

**ECCLESTON
PARISH COUNCIL
MAGAZINE
2022 – 2023**



**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 07706 022171
(Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; Sat-Sun 10am-4pm)

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Resident

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

The Parish Council owns Eccleston Village Hall and the Smithy Heritage Centre. Many of our residents attend the exhibitions and events that are organised by our two curators Vicky and Joanne, who do a magnificent job. Our Curators also engage with local schools providing project boxes to help with special topics students undertake. They also put on events such as our Blacksmith's Day and the Heritage Weekend events. The hall is busy. It is hired by many groups and individuals for a variety of activities as well as children's parties.

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

Eccleston Parish Council leases 7 open spaces from St Helens Borough Council ie Ecclesfield, Kiln Lane, Ansdell Drive, Clarkes Crescent, Saleswood Avenue, Gillars Green and Millwood Avenue.

In November, myself and other Parish Councillors laid a poppy wreath at our Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, and I would like to thank the staff from United Utilities who tidy up our War Memorial for us so that we can lay wreathes. They do this very willingly and indeed they add their own little touches to the

memorial as their own mark of respect. It was lovely to see residents also attending the Cenotaph.

So, this hopefully gives you an insight into the workings of the Parish Council.

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

Warmest regards

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS

CHAIR

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL'S
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday 7 December 2023

11am

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

Please check details with the library beforehand

PARISH COUNCILLORS

West Ward

Cllr Anita Ashcroft QPM

c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Cllr Phil Cass

49 Lowther Crescent, Eccleston Hill

07813 153522

Cllr James Madine

Jamesmadine1@sky.com

Mrs V Taylor

60 Houghtons Lane, Eccleston

East Ward

Cllr Michael Haw

4 Linden Way, Eccleston

07837 759432

Cllr Peter Johnson

7 Portico Avenue, Eccleston Park

0151 426 6362

Cllr Neil Taylor

60 Houghtons Lane, Eccleston

Eccleston Park Ward

Cllr Carol Pearl

53 Norton Grove, Thatto Heath

07721 009418

Cllr Geoff Pearl

53 Norton Grove, Thatto Heath

07721 009418

Cllr Teresa Sims

11 Portico Avenue, Eccleston Park

0151 426 5118

Foxwood Ward

Cllr Brian Spencer

16 Goodleigh Place, Sutton Leach

01744 817446

Ellerslie Ward

Cllr Francis Williams

25 Lester Drive, Eccleston

07766 785415

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.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2023-2024

Please check the agenda before the meeting*

25 April 2023	Annual Parish Meeting
9 May 2023	Parish Annual Meeting
13 June 2023	Parish Council
11 July 2023	Parish Council
12 September 2023	Parish Council
10 October 2023	Parish Council
14 November 2023	Parish Council
12 December 2023	Parish Council
9 January 2024	Parish Council
13 February 2024	Parish Council
12 March 2024	Parish Council
9 April 2024	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 Ecclestone are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 25 April 2023 at 7.30pm in Ecclestone Village Hall.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of a Chairman for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2022
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2022
- 4 Township affairs

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS
CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2022

The following statement represents the financial position of Ecclestone Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 1 April 2021-31 March 2022:

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£
Precept	58,505
Administration	2,714
Ecclesfield	210
Hall Charges	4,118
Smithy	0
Total	65,547

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Administration	33,928
Ecclesfield	3,499
Village Hall	14,490
Smithy	6,126
Open Spaces	1,034
Grants	650
VAT payments	2,230
Total	61,957

<u>In summary</u>	
Brought forward 1 April 2021	47,585
Plus receipts	65,547
Less expenditure	61,957
Balance at 31 March 2021	£51,175

Janet Anderson
Clerk to Ecclestone Parish Council

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 13 November 2022 the Chair of Eccleston Parish Council, Cllr Teresa Sims, along with Parish Councillors attended the War Memorial at Burrows Lane.



Councillors placed a wreath on behalf of the residents of Eccleston Parish and each read a prayer/poem.

Many residents joined them.



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

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL

USER GROUPS

Eccleston Village Hall is open for individuals and groups to hire.
Please contact the groups individually for more information.

Currently the following groups are using the hall:

OUR TIME SENSORY BABY

Monday 10.00am and 11.30am

Our Time Sensory Baby is entering its sixth 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

MEDITATION

Monday 7-8pm

Lyndsey May Is a qualified Meditation Coach, Relax Kids Coach, Holistic Therapist and Belly Dance Teacher.

Every Monday at 7pm (term time only) Lyndsey creates a beautiful healing space where you can calm your mind and enjoy the benefits of her guided meditation.

Her meditation sessions offer a basic introduction to crystals and their healing properties and also brings an awareness of how to cleanse and charge crystals to enhance your meditation session.

During a session you may lie or sit on a yoga mat or sit in a chair.

No experience needed. This class is suitable for anyone who would like an hour's retreat, space to breathe, bring balance back into their life and to calm the monkey mind.

Classes £5 (to be paid in 5/6wk blocks)

Please contact Lyndsey May
07572 066365

BU DOKAN JU-JITSU

Friday evening



Ju Jitsu is the original Japanese martial art, with Judo, Karate, Kendo and Akido coming out of it.

The senior instructor has 45 years' experience in the art. We are registered with the martial arts council with The National Federation for Personal Safety.

Children from age 5 upwards from 6.30pm to 7.50pm

Adults from 8.00pm until 9.30pm.

Beginners welcome.

For further enquiries call Geoff on 07721 009418 or just come along.

SLIMMING WORLD

Thursdays at 9.00am

Tracy Potter has enjoyed her role as consultant for 15 years with Slimming World. Millions have reached their dream weight with the generous no-hunger eating plan.

Why not come along and learn how to lose weight, and get healthy. Losing weight doesn't have to be expensive it can be done on a tight budget. In group lots of ideas are shared on how to cook freshly prepared meals with an air fryer, slow cooker or soup maker, and also learn new recipes cooked the traditional way.

When you join the friendly Slimming World group, you will have access to the App with simple exercise videos, recipes, motivational stories from current Slimming World members, the fantastic food scanner for when you are out and about shopping and much more.

Men, women, and young adults are welcome at the Eccleston Slimming World group in the Village Hall, Kiln Lane every Thursday at 9.00am.

For more information and for special offers call Tracy on 07791 180281.

PAPER FOXES ART

Thursday 4.00pm-7.00pm

Jayne, who is a freelance teacher/educator, artist and Forest School leader, is running an art class for children. Paper Foxes Art meet every Thursday from 4pm in the hall.

The children are various ages, currently from 4 to 12 years old. They study famous artists like Matisse, learn new techniques, like watercolour painting and just have lots of fun. There are a few spaces left if your child enjoys being creative.

Email: Jaynem71@hotmail.co.uk

MATHS CENTRE

Saturday 8.30am-1.00pm

The Eccleston 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 'Eccleston Maths Centre'.

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

THE SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE – STEFAN SKURA: FINDING A NEW LIFE

The 2023 exhibition at The Smithy will be remembering Stefan Skura, a blacksmith who, during the Second World War, was a soldier in Polish II Corps (fighting alongside Allied forces in Africa and Italy).

Once the war had ended and Stefan was looking to go back to a civilian life, he had to decide between returning to a now Soviet controlled Poland or starting a new life in his adopted country of the UK. He chose the latter and was relocated to an army camp which had been created as a part of the Polish Resettlement Corps.

Stefan was an ordinary man who, through the invasion of Poland had found himself in a new country and having to start a new life. Post war Britain was not necessarily an easy place to be for anybody deemed to be a 'foreigner'. Jobs were scarce and there were huge numbers of men returning home. Anybody non-British was seen as taking one of 'our lads' jobs. It had been very quickly forgotten the contribution that had been made by the Polish forces to keep Britain free during the war.

Stefan eventually settled in Prescot in 1948. He got married in 1953 and died in 1991. Through objects on loan from the Knowsley Archive, such as an identity card, certifications of completion of military service and other documents, the story of one man can tell the story of the experiences shared by so many other Polish men and women after the end of WW2. Merseyside Polonia translated all of Stefan's documents to allow his story and so many like him to be told today.

The exhibition opens on the 8th April
The Smithy will be open Saturdays & Sundays 1-4pm.

JOANNE CHAMBERLAIN

Joint Curator

THE SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE – LOOKING BACK AT 2022

The Smithy 2022 season was the start of a “return to normal”, with our opening hours going back to the standard Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-4pm after the previous two years’ upheavals.

The exhibition, *The Making of St Helens*, explored local industry from the many glass factories producing bottles, fancy goods, window glazing and even medical lenses, through to breweries, brickmakers and Beecham’s, and of course the many mines whose coal powered it all. The artefacts, products and photographs on display led to lots of fascinating conversations with visitors and memories being shared.



We had the welcome return of International Blacksmiths Day, after a two-year hiatus. It was wonderful to once again celebrate the skills of craftspeople and see hundreds of visitors fill the grounds. We had demonstrations of blacksmithing and wheelwrighting from father and son team Phill and Aaron Gregson, woodcarving by John White, green wood turning by Paula Keary on her pole lathe, and Rosemary Tyler weaving. We were thrilled to be back behind the bar, pulling pints of Tatton Brewery real ale and Red Bank cider, as well as serving a range of cakes, tea and coffee.



We had planned a special display from the Northwest Miners Heritage Association as well as all of the usual family fun activities for Heritage Open Days, and of course we were due to hold the 8th Great Ecclestone Bake-off; unfortunately, the closing weekend extravaganza had to be cancelled due to the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The round commemorative plaque displayed outside the Village Hall that was produced for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee has been added to the Smithy's collection to save it for posterity.

We're really looking forward to the 2023 season and have lots of wonderful things lined up for you to enjoy!

The Smithy will be open Saturday 8th April to Sunday 10th September at weekends, 1pm-4pm.

International Blacksmiths Day – Saturday 20th May, 12noon-5pm.

The 8th Great Ecclestone Bake-off – Sunday 10th September.

VICKY GRIFFITHS

Joint Curator

ECCLESTON LANE ENDS SCHOOL

It has been an incredibly busy year at Eccleston Lane Ends Primary School!



Earlier on last year, we were lucky enough to receive a really kind donation of two benches from members of the local community. Two of our teachers, together with the children, weaved their magic and turned

them into some amazing 'Buddy Benches'!

These benches are used by our 'Wellbeing Warrior' teams during playtimes and lunchtimes. If a child is feeling a little bit sad or lonely then they sit on the benches, this then alerts a member of the team, who are on duty, to go and assist. The 'Wellbeing Warriors' have been specifically trained in wellbeing and friendship strategies and know when they can 'solve' a problem themselves or when they need to tell an adult in school.



At Christmas, our Reception children went to deliver Christmas cards and handmade gifts to our local residents. They were well appreciated and the children really enjoyed giving 'a little something' back to the community in which we live.

We have also raised money and donated items to our local food pantry, sang at Willowbrook and are currently in the process of writing a 'School Council Newsletter' which will go out to our local residents.

We love being a part of our amazing Ecclestone community!

MISS S BOND

Headteacher

ECCLESFIELD CHANGING FACILITY

The facility, jointly owned by Ecclestone Parish Council (70%) and Windle Parish Council (30%), is maintained by a caretaker who is responsible for security, cleaning and upkeep. Contributions from the two Parish Councils and fees from the football teams fund the running of the changing facility.

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.

Councillors from both Parish Councils are represented on Ecclesfield Management Committee. They meet 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. To book pitches, please contact: ecclestonepc@hotmail.com.

There is also a basketball net for the use of all residents.

ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

In September, St Julie's began working towards achieving Cafod's Live Simply Award, which provides an opportunity for Catholic communities to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in *Laudato Si'* (Care for our Common Home) to "Work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us." We held an assembly to launch our Live Simply initiative with staff, pupils and Governors pledging to:

- live simply
- live sustainably
- live in solidarity with others.



Minnie Vinnies – also in September we had a visit from the national head of Minnie Vinnies as we began our Minnie Vinnies group – the junior branch of the St Vincent De Paul society. The Minnie Vinnies is currently aimed at Year 3 and Year 4 who have been enthusiastic about their mission "to turn concern into action" by helping people in our local community. The children took wellbeing cards to the residents at Eccleston Court Nursing Home. They have also been thinking about the problems faced around the world with food production and supply in making their own plates in the Cafod "Step up to the plate" campaign.

In our efforts to **Live Simply**, mental health and wellbeing has been a major focus:

- Staff mental health ambassadors have supported a variety of wellbeing activities for staff and pupils.
- Children are using 'Zones of regulation' each day to help them reflect on their well-being.
- Forest school supports our mental wellbeing and appreciation of the beauty of God's creation.

We also have many initiatives to encourage children to live sustainably:

Meat free Monday: this aims to reduce meat farming which is linked to greenhouse gas emissions. Mrs Finney, our school cook, makes wonderful meat free meals every week which the children enjoy.

Recycling: we have paper and card recycling boxes placed throughout the school to separate out our waste that can be recycled. In the foyer parents can use our book swap to share the pleasure of reading. This year we have organised a store of pre-loved school uniform in age sizes that can be obtained from the school office. We also had a collection of pre-loved Christmas jumpers that parents/carers could take for Christmas Jumper day.

‘Go Green Team’ St Helens Chamber came into school to talk to Year 5 about the St Helens Go Green initiative. They discussed recycling initiatives and were taught about greenhouse gases and made their Net Zero pledges. St Julie’s was also visited by St Helens’ only hydrogen powered truck – an alternative to fossil fuels.

To live in solidarity with others we take part in fundraising for national and local charities throughout the year:

Harvest: In October we held our Harvest thanksgiving celebration in church. It was also a time of reflection as the children were encouraged to think about how it would feel if they didn’t have their favourite foods or even a meal to eat. Parents’ donations of tinned and dried food products were delivered to the St Helens Foodbank and Teardrops.

CAFOD fundraising: in December we began our Advent fundraising for CAFOD with a Santa Dash. Each class was raising money for CAFOD and aiming to buy a World Gift. World Gifts are a way of changing the lives of families and communities overseas by providing resources that can enable self-sufficiency and development. A total of £265.95 was raised.

Our school website has more information about the award on the RE tab under the heading “Living our faith.” stjulies@sthelens.org.uk

MRS A HODGSON

Headteacher

PORTICO VINE ARLFC

So, after the amazing year that brought us a new clubhouse and the magnificent events that took place thereafter, 2022 sadly ended with significant flooding to the changing rooms, officials' room and storerooms within the older of our buildings. An emergency response was supported and thankfully we salvaged some of our equipment and goods. We have been supported by volunteers, local businesses and some amazing online donations, to help fund the repairs needed. Thank you to everybody who has helped us, with a particular thanks to Violet-Grace's Gift for their substantial donation.

We have carried out the registration process for the upcoming season, coaches have undertaken their re-qualification requirements and new volunteers have stepped forward. We are welcoming new players and new families.

We have some really exciting and unique events planned for this year and we are committed to putting these events on at minimal cost so more people can enjoy them. Lots more events will follow over the Spring and into the Summer, so keep your eyes out on our socials.

We are running some significant off field projects this year (subject to external funding), including; a floodlights project, investment in solar panels to become more energy efficient, new pitch care products, a memorial garden, more CCTV and a Volunteer It Yourself project in which we will be increasing the amount of changing rooms to accommodate girls'/women's rugby league from Scholes Lane.

We will be hosting community coffee mornings, each with a different theme to bring people together in a safe and caring environment. Our close relationship with St Helens Police and Merseyside Police has developed so they will now use our clubhouse to offer six weekly 'drop-in surgeries' so community members can speak face to face with their local officers. This will develop into bespoke events such as bike marking, crime prevention seminars and family fun days.

We are now working closer than ever with Willowbrook Hospice, Violet Graces Gift, People Empowered CIC, Teardrops, The Women's Refuge at Merton Bank, The Doyle Phillips Foundation, Saints Community Development Foundation, St Helens Borough Council and British Police Rugby League Team and have so many exciting plans for this year and beyond. I would like to highlight The Rugby League Fan Club for their unwavering support towards our club for sharing a lot of things we get up to.

We have recently been interviewed on BBC Radio Merseyside, appeared in The Guide Liverpool, local magazines and papers and accepted an offer from Sport England Club Matters to feature as a National Case Study, detailing our growth, our commitment to working alongside the community and how our club will be highlighted across the country as 'best practice' – not just within community rugby league, but all community sports. Furthermore, we have been invited to speak at an Inclusive, Culture and Values seminar with the workforce of professional sporting bodies such as the Rugby Football League, England football team, England and Wales Cricket Board and England Netball amongst others. Little old Portico Vine!

This is just a tiny snapshot of what is happening behind the scenes, all led by selfless volunteers in their spare time. We continue to review our policies and practices, learn from each other, support each other, yet remain committed to ensuring every child has the right to shine. We are really keen to get our children more heavily involved in running the club this year. Here's to 2023.

MARK HOBIN

Chair

Portico Vine ARLFC

ECCLESTON LANE ENDS BOWLS CLUB

At last, 2022 provided us with a bowling season free of Covid restrictions and rules.

The year started with an early problem. Our AGM, due in February, had to be cancelled at short notice as the venue we had booked became unavailable and it proved impossible to find another location in time. Consequently, we had to improvise by holding an unofficial meeting on the day we opened the green for the season. Not an ideal situation but we managed and were fortunate that the weather was fine for our al fresco meeting.

Once again, our 'Green Team' had prepared an excellent playing surface and the season progressed very well.

In May, we held a 'Bowl for Health' course, promoted by Merseyside Sport. This consisted of eight Friday morning sessions designed to encourage non bowlers to come along and learn how to bowl. It also provided an opportunity for people to enjoy an outdoor sport and to socialise. The sessions were well attended and only one was rain affected. As in previous years, several of the attendees went on to become club members. We are very grateful to those of our members who gave their time helping to make this a success. Hopefully, we will continue again in 2023.

Following on from this project, we developed the Friday mornings into a Social Bowling programme whereby those bowlers who didn't wish to bowl competitively were able to get together regularly.

During the year we organised three club competitions. One singles and two pairs, where the winners were awarded a prize and a trophy. All three were very well supported and all blessed with fine weather. Our final competition was in aid of Willowbrook Hospice, our chosen charity, for which we were able to donate £400.

It was a successful year for our league teams. Three trophies won, two teams gaining promotion. All the teams, including our ladies, finishing well up in their divisions.

Weather wise it was a very hot, dry season and by the end of September the grass was looking very yellow, however, by December, good care and attention had it looking as pristine as ever.

We are always looking to welcome new members into our happy, friendly group, whether competent bowlers or beginners.

For further information please contact:

Steve Roberts 07855275718 or Ian Gray 07889693648.

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 clrmhaw@sthelens.gov.uk.

PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB BOWLING SECTION

I am delighted to report that the club has had a very successful year since I last told you about our activities. Thanks to the hard work of our maintenance team our green grew well and was a delight to play on, despite the weeks of drought that we all experienced. We have held the usual enjoyable Scrambles and had a great time at the Annual Dinner. Social bowling on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon continued to be well supported and our teams in the Churches' League and the Pensioners' League acquitted themselves well.

A new venture was to sign the club up to a Merseyside Sport initiative called Bowl for Health. The idea behind this was to help bowling clubs attract and teach people who had never played bowls before. Increased membership would be good for clubs and increased exercise in the open air in the company of like-minded people would be good for those who signed up. The organisers provided help with publicity and even lent clubs sets of bowls for the new players to borrow. The course was supposed to last 6 weeks and we decided to hold it on Wednesday afternoons. They enjoyed themselves so much that they all went on playing long after 6 weeks was up, and we now have social bowling on three afternoons a week not just two! The club is indebted to the existing members who gave up their time to run the course, and what's more they are planning on doing it again this year.

If you fancy learning how to play and getting to know some new people at the same time either look out for notices publicising this year's course or, if you don't want to wait for that, just turn up at the green (down the track leading to the Cricket Club on Burrows Lane) at about 1.30 on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday after the green opens on 25th March. You will be very welcome!

JUDITH JOHNSON

Chair, POCC Bowls Section

PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB

The club has three adult teams playing on Saturday and Sunday. We have a thriving Junior Section which meets at De La Salle school on Wednesday at 6pm in the winter and at our ground in Burrows Lane in the summer. New members are always welcome, just call the Chair, Howard Nulty on 07786 073355.

We are setting up a ladies' team in April. Again, if you want to take part just call. We have all of the equipment necessary and we have coaching sessions. All abilities are very welcome.

We also have a lot of activity days with an NHS day on May 7th when the Club takes on a team from Whiston Hospital. There will be bouncy castles and stalls and the bar will be open.

We will be holding car boot sales on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from April onwards. Keep a look out for our Facebook page.

We hire out the venue for parties. The grounds of the Club are a beautiful setting for a wedding or birthday party with or without a marquee. The bar is open every Saturday from April 15th from 2pm to late. We allow supervised children to use the bouncy castles whilst mum and dad relax.

Come down for a look around – you won't be disappointed!

HOWARD NULTY

Chair

BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bleak Hill is a successful, vibrant school, a school where children come first. Our children are excited to learn, are kind, polite and supportive of one another. We have a highly motivated, resourceful and committed team of staff and governors who care about and nurture the needs of every child.

Curriculum: We craft and teach an engaging, broad and balanced curriculum with exciting learning journeys and opportunities that build on the children's interests and stimulate and deepen their understanding. We intend to prepare our children socially, spiritually, and academically so that when they leave us, they have a lifelong love of learning and take our Bleak Hill Values into the wider world.

Culture Capital: Cultural capital is the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that a child can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence. We plan carefully for children to have progressively richer experiences throughout their school life at Bleak Hill. Recently this included a WHOLE SCHOOL trip to Chester Zoo, where every year group planned focused activities for the children. It was an amazing experience and the children have applied their new learning in many ways! Throughout the year we carefully plan a range of trips and in-school visitors to enhance the children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world!

Extra-curricular Offer: Our learning continues beyond the classroom and the normal school day, as we offer a variety of extra-curricular clubs. There are a variety of clubs on offer throughout the year, some are offered exclusively to particular year groups (based on age or specific curriculum focus) whereas others are open to all year groups. We offer clubs from judo to dance, brass instruments to

board games and musical theatre to gymnastics – there is something for everyone!

You are very welcome to come and visit us and please visit our website for more information!

We have a range of events throughout the year including events run by our brilliant 'Friends of Bleak Hill' such as our upcoming Summer Gala!

MRS M LAWRENSON

Headteacher



WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

Willowbrook Hospice is an independent UK charity formed in 1993 to establish and create a local, specialist palliative care unit for our community in St Helens and Knowsley. To date, we have provided care, compassion, comfort, love, laughter and warmth to over 10,000 residents.

Willowbrook instils a holistic approach to the care we provide to our patients and their families. We don't just care for a person's physical needs but also for their emotional, spiritual and social needs too.

As a Charity, we make no charge for our services but rely on our own fundraising efforts and a modest contribution from the NHS. Our care is free to patients but is not free to provide.

In 2021, it cost £4.8m to run the Hospice Organisation. We are part-funded by the NHS who make a significant contribution but, unfortunately it still leaves us to generate more than half of the costs with generous donations from the public and our own fundraising efforts to raise the remainder.

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)

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Volunteer** – If you have time to spare, could you give up a few hours a week to be a volunteer? We have various roles needing extra support. We could not offer the vast range of services, facilities and the special care that we do for patients, carers and families without the support of our army of volunteers.
- **Compassionate Neighbours** – The Compassionate Neighbours scheme aims to combat loneliness and isolation through training

volunteers to support members of our community who are living with poverty or ill-health.

- **Willowbrook Hospice Lottery** – Playing our lottery is a fantastic way to help support the work we do at the Willowbrook Hospice. Give your support to Willowbrook and, if your numbers come in, get something in return! All it costs is £1 per week!
- **Support Us** – visit our shops and make purchases, make a cash or goods donation – have a clear out and pass us your preloved goods so we can sell them in our shops. All money raised from our shops goes back to the Hospice.

For more information please contact the Fundraising Team by 01744 453798 or events@willowbrookhospice.org.uk or visit our website www.willowbrook.org.uk

DE LA SALLE SCHOOL

This year at De La Salle has seen life starting to return to normal after 2 years of pandemic and disruption to learning. It is easy for us, as adults, to frame things as going back to normal but for many young people they don't know 'normal'. The formative years of their life have been during one of the most disruptive events since the Second World War.

So, in school, we have been keen to help students to adjust following the disruption. This takes many forms from restarting many of our trips, activities and extra-curricular activities, to ensuring that in lessons we routinely check for those gaps in learning and knowledge that the pandemic might have caused, right the way through to rebuilding that sense of Lasallian community and belonging.

The impact of all this hard work has been to see our attendance to school start to rise and students enjoying their lessons and the wider experience of student life. Enjoying those magical opportunities we are trying to create.

MR A RANNARD

Headteacher

ECCLESTON MERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

When reflecting on the last 12 months, I feel very privileged to have led our remarkable school. We had another busy, enriching and memorable year at Eccleston Mere – here is just a snapshot of our ‘Year in View’:

London Visit / Commemorating the Queen

Last year, it was an honour to mark the Platinum Jubilee and life of Queen Elizabeth in school, sharing these historic moments with pupils. In Spring, we took part in the Tower of London ‘Superbloom’ project, culminating in a visit to the Tower of London (as well as other sights).

Citizens of the Future

With a keen eye on the future, pupils have taken part in a Careers Fayre, as well as ‘Learning to Work’ and ‘Money Matters’ workshops. Children have learned about careers, mortgages, savings, earnings and debt.

Developing our School Building

We continue to ensure that our school is state-of-the art and inviting for our pupils. Last year, our new Early Years outdoor space was installed, whilst new wall wraps brightened our corridors and laptop computers were invested in. Next, we will be replacing our trim trail, upgrading our Nursery outdoor space, and investing in our library.

Curriculum Enrichments

We take great pride in the breadth of our curriculum and in our extra-curricular offer. To develop this, we have begun Forest School sessions with each class now accessing structured outdoor learning time. Beyond the curriculum, our choir have performed at the Manchester Arena and within our own community. In sport, we have competed across a number of areas, with much enjoyment (and success).

Supporting our Community

We are proud to support various local charities, whilst maintaining good links with our local churches. We have raised funds to support vulnerable families and now have the Mental Health Support Team working alongside us, to ensure the emotional wellbeing of our children and families.

Moving forwards...

Following the success of our open days in autumn, we look forward to welcoming our next generation of 'Eccy Merers' into our school family, as we continue to develop with drive, determination and care.

MR R MUGAN

Headteacher



The poster is dark grey with white text and icons. It features the Merseyside Police crest at the top left. Below it, the word 'Community' is in a small font, and 'first' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the text are five icons: a computer mouse, a Twitter bird, a Facebook 'f', a telephone handset, and a mobile phone handset. To the right of each icon is a corresponding heading and text.

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

CARMEL COLLEGE

ROAD SAFETY

The Chair of Eccleston Parish Council recently met with students from Carmel College and officers from Highways at St Helens Borough Council to highlight road safety issues, including speed limits, in the area particularly the bend on Prescott Road. Highways will look in to this matter.



"We are not the type to sit and let problems affect us, and as the voice of the students in Carmel College we plan to raise awareness of not just the safety of the students and staff, but also the people in Eccleston through a road safety charity fundraising event."

Quote from the Student President at Carmel College.

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

Children's activities taking place at Eccleston Library:

Every Tuesday and Friday mornings 10.30am-11.00am there is Read and Rhyme time for the under 5 years, no booking required.

On a Monday, there is also a Baby Read and Rhyme time – one session from 10.30-11.00am and another session starts at 11.30-12 noon. These sessions are aimed at under 2-year-olds. Please be advised these sessions need to be booked in advance and are in blocks of 6 weeks.

All the sessions are free

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

ST JAMES WITH ST MATTHEW'S

Emerging out of the covid lockdowns, St James with St Matthew's had to make some stark financial choices about how to continue to offer Christian ministry and mission in our communities. PCC took the decision to sell the dilapidated hall to the rear of St James, and to promote the re-ordered church building of St James for more community use. Up at St Matthew's we have been able to attract funding to enable us to better serve the community by opening a food pantry, and also by opening a pre-school day nursery focused on early intervention and ensuring school-readiness for all our children.

St James has also been busy celebrating its Centenary! You may have noticed the banner outside church – we've held a number of events during this last year, and we have a great range of history and information on display inside church currently.

We are delighted that our focus for the year ahead is centred around growing all of our work with children and families, as well as growing our presence within the two schools in our parish – Eccleston Lane Ends Primary and Nutgrove Methodist School. New families are loving our Cafe Church (10am on the 4th Sunday each month), and 2022 saw a record number of Christenings as many families hadn't been able to arrange one previously due to covid!

Looking ahead, we're planning a Coronation Afternoon Tea at St James in the week leading up to King Charles' Coronation, so watch out for confirmation of date and time in the weeks ahead. Check out our website www.stjameseccleston.org or look for posters on the church railings. If you're interested in using our space for your community event or activity, please don't hesitate to contact us via the website above.

By the time you receive this through your letterbox it may well be Easter, so – may you know the blessing of the Risen Christ in your life today and always.

REV HELEN COFFEY

NO BAKE - CHOCOLATE BISCUIT CAKE

Ingredients

225g Butter
150 ml Golden Syrup
225g Chocolate
200g Digestive biscuits
200g Rich Tea biscuits
1 packet Maltesers



Method

Firstly, line a 6-inch round cake tin with a double layer of greaseproof paper.

1. Melt the butter, syrup and chocolate in a basin over a pan of boiling water on a low heat. Stir it well to ensure everything is dissolved thoroughly.
2. Break up the biscuits and add the contents of the Malteser bag with the biscuits into the mixture, combine and stir the mixture well.
3. Transfer the mixture into the prepared cake tin. Level the mixture and bang the tin onto the work surface to ensure that the mixture is level. Ensure there are no air gaps. Cover and leave. If you want any sprinkles, now is the time to add them.
4. Allow the mixture to go cold, it will harden up, then you can enjoy. It keeps well in the fridge if well wrapped up.

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	2022-2023	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

07706 022171

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	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: 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 Hospice	01744 453798 0151 430 8736
LESTER DRIVE CENTRE Mrs Martlew	01744 26813
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU Millennium Centre, Corporation Street	03448 269 694

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

THE HISTORY OF THE SMITHY



The Smithy Heritage Centre was once a busy blacksmith's forge and a focal point of Ecclestone village. It was both a blacksmith's forge and a wheelwright's shop combined on a much bigger site to meet the demand of the area and outlying farms.

It was transformed by Ecclestone Parish Council into a local history museum dedicated to the heritage of Ecclestone. Although it is only small, the Curators strive to cram in as much variety as possible to bring history to life.

The site has evolved over the centuries. The building is now much smaller than it was in its heyday and in a slightly different location.

It stood directly on the junction of Kiln Lane and Millbrook Lane until it was moved stone-by-stone in the 1930s to make way for a library (now Ecclestone Village Hall). It was scaled down when it was rebuilt, using the original red sandstone blocks from Taylor Park quarry.

