

W illage iew



GREATHAM – SPRING 2018 – No.103

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

This year's Snowdrop Day was a record breaker. £2032.10 was raised for 'the Bloom' and a couple of donations for the Church for opening too, and the Hospital gardeners, who do so much preparatory work, to enhance the gardens. This is where a natural wonder and the heritage of our village, plus a lot of villagers and friends working together, draw visitors and money into the village, money which, in this instance, helps to make the village where we all live a more pleasant place to be. Many thanks go to all who helped on the day – it was a busy 5 to 6 hours (with visitors arriving well over an hour early), and to everyone who donated to the stalls and all who baked scones, cakes and savouries. We'd also like to thank the whole village for putting up with all the extra cars – a lot of people want to come and share the beauty to be found in our community.

The spring visit of the Northumbria in Bloom judges will take place from 2pm on Tuesday 17th April. We have three judges, Rod Mathieson, John Richards and Ian Sutherland. Please help Greatham look its best – especially important is to keep on top of litter which seems to be a growing problem – and is so easily solved if people would use a bin – one on the street or at home.

It is now all systems go to get the village spring displays planted and plan the summer flowers. We always need help so do please have a word with any committee member you know or contact the secretary Lorraine tel. 0740 3384192, e-mail lorrainemeakin@hotmail.com if you would like to become more involved.

GREATHAM FEAST

A meeting was held in the Bull & Dog on the 14th March. The 'old' committee, who have done an outstanding job, has dwindled in numbers to a point where they feel the time has come to hand on this important task. Thankfully names to form a new fledgling committee were forthcoming. So it looks like a new chapter in the Feast is about to be written. The new committee will need your help and support to ensure the Feast continues. Greatham would not be Greatham without the Feast which is a tradition that brings the community together and, especially for the children, provides special memories and a sense of being part of something unique to their community which is shared across generations.

CHURCH NEWS

Lent lunches have been organised again this year. Unfortunately the first on the 5th March had to be cancelled, those on Monday the 12th and 19th going ahead. The charities chosen to benefit this year are the Chemo-Therapy Day Care Unit at Hartlepool Hospital, 'New Angels' Neo-Natal Ward at North Tees Hospital and the Church's own Restoration Appeal. The Lunches held in the Community Centre comprise of soup and a bun in return for a donation. There are also cakes to buy and a raffle.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

A TEAPOT AS BIG AS THE MOON

Here is the centre and here is the hub
 Here is community held in a room,
 Here's the big gig and the loud Zumba Club
 And here is a teapot as big as the moon
 Here is a teapot as big as the moon!

Here is a place at the heart of the map
 Here is a song with a crowd-friendly tune
 Here's a child's bonnet, a pensioner's cap
 And here is a teapot as big as the moon
 Here is a teapot as big as the moon!

Here is the village: its hopes and its dreams
 Here's a bright light that pierces the gloom
 Here is a space that's much more than it seems
 And here is a teapot as big as the moon
 Here is a teapot as big as the moon!

Here is the future in these tightened times
 Here is a voice that says 'come back, and soon'
 Here is a noticeboard brimming with signs
 And here is a teapot as big as the moon
 Here is a teapot as big as the moon!

This is the village hall, open the doors!
 This is the root and the sap and the bloom!
 This is utopia with cutlery drawers!
 And this is the teapot as big as the moon
 This is the teapot as big as the moon!

This poem has been written for #VillageHallsWeek 2018 by Ian McMillan. © Ian McMillan 2018 / @IMcMillan

GREATHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2017

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MORNING	LOUNGE							
	MAIN HALL		MATURE MOVERS 10.30-11.30	MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP 9.00-11.00	CARPET BOWLS 10.00-12.00	DANCE EXERCISE 10.00-12.00		
AFTERNOON	LOUNGE							
	MAIN HALL				FLOWER ARRANGING 1.30-3.30 (Seasonal)			
EVENING	LOUNGE				YOUTH CLUB 7.00-9.00			
	MAIN HALL	FLOWER ARRANGING 6.30-8.30 (Seasonal)	LINE DANCING 8.00-9.30		YOUTH CLUB 7.00-9.00	SEQUENCE DANCING 7.30-9.30		

TO ENQUIRE ABOUT HIRING THE LOUNGE OR MAIN HALL PLEASE RING 07434 517225 OR E-MAIL greathamca@gmail.com

To enquire about hiring the Community Centre or setting up a new group please ring the Centre mobile on 07434 517225 or e-mail greathamca@gmail.com.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Residents Association have several projects ongoing. Firstly, we are raising funds with the aim of replacing the fencing around the village green. The fence was originally installed, and has succeeded, in protecting children from running out in front of passing traffic. The current wooden fence is in a poor and potentially dangerous condition and urgently needs replacing. The intention is to replace it with a high quality metal fence which will reduce the need for annual fund raising and constant repair.

We are also developing an archive to ‘future proof’ the history of Greatham with photographs displayed on our website. Around 200 photographs have already been added to the archive – some going back to the 1800’s along with more up to date images. If you have any photographs that illustrate the history of Greatham and it’s people, please contact us via the website www.greathamvillage.co.uk or email info@greathamvillage.co.uk or contact one of the group members below. We understand that some people may also be gathering old Greatham photographs via social media. If so we’d like to be able to share and compare. Please get in touch.

The website is also available free of charge to anyone who wants to advertise a Greatham event, promote a local business or communicate other community related information.

We have recently produced a Welcome Pack for any new residents in the village to ensure newcomers are not isolated and can, if they wish, join any of the activities and groups in the village. The pack includes information and leaflets about the village e.g events, transport, health services, council services etc. A paper copy is provided to new residents and it can also be viewed via a link on the website.

Members contact details: Alan O’Brien (Chair) 07881 623431, Linda Dempsey (Secretary) 07909 616561, Andy Merifield (Treasurer) 07514 400811

SCHOOL NEWS

The School Council sends their gratitude for the support given in helping them to complete the Bright Sparks Challenge for Alice House Hospice. With this help and generosity £260 was raised.

The children are continuing to visit Stichell House meeting and sharing activities with the residents. Class 1, 2 & 3 will be going this term. The children really enjoy their visits.

Greatham School are offering 30 hours free childcare for 3 year olds in a scheme which began last September. To qualify both parents must be working a minimum of 16 hours per week and earning up to £100,000 each. Further information can be obtained from the school.

The school run continues to cause concerns. A neighbour of the school who was quite upset rang the school asking for parents to be more considerate when parking their cars. On various occasions they have been blocked in their drive. The school has permission for parents to use the Hope & Anchor pub car park and walk children up to the school. If you absolutely must drive up to the school be extra thoughtful and think of pedestrians. The safety of children is paramount.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

In an emergency always ring 999. To contact your local police when it is not an emergency ring 101. An alternative is to ring the headquarters on 01642 326326. Non urgent messages for your local officer can also be left via the Cleveland Police Force web site www.cleveland.police.uk using the ‘my neighbourhood’ tab.

LITTER

Litter blights our country and wastes so much of your money – yes, you pay through tax and rates to clean it up! The bill for cleaning up litter across Britain is £1billion a year – enough to fund more than 33,000 extra nurses!

VILLAGE PLAYERS

The Greatham Pantomime came of age this January with the 21st production, Sinbad the Sailor. So did the Village Players. I would usually go through the cast describing some of their individual contributions but this year they all performed with an equal strength – the leads led and the supporting cast supported exactly as one might expect. To some extent one misses some of the larger than life characters who stole the show or the mistakes and slip ups of the early years. From my very amateur viewpoint the Players would appear to have reached a stage that lies somewhere between the rank amateur and budding professional. One of the greatest positives is that they appear on the stage with a confidence to enjoy themselves, which transfers to the audience. Congratulations all round.

For those who do like to know who performed so admirably, the cast was:-

Princess Scheherazade – Natalie Robson	Princess Alter Ego – Chloe Middleton
Sinbad – Rachel Holmes	Dame Peony Poopdeck – Adam Robinson
Mustapha Sikh-Bag – Hugh Stitt	Sultan Pepa – Brian Price
Halapena – Lauren Price	‘Harry’ Hardtack – Kieron Johnson
‘Warburton’ Weevil – Claire Alderson	Gunna Singh – Ken Sharpe
The Seer – Mathew Bray	Jasmine & Briony Waters – Leah Alderson
Lilac & Ann Kerr – Alese Vaughan	Iris – Lauren Emmerson
Bill Jratt - Aidan Alderson	Sharks Of Shotton – Lauren Emmerson & Leah Alderson
Skeleton Warriors – Lauren Emmerson, Aidan Vaughan, Alese Vaughan & Leah Alderson	

The sterling performance would not be possible of course without the support of a hard working back stage crew.

Stage Manager – Trish Watkins	Assistant Stage Manager – Becca Watkins
Costume & Wardrobe – Jean Proctor	Set – Anita Stitt & Brian Price
Music & Sound Effects – Hugh Stitt	Sound & Lighting – Anthony Watson
Filming Director – Mathew Bray	Props – Anita Stitt & Sonya Hepple
Choreography – Anita Stitt (assisted by Lauren Price)	Front of House – Carol Tweedy & Pam Adamson
Stage Crew – Graham Helps	Chaperones – June Harrison & Brian Price
Programme – Adam Robinson	Sponsor – Ernie Pape
Refreshments – Maureen Price, Jean Best, Mary Marshall & Ladies	
Make-up (thanks to Hartlepool College of Further Education) – Phanpasa Meeham, Tamsyn Spark, Chloe Park, Courtney Armstrong, Amy Chapman, Natasha Lyon, Beth Rumble, Jessica Osborne	

Lastly, but by no means least, congratulations to the magician who drew everyone and everything together, the Director – Antia Stitt.

Next year is already in the planning – Aladdin. First reading and casting expected sometime in June. Keep an eye on the Community Centre noticeboard for dates. Remember also that non-acting roles are needed such as costume, back stage, etc.

A Murder Mystery is announced. ‘Murder at Matharge Hall’ will take place in the Community Centre on the 14th April at 7pm. Join a night of murder, mystery and mayhem with Pie and Peas!! The dastardly deed takes place during a 1920s fancy dress charity evening – so why not get into the swing and come in costume – there will be a prize for the best. Tickets are £8 and will be available from the 17th March from village players or book you place with Anita on 01642 562109.

LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

Paperwork has been submitted to have the route along Thorn Tree Lane recognised officially on the definitive map as a footpath right of way. As this has been used for as long as anyone can remember we are hopeful Hartlepool Borough Council will be able to process this without too many complications. They have 12 months in which to make a determination.

VANISHED COMMUNITIES – GREATHAM CREEK

The Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed to fund the River Tees Rediscovered 'Vanished Communities' project. Following the level of enthusiasm and volume of interested parties, they've identified the Greatham Creek Houseboat Community as a first pilot area. They are keen to involve as many people/groups as possible to support each other and hopefully join together to create a unique exhibition and programme of events.

They are working with ARC, Stockton to commission an artist/company to explore the notion of 'community' inspired by the vanished riverboat community at Greatham Creek. Additionally, they're keen to host a focus group; bringing together interested parties to identify how we can all work together to produce an exhibition and programme of events linked to the Houseboat community and the wider Greatham Creek area. The chairman of Greatham Parish Council has registered an interest on behalf of Greatham village, both to involve those interested in the village and to bring some of the events to Greatham. As more information it will be publicised around the village including the village website.

Greatham Creek is a tidal creek between Stockton and Hartlepool, and one of the last remaining large saltmarsh areas in Teesmouth. For around a century, Greatham Creek was a popular destination for families across the region that would set up temporary homes in houseboats and cabins along the river where they fished for salmon during the summer months. Many of the houseboats and cabins remained there until the 1980s when they fell into disrepair and the community vanished.

An artist or company is being sought to explore who or what made the Creek houseboats a community, what happened when it disappeared and how that informs our idea of community today.

The aims are to:

Tell the story of Greatham Creek, what made it a community and how and why it disappeared

Inspire people to think about the idea of a community in today's society, who and what makes a community, and what their role in that might be

Present the work and ideas in a way that connects with people who don't think they are interested in heritage

It is anticipated that the project will include:

Research and development in the local area

Engagement activity during the creative process

A final presentation, in one or more locations

It is expected that the selected artist or company would spend the equivalent of four weeks minimum working in the area. ARC will support the final staging of the work, which may take place in one or more locations, indoors or outside. There is an opportunity for this to take place alongside a photography exhibition of Greatham Creek at RSPB Saltholme.

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

There will be local elections on the 3rd May when you will have the opportunity to elect one of your ward councillors to represent Park Ward on the Borough Council. You will need to be on the electoral register to exercise your right to vote. The Electoral Services Team can be contacted on 01429 523088 if you need to check/register.

Work has started behind the Community Centre to try and address the flooding issue in that area. The road from outside the Hope & Anchor, down the bank and out to the A689 at Claxton is included in this year's works programme to be resurfaced at a cost of £36,000.

Your Rural West ward councillors are: - Brenda Loynes, Local Conservative
George Morris, Local Conservative
Ray Martin-Wells, Local Conservative

GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL

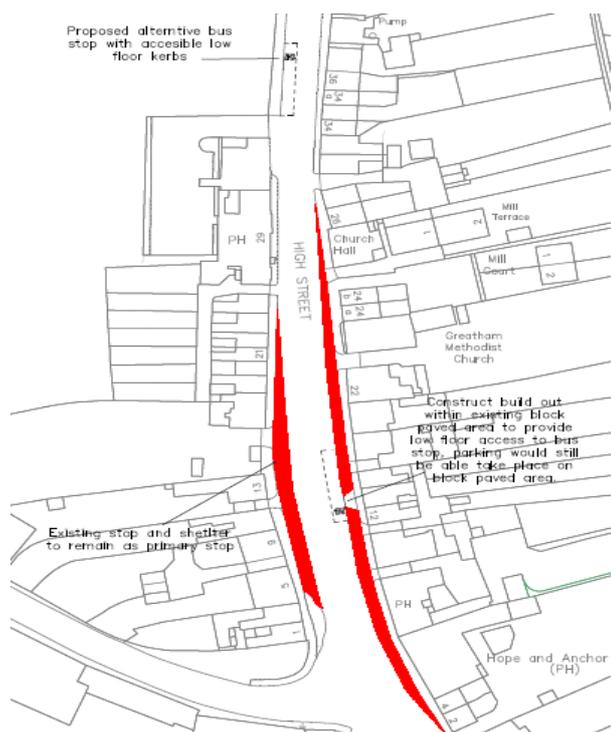
The Clerk to Greatham Parish Council is Mr John Cunliffe of 15 Blackton Road, Elwick Rise, Hartlepool TS26 0QG, tel: (01429) 213022, e-mail: johnlesliecunliffe@hotmail.com. Correspondence for the Parish Council should be directed to the above address.

Greatham Parish Councillors are:-

Greatham Village Ward	Martin Lamb, 4A Woodbine Terrace, Greatham Margo Simmonds, 3A West Row, Greatham Brian Walker, 29 The Grove, Greatham (Chairman)
Greatham South Fens Ward	Don Cameron, 6 Aldeburgh Close, South Fens Allan O'Brien, 9 Station Road, Greatham Colin Richardson, 63 Mildenhall Close, South Fens (Vice Chairman) Michael Ward, 30 Wisbech Close, South Fens

The following maintenance list for Hartlepool Borough Council remains on the Parish Council minutes:-

- Ponding on corner at Egerton Terrace/Vicarage Row,
- Potholes/poor road surface opposite Hope & Anchor,
- Pavement surface in The Drive between Front Street and The Grove,
- Pavement on road bridge over Greatham Beck,
- Loose setts before entrance to Mellanby Lane,
- Pavement on High Bank,
- Pothole at the A689 Sappers Corner junction,
- Tree maintenance on the Black Path at South Fens,
- Flooding near Sports Field Entrance,
- Pavement in front of houses The Green,
- Pavement west side of Saltaire Terrace,
- Pothole junction of West Row and Vicarage Row,
- Flooding in front of 11 The Green, in Station Road (behind Saltaire Terrace) and at Sappers Corner
- Pavement in Aldeburgh Close
- Overgrown bush Wisbech Close
- Leaves left on the Black Path, South Fens



Following the introduction of the raised kerbs at the bus stops concerns were raised that they were failing to address mobility issues regarding access to public transport. The Borough Council were approached and have come up with the following proposals:

On the side where one catches buses in the direction of Billingham it is suggested that a portion of the kerb is brought out so that busses can pull up to a kerb.

On the side heading for Hartlepool, where the bus shelter is, the slope of the hard standing causes difficulties. The proposal on this side is to provide an alternative stop beyond the Smiths Arms.

Before any scheme proceeds the Borough Council are to conduct a consultation exercise with residents in the High Street regarding these proposals. Please do make your views known.

YOUR RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A problem has arisen at the eleventh hour. The concern about the strategic gaps raised by the Local Plan inspector has, as feared, caused concerns for the Neighbourhood Plan Group. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks a continuous strategic gap from Hart to Greatham to protect all the villages including Elwick, Dalton Piercy and Brierton. If as the inspector recommendations the strategic gaps are reduced to protect only Hart, Greatham and Newton Bewley this will make the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan slightly different.

The Neighbourhood Plan group has decided to seek to push ahead with the referendum in light of advice given. The alternative would be to take several steps back and consult again with the rural residents about the strategic gaps which they have already supported. It seems more sensible to go to referendum on the understanding that the Local Plan may trump the Neighbourhood Plan on the single issue of strategic gaps. At least the view of the rural area would still be clearly demonstrated if the referendum confirms the Neighbourhood Plan and show the rural community seeks greater protection for the identity of the villages.

The question now is how quickly can the referendum be organized. The Borough Council currently thinks it cannot schedule a referendum before June/July!

COMMUNITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Red Gap Wind Farm Limited has set up a community fund. The Red Gap Community Benefit Fund has £56,240 available per year for community projects. The Fund allows groups to apply for grants as follows:

Minimum grant level – £500

Match funding is not required for applications less than £5,000

Grant applications above £5,000 will require a minimum of 20% match funding

Applications are acceptable up to the maximum amount available, i.e. £56,240

There is one application round to apply to each year. The next application closing date is 6 June 2018

All projects must be located or be delivered to benefit communities within the Borough of Hartlepool.

Priority will be given to applications within the Parishes of Elwick and Dalton Piercy as they are closest to the wind farm development. Grants will be available for:

Community buildings and facilities. For example: capital improvement works to village halls, community centres, museums, heritage centres and community cafes.

Community activities and services. For example: projects addressing health and wellbeing, social isolation, family poverty, community safety, access to amenities, targeted young and old people projects, and projects providing support for local clubs and groups.

Environmental and public open space projects. For example: projects involving parks, nature reserves, community growing schemes, and habitat/species conservation.

Sports, recreation and play. For example: playgrounds, skate parks, indoor climbing walls, sports equipment and sports field drainage projects.

Eligible Organisations, who can apply for funding include:

Voluntary, community groups and local charities, Parish Councils, Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies

Applicants need to have a written constitution, a set of rules, or a governing document, plus a bank or building society account with a minimum of two signatories in place before applying for a grant.

For further information the contact details are:

Telephone: 01908 247630

Email: info@grantscape.org.uk

ARCHIVE

Below is the fixtures list for Greatham Rugby Football Club for 1906-7 and a list of the officers. Some of the family names are familiar and remain in the village. It is interesting that involvement ranged from the 'ordinary' villager through small businessmen/shopkeepers, the vicar and on to major wealthy businessmen and landowners. The whole spectrum of the community worked to play together.

FIXTURES.				FOR AGT
Sept 1	Pyman League v. West	W H		
8	Stranton Vulcans	..	Home	
15	West Hartlepool III	L	Away	
22	H'pool Old Boys III	L	Home	
29				
Oct. 6	Durham & So. Africans	W H		
13	Rovers II	..	Home	
20	Stranton Vulcans	L	Away	
27	Tip Rangers	L	Home	
Nov. 3	Rovers III	L	Away	
10	Crusaders	L	Away	
17	Rangers	L	Away	
24	West III	..	Home	
Dec. 1	Crusaders	L	Home	
8	Old Boys III	L	Away	
15	Stranton Vulcans	L	Home	
22	West III	..	Away	
29	Rangers	L	Home	
Jan. 1				
5	Old Boys II	..	Home	
12	Rovers II	..	Away	
19	H'pool Rangers	..	Away	
26	West III	L	Home	
Feb. 2	Stranton Vulcans	..	Away	
9	Rovers III	L	Home	
16				
23				
Mar. 2	Old Boys II	..	Away	
9	Crusaders	..	Home	
16	Tip Rangers	L	Away	
23				
30				
Apr. 1				
2				
6	H'pool Rangers	..	Home	
13	Old Boys III	..	Home	
20	Crusaders	..	Away	

OFFICERS, 1906-7.	
<i>President</i> —W. C Gray, Esq. D.L., J.P.	
<i>Vice-Presidents</i> —	
Thos. Appleby, Esq. JP	Rev. W.W. Morrison, MA
R. W. Brydon, Esq. JP	J. Stonehouse, Esq.
Dr. Seaton Cockell	Coun. S. B. Smith, MA
S. Dunning, Esq.	R. Stafford, Esq.
S. H. Glendinning, Esq.	T. Tate, Esq.
J. Foster, Esq.	W. Tidyman, Esq.
H. T. Lindly, Esq.	R. Watson, Esq.
R. Tyson Hodgson, Esq. JP	D. Wigley, Esq.
<i>Captain</i> —Mr. J. W. Hauxwell.	
<i>Vice-Captain</i> —Mr. R. H. Hauxwell.	
<i>Committee</i> —	
Mr. W. Hopper	Mr. F. Hutchinson
Mr. R. Hill	Mr. R. Young
Mr. H. Glew.	
<i>Hon. Secretary</i> —	
Mr. A. E. Brydon, The Cottage, Greatham.	
<i>Assistant Hon. Sec.</i> —	
Mr. J. W. Thompson, The Green, Greatham.	
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i> —	
Mr. W. Tidyman, Greatham.	

DIARY

Saturday 14 th April 7pm	Greatham Village Players Murder Mystery in the Community Centre Tickets £8
Monday 16 th April 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend.
Tuesday 17 th April 2pm	Northumbria in Bloom judges visit.
Monday 14 th May 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (A.G.M.) in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend.
Monday 21 st May 6.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting – an open meeting for all electors of the Parish to hear report, raise concerns and ask questions.

POSITIVE THOUGHT

Picking up litter is beneath no-one, living among litter is beneath everyone

This newsletter is available FREE to the entire village for passing on news, results and events.
Closing date for items for inclusion in the next issue is Thursday 31st May 2018
These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham

Produced for Greatham in Bloom with thanks to Venator, Greatham Works

YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOW DUE

Please detach and use this form to renew or cancel your Annual Subscription which is now due.

Name:

Address:

Delete as appropriate:-

Yes I would like to continue to receive the Village View and enclose £1 for one year's subscription

No I do not wish to continue to receive the Village View

Pop this form (and subscription if renewing) into an envelope and send to 29 The Grove or drop into the Community Centre letterbox.

All funds raised are invested back in your community through the work of Greatham in Bloom.