

Eccleston Parish Council Newsletter

March 2017

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Parish Council Meetings are held on the second 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 let the Council know their views on local issues - come along and have your say!

Introducing Angela

The Parish Council would like to extend a very warm welcome our newest employee, Eccleston resident Angela Marsden, who has taken over as our Village Lengthsperson, to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Malcolm Hayes.

Angela (pictured right with Village Caretaker, Mike Marsh) joined us in December 2016 and is very keen to keep the village looking neat and tidy and litter free.



Events

Over 70 people attended a fabulous evening of live acoustic guitar and voice with Chris Bannister in February at St Agnes Church Hall which received excellent reviews.

We're in the process of arranging a Ceilidh, on Saturday April 22, again at St Agnes and further details will be publicised nearer the time.

We're working on a Best Kept Garden Competition, which we hope to run alongside St Mary's Open Gardens Event.

Following the excellent feedback from our Lancashire Night last November work has already begun on arrangements for another Lancashire Night on Saturday 25 November. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Council Tax

The Parish Council's budget for 2017-18 has been set and, for the first time since 2009-10, there will be an increase in the cost of the Parish Precept to council taxpayers.

The increase is the first since 2009-10 and is intended to cover expenditure relating to the proposed takeover of the Young People's Centre

The Council currently manages the Village and Millennium Greens and the Recreation Fields and car parks including the Changing Rooms. Play facilities on The Hawthorns and the Recreation Ground, including the all weather ball court and skate park are also the responsibility of the Council. The Council arranges the mowing of the two verges at the entrance to The Hawthorns. Additionally, the Council provides the Christmas Tree and lights, lighting for the path between Drapers Avenue and Richmond Road, wayside seats and the relevant public and employers liability and asset insurance cover. Services provided by the Parish Council include the Village Caretaker, who looks after the play areas and our other open spaces, and attends to minor repairs to council property, and the Village Lengthsperson, who picks litter from the major routes and estate roads.

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Chairman's Report

The budget for 2017 has now been approved by the Parish Council. The focus for some years now has been to find ways to maintain or enhance the services and facilities available to the village without increasing the precept charge to residents. This year, we have felt it prudent to make allowances for the undertaking of the Youth Centre and village library. Both of these resources play an important role in the life of the village and the wellbeing of many residents. As many will be aware, we have been at risk of losing these assets in our community and have therefore made it known to Chorley Council that we would take them on. To cover this undertaking, the Parish precept for Eccleston will increase by 2%. We hope that the village will understand this was not an easy decision to make, but was made with the best interests of the village at its heart. I would like to thank all the Councillors for their support in putting together the budget. I would like to place on record our thanks to the Clerk, Alan Platt, our Village Caretaker, Mike Marsh, and our new Lengthsperson, Angela Marsden. Mike and Angela can be seen working in all weather conditions to keep the village tidy, whilst Alan continues to manage the administrative aspects of council business very efficiently and effectively.

In recent meetings, there have been concerns raised around a variety of crime issues within Eccleston. Whilst the numbers reported remain relatively low in comparison to surrounding villages, we appreciate how concerned residents are. We would like to convey our concerns also, and also to encourage residents to continue to contact the Police and escalate all incidents that arise, as there is strength in numbers.

Hopefully, severe weather and the effects thereof, are a distant memory for Eccleston. But as a precaution, we have taken the opportunity to invest in sandbags and a store for them, should bad weather come our way again, emergency contact details are available.

As always we extend an invitation to residents to join our Council meetings. You may have a concern that you would like to raise, a view you wish to express regarding a current issue, or indeed just want to hear about current Council matters.

Lastly, Mark Frost will be standing down as a Councillor. You will no doubt recall that he has previously held the position of both Chair and Vice Chair, a valuable member of the council since July 2009. I would like to thank Mark for his support over the last four years. This also creates a vacancy on the Council, which will be advertised forthwith.

Kate Brown

Do you know which health service to use?

With a number of healthcare services available, it can be difficult to know which service is best for you if you become ill. However, choosing the right care for your need can help to reduce demand on NHS services.

Self care - coughs, colds and sore throats can be treated at home with a well-stocked medicine cabinet.

NHS 111 - if you are unwell but are unsure which service you need, NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Your local pharmacist - can give advice and treatment for many minor illnesses, such as a painful cough, runny nose, headaches and diarrhoea.

GP Surgery - Make an appointment if you have an illness that won't go away, and is not an emergency. If you think you need to see a GP out of hours, call NHS 111.

Urgent care centres - are now available 24 hrs a day, seven days a week at Preston and Chorley Hospitals for urgent care for minor injury or illness.

999 and emergency departments - are for patients with serious, life threatening injuries and illnesses

Remember, if you are unsure which service to use, call NHS 111 any time of the day or night.

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Do you have Memories of St Mary's, The Parish Church of Ecclestone?



The Friends of St Mary's are pleased to be able to say that this beautiful building is now fully rewired and positively glows with its new lighting system. After a year of work, impeded by the flooding, the church and its grounds along with the Parish Centre are fully functional again. Thanks to the generosity, mostly of individual people in Ecclestone, along with a large donation from the Friends of St Mary's, the lights both inside and outside the Church shine brightly.

After the Lych Gate was restored as a gift to the church at the end of last year, work was carried out to make the church safe and to link in an enhanced system of lighting. Anyone who visits the building can see the difference during the day and especially in the evenings. The stained-glass windows at the main altar and the side chapel are particularly stunning whilst the reflection of the wooden ceiling is magnificent. The path lighting is brighter and safer and the whole building, when bathed in the flood lights, presents a fitting focal point to village life.

It is hoped that an Open Day will be held in September 2017 for people to call into the church to enjoy all these improvements. The Friend's Committee would also like to take the opportunity of the day to collect and present any memories you might wish to share about the church as a building or the role it has played in the life of the village. This, we hope, will not be description as such of the bricks and mortar but more the events which reflected the role of St Mary's church in Parish life.

Some of you may have stories of the significance of the building of the Lych Gate for example, or an event at the church with a local celebration, or family occasion. Your parents or grandparents may have a photograph or a tale to tell from their childhood.

Do ask around within your family and let us have your memories before they are lost to the history of the church and village.



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Rural Community Grants Scheme

Chorley Council is providing small amounts of funding (up to a maximum of £250) to voluntary, community or faith sector groups to assist with one-off group costs.

Organisations must be voluntary, community or faith sector groups operating within the rural wards of Chorley and must have a group bank account. The organisation or project must be based on local need with evidence provided in the application and evidence must be provided in the application that the organisation or project will involve local residents and will be focused on improving the appearance of the local area and or improving the social quality of life for residents living in these areas.

The closing date for applications will be Friday 24 March 2017.

Full details are available from Chorley Council on 01257 515151 or visit chorley.gov.uk/funding

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This is ideal if a carer is needed for respite or for a few one-off tasks such as helping a person to the toilet or prompt medication and is cheaper. Both these options can be long or short term.

A legal ruling concluded that carers must be paid at least the minimum wage - even when sleeping - because they are at work. Independent Living complies with the law, we pay our staff above the legal hourly rate so you can be sure with us everything is done properly.

Independent Living also offers a 24/7 emergency call out service, if you need help in the night, for example after a fall, if you feel ill or need to go to hospital a carer can visit to help - even at 2am!

If you want advice, or our leaflet on Overnight Care & 7 till 7? Please call Amanda: 01257 696 050

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- Parkinson's & Stroke support
- Medication prompting
- End of life care

Providing freedom at home

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There has been a spike recently in thefts from vehicles, some of which have been left insecure. Please make sure you secure your vehicles and do not leave valuables on show. Sheds have also been targeted, and bikes stolen. Again, make sure your sheds are locked and windows are obscured so the contents are not visible.



Please ensure that you and your children have suitable lights on their bicycles if they are being used during the hours of darkness. You don't want us knocking on your door with the news that your child has been seriously injured, or worse, dead, due to not being seen by a motorist.

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

Waste and Recycling Collections

Some changes have been announced to waste collections from 1 May 2017.

If you want to carry on having garden waste collected you will need to sign up to receive a new grey 240 litre bin at chorley.gov.uk/bins by 31 March. There will be a charge of £30 per year.

The existing brown garden waste bin will be used for both cardboard and paper and will be collected on a four weekly cycle. Black pods and green boxes will no longer be used.

If you don't currently have a brown bin you will continue to use pods and boxes for now and you'll be able to request a brown bin free of charge later in the year. We'd encourage you to request a brown bin for paper and card as collection will be every four weeks.

Your domestic/non recyclable waste (green bin) and plastic, cans and glass (blue bin) collections will not change. For further information visit:

<http://chorley.gov.uk/Pages/AtoZ/Waste-and-recycling.aspx>

Could you do something incredible and be a foster carer?

Lancashire County Council is asking people to consider if they could help a child or young person achieve their dreams by becoming a foster carer.

LCC has raised allowances for new foster carers and newly approved foster carers can expect to receive between £241 and £415 to meet the needs of each child they care for.

Unlike some Independent Fostering Agencies, the county council's fostering service is not for profit so they prioritise the needs of the children. This also means that an excellent package of support and training is available to support foster carers in their role.

If you have a spare room and want to make a difference to a young person's life, could you be a foster carer for your local authority?

For more information, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering or call their friendly team on **0300 123 6723**.

Useful Telephone Numbers

- Police (non emergency): 101
- Police (Coppull): 01257 246103
- Crimestoppers: 0800 555111
- Chorley Borough Council: 01257 515151
- Report any problems with roads and pavements to Lancashire County Council on 0300 123 6780
- Report vehicles parked on double lines to Lancashire Parking Services on 0800 1952774
- National Grid (gas leaks) 0800 111999
- United Utilities (Water) Leakline 0800 330033

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