

**ECCLESTON
PARISH COUNCIL
MAGAZINE
2024 – 2025**



**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

It is hard to believe that 12 months have passed since I last put pen to paper to give you an overview of the day-to-day business conducted by Ecclestone Parish Council on your behalf.

We own Ecclestone Village Hall which is hired out to many groups and for parties. We also have the Smithy Heritage Centre and employ 2 part time curators, Joanne and Vicky, who do a magnificent job in putting on exhibitions, activities, individual talks to community groups, engaging with schools, the list goes on. The Curators are as busy as ever putting together superb exhibitions, many new this year, whilst also planning "Blacksmith's Day" and "Heritage Weekend" – we are extremely fortunate to have two dedicated Curators, who are constantly exploring new initiatives for our Smithy.

We also share the responsibility for Ecclesfield Changing Rooms with Windle Parish Council and a committee made up of Ecclestone and Windle Parish Councillors oversees the hiring of pitches for football teams and the maintenance of the changing rooms.

Additionally, Ecclestone Parish Council maintain 6 open spaces leased from St Helens Borough Council – Kiln Lane, Ansdell Drive, Clarke's Crescent, Saleswood Avenue, Gillars Green (behind the shops) and Millwood Avenue.

The above gives you a brief insight into the workings of Ecclestone Parish Council and I cannot thank enough my colleagues on the Parish Council for their total commitment to Ecclestone – and a huge thank you also to Bob who is the Caretaker for the Ecclesfield

Changing Rooms, Lisa our Village Hall Caretaker and Janet our Clerk who gets on with keeping all the plates in the air!

On a sad note, one of our serving Parish Councillors, Brian Spencer passed away in December. Brian was extremely knowledgeable about St Helens and worked hard as both Sutton Ward Councillor and Eccleston Parish Councillor.

Warmest Regards

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS
CHAIR
ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL'S
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday 4 December 2025

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

12 Hill School Road, Eccleston Hill

07813 153522

East Ward

Cllr Michael Haw

4 Linden Way, Eccleston

07837 759432

Cllr Peter Johnson

7 Portico Avenue, Eccleston Park

07736 476951

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

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. Some meetings are held at Portico Vine Rugby Club, Scholes Lane.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2025-2026

Please check the agenda before the meeting for the meeting location*

22 April 2025	Annual Parish Meeting
13 May 2025	Parish Annual Meeting
10 June 2025	Parish Council
8 July 2025	Parish Council
9 September 2025	Parish Council
14 October 2025	Parish Council
11 November 2025	Parish Council
9 December 2025	Parish Council
13 January 2026	Parish Council
10 February 2026	Parish Council
10 March 2026	Parish Council
14 April 2026	Parish Council

* Copies of the agenda are posted on the Parish Council website. Minutes of meetings can also be found on the website ecclestonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ELECTORS for the Parish of Ecclestone are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on TUESDAY 22 April 2025 at 7.30pm in Ecclestone Village Hall.

AGENDA

- 1 Election of a Chair for the meeting
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 April 2024
- 3 Financial statement of receipts and expenditure to March 2024
- 4 Township affairs

COUNCILLOR TERESA SIMS
CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2024

The following statement represents the financial position of Eccleston Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024:

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£
Precept	78,504
Administration	6,468
Ecclesfield	13,982
Hall Charges	6720
Smithy	1031
Smithy Grant	398
Total	107,103

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Administration	39,333
Ecclesfield	12,673
Village Hall	14,112
Smithy	7,961
Open Spaces	23,678
Grants	800
VAT payments	6,343
Total	104,900

In summary

Brought forward 1 April 2023	51,266
Plus receipts	107,103
Less expenditure	104,900
Balance at 31 March 2024	£53,469

Janet Anderson
Clerk to Eccleston Parish Council

ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL – USER GROUPS

Please contact the groups individually for more information.

Currently the following groups are using the hall:

MULTIFIT PILATES

2 classes on a Monday evening – Mat Pilates & Yin Yoga

6.30pm-7.20pm

Mat Pilates Classes by Gina or Laura

Our Mat Pilates class is a dynamic and comprehensive approach to core strength, flexibility and body awareness, enhanced by using resistance bands, foam rollers and Pilates circles (*also known as magic circles*). In this class, we'll focus on the fundamental principles of Pilates while incorporating these tools to add variety, challenge or assistance to certain exercises. You'll learn how to engage your core, improve posture and enhance overall body strength using these versatile tools. The Mat Pilates class is suitable for all levels, from beginners to experienced individuals, making it an ideal choice for those who prefer a holistic approach to Pilates.

7.30pm-8.20pm

Yoga by Abbie

Yin Yoga poses apply moderate stress to the connective tissues of the body – the tendons, fasciae and ligaments – with the aim of increasing circulation in the joints and improving flexibility. A more meditative approach to yoga, its goals are awareness of inner silence and bringing to light a universal, interconnecting quality.

The last Monday of the month incorporates soundbath bowls. The blissful sounds will leave you fully relaxed and floating out the door for a restful night's sleep

Both classes are suitable for all ages and abilities

If you have any questions, please contact Laura 07841 205479

Or check our website for more details.

www.multifitpilates.co.uk

SLIMMING WORLD

Fridays at 9.00am

Tracy Potter has enjoyed her role as consultant for 17 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 Friday at 9.00am.

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

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 information call Geoff on 07721 009418 or just come along.

MATHS CENTRE

Saturday 8.30am-1.00pm

The Eccleston Maths Centre has been offering small group sessions for over seven 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

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 – 07825 686297

FB- Ellen Murray – Mindset and Empowerment Coach

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PROJECTS GRANT

The Eccleston Parish Council Community Projects Grant is a new grant to fund projects that benefit the Eccleston Community. Organisations can apply for funding and the Parish Council will decide how to award the money from their budget.

The payment of a grant can be made to:

- Community bodies and organisations
- Individuals
- Schools, colleges.

Grants can be used to fund different projects or activities in the community which support the work and aims of Eccleston Parish Council. Projects must fit in with Eccleston Parish Council priorities, particularly 'better lives for all' and 'stronger communities'.

Some examples of what the Projects Grants can fund include:

- Provision of equipment, such as sports equipment, play equipment and computer hardware
- Funding towards costs of community events/activities such as: advertising and publicity, equipment, materials and transport
- Repair or refurbishment of equipment or property which will benefit the community
- Activities to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable or isolated people, such as outings, clubs, health and fitness.

For further information please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council:
ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

THE SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE – LOOKING BACK AT 2024

For the 2024 Smithy season, the building was filled with a stunning selection of World War Two-era clothing and accessories belonging to Angela Brown of Pegasus WW2 Displays. ***Keeping Up Appearances*** showed how people adapted to restrictions, reusing and reworking garments and the quality of rationed fashions.

In May, the sun shone on our annual ***Blacksmith's Day***, the real ale and cider flowed and the anvil rang. As ever, our Tea Room tables were groaning under the weight of delicious cakes and our urn was bubbling away. Father and son, wheelwright and blacksmith, Phill and Aaron showed their skills, green wood turner Paula invited visitors to try her lathe, Rose brought her weaving looms, Molly taught people to crochet and stonemason Ken Hughes treated us to a fabulous demonstration of his art.



The Smithy Heritage Centre had a display at St Helens Heritage Festival at the Town Hall.



In August, Angela gave a talk at our private view and the Smithy was packed to the rafters with visitors. She led the group around telling the stories behind her items, including a dress made of a knitted vest and lace curtains, outlandish hats (which were not subject to restrictions), glamorous wooden-soled slingbacks which were technically classed as clogs and therefore off-ration and a comparison of a British wartime

wedding dress and deluxe American one; Angela wore the delicate American blown-glass headdress and veil for her own wedding. Everyone was astonished by the scope of her knowledge and collection – the items on display were just a drop in the ocean! Refreshments for the event were kindly supplied by Royal British Legion.

Heritage Open Weekend, the grand finale of the season took its inspiration from wartime resourcefulness – ***Make Do and Mend at the Smithy***. Curators Joanne and Vicky cooked an array of food for people to try, using original recipes devised to include alternative ingredients to make rations go further, which essentially meant adding either potatoes or carrots for starchy bulk or sweetness. Visitors could also “dig for victory” and plant vegetable seedlings to take home and grow lettuce, cauliflower and beetroot.

The 9th Great Eccleston Bake-off was a great success and the expert judging panel, Women's Institute St Helens, commended all entrants on the quality of their cakes.

Jaine Riley was the returning Great Eccleston Bake-off champion, taking First Place once again, as well as Best Decorated Cake for her Chocolate Decadence Cake.

Elizabeth Davies was awarded the Runner-up prize for her Lemon Zest Delight Cake. She also won Best Decorated Cake in 2023.

We can't wait to see their 2025 entries!



The 10th Great Eccleston Bake-off will be held on Sunday 21st September 2025.

Bakers of all ages are invited to enter.

Find out more www.smithyheritagecentre.org.uk/whats-on

VICKY GRIFFITHS

Joint Curator

2025 EVENTS AT THE SMITHY

The Smithy will be open at the weekends from Saturday 19th April to Sunday 21st September 2025 from 1pm to 4pm.

Shop Local, 19th April to 21st September 2025

This exhibition will look at much-loved local shops past and present, featuring Mark Peachey's photographs of EC Greenall confectioners and bakery on Duke Street and images and ephemera from Burchall's butchers on Westfield Street.

If you have pictures, memories or objects of your favourite shop (perhaps where you work or your family worked) which you would like to be included, please email

smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com

Blacksmith's Day, Saturday 17th May 2025

Live craft demonstrations 12noon to 5pm; real ales, ciders and refreshments served 12noon to 6pm.

Heritage Open Weekend, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st September 2025

Fun for all the family with themed activities and refreshments available in our Tea Room.

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.

PORTICO VINE ARLFC

**WINS THE KING'S AWARD FOR
VOLUNTARY SERVICE – AN MBE
FOR THE VOLUNTEER GROUP**



Portico Vine Amateur Rugby League Club based at Scholes Lane, St Helens has just been given the King's award for voluntary service due to the incredible service to the rugby league community but equally important for the services to the wider local community.

From Saturday morning cafes, hosting mental health groups, community action groups, rugby festival days to kids' rugby tournaments, masters' rugby league games to open age rugby. The list goes on – Halloween parties, Christmas parties, Easter egg hunt, bug hunts in the woods, Macmillan events and entertainment evenings.

We have multiple age groups for our teams covering tots' rugby, the U8 to U16 teams, the open age teams and the masters' teams. If you are interested in playing, please contact us. This is a great place to join in on our activities both young and old to either have a break at the events, come and watch the rugby or just come to the coffee morning with free tea and toast. We have major events during the year including:

Great Britain Police RLA versus an All-stars team and lots of entertainment on Saturday, June 21st 2025 – including a live band, singers with kids' games and activities.

We continue to 'Work with the community, for the community' and to being a non-profit organisation, totally run by volunteers. If you would like to help to become a volunteer, please let us know. Contact us at clubportico@gmail.com

DAVID HOBIN
TREASURER

Free Community Cafés in 2025

10:00 - 13:00 / 10am - 1pm

	<p>FEBRUARY 15TH</p> <p>Warm Welcome</p> 	<p>MARCH 8TH</p> <p>International Women's Day (with guest speakers)</p> 
<p>APRIL 12TH</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt</p> 	<p>MAY 10TH</p> <p>Dementia Awareness Week 19 - 25</p> 	<p>JUNE 14TH</p> <p>The King's Birthday</p> 
<p>JULY 5TH</p> <p>Children's Bug Hunt & American Themed Food Day</p> 	<p>AUGUST 19TH</p> <p>Healthy Eating</p> 	<p>SEPTEMBER 20TH</p> <p>Macmillan Coffee Morning Fundraiser</p> 
<p>OCTOBER 18TH</p> <p>National Mentoring / Volunteers Day</p> 	<p>NOVEMBER 8TH</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p> 	<p>DECEMBER 20TH</p> <p>Christmas Themed Café</p> 

Portico Vine ARLFC, Scholes Lane,
St Helens, WA10 3PD

ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mission Statement: "A Caring Family School, Where We Learn, Grow and Walk in The Footsteps of Jesus."

St Julie Catholic Primary School is a very happy and friendly school, where children grow and learn in a supportive and loving environment. Our warm and caring ethos is apparent as soon as you enter the school and is commented on by all who visit us.

We are very proud of our academic and creative achievements, of our sporting success and the exemplary behaviour demonstrated by our children – and our children are proud to be part of the St Julie Family.

We value the strong partnership with our parents, local community and parish. We have an enthusiastic and committed P.F.A. who fundraise to provide the school with essential resources. Together we are fully committed to continual improvement and striving for excellence in all aspects of our school life.



Achievement of the IQM Inclusive School Award

In July 2024, the school was visited by the assessor for the Inclusion Quality Mark who spent the full day in St Julie's as part of the accreditation. He visited lessons throughout the school, looked at pupil's books and met with parents, governors, school staff and pupils. Having reviewed all the evidence he was of the opinion that the school fully met the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark's Inclusive School Award:

“It was a real privilege to visit St Julie’s and to find out about the amazing work done to ensure that everyone in the community understands the importance of inclusion and that everyone has their needs and talents recognised and responded to.”

For a snapshot of what life is like at St. Julie’s please visit our website. [St Julie's Catholic Primary School: Welcome to our school \(st-julie.st-helens.sch.uk\)](http://st-julie.st-helens.sch.uk)

MRS A HODGSON

Headteacher

DE LA SALLE SCHOOL

De La Salle School, St Helens, is pleased to announce that it has joined the **Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust** (Laetare CMAT), marking an exciting new chapter for the school community. This decision reflects the school’s commitment to providing an outstanding, faith-based education and offering new opportunities for both students and staff.

De La Salle School is proud to be the first of many that will join the Laetare family of Religious Order schools in the coming months, which shares De La Salle’s core values of faith, academic excellence and community. With a focus on delivering high-quality education rooted in Catholic teachings, the Trust provides a strong foundation for collaboration and growth. By joining Laetare CMAT, De La Salle School will enhance its educational offerings, benefit from shared resources, and contribute to a wider network of schools working together to serve young people.

As part of the Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, De La Salle School will have access to a wide range of collaborative opportunities, professional development for staff and shared

resources designed to benefit all members of the school community. The Trust's ethos of faith, inclusion and excellence is a natural fit for De La Salle, which has long been dedicated to providing a holistic education based on the values of love, respect and compassion.

The move to join Laetare CMAT aligns with De La Salle's strategic vision for the future and ensures the school will continue to provide a nurturing environment where all students can thrive. This partnership promises to bring exciting new initiatives, ensuring that the school remains at the forefront of education in the area.

For families, this transition means that De La Salle School will continue to uphold its strong Lasallian identity while benefiting from the enhanced support and resources available through the Trust. The focus on faith, personal development and community will remain central to the school's mission, with students receiving the best possible care and education.

MR A RANNARD

Headteacher

ECCLESTON MERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been another fantastic year at Eccleston Mere and we reflect on the many achievements and memorable moments that have defined our journey. We continue to serve our local community with pride, fostering a nurturing environment where children can thrive both academically and personally. It is a privilege to lead such a joyful and dynamic school and I am delighted to share some of our highlights with you.

Our Growing Family

This year, we proudly expanded our Nursery provision to welcome 2-year-olds for the first time. Our new 'Acorn' Room provides a calm, nurturing environment led by our experienced Early Years staff. The feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive and the children have brought



even more joy to our school as we watch them grow and flourish. While the provision is currently oversubscribed, we are pleased to offer limited places for September 2025.

Sporting Successes

At Eccleston Mere, we believe in the power of sports to inspire confidence, teamwork and a lifelong love of physical activity. This year, we have enhanced our PE curriculum by incorporating yoga and squash, delivered by expert external coaches. Among our many sporting achievements, we are particularly proud of our Athletics team. After winning the St Helens Town Athletics tournament, our pupils advanced to the prestigious 'Merseyside Games.' Competing against top schools across the region, our talented athletes secured **first place!** A truly outstanding accomplishment.



A Love for Reading

We are passionate about fostering a love for reading, encouraging children to see books as both a source of relaxation and a gateway to new worlds. This year, we invested heavily in new reading resources and transformed our school library to provide an inviting space where children can enjoy modern fiction, reference materials, comics and magazines. A heartfelt thank you to our school PTA, the St Vincent De Paul Society and our wonderful

families for their generous support in making this possible.

Academic Excellence

Our pupils never cease to amaze us with their dedication and achievements. We are incredibly proud to share that, at the end of the 2023-24 academic year:

- Our **Reading results** ranked in the **top 11% nationally**.
- Our **Maths results** were in the **top 20% nationally**.
- Our combined **Reading, Writing, and Maths scores** placed us in the **top 15% of schools nationwide**.

We are delighted to continue striking the perfect balance between academic excellence and an enjoyable, enriching school experience – ensuring we prepare well-rounded citizens for the future.

Engaging with Our Community

We take great pride in being an active part of our local community. This year, our school choir had the honour of performing at **The Griffin's Christmas Lights Switch-On**, a magical event that brought festive cheer to all who attended. We also maintained strong links with our local high schools, particularly as a feeder school to Rainford High School. Our pupils recently participated in their **Climate Change Summit**, engaging in meaningful discussions alongside students from other primary schools – a fantastic opportunity for them to express their views on such an important global issue.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to another exciting year, we are filled with anticipation for the opportunities and achievements that lie ahead. At Eccleston Mere, we firmly believe that **anything is possible** and we can't wait to see what the next twelve months will bring.

MR R MUGAN

Headteacher

ECCLESTON PARK TENNIS CLUB

Since its founding in 1904, Eccleston Park Tennis Club has been dedicated to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of the community.

The club boasts five tennis courts that are open for play all year round. For added convenience, four of the courts are fitted with floodlights, allowing adult members and junior members with adult supervision to play at any time of the day.

In addition to exceptional facilities, the club offers a variety of programmes and services to help members get the most out of their tennis experience. From coaching courses to events and tournaments, they provide opportunities for players of all ages and skill levels to hone their skills, compete and connect with other members of the tennis community.

The website offers a simple and convenient way for members to manage their membership, book tennis courts, register for coaching courses and stay up-to-date with the latest news and events at the club. Whether you're a current member or considering joining the community, you are invited to explore the website and discover all that Eccleston Park Tennis Club has to offer.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/epltc>

Email: info@eptlc.co.uk or text 07800751069

Follow: on [Facebook.com/epltc](https://www.facebook.com/epltc)

Instagram at [@eptlc](https://www.instagram.com/epltc)

twitter at [@eptlc](https://twitter.com/epltc)

Where to find the club:

The club is situated just off St Helens Road half way between the Wellington Pub and The Grapes. Turn onto Central Ave and follow the road signs to the tennis club on Forest Close, Eccleston Park, Prescott, L34 2TT

ECCLESTON LANE ENDS BOWLS CLUB

The 2024 bowling season took place in very unusual conditions. It will probably be remembered as the year that we had no summer. From starting bowling in March to finishing in October, the weather was very much the same. No heatwaves, no drought and no thunderstorms. Unusually, the green was as lush and green at the end as it was when we started. Normally, at the end of a long, busy season, the surface is worn, straw-coloured and with scorched patches.

Our season started in late March with an official opening ceremony. Only the hardiest of our members ventured out on that day as it was only 5deg with 40 mph winds. Fortunately, things improved before the season got going properly. We were in the great position of having more than 110 members and so were able to have 14 teams upholding the honour of our club. Five men's teams playing in the evenings and five seniors' teams playing in the afternoons. Two ladies' teams and two mixed teams.

The competitive leagues started in early April. For those who just wanted to play for pleasure we had a very popular social bowling session every Friday morning. Tea and biscuits provided. As in previous years, we held our 'Bowl for Health' sessions from early May for eight weeks. These sessions are devised so that any member of the public can come along, free of charge. The aim of this scheme is to provide an opportunity for people to learn to bowl. It is also a chance to enjoy some physical exercise in the fresh air and meet and socialise with other people. The sessions are always very well attended and quite a number of the attendees went on to become club members. We are very fortunate to have a good number of experienced bowlers who happily volunteer to support these sessions and to whom we are very grateful.

During the season we organised three club competitions, allowing members to compete for trophies and prize money. These are always very well supported by both entrants and spectators. The excellent buffet lunches being a major attraction. The last of these competitions is our annual charity fund raiser and this year we raised £500 to donate to our chosen charity, Willowbrook Hospice. In September, we were delighted to be asked to host the Widnes League 'Isherwood Cup' final. This was also well attended and allowed us to show off our club facilities.

Overall, the season was very satisfactory with most teams performing well. Three teams winning promotion to a higher league.

Bowling ceased when the green was closed at the end of September. This was the signal for our volunteer 'Green Team' to get to work with the Autumn maintenance programme. The team work right throughout the winter looking after the green and refurbishing the premises. We are very grateful for the time and effort our volunteers give to ensure the wellbeing of the club. The highlight (no pun intended!) of that work was the upgrading of our floodlights to the latest LED standard. These are much more economical and with a longer life.

We are always keen to attract new members, both experienced and novice. If you would like to join this friendly and welcoming club, please get in touch. Lots of information can also be found on our Facebook page.

Contact Steve Roberts 07855 275718 or Ian Gray 07889 693648

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

Willowbrook Hospice is an independent UK charity formed in 1993 to establish and create a local, specialist palliative care unit for the local community. With all the positive encouragement and generous contributions from the community the Hospice opened in 1997 and, to date, has provided care, compassion, comfort, love, laughter and warmth to over 10,000 patients.

As the Hospice has grown, they now receive over a thousand referrals each year. Willowbrook Hospice is a Specialist Palliative Care Unit offering short term care, usually a couple of weeks, for patients with complex needs and referrals are accepted on this basis. Patients admitted to their specialist ward will have the benefit of care from a highly skilled team, including complex discharge planning support.

Willowbrook is a compassionate place that aims to improve the quality of life for people who have a life limiting or terminal illness; helping them to live their life well.

Willowbrook instils a holistic approach to the care they provide to patients and their families. They don't just care for a person's physical needs but also for their emotional, spiritual and social needs too. The Hospice ensures that their patients are cared for in the best possible way in their preferred place of care, wherever that may be.

They now provide all of its services virtually, residentially or at outpatient clinics at Willowbrook. They continually seek to enhance and improve their provision for patients living with life-limiting illnesses.

Willowbrook's care is free to patients but is not free to provide. Each year, it costs over £5m to run the hospice organisation. They are part-funded by the NHS who make a significant contribution but, unfortunately it still leaves them to generate more than half of the costs with generous donations from the public and their own fundraising efforts to raise the remainder.

Join the Hospice Lottery with the chance of winning up to £10,000! Visit their shops and Café. Gift Aid makes it easy to make your donation worth more – without it costing you a penny.

There are so many ways you can make a difference by fundraising, whether that's as an individual, at work, at school, as a social group or with friends and family.

Why not take on a challenge:

Liverpool Cathedral Abseil – 5th July 2025

Sunrise on Snowdon challenge – 22nd June 2025

Willowbrook Skydive 2025 – 3rd May 2025

Comedy & Pie Night – 7th February 2025

St Patrick's Day Singalong Bingo – 14th March 2025

Moonlight Walk – 13th September 2025

Marathon Opportunities 2025 Paris Marathon – 13th April 2025

Golf Day – 16th May 2025

For more information either look on the website

<https://willowbrook.org.uk>

or e-mail: general@willowbrookhospice.org.uk or

events@willowbrookhospice.org.uk

Willowbrook Hospice

Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT

Tel: 0151 430 8736

COUNCILLOR PETER JOHNSON

THE LESTER DRIVE CENTRE

The Committee has started an Afternoon Tea and Chat that meets every other month, where people can meet up and share a lovely afternoon with tea, several varieties of sandwich, cake and a good old fashioned chin wag. We have been fortunate to secure a small amount of funding from several sources to run these events and thanks must go to some of our local supermarkets, the staff of which have been very helpful, to a number of volunteers on the day for their hard work in preparation and doing all those dishes and to our local Parish Councillors who helped to 'get the ball rolling'. Admission is by ticket only and is limited to a maximum of 45 people, if anyone is interested grab one of the Committee for a ticket or use the contact info below. A nominal entrance fee might be introduced in order to continue the sessions.

WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE?			
Mon	Art Club 9am to 12		Slimming World 4 to 8pm
Tues	Cornerstone Food Pantry 10 to 1-00pm		Bridge Club 7-15pm
Wed	Beginners Bridge Club 9.30am to 12		Board Gamers 5pm
Thurs			St.Helens Bridge 8pm
Fri	TaiChi 10am to 12	U3A hand chimes group 2 to 4pm	
Sat			
Sun	Cornerstone Church 10am to 12		

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

For more info please telephone 01744 2681 or e-mail:

lesterdrivecentre@gmail.com



PRESCOT AND ODYSSEY BOWLING SECTION

Once again, I am delighted to report that our club has had a very successful and enjoyable season of bowling on our beautiful green just off Burrows Lane. The surface of the green has been as good as it ever has, thanks to the hard work of our maintenance team. Our lovely spot is surrounded by hedges and well-tended borders, and is as pleasant a place as you could wish for on a warm summer's day. It is looked after by our own members who gather on Wednesday and Thursday mornings to do whatever needs doing, while enjoying each other's company.

Three years ago, we took part in an introductory course called Bowl for Health, promoted by Merseyside Sport, for anyone wishing to try their hand at crown-green bowling. We now have a number of valued members who came to us as a result of this. We have continued to offer the same opportunity to anyone who thinks bowling might be for them, with the associated benefits of congenial company and tea and biscuits. If you are thinking of joining us do come along to find out more. The green opens in mid-March and weather permitting there will be members there to help you learn on Wednesday afternoons. Please ring Chris on 07766 661414 if you would like to give it a go and he will make sure there is someone there to welcome you. Members can be found enjoying an afternoon's bowling any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 1.30 p.m. 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 (men and ladies). 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. Everyone has the time of their lives singing along to our own talented musicians.

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 and especially Wednesdays if you want a helping hand. See you then!

JUDITH JOHNSON

Chair, POCC Bowls Section

BLEAK HILL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB



WHERE COMMUNITY AND FOOTBALL UNITE

Nestled between Windle and Ecclestone, Bleak Hill Rovers FC is more than just a grassroots football club. We're a vibrant, thriving community built on the values of inclusion, teamwork and local pride. Our club is powered by the passion of over 50 volunteers and a remarkable 350 players who wear the Rovers' badge with pride.

From budding young footballers taking their first steps on the pitch to seasoned teenagers refining their skills, we strive to create an environment where everyone feels welcome. At Bleak Hill Rovers, football isn't just about the game – it's about fostering friendships, building confidence and making lasting memories.



Our community-first approach extends far beyond the touchlines. We believe in the power of football to bring people together and we're always looking for ways to deepen our ties with local businesses, schools and community hubs. Through partnerships, sponsorships or collaborations, we aim to continue growing as a club while giving back to the community that has supported us so generously over the years.

If you're a local business or organisation looking to connect with a passionate and loyal community, we'd love to hear from you. Whether it's sponsoring a team, sharing resources or finding creative ways to get involved, your support plays a vital role in keeping grassroots football alive and thriving.

At Bleak Hill Rovers, we're not just about football – we're about family, community and creating opportunities for everyone to shine.

Come and be a part of our story. Together, we can ensure that the spirit of grassroots football continues to thrive in Windle and Ecclestone for generations to come.

THOMAS LEE

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

It's been an exciting and busy 12 months at Ecclestone Library with lots of amazing events. The opening hours have been revised and it now opens Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday from 10.00am-5.00pm; our phone number is 01744 677575 or email us at ecclestonlibrary@sthelens.gov.uk.

We offer a wide range of activities at Eccleston Library for everyone in the community. Children's activities include Tuesday and Friday 10.30am-11.00am, join us in the library with your child for our fun read and rhyme sessions, no booking necessary. We will introduce them to story books, rhymes, music and other fun activities. On Mondays during term time, we have a dedicated Baby Rhyme Time session. This session is held at 11.00am-11.30am and is aimed at parents and carers with babies under 12 months old. These sessions **do** need to be booked in advance and are for a 6-week block. Both these activities are completely free.

For adults, we have 2 reading groups that meet on the first and second Thursdays of the month, 2.00pm-3.00pm, and a Craft Club meeting on Mondays 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Arts in Libraries has recently started running a textiles workshop for people interested in working with all types of textiles. Check out their website for more details and other creative events: <https://artsinlibraries.sthelens.gov.uk/>

Your library card gives you 24/7 free access to our digital services. You can access your library account, 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 online services straight away.

Please check us out on Facebook and Instagram for up-and-coming events at Eccleston Library. Local history resources for St Helens continue to be available at Eccleston Library including books, maps and electoral registers as well as 2 microfilm scanners, making it easier to access and research historic newspapers and other records held on microfilm.

SAVOURY VEGETABLE EGG BREAKFAST MUFFINS

Makes 12. Prep time 15 mins.
Cooking time approx. 25 mins @ 350 degrees



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup lightly packed baby spinach – *chopped*
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup finely diced red bell pepper – *about 1 small pepper*
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup finely diced green bell pepper – *about 1 small pepper*
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup quartered cherry tomatoes or grape tomatoes – *about 1 cup whole tomatoes*
- 6 large eggs
- 4 large egg whites
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon dried basil
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon dried oregano
- Pinch ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup crumbled feta cheese or use Mature cheddar if preferable.

METHOD

- Place a rack in the centre of your oven and preheat to 350 degrees F. Lightly coat a standard 12-cup muffin tin with non-stick spray.
- Divide the spinach, red bell pepper, green bell pepper and tomatoes among the cups (they will be about two-thirds of the way full).
- In a large jug with a spout briskly whisk together the eggs, egg whites, salt, basil, oregano and pepper until well combined. Fill each muffin cup three-quarters of the way to the top with the egg mixture. Sprinkle the feta or cheddar evenly over the tops of the cups.

- Bake for 24 to 28 minutes, until the egg muffins are set. Let cool for a few minutes. Then run a butter knife around the edges of each muffin to loosen it. Remove them from the tin and enjoy immediately, or let cool on a wire rack and refrigerate or freeze for later (see notes for more details).

TO STORE – Let the muffins cool completely, then place them in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

TO REHEAT – Unwrap the muffins if needed, and place on a microwave-safe plate. Reheat gently in the microwave on medium power until hot and warmed through to the centre, about 30 seconds (from thawed) or 1 to 2 minutes (from frozen).

TO FREEZE – Let the muffins cool completely, then individually wrap them in plastic wrap. Place them in a zip top bag and **freeze for up to 3 months**. Let thaw overnight in the refrigerator or reheat directly from frozen.

COUNCILLOR ANITA ASHCROFT QPM



REPORT ONLINE
www.merseyside.police.uk

REPORT ON TWITTER
 @MerPolCC

REPORT ON FACEBOOK
 Merseyside Police CC

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

CALL 999
 In an emergency always call 999

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	2022-2025	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, Ecclestone	01744 22698
Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico Lane, Ecclestone Park	0151 426 6251
St James Church, St Helens Road, Ecclestone Park	0151 426 6421
St Julie RC Church, Howards Lane, Ecclestone	01744 28196

SCHOOLS

De La Salle High School, Mill Brow, Ecclestone Head: Mr A Rannard	01744 20511
Ecclestone Lane Ends Primary, Albany Avenue, Ecclestone Park Head: Miss S Bond	01744 678270
Ecclestone Mere Primary, Saleswood Avenue, Ecclestone Head: Mr R Mugan	01744 678280
St Julie RC Primary, Brooklands Road, Ecclestone 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

WAR MEMORIAL

The Eccleston War Memorial group, which includes Parish Councillors and residents, has been busy tidying up the Eccleston War Memorial and clearing the site of ivy and brambles.



Now that the initial work has been completed, the Eccleston War Memorial group will maintain the site moving forward so that it is befitting of those men and women who gave their lives in the

service of our country and the Commonwealth.

The Grade Two-listed statue on Burrows Lane was erected in 1922. It commemorates the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian service men and women involved in the two world wars and later conflicts.



A flagpole and Union flag have also been installed at the War Memorial, which United Utilities paid for through a kind donation. They will also cut back the overgrown trees surrounding the site as part of a regular maintenance schedule.



If anyone wants to get involved with the Eccleston War Memorial group, contact Councillor Michael Haw on 07837 759432 or cllrmhaw@sthelens.gov.uk.

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HAW