

Eccleshall PARISH COUNCIL



Winter Newsletter 2024

www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

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EGGLESALL FESTIVITIES—CHRISTMAS

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 1st 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 1st December.



Carols around the Christmas Tree

Carollers should meet at the crossroads on **Monday 23rd 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.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Santa on the Eccleshall Rotary Club's sleigh will be at the lych gate at Holy Trinity on Sunday 1st December from 4pm, listening to the children's wishes for presents and giving out chocolate.

SANTA IN ECCLESHALL 2024

Santa and his sleigh will be at:

- * **The Lych Gate during the lights switch on, from 4pm on 1st December**
- * **The Co-op Car Park on Saturday 14th and 21st between 10am and 4pm. Chats with Santa will also be possible here**

Street tours with Santa and sleigh are not planned this year.

Please do drop in for a visit



Eccleshall Singathon 2024

Yet another successful Singathon took place in the Community Centre on Saturday 19th October. Over 20 different groups of musicians took part and a good sum of money was raised for BEAM, which supports music in Eccleshall/ local community and schools. The event was organised by Martin Jones, who through events like this does so much to create musical enrichment in our community.



SNOWDROP SUNDAY

2:00 – 4:30pm 16 February 2025
in Eccleshall Castle Grounds



Tickets £2 each
for visitors 12 years old and above
Refreshments available

All proceeds to local charities

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, 1 February 2024 between 10am and 12 noon. Any unsold tickets will be available at Eccleshall Castle entrance on the 16 February from 2pm.

Scouts Christmas Post Service

Once again, the First Eccleshall Scouts will be offering their Christmas Postal service for the delivery of festive cards to homes within in the 30 mph area of Eccleshall. Each card will be delivered for the price of 50p, a bargain compared with current postal charges and the funds raised will benefit the local Scout Group.

They will be collecting cards outside the High Street library in Eccleshall on three Saturday dates, November 30, December 7th and 14th between 9am and 12 noon.



Beaver Group is Speed Aware

The Traffic Management Committee recently had the pleasure of judging the local Beavers speed awareness poster competition, completed as part of their Community Impact Activity Badge. The winning poster from Ruby will be made into a sign to put on the fence at Scout HQ.

The 6 runners up are in the Parish Council Notice Boards and the rest will be put in windows around Eccleshall High Street over the next couple of weeks.

The Parish Council congratulates all the Beavers for their hard work in designing the posters.

Pictured are: Back row L to R - Elliott Delderfield & Ashleigh Worthington, Group Lead Volunteers, Cllr. Peter Jones, Deputy Mayor and Traffic Management Committee Chairman, Sue Chell, Group Lead, Volunteer holding Rupert's poster.

Front Row L to R - Jennifer Kirkham, Elliot, Penny Philpott, Ruby Kirkham (winner), William Mifflin & Seth Cartwright.



£ 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. Recent grants have been provided to Eccleshall First Responders, Katharine House and Eccleshall Eagles, 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 Heritage Walk Booklet

Now in the library and online is a brand new publication for those who would like to take a guided stroll around Eccleshall Town Centre whilst imagining how it was in 1871. With lots of fascinating information about who lived there in 1871, and historical images, it is well worth picking up a copy. To download online, just visit the council website at:

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

There you will also find a great selection of walks throughout the parish, for walkers of all abilities. Paper copies are also found in the library.

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 2025 printed edition of the Guide
is due out in January 2025

Eccleshall Library

Eccleshall Parish Council took over the running of the Library from Mercia Rotary on 5 August 2024. Once the legalities had been completed the change over was relatively calm, apart from the odd unwanted wasp!

The Parish Council would like to thank Mercia Rotary for administering the library for the past five years. If they had not undertaken running the library during this time, Eccleshall may well not have had a one now. Hopefully, the library will be a central hub in the town for many years to come.

Our library is a wonderful asset for our community and can offer so much more than you might believe. Apart from the vast choice of books for all ages, some in large print, audio books and a local studies reference section, there is also free wi-fi, free PC access, printing, photocopying and scanning for a small charge and information about local events. You can even ask for a tea/coffee and biscuit at a small cost. Across the week the library offers Baby Bounce and Rhyme, a Free IT clinic, and the Community Lounge. There are monthly sessions of the Reading Group and the Community Interest Talks for all to enjoy. Several current users of the upstairs Meeting Room will welcome new members to their activities and this room is available for hire for some sessions every month. Please ask at library reception for details of all these services and sessions.

Eccleshall Library's greatest asset is the thirty-one strong team of volunteers. Without these fantastic people the library could not function. You will always get a smile and welcome from the volunteers on duty. Many of these volunteers not only undertake regular reception duties but also carry out other functions i.e. checks for health & safety, fire and burglar alarms, water supply safety, production of the monthly duty rota, the book stock team, dressing the window and other library areas, overseeing Duke of Edinburgh participants, meeting room bookings, checking footfall numbers, provision of basic supplies, just to name but a few of the important regular jobs that are required.

The building will still be maintained by the County Council and the everyday running will be administered by the Library Management Team that is made of three library volunteers, two Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and the County Council Library Community Support Officer.

We very much hope that you will pop in and find out more about what Eccleshall Library can offer.

Councillor Ros Taylor



Community Interest Topics and Presenters

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
2025		
16 January	Rev. Phillip Johnson	The Eccleshall Pageant of 1926
20 February	Eccleshall Fire Service	Fire safety in the home
20 March	Rob Fearnley Bowcock & Pursaill	Everything you need to know about Wills, Power of Attorney and Inheritance Tax
17 April	Helen Yeomans	Seated dance/exercise and Pilates taster
15 May	Rev'd Stephen Hapgood	Life before and after prison
19 June	John Turnock	A History of Local Glass Making and Glassblowing

Future Notice: Due to popular demand, we are delighted to welcome back on the

16 October	Melanie Latham	Chutney & Cheer for a Christmas buying opportunity
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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.

Allotment or Bog Garden?

(A Personal View by Andy Iliffe, Eccleshall Allotments)

Has this year on the Eccleshall allotments been a once in a generation experience or is this what global warming is going to send us every year from now on?

As the pleasantly warm spring weather failed to arrive and the rain kept falling the usual hope and optimism for a bumper year began to fade. The normal wheelbarrows full of courgettes started to look like a distant memory and I began wondering what we still had in the freezers.

In April and May, we should have been busily planting seeds and seedlings, not feeding the ducks. Don't laugh, I did type "how to grow rice" into google. And if we did have the impudence to put any plants out natures Death Squad soon put us in our place. I checked my bible. Slugs are not between boils and locusts as one of the Plagues of Egypt.



As secretary of the Eccleshall Allotments Association it is my role to show prospective new plot holders around the site. I really enjoy showing people around but it's difficult to sell a plot when it's underwater.

But the year hasn't been a complete disaster. Summer did arrive for a couple of months, and we were reminded how rapidly plants can grow when the mercury rises. The third or fourth attempt to grow runner beans showed promise and they began to climb the canes quicker than the slugs could strip them. I lost count of how many times we planted carrots but suddenly they poked their fingers out of the soil, took their chance and gave us a bumper crop.



I thought the cucumber plants were gone but like Lazarus of Bethany they rose from the dead. (Sorry, that's two biblical references). It's also been a good year for pumpkins. We won't have to cancel Halloween. We managed to get one of our barbecues in during the summer at which we celebrated the life of our past chairman Ron Milne with the unveiling of a bench.



So, it's not been a great year, but my three freezers are still full. And we've still had enough surplus to take some to the foodbank. Speaking to members of other allotment associations and farmers we're not the only ones affected by the weather. Having an allotment might prove to be a blessing with veggies threatening to be expensive this winter.

And certain nameless allotmenters seem to have been unaffected by the elements. We don't talk to them anymore!!

If this has been your first year with an allotment don't despair. Our Chairman, Ken, assures me he has arranged great weather for next year. If you think an allotment might be for you get in touch at eccleshallaa@gmail.com and I will be very happy to give you the tour. Growing your own food is hugely rewarding.

Andy Iliffe (Secretary to the Eccleshall Allotments Association)





Help Now!

By collecting DRY SEEDS such as beech, ash, melon, pumpkin, squash and alder knobs.

Save the Date!

Croxton Well Dressing—June 14th 2025

Following the success of the Well Dressing in 2023, preparations have started for next year's event. Our theme is centred around the second world war -80 years since VE day -60 years since Winston Churchill's death and remembering local war effort in the munitions factory at Swynnerton and the efforts of the land girls to keep everyone fed in wartime. If you'd like to help in planning then we'd be glad to welcome you to join our group.

More info at <https://croxtonwelldressing.weebly.com/>

You can contact us (David & Liz Hemingway) on:

CroxtonWells@gmail.com or

by 'phone on (01785) 280478.

Beech Road Play Area

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has appointed Kompan as its preferred play supplier for the planned refurbishment of Beech Road play area into an inclusive space for all members of the community to enjoy.

The next stage of the process involves reviewing the design to ensure it is completely fit for purpose, and inviting members of the community to come and share their views on the proposed design at a further consultation stage before it is finalised and moves into the scheduling and build stages of the project.



Delivery of the play area is linked with the receipt of s.106 funding from Stafford Borough Council and the leasing of the play area to the Parish Council. As this needs to be factored into the timeline, we have a current expected completion date of Summer 2025. We look forward to sharing the final design and progress on our social media and website pages.

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.

The Scheme also needs more volunteer drivers—can you spare some time to help?

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

www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk

OVER 55s BREAKFAST CLUB

SECOND FRIDAY

EVERY MONTH

At Eccleshall Parish Room
From 9.45am – 11.30am
at Holy Trinity, Church Street



FOR THE DECEMBER BREAKFAST
PLEASE BRING A SMALL GIFT
FOR THE SECRET SANTA.



Charity Sewing Day

at Eccleshall Community Centre

On Sunday, 20 October The Corner Patch held a Charity Sewing Day at Eccleshall Community Centre. Some 25 people attended for part, or all of the day. Their ages ranged from 8 to 80 + years old.

Many people brought their own sewing machines and Janet Markwell, who organised this wonderful day, provided extra machines. Cutting, sewing, sandwiching, quilting, binding and ironing was carried out all day by the very productive and creative group sewers. All the quilts made will be given to a young person who will treasure this very special gift.

Many of Janet's customers had donated fabrics for use during this day and The Corner Patch donated fabric, a roll of wadding and thread. Any fabric left over will be donated to other charities.

The atmosphere in the hall was warm and friendly. Tea, coffee, biscuits and cake were served all day and many people enjoyed a buffet lunch together.

Everything made will be donated to either Project Linus UK or Quilts for Care Leavers. Both these charities do wonderful work within the UK supporting children and young people.



Janet would like to thank everyone who donated fabric and their support, expertise and valuable time on this very special day. It is hoped to organise a similar Community Sewing Day in 2025. Please look out for the date and come and join in, or just pop in for a welcome and a chat.

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.