

**ECCLESTON
PARISH COUNCIL
MAGAZINE
2023 – 2024**



**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

Yet another year has passed by and the Parish Council has been as busy as ever. We own Ecclestone Village Hall and Smithy Heritage Centre. We employ 5 members of staff: 2 part time Curators, 2 part time Caretakers – one for the Village Hall and one for Ecclesfield; and a part time Clerk.

The Smithy Curators, Joanne and Vicky, do a magnificent job in putting on exhibitions and events such as Blacksmith's Day and Heritage Weekend which includes the bake-off competition. They also carry out talks to community groups and engage with schools. We encourage residents to get involved in the Smithy as volunteers to promote activities and keep it moving forward.

The Village Hall and Smithy Museum are excellent facilities for Ecclestone and we aim to continue to provide a good service to all individual users and groups.

The Parish Council acts as custodian trustee for the Lester Drive Centre. This means that Parish Council is represented on the Committee that manages the Centre. The Parish Council support the work of the Committee and encourage groups to use the Centre.

In November, on Remembrance Day, Councillors attended the War Memorial at the end of Burrows Lane, to lay a poppy wreath and remember those who lost their lives in battle.

In December it was the lighting of the Christmas tree in Ecclestone Library. Children from St Julies School came along to entertain everyone with Christmas carols. Thank you to Rainforde's Christmas Tree Land for kindly supplying the tree once again.

Thanks also to the library staff for decorating the tree and making everyone so welcome.

The same day children from Eccleston Lane Ends sang at the lighting of the Christmas tree on St Helens Road.

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

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

A thank you also goes to our Smithy Curators, Vicky and Joanne; to Bob our Caretaker of Ecclesfield; to Lisa who keeps the Village Hall and Smithy complex clean and tidy and to Janet, our Clerk, who ensures the Parish Council runs smoothly.

Warmest regards

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS

CHAIR

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL'S
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday 5 December 2024

11am

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

Please check details with the library nearer the time

PARISH COUNCILLORS

West Ward

Cllr Anita Ashcroft QPM

c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Cllr Phil Cass

49 Lowther Crescent, Eccleston Hill

07813 153522

Cllr V Taylor

60 Houghtons Lane, Eccleston

c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

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

c/o ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

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 2024-2025

Please check the agenda before the meeting*

23 April 2024	Annual Parish Meeting
14 May 2024	Parish Annual Meeting
11 June 2024	Parish Council
9 July 2024	Parish Council
10 September 2024	Parish Council
8 October 2024	Parish Council
12 November 2024	Parish Council
10 December 2024	Parish Council
14 January 2025	Parish Council
11 February 2025	Parish Council
11 March 2025	Parish Council
8 April 2025	Parish Council

* Copies of the agenda are posted on the two Parish Council noticeboards – 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 ecclestonpc.org.uk.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ELECTORS for the Parish of Eccleston are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 23 April 2024 at 7.30pm in Eccleston Village Hall.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of a Chair for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2023
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2023
- 4 Township affairs

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS
CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

WITH COSTS OF PRINTING AND DELIVERING IN MIND, ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL ARE CONSIDERING PUBLISHING NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MAGAZINE ON THEIR WEBSITE ONLY.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TO LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION – WHETHER YOU WOULD PREFER ONLINE ONLY OR WOULD YOU RATHER RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE.

Please contact ecclestonpc@hotmail.com or any your Councillors.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2023

The following statement represents the financial position of Eccleston Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 1 April 2022-31 March 2023:

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£
Precept	59,282
Administration	4,913
Ecclesfield	916
Hall Charges	6214
Smithy	760
Total	72,085

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Administration	41,175
Ecclesfield	4,160
Village Hall	14,809
Smithy	7,140
Open Spaces	1,730
Grants	650
VAT payments	2,330
Total	71,994

In summary

Brought forward 1 April 2022	51,175
Plus receipts	72,085
Less expenditure	71,994
Balance at 31 March 2023	£51,266

Janet Anderson
Clerk to Eccleston Parish Council

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 seventh 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 7pm

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

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.

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 over 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 to 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 16 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 Wednesday at 5.45pm.

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

PAPER FOXES ART

Thursday 4.00pm-7.00pm

Jayne is a freelance teacher/educator, artist and an Advisor for Trinity College Arts Award. She runs a 90 minute art class for children every Thursday from 4pm in the hall. The children who are currently attending range from 4 to 13/14 years old. They study famous artists, learn new techniques, like printmaking, watercolour painting, drawing skills etc and just have lots of fun.

As Paper Foxes Art is an Arts Award Centre, the children have the opportunity to achieve the Arts Award and some children are working on the first level – Discover.

There is currently a waiting list for the early class with a few places left in the later class 5.30pm-7.00pm. Contact Jayne for more information.

Email: Jaynem71@hotmail.co.uk

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'.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Sunday 7.00pm

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
MAKE DO AND MEND – 2024 EXHIBITION

When Britain went to war in 1939 it could have been the end of British fashion. Clothes were rationed from 1 June 1941. This limited the number of new garments people could buy.

A Utility clothing scheme was launched in 1942 and people began to take great care of how they spent their precious coupons. Purchases would have to be suitable for all four seasons and durable.

Despite the restrictions, the war and civilian austerity did not put an end to creative design, commercial opportunism or fashionable trends. Ladies became ever cleverer in how to use up every last scrap of material.

Accessories became incredibly important. By adding a bow to one shoe or a fake blouse or jumper (simply a section of a garment that, once added under a jacket, looked as if it was the entire thing) one had lots of outfits.

By the end of the war, British people had grown tired of rationing, restrictions and calls to 'Make Do and Mend'. Advertisements promised new styles but often shops lacked many new offerings. Production of clothes and other civilian goods did increase after the war, but most of what was made was exported. Clothes rationing, albeit in a reduced form, continued until 1949.

The Smithy Heritage Centre will be looking at this topic as part of this year's exhibition.

JOANNE CHAMBERLAIN
Joint Curator

THE SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE – LOOKING BACK AT 2023

2023 was a great year at the Smithy for making connections. Our exhibition *Forging a New Life: Stefan Skura, A Polish Migration Story* showcased a precious bundle of documents from Knowsley Archives, detailing one man's journey from blacksmith to soldier in the Polish II Corps. Then after the war, joining the Polish Resettlement Corps and adjusting to civilian life in Britain at a PRC camp at Knowsley Hall, starting work at BICC and finding love with a girl who worked at Pimblett's; Stefan married Betty Howard and they lived just a mile away from the Smithy.

The Education Room was filled with displays of WWII soldier's kit from Peter Tipping, Polish II Corps artefacts from



teacher Tomasz Stasiełowicz and artwork by pupils of John Paul II Polish Saturday School in Liverpool about Wojtek the Bear, a Polish II Corps mascot and decorated war hero.

A visitor who had come to chat to the craftspeople popped in to look around the Smithy and discovered that the exhibition was about his late uncle Steve – Stefan Skura! We have since put him in touch with Knowsley Archives to share information about his family.

There was glorious sunshine for our annual Blacksmith Day celebrations, with live demonstrations and displays of blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, wood turning, weaving and crochet, beekeeping and even a surprise performance from Mucky Mountains Morris dancers with the crowds joining in with the dancing.

We participated in the St Helens Borough of Culture programme, with a special display sharing Memories of Eccleston at St Helens Heritage Festival in the Town Hall alongside many other local heritage and culture societies. Thanks to support from St Helens Council, we received part-funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to deliver our Polish Heritage Open Days weekend events, with free traditional Polish crafts and Wojtek-themed activities including a Teddy Bears' Picnic and storytelling from Merseyside Polonia and John Paul II Polish Saturday School in Liverpool. We also had a fantastic field kitchen display from Frank and Angela of Pegasus WWII Reenactment so people could learn about food on the battlefield and the Home Front. Items from their fabulous collection will feature in the Smithy's 2024 exhibition.

The Great Eccleston Bake-off took place for the first time since 2019, with lots of delicious entries judged by Women's Institute St Helens. Jaine Riley's Coffee and Walnut took first prize, and Elizabeth Davies' Millionaire's Cake was declared the runner up, and also won Best Decorated Cake, voted for by visitors. We can't wait to see what everyone bakes this year!

VICKY GRIFFITHS

Joint Curator

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 12 November 2023, the Chair of Ecclestone 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 Ecclestone Parish and each Councillor read a prayer.

Many residents joined them at the statue.

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

ECCLESFIELD CHANGING FACILITY

The facility is jointly owned by Ecclestone Parish Council (70%) and Windle Parish Council (30%). Contributions from the two Parish Councils and fees from the football teams, fund the running of the changing facility.

At present, 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

Looking back over a school year, it is amazing to realise just how much the children at St Julie's experience and accomplish. Our Children's University graduation held annually in June at Liverpool Hope



University is always a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together to celebrate the many and varied achievements of each and every one of our children.

During the year St Julie's achieved several more external accreditations of which we are also extremely proud, and these reflect the rich curriculum we provide and the wider support and personal development our school offers.

Primary Science Quality Mark – Gilt Award

We were working towards the re-accreditation of our science curriculum award and in May achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt Award. This is a significant achievement acknowledging the consistently high standards of our science curriculum over time, the enthusiasm of the children for science, and the level that our children achieve in their science learning. Our learning in science and the teaching of science continues to go from strength to strength.

St Julie's Achieves Platinum!

In June we were delighted to announce that we achieved the School Games Platinum Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise school's engagement (provision and uptake) in the School Games

against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our physical activity and school sport achievements included football, rugby, boccia, athletics, gymnastics, New Age Kurling, dance, cricket, dodge ball, multi-skills, tennis, handball and netball.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport. We are committed to using the School Games to try and engage those young people who haven't previously been active or represented our school and to try to ensure that all our students have a positive experience and want to try out new activities beyond school too in our community.

Wellbeing Award for Schools

Our school also achieved the Wellbeing Award for Schools. The assessor visited us for a day and spent her time talking with children, staff and Governors and looking at all we do at St Julie's to promote the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils, staff and parents. I am proud to say that we achieved the award which recognises the range of support we have on offer throughout school, the focus on wellbeing that weaves throughout our curriculum and is at the heart of our school ethos. We are grateful to our Change Team and to the children who are our Wellbeing Ambassadors and worked so hard throughout the year towards achieving this award.

Live Simply Award

In July, Mrs McCahey – our RE lead, myself and a group of our St Julie's children met with the Cafod assessor to talk about our Live Simply journey and to discuss all the evidence that had been submitted. As always, our children spoke confidently about the many ways they have lived simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people in poverty. Following our discussion, we were told that we had achieved the Live Simply Award for St Julie's in recognition of all we do for our school, the local community and the global community.

MRS A HODGSON

Headteacher

BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bleak Hill is a successful, vibrant school, a school where children come first. We have a highly motivated, resourceful and committed team of staff and governors who care about and nurture the needs of every child. Bleak Hill is a large community school with an outstanding reputation and we believe that we are the school of choice in the area.

We have strong links with our feeder high school, Rainford High School, and have developed a successful transition for our children to move onto the next step of their educational journey. We also have links to our local church, St Andrews and Reverend Fran Nunn visits the school on a regular basis.

The Parish Council also link with us and attend several events throughout the year; so far they supported our Remembrance Day and our Christmas Tree Lighting event – it was lovely to see the parish councillors at school.

Our successful community extends to all our parents; we have an amazing and supportive parent body. Our fundraising group, Friends of Bleak Hill (FOBH) does a wonderful job each year raising much-needed money to further enhance what we offer at school. Recently they have provided school with iPads and laptops, a book vending machine, paid for a panto to visit the school and run events such as Tea with Santa and Bingo nights.

If you want to know more about our school, visit our website www.bleakhill.st-helens.sch.uk/ or contact us to arrange a visit if you are considering a place for your child.

HEADTEACHER

DE LA SALLE SCHOOL

Help Other People Eat (HOPE) Project

At De La Salle school, we run the HOPE project which operates in a similar way to a foodbank, providing food for the growing number of our families in severe need.

The project is overseen by our Chaplain, Sam, and involves volunteers from our staff alongside our students, including our youth SVP group. We have a dedicated storage and packaging space and the work takes place at lunchtimes and after school.

Our in-school volunteers work closely with the school's pastoral teams and other members of staff to make sure we're getting food out to families all of the time. We currently have a number of regular families on our database that get deliveries either every two weeks or every month. We also have families who get food on a one-off basis.

Our food cupboard does empty out quite regularly and we're always in need of supplies so sometimes have a little wait before we can add families to our regular round of deliveries!

Our service is very discrete, so you'd never see the team handing the parcels out, we have a team of adults from school who deliver the parcels directly to families.

In the run up to Christmas we worked particularly hard to ensure that those families in need receive extra treats within the food parcels such as nuts, chocolates and mini-luxuries. It was humbling to see the impact that our deliveries had on our families.

MR A RANNARD

Headteacher

ECCELESTON MERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a very busy twelve months at Eccleston Mere, filled with curiosity, enjoyment and kindness. Our school community has enjoyed many highlights during this period; some of which I will share here.

Eco-Schools – Ready, Steady, Green!

In Summer, St Helens Chamber visited our school, as part of the **'Ready, Steady, Green'** initiative, speaking to children and inspiring us on our journey to environmental sustainability.

Following on from the program our children went on to win the associated competition, which involved rewilding an area of our



school, so increasing biodiversity. We received a bug hotel, which now sits proudly in our school woodland.

Staying Healthy, Having Fun

Throughout the year at Eccleston Mere, we have promoted healthy choices. The St Helens Sports Development Team visited us in Summer, promoting healthy living through a series of taught sessions about diet, exercise and lifestyle. These sessions were complemented by practical, physical exercise.

We have also offered a range of different sporting opportunities to pupils, to increase engagement to all pupils. External providers have delivered rugby, squash and yoga sessions to pupils, on top of our core PE offer. This year for the first time, we have included Quidditch and Orienteering days, to add to the variety of activities on offer.

Positive mental health is so important today, as we navigate the challenges of modern life. As a school, we are also fortunate to have the Mental Health Support Team based within our school. The team offers mental health support to pupils, through assemblies, class work or more bespoke intervention, as required.

Community Enrichment and Citizenship

Throughout the year, we have maintained strong links with Christ Church in Eccleston. Reverend Sonya kindly visits our school to deliver assemblies and is always happy to receive our pupils for visits to church. This year, we have also visited the Ganesh Temple in Liverpool and have plans to next visit a mosque in Liverpool, as part of our efforts to develop cultural and religious awareness, to support our increasingly diverse school population.

We are very fortunate to have been very well-supported this year, by the St Vincent De Paul society, who have donated significant funds to purchase reading books for school, as well as a shed and summer house, to help us to develop a space for reflection in school. The society have also supported families in need, through a variety of means.

As a school, we have continued to raise money in support of local charities, through sponsored events and through our school choir. Our annual choir performance at the Seven Stars at Christmas time brought festive cheer to many.

We maintain strong links with our local high schools, with staff from Rainford High having delivered some sessions at our school; and also, having been invited to watch a performance there. Cowley High School and College A-level students performed a pantomime at our school in the summer, which was very well-received and enjoyed by all.

Debt-Aware and St Helens Chamber also continue to work closely with our pupils, ensuring that they are equipped as citizens to make their next steps on their journey, with a solid basis of understanding in terms of money management and careers.

Experiential Learning and Making Memories

Our vibrant curriculum is enhanced throughout the year, through a carefully planned series of visits and visitors. This year, our school visits and visitors have included a visit from a Stone Age Man; a Viking Day at Tatton Park; a Storybarn visit; a trip to Chester Zoo; and a Reception visit to Imagine That.

These experiences complement our rich tapestry of in school activities, including forest school provision. We know that our children will remember these visits fondly for years to come.

I can't wait to see what the next twelve months at the Mere brings!

MR R MUGAN

Headteacher

ECCLESTON LANE ENDS BOWLS CLUB

Finally, we have had a bowling season with none of the previous problems and complications. Over the last few years, the club has had to deal with a variety of setbacks. Firstly, from all the issues that COVID threw at us and then the concern over damage to the green during the long hot drought of 2022. But, as always, we coped and have at last enjoyed a trouble-free season.

Following the 2022 drought, the green itself was in very poor condition. There wasn't a blade of green grass. The playing surface was completely yellow and as hard as a rock. It took a lot of time and effort from our 'Green Team' to restore the surface to its normal

condition. Consequently, when we opened the season in late March, everything was back to normal.

Opening day was sunny and a good number of our members attended to officially open the green, have a pleasant game of bowls and catch up with friends after the winter.

April saw the start of our competitive leagues. In 2023 we were able to field five men's teams playing in the evenings, five senior's teams playing in the afternoon and two ladies' teams. Our 'Social Bowling' scene started at the same time. Social bowling allows those who only want to bowl for their own enjoyment, without the competition, to come along and meet with other like-minded people.

In early May we held the annual 'Bowl for Health' course over an eight week period. This project provides an opportunity for anyone to come along and learn how to bowl. It also provides them with an opportunity to get out in the fresh air and meet with other people. As in previous years, this was well supported and resulted in several becoming club members. We are very grateful to those of our club members who attended to mentor the clients and provide a very convivial atmosphere.

Our three main club competitions took place in June, August and September. As always, they were very well supported by entrants and spectators. This was particularly noticeable in August when the event took place in pouring rain and freezing wind.

Our league season was very successful with a total of six trophies won and four teams, including the ladies, promoted to a higher division. Bowling ceased in mid-October, but since then, much effort has been made by our volunteer 'Green Team'. They have given the playing surface its autumn maintenance, scarifying, spiking, tining and feeding. Hedges have been trimmed and greenside furniture repaired. Anything that didn't move got painted!

Everyone at the club appreciates the work done by our numerous volunteers.

If you would like to come and join us at this friendly club please contact:-

Ian Gray 07889693648 or Steve Roberts 07855275718

ECCLESTON COMMUNITY LITTER PICKERS

Eccleston based community litter picking group, 'Eccleston Community Litter Pickers', was created in 2019 to help keep the local green spaces, parks, streets and areas clean. The litter picks take place roughly every two weeks and volunteers old and new are welcome.

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.

THE LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

Cornerstone Church has been meeting regularly for a Sunday service at the Centre for a number of years. In 2022, when the cost of living crisis started to bite for many people, Pastor Graham approached the Committee with a simple question, what's in the garage? Cornerstone wanted to respond to the need they saw and heard about, to help support families and those in need, who were struggling with ever increasing prices as well as utilising good food that if not used would go to landfill. The Committee agreed the project complemented their charitable aims and together with Cornerstone started to develop the Cornerstone Food Pantry.

The Pantry has been running since August last year and has a wide mix of users and is also a place where people can meet up for a cup of tea or coffee on a Tuesday morning and receive a warm welcome.

WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE?			
Mon	Art Club 9am-12pm		Slimming World 4pm-8pm
Tues	Cornerstone Food Pantry 10am-1pm		Bridge Club 7.15pm
Wed	Beginners Bridge Club 9.30am-12pm		Board Gamers 5pm
Thurs			St.Helens Bridge 8pm
Fri	TaiChi 10am-12pm	U3A hand chimes group 2pm-4pm	
Sat			
Sun	Cornerstone Church 10am-12pm		

For more information please telephone 01744 26813 or e-mail: lesterdrivecentre@gmail.com



WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

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

Willowbrook instils a holistic approach to the care provided to patients and their families. The care is not just for a person's physical needs but also for their emotional, spiritual and social needs too.

Willowbrook Hospice relies on fundraising efforts and a modest contribution from the NHS. The care is free to patients but is not free to provide.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Volunteer** – If you have time to spare, could you give up a few hours a week to be a volunteer? There are various roles needing extra support.
- **Compassionate Neighbours** – The Compassionate Neighbours scheme aims to combat loneliness and isolation through training volunteers to support members of the community who are living with poverty or ill-health.
- **Willowbrook Hospice Lottery** – Playing the lottery is a fantastic way to help support the work done at the Willowbrook Hospice.
- **Support Us** – Visit the shops and make purchases, make a cash or goods donation – have a clear out and pass on your preloved goods so they can be sold 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

A SHORT HISTORY OF WEST PARK SCHOOL – (along with a few anecdotes)

De La Salle High School opened in 1987 as successor to West Park and Notre Dame schools.

There was already a Catholic girls' secondary school at Notre Dame Convent in North Road, when, in 1899, Father Hearne of Sacred Heart Church decided to establish similar provision for Catholic boys. He bought a house in St Georges Road for use as a schoolroom. Its



first headmaster, Mr J Carey, BA, LLB, was a gifted teacher, and, by 1902, there were 70 pupils. Although small grants were forthcoming from St Helens Education Committee, the school depended upon income from pupils' fees. In the final term of Mr Carey's headship, only 15 boys had paid them. This had not been the fault of the headmaster, who had onerous teaching and administrative duties. Financial difficulties caused the transfer of the school, in 1911, to the De La Salle Brothers.

Though they took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, the Brothers were not priests. They wore cassocks and clerical bands

when they were teaching. One Brother, who taught me, recounted that when they went out in an official capacity, Brothers had to wear clerical “dog collars.” While he was waiting for a train at Shaw Street, a woman pulled out rosary beads and asked him to bless them, calling him “Father.” After several failed attempts to explain that he was not a priest, he conceded defeat, and waved his hand over the beads, saying, in Latin: “Nemo dat quod non habet.” The woman thanked him, gratefully. The words actually meant: “No one can give what they don’t have.”

Whilst Secondary education had been free since 1902 in State schools, in a Catholic Secondary, pupils still had to pay. In 1913, the Brothers bought the adjacent West Park House as their residence. In 1915, the school roll stood at 112. After a full inspection by the Board of Education (the forerunner of the Department for Education) the school was able to award six scholarships (fees paid by a bursary) each year for new pupils. A new school opened in 1925 at a cost of £12,000, accommodating 250 boys. It received Direct Grant status (central government funding), more scholarships, and soon was allowed a Sixth Form. Eccleston Place, an adjacent property, was bought in 1929.

My father attended that school from 1937-43. He often reminisced about the hot water pipe that ran down the wall outside the headmaster’s office. Boys expecting a caning would “warm” their hands on what was popularly known as “Brother Kevin’s Totem Pole,” in an attempt to minimise the pain expected. The cane was still in use in my time at West Park. Though I had a few perilous moments, I escaped corporal punishment.

The 1944 Education Act gave a right to a free Grammar School education for children capable of benefitting from it. Pupil numbers surged. The school was now accountable to and funded by the Ministry of Education. Admission was by the new 11+ examination, though fee payers were still admitted.

Space was desperately short. In 1947, the school purchased sixteen acres, off Millbrook Lane, for use as sports pitches. By 1959 there were 500 boys in a building designed for 250. A move to the new site seemed inevitable, so fundraising began. A swimming pool was built off Millbrook Lane.

The new school, its entrance in Alder Hey Road, opened in mid-September 1965. Building it marked the end for Cook's Farm in Kiln Lane, which had already lost most of its land to residential development. The farm was soon demolished, replaced by a row of semi-detached houses. The old school was sold to Pilkington's.

I started at West Park in September 1967. I was in only the second cohort never to have been educated on the old site. Boys were bused in from adjacent towns. One of the school's alumni, the late actor Pete Postlethwaite, had come daily from Warrington. It was rumoured that one newly appointed member of staff used to follow the Widnes bus to the school until he had learned the route.

A new sixth form block opened in 1973, entirely of wooden construction. The headmaster, Brother Damian, stressed that there should not be any naked flame within the building, on pain of expulsion. The day after opening, he was showing the Chief Fire Officer for St Helens around the new building. They entered the common room to see, in a far corner, a cloud of bluish smoke rising from behind a high backed chair, only to discover a pupil, with his feet up, smoking a large cigar. He had to leave.

Comprehensive education was introduced gradually to the school. In a reorganisation of Catholic Secondary Education, West Park and Notre Dame merged, as De La Salle High, for 11-16 year olds. Of the West Park complex, only the former Brothers' House remains, part of St John's House, a retirement home for De La Salle Brothers. Much of the site was developed into housing, though some playing fields were retained.

The demolition of the main building was unsurprising. It had a sunken hall. A chapel, with sliding doors, stood at one end, a stage at the other. A spring under the chapel was thought to have been capped successfully before building started. It had not. In persistent, heavy rain, the hall would flood, resulting in the joke that West Park had two swimming pools.

The playing fields were often waterlogged in winter. The original route of Mill Brook had been parallel with Millbrook Lane, crossing Kiln Lane in front of where the Village Hall now stands. It had been culverted, but the pitches over it flooded persistently. Historically, the brook had an additional channel cut, to increase the flow from Mill Dam. The channel later served as the boundary between West Park and Notre Dame schools. During the summer, when pupils from both schools were allowed onto the fields, each bank was patrolled by teachers, to discourage jumping across. Now we have a mixed school, De La Salle. How times change!

COUNCILLOR FRANCIS WILLIAMS

PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY CRICKET CLUB BOWLING SECTION

I am pleased to report that our club has had a very successful and enjoyable season of bowling on our beautiful green just down Burrows Lane. It certainly has been a beautiful green this year, with immaculate grass, thanks to the hard work of our maintenance team.

Two years ago, we ran an introductory course called Bowl for Health, promoted by Merseyside Sport, for anyone wishing to try their hand at crown-green bowling and as a result we acquired quite a few new members. We ran the same course again last year and yet more people were introduced to the pleasure of a sunny afternoon of mild exercise with congenial company – not to mention tea and biscuits! We will be running the course yet again this year so if anyone is thinking of joining us, do come along to find out more. The green opens at Easter and you should find people there enjoying an

afternoon's bowling any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 1.30pm onwards. These are purely social afternoons but for anyone with a competitive edge we do have two teams in the Pensioners' League (men only) and one in the Churches' League (mixed). Results are mixed, but we enjoy ourselves!

Twice a year we have a Scramble, occasions when everyone comes together for light-hearted rivalry and delicious food provided by members. Then in November we have our Annual Dinner which has been at The Stanley Arms ever since it was first organised back in 2014. This year it was so well attended that we had to take over the dining room instead of the Conservatory and everyone had the time of their lives singing along to our wonderful in-house entertainment.

I have already referred to our maintenance team who look after the green so well for us, and anyone joining us is most welcome to come along on a Wednesday morning and mow and trim and weed. Sounds like hard work? Yes, it is, but there is also laughter and friendship and yes, you've guessed it, tea and biscuits.

Do think about coming to join us. It will help you keep fit and introduce you to new friends. Remember, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after Easter. See you then!

JUDITH JOHNSON

Chair, POCC Bowls Section

BLEAK HILL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Bleak Hill Rovers junior football teams have been playing on Ecclesfield for over 45 years with each weekend nearly 400 youngsters enjoying the "beautiful game" plus about 70 dedicated coaches and volunteers who make this possible. We are now one of the biggest junior clubs in Merseyside and take up nearly all the available pitches on Ecclesfield every Saturday and Sunday.

Our philosophy remains quite different from most junior clubs in the area as we endeavour to let all youngsters learn how to play football irrespective of their ability. Naturally we want our teams to win but we feel it is more important that youngsters are able to play with their “mates” rather than be judged on their footballing abilities.

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

Our coaches give up many hours each week to help youngsters play soccer each week. Not only do they spend hours each weekend at matches but give up their time in weekly training sessions and completing the administration tasks that are now demanded by the FA and Leagues.

Now we have access to the container on Ecclesfield we have a safe storage facility for the large amount of equipment needed to set up the pitches each week.

Over the last two months we have been hampered by the bad weather as pitches have been unplayable but, fortunately, we have been able to train on the astro pitch at De La Salle School.

In June we will be holding a “Gala Fun Day” at De La Salle when all our teams will be playing friendly matches. This is an ideal opportunity to celebrate a club which is at the heart of our community. Why not come and join us?

If you want to know more about us then please get in touch via our website www.bleakhillrovers.com.

CYRIL BARRATT

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

We have a wide range of activities at Eccleston Library for everyone.

Children's activities include:

Every Tuesday and Friday 10.30-11.00am join us in the library with your child. We will introduce them to books, rhymes, music and other fun activities. Let your child's imagination take flight with our fun session. No booking required.

On a Monday we have a Baby Read and Rhyme session. This session starts is 11.00-11.30am and is aimed for babies under 12 months. Please be advised these sessions need to be booked in advance and are for a 6-week block.

Reading groups for adults

We have some space in our reading group on the 2nd Thursday of the month 2.00pm-3.00pm.

All the above sessions are free.

With your library card you have 24/7 free access to our digital services. You can access eBooks, eAudiobooks, newspapers and magazines via the Borrow Box service.

We have 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 e services straight away.

Please check us out on Facebook and X for up-and-coming events at Eccleston Library.



Local history resources for St Helens continue to be available for all at Eccleston Community Library. The resources include books, maps and electoral registers as well as a new microfilm scanner, making it easier to access and use historic newspapers and other records. Library staff are on hand to assist with any local history enquiries.

Eccleston Library new opening hours:

Monday 10.00am-5.00pm

Tuesday 10.00am-5.00pm

Thursday 10.00am-5.00pm

Friday 10.00am-5.00pm



REPORT ONLINE
www.merseyside.police.uk

REPORT ON TWITTER
@MerPoICC

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

GOAT'S CHEESE AND CARAMELISED RED ONION TARTLETS

Ingredients

220g / 7oz of plain flour

125g / 4oz butter

A little cold water to bind

4 large red onions, cut into quarters

1 tablespoon brown sugar

Olive oil

1 tablespoon good balsamic vinegar

200g / 7oz goat's cheese

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200C/400F/Gas Mark 6 and lightly grease 2 x 12 shallow cupcake or bun trays.
2. Mix onions with the sugar, olive oil and spread onto a baking tray, lined in parchment. Bake for approximately 15-20 minutes.
3. For the short crust pastry, in a large bowl, pour in the sieved flour and grate the butter. Using your fingertips, rub it in until it resembles crumbs. Then add the water to bind it together. About 3-4 tablespoons should suffice, but use more if needed. Use a fork to bind the mixture together.
4. Turn out the dough, and lightly knead it, then put it in the fridge to rest and chill for 30 minutes.
5. Roll out the chilled pastry with a rolling pin until its quite thin. It will rise slightly during baking. Cut the pastry using a cutter and place it in the greased tins and prick the bottoms with a fork.
7. Put the pastry cases in the oven, on the top shelf for no more than 15 minutes. Bake blind.
8. After removing them from the oven, add the onion and balsamic filling, and top with the goats cheese rounds. Bake for a further 5 minutes. You can add a little extra balsamic vinegar if you like. A few dried chilli flakes go well with this too.

These tartlets go very well with a nice mixed salad.

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	2022-2024	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	0151 426 6421
St Julie RC Church, Howards Lane, Eccleston	01744 28196

SCHOOLS

Bleak Hill Primary, Hamilton Road, Windle Head: Mr McCoy	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	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

ST HELENS ROAD CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Parish Council was delighted to invite Eccleston Lane Ends School to the Christmas tree lighting on St Helens Road.

On a cold and very wet afternoon, the children came along and sang their hearts out in the pouring rain.

They sang lovely modern Christmas songs before the big count down to the lighting of the tree.



Parish Councillors would like to thank staff and children from Eccleston Lane Ends School for braving the weather and attending to mark the start of the festive season.