

# Windle Parish Council

[windleparish.org.uk](http://windleparish.org.uk)

Spring 2024



## 2024 NEWSLETTER



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The articles in this magazine, written by Parish Councillors or people actively involved in the Parish, are their own views and not necessarily the views of the Parish Council and have been published in good faith. Reference to goods and services does not constitute an endorsement.

I, for my part, have tried to make sure that all the information is as accurate as possible and I apologise in advance for any mistakes. Janet Anderson - Clerk

# CHAIR'S REPORT

As I write this there is still a month of winter to go, but whilst out for a walk in the Parish recently I was delighted to see crocuses and snowdrops in full bloom and daffodils in bud. Hopefully signs of a pleasant spring to come.

Remembrance Day is always a highlight of my year, and I felt honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. It seems that more and more people attend each year to pay their respects, many young people among proud veterans. I was accompanied, as usual, by my eldest grandson. It was uncanny how, just before the service began, the morning rain gave way to sunshine. Also, assisted by some of the pupils, I and other Councillors laid a wreath at Bleak Hill School.

Finally, as an entertaining prelude to Christmas, we were present at the school again for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony and treated to some wonderful singing by the school choir and a visit by Father Christmas. As usual the Parish Council funded the tree.

During the year too it was a pleasure to welcome four new Parish Councillors to our team, with fresh ideas for the benefit of the Parish. Among these ideas are a monthly litter picking scheme, a Windle Parish Facebook page and Neighbourhood Development. Also, quite a few residents have been asking about the Garden Competition, which prior to Covid, was a popular feature of the Parish year. An entry form can be found on page 15 of the newsletter.

We on the Parish Council look forward to working with residents to determine what we see as the future of Windle and the maintenance of its heritage.

Finally, I would like to thank Nancy Ashcroft, who recently retired as Parish Councillor, for her many years of service to the Parish and the town.

**COUNCILLOR ALLAN DOCKERTY**  
**CHAIR**

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

The following statement represents the financial position of Windle Parish Council and reflects its income and expenditure during the year 2022-23:

	£
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	21,472.15
Annual Precept	12,250.80
Other Receipts	<u>588.32</u>
Total Receipts	34,311.27
Less payments	11,871.47
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	<u>22,439.80</u>

Janet Anderson  
Clerk to Windle Parish Council

## ***DATE FOR YOUR DIARY***

### ***BLEAK HILL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING***

*Friday 6 December 2024*

*Bleak Hill School*

*2pm*

*Please check with the school nearer the time*

## PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of local government closest to the community, with the district authority above it in the hierarchy.

Windle Parish Council normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Eccleston Village Hall (except in August). Agenda and approved minutes are displayed at Eccleston Library, Broadway. Notice of meeting and agenda are also displayed on the 2 noticeboards in the Parish which are at: Windle Island and the shops at Coronation Road.

Copies of agenda and approved minutes are available on the Parish Council website:

[windleparish.org.uk](http://windleparish.org.uk)

Parish Councillors are available for informal contact and will make every effort to respond to matters of concern.

Formal correspondence should be addressed to:

Clerk to the Parish Council  
Janet Anderson  
6 Gorsey Croft  
Eccleston Park  
Prescot  
L34 2RT

Tel: 0151 345 7533

E-mail: [windleparish@btinternet.com](mailto:windleparish@btinternet.com)

## WINDLE PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Parish is served by the following Councillors:

Cllr Geoff Almond  
25 Brooklands Road, Eccleston      Tel: 07850 091736

Cllr Stephen Barnes  
Tel: 07563 789801

Cllr Richard Barton  
54 Brookside Avenue, Eccleston      Tel: 01744 757913

Cllr Allan Dockerty (Chair)  
23 Trapwood Close, Eccleston      Tel: 01744 755250

Cllr Andrew Donnelly  
17 King Edward Road      Tel: 01744 614243

Cllr Roger Greatorex  
119 Rainford Road, Windle      Tel: 01744 732571

Cllr Ian Riley  
27 Windlebrook Crescent, Windle      Tel: 07853 926135

***Currently there is a vacancy for Councillor. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor in the Parish of Windle, and would like to be considered, please contact either the Chair or the Clerk.***

# WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Windle Parish Council hold meetings every month on the third Tuesday except in August when the Council is in recess.

Meetings will be held at Eccleston Village Hall at 7pm on the following dates:

**16 April 2024**

**21 May 2024**

**18 June 2024**

**16 July 2024**

***No meeting in August***

**17 September 2024**

**15 October 2024**

**19 November 2024**

**17 December 2024**

**21 January 2025**

**18 February 2025**

**18 March 2025**

Notice of meeting and agenda are displayed on the 2 noticeboards in the Parish: Windle Island and Coronation Road.

Agenda and approved minutes are also displayed on the noticeboard in Eccleston Library, Broadway as well as on the Parish Council website [windleparish.org.uk](http://windleparish.org.uk).

# WINDLE WARD COUNCILLORS

The Ward Councillors for Windle Ward, St Helens Borough Council are:

**Cllr David Baines**

Telephone: 07740 422760

E-mail: [cldrdbaines@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:cldrdbaines@sthelens.gov.uk)

**Cllr Lynn Clarke**

Telephone: 07703 380799

E-mail: [cllrlclarke@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:cllrlclarke@sthelens.gov.uk)

**Cllr Mancyia Uddin**

Telephone: 07864 966628

E-mail: [cllrmuddin@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmuddin@sthelens.gov.uk)

## **WINDLE PARISH – WINDLE WARD**

It should be recognised that the Parish of Windle is only part of the wider area of Windle Ward. Parish Council can be the first port of call to deal with local and community problems. If Parish Councillors cannot deal with issues, they will pass them on to the Ward Councillors or to the appropriate St Helens Borough Council department.

# BLEAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



Bleak Hill is a successful, vibrant school, a school where children come first. We have a highly motivated, resourceful and committed team of staff and governors who care about and nurture the needs of every child. Bleak Hill is a large community school with an outstanding reputation and we believe that we are the school of choice in the area.

We have strong links with our feeder high school, Rainford High School, and have developed a successful transition for our children to move onto the next step of their educational journey. We also have links to our local church, St Andrews and Reverend Fran Nunn visits the school on a regular basis.

The Parish Council also link with us and attend several events throughout the year; so far, they supported our Remembrance Day and our Christmas Tree Lighting event – it was lovely to see the parish councillors at school.

Our successful community extends to all our parents; we have an amazing and supportive parent body. Our fundraising group, Friends of Bleak Hill (FOBH) does a wonderful job each year raising much-needed money to further enhance what we offer at school. Recently they have provided school with iPads and laptops, a book vending machine, paid for a panto to visit the school and run events such as Tea with Santa and Bingo nights.

If you want to know more about our school, visit our website [www.bleakhill.st-helens.sch.uk/](http://www.bleakhill.st-helens.sch.uk/) or contact us to arrange a visit if you are considering a place for your child.

**HEADTEACHER**



# BLEAK HILL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## **SUMMER TERM 2024**

Re-open the morning of	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Bank Holiday – Spring	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Half-Term: Close on the evening of:	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<i>Staff In-Service Day</i>	<i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</i>
<i>Staff In-Service Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024</i>
Re-open the morning of:	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Summer: close the evening of:	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024

## **AUTUMN TERM 2024**

<i>Staff In-Service Day</i>	<i>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024</i>
<i>Staff In-Service Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024</i>
Re-open the morning of:	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Half-Term: close the evening of:	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Re-open the morning of:	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Christmas: close the evening of:	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

## **SPRING TERM 2025**

Re-open the morning of:	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Half-Term: close the evening of:	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Re-open the morning of:	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Close Spring Break on the evening of:	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

*Please check all dates with the school or on their website.*

A SYMPATHETIC AND  
UNDERSTANDING SERVICE

**Gornall's**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We'll take care of all the arrangements with  
care and sensitivity.  
Call us 24 hours a day

3 West Street, Prescot  
10 Cross Pit Lane, Rainford

0151 391 1328  
01744 802 990

**Walking Our Footpaths**

We urge residents to walk the footpaths and to report any damage or obstruction of the paths so that the necessary action may be taken.

St Helens Borough Council  
Contact Centre 01744 676789

# WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL ON FACEBOOK

Windle Parish Council now has a presence on Facebook.

Please search for us on Facebook and like or follow our page.



The more followers we have the more we maximise the sharing of the information that we believe is important and interesting to our community.

We have recently featured the turning on of Bleak Hill Primary School's Christmas tree lights.



Also, we have recently featured our new monthly litter picking campaign showing your Councillors hard at work trying to create a cleaner less cluttered environment. The plan for the future is to get residents involved if they would like to lend a hand.

We also feature many items of interest from St Helens Council, St Helens Police and the St Helens Star. So please make us one of your first points of call on the local issues by liking or following our Facebook page.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Over the coming months your Parish Council will be contacting you with respect to producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Windle Parish.

The aim of the Neighbourhood plan is to bring together residents, schools, businesses and land owners to share ideas and build consensus about what is important to the local community.

A questionnaire will be available on the Parish website and we will be also using Facebook as a tool to enable you to tell us what is important to you. This will be followed by public meetings to discuss the topics raised in greater detail.

This is an exciting opportunity to take part in shaping the future development of Windle Parish so that it meets the needs of all of us and protects what we cherish.

Further details are available on our website. Please also follow our Facebook page for regular updates and engagement. If you have any queries or struggle in any way to get involved, please email [ianriley465@gmail.com](mailto:ianriley465@gmail.com) and we will be happy to provide a copy of the questionnaire and further details.

# ECCLESTON LIBRARY

We have a wide range of activities at Eccleston Library for everyone.

## Children's activities include:

Every Tuesday and Friday 10.30-11.00am join us in the library with your child. We will introduce them to books, rhymes, music and other fun activities. Let your child's imagination take flight with our fun session. No booking required.

On a Monday we have a Baby Read and Rhyme session. This session starts at 11.00-11.30am and is aimed for babies under 12 months. Please be advised these sessions need to be booked in advance and are for a 6-week block.

## Reading groups for adults

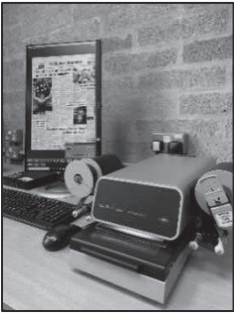
We have some space in our reading group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month 2.00-3.00pm.

All the above sessions are free.

With your library card you have 24/7 free access to our digital services. You can access eBooks, eAudiobooks, newspapers and magazines via the Borrow Box service.

We have also made joining the library as easy as possible. Just fill in the online form at <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/libraries>. We will email you a temporary membership number within 24 hours so you can take advantage of the fantastic e-services straight away.

Please check us out on Facebook and X for up-and-coming events at Eccleston Library.



Local history resources for St Helens continue to be available for all at Eccleston Community Library. The resources include books, maps and electoral registers as well as a new microfilm scanner, making it easier to access and use historic newspapers and other records. Library staff are on hand to assist with any local history enquiries.

Eccleston Library new opening hours:

Monday 10.00am-5.00pm

Tuesday 10.00am-5.00pm

Thursday 10.00am-5.00pm

Friday 10.00am-5.00pm

## **GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

We are an independent Anglican Evangelical Church and meet each Sunday at 10.30am in Bleak Hill School in Hamilton Road.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us and share in our services which are based upon the Word of God.

In addition to our Services at Bleak Hill School, we hold regular meetings at Reeve Court in Rainhill especially for those residents who are unable to attend church services away from the Village.

If you are interested in joining us then come along on a Sunday morning or contact us at

[info@gracecommunitychurchsthelens.org](mailto:info@gracecommunitychurchsthelens.org)

Cyril Barratt

Grace Community Church



## **WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL GARDEN COMPETITION 2024**

It's that time of year again for thinking about gardens. How quickly time passes. Hopefully the, so far, mild winter may result in many plants maturing earlier than usual.

This year we will be judging front gardens and have included the garden competition entry form overleaf. This can be cut out or photocopied before submitting.

**WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**GARDEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM**

**Judging will take place on 26 and 28 June 2024 (weather permitting)**

**Closing date for entry – 21 June 2024**

I wish to enter the Garden Competition for front gardens.

Please tick the box if you agree to your garden being photographed and published in the Parish Newsletter and on our Facebook page.

The winner will receive a National Garden voucher to the value of £25 along with being presented with the Marie McNulty Rose Bowl for a year.

The runner up will receive a National Garden voucher to the value of £20 along with being presented with the Sheila Barton Shield for the year.

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

.....

Please return the completed entry form to Cllr G Almond, 25 Brooklands Road, Eccleston, WA10 5HE or email your details to [windleparish@btinternet.com](mailto:windleparish@btinternet.com)



# LITTER PICKING



Our regular parish council litter pick takes place on the last **Saturday of every month, 10.30am-12noon.**

Why not join us at Windle Island bus stop, where we hand out the litter pickers, gloves, high-viz tabards and bags, before heading for our chosen location?

**Together, we'll keep Windle tidy.**



# ST HELENS QUIZ

Thanks to Windle resident, Charles Johnson

Cryptic clues to areas around St Helens

1. US lawman's crucifix
2. Nobleman's settlement
3. Dark stream
4. Mail sent "digit"ally
5. Beech, hazel and hickory trees in this small wood
6. River crossing where you get wet from above as well as below
7. Pay a charge to drink here
8. Put weight on after cake
9. Daring former PM
10. Tendons get mixed up before environmentalist
11. Compass point leads to a place to leave the car

Answers on page 24



CLARKES' GOLF  
MILL LANE  
RAINFORD  
WA11 8LN  
clarkesgolf.co.uk

Swing in to Clarkes' Golf to enjoy not only the 27-bay driving range but -

### Off the Green

A beautiful boutique, *Off the Green*, showcasing beautiful clothing and gorgeous accessories. Open 6 days a week, (closed Monday) 10.00am to 4.00pm and 10.00am to 3.00pm on Sundays.

### The Range Café

During your visit enjoy a freshly ground coffee and delicious home cooking at the Range Café. We pride ourselves on the freshly prepared breakfasts and light snacks made using locally sourced ingredients.

Open 7 days a week 9.00am to 4.00pm. Thursday until 8.00pm.

Championship 18-hole mini golf open 7 days a week set in beautiful landscaped surroundings.

Free parking

Social media:

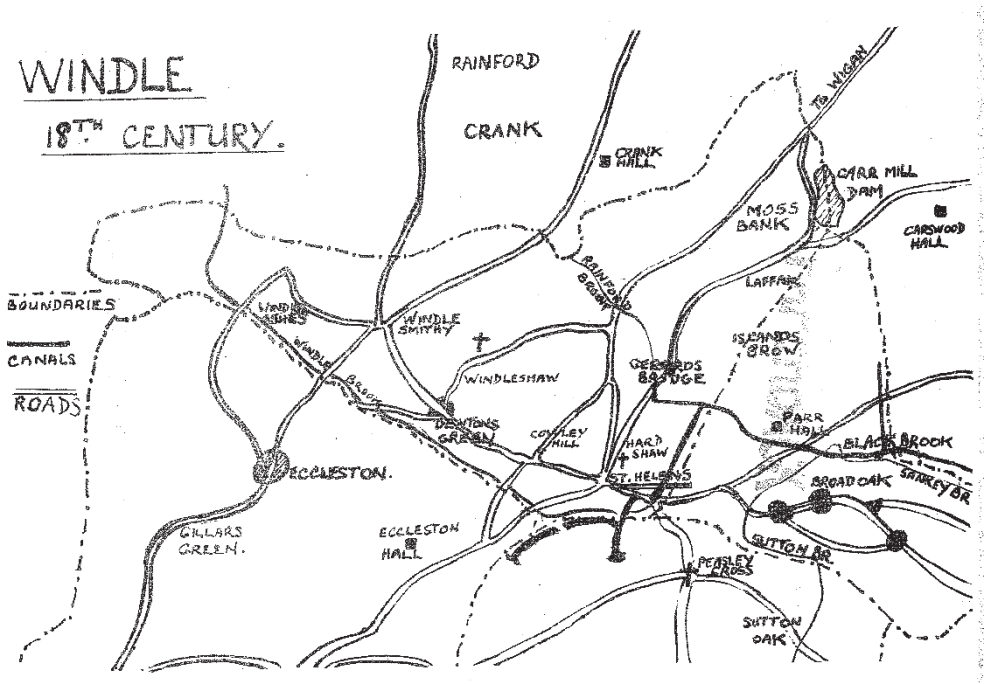
Instagram @offthegreenrainford

Facebook Range Café Bar at Clarkes' Golf Centre

Charlotte or Catherine - 07707 180245

# WINDLE AND ST HELENS

St Helens, as we know it now, grew up from the joining of four manors and five townships – Windle, Eccleston, Sutton, Hardshaw and Parr.



From as long ago as the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Parr was controlled by the family of that name who lived at Parr Hall. After the involvement of the Byrom and Clayton families, the hall and estate passed to Sarah Clayton in 1745.

The township of Eccleston was, from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, owned by the Ecclestone family; their home, Eccleston Hall, was built in 1100 – the Ecclestons stayed until 1799 when they moved to Scarisbrick Hall after inheriting it. The hall and estate were bought by Colonel Samuel Taylor who totally rebuilt it in 1836. In the 1890s the estate was given to the people of St Helens, and we now know it as Taylor Park.

The manor of Sutton covered a large area, and comprised areas such as Marshalls Cross, Peasley Cross, Sutton Manor, Clock Face and Sherdley. Sherdley Hall was the home of the Sherdley family who built it in Norman times. When the line died out in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the estate passed to the Bold family and later the Byroms and Roughleys, until, in 1798, it was bought by the industrialist Michael Hughes.

Windle got its name from the Old English for Windy Hill, and the Windle family built their manor house, Windle Hall, there. Later the estate passed to the Gerard family through marriage, but eventually the family gave up living at Windle Hall, preferring other halls at Garswood and Birchley.



St. Elyyns Chapel 1618

The township of Hardshaw stood at the centre of the other four townships on the highway between Warrington and Ormskirk, now the A570, and had other roads leading to Bolton and Liverpool.

In the centre of Hardshaw was Chapel Lane (not to be confused by Chapel Lane in Eccleston), containing a row of terraced cottages, the Chapel of St Ellyn and an old inn.

The chapel-of-ease of St Ellyn served Hardshaw and its surroundings which were some distance from Prescott and the parish church. Owners of Hardshaw included Travers and Egerton families, and Sarah Clayton was an important figure in the mining industry as were the Gerards of Windle.

This is simply a 'potted' history of the five townships and their coming together and contains just a few of the characters and families involved in the growth of St Helens. Many more notable names were involved in the development of coal mining, industry, the canals and railways.

I must acknowledge Mike Fletcher's admirable book, 'Black Gold and Hot Sand, A History of St Helens.

**ALLAN DOCKERTY**

Councillor

# BLEAK HILL ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Bleak Hill Rovers junior football teams have been playing on Ecclesfield for over 45 years with each weekend nearly 400 youngsters enjoying the “beautiful game” plus about 70 dedicated coaches and volunteers who make this possible. We are now one of the biggest junior clubs in Merseyside and take up nearly all the available pitches on Ecclesfield every Saturday and Sunday.

Our philosophy remains quite different from most junior clubs in the area as we endeavour to let all youngsters learn how to play football irrespective of their ability. Naturally we want our teams to win but we feel it is more important that youngsters are able to play with their “mates” rather than be judged on their footballing abilities. We want to help youngsters develop lifetime skills and understand that the goal is not just about winning but about enjoyment.

Our coaches give up many hours each week to help youngsters play soccer each week. Not only do they spend hours each weekend at matches but give up their time in weekly training sessions and completing the administration tasks that are now demanded by the FA and Leagues.

Now we have access to the container on Ecclesfield we have a safe storage facility for the large amount of equipment needed to set up the pitches each week.

Over the last two months we have been hampered by the bad weather as pitches have been unplayable but, fortunately, we have been able to train on the astro pitch at De La Salle School.

In June we will be holding a “Gala Fun Day” at De La Salle when all our teams will be playing friendly matches. This is an ideal opportunity to celebrate a club which is at the heart of our community. Why not come and join us?

If you want to know more about us then please get in touch via our website [www.bleakhillrovers.com](http://www.bleakhillrovers.com).

**CYRIL BARRATT**

Chairman Bleak Hill Rovers

# USEFUL NUMBERS

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL Contact Centre	01744 676789
ST HELENS HOSPITAL	01744 26633
WHISTON HOSPITAL	0151 426 1600
ECCLESTON LIBRARY	01744 677575
WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE Fundraising Office Hospice	01744 453798 0151 430 8736
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU Millennium Centre, Corporation Street	01744 737866

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Marshalls Cross
2. Earlestown
3. Blackbrook
4. Fingerpost
5. Nutgrove
6. Rainford
7. Toll Bar
8. Eccleston
9. Bold Heath
10. Dentons Green
11. West Park



# LYNTON WAY PLAY AREA



The play area at Lynton Way is owned by St Helens Council and is leased to Windle Parish Council.



Windle Parish Council pay for the maintenance of the grounds and the removal of litter. Parish Council also pay for the play area to be opened and closed each day to keep it secure overnight.



The area is well kept and has plenty of play equipment.

## **J. S. HEDGES**

Private Funeral Directors

01744 22100

8 Harris Street

St Helens WA10 2NW

24-hour service

7 days a week

Dignity and Professionalism Assured

4 Private Chapels of Rest

Home Visits

Pre-paid funeral plans available

(Please ask for details)

[jshedges-funerals.co.uk](http://jshedges-funerals.co.uk)

## **THANK YOU**

Whilst the cost of producing this newsletter is borne by the Parish Council, we are very grateful to our advertisers for their contribution to this cost.

If you would like to advertise in the newsletter please contact the Parish Clerk, Janet Anderson.

Tel: 0151 345 7533 or email: [windleparish@btinternet.com](mailto:windleparish@btinternet.com)

# PHOENIX ACADEMY

*Dance Piano*

**NOW AT 6 YMCA BUILDINGS NORTH ROAD  
ST HELENS WA10 2TJ**

## **Children's Classes on Saturday morning**

Ballet, Tap and Modern Stage

10.00 – 11.00 am                      4 – 6 years  
11.00 – 12.30 pm                      7 – 9 years  
12.30 – 2.00 pm                      10 – 12 years

Friday 5.30 pm                      Musical Theatre All ages 5+

**Adults**    Be Healthy – Be Happy!

Tap            Monday 7.00 - 8.00 pm    Thursday 11.00 - 12 noon (Beginners)

Ballet    Wednesday 7.00 - 8.00 pm    Tuesday 10.30 - 11.30 (Beginners)

**Beginners, Experienced and 'Rusty' dancers all welcome**

**Piano lessons by appointment:- One to One tuition from 6 years of age**

Enquiries for all classes ring 07731 599 570 or call in at the Studio in North Road

### **PRE SCHOOL DANCE LESSONS**

**Come and Dance with Melody Bear at  
the Phoenix Dance Academy**

**Music and Movement for girls and  
boys 2 + 3 years of age**

**We'd love to see you and your  
favourite soft toy.**

**Every Saturday 9.30 until 10.00am**

Enquiries please ring 07731 599 570  
Only £12.00 for 4 weeks lessons.

### **Tai Chi for Health**

**Friday 9.45 am  
Lester Drive Community Centre**

**Gentle Exercise to help  
Asthma, Stress, Balance  
and general well being**

**Fully qualified instructor  
with 20 years' experience**

**ONLY £16.00 for 4 weeks classes  
Please ring 07731 599 570  
Parking available**

# Berrington Hall Golf Club

Membership April 2024-April 2025

12 months

**7 day £895**

**5 day £750**

(Plus £75 Joining Fee and £15 EGU Fee)



BERRINGTONGC



GOLFBHGC



BERRINGTONGOLF@GMAIL.COM



BERRINGTONGOLF



BERRINGTON.HALL.GC



01744 885808



WWW.BERRINGTONHALLGOLFCLUB.CO.UK