

Village View



GREATHAM – SUMMER 2018 – No.104

**THANKYOU FOR RENEWING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING YOUR NEWSLETTER AND FIND IT INFORMATIVE**

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

The Northumbria in Bloom judges made their first visit to Greatham on the 17th April. A huge thankyou to everyone who helped the village look it's very best. It is the first time we can remember that the daffodils were all out for a judging day and they helped the place really shine. Hyacinths were also blooming and scenting the air, the judges were impressed with these especially as they had been re-used from the Borough Council's displays and cost us nothing! Recycling is important in the competition and we invited the Borough's Waste and Environmental Services Team Leader, Helen Beaman, to tell the judges about the Council's recycling schemes – this fitted in with the judging day being on a bin day and the grey bins had been out. Thank you again for getting them out early and putting them away again. In support of what is, in Greatham, principally a community effort Hartlepool Council came out in force before the judging to help ensure the streets looked as neat and tidy as possible. The judges return on Thursday 19th July at 10.30am for the all-important summer inspection.

You make all the difference; nothing would be possible without the hardworking team of volunteers supported by residents, all taking pride in their streets and homes. Perhaps if you watched the BBC Britain in Bloom TV series that ran in late April/early May you will have some idea of the efforts that occur around the country to make cities, towns and villages a joy to visit and live in. It plays a vital role in the wellbeing and economy of so many communities and Greatham more than holds its own among these.

A huge thankyou goes out to everyone who so generously supported our coffee morning and plant sale on the 26th May. It was a great success and raised £675.66 for Greatham in Bloom.

We have two schemes celebrating anniversaries. Around the Sheaf Thrower flowers are in the Suffragette colours of purple, white and green to mark the centenary of women beginning to have the right to vote. The bed facing Woodbine Terrace will be used to mark the centenary of the Royal Air Force. Greatham has a link to the R.A.F. through the airfield during WW2.

We shall be running our village gardens competition again this year. Please find an entry form at the back of this newsletter with details of the various categories you can enter. Please return forms by the end of the Feast on Sunday 24th June.

The summer flowers will already be going in as you read this newsletter and preparations well underway to ensure everything is neat and tidy. The aim is not just to impress judges for two days in the year but also to provide beauty for both residents and visitors to enjoy each and every day. 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

The 557th annual Greatham Feast will be held from Thursday 21st June to Sunday 24th June 2018. A programme should have dropped through your letterbox. Events literally kick-off with 5-a-side football at the Sports Field before moving to the Hope & Anchor at 7.30pm for the domino and cribbage finals followed at 8.30pm by the ladies and gents darts finals and ending the first day at 9pm with the mixed pairs darts. Preliminary rounds will be advertised in the individual pubs.

On Friday it is a 10am start with the Church Service, as well as being midsummer the Feast celebrates the patronal festival of St John the Baptist. The service is followed at 11am by the baby show in the Community Centre. At 3pm it is time for our oldest residents to enjoy their Feast tea in the Centre. At 8pm the yard of ale will be hosted at the Bull & Dog.

Saturday has always been one of the busiest days. First event is a children's matchbox challenge which starts from the Community Centre at 10am. A new event will be the Greatham Bake Off for which cakes must be at the Centre no later than 11am. The afternoon events start with the Grand Parade of the fancy dress and decorated bikes, a competition open to village residents, all children attending Greatham school and members of village groups, which starts at the Methodist Church and ending on the green. Teas will be available in the Centre while outside on the green the fancy dress, decorated bikes and glamorous grandmother competitions will be judged. Continuing there will be amusements, stalls, children's entertainment, Ami Ford's Zumba display, a gin & prosecco horse box bar and the grand draw. Saturday night sees a barbeque and live entertainment on the green featuring three piece indie-punk wedding band Yellowstone.

Easing down on the Sunday there is the Patronal Service at 9am in Church, the 24th of June is the actual Feast day of St John the Baptist. Finally at 1.30pm the village green will again host the swarm race, children, teenage and adult sports.

Sounds like another full and entertaining few days to get together with your neighbours and celebrate our community as generations before have done.

SPORTS FIELD

Work will be starting on the playground/disabled area shortly. Please be careful while work is in progress and if anybody sees any vandalism could they please report it to the committee or call Ronnie on 07722856589.

VILLAGE PLAYERS

The Village Players held their A.G.M. on the 27th April. About 20 people attended in the Community Centre and elected a committee to take the Players forward for another year. There were three resignations. June Harrison stood down as treasurer, a role which Brian Price was elected to take on. Jean Proctor who provided wardrobe and seamstress services also stood down after many years sterling work. The third to stand down due to work commitments was Claire Anderson. All were thanked for their valued work. Newly elected to the committee was Rachel Holmes.

A pleasant social evening followed the formal meeting. A video of the players' recent panto, Sinbad the Sailor, was shown for cast and helpers who had been too busy to properly enjoy the show as the audiences had.

The Murder Mystery on the 14th April was a sell out and has provided the funds to proceed with plans for the next pantomime. This will be Aladdin, casting for which will be undertaken in the Community Centre on the 3rd July. For further information please contact Anita on 01642 562109.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

To honour a long standing chair, committee member and hardworking volunteer it has been decided to rename the lounge as Dorothy's Lounge. A photograph of our own M.B.E. recipient has been added and name plates will be placed on the doors.

We are sad to announce the closure of the Mother and Toddler Group which has been a long standing group in the Centre. With falling numbers of children attending it is no longer sustainable. Many thanks to Mr & Mrs Hall for their endeavours keeping the group open. Should parents or guardians wish to resurrect the group in the future the Association would be happy to hear from them.

Many of you will have been contacted by all manner of organization trying to ensure they comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The Community Association is no exception and has also had to produce a data protection policy and privacy statement because we hold names, addresses and contact details. We also need to confirm permission to contact users in the future and in what way they prefer to be contacted. To this end we have produced a form which everyone who wishes to continue to subscribe to the Association will need to complete. It is a very simple form which will be circulated to the 3 sections (Carpet Bowls, Line Dancing and Sequence Dancing) for which the Association are responsible. For other groups regularly using the Centre that pay an affiliation fee we only need the details of the organizer/contact. Some do also collect individual subscriptions so forms will be available in the Centre and we have also included a form with this newsletter for individuals who may not regularly use the Centre but do wish to support it by paying an annual subscription.

Another fun packed Beetle Drive has been organized by the Flower Class is holding for the 14th June at 2pm. In aid of the Community Centre tickets cost £5 and can be bought on the day. Everyone is welcome.

The Tuesday Line Dancing Group is holding a 'taster' session in the Centre on the 26th June. So if you've ever fancied trying line dancing, not sure if it is for you or are just curious this is your chance. The Greatham Group do a mix of Latin, Disco and a little Western. You'll be able to learn a few dances and meet the regulars. You need to be over 18, a partner is not required. The session costs £2 and lasts an hour, starting at 8pm, with refreshments to follow. If you cannot make that date we are dancing every week and new members are always welcome to join us any Tuesday.

GREATHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2018

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MORNING	LOUNGE							
	MAIN HALL		MATURE MOVERS 10.30-11.30		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			CHORAL INTERLUDE (LADIES CHOIR) 10.30-12.30
	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 is wanting big old keys to use in one of their future projects. If you have any that are now obsolete, and you no longer want can you please either leave them at Whitfield's General Store in Egerton Terrace, or give them to: Sheila Kell, Andy Merifield, Andy Rees, Bob Johnson, Allan O'Brien or Linda Dempsey.

The Residents Association reserve the right to dispose of any donated keys which are not suitable or in the event that they are overwhelmed by the response.

We have a few future projects in the pipeline and will advertise these when we have more information on them.

We are also planning another public meeting when we will be having a guest speaker who will be talking about 'scams' that affect all of us not just internet/computer users.

Following more than 2 years of discussions, consultations, planning and fund raising we are pleased to confirm that permission has now been granted by the Hospital of God for the replacement fence around the village green. The replacement fence will be of metal construction and should hopefully last for many years to come and continue to protect our young people who play on the green.

The replacement will be conducted in stages as funds become available. We felt it unwise to undertake extensive fundraising until the necessary permissions were in place. As we want to keep any disruption, whilst work is being undertaken, to a minimum it is unlikely that anything will happen prior to the Greatham Feast celebrations.

This work would not be possible without the kind permission of the Hospital of God, funding, mainly from our Councillors and the Public Liability Insurance cover provided by the Parish Council, we are very grateful to them all.

Members contact details: Alan O'Brien (Chair) 07881 623431, Linda Dempsey (Secretary) 07909 616561, Andy Merifield (Treasurer) 07514 400811. www.greathamvillage.co.uk

SPEEDING

Speeding cars in the village were again raised at a recent public meeting hosted by the Residents Association. The 20mph limit put in place to benefit all, but particularly our children and elderly, remains unenforced, though it is rightly argued that it does generally bring speeds down. So the question is why drivers cannot simply obey the speed limit thereby respecting others and displaying self-discipline. The answer is probably somewhere in our society's emphasis on individual liberties rather than the communal good - some will always take greater liberties certain in their own self importance.

Another awkward point regularly raised is that Greatham is not on the road to anywhere therefore those speeding in the village are at best are coming to visit and at worst live here. This suggests we should know the speeders. Perhaps as a community it is down to us to persuade those individuals that speed that their behaviour is not acceptable. Some time ago volunteers took up the offer to hold a speed gun and catch speeders in the act. The result was a number of letters being sent out but it requires at least a Community Support Officer to be present for this to occur – and the volunteers willing to stand up.

The other suggestion is to introduce physical barriers. The last time this was proposed and consulted upon it proved unpopular – loss of parking spaces and increased noise being among the concerns. The only feature to make it into reality was the change to the road layout outside the Hope and Anchor.

LITTERING

At about 7.30pm on Thursday 3rd May between the lane to Field Hose Farm and Rose Villa a child was seen to throw what appeared to be a large carton out of the window of a black car driven by a woman. They were heading into the village. Sadly it happened so quickly that the number of the car was not taken. This was a lovely sunny spring morning down a green and pleasant country lane – but to that child and at best his unobservant guardian it was just the place to treat as a place to offload their trash. It cost volunteer's time and ratepayer's money to keep clearing up after people like these – such a waste. Dash cam in the future!

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.

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

The local elections on the 3rd May returned Brenda Loynes to continue to serve as a ward councillor for Rural West which includes Greatham village. Councillor Loynes enjoyed a landslide victory with more votes than all three of the other candidates combined. The results were:-

James Brewer, Independent	366 votes
Michael Holt, Green Party	121 votes
Helen Howson, Labour	361 votes
Brenda Loynes, Conservatives	1189 votes

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

There is an empty seat for the Rural West Ward following the resignation of Ray Martin-Wells. A by-election looks likely on the 12th July.

The Independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is conducting a review of Hartlepool Borough Council ward boundaries. A consultation is underway, closing on the 6th August 2018. They are seeking suggestions on where the ward boundaries should be, where local people access local facilities such as shops and leisure and which areas you identify as your local community.

The Commission is minded to recommend that 36 councillors should be elected to Hartlepool in the future, which is three more than at present. In drawing up a pattern of electoral wards, the Commission must balance three legal criteria, namely:

- to deliver electoral equality: where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the borough;
- that the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities;
- that the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

If you wish to put forward a view, you are urged to ensure that evidence supports your submission. For example, if you wish to argue that two parishes should be included in the same electoral ward, make sure you tell the Commission why they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations, and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together. More information and interactive maps can be found on the Commission website by searching consultation.lgbce.org.uk or www.lgbce.org.uk. You can write to the Review Officer (Hartlepool), LGBE, 14TH Floor, Millbank Tower, London, SW1P 4QP, e-mail reviews@lgbce.org.uk and twitter @LGBCE

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	Margo Simmonds, 3A West Row, Greatham Brian Walker, 29 The Grove, Greatham (Chair)
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 Chair) Michael Ward, 30 Wisbech Close, South Fens

Martin Lamb has resigned from the Parish Council as he no longer lives or has a business in the Parish. This leaves an empty seat in the Greatham village ward of the Parish Council. All seats on the Parish Council are due for election in May 2019, which is only 8 meetings away, and anyone filling the seat would still have to stand for election next year (subject to candidates coming forward being more than the number of seats).

At the annual parish council meeting on the 14th May Brian Walker was unanimously reappointed as Chair and Colin Richardson unanimously reappointed as Vice Chair.

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 shrub Wisbech Close

LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

Paperwork has been submitted and receipted for the footpath right of way along Thorn Tree Lane to be added to the definitive map. The Borough Council have 12 months in which to make a determination.

YOUR RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Still pushing for a date from the Borough Council on which the referendum can be held! The Rural Neighbourhood Plan represents the vision of the rural population, as gathered over the last 6 years at consultations and through questionnaires, for the future of their villages and surrounding countryside. The referendum is the opportunity for those who live in the rural area to confirm or reject their neighbourhood plan, something quite unique in the planning system.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This annual beacon of local democracy, always held in May, at which all the electors in the Parish are invited to raise any issue great or small which is of concern to them, or just to find out what is afoot in their area was attended by 8 electors, and that is counting 4 members of the Parish Council who attended. It was a glorious sunny evening, but even in such a harmonious Parish as ours, that is a worrying low level of interest.

The meeting was attended by Barry Coppinger the Police and Crime Commissioner, Brenda Loynes one of the Ward Councillors for Rural West and Andrew Carter, Assistant Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration.

The main question for Mr Coppinger was the invisibility of the police and the apparent demise of neighbourhood policing which was highlighted by the absence of any police officer or PCSO in attendance that evening. Funding cuts were having an impact and he noted difficulties in identifying and contacting officers. He drew attention to the 'Cleveland Connected' messaging service and advice system operated by Cleveland Police – www.clevelandconnected.co.uk. Another service that he drew attention to is the Victim Care and Advice Service which provides free, independent and confidential help and advice. If you or someone you know is a victim of crime they can be contact by phone on 0303 040 1099 or email info@vcas.uk. They also have a website – www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk

Councillor Loynes thanked those who had voted for her in the recent elections and returned her to serve for another term. She also gave a report on progress regarding some of the issues that had been reported to her. Dog fouling issues were raised and Mr Carter suggested if a photo was taken of offenders and sent to the council they would look at following up. Various missed potholes were reported and questions arose about speeding. A recent survey carried out by the Borough Council had however only recorded an average speed of 24mph. The possibility of replacing the 20mph flashing signs in High Street with one that gave a readout of the speed being travelled was raised and the question as to whether the sign in Station Road was actually functioning. The state of the Smiths Arms was raised as being an eyesore. Other issues were the sighting of children with carrier bags going down to the former Cerebos site possible drinking and the need for cutting the rights of way, particularly that toward the railway and Billingham.

Mr Carter fielded some questions about when the South West extension might be expected to begin, which he thought was not immediate with developers concentrating on sites to the north of the town. Similarly the plan for houses in Station Road, outline planning for which he thought had now expired, had probably been held back by the difficulties of building in a hollow which would require a means to avoid flooding. Following a question about the delay in the referendum for the Rural Neighbourhood Plan Andrew suggested it would be held this summer. To end the meeting Andrew produced a map which illustrated the Local Plan (not to be confused with the Neighbourhood Plan) adoption of which was expected by the full council the following night. He explained some of the implication for Greatham Parish in particular and the Rural Area in general.

VANISHED COMMUNITIES – GREATHAM CREEK

An initial meeting was held on the 27th March at Saltholme to look at this project to celebrate the now disappeared community of houseboats at Greatham Creek. At that time a number of artists had expressed an interest in taking part in the project funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund and co-ordinated by the River Tees Rediscovered supported by ARC, Stockton. Greatham was represented at the meeting by the Chair of the Parish Council. Hopefully the project will be able to commence later this summer.

POST OFFICE

Hoorah, the Village Post Office is set to reopen soon, hopefully the shop might open for the Feast with the Post Office to follow in July. Work is well underway on refurbishing the property ready for the new owners to start afresh. It's a big undertaking with lots of planning, training and legal work. Please support you village post office and welcome Richie, Chiara and family as they bring back this valued service to our community.

ARCHIVE

Sale of work, extract from the Parish Magazine. Mrs George Horsley very kindly came, at very short notice, to open the Sale. The Master presided. The stalls were provided as follows: Working Party, by the members; Girls' Guild, by members; Vicarage Stall, by Mrs Astley Barton, Mrs D'Leny, Mrs Frogatt and Mrs A.C. Rose; Produce Stall, by Mrs R.B. Carter, Mrs Goldson, Mrs L. Dunning and Mrs W.M. Stonehouse; Day School, by the Staff and Mrs H.L. Morley; Mystery Stall, by Mrs F. Benson; Hoop-la, by Mrs G.C. Bell; Bran Tub, by Mrs J.H. Turner; Afternoon Tea, by Mothers' Union Members; Doll, by Miss E. Crowe; Tray, by Hilda Wilson. Donations of five guineas by R.B. Carter, Esq. J.P., of £5 by the Master (Vicarage Stall), and of £1 by Mrs Dunning were thankfully received. The nett profit amounted to £93 – a highly satisfactory result, considering the handicap.

The Handicap presumably being the outbreak of the Second World War, as this report appeared in the magazine for November 1939! Still an impressive collection of stalls and helpers which was also described as being hurried forward because of War conditions – it was held on the 30th September 1939, 27 days after Britain declared war on Germany.

DIARY

Thursday 14 th June 2pm	Greatham Flower Class Beetle Drive in the Community Centre Tickets £5
21 st to 24 th June	Greatham Feast.
Tuesday 26 th June 8.00pm	Greatham Line Dancers invite you to join them for a taster session in the Community Centre. £2, over 18s only.
Monday 2 nd July 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend.
Tuesday 3 rd July 6pm-8pm	Greatham Village Players casting meeting for Aladdin Pantomime In the Community Centre Lounge.
Thursday 19 th July 10.30am	Northumbria in Bloom summer judging of Greatham
Monday 13 th August 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend.

POSITIVE THOUGHT

To suffer wrong is of no account unless you continue to remember it

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 Friday 31st August 2018

These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham

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

Greatham in Bloom

Gardening Trophies Entry Form

Name -----

Address -----

Please tick those you wish to enter:-

Greatham in Bloom Trophy (best kept garden)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alderman Lyver Memorial Trophy (‘extra’ garden - tubs, yards, baskets, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Armstrong Ross Memorial Shield (allotments/vegetable gardens)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location of allotment if not at above address	-----

Entrants will automatically be considered for

The Joan Booker Memorial Shield

(best floral display)

& Trustees Trophy

(best Hospital of God Property)

Please return forms to:- Greatham in Bloom,
at 29 The Grove or

post through the Community Centre letter box

Closing date: Sunday 24th June, entry is free

Greatham Community Association Limited

Greatham Community Centre, Front Street, Greatham, Hartlepool. TS25 2ES
Reg. Charity No. 1150667

Subscription Form

HOUSEHOLD ----- £2.50, ADULT ----- £1.50, SENIOR CITIZEN ----- £1.00, YOUTH/JUNIOR ----- 50p

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Signature _____

Telephone* _____ e-mail* _____

*Phone and e-mail contacts are optional, if provided they will be used to warn of unforeseen events such as cancellations. We would however like to keep members up to date about events and activities in our community centre. If you are happy for us to contact you please use the tick boxes below to indicate your preferred methods of contact (if you do not tick any boxes we will presume you do not wish to be kept updated).

post e-mail phone

Information provided on this form will only be used by Greatham Community Association (including sections leaders) and will be subject to the provisions of the Association’s data protection policy. The personal details of members will not be shared with third parties unless there is a legal requirement to do so.