



# Eccleshall PARISH COUNCIL



**Summer Newsletter 2023**

**Coronation Edition**

**[www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk)**

# PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



## TOWN WARD

Mrs Ros Taylor (Chairman)  
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Mr Peter Jones  
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Mrs Libby Dale  
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Mr Ant Reid  
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Mrs Debbie Hill  
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Mrs Cherry Ryan-Bloor  
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Mr. Dave Hall  
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## CROXTON WARD

Mr Bryan Delanchy,  
5 Highfields, Croxton, ST21 6NJ  
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Mrs Ros Langford  
Ferndale, Woodwall Green, Croxton, ST21 6PH  
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Mr Stuart Mifflin  
Church Cottage  
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## HORSLEY WARD

Mr Stuart Perren  
Conifers, Cross Butts, Eccleshall, ST21 6AX  
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Mr Chris Wilkins (Vice -Chairman)  
Elford Rise, Shaw's lane, Eccleshall, ST21 6JB  
851429  
chris.wilkins@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr Steve Kean  
Countryside, Cash lane, Garmelow, ST21 6HN  
01785 284450  
steve.kean@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

## SLINDON WARD VACANCY

### County Councillor

Mr Jeremy Pert  
Bank Farm, Croxton, ST21 6PE  
07740 924659  
jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

### Borough Councillors

Mr Peter Jones (details as opposite)  
Mr Jeremy Pert (details as above)

### Clerk to the Council

Mrs Stacey Worden  
16 Newport Road, Great Bridgeford  
Stafford, ST18 9PR

**01785 282296**  
**eccleshallpc@gmail.com**

# Amey Supports Eccleshall in Bloom

On Thursday 25th May, a team from Amey came to Eccleshall to support the Ecclesian Society by replacing 12 of the old oak posts, on which are mounted the baskets for the annual bloom display. The new posts have stainless steel anchors which will extend the life of the posts. The cost of the steel and new oak posts is covered by individual sponsorship by Eccleshall businesses and residents.

The work was undertaken as part of a volunteer initiative. The volunteer days that Amey provides to support these projects really do have a huge impact. It is the only way the work can be completed and the Ecclesian Society and Parish Council are most appreciative for everything they do. They did an absolutely amazing job, even with a few “challenging (nightmare)” posts.



## Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme

Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme aims to provide reduced cost transport to and from all type of medical appointments for local people without transport.

For more information contact Peter or Joy Jones on 01785 851381 / 07815 419166 , email peterwjones@btinternet.com or visit the website at:

[www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk](http://www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk)



# Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III in Eccleshall

Eccleshall is gaining a reputation for celebrating special occasions in style. Following the success of the Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, Eccleshall put on a fun packed weekend to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III in May.

I am sure many of you will have watched the moving Coronation Service and processions on the morning of Saturday, 6 May. In the evening residents were able to celebrate this wonderful day at the Coronation Dance held in the Community Centre that ended with a 'Last Night of the Proms Finale' where those present could join in singing a rousing rendition of patriotic songs.

Sunday, 7 May was a beautiful sunny day so that all residents could enjoy the street party organised by the Eccelian and The Royal Oak. A fantastic line up of acts that included Jo Safina and Peetloaf performing as Meatloaf, Andy James as Elvis, the sensational Jersey Boys tribute act, Stone Cold Crazy and Abba Express entertained the huge numbers of people who attended. Delicious food and drink was available from High Street businesses.

On Monday, 8 May, Eccleshall Parish Council sponsored the Coronation Picnic in the beautiful grounds of Eccleshall Castle with the kind permission of the Carter-Motley family. Although there were showers during set up, the rain held off for the majority of the event. This was very much a family afternoon. The activities for children were much appreciated and included various bouncy castles, face painting and a bubble show. Entertainment was provided by Stafford Morris, Country Singer Alan Williams and the wonderful children of the Stafford Youth Marching Brigade who were still playing as the rain was falling 10 minutes before the end of the event. There was also a display of Jaguar cars. The Parish Council wish to express thanks to all the marshals who supported the event. The Carter-Motley family agreed that monies taken for ticket sales should be donated to a number of local groups - Katharine House, 1st Eccleshall Scouts, Eccleshall Trust and Stafford Youth Marching Brigade. So, many people enjoyed the event and several organisations and charities benefited from the Coronation Picnic.

We hope that all the Coronation Celebrations in Eccleshall during this very special weekend were enjoyable and a time to remember.

Ros Taylor – Chairman of the Events Committee



# Broughton Afternoon Tea



# Eccleshall Street Party





# Eccleshall Com



# Community Picnic



# 2023 Croxton Commu

Saturday 1st July saw the sixth Well Dressing Festival held in Croxton. It is the most westerly Well Dressing to take place in England, and is a real village affair with so many people of all ages and all parts of the community getting involved in this wonderful countryside tradition.

The exact origins of well dressing have been lost over time, but it's thought that the custom may have found its start in a pagan ritual of leaving gifts thanking the local water gods for the continued supply of fresh water. What started out as being a simple offering of flowers grew more elaborate when the custom was revived by the Victorians and well dressings were created depicting popular stories from the Bible. These days, the subject matter has diversified a bit. The well dressings at Croxton have a different theme every two years, with the history of local place names, the Coronation and other water-based themes being illustrated in 2023.

The heavy wooden frames are left to soak in the River Sow for two weeks so that when they are filled with clay, the wood doesn't absorb the moisture from the clay and the designs last longer. The clay boards are then decorated with natural objects including dried alder knobs, coffee beans, seeds, egg shell, dried banana skins, and, most importantly, flower petals which give the pictures their colour and detail. This creates a beautiful mosaic picture.

Some materials such as petals require a certain way of laying (like tiles on a roof) to ensure they stay put and can withstand the weather.

The designs were created by 35 ladies who thoroughly enjoyed the team work and skills of this ancient art. Some were old-hands, others novices and many found it addictive. All were delighted with the end results.

Early on the Saturday morning the completed Well Dressings were loaded onto a trailer and towed up from Blorepipe to Croxton by Rob Unsworth's bright red tractor. Then a team of strong men erected the heavy clay boards into place by the wells and ponds along a half-mile trail through Croxton.

At 11.30am, crowds gathered on 'The Flash' in front the old village Well in the centre of Croxton, - known as Boughey's Well. Mrs Beryl Roe (a long-standing member of Croxton community) officially opened the Festival, and Rev. Sara Humphries and Father David conducted a traditional 'Blessing of the Well'. Ros Langford (Croxton Well Dressing Festival Co-ordinator) thanked Stafford Borough Council, Eccleshall Parish Council and James du Pavey for the funding support they

# Community Well Dressing Festival

had given to the event, and to the planning committee who had worked so hard to make the event possible.

Visitors could then walk the Wells Trail to view the designs or visit the stalls and displays by local community groups in the Millennium Wood. There were also delicious bacon butties available for brunch, and folk music played by the Tern Valley Tinkers.

Around 1pm people made their way down to St Paul's Church for tea and cakes followed by a poetry and music concert. The variety and quality of local music talent that was showcased delighted the audience as did the poetry, some of which had been especially written for the event.

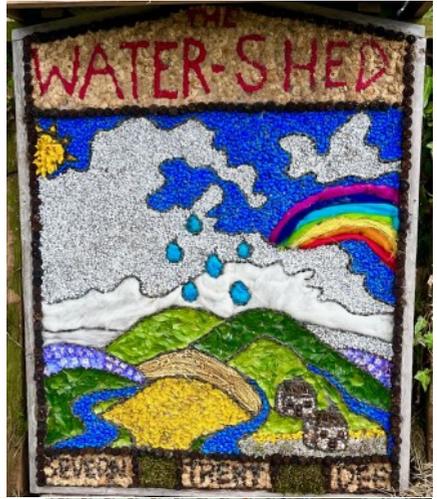
The Well Dressings were displayed for 7 days, and hopefully there will be another event in 2025.



# 2023 Croxton Communi



# City Well Dressing Festival



# It's your phone box ~ have your say!

The Parish Council is considering options for repurposing the adopted BT phone box at the Washpits and would like to know what you would like to see in it.

Ideas include a book swap, information point, plant swap, or even an art gallery!

To cast your vote, or make another suggestion, click to complete our survey at :

<https://forms.office.com/r/NR4EkZHHin> (closing date 31st August 2023)

If you are an organisation who would be interested in running the repurposed box (costs to be covered by the PC) please contact the Clerk for further information.



# Community Speed Watch ~ volunteers needed

Staffordshire Community Speed Watch team are looking to start up a Speedwatch team in Croxton—do you have some time to spare to support your community?

Additional members are also wanted for the Eccleshall team.

## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

### Can you volunteer?

Have you got an hour to spare every now and again to help Staffordshire Police tackle speeding in your area?

Community Speed Watch allows members of the public to become a Police Volunteer and record vehicles that break the speed limit.

If you're interested call Michelle on 01785-232702 or email: [CSW@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:CSW@staffordshire.police.uk)

Together we can make Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent a safer place for everyone.



for a reason!



Community Speed Watch  
Staffordshire Police  
PO Box 2117  
Stafford ST16 9ZR

# Parish Council Financial Summary ~ year ending 31st March 2023

## Eccleshall Parish Council

### Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2023

Last Year Ended 31st March 2022		Current Year Ended 31st March 2023
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
89,944.68	Administration	93,244.92
3,667.69	VAT Data	9,295.62
<u>93,612.37</u>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>102,540.54</u>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
46,392.57	Administration	41,625.80
19,874.26	Open Spaces	22,934.78
17,877.57	Projects	4,482.14
1,180.00	Traffic Management	4,752.54
3,791.68	Highways Maintenance	705.00
1,159.28	Events	9,651.02
1,000.00	Village Halls	1,000.00
247.90	Contingencies	1,706.06
7,808.15	VAT Data	5,438.12
<u>99,331.41</u>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<u>92,295.46</u>
	<b>Receipts and Payments Summary</b>	
<b>103,737.89</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>98,018.85</b>
93,612.37	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	102,540.54
197,350.26		200,559.39
99,331.41	Less Total Payments(As Above)	92,295.46
<u>98,018.85</u>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<u>108,263.93</u>
	<b>These cumulative funds are represented by:</b>	
6,188.23	Current Bank A/c	0.00
66,648.61	Deposit Account	0.00
25,182.01	Savings Account 1	25,655.23
0.00	Unity Current	6,144.83
0.00	Unity Deposit	76,463.87
<u>98,018.85</u>		<u>108,263.93</u>
	<b>Reserve Balances are represented by:</b>	
-5,719.04	Current Year Fund	10,245.08
50,855.52	General Reserves	38,447.34
1,100.00	EMR - Clock Maintenance	1,100.00
8,000.00	EMR - Community Centre	10,000.00
3,033.79	EMR - Croxton Play Area	1,370.79
830.00	EMR - Traffic Calming	1,518.00
6,889.58	EMR - Highways/ex CC Duties	6,889.58
3,605.25	EMR - Training	3,605.25
0.00	EMR - Allotments	2,344.14
3,064.01	EMR - Elections	4,384.01
9,618.00	EMR - Eagle Street Art	9,618.00

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**Eccleshall Parish Council**

**Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2023**

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Last Year Ended 31st March 2022		Current Year Ended 31st March 2023
2,169.96	EMR - IT	2,169.96
5,906.78	EMR - Eiford Heath Management	5,906.78
405.00	EMR - Flood Works	405.00
1,260.00	EMR - Copmere Picnic Site	1,260.00
7,000.00	EMR - Beech Road	9,000.00
<hr/> <b>98,018.85</b> <hr/>		<hr/> <b>108,263.93</b> <hr/>

## Parish Council information

For updates on meetings, community events, Parish projects, refuse lorry collection dates, upcoming consultations and much more, look us up at:

[www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk)

Or follow us at [www.facebook.com/EccleshallPC](https://www.facebook.com/EccleshallPC)

Each area of the parish is represented by one or more councillors who would like to hear your views.

The Clerk can be contacted at [eccleshallpc@gmail.com](mailto:eccleshallpc@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01785 282296.



## 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](mailto:grimewatch@staffordbc.gov.uk)

All information will be treated in confidence.

## Interested in local affairs?

Why not sit in on a Parish Council meeting and see what goes on?

The Council meets monthly, usually on the third Wednesday evening of the month, in one of the local halls.

Meeting agendas and minutes are all published on the parish council website.

<https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.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](http://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](mailto: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](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/streetscene-service-online-forms)**

Dogs - dog fouling and stray dogs:  
01785 619000

Email: [\*\*dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk)

## PARKING

For parking issues where cars are parked in contravention to highway restrictions (e.g. double yellow lines, bus stops, school keep clears etc. this can be reported to the County Council using the shortcut link:

<https://bit.ly/42AKC0j>

If a vehicle is obstructing access to pavements, or is parked dangerously, this can be reported to the police using the non urgent 101 function or online by using this shortcut link:

<https://bit.ly/43N2HcC>

### 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 2023 are on noticeboards and the parish website.

## 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. There is also the option to report by clicking the live chat button at: <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/>

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