

# Village view



## **GREATHAM – WINTER 2017 – No.102**

### **GREATHAM IN BLOOM**

The big fund raiser for Greatham in Bloom, Snowdrop Day, will soon be here. The date proposed is Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 1pm to 4.30pm. As ever we welcome volunteers to help on the day either in the Centre welcoming visitors or serving refreshments or outside to guide visitors through the garden and ensure all are kept safe.

A lovely joyful gathering was held in the Community Centre on the 7<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate the blooming of our community through 2017. The presentations celebrated both the individual and communal efforts that make our village that much more beautiful a place in which to live.

The Bloom Group in association with the Community Association has planted a small shrub bed on the green in front of the Community Centre. The intent of this bed is to provide a little space between Centre windows and ball games. This seems a better option than endlessly remonstrating with children playing or the youngsters getting into trouble over broken glass. It was exceedingly rare for anyone to offer to pay for breakages.

An appeal for volunteers to help bought out a good team who quickly realized the scheme. Special thanks to Geoffrey and Aiden who did brilliantly on the wheelbarrows removing the turf. Work was scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> November, Armistice Day so it seemed appropriate to dedicate the bed to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us all. The children who came to help copied the names on the village war memorial onto poppy crosses to place in the bed and added their own thankyou's which were very moving. It was particularly pleasing to see that later some homemade crosses were added to those already there.

The following were elected to the Greatham in Bloom committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> October: Mrs Dorothy Clark, Mr John Cuthbert, Mrs Pam Difford, Mrs Shelia Kell (treasurer), Mrs Lorraine Meakin (secretary), Mrs Ann Murray (vice chair), Mr Brian Walker (chair) and Mrs Jacky Watson. Mr Jonathan Hall was co-opted onto the committee at their first meeting. If you are interested in joining our working parties please contact any member or the Secretary, Lorraine tel. 0740 3384192, e-mail [lorrainemeakin@hotmail.com](mailto:lorrainemeakin@hotmail.com)

### **SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION**

Thanks to support from Sports England the field now has a septic tank and pipework. All that is awaited is for Hartlepool Water to connect up and the facilities will be up and running.

### **INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH**

There will be a Christmas service for all the family on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December and a Carol Service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone is welcome at both services.

Please remember to drop in for a morning coffee on Tuesdays (10am) or Saturdays (10.30am). Tuesday nights are also the Film Club nights. Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting 7pm.

### **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

The Community Centre reopened as planned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October following the refurbishment work on the toilets, although it took another few weeks to be entirely complete. The new toilets were formally declared open by Dorothy Clark MBE who cut a ceremonial ribbon on the 15<sup>th</sup> November. The final bill for the works by Vision Building Services came to £18,832.80 this was met from the Associations reserves and a grant of £5,000 from the Middlesbrough & Teesside Philanthropic Society.

The Ceilidh organised by the Friday Dance Class on the 14<sup>th</sup> October was a great success and raised an excellent £400. The Flower Arranging Group quiz and pizza supper on the 15<sup>th</sup> November added a further £400 to the Centre funds. Both evenings brought laughter to the building while raising valuable funds. The Association Trustees are very grateful to all those involved for their hard work and wonderful support.

The Rotary Club Grand Draw brought £184.50 to the Centre funds. Thanks to all who sold and bought tickets for Greatham Community Association. A total 36 community organisations took part this year and over £6000 was raised. Each group received 90% of the monies raised by their sales. We are grateful to the Rotary Club for doing all the background work involved in organising the draw.

We welcome Choral Interlude as a new regular group in the Centre. This ladies choir will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30pm. By a remarkably coincidence the choir were asking if the Centre had a piano and within a week we were offered an old piano by Beverly Hutchinson. It needs a little work to replace a couple of missing casters but hopefully will be an asset.

The choir extends an invitation to all to call in for a tea/coffee and mince pies at their regular rehearsal on Sunday 17th December. The choir are always looking for new members but even if you are not interested in joining you will be more than welcome to pop in for a chat and a Christmas carol sing along. They are looking to become part of the community and get involved with the various village events during the year. Anyone interested in joining the choir can contact Janet O'Connor by e-mail [janetoco@hotmail.com](mailto:janetoco@hotmail.com) or ring on 07949 700928. There is a monthly membership fee of £15 payable on the first of each month.

Following the A.G.M. of Greatham Community Association Limited, held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October there has been no change in the Trustees (who also act as Company Directors). The Trustees are Mrs Dorothy Clark, Mr Bob Emmerson (Booking Secretary), Ms Sonya Hepple, Mrs Jean Jones, Mrs Muriel McIntyre (Vice Chair), Mrs Judith Shield, Mr Brian Walker (Treasurer), Mr Keith Watson (Chair) and Rev. Michael Unwin. Mrs Pat Cook was confirmed as Company Secretary.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:greathamca@gmail.com).

**VILLAGE PLAYERS**

Pantomime season fast approaches and Greatham Village Players pantomime for 2018 in “Sinbad the Sailor” written by T.L.O. creative and adapted by ourselves for the Greatham audience. We have been rehearsing since the beginning of September and Sinbad promises to be a panto full of colour, glorious costumes and stunning scenery. It is packed with jokes, songs, dance and a cast of fabulous village players who are keen to wow you and make you laugh.

Performance dates are the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018, location the Community Centre. Tickets are priced the same as last year at £4 per person for the Wednesday and Thursday nights and on Friday and Saturday nights £5 for adults and £4 for children under 12 years (children under 3 years are free). Doors open Wednesday to Friday at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start and on Saturday at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start. Refreshments and a raffle will be available each evening.

Hopefully with your attendance and vital support these prices will continue to meet the costs involved and allow the Players financially to continue to produce a pantomime for the village. Sale of tickets have again been re allocated throughout the Players Group and ALL evenings were on sale at the Post Office on a first come first serve basis from the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Can I thank the Trustees of the Association and all those groups from the Centre who have delayed the start of their New Year activities to allow the pantomime to take place. Also thanks to Martin Lamb and his staff at the Post Office for selling the tickets and of course to you for buying them.

Please come along for an evening of fun and help us celebrate what will be our 21<sup>st</sup> pantomime for Greatham.  
Anita Stitt, Director of the Pantomime 2018

## **CHURCH NEWS**

We have evidence to show that there has been a place of worship on the site of St John the Baptist since Saxon times. Worshipping communities throughout the centuries have lovingly cared for their building and their people. We are the present day custodians. It is our responsibility to care for our church, to help it flourish and grow so we can pass it on to future generations. To do this we need volunteers. The tasks are not onerous but take on a greater significance during our interregnum. Many of the jobs are undertaken on a rote basis. Can you help? Join us at a Volunteers Forum on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January from 10.10am to 12.30pm in church.

Itinerary for the Forum is 10.30am – meet and greet (with coffee), 10.45 am – prayers for our Parish, 10.55 – introduction and options, 1.45am – light lunch, 12.15pm – questions and answer session and 12.25am – closing prayers. The tasks are not onerous but take on a greater significance during our interregnum. Many of the jobs are undertaken on a rote basis.

God has given his church an enormous responsibility – to make disciples in every nation (Matthew 28:18-20). This involves preaching, teaching, healing, nurturing, giving, administering, building and many other tasks. If we had to fulfil this command as individuals, we might as well give up without trying – it would be impossible. But God calls us as members of his body. Some of us can do one task; some can do another. As the body of Christ, we can accomplish more together than we would dream possible working alone.

The Coffee Morning in church on the 29<sup>th</sup> November is expected to realise £400. Many thanks to all who braved the bad weather to support this event.

## **VILLAGE POST OFFICE**

New, reduced, opening hours are now in operation. Monday to Saturday 7am to 7.30pm, Sunday 8am to 1pm. Due to lack of sales the post office is unable to stay open.

To everyone who collects papers from behind the counter, due to reduction in working hours the staff will no longer have time to reserve newspapers. We will endeavour to have plenty of papers in the shelves to accommodate needs. Also morning papers can only be delivered later in the morning, between 11am and 11.30am. Apologies for these changes but I hope you will carry on receiving the papers.

Please still try and support the shop and help keep your Post Office open. Martin

### **GREATHAM FEAST – SANTA’S FLOAT**

Once again the Feast Committee are pleased to welcome Santa to Greatham for a special visit at his busiest time. He will be escorted around the village on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December starting at 4.30pm. He will stop for about 15 minutes at Front Street, The Grove, Queensway (Tall Trees near Greenside), The Green, Station Road, Hill View, The Station and Saltaire Terrace.

The Feast committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported them. Without your generosity, help and support there could be no Feast.

### **VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE**

Greatham boasts another beautiful Christmas tree in front of Greatham House. Thanks go to Jonathan Hall, family and friends for organising and erecting the tree. Also thanks to our three ward councillors who each donated £100 from their ward budgets and to The Hospital of God who contributed £50. Thanks also to Martin Lamb who has located a second tree in the Post Office garden.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE**

There have been a number of burglaries reported in the village and criminals were caught on the roof of a garage in The Drive after being spotted by a neighbour. Please remain vigilant and as ever look out for each other and keep an eye on your neighbour’s property. Keep your property secure especially outbuildings like sheds and garages.

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](http://www.cleveland.police.uk) using the ‘my neighbourhood’ tab.

### **HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM**

Director to retire early 2018, the post of Director was advertised in October at salary of £70,000 to £75,000. David Granath has served as Director of the charity since 2000. During this time the Charity has undergone great changes which have offered a bright future and expanded its work. In Greatham possible the most significant change has been the building of Stichell House which brought modern care home facilities to the hospital complex. The Hospital has also expanded beyond Greatham for the first time in its history to absorb almshouses at Stockton and Norton. It offers residential, day care and support services, in particular for people dealing with dementia and Alzheimer’s through its home at Gretton Court and day centres at Hartlepool, Wheatley Hill, Seaham and Horden. Valuable advice is provided through The Bridge an easily accessible shop unit in Harlepool and support through the Community Pastimes scheme. It might be said at a time when care services have been under increasing pressure The Hospital of God has been a shining beacon.

### **HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

There has been a fall in the number of people registered to vote in Greatham village, this despite no obvious signs of a declining population. If you are not registered you will not be able to vote!

There are two registers – the electoral register and the open register. The electoral register lists the names and addresses of everyone who are registered to vote in public elections. It is also used for other limited purposes specified in law including checking credit applications. The open register can be bought by any person, company or organisation; you can opt out of the ‘open register’ without affecting your right to vote.

You can add your name to the register of electors at any time. If you are from a Commonwealth country, British Overseas Territory or an EU member state you can also register.

To register residents will need their name, address and any previous address, plus their date of birth and National Insurance Number. Applications cannot proceed without this information. Applications can be made by:

- Telephoning the Electoral Services Team in Hartlepool on 01429 523088
- Going on line at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

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](mailto: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



**PLEASE PARK WITH CONSIDERATION**

**NOBODY SHOULD BE FORCED OUT INTO THE ROAD**

Living Streets is the UK charity for everyday walking. We want to create a walking nation, free from congested roads and pollution, reducing the risk of preventable illness and social isolation and making walking the natural choice. We believe that a walking nation means progress for everyone.

[WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK)

Living Streets (The Pedestrians Association) is a Registered Charity No. 1108448 (England and Wales) and SC038808 (Scotland), Company Limited by Guarantee (England & Wales), Company Registration No. S388409, PC11

**LIVING STREETS**

As car ownership continues to increase walking around the village is becoming more difficult. There are increasing instances of parked cars dangerously obstructing the pavements. While the car may be a source of pride and pleasure it should not put people at risk by forcing them onto the road. Those tempted to put their car over the pavement are requested to consider how they would feel should they, their children or elderly relatives be required to walk into the road rather than remain safely on the pavement. Don't put your car before people – think pram, pushchair, wheelchair and give them their space.

Other problems related to traffic on roads never designed for such quantities are increasing including conflict during the school run, damage to grass areas and shear weight of numbers in narrow streets, for example West Row. There is a need for a high level of tolerance and co-operation. Avoid using the car for journeys within the village as much as possible; also be prepared to walk a little if you cannot get parked right in front of your door. If you are fortunate enough to have a drive or garage use it.

Treat the roads and pavements as if you are borrowing them from your neighbours, which in a way you are because, unless it is a private road, even outside your own house it does not belong to you.

## YOUR RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The last step for the Rural Plan is for it to be put to a referendum of the electors of the rural area. It continues to be the hope that this can be held early in the 2018. The only concern now is that the inspection process of Hartlepool Local Plan might raise some unforeseen complication.

### LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

Hartlepool Borough Council has now complete works at the entrance to Thorn Tree Lane which should secure it from fly tipping, travellers etc. Pedestrians still have full access, via the 'A' Frame installed by Hodgson Site Services.

Thanks from the Borough Council go to many, such as Seymours for their donation and delivery of the three concrete drainage rings which Greatham in Bloom have agreed to plant. To Tata Steel/Liberty Steel for the fabrication and installation of the substantial vehicle barrier (the old removable bollard has been reinstalled behind the barrier). Network Rail supplied new padlocks for both the barrier and the bollard for which keys will be provided for Conoco Phillips and Liberty Steel. Network Rail, Hospital of God and HBC Enforcement all kindly committed monies towards the project. Chris Scaife the Council's Countryside Access Officer said "once again it seems to be the case that with positive minded partners tricky projects like this can be completed because we all want to help complete it successfully".

The Parish Council's continues with its application to get the route along Thorn Tree Lane added to the definitive map and thus ensure continued public right of way. This is something which makes all the more sense following these considerable works.

## SMITHS ARMS

The planning application for the conversion of the pub into 2 houses and to build 2 new houses alongside was approved by Hartlepool Planning Committee at their meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. The approval was subject to conditions which were delegated to HBC Planning and Development Manager in conjunction with Chair of Planning Committee.

## ARCHIVE

Sir Gilbert Gerard was Master of Greatham Hospital from 1663 to 1676. During the Civil War he was an active Royalist commanding a troop of the Life Guards. After his capture he was given a pass overseas but must have returned because he was thrown in The Tower in 1654. He avoided trial for conspiracy to kill Oliver Cromwell but his brother John was not as lucky as he was executed. Gilbert was banished and listed as following the Court into exile.

Perhaps he met his great benefactor in exile, John Cosin, whose daughter Mary became his second wife. On the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 John Cosin became, in rapid succession, restored as Dean of Peterborough and elevated to Bishop of Durham. As Dean he secured for his son-in-law the lease of Fiskerton a manor in Lincolnshire belonging to the church. As Bishop he bestowed the office of constable of Durham and later the Mastership at Greatham, which Cosin himself had held briefly for 33 days in 1624. The Bishop, as lord of the manor, will have influenced Sir Gilbert Gerard baronet being returned as MP for Northallerton in 1661.

Gilbert Gerard was an active member of parliament. One of his minor works in 1665 was to bring a bill to parliament for the repair of the pier at Hartlepool. It was defeated at the first reading but he was still made a Freeman of the Borough. In 1681 he was wounded in a political duel with another MP, Edmund Webb. He died at York on his travels in 1687 and was buried in the Minster.

## DIARY

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 3pm	Family Christmas Service in the Ind. Methodist Church, High Street
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 6pm	A Service in Nine Lessons & Carols in the Parish Church
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 10am	Greatham School Christingle Service in the Parish Church
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8am Eucharist, 9.30am Parish Eucharist in the Parish Church
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 3pm	Carol Service in the Independent Methodist Church.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December from 4.30pm	Santa's Float escorted around village by Feast Committee
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	8am Christmas Eucharist, 9.30am Parish Christmas Eucharist in the Parish Church
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December Noon	Greatham Sword Dance and Mummers Play performed by the Redcar Sword Dancers at the Hall Gates (across from the Community Centre).
Wednesday 10th January 10am	Coffee Morning, £1.50 including refreshments in the Parish Church.
10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> January	"Sinbad the Sailor" a pantomime presented by the Village Players in the Community Centre. Tickets and time varies please see main article.
Saturday 20th January 10.30am	St. John the Baptist Volunteers Forum in the Parish Church.
Monday 29th January 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 1pm to 4.30pm	Snowdrop Day – wood open – tickets to garden and refreshments in the Community Centre. £2 (accompanied children £1).
Monday 12th March 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend

## POSITIVE THOUGHT

Somewhere, someone else is happy with less than you have.

## ALL THE VERY BEST WISHES OF THE SEASON TO OUR READERS

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 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham

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