our season should have started at the end of March but, of course, we were all in lockdown at that time so the club was closed, though one of our dedicated maintenance team continued to keep the grass mown as part of his exercise regime. Fast forward to May, when clubs such as ours were permitted to open under certain restrictions regarding numbers, signing a register, booking playing times etc. A few of our members, but not many, took advantage of the opportunity to bowl in the wonderful weather we were having. There was no competitive bowling at all as it was impossible under stay-safe rules.

The maintenance team took advantage of the weather and the quietness of the green to do many jobs above and beyond just mowing the grass. A great deal of hard work has gone into these tasks, and the club is very grateful to Chris, John, Mike and Roy for the time and effort they have put in. They were part way through installing boards to support the edges of the green, levelling the grass and re-seeding as necessary, and renewing the gutters before Covid-19 burst upon us, but the job has now been completely finished and looks very impressive. The hedges round the green have not only been given their annual cut but have also been thinned out in places where they were reaching an unmanageable thickness. Benches round the green have been repaired and re-painted. Despite the low level of usage the end-of-season work of treating the green and putting it to bed for winter had to be carried out as normal – thanks again to the team.

Sadly, we have had to forgo our social events this year – no Scrambles, no Annual Dinner – but we are all looking forward with optimism to 2021 and hoping for at least half a season if not a whole one, ending with that dinner in November.

**JUDITH JOHNSON**

Chairman, POCC Bowls Section

## **ECCLESTON MERE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Through challenging times, the Eccleston Mere family has continued to pull together, ensuring that the last 12 months have been both memorable and positive. As a relatively new Headteacher, I am extremely proud to represent such an incredible body of staff, children and families. Despite the nature of the last 12 months, our pupils have again done us proud. Our Year 6 results were the highest that they have been for many years, whilst our Year 2 and Reception results continue to be higher than local and national averages. Even despite lockdown, our youngest children have achieved some fantastic results in their phonics assessments too.

In spring, we visited the town hall, to take part in 'Lost in Music', a performance in front of hundreds of people. Our school also obtained the 'Music Mark' at that time, in recognition of the breadth of the music offer in our school.

We have achieved some really good results in reading, having worked very hard to promote and foster a love of reading in school. We have purchased new reading materials throughout school, as well as using an online platform, 'Reading Plus' to ensure that all pupils have access to high-quality texts. Staff have skilfully interwoven reading into all aspects of the curriculum, whilst also fostering a love of reading through events such as World Book Day.

Prior to lockdown, our school was awarded the Gold Sportsmark award, as our school teams enjoyed much success at local level (filling our trophy cabinets with awards for football, cricket, squash and basketball amongst others). Even since March, our school has continued to offer a wide range of sports coaching and tuition.

Last year, we are proud that despite adverse circumstances, we were able to provide our Y6 children with a leavers' service and celebration, to acknowledge their time at school. Additionally, we also managed to continue other key traditions, such as the school's annual Christmas performances, which were recorded and uploaded for parents.

Our school family has adapted to a new way of learning at times and we are so pleased with the outcomes. 95% of our pupils have been accessing live teaching on a regular basis, which we think is an incredible effort.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back into school. Our plan moving forwards is to continue to prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of our young people, whilst ensuring that they receive the highest quality of education. We look forward to some inspirational learning and fun times ahead. I hope that Ofsted will visit soon too, so that we can demonstrate what an exceptional place our school is.

**MR R MUGAN**  
**Headteacher**

### **OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, PORTICO**

What a difference a year makes! Like so many other churches during this pandemic, we at Our Lady's, Portico, have become part of the streaming, Zooming communities.

As the first lockdown was announced, a parish WhatsApp group emerged and grew to include 80 plus people sharing stories, offering encouragement, praying and laughing together. Yoga went online. Services were streamed live. The parish website offered a range of resources to enable individuals to share in the wider church community. As parishioners went on to their eternal rest, we found ways to show gratitude, love and support by keeping our distance outside homes and churches. As Christmas approached, we joined St James with St Matthew, for our traditional service of 9 carols and readings. This took place via good will, determination, phone video and You Tube!

The St Vincent de Paul Society across St Helens, including parishes and schools, sprang into action in the spring. A local Doctor suggested a phone befriending system and vulnerable, isolated and perhaps lonely people began to look forward to a weekly phone call from a friendly

voice. We continued our outreach to Hindley Prison and Young Offenders Unit. Jigsaws and books were delivered and a small garden created to support mental health and wellbeing. Throughout summer and autumn, as jobs were furloughed, more material help was needed and given to families. As Christmas approached, Our Lady's Portico, was delighted to support 27 families with a hamper of goodies, or shopping vouchers, to help with celebrations. As we move into 2021 we aim to continue to offer support to those who are struggling with mental health, financial, spiritual and social situations.

The monthly joint meeting of the Portico and St Luke's (Whiston) Justice and Peace Group has been replaced by texts and emails. Instead of posting our Christmas cards to Christians in the Holy Land, we emailed our greetings, support and prayers to our two designated parishes in Jordan and Palestine. Zoomed events, with others across the country, have enabled us to maintain our awareness of world problems.

Our parish hall has been out of commission due to lockdown restrictions. During this time, it has had a full make-over and we hope to once more welcome: the 50+ group; Bereavement Group; Portico Fundraisers; Justice and Peace Fairtrade Events and stall; plant sales; quiz nights and socials!

As we approach the season of Lent and Easter, we hope to find a way to meet and celebrate with our neighbours at St James with St Matthew, as is our tradition. We also hope it won't be long before our Men's Den, at St James', can open its gates for a coffee and chat over the snooker and pool tables.

As we look forward to spring and Easter and the promise of new life, we can be sure of two things: where there is a will there is a way and hope springs eternal!

For further information, see: <http://ourladysportico.co.uk>

**PAUL CROWE**

## 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.

It currently costs almost £5 million to provide specialist care. Of this amount only one third is given by local health providers. For the rest of the funding Willowbrook are grateful for the support and generosity of the local community. So whether it is taking part in one of the Willowbrook fundraising events, donating money or goods, shopping in one of the charity shops or joining the lottery – every penny really does count!

For more information on how you can support Willowbrook, please ring the Fundraising Department on 01744 453798 or go online at [www.willowbrook.org.uk](http://www.willowbrook.org.uk).

Unfortunately due to the outbreak of COVID-19 virus Willowbrook have been unable to receive donations of goods. They will still need donations in the future so please keep them and check the website.

## **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL'S  
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony  
(Restrictions allowing)

**Thursday 2 December 2021**

11am

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

## **DELICIOUS HOME MADE PANCAKES – MAKES 6**

### **Ingredients**

125g/4oz plain flour

1 egg

300ml/½pt milk

oil for frying

pinch of salt



\*don't forget the fresh berries/chocolate spread/maple syrup/whipped cream to serve.

### **Method**

1. Sieve flour and salt into the bowl.
2. Add the egg and add about a third of the milk. Beat well, gradually adding the rest of the milk to the flour making a smooth batter.
3. Transfer to a jug and allow the mixture to stand for at least half an hour.
4. Add oil to the frying pan and ensure the pan is hot. Then give the batter a stir before pouring the mixture in a thin layer into the pan.
5. Gently fry the pancake until lightly brown. Then flip to fry the other side until cooked.

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	2018-2021	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  
Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; Sat-Sun 10am-4pm

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

**ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Kiln Lane  
Eccleston  
WA10 4RA**

available for hire  
daytime or evening  
contact the Caretaker 01744 453065  
Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; Sat-Sun 10am-4pm

Please contact any group or club mentioned in the magazine directly, as times and information may vary due to coronavirus/covid-19 restrictions.

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

## 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 owns the open space and leases it to Eccleston Parish Council for a yearly fee, maintains the grounds. Contributions from the two Parish Councils and fees from the football teams fund the running of the changing facility.

The Committee meets at least 4 times a year 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.

To book pitches please contact: [ecclestonpc@hotmail.com](mailto:ecclestonpc@hotmail.com)

