

**ECCLESTON
PARISH COUNCIL
MAGAZINE
2021 – 2022**



**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)

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the 2021 – 2022 Eccleston Parish Council magazine.

Eccleston Parish Council is one of the busiest parishes in the Borough of St Helens. We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month (except in August), to carry out Parish business. Your Parish Councillors are all unpaid volunteers – and the three Ward Councillors also sit on the Parish Council.

Our business includes: the running of the Village Hall and the Smithy Heritage Centre; overseeing the management of 7 open spaces which are leased from St Helens Council; commenting on planning applications and dealing with residents' issues. There are plenty of other things Councillors do but generally that is what is carried out. Residents are always welcome to attend meetings which begin at 7.30 prompt.

As you are well aware, the last two years have been unprecedented in our lifetimes. Covid has prevented us all from living as we normally would do. This also had a major impact for the Parish Council too.

For some of the year we were unable to meet at the Village Hall or hire out the hall to groups. The Smithy Heritage Centre was unable to open or invite schools along. We really missed our Blacksmith's day, the Eccleston bake-off and Heritage open days which are always very popular with our residents. The Smithy Curators were unable to attend schools, and Parish Councillors were unable to attend churches or hold the annual Christmas tree lighting at the library.

We did however manage to hold an open-air service on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial on the corner of St Helens Road/Burrows Lane.

This was attended by myself, four other parish councillors and St James Eccleston's curate Gregor Stewart who led our prayers at the wreath laying ceremony. Several residents also came to pay their respects.

Janet, our Clerk, did a wonderful job enabling all the Parish Councillors to carry out as much as possible of our business online and ensuring that we all knew how to use the technology many of us were not used to. Thanks Janet! We have embraced it, we're competent on it, but there is nothing like meetings carried out face to face.

Our Curators have also done a great job, ensuring that the Smithy could be accessed virtually online and when we were able, ensuring the safety of visitors who came in person when some lockdown restrictions were lifted.

Thanks also must go to Lisa our caretaker at the Village Hall and Bob who is the caretaker at Ecclesfield whose diligence has enabled us and user groups to use our facilities safely.

One of the most notable additions achieved this year is Eccleston Councillors bidding for CIF funding to provide a "temporary addition" at Ecclesfield of a storage container. This will enable on-site storage of sports equipment. Our long-term hope, finance permitting, is to extend the changing rooms facility to incorporate storage for user groups.

Warmest regards,
ANITA ASHCROFT, QPM
CHAIR
ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS

West Ward

CLlr Anita Ashcroft QPM c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

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 07766 785415

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 07721 007418

CLlr Elizabeth Skepper
18 Henbury Court, Eccleston 01744 758868

South Ward

CLlr Su Barton
19 Brooklands Road, Eccleston 07144 613899

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

CLlr Carol Pearl
53 Norton Grove, Thatto Heath 07721 007418

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, although this has not taken place during the coronavirus pandemic.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2022-2023

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

26 April 2022	Annual Parish Meeting
10 May 2022	Parish Annual Meeting
14 June 2022	Parish Council
12 July 2022	Parish Council
13 September 2022	Parish Council
11 October 2022	Parish Council
8 November 2022	Parish Council
13 December 2022	Parish Council
10 January 2023	Parish Council
14 February 2023	Parish Council
14 March 2023	Parish Council
11 April 2023	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.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ELECTORS for the Parish of Eccleston are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 26 April 2022 at 7.30pm in Eccleston Village Hall.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of a Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 April 2021
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2021
- 4 Township affairs

COUNCILLOR ANITA ASHCROFT QPM
CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2021

The following statement represents the financial position of Eccleston Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 1 April 2020-31 March 2021:

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£
Precept	58,610
Administration	4,490
Ecclesfield	243
Hall Charges	331
Smithy	0
Small Business Grant	10,000
Total	73,674

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Administration	35,049
Ecclesfield	3,499
Village Hall	14,426
Smithy	6,279
Open Spaces	509
Grants	160
VAT payments	1,996
Total	61,918

In summary

Brought forward 1 April 2020	35,830
Plus receipts	73,674
Less expenditure	61,918
Balance at 31 March 2021	£47,586

Janet Anderson
Clerk to Eccleston Parish Council

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Remembrance Day, Thursday 11 November 2021, the gates to the War Memorial were opened for the day for people to visit and place poppies.

On Sunday 14 November 2021 the Chair, Cllr Anita Ashcroft, along with Parish Councillors attended the War Memorial at Burrows Lane. They placed a wreath on behalf of the residents of Eccleston Parish. Curate Gregor Stewart, from St James' Church, lead a service of prayer.



ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL

Eccleston Village Hall is now open again for individuals and groups to use. The health and safety of people using the Village Hall, and the whole community, is of paramount importance. Parish Councillors and the Clerk continue to monitor the situation with regard to coronavirus and will follow all official guidelines on the use of and opening of public buildings.

USER GROUPS

Please contact the groups individually for more information:

OUR TIME SENSORY BABY

Monday 10.00am and 11.30am

Our Time Sensory Baby is entering its fifth 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 Mondays for babies from birth to pre-walking.

Please contact Louise on 07717 485158

Facebook – OurTime – SensoryBaby

Instagram – ourtime.sensorybaby

BU DOKAN JU-JITSU

Friday evening

Ju-jitsu at Eccleston Village Hall has survived the pandemic. We were forced to close for thirteen months and re-opened in July 2021.

Our classes are on Friday evenings
Juniors aged 5 to 16 – 6.30pm until 7.50pm
Adults from 8.00pm until 9.30pm

We are introducing a women's self-defence class on the same evening.

Bu-dokan Ju-jitsu is registered with the National Federation for Personal Safety (UK).

The head instructor has 43 years' experience.

For further enquires please contact Geoff Pearl on 07721 009418.

OUR TIME SING.SONG.SIGN.

Thursday 12.45pm and 2.00pm

Our Time Sing.Song.Sign. is a new music class where parents can learn to sign with their children the fun way. Our classes develop early communication skills in babies, encourage the use of a larger range of vocabulary in toddlers and also offers support for families of children with a language delay. Engage and excite your child to learn with props, original music and a new theme every week. Sing.Song.Sign. also provides an opportunity at the end of each session to meet other parents and families in your local area.

Please contact Ashling on 07403 382526
Email: ourtimesingsongsign@gmail.com
Facebook/Instagram: ourtimesingsongsign

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Sunday 7.00pm-9.00pm

The Women's Circle is a lovely relaxing evening of meditation, journaling, manifesting and healing led by Ellen, Mindset and Empowerment coach. It takes place every month and is perfect for anybody who wants to connect with like-minded women, deepen their spiritual journey and take time for themselves to create more calm, clarity and relaxation.

Ellen – 07825686297

FB- Ellen Murray – Mindset and Empowerment Coach

MATHS CENTRE

Saturday 8.30am-1.00pm

The Ecclestone Maths Centre has been offering small group sessions for over six successful years. They offer maths tuition in a friendly welcoming environment allowing students to gain confidence and develop their maths skills. Sessions run on a Saturday morning and places are limited.

Further information can be found on their Facebook page 'Ecclestone Maths Centre'.

If you would like to book the Village Hall for children's parties, coffee mornings, meetings, classes, exhibitions, training sessions, please contact the Caretaker on 01744 453065 (Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; Sat-Sun 10am-4pm)

HALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE DAYTIME OR EVENING

NEWS FROM THE SMITHY

The Smithy Heritage Centre will be opening its doors once more at Easter weekend.

This year the exhibition will be focusing on the industrial heritage of St Helens – from the early days of farming through to the technological advancements of the glass making industry and pharmaceutical work at Beecham's.

In 1773 The British Cast Plate Glass Manufacturers opened works in St Helens and in 1826 William Pilkington began his glass making process. In 1828 a man named Josias Gamble set up chemical works in St Helens. He made washing soda and later chemicals such as acids and alkalis. Other industry such as copper and iron works could all be found in the town along with arsenic factories, brick making, brewing and of course mining.

The rise in industry led to a huge growth in the town's population which in 1851 was thought to be around 15,000 but by the 1900's had grown to 84,000. Today's population is estimated at 102,000.

If you worked in any of the industries in St Helens, the Curators would love to hear from you. Any memories, images or objects would make a wonderful addition to the exhibition. Please contact The Smithy at smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com or ring 01744 730744.

For information about opening times please check the website: <https://smithyheritagecentre.org.uk>

JOANNE CHAMBERLAIN

Joint Curator

Smithy Heritage Centre

LOOKING BACK AT 2021 AND FORWARD TO 2022 AT THE SMITHY

For 2021, the Smithy Heritage Centre hosted *Objects of Desire*, an exhibition about collecting, featuring many fascinating collections from individuals and other museums: some just a handful of carefully selected items, other collections featured hundreds of objects, from the everyday to the weird and wonderful.

The exhibition can still be seen online via our website. It is also possible to take a virtual tour of the whole building at www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk.

We were thrilled to be able to re-open the Smithy to the public for the 2021 season, albeit with reduced opening hours: a step in the right direction. We met lots of new families and received so much wonderful feedback from them. Our regular visitors commented that they were glad to return and had missed our presence, especially our events such as Blacksmith's Day and Heritage Open Weekend which were unable to take place due to Covid restrictions.

I am delighted to announce that this year will see the return of our events!

International Blacksmiths Day, Saturday 21st May 2022

Live craft demonstrations 12noon-5pm. Real ales and ciders served 12noon-6pm.

Meet friendly talented craftspeople at work demonstrating their skills and techniques, including blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, woodworking and more! It's a great day for the whole family, with lots to see and do.

We will be transforming our Education Room into a bar for the day, serving a range of local real ales and ciders, so adults can enjoy a pint in the sunshine. The Village Hall will become a tea room serving tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and pies – so there's something for everyone.

Heritage Open Weekend, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September 2022, 12noon-5pm.

Our two-day family-friendly heritage event will have a local history focus this year, linking to our industry-themed exhibition. Find out more about living and working in Ecclestone and St Helens in the past, and share your stories. There will be lots of fun resources to bring history to life, as well as research materials available.

Children's craft activities will be taking place on a drop-in basis, just 50p a go.

The Village Hall will once again be a tea room serving tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and pies, with the addition of traditional games to play at the table for a bit of old-fashioned family fun.

The Smithy Heritage Centre is FREE to visit, including our events listed above.

Please note, if you wish to buy refreshments at the events, we do not have card payment facilities and can only accept cash.



VICKY GRIFFITHS
Joint Curator
Smithy Heritage Centre

SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE

For further details see 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

OPEN WEEKENDS 1pm-4pm
From Easter to September

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OF OPENING

FREE ADMISSION

Curators: Joanne Chamberlain and Vicky Griffiths

Telephone: 01744 730744

Email: smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com

Website: www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

Another strange year, with the pandemic still around us, but we keep smiling. The staff love seeing all our customers who come in for a variety of services – books, audiobooks, computers, printing and local history. We have also started to run our events programme with things like Read & Rhyme sessions. The Community Room is now also available for you to book for activities and meetings.

At the moment we are offering a “Click and Collect” service to people who do not feel comfortable coming in to browse. You can order books online or over the telephone and we will contact you when they are ready to collect.

St Helens Library Service is also offering a wide range of digital sessions which you can access through our Facebook pages. These include our popular “Cover to Cover” sessions for adult book recommendations, “Fantastic books and where to find them” for our junior book recommendations, “Bookmarked” – our teenage recommendations and Storytime sessions for the under 5’s. We also share regular ‘Book Bites’ which are short reviews of some of the most popular books available.

Don’t forget – your library card gives you 24/7 free access to our digital services. You can access – eBooks and eAudiobooks via the “BorrowBox” service, and eMagazines, eComics and newspapers via the “Libby” and “PressReader” digital 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>

We will email you a temporary membership number within 24 hours so you can take advantage of the fantastic range of e-services straight away!

Please follow us on social media for continued updates.



@STHLibraries



www.facebook.com/STHLibraries



www.instagram.com/sthlibrariesandarts

Thank you to all our customers for your continued support.

JAYNE MILLS

Library Officer

LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

The Centre has reopened in a limited capacity due to Covid requirements and hopefully will return to more of the normal activities soon.

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

For more information please telephone 01744 26813

or email: lesterdrivecentre@gmail.com

THE ART OF HEDGE LAYING

Why would some people turn out on cold, dark mornings in the depths of winter to wrestle with thorny bushes, running the risk of being scratched or punctured by thorns several inches long? As I scrape ice from my windscreen, I sometimes doubt my sanity, but I love hedging.

Hedges have long been used as boundary markers. They were once used to protect tribal villages from invading Romans, whose bare legs must have been transformed into pincushions. Hedges were used traditionally to mark the edges of parishes and of land ownership. They were also used to show field boundaries.

Under the Inclosure Acts, passed from the late eighteenth century onwards, open areas of common land were parcelled into much smaller pieces. The use of hedges as boundary markers became even more common.

Hedges were used by farmers for confining cattle and sheep to one area. Increasingly, in more recent times, farmers turned to low-maintenance barbed wire and posts to prevent their livestock escaping; they also found that they could work more economically by digging up hedges to make larger fields. The numbers of hedges declined dramatically.

Nowadays, assisted by grants, more farmers are planting hedges and the wildlife value of hedges is becoming better appreciated. The decline is slowly being reversed. I lay hedges in farmers' fields and also in nature reserves – in both cases to benefit nature and the people who enjoy experiencing it. I like to visit hedges I have laid in past years and see birds nesting in them. Thorny hedges give protection against predators for nesting birds. Small mammals may make their homes around the roots, and be able to forage under cover. Hedges also provide a greenway, along which wild animals can travel.

Thorns can be a real pain, literally. Hedgers often have to dig thorns out of their fingers. Although I do wear thick gloves, for insurance purposes I must leave the hand I use to swing an axe or billhook ungloved. Thankfully, I have not yet sat on any thorns. Removal then could prove

very embarrassing! Hedgers using hand tools also often wear knee pads, and a safety helmet with a visor. Hedgers using a chainsaw wear gloves, a helmet and special safety trousers. A good visor you can easily forget is down. On several occasions I have done just that, and attempted to have a cuppa, pouring it down my coat.

There are many hedge styles around the country. The local style, Lancashire, differs from most. This is because Lancashire hedges are double hedges. Stems are cut so that they lie in roughly the same direction, though, if you stand by one side of the hedge and look at it from above, some will be laid slightly towards you (the front) from the centre of the line of the hedge, and some slightly away from you (the back). Those towards you are staked in one row, and those away from you are staked in another row. This results in two parallel rows, going in the same direction. The rows should have a yard (or metre) between them, and the stakes in each row should be a yard (or metre) apart). A few smaller stems may be laid down the middle, to make the hedge an even more effective barrier lower down.

Wooden stakes are hammered in every yard (or metre) on each side. When you look at a hedge from the side, the stems should always lie uphill. If the ground is flat, which way they lie, looking from the side, is up to the hedger. A Lancashire hedge should be impenetrable to sheep or cattle from the moment it is laid. Its bushy outsides protect the new growth at the roots from nibbling sheep. It is usually made up of hawthorn and blackthorn, with hazel sometimes mixed in.

Hedgers have no wish to injure themselves, or to decapitate any passers-by or even spectators. They must always be aware of where their colleagues are working nearby, and must learn to cut so that they work to their side rather than directly in front of them, to avoid the possibility of chopping their legs.



Volunteer hedgers like me are more likely to use an axe or billhook for cutting the stems.

The coloured tape on the billhooks is for identification purposes, and to make them stand out on the ground.

Professional hedgers are likely to speed up the process with a chainsaw. Whether they are petrol or electric, chainsaws terrify me, so I'm happy to use traditional hand tools. The

upright stem is cut into downwards and diagonally, pleaching, from well above the ground, leaving only a narrow hinge of stem still connected to the roots. The cut stem, known as a pleacher or ligger, is then laid on its side. Another stem will then be cut and laid on its side behind it, and so on. The remaining upright stump, or heel, is cut just above ground level. So that a stem will lie well, a lot of its material may have to be cut off first. A saw is used to trim the heel, and loppers to cut away any unwanted branches or foliage.

Trees grow at different rates. Some will be taller, some shorter, some stunted, and some twisted. Some will have perished since planting, so there may be gaps in the hedge line when it comes to laying. It may be necessary, to plug a gap, to lay two consecutive trees to the same side of the hedge before laying one to the other. If you're making an Airfix model, you know exactly what shape your model should be, and the size and shape of all the parts. Laying a hedge is very different. You know what the general shape should be, but have to decide which bits to use, where to put them, and which to throw away. It may be that well over half of the material is cut away during the laying process.

Hammering the stakes in, as you can imagine, has to be done carefully too, especially if someone else is holding the stake. I have heard some howls and choice language where a mallet blow has missed target and hit someone's fist or fingers.

I spend much of my hedging time showing newcomers how to lay a hedge. Most are afraid of cutting off the stem completely, so will approach their cutting task timidly. I usually tell them to imagine the stem is a politician they really dislike. This works wonders, and they are usually much more vigorous.

If you would like to have a go at hedging, or to find out more information, look at the Facebook pages for The National Hedgelaying Society and for the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedgelaying Association.

COUNCILLOR FRANCIS WILLIAMS

ECCLESTON COMMUNITY LITTER PICKERS

KEEPING ECCLESTON CLEAN AND TIDY

Eccleston based community litter picking group, 'Eccleston Community Litter Pickers', was created in 2019 to help keep our local green spaces, parks, streets and areas clean and lend a hand to declare that litter pollution is not acceptable.

The litter picks take place roughly every two weeks, and are a great way to get involved with other members of the community, and volunteers old and new are welcome to come along.

The dates of future community litter picks can be found at:
Facebook page – Eccleston Community Litter Pickers
Twitter page – @EccyLitterPicks

If anyone is not on social media, or has any questions, then they can contact Councillor Michael Haw on 07837 759 432 or cllrnhaw@sthelens.gov.uk.

PORTICO VINE ARLFC

Well, it's been a very busy few months for the remarkable volunteers at Portico Vine ARLFC.

We are busy juggling the planning and preparation ahead of the new season in March, with the largest project the club has ever undertaken – building a brand new clubhouse that will be a focal part of the local community.

We are aiming for a completion date of 30th April 2022, so our committee steering team is literally working day and night alongside the project management team and site construction managers. Hikes in steel and other material costs wiped our contingency funds almost overnight which has placed significant pressure on the need to fundraise and seek companies who would look favourably on us at our time of need. There is still lots of hard work to be completed but we have a fantastic core of key volunteers that will see us unveil something that future generations will be able to enjoy.

Over the last few months, we have featured on BBC Radio Merseyside's breakfast show, rugby league podcasts, been commended by local MP Marie Rimmer and had a case study written by Sport England about the ethos of the club and how we regularly 'work with the community, for the community'. Recent examples include donating thousands of tins to soup to local and regional charities to help the homeless, collecting and donating coats and blankets for the refugees displaced from Afghanistan, donating hampers to our local residents, and providing water station support at the Rock n Roll marathon in Liverpool.

In addition to this, we have formally paired with Knowsley School Sports Partnership which has resulted in even more children from the local area being introduced to the fun of junior rugby league. We have taken this further by actively hosting sessions in local schools.

A project in November received national acclaim as our young members helped create a video highlighting the support for and need for match officials. The key message was that our club will not tolerate any unacceptable language or behaviour directed to the match officials and take positive action to remove individuals who break our code of ethics.

We now have teams available for 4-6 year olds, which we refer to as our Panther Cubs. This season we will be registering U7, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U15 and U18 teams. We are actively recruiting for all of these teams and are receiving lots of interest via our main communication platform on Facebook @porticovinearlfc.

Whilst we are busy completing all the registration processes, coaches are busy completing their annual training and preparing fantastic, all-inclusive training sessions.

As the year progresses we have some exciting plans to develop an all-girls team, a male open age team, a mixed 'tag' team and an over 55's team.

We hope to be able to re-launch our exciting plans put on hold in 2020 with festivals, family fun days and bespoke fundraising events.

We hope to attract even more children and families to our wonderful club because we firmly believe that every child has the right to shine, regardless of talent, skill, background or upbringing.

As One Team, we can achieve One Dream.

MARK HOBIN

Chairman

Portico Vine ARLFC

ECCELESTON LANE ENDS BOWLS CLUB

There is an old saying 'Every black cloud has a silver lining' and for this club that is what we experienced. In a second year of COVID-19 restrictions we got on with the job of providing our members with the facilities to enjoy their bowling, face coverings and social distancing notwithstanding.

The 2021 season was blessed with a pleasant spring and summer. Compared with some years the need for waterproof clothing was quite rare and all of our major events were held in good weather.

Our volunteer 'Green Team' produced an excellent playing surface that lasted from March until October, for which they are to be congratulated. As a club, we had decided to try to economise by doing all the green and grounds maintenance ourselves instead of paying an outside contractor. This is where the 'Green Team' really came into their own. Doug, our greenkeeper, went to an enormous effort in learning the rights and wrongs of turf management. The whole team was involved in maintaining the green and surroundings to an excellent standard.

In 2021 the local bowling leagues restarted, much to their credit. We were able to field all our normal number of teams with some success.

We were able to hold our three annual main competitions which were very well attended and enjoyed good weather. Our Charity Doubles competition raised the magnificent amount of £1400 for our chosen charity, Willowbrook Hospice.

One of the highlights of our year was our participation in the 'Bowl for Health' project on behalf of Merseyside Sport. This was an eight week course designed to give non-bowlers the chance to learn the game, but just as importantly, giving them the opportunity to partake in an outdoor activity and socialise.

Sixteen people signed up for this course and it was a great success. We intend to continue with the project in 2022. We owe a huge vote of thanks to those members who gave up their time to teach and encourage our visitors. In fact, eleven of those attending went on to join the club.

So, what could have been a dismal year turned out to be very enjoyable.

We are always happy to welcome new members, experienced or beginner.

Look out for our Facebook page for all the latest news and events.

Contact Ian Gray on 07889693648 or Steve Roberts on 07855275718.

BLEAK HILL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

The last 2 years have probably been the hardest in the history of Bleak Hill Rovers as we, like many other organisations, have had to deal with Covid restrictions, lock downs, risk assessments and a plethora of new rules from the FA. We are totally indebted to the St Helens Councillors and staff of the Library for allowing us to use the library grounds as storage in 2021/22. Without them there is no doubt that Bleak Hill Rovers Football Club would now be extinct.

Bleak Hill Rovers junior football teams have been playing on Ecclesfield for over 40 years and each weekend over 400 youngsters enjoy the “beautiful game”. We are now recognised by the FA as one of the biggest junior clubs Merseyside. We are probably the only true junior community club in this area as we try 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.

Our girls' teams continue to grow and it is an absolute delight to see girls from Reception to Year 10 loving football each week. The efforts of our coaches and parents to encourage girls to play has resulted in us having more girls' teams than most other clubs in the League. We now have nearly 100 girls either training or playing at Bleak Hill Rovers.

Our boys' teams go from strength to strength and it is very rewarding to see youngsters who have been with us since they were 5, shortly playing as Under 18s. Each year we start 3 new teams for youngsters in Year 2 and have a waiting list for youngsters who want to join us.

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

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.

CYRIL BARRATT

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers



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

REPORT ON TWITTER
[@MerPolCC](https://twitter.com/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

PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB BOWLING SECTION

As you drive along Burrows Lane you will pass the gateway to Prescott and Odyssey Cricket Club. Turn down the access track you will find not only a cricket club but also a bowling club, hidden behind tall hedges. There is a lovely, sheltered green where approximately 40 people enjoy their sport from April to September. Once a member, you can use the green at any time, but there are flourishing groups of members who turn up on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to enjoy each other's company while taking exercise in the fresh air. For anyone with a more serious and competitive streak we run teams in two leagues – the St Helens Pensioners' League, which plays on Monday afternoons, and the St Helens Churches' League, which plays on Monday nights. We don't expect to come top of either 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 home matches, and there is a small team of men who take care of the green and its surroundings. The grass is mowed once, sometimes twice, a week, the rose beds weeded, the wooden benches mended or painted and so on. Sometimes there are more urgent jobs to be tackled, such as recently when Storm Arwen tried to take the roof off the clubhouse. This invaluable team meets on Wednesday mornings to do all this and put the world to rights over mugs of tea. At the end of the season a programme of winterisation takes place when the grass is scarified and fed etc, after which it is left to rest until the following April. New helpers are always welcome – and they don't have to be men!!

Various social events take place during the year, for example mid-season and end-of-season Scrambles when we play against each other. There are even silver cups to be won (and polished!). The September Scramble ends with a welcome plate of hot-pot followed by apple pie, though unfortunately we had to cancel this year because of bad weather. The Scramble held in June was greatly enjoyed, however, with glorious weather and a great buffet provided

by the ladies of the club served outside in the sunshine. 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 several of our own talented members). We enjoyed the event all the more this year because the Covid restrictions stopped it going ahead last year.

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

JUDITH JOHNSON

Chairman, POCC Bowls Section

BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

New EYFS Building

This year it was wonderful to open our new EYFS building, it has been great to witness our September 2021 cohort learning in our purpose-built learning environment.

Exciting Curriculum Activities

During the year, our children enjoyed a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum, which included many opportunities to enhance learning. These included Knowsley Safari Park Roadshows; The Angel Experience at St Andrew's Church; a visit from Saints Rugby League Club with all of the winning trophies and The Wind in the Willows performance to name a few. We were also delighted when our Year 5 were the winners of the St Helens' scarecrow festival. We also held an Arts Week, culminating in an exhibition of the children's work.

Later in the year we held a Science Week and had some wonderful visitors to school to support and enthuse the children.

The Outdoor Environment

We continued to develop our outdoor learning environment. Our outdoor story telling area has taken shape and our woodland has continued to be developed. We continue to work with 'John and Sue' from Ecolibrium each week, offering wonderful opportunities to our children to learn about the outdoors.

Charity Work

This year the children have raised money for several charities including Children in Need, Willowbrook Hospice, NSPCC and the Poppy Appeal. Our children and families have been most generous with their donations of coats for the Christmas Rotary Appeal.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are pleased to say that many children have chosen to take part in the extra-curricular activities on offer. These have included football, dance, ukulele, choir, squash and gymnastics.

Parish Council Awards Assembly

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

Upcoming Events

We are looking forward to a number of planned events for Spring and Summer Term including, Safer Internet Day, Spanish Day, Year 6 adventure holiday, Young Voices and a range of exciting trips for all year groups.

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

Willowbrook Hospice opened its doors in 1997 and, to date, has provided care, compassion, comfort, love, laughter and warmth to over 10,000 residents in the St Helens and Knowsley area that have life-limiting illnesses such as cancer, motor neurone disease and COPD.

The Hospice is governed by a Board of Trustees, led by the chairman. Day to day management of Willowbrook is carried out by an Executive Management Team which in turn, is supported by the committed 125 staff and over 530 dedicated volunteers.

The Executive Management Team together with their Medical, Nursing and Allied Healthcare Professional teams, is responsible for delivering the Hospice's five main services:

- In-patient
- Outreach
- Outpatient
- Therapy services
- Education (via the Advance Care Planning Service who focus on education for those in Care Homes, GPs and District Nurses)

Willowbrook charity shops recycle or sell anything from furniture, books and clothes to electrical goods and children's toys. There is also an online shop selling new goods and an eBay shop selling good quality donated goods.

All the money raised from the shops goes towards caring for local patients in need of the special care.

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.

ECCLESTON MERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Eccleston Mere, we have had a memorable and positive year. During the last twelve months, I have been fortunate to represent such a wonderful school.

Ofsted

I am proud to say that, following Ofsted's visit in October 2021, Eccleston Mere is now categorised as a 'good' school. The inspection team noted that 'pupils come through the school gates with smiles on their faces' and also referenced our school motto, 'a school with a heart that beats to everybody's tune'.

The politeness and confidence of our children shone through, whilst our curriculum was described as ambitious, broad and interesting. Whilst we were very proud of the result, we now strive to improve further, aiming to be not only a good school, but an excellent one.

Eccleston Mere in the Community

Whilst the pandemic has continued to hamper some elements of school life, Eccleston Mere has continued to serve its community, raising funds and providing food for the 'Teardrops' charity and also raising funds for Willowbrook Hospice.

In addition to this, our school choir has again visited Eccleston Court, singing to them over the Christmas period. Our Christmas Fayre was also a huge success, thanks to our dedicated, wonderful PTA.

Curriculum Enrichment

At Eccleston Mere, children of all ages have received an enriched curriculum, including opportunities for instrument tuition (brass instruments, the ukulele or being part of a rock band). Sports clubs have also continued, with football coaching being offered to all age groups, as well as judo, yoga, swimming, and squash tuition. Children in Year 6 were also able to attend their residential visit last

year, spending a week within nature, experiencing thrills and adventure.

We have also been fortunate to welcome visitors from the 'Storybarn' who have promoted reading in school, through interactive, face-to-face sessions. At Diwali, children were able to take part in interactive, virtual workshops, teaching them all about the festival and culminating in a Hindu dance performance. In Winter, we were also fortunate to be visited by an artist, who taught our older children how to create graffiti artwork.

Fond Farewells

Pupils and staff gathered to give thanks to two members of staff, who had been with the Eccleston Mere family for over 30 years, as we bade farewell to Mrs Hesketh and Mrs McCarthy, both of whom had been integral in the success of Eccleston Mere across a number of years. Their presence will be missed, but I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work alongside both Mrs Hesketh and Mrs McCarthy, as they taught me what it meant to be an 'Eccy Merer'.

Looking Forward

We look forward to the future with much excitement. Plans are afoot to improve our outdoor spaces, with the support of our Eco and School Councils. In the Summer term, we eagerly anticipate a return to external visits for all year groups.

As mentioned, we continue to strive for excellence and are unwavering in our commitment to our children, families and local community.

MR R MUGAN

Headteacher

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Thursday 1 December 2022

11am

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

Oven temperature 180C

Baking time 30–40 minutes

Ingredients

3 oz butter

pinch nutmeg (optional)

6 slices of white bread

10 fluid oz of milk

3 oz raisins or sultanas

5 fluid oz of cream

3 large eggs

1 tablespoon of demerara sugar

2 oz caster sugar

Method

1. Put the oven to pre-heat.
2. Butter an oven proof baking dish, approximately 8 inches by 10 inches in size.
3. Butter the sliced bread and place half of it on the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle with the raisins or sultanas. Cover with the rest of the bread.
4. Place the eggs in a jug and whisk them. Then add the cream, milk and caster sugar. Mix together and then pour over the top of the bread. Let it stand for 10 -15 minutes to soak into the bread.
5. Sprinkle the demerara sugar over the top (and nutmeg if required).
6. Bake in the centre of the oven until golden.
7. Serve with custard or cream.

Enjoy!

COUNCILLOR ANITA ASHCROFT QPM

CHAIRS OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

1894-1917	T Garner	1973-1974	P A Brosnan
1917-1928	J Simm	1973-1975	F Smith
1928-1931	C Pennington	1975-1976	R Pennington
1931-1939	Ch Taylor	1976-1977	H J Hunter
1939-1940	T Wright	1977-1978	W R Crosby
1940-1941	O Morris	1978-1979	T McCormack
1941-1942	D Saunders	1979-1980	W R Naylor
1942-1943	H E Moody	1980-1981	R D Foster
1943-1944	H Taylor	1981-1982	W S Paton
1944-1945	J C Ackers	1982-1983	G M Brownlow
1945-1946	G Foster	1983-1984	W R Crosby
1946-1947	J T Tyrer	1984-1985	T McCormack
1947-1948	J Rainford	1985-1986	W R Naylor
1948-1949	Ch Taylor	1986-1987	G M Brownlow
1949-1950	D Saunders	1987-1988	Mrs C Pyke
1950-1951	H E Moody	1988-1989	J Hockenhull
1951-1952	J C Ackers	1989-1991	W R Crosby
1952-1953	J T Dudley	1991-1992	Mrs T V Sims
1953-1954	J T Tyrer	1992-1993	D Bayliss
1954-1955	J Barron	1993-1994	Mrs T V Sims
1955-1956	Ch Taylor	1994-1995	Mrs A Melia
1956-1957	G Palin	1995-1996	D Bain
1957-1958	H E Moody	1996-1998	Mrs T V Sims
1958-1959	H J Hunter	1998-1999	Mrs S A Evans
1959-1960	J C Ackers	1999-2002	Mrs T V Sims
1960-1961	J T Dudley	2002-2004	D Bain
1961-1962	J Ducker	2004-2005	Mrs M Maloney
1962-1963	H Broughton	2005-2008	Mrs C Duncan
1963-1964	J C Ackers	2008-2009	L Perry
1964-1965	W R Crosby	2009-2011	G Pearl
1965-1966	L Prest	2011-2012	Mrs E Skepper
1966-1967	T McCormack	2012-2013	Mrs C Pearl
1967-1968	N W Ridge	2013-2015	Mrs T V Sims
1968-1969	H J Hunter	2015-2016	Ms A Ashcroft QPM
1969-1970	W R Naylor	2016-2018	G Pearl
1970-1971	R D Foster	2018-2021	Mrs T V Sims
1971-1972	W S Paton	2021-2022	Ms A Ashcroft QPM
1972-1973	G Brownlow		

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

PARISH CLERK

Janet Anderson

0151 345 7533

ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

LOCAL CONTACTS

CHURCHES

Christ Church, Chapel Lane, Eccleston Rev Sonya Doragh	01744 22698
Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park Fr David Melly	0151 426 6251
St James Church, St Helens Road, Eccleston Park Rev Helen Coffey	0151 426 6421
St Julie RC Church, Howards Lane, Eccleston Fr Phil Carr	01744 28196

SCHOOLS

Bleak Hill Primary, Hamilton Road, Windle Head: Mrs M Lawrenson	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: Miss S Bond	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 01744 453798
Hospice 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 terrence.baines@sky.com
Ann Unsworth 07745 940845 annunsworth@virginmedia.com
Mandy Roberts 07771 773956 mandyroberts22@outlook.com

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.

If any resident would like to submit an interesting article for next year's Parish magazine, please contact the Clerk
email: ecclestonpc@hotmail.com
telephone: 0151 345 7533

Articles in this magazine were written by Parish Councillors, representatives of groups 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 opened each weekend and 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

