

Village view



GREATHAM – SPRING 2015 – No.91

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

Snowdrop day this year welcomed a band of rain which crossed over Greatham in an attempt to put a dampener on our event. Fortunately it takes more than a little rain to put off the hardened garden visitor. There was still a very reasonable crowd and the refreshments sold out. The event raised £682 the lion's share of which will finance the work of keeping the village blooming. Small donations were also made to the Parish Church and Hospital gardeners. Many thanks go to all those who help by preparing the wood for the visit, making and serving refreshments, making goods and manning the stalls and greeting and helping visitors. Those who visit seem to enjoy themselves and go away with a very positive impression of our little community.

We have been successful in obtaining 30 native hedging plants from the Woodland Trust which were delivered in the first week in March. These were used to fill in some of the gaps that have developed in the hedgerows as you approach the village from the Claxton crossroads. Hopefully this will further improve the appearance of what should be a very attractive approach to the village. The idea also provides us with a conservation project which is one of the judging points where we are weakest.

The 2014 Village Garden Competition was lost in the workload last year to the point it was left far too late. The Bloom Committee decided as a one off to award the trophies themselves to gardens they were aware of, without the need for an entry form. Only the trophy was presented and no prize money. We hope to get back to normal for the 2015 competition.

Greatham in Bloom Trophy (for best kept garden) Mrs Fleet, The Grove.
Alderman Lyver Memorial Trophy (for best hanging baskets, tubs, etc.) Mr & Mrs Llewelyn, Front Street
Armstrong Ross Memorial Shield (for best allotment/vegetable garden) shared by Mr Richardson & Mr Westmoreland, High Street
Trustees Trophy (best garden of a Hospital property) Mr & Mrs Hogan, High Street
Joan Booker Memorial Shield (best floral display) Mr Hutchinson, Queensway

The following trophies are always presented by the Bloom Committee.

Jackson Memorial Shield (best non-domestic property) The Community Centre
Geoff Clark Memorial Shield (outstanding contribution to Greatham in Bloom) Pam Difford
Tioxide Award (outstanding contribution by an individual or group to the improvement/maintenance of the environment of Greatham) Niki Goodchild for tasks undertaken throughout the village.

Spring judging will take place on Wednesday 15th April at 10am. Please do all you can to help our village look as good as it can be.

There is always room for more volunteers. If you would like to become more involved please contact any member of the committee or ring Dorothy on 870292 for more information.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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. Our neighbourhood officer is P.C. Keith Robinson supported by P.C.S.O. Catherine Jones. 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 and local concern form.

GREATHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

Goldilocks and the 3 Bears was the 18th pantomime from the Village Players and they didn't disappoint. This year's production was directed by Anita Stitt who, despite a reorganisation in the players and something of a late start, did the cast proud in bringing forth a thoroughly enjoyable panto. Anita was assisted by stage manager Trish Watkins. The humour was perhaps more subtle but other strengths notably the singing voices came to the fore.

Among the welcome voices was Keiron Johnson a young lad who has shown promise in earlier productions and in this production confidently played one of the lead roles Tomtom. Goldilocks herself was played by Lauren Price again a very confident performer. Lauren was also responsible for the excellent choreography, the children's dance routines were not over complex and therefore well executed by Chloe Middleton, Leah Alderson, Rebecca Watkins, Hannah Fenwick and Lauren Emmerson – and they looked as though they were generally enjoying themselves which always lifts a show. Lauren Emmerson also played the Wolf, and Baby Bear was Chloe Middleton, who is definitely a young star. The rest of the bear family were Hugh Stitt whose deep voice was well suited to Daddy Bear and Mummy Bear Rachel Anderson who shows great confidence for one so young. How to turn actors into bears – well the make up/costume for the bears was particularly well done. Other animal morphs were the bees. Kate Kenny as Queen Bee managed a quite charming wickedness supported by Barnabee, Leah Anderson, Penelope, Rebecca Watson and Buzzbee, Hannah Fenwick. Misfit Kevin the Wasp saw Dave Harrison in his biggest role yet carried very confidently in a striking costume. Claire Alderson gave a convincing performance as dame Auntie Septic with Sophie Smith playing a good fool as Cillit. Two 'woodsmen' Choppit, Ken Sharpe and Splinter, Brian Price kept the audience fully engaged. The able 'chorus line' of villagers were provided by June Harmison, Jean Proctor, Shannon Alderson and Lauren Emmerson.

Of course nothing would be possible without hard work behind the scenes. This included stage crew Keith Rose, Gerald Watson and Dave Todd, costumes by Jean Proctor and Anita Stitt and in charge of props Sonya Hepple. On the technical side sound and lighting was in the hands of Chris Whitehead and Anthony Watson while Hugh Stitt handled music and sound. Gary Best provided the not too heavily called upon safety net as prompt. Front of house ladies were Carol Tweedy, Maureen Price and Jean Best. With time short, set and scenery were provided by Wharton Terrace Annexe.

The young guests I brought along thought it the best panto they had been to this season – and the rival was a professional production! Congratulation to all involved.

The village players are holding their A.G.M. in the Community Centre on the 16th March at 6.30pm. New members are always welcome and this would be a good opportunity to find out more.

CHURCH NEWS

The coffee morning in Church on the 14th January raised £407 for church funds. Many thanks go to all who supported this event.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

With the assistance of Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency we have applied for a couple of grants provided through the land fill tax. We must wait until June to hear if we have been successful or not. The top priorities are the roof, the windows and the heating. Enquiries have been made with planning and permission is only required for replacement windows. This is being sought and you may soon see the application advertised in the usual way.

A generous family donation of £1000 has very kindly been made to the Association, this will be used on the refurbishment. Our Rural West ward councillors have also pledged £1000 each from their ward budgets to help get the works underway. The Association Trustees are very grateful to all the groups who have helped to boost the funds needed to undertake the urgent repairs to the Community Centre. All this backing also helps when applying for grants. Hopefully with or without grants being forthcoming some work will be able to be started this summer.

The secure box to hold the defibrillator has been fixed to the front of the Community Centre. We await the actual defibrillator. Both are being provided by the Borough Council with the Community Association providing the small amount of electricity for the light and to prevent frost. Access to the container is by a code number. This will be provided by the emergency operator when an ambulance is called to a suspected heart attack. It only works for certain heart conditions but the machine makes the diagnosis. The defibrillator is very easy to operate and talks those using it through what to do – clever eh! Once the machine itself arrives it is intended to hold a couple of awareness sessions to show those interested how the machine works. Please watch out for posters with further details.

During the Christmas market last year the Community Association raised £132.55 serving refreshments. Thank you to all who helped.

GREATHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2015

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MORNING	LOUNGE			BABY CLINIC 9.15-10.30				
	MAIN HALL		MATURE MOVERS 10.30-11.30	MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP 9.00-11.00	CARPET BOWLS 10.00-12.00	DANCE EXERCISE 11.00-1.00		
AFTERNOON	LOUNGE							
	MAIN HALL				FLOWER ARRANGING 1.30-3.30 (Seasonal)			
EVENING	LOUNGE			YOUTH CLUB 7.00-9.00	YOUTH CLUB 7.00-9.00			
	MAIN HALL	FLOWER ARRANGING 6.30-8.30 (Seasonal)	LINE DANCING 8.00-10.00	YOUTH CLUB 7.00-9.00	YOUTH CLUB 7.00-9.00	SEQUENCE DANCING 7.30-9.30		

The Centre is available to hire for your own celebration of for groups and events. Charges are: - for regular hire by sections and affiliated groups £5 per hour for the main hall and £3.50 for the lounge. We would expect a minimum hire to be two hours. For occasional/fund raising events by sections, affiliated groups and members the charge is £10 per hour for the main hall or lounge and for non-members and unaffiliated groups £15 per hour. All charges are per room.

Enquiries about hiring the Community Centre or setting up a new group should be directed to the Booking Secretary, Dorothy, on 870292.

GREATHAM FLOWER CLASS

Greatham Flower Class is pleased to announce that the pie and pea quiz evening which was held on 2nd February 2015 raised £555 for Greatham Community Centre funds.

The evening was a big success with many leaving with floral table arrangements and spot prizes. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this successful evening by buying tickets, selling tickets, testing the pies, advertising the event or providing prizes, your contribution was very much appreciated.

The first prize of £25 cash was won by the team named 'Stuck in the Middle' and we would like to thank them for returning the prize for Community Centre funds. There was also a prize, for the team with the least points, of a wooden spoon.

In addition to this event the Flower Class is collecting bits of old/broken gold or silver jewellery to weigh in for Community Centre funds. Any contributions can be given to Judith Shield or Linda Dempsey.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Greatham Village Website- www.greathamvillage.co.uk

The website is now active & open for viewings but there are still parts to be included. We can confirm that the front page will be gallery of village photographs. There will also be the following :-

- A What's on page
- A page with useful village information e.g. bus timetables, councillor availability, baby clinic opening times etc.
- Church pages for the Church of John the Baptist & the Methodist Chapel
- Links with "The Greatham Beck" & "Village Views"

All Greatham organisations & businesses are being approached to use the new website & it's hoped that the website will be a useful facility for all the people of Greatham. Once the website is fully up & running each household will receive a postcard with all the details.

If you wish to be part of the website or need further information, please email greatham.residents@btinternet.com or call Andy Merifield on 07514400811.

Next Public Meeting –
24th.March 2015 in the Community Centre at 6p.m.

All villagers are cordially invited along to our next meeting to which the local Hartlepool councillors & police have been invited. This is your opportunity raise issues with these agencies & talk about village matters. It's also planned to launch the new website & demonstrate its uses.

Andrew Rees

LENT LUNCHESES

This year's Lent Lunches are well underway. The first organised by friends of the Community Centre was held in the Centre on Monday 2nd March. The second hosted by Greatham primary school was on the 9th March in the school. The final hosted by the church in the Community Centre is on Monday 16th March back in the Centre. A cuppa along with soup and a bun are on the menu with a request for donations for charity. There are also cakes for sale and a raffle which also raises money for the good causes. This year the charities that are to benefit are Practical Action, Zoe's Place and The Womens Refuge.

SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION

We have a new e mail address, which can be used for anyone who, for example, wishes to book the field, gsfa1997@gmail.com. This will be shown on our new notice board, which we hope to have ready soon.

We have been busy spending much of the money we have raised with the purchase and siting on the field of our new temporary changing rooms, which we are delighted with. Mark, Steve and Ron have spent many hours sourcing these. Lots of work is needed to get them available to use and we are still over £3500 short in our water supply plans, but we feel very pleased to have got so far. Goalposts are also required if anyone knows of any company who may be willing to help, even just sponsor a fundraiser - please get in touch.

These changing facilities are currently under improvement, led by Mark Sickling. So many people are giving time and resources it is just brilliant, including Stephen Hadfield, Grant Herbert, Norman Fleet, AAG Electrical, Derek Harmison and lots of others. It is hoped that Bull and Dog FC will be able to play their Hartlepool Sunday League Premier League games on the field from August. The facility will be available for other groups too.

Both Bull and Dog FC and Greatham Sports Field Association have Facebook pages, where information and updates can be found

In recent weeks, we have been trying to tidy the field, many have helped. Thanks particularly to Luke Mulcahy, Ronnie Westmoreland, Cath Measor and Barry Measor.

Our next fundraiser, sees Small Wonder play in the Commuinity Centre on Sat March 21, tickets are £6 from Commitee, via Facebook, via 870692 or via Jayne in the Bull and Dog. There will also be a do in the Centre on Nov 28.

Our last do in the Bull and Dog raised over £350, thank you to all who came. Thanks also to the Feast for a raffle donation. Massive thanks to DP Property for their sponsorship and Lawson Cycles for the donation of a bicycle won by Geoff Hutchinson. We anticipate that we will also have fundraising dos in May, September and October. It is hoped Dan Donnelly will be coming back in October. This year's vintage car show is Sunday Sept 20.

Andy Merifield has been our treasurer these past 4 years and has been very professional in his approach, but other commitments mean he is to stand down and be temporarily replaced by Natalie Downes. I would like to place our thanks on record for the excellent job Andy has done.

It's only February but it's been great to see so many children playing football after school on the field and also the number of people using the tennis court.

Sat June 6 in the Bull and Dog there will be a fundraiser for the sports field. Mark Simpson an acoustic tribute to Paul Weller, £5 a ticket, available from Ronnie Westmoreland, Kevin Cosgrave, Barry Measor or the pub.

Kevin Cosgrave
Chair G.S.F.A.

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

Greatham Parish Councillors are:-

Mary Marshall, 5 West Row, Greatham
Margo Simmonds, 3A West Row, Greatham
Brian Walker, 29 The Grove, Greatham (Chairman)
Michael Ward, 30 Wisbech Close, South Fens
Susan Watson, Rosedale, West Row, Greatham

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

Ponding on corner at McKie's shop
Potholes top of the bank opposite Hope & Anchor
Pavement surface in The Drive between Front Street and The Grove
Pavement on road bridge over beck

The ponding near the entrance to the Sports Field has been removed following the various works undertaken to solve this long running problem. An eye will be kept on the area to see if the problem has been solved.

Sadly we have received another resignation from the Parish Council. Sonya Hepple has stood down due to unforeseen circumstances. A vacancy has been advertised on the notice board. Unless candidates come forward and an election is required the vacancy is filled by the Parish Councillors co-opting someone. The next meeting when co-option is possible is on the 9th March but that only leaves one more meeting scheduled before the elections in May. All parish councillors stand down for an election to take place so it could be a very short lived co-option.

The whole Parish Council will stand down next year for an election to take place in May. All seven seats will be open for election. For the first time those electors living in the village or farms will only be able to vote for three Parish Councillors. The other four will be elected by residents of South Fens. This is because at the last reorganisation of the Borough Council Wards Greatham Parish found itself spread across two Borough Council Wards – Rural West and Rosmere & Fens – so the Parish had to be warded too. It is going to be even more important that those representing the village attend the meetings where decisions are made.

The month of May sees two meetings which always seem to cause confusion. One is the Annual Parish Meeting which this year is being held on Monday 11th May at 6.30pm in the Community Centre. This meeting is organised by the Parish Council but it is NOT a council meeting. It is a meeting for all electors of the parish to get together raise and debate issues and ask questions – the agenda is open for any elector to raise issues of concern. We will invite Parish and Borough Councillors to attend and hear what is concerning people – or perhaps hear what is going well.

The other May meeting is the A.G.M. meeting of the Parish Council. It is a council meeting and therefore the public are restricted in how they can take part. This is the meeting where the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council are elected by their fellow councillors. It is also an opportunity for the Parish Council to change those who represent it on bodies such as the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and The Nuclear Power Station Community Liaison Group.

We have been told that, although we have asked for exactly the same amount of money again this year, due to the complicated way the precept is calculated on the number of properties in which rating bands, it is likely that it will appear that the Parish rate will show an increase. Sorry we honestly did not ask for an increase and will in fact be receiving the same amount of money as last year!



Coming through your letterbox soon will be a Housing Needs Survey. This is being sent out because in the last consultation concerns were raised that housing that may be proposed in the villages may not be the right type of housing needed to meet the needs of the village people. So to ensure we get it right and to demonstrate that need to higher authorities and potential developers we are asking you to tell us what you need.

This is being sent to you by your parish council who are keen that this plan does meet the needs of our small communities and gets things right for you. So if you are going to be looking for a new home for an expanding family, want to downsize in your retirement, know of family members wishing to return to the village, have a young person looking for a starter home or have some other housing need please fill in the form. If nobody in your household is likely to be looking for a new home in the next 15 years you can ignore this survey. Extra forms can be picked up at the village Post Office or the Community Centre or can be downloaded from the website www.hartlepoolruralplan.co.uk

Also coming out soon will be the first opportunity for you to see and comment on the policies we have been developing from the earlier responses received to the consultations held so far. Please, it is very important that you let us have your comments whether you agree or disagree or have we missed something altogether. Take the time to participate in the consultation and build the future for your community you would like to see. The Neighbourhood Plan is being led by the Parish Councils which are very close to their communities and they are trying to make sure that this plan comes from the rural communities rather than being imposed upon them – but you have to play your part. We are listening but if you don't speak how can we hear!

Watch out for the open gate logo that indicates a questionnaire or document from your Neighbourhood Plan.

SOUTH WEST EXTENSION – CLAXTON TO BRIERTON

The Parish Council has sent in an objection to this development. This supports residents of South Fens many of whom have also sent in letters of objection. There seems to have been very little response coming from the village community on this occasion. The application and responses including that of the Parish Council can be viewed on Hartlepool Borough Council's website, the planning ref number is H/2014/0405 (the Parish Council response is on page 6)

One issue felt to have the potential to be particularly damaging to the village is the proposed location of the local centre which would have shops (likely to include a mini supermarket) and a pub. The proposed location is at one end of the development alongside the A689. The concern is that this could be the final straw for small businesses in the village as the location is clearly intended to serve not just the proposed new estate but passing traffic on the village bypass. This is fine for people with cars but what of the younger and older residents of the village who are not always so mobile. The number of businesses in the village has already shown a dramatic decrease in the last year. Do we want to put those remaining under even greater strain?

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

WW1 NAMES

We are still gathering information on those from the village who served in the First World War. If you can help us record their stories please contact Dorothy Clark tel.870292 or Brian Walker tel.870281.

ARCHIVE

Fragments of the past support the altars of Greatham. The ancient roots of Greatham are hinted at under the altars of the Hospital Chapel and the Parish Church.

In the Hospital Chapel a single central support has been identified as being an 8th Century baluster shaft. At that time England didn't exist and Greatham would have been in the kingdom of Northumbria. At the beginning of that century the Venerable Bede was writing his histories and at the end of the century the first Viking raids were taking place.

In the Parish Church the altar is supported by a pair of 10th Century pilasters. England was born early years in this Century and through much it had to fight off raids by Vikings, Norse and Danes. St Cuthberts remains were also moved to their final resting place at Durham – the foundation of Durham cathedral.

Although the provenance of these remnants of troubled times cannot be absolutely confirmed (it is always possible they were moved here). The pilasters holding up the altar of the Norman Church do appear in a picture of the interior before the reconstruction in 1792. Other fragments of Saxon stonework were discovered by the Victorians as they worked on the church so it does seem certain that there was an Anglo Saxon settlement of some sort here at Greatham before the Norman invasion.

DIARY

Monday 16 th March 12.30pm	Lent Lunch in the Community Centre.
Monday 16 th March 6.30pm	Greatham Village Players A.G.M. in the Community Centre.
Saturday 21 st March	Greatham Sports Field present Small Wonder live in the Community Centre. Tickets £6
Tuesday 24 th March 6.00pm	Greatham Residents Association Public Meeting in the Community Centre.
Monday 13 th April 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre. Public welcome to attend.
Wednesday 15 th April 10am	Northumbria in Bloom Judges Spring visit.
Thursday 7 th May	Elections – UK Parliament & Greatham Parish Council.
Monday 11 th May 6.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting in the Community Centre.
Monday 18 th May 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting & A.G.M. in the Community Centre Public welcome to attend.
Saturday 6 th June	Greatham Sports Field present a tribute to Paul Weller by Mark Simpson in the Bull & Dog. Tickets £5

POSITIVE THOUGHT

Don't worry about avoiding temptation, as you grow older temptation will avoid you

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 Sunday 31st May 2015

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

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