

# ECKINGTON PARISH Newsletter

ISSUE 16

AUTUMN 2015

Eckington

Parish Council



## Parish Council Consultation on 10k

If you attended Eckington Festival on 4 July you might have stopped at the Parish Council stall where we were asking people for ideas on how to spend £10k on a project in Eckington Town Centre.

We had 54 ideas and we would like to thank every one of you who stopped and had a chat.

All the ideas will be presented to the Parish Council in the Autumn and hopefully the £10k will be allocated to a project. Many of the ideas raised issues beyond the town centre and they will not be wasted but used to help us develop other projects across the parish or passed to our partners for their consideration.

Anyone who submitted an idea was entered into a prize draw and the winners were invited to receive their prize at the Parish Council meeting on 7 July. The winners were Mrs H Hollingsworth, shown receiving her cheque from Cllr B Ridgway. Other winners were Mrs S Gomez and Mr C Page.



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## ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CONTRIBUTES TO TACKLING SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Eckington Parish Council, together with Holmesfield and Killamarsh Parish Councils, have joined forces with local police to tackle speeding and increase road safety, by contributing towards a new speed detection device.

The 3 Parish Councils have clubbed together to help fund the new equipment, which officers will use to combat speeding vehicles on the area's roads.

Safer Neighbourhood officers will use the kit to carry out enforcement checks and help to

educate motorists on the dangers of speeding.

Sergeant Aidan Stones, who oversees Safer Neighbourhood policing in the area, said: "We are delighted to receive the new device and I would like to thank members of the parish councils greatly for their contributions towards it. It will be of great value to local officers who are working to ensure the area's roads are safe and that motorists are abiding by driving laws."

To contact your local Safer Neighbourhood policing team call 101.

This newsletter will also be available on the Parish Council website:  
[www.eckington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eckington-pc.gov.uk)

This newsletter is published by Eckington Parish Council  
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### Editorial Team

The parish newsletter is compiled by Cllrs Jane Austen and Christine Gare.

If you would like to make any comments on the newsletter please contact Jane on 07706966256 or jane@eckington.plus.com or Christine on christinegare@hotmail.com

WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT



## It's that time of year again

The Parish Council, in partnership with Natascha Engel MP, will be hosting a coffee morning and tombola with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support. Visit our market stall on Wednesday 25 September between 10.00 and 12.00.

Bring a cake, have a cup of coffee, win a tombola prize, enjoy yourself.

## Where can I find a Parish Newsletter?

Newsletters are available free of charge in a range of shops, pubs and community centres throughout the Parish.

We aim to hand deliver at least 4,000 copies to households across the Parish

# Play Areas

Eckington Parish Council owns eight play areas across the Parish, four in Eckington, two in Renishaw and one each in Marsh Lane and Ridgeway. They all have equipment suitable for toddlers and older children and there are soft and springy safety surfaces around the equipment. The play areas are inspected regularly and all equipment is checked by NEDDC for health and safety purposes. Most play areas have benches and rubbish bins.

## **Ash Crescent, Birk Hill, Eckington, S21 4AB**

Ash Crescent play area can be accessed from Larch Road or between Nos 63 and 65 Ash Crescent. It has a combined slide and climbing frame for older children and four springers and swings for toddlers. It is a self-contained area surrounded by fences and hedges.



## **Darcy Road, Eckington, S21 4BN**

The Darcy Road play area can be accessed from the garages site at the top of Darcy Road (Osmund Road end) or from between Nos 22 and 24 Darcy Road. It lies between Darcy Road and Osmund Road. The Play Area has a combined slide and climbing frame, and swings for older children, and swings and a springer for toddlers. The area is surrounded by trees and hedges.

## **Ducksett Lane, Eckington, S21 4EB**

The Ducksett Lane play area can be accessed from Lansbury Road, between the junctions with Mary Street and John Street but on the opposite side of the road. Look out for the Public Footpath sign. It is part of a large recreation ground. The play area has a combined slide and climbing frame, and swings for older children and swings and a springer for toddlers.

## **Ida's Road, Castle Hill, Eckington, S21 4DT**

The Ida's Road play area is at the top of Ida's Road on Castle Hill. It is adjacent to a field and surrounded by a metal fence. It contains an activity set for older children which includes a climbing wall, climbing frame, steps and climbing bars. It also has swings for older children and toddlers and two toddlers' springers.



## **Emmett Carr Lane, Renishaw, S21 3UL**

The entrance to the Emmett Carr play area is next to 68 Emmett Carr Lane in Renishaw. It has a combined slide and climbing frame and swings for older children, and swings and two springers for toddlers. It is enclosed by hedges.

## **Golden Ball, Main Road, Renishaw, S21 3UW**

The Golden Ball play area is behind the Renishaw and Spinkhill Community Hall on Main Road. It is part of a larger recreation area and contains a combined slide and climbing frame, and swings for older children and swings and a springer for toddlers.



## **Main Road, Ridgeway, S12 3XR**

The Ridgeway play area is on Main Road, opposite the Junior School. It contains timber framed swings, combined slide and climbing frame, and a variety of timber climbing and balancing equipment for older children. The area is part of the Recreation and Sports ground but is surrounded by a wall.

## **Warren Crescent, Marsh Lane, S21 5RW**

The Warren Crescent play area is near the junction of Warren Crescent and Ridge Road. It is marked by a Public Footpath sign. It contains a combined slide and climbing frame and swings for older children, and swings and springers for toddlers. It is on the very edge of the village and is surrounded by hedges.



Soldiers outside the Drill Hall

## Memories of the Drill Hall and Corner Playhouse

Thanks to everyone who got in touch with their memories of these Eckington landmarks. The Drill Hall is being demolished to make way for the Aldi supermarket. However, the Corner Playhouse is thriving with regular performances and will be with us for many years to come. We apologise if our article in the last newsletter made it sound as though it was being demolished too!

### Eckington Drill Hall

Drill Halls have been part of British military and social life since the 1860s. Though primarily for military training they were often used for social functions such as dances and fetes.

Many people who were in Eckington during the Second World War will remember the excitement of soldiers arriving from all over Britain and training at Eckington Drill Hall, and the sadness and worry when many of them left for actions in France and further afield. There was a searchlight at the Drill Hall during the War and Bessie Harrop remembers asking her mother if she could go and watch it, and her mother telling her to be careful about talking to soldiers!

Local people will also remember the dances held at the Drill Hall during and after the war. The Saturday night dances attracted hundreds of people, dancing to bands like the Domino Band. The dance floor was justly famous across the area. At the end of the evening Booth & Fisher buses would be waiting to take everyone home. Many a romance and marriage started at these Drill Hall dances!

Amongst those courting at the Saturday dances were Sybil Ryalls' parents. He was a soldier from Tunbridge Wells in Kent, stationed at the Drill Hall, and she was local. When he took her down to Kent he told her that they'd have to cross the Thames in a bucket!

In 1967 the Drill Hall changed its use to office accommodation, and then in 1972 to light industry. Wipac Autoparts Ltd, who occupied the building between 1972 and 1987, made parts such as lighting, wiper blades and other electrical components for vehicles. In 1987 Servo Computers took ownership of the building followed in 1995 by the Prolog Group of Companies, and then Northgate Information Solutions from 2002 to 2014

### Eckington Corner Playhouse

The Corner Playhouse building was originally the Eckington Mechanics' Institute, established in 1854 to provide educational activities for working people. It contained a Reading Room and a small library. See Dennis Askham's book 'Bygone Eckington Revisited' for pictures of tickets to 'soirees' held at the Institute in 1859 and 1871. The book is available at Eckington Library.

In the 1930s it was used as a Dance School. Bessie Harrop remembers envying her friend attending tap lessons there in her glamorous Shirley Temple frock. Bessie also remembers the building being a British Restaurant during the Second World War. British Restaurants provided cheap meals, off ration, and were run by volunteers, generally the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) in their dark green uniforms and felt hats. Meals were a maximum price of 9d (about 4p) so quite a bargain.

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN**



**The registration system has changed and even if you were registered in the past you may need to register again now.**

### **BUT I THOUGHT I WAS ALREADY REGISTERED TO VOTE?**

If you have registered yourself at your current address since 10 June 2014 in England and Wales or 19 September 2014 in Scotland – and you have not moved home since – you will be registered to vote under the new system.

You will also be registered to vote if you received information at your current address telling you that you are registered under the new system. If you are unsure whether you are registered under the new system, contact your local electoral registration staff.

### **HOW DO I REGISTER?**

Registering to vote is straightforward.

- 1** Go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)
- 2** Fill in your name, address, date of birth and a few other details. You'll also need your National Insurance number, which can be found on your National Insurance card, or in official paperwork such as payslips, or letters about benefits or tax credits.
- 3** Look out for confirmation from your local electoral registration staff to say you're registered.

If you don't have access to the internet or can't use it, your local electoral registration staff will be able to help you to register.

### **Parish Councillors**

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## **Eckington Parish Council Website**

**Stage 1 of changes to our website is now complete. A further round of changes will continue over the next 12 months. Please visit the website and tell us what you think [www.eckington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eckington-pc.gov.uk)**

### **Councillors' Surgeries**

**Eckington Civic Centre 10.00 am to 11.00 am**

Saturday 3rd October  
Saturday 4th November  
Saturday 5th December  
Saturday 2nd January

**Ridgeway 11.00 am to 12.00 noon**

Saturday 17th October  
Saturday 12th December

**Marsh Lane 11.00 am to 12.00 noon**

Saturday 19th November  
Saturday 21st January



#### **Parish Clerk**

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