

Eccleston Parish Council

Newsletter

March 2011

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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www.ecclestonparishcouncil.org.uk

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

A part of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to air their views on local issues - 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.

Council Tax Down!

The Parish Council's budget for the next financial year shows a 5.1% reduction in the cost of the Parish Precept to residents .

In view of the current financial climate the Parish Council wanted to make sure the burden on council tax payers will not increase this year. Careful budgeting and prudent financial management has allowed the reduction without affecting the services currently provided by the Council.

These services include the Village Caretaker, who looks after the Recreation Fields, play areas and other open spaces, and attends to minor repairs to council property, the Village Lengthsman, who picks litter from the major routes and estate roads. The Council is also responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Fields and Changing Rooms, the Drapers Avenue Play Area and Skate Park, the Millennium Green, Hawthorns Play Area and the Village Green. Mowing of the entrance to The Hawthorns is also carried out by the Parish Council. The Council also provides the Christmas Tree and lights, lighting for the path between Drapers Avenue and Richmond Road, wayside seats, emptying of dog waste bins and the relevant public and employers liability insurance cover.

The reduction means that the cost of the Parish Precept to residents is now virtually the same as it was in 2003 - something the Parish Council is extremely proud of.

New Model

Residents may have noticed Parish Council Lengthsman, Malc Hayes, in proud possession of his shiny new litter cart.

Lancashire County Council awarded Chorley Council funding for four segregated hand carts to help raise waste and recycling performance and the Parish Council was successful with a bid for a cart.

The Parish Council employees have been recycling waste as a matter of course for several years now so no changes to collection methods were needed and the new cart came at a time when the old one was badly in need of replacement.



Lengthsman Malc Hayes (l) and Village Caretaker Mike Marsh (r) with the new cart

The Parish Council would like to thank both Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council for providing the new cart and we hope Malc gets hours of enjoyment from his new toy!

DARRENS **FRESH** **FISH**

CALLING TO ECCLESTON,
ON THE MAIN ROAD NEXT
TO VERDES RESTAURANT

EVERY THURSDAY

8.00AM TO 5.00PM

COME AND TAKE A
LOOK AT OUR VAST
DISPLAY OF FRESH
FISH AND SEAFOODS

ALL FISH CAN BE
SKINNED AND BONED
AT YOUR REQUEST

TELEPHONE:
07768 732611

Need a perfect venue for a meeting or a function?

Then St Mary's Parish Centre
could fit the bill

Comfortable seating/tabling
for up to 40 people

Excellent kitchen facilities

Disability provision/
babychanging facilities

Low hourly donation rate

Large car park

Contact Pat Lee on 01257 452628

St Mary's Parish Centre
Towngate (by the bridge)
Eccleston PR7 5QL

KAIZEN UK **SELF DEFENCE**

CHILDRENS JIJITSU CLASSES

Jujitsu (The Gentle Art) is a new fun martial art in
your area. Jujitsu is a complex art incorporating
punches, kicks, throws and groundwork.

The lessons are taught in a fun and interesting
style within a friendly environment.

The Jujitsu club also encourages
the basic family values of respect,
discipline and courtesy.

Classes are held at Eccleston Scout Hut,
Drapers Ave, Eccleston
Thursday 16:00 – 17:00

FIRST LESSON FREE

COME ALONG AND HAVE A LOOK
WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND

For further details contact: Sensei Peter
Tel: 0773066657 email: peterdibley1611@aol.com

Chairman's Message

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk, Alan Platt, for their support and assistance throughout the year. Also to thank our Parish Caretaker, Mike Marsh, and Parish Lengthsman, Malcolm Hayes for their sterling work in all weathers. They were certainly put to the test at the end of 2010 with the exceptionally cold weather. Our village is certainly a more pleasant place due to their efforts.

Our finances remain strong to meet the further needs of the village. As such Eccleston Parish Council has announced a 5.1% reduction in the cost of the Parish Precept to residents for the next financial year. Robust financial management and careful budgeting has allowed this reduction, with no loss in the services provided to residents by the Parish Council. The Parish Council was very keen, given the current financial climate, to do what it could to make sure the burden on council tax payers would not been increased this year. It is interesting to note that our local newspapers have ignored our press release about this reduction. Presumably they are only interested in bad or sensational news.

Planning continues to be the most controversial subject discussed by the Parish Council. Whilst decisions are made by Chorley Borough Council, the Parish Council endeavours to promote the views of local residents to the Planning Committee. The public consultation by Northern Trust about the proposed redevelopment of the Carrington Centre has certainly caused controversy amongst the residents of our village. The Council meeting on 10th February was certainly the best attended during my time on the Council. Please continue to let the Parish Council have your constructive views about the Carrington Centre whether you are for or against the proposals. Obviously the Parish Council cannot take a formal position until the actual planning application is submitted to Chorley Borough Council by Northern Trust.

Not only was the meeting on 10th February attended by residents concerned about the Carrington Centre proposals, but we also had a significant number of young people attending who were concerned about potential changes to the Youth Service in the village. Their representatives spoke eloquently about the problems faced by young people and the importance of the Youth Club. Both the Parish Council and our elected Borough and County Councillors agreed to support the young people in retaining a viable Youth Service in the village. I am sure that all residents will agree that co-operation between the Parish Council and the Youth Club is essential to continue to make Eccleston a better place for both young and old.

Bill Mason

Millennium Green

The first phase of the improvement works are virtually complete. This dealt largely with items contributing to anti social behaviour and affecting safety, including the removal of the dangerous decking and cutting back of overgrown bushes which provided hiding places.

The next phase will include replacement of gates and replanting of the hedge.

Carol Singing

Thank to the hardy souls who joined the Parish Councillors for the Carol Concert at the height of our Siberian winter.

Despite it being so cold members of Eccleston Brass Band struggled to keep their instruments from freezing everyone attending seemed to enjoy themselves partially sustained by the chocolates handed out by members of the Parish Council

Eccleston Primary School

As part of the new Curriculum, pupils in Oak Class enjoyed a 'China Day', wearing Chinese costume, making noodles and writing Chinese food menus. Lewis (aged 10) dressed up as a Kung Fu artist, said "It was a really fun day and I enjoyed eating the noodles the most." Children in Willow Class enjoyed a Fairytale Day, making cakes, puppets masks, and videoing their Fairytale Ball.

Sycamore Class enjoyed a whole host of visitors to help them with their 'People who help us' topic. They visited the school kitchen to see Miss Evans preparing their lunch and Mr Crane (the school caretaker) came in to tell the class how he helps in school. They were visited by fire fighters and a paramedic, and were excited to look around the paramedic's rapid response vehicle. They are all looking forward to another action packed term ahead.

There were lots of different activities taking place during Art and DT week with children weaving, making kites, colourful dragon collages and pagodas.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Do you need help with rent arrears, repossession or eviction notices?

Are you worrying about your debts?

Have you had your benefit entitlement assessed?

Chorley, South Ribble & Districts Bureaux have recently been awarded three Legal Services Commission Contracts for the residents of Chorley and South Ribble who qualify for this service.* The Contracts include Housing Matters, Welfare Benefits and Debt. The Bureaux can help you with rent arrears, repossessions, evictions, housing benefit, disrepair, accommodation, debt and welfare benefit issues.

*If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits you will automatically qualify for help - **Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Guarantee Credit.** Please telephone 01257 232138 or 01257 265432 for further details.

If your household is in receipt of a low income then you may still qualify. Please telephone 01257 232138 or 01257 265432 for further guidance.

Don't delay – phone or call in today!

Eccleston Brass Band

During December the Band gave 17 concerts, including the Over 60's Party at Bateman Hall, and were out other nights playing carols around the pubs. Bad weather caused some carolling sessions to be cancelled and the Band apologises to anyone who was disappointed, but for the Carol services around the trees in Eccleston and Euxton enough intrepid musicians and residents got there to make a good sound (some instruments froze up before the start and had to be thawed).

The Concert at St. Mary's Church, Eccleston was sold out which made for a good atmosphere.

The contest season is under way and, at the recent North West Brass Band Association contest in Preston, the Band came 5th out of 12 in the Second Section with 191 points out of 200. A good result!

The Band Secretary, Carolyn Musgrave (01772 424487), will be happy to help with any enquiries about the Band, including the training band if anyone should wish to join.

www.ecclestonbrass.co.uk



Body and Sole

Keep your feet healthy this winter

In winter our feet need special attention. Make sure you:

Keep yourself warm, especially your feet and legs

If you tend to get cold feet try wearing warm tights/socks, trousers, underwear or thicker soled shoes

Warm up your bed with a hot water Bottle and wear clean bed socks

If your feet do get cold don't warm them up too quickly as this can cause chilblains

Moisturise your feet everyday

Make sure your shoes fit well, especially when wearing thicker socks/tights

Vary the shoes you wear each day

Do plenty of gentle exercise to improve circulation

Kate Mercer

Foot Health Practitioner

07919 536642

Body and Sole offers foot health treatments and holistic therapies in the comfort of your own home

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Mobile: 07777 631689

email:

lukas@technoforananswer.com

neil@technoforananswer.com

Lancashire Constabulary

Residents are reminded to keep garages and sheds secure, to prevent the theft of bikes and other items. Bikes should be kept secure to avoid a repeat of the thefts last year. Residents should also guard against items going missing from gardens and driveways ie washing machines etc.

Contact us on the following numbers:

Coppull Neighbourhood Police Team - 246103 (non emergencies only)

General Number 0845 1 25 35 45

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

The Police and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at the Youth Centre on Drapers Avenue - all are invited to attend.

PCSO Andy Catterall

Ecclestone Library News

If you are new to the area or haven't visited the library for a while, you may be surprised at the services we have to offer - and we can save you money!

Don't buy the latest best sellers, come to the Library and borrow them for **free!**

In addition to our stock of fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children, we also have DVDs to hire at £2 per week and talking books on cassette and CD.

You can use our **free** broadband computers to log on to the Internet and surf the web - or keep in touch with family and friends. The full range of Microsoft software is also installed to help with documents like letters, CVs, spreadsheets and presentations.

Two regular weekly activities provided for young children, term-time only are:

Storytime Session, for pre-school children, on Mondays, 2.15 - 2.45.

Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions on Fridays, 9.30 - 10.00.

Why not come along and join in with your child or grandchild - that's all **free** as well!

Haven't found us yet? We are right in the heart of the Carrington Centre - just follow the signs.

Opening hours:

Monday 10.00-12.30, 1.30-7.00

Wednesday 10.00-12.30, 1.30-5.00

Friday 10.00-12.30, 1.30-7.00

Saturday 10.00-12.30



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and
Horse Care Service*

Tel: 07704 884700

BHS NVQ Level 1 Horse Care

Prices available on request

Service by appointment only

References available on request

Covering Croston and surrounding villages

Wedding Fayre

St Mary's Church, Ecclestone, is the venue for a Spring Wedding Fayre on Saturday May 15 2011.

The Church will be open from 2.00 - 5.00pm with a catwalk show (by Brides Gallery) at 3.30pm.

Think wedding!
Think Church!
Think Local!

Admission £1 (includes tea/coffee etc). **ALL WELCOME**

Trustees Wanted!!!

Local Charity Villages in Partnership, based in Croston, is looking for volunteers to join as Trustees.

If you have a few hours a month to spare to help this small local Charity, please give us a call.

You will also be required to attend Board Meetings - usually held the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month.

If you are interested or would like to know more information, please contact the office on 01772 603591 or email vip@villagesinpartnership.org.uk

Villages in Partnership Community Grants Programme, Spring 2011

Is your community group looking for funding????

The VIP grants Programme is open to local groups to apply for up to £500 for worthwhile community causes.

For more information or to apply for a grant, call 01772 603591 or email vip@villagesinpartnership.org.uk

Closing Date for completed applications:

Thursday 31st March 2011

Nicholsons

Ligan House, 32 Town Road, Croston

Tel: 01772 601700

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