

Eccleshall PARISH COUNCIL



Winter Newsletter 2023

www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

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EGCLESALL FESTIVITIES—CHRISTMAS 2023

CHRISTMAS TREES

As usual the town will be decorated with Christmas trees and lights throughout December. The trees and lights will be erected by Ecclian Society members and friends on Sunday 3rd December. The 25 foot tree in the Holy Trinity churchyard and the 20 foot tree at the crossroads are erected by Woods Farm.



The Parish Council wishes to thank the Ecclian Society who will erect the 72 small Christmas Trees in the town and check the brackets, Woods Christmas Tree Farm at Solihull for supplying and delivering all the trees, A.S. Electrical Services for installing the lights on the large trees and Traction Equipment for the cherry pickers.

The decorations on the crossroads tree were made once again by the children at the Bishop Lonsdale Academy.

The trees are funded by the Eccleshall Parish Council.

CROSS ROAD CAROLS

The lights on the large tree at the crossroads, adorned with baubles decorated by the children from Bishop Lonsdale School, will be switched on to the accompaniment of carol singers at 5pm on Sunday 3rd December.



FATHER CHRISTMAS

Santa on the Eccleshall Rotary Club's sleigh will be at the lych gate at Holy Trinity on Sunday 3rd December from 4pm, listening to the children's wishes for presents and giving out chocolate.

Carols around the Christmas Tree

Carollers should meet at the crossroads on **Monday 18th December at 7pm**, armed with lights and warm clothing. Carols will be sung at the crossroads, then at the Millennium Clock and John Pershall Court.

Hot punch will be served in Holy Trinity Church by the Ecclian Society, concluding around 8pm with a last burst of singing.

Everyone is welcome

SANTA'S ECCLESHALL TOUR

Santa on the Eccleshall Rotary Sleigh will be touring the town during December. The dates are Monday 11th, Wednesday 13th, Tuesday 19th and Friday 22nd December. **All tours start at 5.30pm and end at approximately 7.30pm**

Do listen out for the music so that you don't miss him!

Santa will also be at the Co-Op on Saturday 16th and 23rd December from 10am-4pm

See noticeboard posters for further information and additional visits.

The expected routes are:

Monday 11th:

Romford Meadow, Campion Close, Mallow Close, The Crescent, Cross Butts, Overton Manor, Trinity Road, Oak Road, St Chad's Road, Gaol Butts, Churchfield Road, Usulwall Close, Perle Brook.

Tuesday 19th:

Sancerre Grange, Green Lane, Green Park, Linacre Road, Beech Road, Claremont Road, Poplar Close, Caroline Court, Southwell Estate, Spring Hollow.

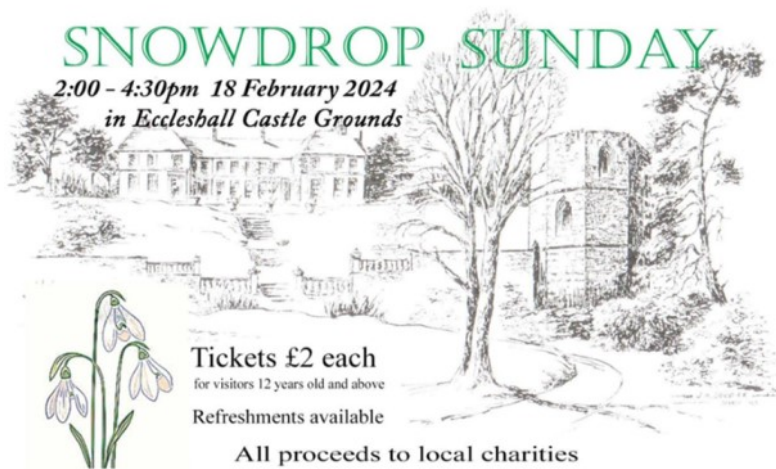
Wednesday 13th:

Cherry Tree Close, Stone Road, Southlands Court, Meadow Close, The Burgage, Badgers Croft, Hartlands Road, Bishops Court, Redhills.

Friday 22nd:

High Street, Sheriffs Way, Vicarage Close, The Bell, The Royal Oak, Small Lane, The Eagle, The Kings Arms, The Little George, The Smithy.





You are warmly invited to
Snowdrop Sunday

By kind permission of the Carter-Motley Family

Please Note:

Refreshments will be available but with limited disabled access to the tearoom.

Please keep to the designated areas only in the Castle gardens and be aware that the ground may be uneven and slippery in places.

Dogs (well behaved and on leads at all times) are welcome but not in the tearoom. Please take all your litter home.

Some parking on site is available for people with disabled badges and/or limited mobility.

You attend this event at your own risk.

All proceeds from this event will be given to local charities.

Tickets for this event will be on sale in Eccleshall Library foyer on Saturday, 3 February 2024 between 10am and 12 noon. Any unsold tickets will be available at Eccleshall Castle entrance on the 18 February from 2pm.

Eccleshall Community Forum 2023

The Parish Council held a very successful Community Forum on Monday, 16 October from 7.30 – 9.00pm at the Community Centre.

Thirty-one local organisations hosted stands in the main hall giving them the opportunity to showcase their activities. Residents were welcomed to demonstrations of bridge, spectacularly dressed members of Eccleshall Community Amateur Dramatics, the chance to choose a Christmas card design from Staffordshire Marquetry Group and information about Katharine House Hospice, to name but a few. Everyone was also offered free tea, coffee and cake or biscuits.

I wish to thank everyone who attended the Forum and especially all the local organisations for putting on such an interesting evening. We hope to see you all at the next Forum.

Councillor Ros Taylor, Chairman of the Parish Council.





ECCLESHALL COM

On Thursday, 3 November 2022, the upstairs room at Eccleshall Library was opened as a 'warm space' for anyone in our community to use. The original idea was initiated by Mercia Rotary and funded by the Parish Council and Eccleshall Library. There were two sessions each week on Thursdays and Fridays starting at 12.30pm and finishing at 4.30pm. Free tea, coffee and biscuits were provided, and games were available. Everyone was welcome to drop in for as long or short a time as they wished. Each session had at least two volunteers who served the refreshments. It was intended that this should run until the end of February 2023.

It quickly became obvious that it wasn't a warm space that was needed, but a place for those who had been isolated in their homes for such a long time and valued the companionship of others to talk with and generally socialise. So, that is what the Community Lounge eventually came. A place for people to get together, especially those who lived by themselves.

In January 2023 the Co-op very generously gave the Community Lounge a grant towards the running costs and to encourage greater use. At the end of February, it was decided that the Lounge was needed by the community and should continue on Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm for people to socialise, and that on each third Thursday afternoon of the month there would be a Community Interest Talk to add value to the sessions and hopefully open the lounge up to more residents. The first of these talks was given on 16 March and have continued monthly since that date. The talks have been wide ranging from: Resuscitation Techniques, An insight into the work of a Goldsmith, Sweet Making across the Ages, The History of the Co-op in Eccleshall, Stone and Stafford, to name but a few. The list of interesting talks for the first months of 2024 can be found in the library and in this Newsletter. Places are limited, tickets (£1 each) are required and can be purchased from the library two weeks before the talk in that month. Tea, coffee, and biscuits are served at each of the sessions. All speakers have given their time free of charge and we must thank them for their generosity.

Apart from the Community Interest Talks Afternoons where volunteers make the refreshments, the other Thursday afternoons are now self-sustaining. The regular group make their own refreshments and organise entertainments such as games and quizzes. Everyone is still welcome to drop in and will be warmly welcomed.

So, what started out as one good idea quickly changed into what was actually needed in our community.

Councillor Ros Taylor



COMMUNITY LOUNGE

Community Interest Topics and Presenters

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
2024		
18 January	Janet Markwell	Community Sewing Groups
15 February	A member of the MAA team	The Work of the Midlands Air Ambulance
21 March	Jenny Morgan	Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre (Come and hear about the various animals and birds and perhaps even hold/stroke one)
18 April	Amanda Graham	'Recycling – and other Rubbish?'
16 May	Howard Ball	Citizens Advice and All It's Work
20 June	Melanie Latham	Chutney & Cheer
18 July	Margaret Thompstone	Richard III – Rightful King or Imposter?

Please note: the dates are the third Thursday of each month from 2 – 4pm in the upstairs room in the library. A ticket, costing £1 from the Reception Desk in the Library, will be required as entry is limited.

Tickets will be available from the first Thursday of each month for the lecture in that month only. The ticket price includes a coffee/tea and biscuits.

Some speakers, who are representing a charity, may bring collection boxes for voluntary donations.

£ PARISH GRANTS £

Each year the Parish Council receives applications for financial support in the way of grants to support their club or organisation.

In the past we have supported sports clubs, social clubs, churches and new groups starting out. This year so far the Council has provided a grant to Eccleshall Bishops Lonsdale PTA , but there is still funding available.

The council can only consider applications from organisations that provide benefits to those within the parish.

Applications should be made to the Parish Clerk Mrs Stacey Worden. The application is available online at:

<https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk/finances-and-documents/general-publications/>

New Circular Walks Brochures

The Footpaths Committee has produced a new set of circular walks, for those interested in exploring many areas of our beautiful parish.

The booklet contains 10 walks that range between 2.4km and 7km, with detailed directions and photographs throughout.

Copies are available from the library or online at :

<https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk/local-information/footpaths-and-walks/>

Eccleshall Parish Council continues to support rights of way maintenance with a dedicated footpaths operative, and is grateful for the assistance of the footpath marshal volunteers who continue to walk the paths and report any issues.

Grime Watch

If you know of fly tipping in your area
you can report it by calling

01785 619402.

Or email the
Borough Council

at grimewatch@staffordbc.gov.uk

Eccleshall Guide

The Eccleshall Guide is online for
all your information about
Eccleshall. Guide information can
be found at:

www.eccleshallguide.org

The 2024 printed edition of the Guide
is due out in January 2024

Eccleshall Singathon 2023

The third Singathon to be held in Eccleshall took place on Saturday, 21st October 2023, and it was our most successful yet. The Singathon was the brainchild of Martin Jones, choir leader of Broughton Community Choir. He could see that a whole day of music with choirs from round and about, musicians of all sorts of instruments, singers of all genres interspersed with tea and cake was an idea that should come to fruition. He gathered together five willing helpers to do the organising and he set about asking choirs and musicians who he knew (and he knows lots!) if they would like to be part of this very enjoyable day. If you stop and think that those participants travelled and gave their time for nothing – well, that's what the love of music does! Links on Facebook to see photos and videos are under 'Eccleshall Grand Singathon'.

Such was the success this year that we are holding another Singathon next year. Keep the date free! Saturday, 19th October 2024 11.00 – 5.00, Eccleshall Community Centre.

The choirs, musicians and acts who took part were:

Bishop Lonsdale children, St. Mary's Mucklestone children, Newport Male Voice Choir, Daleian Singers, TEQila, Tooty Flooty, Keele Women's Choir, Sax Bomb, Harmony Collective, Rooftop Studios, Eccleshall Community Band, John Myatt, Broughton Community Choir.



Article kindly provided by Marianne Grime.

Eccleshall Band showcases the Rondo

Eccleshall Community Band played a specially commissioned piece of music at the recent Singathon (the Eccleshall Rondo), which was part funded by a Parish Council grant.



Eccleshall Community Band rehearses at Holy Trinity Church Eccleshall every Wednesday at 8pm and new members are always welcome. Their musical director provides music at a wide variety of levels so everyone can be part of the band from a beginner/ advanced or rusty player.

The Band will next perform in Eccleshall as part of the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity.

Book Exchange proves popular in the community

As you can see from the photos the new Book Exchange in the old telephone box at Croxton is up and running and being well used by people in our community. There are lots of great books of varied genre and interest. There will soon be a leaflets rack and notice board where you will be able to find out about local walks and events going on in our wonderful community.



The telephone box in Fair oak has also been repaired and repainted and that will be repurposed with the addition of a defibrillator as soon as this can be arranged.

Thanks to Eccleshall Parish Council for the funding for this project and to the members of the community who have volunteered to maintain the boxes in good condition.

Councillor Ros Langford (Croxton Ward)



Croxton Remembers

Ahead of the local Remembrance services, which were held on the 11th and 12th of November, two Poppy installations were erected at St Paul's Church Croxton, and St Peter's Church, Broughton. They were made from hundreds of knitted and crocheted poppies made by members of Broughton WI .



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Eccleshall's speed watch group continue to monitor the traffic along all the major roads in and out of the town. Sadly, they are still recording some startling speeds within the 30mph zones, some drivers continuing to ignore the flashing speed indicators located around the town. Many residents keep expressing their concerns about speeding traffic through the town at certain times of the day, especially during the school runs up and down Gaol Butts. The Stafford Road and Chester Road seem to attract the highest speeds. The objective of speed watch is for the benefit and safety of the community, nothing more.



The police are conducting a Speed Awareness campaign on all our roads in the county. At a recent forum at police HQ, it was stated that 90% of road accidents are caused by excessive speed and that each fatal road accident costs tax payers a staggering 1.8 million pounds. That's the amount of money required to pay the police, fire service, medical staff, insurance and those who have to clear up the aftermath on the roads and support the grieving families. The number of volunteer speed watch groups continues to grow in our county and if anyone has an hour to spare and would like to assist the local group in their endeavours then please contact Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership on 01785 232702 or email community.speedwatch@staffordshire.police.uk for further information.

Report provided by the Eccleshall Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime in Eccleshall fortunately remains relatively low. There has been a small amount of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and one or two burglaries of late in the town however, private and commercial CCTV can play an important role in combatting crime. CCTV is considered well worth the money in protecting your property and your vehicles from harm. Systems are cheap and easily installed. The police are continuing to crack down on irresponsible parking around Eccleshall including parking on double yellow lines, too near to junctions and on pavements so please be warned. The Parish Council have also established a working party to attempt to address our ongoing parking problems.

Report provided by the Eccleshall Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

KEEP ECCLESHALL TIDY

The Keep Eccleshall Tidy Team (KET Team) started during the pandemic, in August 2020. Over the following months a team of thirty-six community minded people were recruited to litter pick our pavements and clean road signs.

During the past three years the KET Team have promised extra bags of litter as part of the Great British Spring Clean and provided teams to help with the Platinum Jubilee and Coronation Picnic celebrations. The Team have continued their work to keep Eccleshall free from litter and clean and tidy.

I have recently carried out a review of the KET Team to check that they have all the equipment they require and are happy to continue to volunteer as part of this important team. All equipment is provided by the Parish Council. Thirty-three of the team have replied to say that they are happy to continue. I really cannot thank all the KET Team enough for all the work they do to keep Eccleshall free from litter.

If you wish to join the KET Team I would be delighted to hear from you. Although it is usual for team members to litter pick somewhere near their own home, sometimes people are asked to pick in road a little way from where they live. All the necessary equipment will be provided. I do have a waiting list. If you are interested in joining this very valuable community team you can contact me at: ros.taylor@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk.

Do You Need Transport Getting To Medical Appointments?

The Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme aims to provide transport for people in Eccleshall who have limited or no access to public transport or a private car.

Journeys to doctor's surgeries, Stafford or Stoke hospitals or other medical appointments are undertaken.

To qualify for the scheme passengers must register, but there is no charge for registration.

Each journey will be much less than a conventional taxi, the drivers use their own vehicles and are volunteers who receive a nominal amount to cover petrol.

To apply to join the scheme contact Peter & Joy Jones on 01785 851381 or 07815 419166, email peterwjones@btinternet.com or visit the website at:

www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

HIGHWAYS

Street lights, pot holes, standing water, footpaths issues and many highway matters can be reported online at:-

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit

It is important that residents report issues so that it is logged with an enquiry number and assigned to a County Council officer for inspection and assessment.

RIGHTS OF WAY

There is a reporting system for issues with the public rights of way, which can be found at:

<https://prow.staffordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>

BOROUGH COUNCIL

To report problems associated with grass cutting, play areas, fly tipping, street sweeping and name plates:

Street Scene - 01785 619401

Recycling collection - 01785 619402

email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk

Report online at: [https://](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/streetscene-service-online-forms)

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/streetscene-service-online-forms

Dogs - dog fouling and stray dogs:
01785 619000

Email: dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk

REFUSE LORRY

The Civic Amenity Lorry parks on Stone Road opposite the Methodist Church from 9 - 11am for the disposal of excess waste .

Dates for 2024 will be on noticeboards and on the parish website when confirmed.

HIGH STREET NOTICE BOARD

If you have flyers for any community events that you wish to be posted up on the Parish Council noticeboard in High Street, email a copy to Cllr Peter Jones at peter.jones@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk who will print and display it on the notice board.

SUSPECT A CRIME?

Report any suspicious activity you witness to the **police on 101** at the time of the incident. Please obtain as much information as you can, i.e. description of person involved, vehicle registration, make and model. Instead of the previous option to report via Facebook or Twitter, there is now an online LiveChat function. To access the LiveChat function visit the website <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/> and click the LiveChat button.

Please still call 999 if it is an emergency and an urgent response is needed.