

Eccleston Parish Council Newsletter

June 2009

PARISH COUNCILLORS

| | Tel |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Bill Mason (Chairman) | 452061 |
| Les Armstrong (Vice Chair) | 453314 |
| Phil Ascroft | 451494 |
| Helen Bradley | 451617 |
| Jim Haines | 452820 |
| Andy Love | 450419 |
| Rosina Monks | 451166 |
| Joyce Morris | 452059 |
| Mark Price | 450954 |

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Alan Platt (Clerk to the Council)

can be contacted at:

9 Ambleside Avenue

Euxton

Chorley

PR7 6NX

Tel: 01257 234003

e-mail:

ecclestonpc@btinternet.com

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.

Your Village Needs You!

We now have three vacancies on the Parish Council and residents with an interest in the Village are invited to apply to join us (we know there are many from the numbers attending our Planning Group meetings at St Mary's School!).

Former Chairman Christine Chu, and Councillors Christine Heydon and Sue Ward have, unfortunately, all recently left the Council, and we would like to thank each of them for their past service and wish them well for the future.

Anyone interested should simply write, or email, the Clerk (contact details on this page) stating why you would like to join the Council and providing brief background details.

To qualify, a person must be a British subject, aged over 18 years old and an elector, must reside in, or within 3 miles of, the Eccleston Parish boundary or occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises therein, or have their principal or only place of work there, and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor.

Country Trail

The first phase of the Parish Council's project to enhance the Recreation Fields area, off Drapers Avenue, has been completed. Funded by a grant of £7250 from Awards for All, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) has carried out hedgelaying, scrub clearance and woodland management works, planted a wildflower glade and improved a drainage ditch to help create a wetland area in the future.

The Parish Council is trying to obtain further funding to create a useable footpath all the way around the Recreation Fields for walkers and pushchair and wheelchair users and it would certainly help with applications to funders if residents, who might take advantage of the proposed improvements in the future, could register their support for this in the form of letters or emails to the Parish Council.

We are very pleased with the results so far and would like to thank Awards for All for the grant and Kath Godfrey and all at BTCV for their hard work.

Same Again for 2009

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May Bill Mason was re-elected to serve as Chairman for the coming year, with Les Armstrong also being re-elected as Vice Chair.



LOTTERY FUNDED

DARRENS FRESH FISH

CALLING TO ECCLESTON,
ON THE MAIN ROAD NEXT
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Annual Report of Eccleston Parish Council

The Parish Council met on twelve occasions during the last year to discuss matters relating to the village of Eccleston and I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our Clerk, Alan Platt, for their support and assistance throughout the year. I would also like to thank our Village Caretaker and Lengthsman for their sterling work in all weathers. Our village is certainly a more pleasant place for their efforts.

Our finances remain strong to meet the further needs of the village. There has been a small increase in the Parish Precept for 2009/10 specifically to promote some village activities for our residents, both young and old. A small group has been formed to organise these and interested residents are welcome to join.

Planning continues to be the most controversial subject discussed by the Parish Council. Whilst decisions are made by Chorley Council, the Parish Council endeavours to promote the views of local residents to the Planning Committee. To assist in this a small Planning Group has been established which appears to be popular with residents.

The Parish Council has been supported by our elected representatives on Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council, as well as our Community Police Team. As Chairman I have represented the Parish Council at the local PACT meetings.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has carried out some work on the Recreation Fields, funded by a grant from Awards for All and we are seeking further grants to complete the project which will provide a Country Trail around the Fields. We further improved the facilities with the addition of picnic tables and new exercise equipment and replaced the damaged surface of the Skatepark with a far more suitable surface (according to our Bladers, Bikers and Boarders!).

The Millennium Green saga continues with the Parish Council anxious to adopt but with much foot-dragging by the official bodies involved.

Bill Mason, Chairman

Eccleston Parish Council Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

| Income | 2008/9 | 2007/8 | Expenditure | 2008/9 | 2007/8 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Parish Precept | 41040 | 40840 | Staff Costs | 17942 | 18241 |
| Interest | 1715 | 2358 | Administration | 3037 | 2615 |
| Changing Rooms | 2369 | 2000 | Insurance | 1701 | 1909 |
| Adverts | 465 | 360 | Donations | 800 | 400 |
| Sundries | 100 | 150 | Grounds Maintenance | 4793 | 5189 |
| Grant | 7250 | | Repairs/replacements | 5662 | 5630 |
| VAT Reclaimed | 2177 | 2369 | Changing Rooms | 7345 | 5405 |
| | | | Loan repayments | 2479 | 2479 |
| | | | VAT | 2295 | 2157 |
| | | | Sundries | 2255 | 1424 |
| Total | 55116 | 48077 | Total | 48309 | 45449 |
| Opening Balance | 31381 | 28753 | | | |
| Income | 55116 | 48077 | | | |
| Sub total | 86497 | 76830 | | | |
| Expenditure | 48309 | 45449 | | | |
| Closing Balance | 38188 | 31381 | | | |

If you contact any of the
advertisers in the newsletter
please let them know where you
saw their advert.

Allotments Anyone?

We are, once again, appealing for residents who would be interested in having an allotment in the village. Our last appeal fell on deaf ears and, unless we can demonstrate a need within the village, we have nothing to support requests for land to the Borough and County Councils.

Help Direct

Help Direct is a new service for all adults (18+) in Lancashire. It offers support, guidance and information on items including health, learning and leisure, managing finances, mobility and transport, getting the right help and support and more.

Contact the Chorley Office, at 61-63 St Thomas' Road, Chorley, PR7 1JE, on 0303 333 1000 (low cost rate) for details.

Euxton & Eccleston Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us at the Easter Fair on 21 March. The final amount raised was £600. Our totaliser now stands at £1,470 and represents a wonderful start to our fundraising.

Our next event will be a coffee morning on Sunday 14 June 2009, 11.00am until 1.00 pm, in Euxton Community Centre. We will be having the usual stalls cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac, raffle etc. Please support us in any way at all if you feel able to. If you have any items please ring Gill Steele (01257 274334 or 07831 284426) and I will collect from you.

Eccleston Brass Band

The Band began its fortieth anniversary year in style by beating sixteen bands to become Preston Area Champions in February. The prize was collected by its youngest member, aged ten. Membership of the Band ranges in age from 10 to 70 and includes several founding members and their families.

The Band views development of young players as its main priority and we are delighted that one of our young cornet players has been offered a place at the prestigious Birmingham School of Music. It is likely that other young members will be able to emulate this success in the not too distant future.

The Band remains very much a village band and one of the highlights of this anniversary year was the charity concert, held on the 8th May, in association with the Rotary Club. The Band performed free of charge in recognition of the unstinting support received from the community and the proceeds of over £1000 will be donated to Cancer Research UK.

Details of forthcoming engagements can be found on the internet at www.ecclestonbrass.co.uk and we look forward to meeting you in 2009 at one of our forthcoming concerts :

Emmanuel Church Preston 26th June
Croston Coffee Day 4th July
Coronation Park Ormskirk 16th August
Bretherton Methodist Church 6th November
Croston Methodist Church 27th November

Eccleston Library

Need extra ideas for the children over the school summer break? Then come along to the library for the annual Summer Reading Challenge!

This year, the children have the opportunity to become a **Questseeker!** The theme is all about a fantasy adventure in a mysterious and wondrous land. Children read six books of their choice from the library to complete the challenge and will receive a certificate and a medal at the end, with posters, stickers and other small prizes based on the theme along the way. Activity and colouring sheets will also be available.

Look out for information at school about it, and come along to the library in July to begin your adventure into reading.

And don't forget our usual weekly Storytime sessions for pre-school children on Mondays 2.15 - 2.45, and Baby Bounce and Rhyme on Fridays 9.30 - 10.00, term-time only. Phone 01257 451825 for further information.

Eccleston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for any items published which are directly attributed to named contributors.



Body and Sole FOOT HEALTH

Do you suffer with:

- Dry, cracked heels?
- Discoloured nails?
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Children most welcome

Lancashire Constabulary

Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are scheduled to take place on the first Tuesday of the month at the Youth Club building on Drapers Avenue. All residents are welcome to attend to discuss local matters of concern.

PC 2610 John Howard

Ooh, La, La!

Parish Councillor Andy Love appears to have taken Blackpool Tourist Boards new 'French' advertising campaign to heart.

On 20 May Andy set out on a sponsored 8 day cycle ride from Blackpool to Paris to raise funds for the Help for Heroes Charity which assists with the rehabilitation of our injured ex-Servicemen from all three branches of the armed forces.



Andy at the start of his epic journey

He will first cycle to Portsmouth, where he will join other cyclists, both disabled and able bodied, for the ride to Paris.

In recognition of the efforts which are put in by his disabled co-riders Andy is undertaking the entire journey on a fixed gear cycle!!

The Parish Council is extremely concerned that the services and facilities supported by the Charity are not available to our injured Servicemen as a matter of course and has voiced these concerns with our local MP's.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Help for Heroes can do so at www.justforgiving.com/andylove or by contacting the Clerk to the Council, Alan Platt (details on front page).

Advertisements

The Parish Council does not endorse or recommend any of the advertisers contained in this publication.



Jumble Sale

Euxton and Eccleston Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are holding a Jumble Sale at 10.00am - 12.00pm on Saturday 27 June 2009 at Eccleston Scout Group HQ, Drapers Avenue.

Donations of clothing or bric-a-brac can be brought to the Scout Hut any Monday, Thursday or Friday evening between 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

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Advertisers

You can reach around 1800 homes within the village by advertising in the Parish Council newsletter. For details contact the Clerk.

Current prices for adverts are £15 for a quarter column and £30 for a half column with discounts available for annual block bookings.