



Eccleston Parish Council Newsletter



December 2009

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Parish Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month in The Changing Rooms, Drapers Avenue commencing at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

A part of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to air their views on local issues - please come along and have your say.

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities. Noticeboards are located inside the Carrington Centre by POA and on the path by the Changing Rooms, off Drapers Avenue.

Local non-for-profit organisations wishing to display A4 sized posters to publicise forthcoming events etc should contact the Clerk.

If you contact advertisers in this newsletter please tell them where you saw their ad.

Welcome SID

The Parish Council has taken delivery of the Speed Indicator Device (SID). As soon as mounting plates have been erected by Lancashire County Council the SID will appear regularly at a number of approved locations within the village including Bannister Lane, Bradley Lane, Doctors Lane and The Green.

County Councillor Mike Otter, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Parishes, was kind enough to provide a grant of £785 towards the cost of the device and, by purchasing in tandem with our neighbours at Euxton Parish Council, a hefty 15% discount was obtained on the cost.



County Councillor Otter said (l-r) County Councillor Mike Otter, "Eccleston Parish Council does a Alan Platt (Clerk), Parish Councillor superb job improving the village and Helen Bradley with SID. making a difference to the lives of the community and we're pleased to support them with schemes like this".

The Parish Council's thanks go to Cllr Otter for his kind contribution.

Recreation Fields

Early in the New Year Tim Blyth, Lancashire County Council's Environmental Projects Team Leader, will be overseeing a couple of projects on behalf of the Parish Council.

The first will be to thin the woodland fringes planted during the winter of 1994 - 1995. Some larger trees will be crown raised and some of the existing stock will be removed to allow development of the remaining trees. Tim has arranged funding for this through Lancashire County Council.

Following this another project, again to be overseen by Tim, will see BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) carry out improvement works at the two access points between the Fields, which have become extremely difficult to walk through in wet weather. The paths in these areas will be built up and cambered to allow water to drain off into the existing ditch and the 'bridge' to the southern access will be built up. A grant towards some of the cost has been obtained by BTCV and Lancashire County Council has agreed to contribute 50% towards the balance leaving the Parish Council to find just 35% of the £2675 cost of the project.

The Parish Council would like to thank Tim for his efforts in arranging the works and obtaining such a large financial contribution towards both projects. Thanks also go to Lancashire County Council for providing the funding, to the Green Partnership Awards for the grant and Kath Godfrey and her colleagues at BTCV.

DARRENS FRESH FISH

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Friday and Saturday 9.00am -1.00pm

Surgery times may vary according
to the needs of the patients

Children most welcome

Chairman's Report

It has been a fairly quiet summer for the Parish Council with meetings mainly devoted to concerns from residents, planning matters and the seemingly endless consultation documents from both local and national government. Significant time has also been spent reviewing finance and ensuring that the Parish Council remains within its forecast budget while at the same time providing the services which our residents expect.

Progress is finally being made for the Parish Council to become the sole Trustee of the Millennium Green and we are, hopefully, in the final stages of negotiation with Natural England and the Eccleston Millennium Green Trust.

Members of the Parish Council recently attended the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church where I had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

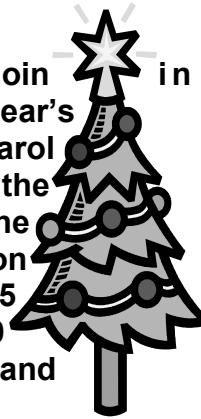
The Carol Concert will be held on the Village Green (opposite St Mary's School) on Tuesday 15th December at 6.30pm with Eccleston Brass Band in attendance. A warm welcome is assured to any residents who would like to attend.

Finally, on behalf of all members of the Parish Council may I wish all our residents a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill Mason, Chairman

Carol Concert

Come along and join in with us at this year's Parish Council's Carol Concert, around the Christmas tree on the Village Green on **Tuesday 15 December 2009** between **6.30pm and 7.15pm.**



Musical accompaniment will be provided by members of Eccleston Brass Band.

Due to the lack of available parking in the vicinity residents are asked, where possible, not to come in cars.

Council Contacts

The Parish Council would like to ask residents to address queries relating to Parish Council issues to the Parish Councillors or the Clerk (details on p.1).

For County Council issues contact Councillor Keith Iddon on 01704 821181.

For Borough Council issues contact Councillors Henry Caunce on 01257 453765, Keith Iddon on 01704 821181, and Kevin Joyce on 01257 451547.

Millennium Green

The Parish Council is hopeful that the long running, saga of the adoption of the Green is finally coming to a conclusion.

We have been advised by the Millennium Green Trustees that Natural England has refused our requests that the Council takes over the Green as an area of public open space, without having to agree to the conditions of the original grant awarded to the Millennium Green Trust and that the Trust should be dissolved as it would be rendered unnecessary.

With the inference that the land might be handed back to Lancashire County Council, and the possibility of it then becoming building land, the Council has, in order to protect the status of the land, decided to proceed with the adoption, subject to the approval of the transfer documents by our legal advisors.

It is disappointing that we now seem to be exactly where we were over two years ago and, had Natural England made its intentions clear at the time, the Parish Council could have reached this decision back then.

Eccleston Band

The Band took first prize at the North West Counties Annual Championships at Fleetwood, and collected trophies for 'Best Musical Director' and 'Best Basses' and £400 prize money.

The Band has made many appearances at local walking days and given several very well attended concerts. In all its efforts the Band has the valued support of Mr and Mrs Jack Gibson, who travel to all the engagements and, indeed many, rehearsals. We are delighted that Mr Gibson has done us the honour of becoming President, and we were very pleased to play at Mr. and Mrs. Gibson's Golden wedding celebrations in August.

Another longstanding friend and former Band Member, Daniel Brooks, has been appointed Musical Director of the Training Band. Danny started with the band at 10 years old and has become one today's foremost trombone players, currently playing Solo Trombone for former British Open and National Champions the, Leyland Band. He has given many acclaimed performances in such venues as the Royal Albert Hall and the extent of his talent has been recognised in receiving a distinction for his performance in his Masters Degree. Danny has always helped Eccleston where his demanding schedule allows and his friendly and approachable manner will ensure he is a great success in his new role. The Band is generally able to provide instruments to aspiring players of all ages. Rehearsals take place on Friday evenings at the Band Room on Drapers Avenue in Eccleston. You will be made very welcome.

The Band will also be playing Carols at local pubs and restaurants throughout December.

For further details contact the Band secretary Carolyn Musgrave on 01772 424487.

Allotments

Thank you to all residents who contacted the Council to express an interest in having an allotment within the village.

We are now discussing the provision of land with Chorley Council and we would again ask if anyone knows of land which might be available or are a landowner with 'spare' land to let us know.

Whilst we are waiting residents may wish look up 'Landshare' on the Internet. Details of people with land and looking for land are listed at landshare.channel4.com and twitter.com/landshare to name but two, although it has to be said the vast majority of postings are from people looking for land. There is usually some mutual agreement about rent or sharing produce and there don't appear to be many entries from our area so come on Ecclestonians, give it a try!!

Got the Hump?

Thank you to all residents who provided their views on the speed humps on the estate roads in the village.

To ensure the opinions of as many residents as possible are taken into account we would like to ask, once again, for anyone who has not yet let us have their thoughts to contact Councillors or the Clerk to the Council (details on p.1).

Residents have advised of a small number of thoughtless drivers mounting the pavement in the vicinity of the humps, presumably being of the opinion that protecting their suspension is worth the risk of running down a child who might happen to come out of their home at the wrong time. Anyone witnessing this should contact the Police, or the Clerk to the Council, with the registration number of the vehicle. Calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.



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Lancashire Constabulary

It's the time of year for opportunistic thieves again. Take care of the gifts you buy this Christmas. Don't leave them on view in your vehicle - lock them in the boot, and ensure your vehicle is secure at all times. Also, once you get them home keep them out of sight and ensure your doors and windows are locked. It only takes a second for a thief to enter a house through an unlocked door and steal property.

We will soon have the problems of icy roads - please slow down and don't drive too close to the vehicle in front of you. When defrosting your cars, do not leave engines running and the vehicle unattended. Most insurance companies won't pay out on thefts of cars stolen in this way!

Finally, whilst on the subject of motoring, please enjoy your Christmas but remember, if you intend to celebrate, please leave your car at home - **Don't drink and drive!**

Community Cars

A search has been launched to find public spirited individuals with time to spare to help their local community.

Lancashire County Council is calling on residents in the Eccleston, Heskin and Mawdesley area, to become volunteer drivers for the local community car scheme.

Lancashire County Council provides funding for 12 Community Car Schemes in Lancashire and urgently requires drivers in this area to continue to provide this vital service.

The Schemes are run by a team of local volunteer drivers and provide a service for anyone who is unable to access public transport.

Volunteer drivers use their own cars to travel within a twenty mile radius from their home and receive support towards running costs from both fares and from Lancashire County Council. Drivers are not tied to any regular commitment - as a volunteer the only commitment is when you agree to make each trip.

If you have a little time to spare and would like to help please contact 01772 536778 for more information.

Bookings for the Eccleston Car Scheme can be made on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays, between the hours of 9.30am and 1.00pm, on 01257 261844.



Justice

One of our younger residents might be finding himself a little short of funds for a while. Thanks to the efforts of PC Howard the juvenile in question was apprehended and found guilty of causing criminal damage to the slide on the Recreation Fields, and was ordered to pay £300 in compensation to the Council.

Our thanks go to PC Howard.

Villages in Partnership

VIP has raised sufficient funding for at least another 12 months. Unfortunately we are unable to host events, as it has in the past, due to the financial restrictions which we face with our present funder.

However, we are still open for business to help local groups to seek grant funding and to assist with project ideas in any way that we can.

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Advertisements

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